

*Juli has gained widespread recognition as a top-tier litigator. She made the esteemed list of Lawdragon 500 Litigators and was recently recognized as one of the Top Ten Lawyers in SuperLawyers Mountain States, having regularly been on the Top 100 list in that publication. She has been recognized in Chambers for the past several years in the area of Commercial Litigation.*



## Julianne P. Blanch

Shareholder | Salt Lake City

### Biography

Ms. Blanch likes to be in the courtroom. She is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and serves as the Utah Chapter Committee's chair. She is a member of the Utah Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), an invitation-only organization where membership is considered only after having taken at least ten civil jury trials to verdict. She is also a member of the International Society of Barristers, an elite trial lawyer group into which only nine other lawyers in the state of Utah have been elected. She has tried a broad range of cases over her nearly three decades in practice, involving everything from trusts and estates, product liability, and bad faith insurance claims. Lately, her practice has focused on commercial litigation, fraud cases, and catastrophic personal injury cases. She was the chair of the Utah Civil Jury Instructions Committee, which updated the civil jury instructions used in state and federal court trials. Ms. Blanch regularly presents at seminars for Utah lawyers on the basics of litigation, jury selection, and trial techniques. She has also taught Trial Advocacy as an adjunct professor at the University of Utah Law School.

Ms. Blanch has handled dozens of appeals on the state and federal levels, including over 40 published opinions, including appeals from bench trials and jury trials and appeals from administrative decisions. She has argued before the Utah Court of Appeals, the Utah Supreme Court, and the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. She also served for several years on the Utah Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on the Utah Rules of Appellate Procedure.

Ms. Blanch enjoys running (having completed eight Boston Marathons) and reading military history and biographies.

### Contact information

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### Capabilities

Business & Commercial Litigation

Appeals

Product Liability Risk Management

Insurance Litigation

Construction Litigation

Real Estate Litigation

Plaintiffs' Litigation

### Licensed/Admitted

Utah

Idaho

U.S. Supreme Court

## Experience

### **Cosmetic Surgeon Wins Appeal Against Medical Malpractice Insurer**

Served as legal counsel for a renowned cosmetic surgeon in a jury trial and subsequent appeal against a medical malpractice insurer. The Utah Supreme Court affirmed the jury's verdict, awarded attorney fees and costs and reversed the dismissal of the punitive damages claim, allowing for a potential retrial on punitive damages.

### **Commercial Lease Dispute Resolution for Airport-Adjacent Property**

Served as legal counsel for a tenant and purchase option holder in a commercial lease dispute involving undeveloped land near a major airport. Defended against landlord's claims of breach of contract and sought damages for wrongful eviction, including lost opportunity to exercise purchase option and attorney fees under the lease agreement.

### **Commercial Real Estate Lease Dispute Defense for Landlord Clients**

Defending landlord clients in a multi-state commercial real estate lease dispute. The case involves allegations of lease breach by a tenant, with counterclaims for unpaid rent, specific performance and unlawful detainer across properties in Utah, Oregon, and California.

### **Representation in Complex Tribal Lawsuit Against Multiple Defendants**

Served as legal counsel for tribal members and entities in a federal lawsuit involving fraud, conspiracy and RICO claims. The case, filed by a former tribal judge, includes demands for asset forfeiture and receivership appointment. Notable defendants in the 320-page complaint include a state governor and a major law firm.

### **Trust Litigation**

Representing five beneficiaries to a trust who sued the two Trustees for various breaches of fiduciary duties.

### **Cosmetic Surgeon Litigation**

Represented world-renowned cosmetic surgeon in bad faith lawsuit and obtained a reversal on appeal of the dismissal of his punitive damage claims.

### **Counterclaim in Breach of Lease Allegations**

Defending landlord in lawsuit alleging breach of commercial real estate lease in four properties across multiple states and brought counterclaim for breach of the lease and specific performance on a purchase option.

### **Fraud, Conspiracy and RICO Lawsuits**

Representing tribal entity in fraud, conspiracy and RICO lawsuits brought in Utah federal district court by a former Tribal Judge.

### **Breach of Fiduciary Duties**

Represented five beneficiaries in a jury trial who sued two Trustees for breaches of fiduciary duties. Clients were awarded damages, then won a post-trial motion to remove the former Trustees.

### **Bad Faith Insurance Prosecution**

Obtained a jury verdict for a plastic surgeon client in a lawsuit against his insurance carrier for breach of the duty of good faith, then won on cross-appeal the right to pursue a punitive damages claim on his behalf. his medical malpractice insurer.

### **Breach of Commercial Real Estate Lease**

Obtained nearly \$60 million judgment representing landlord in counterclaim against tenant involving properties in Utah, Oregon and California.

### **Fraud and Conspiracy Lawsuit**

Representing clients in a fraud, conspiracy and RICO lawsuit, brought in Utah federal district court by a former tribal judge for appointment of a receiver and forfeiture of assets.

## **Accomplishments**

### **Professional**

Selected as Leading Litigator in America by LawDragon 500 for two years

Named one of Utah Business Magazine's 2020 "Women of the Year"

Recognized in Chambers USA for General Commercial Litigation, 2018 - 2025

Senior Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America

America's Top 100 Attorneys™, Lifetime Achievement Member

Mountain States Super Lawyers, Top 50 Women Lawyers, for several years; Top 100 Lawyer for General Litigation, 2022 - 2024; Top Ten Lawyers in 2024

Best Lawyers in America™ "Lawyer of the Year," Insurance Law 2016, 2023, 2025

Best Lawyers in America™ 2013 - 2026, Insurance Law and Commercial Litigation

Utah Business Magazine, "Rising Star," 2003: One of 40 Utahns under the age of 40 who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and leadership

### **Academic**

Harvard University, J.D., 1993

Indiana University, B.A., 1990, *magna cum laude*

Political Science and East Asian Culture (majors), Spanish and English (minors)

Adjunct Professor in Pre-Trial Litigation and in Trial Practice: From Fall 2008 - 2010 and 2016, University of Utah Law School

## Associations

### Professional

Tenth Circuit Representative on the ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary

Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, Utah Chair

Member of International Society of Barristers

Member and former Utah Chapter President of ABOTA

Fellow and Utah Chapter President of ABF Fellows

Former Commissioner, Utah Pro Bono Commission

President, Salt Lake County Bar Association, 2006-2007

Past Chair of the Utah Civil Jury Instructions Committee

International Association of Defense Counsel

### Community

March of Dimes, Past Board Member and Board Chair, 2011 Volunteer of the Year

Salt Lake Rotary Club, Past Member

Planned Parenthood Action Committee, Past Board Member

Ronald McDonald House Charities, Past President, Board of Directors

Ronald McDonald House Charities, Community Advisory Board

Guadalupe School, Past Board Member

## Articles

“Utah’s New Chancery Court,” Utah State Bar Journal 2023

“Recent Wins for Policyholders in COVID-19 Business Interruption Loss Claims,” COVID-19 Response Resources, Nov. 4, 2020

“A Potential for In-Court Civil Hearings Soon in Federal Court, But Utah State Courts Remain Closed for In-Person Civil Proceedings for the Foreseeable Future,” COVID-19 Response Resources, Aug. 4, 2020

“Recent Developments in Insurance Claims for COVID-19-Related Business Losses,” COVID-19 Response Resources, June 16, 2020

“Utah Court Access in Civil Cases Remains Restricted With Significant Impact to Jury Trials,” COVID-19 Response Resources, May 18, 2020

“Seeking Insurance Coverage for Business Losses: Not a Lost Cause,” COVID-19 Response Resources, Apr. 13, 2020

## **Presentations**

“Jury Selection and Opening Statements,” NLTP CLE, February 12, 2024”

“How to Do a Direct Examination,” American College of Trial Lawyers, Jan. 1, 2021

“Virtual Jury Trials,” Utah State Bar Litigation Section, May 1, 2020

“Getting the Most Out of Depositions,” Utah State Bar Trial Academy 2019