

# Geoffrey C. Haslam

## Mediator and Arbitrator

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### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Since joining Christensen & Jensen in 1995, Geoff's practice has focused on litigation. He has extensive experience in product liability, professional liability, construction, and personal injury defense, and serves as panel counsel for many corporations and liability insurers. As a long-time member and Panel Chair of the Utah State Bar's Ethics and Discipline Committee, Geoff also offers unique insight for attorneys facing potential disciplinary proceedings. Geoff is regularly appointed as a mediator, arbitrator or special master in a wide variety of cases.

Geoff has been recognized by "Best Lawyers in America" and was named 2017 Utah Lawyer of the Year for Insurance Law. He has been recognized as a "Superlawyer" by Mountain States Super Lawyers (Thomson Reuters) and was named one of the top 100 lawyers in the four state area by Mountains States Super Lawyers for 2017. Geoff has been recognized as one of Utah's "Legal Elite" by Utah Business Magazine and he also has the highest ("AV") rating by Martindale-Hubbell.

### AREAS OF PRACTICE

**Mediation and Arbitration:** Regularly serves as mediator and arbitrator in construction, personal injury, and commercial cases. Geoff's success rate as a mediator is among the highest of any mediator in Utah. Geoff speaks Spanish and is able to communicate with Spanish speaking parties without needing a translator. Geoff currently mediates or arbitrates over 280 cases per year.

**Products Liability:** Responsible for the national and statewide representation of major manufacturers and distributors in product liability litigation including products ranging from pharmaceuticals, nutritional supplements, helicopters, aircrafts, recreational equipment, farm equipment to heavy machinery used in construction. Manages mass tort litigation for numerous out-of-state and Utah companies. Representative matters include:

National product counsel for large supplement company, obtained defense ruling in arbitrated case in Iowa, and obtained voluntary dismissal by plaintiff without compensation on eve of arbitration in New York  
Defended numerous Fen-Phen cases, obtaining voluntary dismissals without compensation  
Served as Utah counsel for several companies sued for asbestos-containing products, obtaining voluntary dismissal in nearly all cases without payment  
Defended numerous catastrophic injury and death claims involving wide range of products

**Transportation:** Has defended trucking companies in numerous wrong death, personal injury, and property damage cases. Has defended brokers and other transportation industry defendants in personal injury and contract cases.

**Construction:** Represents architects, engineers, and contractors in construction defect litigation. Serves as mediator in construction defect claims. Representative matters include:

Defended architect in \$20 million construction defect claim involving condominium development; successfully avoided being named in suit  
Defended electrical contractor in complex claim alleging faulty wiring in commercial building

Defended several general contractors in Salt Lake City and St. George areas, including general contractors, excavators, and concrete contractors, in defect claims  
Successfully resolved as mediator various construction defect and breach of contract cases

**Professional Liability:** Represents health care professionals, design professionals, accountants, attorneys, and other professionals against allegations of negligence or fraud, and in licensing matters. Representative matters include:

Obtained voluntary dismissal without payment of claims against surgical center  
Represented architects, appraisers, and other design professionals in third-party claims  
Obtained favorable result for client nurse in wrongful death case  
Defended accountants in claims alleging negligent tax advice  
Successfully defended attorney against OPC claims  
Successfully resolved as mediator various medical and legal malpractice cases

**Personal Injury:** Has represented insurers and self insured companies in hundreds of personal injury suits. Also has represented plaintiffs in catastrophic injury and death cases.

## RECOGNITIONS

"Mountain States Super Lawyers - Top 100 Attorneys" - 2017  
"Mountain States Super Lawyers" - 2007 to present  
"Best Lawyers in America" Insurance Law Lawyer of the Year 2017, 2019  
"The Best Lawyers in America" 2014 to present  
AV Rated, Martindale-Hubbell

## CURRENT ADMISSIONS

Utah State Courts, 1995  
U.S. District Court for the District of Utah, 1995  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, 1996

## EDUCATION

University of Utah, B.A. Honors English, 1992  
University of Utah, J.D., 1995  
Utah Law Review, Note and Comment Editor

## SAMPLE LECTURES AND PUBLICATIONS

Speaker, "Mediation Tips," Utah Defense Lawyers Association, 2016  
Speaker, "Mediating Brain Injury Cases," Utah Association of Justice, February 2015  
Speaker, "Insight on Big Verdict in a Small Town," Utah State Bar, Logan, 2013  
ALFA Transportation Committee Compendium, "Hot Issues in the Transportation Industry"—Utah, 2013  
Speaker, "Is Arbitration better than Trial?" Association of Corporate Counsel, Mountain West Chapter, Winter Meeting, 2011  
Speaker, "Utah Insurance Law," presented at Farm Bureaus Property & Casualty Ins. Co. Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, 2011  
Co-author, "Utah Unfair Trade Practices," Defense Research Institute 50 State Compendium, 2006  
Speaker, "Product Liability Pitfalls for the Packaging Industry," National Pharmaceutical Packaging Association Seminar, San Francisco, 2005  
Co-author, "Product Liability Defenses in Utah," Defense Research Institute 50 State Compendium, 2001

### **SELECT RULINGS AND OPINIONS**

Walker v. Anderson-Oliver Title Ins. Co, 2013 Utah App. 202 (determining title insurer did not assume liability of abstractor)

U.S. ex rel. Ellsworth v. United Business Brokers of Utah, LLC, No. 2:09CV353DAK, 2011 WL 1871225 (D. Utah 2011) (obtaining dismissal of qui tam claim for failure to plead with particularity)

Howeth v. Aramark Corp., 2011 WL 2414377 D.Utah, 2011 (determining that cross-claim for apportionment of fault remains viable in Utah)

American Towers v. CCL Mechanical, 930 P.2d 1182, (Utah 1996) (established "economic loss rule" defense in case against design professional)

Hardman v. Specialty Services, 177 F.3d 921 (10th Cir. 1999) (interpreted "dual employee" doctrine for purposes of employer's liability for worksite injury)

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND ADMISSIONS**

Admitted to practice in all Utah state and federal courts, U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals

Utah State Bar and American Bar Association

Utah Supreme Court Ethics and Discipline Committee, 2005-2011, Panel Chair, 2008-2011

Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel, 2006 – present

Association of Transportation Law Professionals

### **FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

Spanish