

Kathy A. Cochran

Professional Experience

Kathy Cochran retired from the active practice of law in 2016. Prior to retirement, she had 41 years of trial experience, focusing on pharmaceutical product liability and medical malpractice litigation as a trial lawyer. Over the course of that career, she also handled scores of jury trials in the first chair position, and hundreds of mediations in a wide variety of cases. This experience included identifying issues, managing discovery, trying cases before juries, and resolving disputes in high stakes cases. Her caseload included individual cases and mass tort litigation as well as class actions, and cases involving brain damaged children and adults, limb amputations, wrongful death, and disfiguring or debilitating injuries. She has served as a panelist, mediating and arbitrating cases in association with Pacific ADR Consulting. In retirement, she has pursued professional photography including extensive worldwide travel. She now owns an online fine art photography studio while also serving as a trial consult and mediator.

Hallmarks:

- Fellow of American College of Trial Lawyers
- Advocate, American Board of Trial Advocates
- Listed as a Super Lawyer beginning in 2003
- Listed as one of the top 100 lawyers in Washington State
Listed as one of the top 50 women lawyers in Washington State commencing in 2003
- Representation of pharmaceutical and medical device companies on national trial teams, including defense of clinical research trials as well as defense of product labeling and adverse drug reactions.
- Representation of healthcare providers and hospitals throughout the Pacific Northwest
- Co-Founder, Wilson Smith Cochran Dickerson, member from 1988 to 2016
- Admitted before Washington State Bar, US District Court, Western and Eastern Washington, with limited admission in multiple other states (inactive licensure with WSBA since retirement in 2016)
- Graduate, first in class, University of Washington School of law, 1975
- Contributor, trial guide by Seattle author Bill Bailey entitled Show the Story: The Power of Visual Advocacy (2011).
- Frequent speaker regarding ethics, graphic communication in the courtroom, trial and litigation techniques and strategies
- Owner, Cochran Productions (providing trial consultation services)
- Owner, www.images2impact.com, featuring photography and digital art

Examples:

- **Represented manufacturer 7 week trial involving claim that anti-convulsant drug triggered psychiatric disorder that caused 27 involuntary commitments.**

- **Defending healthcare providers sued for birth injuries; for example, cases involving alleged failure to secure physician coverage for complications, delays in operative intervention, failure to address changes in blood pressure following epidural, failure to administer theophylline in newborn.**
- **Defended numerous healthcare providers sued for alleged delay in diagnosis of cancer; involved multiple cases tried to verdict in multiple states**
- **Defended pharmaceutical manufacturer sued for allegedly inadequate disclosure of risks in a clinical trial involving a diabetes drug that subsequently never came to market.**
- **Defended hormone replacement therapy manufacturer in hundreds of cases throughout the country involving breast cancer allegedly caused by the therapy. (Appointed to national science team working on a national level, identifying and presenting experts in jury trials in multiple states)**
- **Defended manufacturer of vaginal mesh product allegedly causing gyn complications**
- **In cases throughout the United States, defended manufacturer of appetite suppression medication allegedly causing cardiac problems and pulmonary hypertension**
- **Defense of manufacturer of DES (diethylstilbestrol) in hundreds of cases where plaintiff alleged it caused vaginal and other cancers.**
- **Defended manufacturer of implantable birth control device, allegedly failing to prevent pregnancy and in some cases causing birth defects, as well as allegedly causing headaches, weight gain, persistent menstrual bleeding, hair growth or loss, ovarian cysts, anemia and depression--or removal problems**
- **Represented insurance carriers in coverage disputes involving analysis of the point at which a treatment should be considered conventional versus experimental. Insurers denied coverage under policy exclusion for experimental therapy. For example, patients claimed that bone marrow transplants should have been covered despite the nascent state of research regarding the efficacy of that treatment for breast cancer.**
- **Represented hospital in litigation against medical device manufacturer that allegedly withheld critical safety information from hospitals purchasing the equipment. Software issues caused an indwelling cardiac catheter to overheat, causing severe burn to patient heart during open heart surgery.**