



Licensed in Washington, Oregon and Alaska



HWS WELCOMES NEW TEAM MEMBERS

Dear friends, colleagues and clients,

We are very pleased to announce that our firm has grown! As the saying goes, April showers bring May flowers, and sometimes new litigation groups! HWS has added a total of four attorneys, a paralegal, and a legal assistant to diversify and grow its defense litigation and trial practice. Our new partners James Mendel and Levi Bendele have been defending personal injury cases—and developing trusted relationships with long-term insurance-carrier clients—for over two decades. Since joining forces in 2012, James and Levi have collectively taken over 50 jury trials to verdict. Their accomplishments are backed by an incredible lineup including attorneys Lauren Sharkey and John Barton, paralegal Anne Wallery, and legal assistant Erin Gray. Each and everyone one of them are critical to the success of the group.

HWS's core value is located at the bottom of every email signature block of every employee and proudly states "Client Dedicated. Trial Tested." To the benefit of all our clients, the addition of this new group fosters and expands our mission. We look forward to the opportunity to introduce our new members in person.

James Mendel



James Mendel is a graduate of Brandeis University and New York Law School and is licensed to practice law in New York and Washington. His civil litigation practice primarily focuses on defending automobile (liability and UM/UIM), premise liability, construction injury, and timber trespass matters. A secondary focus is conducting EUOs, PIP arbitrations, HOA litigation, and providing coverage opinions for personal lines policies.

As the number of cases that result in jury trials has continued to decrease over the last few decades, James is nearing a rare milestone for trial attorneys, which is the completion of over 100 jury trials to verdict. Colleagues and opposing counsel regularly seek his opinion regarding trial procedure and strategy.

James can be reached at 206.587.8281 or via email at jmendel@hwslawgroup.com.

Levi Bendele



Levi Bendele is a graduate of the University of Colorado and the University of Denver's Sturm College of Law. However, the best claim-handling education he received was when he moved to Washington and worked as a State Farm claim representative in the late 90s. Since that time he has defended a variety of cases, including automobile liability and UM/UIM, premise liability, construction injury and

defect, premises liability, HOA litigation, professional liability, and insurance matters involving EUOs, PIP, coverage, bad faith and IFCA claims. Secondly, he has worked on a handful of appeals before Division One of the Washington Court of Appeals and two matters before the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. Bendele is a former board member of the Washington Defense Trial Lawyers Association (WDTL) and currently chairs the Automobile and Trucking Claims Defense Section.

Levi can be reached at 206.587.8280 or via email at lbendele@hwslawgroup.com.

Lauren Sharkey



Lauren Sharkey graduated magna cum laude from Willamette University College of Law. She is admitted to practice in both Washington and Oregon, but works out of HWS's Seattle office.

Lauren's practice focuses on civil defense litigation, including automobile (liability and UM/UIM), premise liability, timber trespass, as well as the public entities and school districts. She has taken and defended numerous depositions, argued a variety of motion hearings, and handled many arbitrations.

Lauren can be reached at 206.587.8283 or via email at lsharkey@hwslawgroup.com.

John Barton



John Barton attended Washington State University, where he was a member of the Alpha Kappa Delta honor society, and Charlotte School of Law, where he was on Law Review and graduated with high honors. He is licensed to practice in state and federal courts in Washington.

Earlier in his career, John worked as a staff attorney for the Chapter 13 Bankruptcy Trustee for the Western District of Washington. Thereafter, he represented homeowner and condominium associations across western Washington in matters including general HOA liability and governance, collections, and foreclosure. Currently, he defends a variety of cases, including automobile liability and UM/UIM, premise liability, HOA litigation, timber trespass, and adverse possession.

John can be reached at 206.587.8284 or via email at jbarton@hwslawgroup.com.

Anne Wallery

Anne Wallery attended Seattle University, received a degree in English Literature, and practices as a litigation manager paralegal. She enjoys working in the legal field and has become an indispensable member of the team.

Anne can be reached at 206.587.8285 or via email at awallery@hwslawgroup.com.

Erin Gray

Erin Gray attended the University of Florida and received a degree in Political Science. She relishes working hard and being busy, which is why she is perfectly suited for litigation at HWS.

Erin can be reached at 206.587.8286 or via email at awallery@hwslawgroup.com.

About Holt Woods & Scisciani LLP

Holt Woods & Scisciani LLP is a civil litigation firm, practicing in the areas of tort and commercial litigation, construction litigation, insurance defense, product liability, professional liability and appellate work. For more information about our firm, and our

areas of practice, please refer to our website at www.hwslawgroup.com or feel free to contact us.

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