



Leigh Goddard
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Areas of Practice
Trust, Estate & Fiduciary Litigation
Commercial & Complex Litigation
Employment & Labor Law

Bar Admissions

Nevada

Education

- J.D., University of South Carolina, School of Law, 1997
- B.S., Business Finance, College of Charleston, 1991

Leigh Goddard is the Managing Partner of McDonald Carano’s Reno office and Co-Chair of the firm’s Trust, Estate & Fiduciary Litigation Practice. Leigh also has extensive experience in complex commercial litigation and employment litigation. She represents clients in state and federal court and handles all aspects of litigation, from investigation through filing of initial pleadings, discovery, and motion practice, to trial. Leigh received the Lawyer of the Year award in Trusts & Estates Litigation for the Northern Nevada region in the 2026 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

Trust, Estate & Fiduciary Litigation

Leigh represents beneficiaries, trustees, guardians, conservators, personal representatives, and executors. Her comprehensive experience in fiduciary, trust and estate litigation matters includes will and trust contests, breach of fiduciary duty, fiduciary misconduct, fraud, financial elder abuse, adult guardianships, surcharge, and actions for recoupment of funds.

Commercial & Complex Litigation

Leigh’s cases include the representation of local, national, and international businesses in claims involving contract disputes, trade secret violations, tortious interference, breach of fiduciary duty, business entity dissolutions, enforcement and defense of non-competition covenants, fraud, misrepresentation, conversion, defamation, unfair trade practices, and appointment of receivers.

Employment

Leigh served as Co-Chair of the Employment & Labor Law Practice prior to currently serving as Chair of the Trust, Estate & Fiduciary Litigation Practice. In 2022, *Best Lawyers in America* named Leigh “Lawyer of the Year” for the Northern Nevada region in Employment & Labor Litigation.

Leigh represents employers and management. This includes defending against discrimination claims and wrongful termination claims in state and federal courts, defending against charges before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Nevada Equal Rights Commission, counseling employers in personnel issues, investigation of illegal harassment and discrimination complaints, and evaluating demotion and termination decisions. Her representation has also included pursuing and defending claims in state and federal court related to enforcement of employment covenants not to compete.

Awards and Recognition

- *Martindale-Hubbell* – AV Preeminent Peer Review Rating (since 2012)
- Senior Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America (since 2021)
- *The Best Lawyers in America* – Trusts and Estates (2026)
- *The Best Lawyers in America* – Trusts and Estates Litigation (2020-2026); Lawyer of the Year award in 2026
- *The Best Lawyers in America* – Commercial Litigation (2014-2026)
- *The Best Lawyers in America* – Labor and Employment Litigation (2018-2026); Lawyer of the Year award in 2022
- *Mountain States Super Lawyers* – “Super Lawyers” (2009-2021, 2023-2026)
- *Northern Nevada Business Weekly*, Best In Business awards – “Influential Leader” (2023)
- *Nevada Business Magazine* – “Top Rank Attorneys” (2012, 2017, 2018, 2022)
- *Mountain States Super Lawyers* – “Top 50 Women Lawyers” (2012)
- Women of Achievement Award, Nevada Women’s Fund
- Order of the Coif, University of South Carolina

Professional Affiliations

- Senior Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America
- Master Emeritus, Inns of Court, Bruce R. Thompson Chapter
- Member, Federal Bar Association (Past President, Nevada chapter, 2007–2008)
- Member, American Bar Association, Section of Litigation
- Member, Northern Nevada Women Lawyers Association
- Member, Nevada Bar Association
- Member, Washoe County Bar Association
- Member, Clark County Bar Association

Community Involvement

- Board of Trustees, Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (2011-2019; positions held include past chair, chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer)

Presentations

- “Discovery Techniques to Manage the Unmanageable,” Cambridge Private Client Forum, May 2022
- “Non-Competition Covenants in Nevada,” March 30, 2017
- “Nevada Wage & Hour Hot Topics,” Oct. 12, 2016

- “HIPAA for Employers,” Feb. 27, 2004
- “Overtime Requirements in Nevada,” March 18, 2003
- “Employment-Related Records in Nevada,” Jan. 17, 2003
- “Payroll Management in Nevada,” Sept. 17, 2002

Publications

- Quoted, “5 State Marijuana Mandates Throwing Employers for a Loop,” *Law360*, November 25, 2019
- Quoted, “5 Questions To Ask When Workers Get Called For Jury Duty,” *Law360*, October 17, 2019
- Quoted, “Five Valentine’s Day Tips for Employers in the #Me Too Era,” *Law 360*, February 11, 2019
- Podcast, “Are You Making Mistakes With Your Employee Performance Reviews?,” *Thomson Reuters*, September 4, 2018
- Quoted, “Ousted Barnes & Noble CEO Accuses Company of ‘False’ Press Release,” *New York Law Journal*, August 29, 2018
- Quoted, “Employers Scrambling to Revisit Boilerplate Drug Policies,” *Law360*, May 7, 2018
- Interview, “Emoji-Awareness in Law,” *Inside Counsel*, September 7, 2017
- Quoted, “Back to Work: Human Resource & Employment Issues,” *Nevada Business Magazine*, May 2016

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