

STEVEN L. BARNEY



Partner

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Steven L. Barney is the senior litigation partner in the firm's northern Michigan office handling a variety of cases, including construction liability, product liability, professional liability, directors & officers liability, errors & omissions liability, complex commercial claims, and alternative dispute resolution.

Mr. Barney is the Past President of the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel. He is also a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and American Board of Trial Advocates.

Representative Client Work

Professional Liability

- Representation of attorneys in professional negligence matters involving domestic relations, employment, commercial contracts, personal injury, real estate and criminal law
- Representation of Realtors and appraisers in a variety of matters including negligent appraisals, breach of professional responsibilities and unauthorized practice of law
- Representation of accountants in the defense of claims involving audits, business planning and commercial transactions
- Representation of pharmacists in matters relating to negligent dispensation of prescriptions
- Representation of architects and engineers in a variety of matters

Construction Liability

Areas of Practice

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Commercial and Consumer Litigation
- Commercial Litigation
- Construction Law
- Development, Marketing, Distribution and Warranties
- Directors & Officers Liability
- Litigation
- Manufacturer Liability
- Product Liability
- Professional Liability
- Trucking & Transportation

Honors & Awards

- Martindale-Hubbell's highest rating-AV Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated. AV is a registered certification mark of Reed Elsevier Properties, Inc., used in accordance with the Martindale-Hubbell certification procedures, standards and policies
- Michigan Super Lawyer in Professional Liability: Defense, Michigan Super Lawyers, a Thomson Reuters publication, 2006 - 2011
- Who's Who Among American University & College Students 1969-1976
- Lederle Scholarship (DCL) 1971
- American Jurisprudence Award - 1971 (DCL)

Education

- Michigan State University/Detroit College of Law, cum laude J.D., 1972

- Commercial Construction – Architectural and Structural
- Mechanics Lien
- Contract Administration and Interpretation Disputes
- Construction Arbitration Proceedings
- Soil, Erosion and Underground Utilities
- Zoning and Permitting
- Electrical and Mechanical including HVAC
- Flooring Systems – Design and Installation
- Roofing Systems – Design and Installation
- Construction Accidents including Coverage and Indemnity Issues
- Residential Homes – Design and Construction

Product Liability

- Personally handled hundreds of product liability cases including the following examples: stamping presses, wood molding machines, autos, farm equipment, ATVs, motorcycles, automatic sensing equipment, electrical conduits and wiring, fire and explosions, including chemicals, mechanical presses, fire suppression systems and chainsaws.

Complex Commercial and Business Torts

- Cases litigated include commercial lending, commercial contracts, personal and business defamation and employment.

Transportation and Automotive

- Representation of a number of companies and carriers in a variety of cases, including commercial trucking, farm equipment, ATVs, autos, hitched trailers, off-load vehicles, motorcycles and golf carts.

Professional Certifications

- Approved Arbitrator: American Arbitration Association National Roster of Arbitrators and Mediators, Commercial & Construction Panel Member
- Certified Mediator/Facilitator, U.S. District Court Western District of Michigan

- Ferris State University, B.S., 1969
- Davenport University, A.S., 1966

Bar & Court Admissions

- Michigan, 1972
- U.S. District Courts - Michigan

- Certified Mediator, Michigan Supreme Court's Community Dispute Resolution Program
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' Associate Member
- Completion of the American Arbitration Association's "Chairing an Arbitration Panel Managing Procedures, Process & Dynamics" (March 22, 2012)
- Completion of the U.S. District Court, Western District of Michigan Advanced/Refresher Mediator Training (March 18, 2011)
- Completion of the ICLE 11th Annual Advanced Negotiation & Dispute Resolution Institute (March 2012)
- Completion of the Voluntary Facilitative Mediation Advanced/Refresher Training Program, U.S. District Court (March 2012)
- Completion of Defense Research Institute's Mediation Seminar
- Completion of Harvard Law School's Program of Instruction for Lawyers Mediation Workshop
- Completion of 2nd Annual Advanced Negotiation & Dispute Resolution Institute Mediation Training
- Completion of 5th Annual Mediators' Forum: Advanced Mediation Training (June 2009)
- Completion of Advanced Mediation Training Program, A Perspective on Facilitative Mediation: Strengths of the Process (November 2007)
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Michigan Advanced/Refresher Mediator Training (February 2006)
- Completion of U.S. District Court, Western District of Michigan's Advanced/Refresher Mediator Training (February 2004)
- Completion of American Arbitration Association's Arbitrator II Workshop: Advanced Case Management Issues (May 2002)
- Completion of American Arbitration Association's Construction Arbitrator Training Workshop (October 2000)

Professional Affiliations

- Emmet/Charlevoix Bar Association
- Michigan Bar Association
- Michigan Defense Trial Counsel (Past President)
- American Bar Association (TIPS)
- American College of Trial Lawyers, Fellow
- American Board of Trial Advocates, Michigan Chapter
- DRI - The Voice of the Defense Bar
- Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel (President, 2008-2009; President-Elect, 2007; Board of Directors, 2007; Secretary-Treasurer, 2006)

Academic Position

- FDCC Litigation Management College, Faculty Member (1997-2002)

- FDCC Litigation Management College, Graduate Faculty Member (2003-2007)

Community Involvement

- Top of Michigan Trails Council (Past President)
- Petoskey Bay View Country Club (Board of Directors, Past Member)
- Petoskey Area Chamber of Commerce (Board of Directors Past Member)
- Petoskey Housing Commission (Past)

Publications and Lectures

Various publications and in conjunction with personal presentations, most recently on facilitation, products liability, technology, Internet discovery, etc., including:

- *Deposition and Cross-Examination Techniques*
- *What's Working – What's Not in ADR*
- *ADR Section of the State Bar of Michigan, Preparing Yourself and Your Client for Facilitative Mediation*
- *Alternative Dispute Resolution for the South Dakota Defense Lawyers Association*
- *How to be a Better Advocate in Facilitated Mediations*
- *Discovery of Electronic Information: How to Discover and Retrieve Evidence From Opponent's Computer and Draft or Respond to Electronic Discovery Requests*
- *Using Technology to Reduce Your Litigation Costs*
- *How To Digest Written Discovery Requests*
- *Products Liability: Benefits of Early Detection and Investigation*
- *Avoiding Sanctions in Discovery, Joint International Conference, Barcelona, Spain*
- *Discovery in the International Setting – E-Discovery, British Insurance Law Association, London, England*

Prepared and presented numerous presentations for the FDCC and others on legal malpractice, product liability, electronic discovery, foreign discovery, etc. most recently includes:

- *Technology and the Business of Litigation*
- *Surf and Turf: Cyberspace from the Ground Up – The Issues (Legal and Otherwise) of Electronic Information*
- *Case Evaluation Software*
- *Ethics Issues for the Defense: You Be the Judge*
- *How to Prepare Your Client and Yourself for Mediation*

News

- Plunkett Cooney attorneys among Michigan 'Super Lawyers' 2011

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- Plunkett Cooney attorneys among Michigan 'Super Lawyers' 2009
- Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel elects 2008 – 2009 officers at annual meeting
- Plunkett Cooney attorneys among Michigan 'Super Lawyers' 2008
- Plunkett Cooney Attorneys Named 2007 Michigan 'Super Lawyers'