

Christopher G. Emch

Principal

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Chris has extensive experience with commercial litigation, health care law, business disputes, cybersecurity law, real estate disputes, railroad and transportation law, securities law, class actions, education law, administrative law, tax appeals, and regulatory proceedings.

Chris is licensed and has litigated in state and federal courts in Washington, Oregon and California. Chris has additional experience prosecuting claims as a Special Assistant Attorney General.

Chris regularly works with hospitals and health care providers on a wide range of matters, including disputes and issues involving contracts, billing and reimbursement, medical staffing, facility construction, quality assurance, pharmacy issues, risk management, information management, patient records and data security. He also regularly represents hospitals and other health care providers at all levels of the Certificate of Need process and in the judicial review phase of planning decisions.

Chris has significant trial, arbitration and mediation experience. For example, he served on the trial team in *McCleary v. State of Washington*, the largest public education funding lawsuit in Washington state. He was one of the plaintiffs' attorneys representing a coalition of education organizations and individuals in a constitutional challenge to Washington State's underfunding of K-12 education. After a two-month trial, the trial court entered judgment to enforce the State Constitution's public

Services

- Litigation
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Antitrust & Consumer Protection
- Business & Corporate Finance
- Class Action Litigation
- Environmental Litigation
- Financial Services
- Health Care
- Health Care Litigation
- Privacy, Cybersecurity & Data Protection
- Public Finance & Municipal Government
- Public Records & Open Government
- School Districts
- Securities Litigation & Enforcement
- Transportation & Logistics
- Yachts, Ships & Submersibles

Admissions

- Washington
- California

education clause, which was affirmed by the Washington State Supreme Court.

Education

J.D., University of Michigan Law School (*cum laude*)

A.B., Dartmouth College (high honors)

Honors & Recognition

Legal 500 City Elite

- Seattle – Commercial Disputes, 2026

Professional Activities

American Bar Association

- Health Law Section
- Litigation Section

American Health Lawyers Association

- Health Care Liability and Litigation Practice Group
- Health Information and Technology Practice Group

California Bar Association

Federal Bar Association, Western District of Washington,
Communications and Website Committee, Co-Chair, 2009-2018

King County Bar Association

Oregon State Bar Association

Washington State Bar Association

Washington State Society of Healthcare Attorneys

Community Activities

Issaquah Schools Foundation, Board Member, 2016-2020

News

18 Foster Garvey Attorneys Named to 2026 Legal 500 City Elite
Lists

Foster Garvey Newsroom, 1.21.26

District of Columbia

Oregon

U.S. District Court, Central
District of California

U.S. District Court, District of
Oregon

U.S. District Court, Eastern
District of California

U.S. District Court, Eastern
District of Washington

U.S. District Court, Northern
District of California

U.S. District Court, Southern
District of California

U.S. District Court, Western
District of Washington

U.S. Court of Appeals for
the 9th Circuit