



Hansary (Hans) A. Laforest

ATTORNEY
CO-CHAIR, DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

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My Assistant

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Hansary Laforest is a trial lawyer with well over a decade of courtroom experience in state and federal court. Hans has litigated civil and commercial litigation matters across a variety of industries, including railroad, trucking and transportation, and banking industries, as well as individual professionals in the fields of healthcare, insurance, and real estate. The scope of legal matters that Hans litigates range from insurance defense claims to complex contractual disputes. Hans has achieved favorable outcomes for his clients in the courtroom. These successes include a defense verdict in a lawsuit alleging damages in excess of \$1 million, an arbitration award finding no liability for a client sued as a third-party in a tort case, and an order granting summary judgment in favor of a client suing on a professional negligence dispute.

Hans routinely litigates civil cases not just in Oregon, but throughout the Pacific Northwest, including Washington and Idaho. Having litigated matters in his career in various jurisdictions throughout the country, Hans has a unique courtroom perspective that enables him to effectively litigate disputes across a variety of forums.

Industries

Health Care
Railroad

Practices

Health Care
Employment
Litigation

Education

B.A., Fordham University
Economics

J.D., Fordham University School of
Law

Admissions

- Oregon State Bar
- Washington State Bar
- State Bar of Texas
- New York State Bar Association
- Idaho State Bar
- United States District Court for the District of Oregon
- United States District Court for the Eastern District Washington
- United States District Court for the District of Idaho

“I would like to acknowledge that Hans Laforest, in his knowledge of the law, he did an excellent job making most all of the legal positions we argued in mediation. Thank you for arguing the laws (with the mediator who got through to [(plaintiff)]) for the company we defend Hans! Your work is much appreciated.”

THE ADVANTAGE OF WORKING WITH ME

I offer my clients “peace of mind.” I do this with a systematic approach to their case. I gather the facts. I show my clients what the law is and what the evidence shows. Together we develop a selection of courtroom strategies that works for them.

My system has helped my clients achieve favorable results. These range successful verdicts and court decisions to beneficial settlements. More importantly, my approach offers clarity.

The law is complex. Sometimes, the facts are too. My disciplined approach can help make the issues clear and the solutions attainable.

REPRESENTATIVE WORK

- Successfully defended a national security services company in a high-profile lawsuit claiming damages in excess of a million dollars, securing a defense verdict after a jury trial.
- Successfully defended a medical transport company and driver against a third-party lawsuit in a vehicular accident case, obtaining an arbitration award in which the company and driver were found not liable.
- Represents a regional bank in pursuing foreclosure actions on commercial loans throughout the state of Oregon and successfully obtaining settlements in those cases.
- Successfully obtained a court order granting summary judgment in favor of a client real estate and development firm in a professional negligence action.

PUBLICATIONS

- ["How Franchise Owners Can Be Liable for Wrongful Acts of Franchises in Oregon", Oregon Business Magazine, 2024](#)
- ["Conferral Needs Caselaw Support", Oregon State Bar Bulletin, 2024](#)

Honors

- Portland Business Journal's 40 Under 40 (2025)
- Multnomah Bar Association Young Lawyers Section, Award of Merit (2021)
- Oregon Super Lawyers® Rising Star, Civil Litigation: Defense (2020 – 2025)

- [“Consider the Power of TROs and Preliminary Injunctions,” Daily Journal of Commerce, 2022](#)
- [“Late Payments on a Promissory Note after Acceleration,” Daily Journal of Commerce, 2020](#)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- [National Business Institute \(2023\), Oregon Civil Trial Skills](#)
- OSB Civil Rights Virtual Public Forum (2021), The Fight Over Online Speech: The Events of January 6th, First Amendment, and the Future of Internet Speech, Moderator
- OSB Civil Rights Committee Town Hall (2020), Racism in the Criminal Justice System, Moderator

ORGANIZATIONS

Professional Affiliations

- Oregon Association of Defense Counsel (OADC)
 - Member, 2020 to present
- National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel (NARTC)
 - Member, 2019 to present
- Oregon Chapter of the National Bar Association (OC-NBA)
 - Member, 2019 to present

Community Affiliations

- Bend Chamber, Advocacy Council
 - Member, 2025
- Multnomah Bar Association,
 - Board of Directors, 2022 to present
- Hacienda Community Development Corporation
 - Board of Directors, 2020 to 2024

PERSONAL INTERESTS

Over the years, I'm proud to have developed a physically active lifestyle. I practiced martial arts when I was a child, beginning with karate when I was in grade school. After college, I resumed training in martial arts, this time training muay thai kickboxing and jiu-jitsu. I currently train at Go Hard MMA in Portland with a great group of instructors who remind me every training session that I have much to learn.



Additionally, I have rock climbed for a few years, both indoor and outdoor. While I'm only an amateur, my wife and I have done multi-pitch climbs in Oregon (First Kiss at Smith Rock) and Washington (Prime Rib in Mazamas).

Separate from the above activities, I engage in hiking and backpacking in the summer, as well as alpine touring during the winter months.