



Rhianna M. Fronapfel
Shareholder
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Rhianna is an experienced litigator who focuses her practice on the defense of health care providers and facilities in medical liability litigation, licensing and disciplinary litigation, and related appeals. She has an extensive background in general liability defense, and has represented clients in complex negligence litigation, employment litigation, and other matters.

Rhianna maintains an active appellate practice and has briefed and argued cases before the Washington Supreme Court and all three divisions of the Washington Court of Appeals. She taught the medical malpractice course at the University of Washington School of Law for eight years, and is a frequent speaker and lecturer to attorneys and medical provider groups.

After graduating from the University of Washington School of Law in 2006, Rhianna clerked for the Honorable Stephen J. Dwyer of the Washington Court of Appeals, Division I.

Rhianna was selected to the Washington Super Lawyers Rising Star® list from 2011 to 2017, has been selected to the Washington Super Lawyers® list every year since 2020, and in 2025 and 2026 was selected to the Super Lawyers® Top 100 Lawyers and Top 50 Women Lawyers list for the State of Washington.

In 2025, Rhianna was named Best Lawyers® 2025 Litigation-Health Care “Lawyer of the Year” in Seattle. That same year she was also awarded the Washington Defense Trial Lawyers Community Leadership Award for her pro bono and community service contributions.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Shareholder, Bennett Bigelow & Leedom, P.S. , Seattle, WA, January 2019 - Present
- Senior Associate, Bennett Bigelow & Leedom, P.S., Seattle, WA, July 2012 – December 2018
- Associate, Patterson Buchanan Fobes Leitch & Kalzer, Inc., P.S., Seattle, WA, September 2007 – July 2012
- Law Clerk to the Honorable Stephen J. Dwyer, Washington Court of Appeals, Div. I, August 2006 – August 2007

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Named *Best Lawyers*® 2025 Litigation-Health Care “Lawyer of the Year” in Seattle
- Selected to the Washington *Super Lawyers*® list, 2020-present
- Selected to the Washington *Super Lawyers Rising Stars*® list, 2011 – 2017

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- University of Washington School of Law, Lecturer, Medical Malpractice Course, 2016-2024
- Washington Defense Trial Lawyers, Community Leadership Award, 2025
- Seattle Clemency Project, Pro Bono Attorney, 2021-2025
- Washington Defense Trial Lawyers, Amicus Committee Volunteer, 2017
- Washington Women Lawyers, King County Board of Directors, 2012 – 2015
- King County Bar Association Domestic Violence Impact Project, Pro Bono Attorney, 2010 – 2015
- Washington Defense Trial Lawyers Association
- Washington State Society of Healthcare Attorneys
- American Bar Association

EDUCATION

University of Washington School of Law, J.D.

Associate Editor-In-Chief, Pacific Rim Law & Policy Journal

President, American Civil Liberties Union, UW Law School Chapter Member,
Public Interest Law Association

**University of Puget Sound, B.A., Comparative Sociology, Recipient of
Honors in Sociology**

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Washington State Bar Association

U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit

U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Washington