

Erik A. Christiansen is a bet-the-company litigator with more than 35 years of experience in high-stakes litigation. Mr. Christiansen's extensive experience encompasses a wide range of complex, high-dollar commercial litigation matters, including securities, multi-level marketing, financial fraud, trade secrets and regulatory defense litigation matters.



Erik A. Christiansen

Shareholder | Salt Lake City

Biography

Erik Christiansen is a commercial litigation trial attorney at Parsons Behle & Latimer with 35 years of experience. Mr. Christiansen represents clients in a variety of commercial, financial and securities litigation matters, including, among others:

- Commercial and business litigation
- Securities and financial fraud litigation
- Trade secrets litigation
- Commercial contract disputes
- Direct selling/multi-level marketing related litigation
- Investment related litigation
- Partnership disputes
- Financial institution litigation
- Banking litigation
- Insurance coverage litigation
- Commercial equipment lease litigation
- Regulatory and administrative defense matters
- Non-compete litigation

Mr. Christiansen is the Past Chair of the Utah State Securities Commission, which has oversight authority over the Utah Division of Securities, and is the Co-Chair of the firm's Securities Litigation practice group. Mr. Christiansen served on the Securities Commission from June 2009 to October 2017.

Contact information

801.536.6719

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Capabilities

Business & Commercial Litigation

Direct Sales and Multi-Level Marketing

Financial Institution Litigation

Government Enforcement, Securities and White-Collar Defense

Insurance Litigation

Securities Litigation

Trade Secret Litigation

Licensed/Admitted

Utah

California

U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, 10th Circuit

U.S. Supreme Court

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LATIMER**

Mr. Christiansen has received extensive professional recognition, including for, among others:

- President, Utah State Bar, 2023-2024
- Member, Executive Committee, American Bar Association, 2025-present
- Member of Board of Governors, American Bar Association, 2024-present
- Chambers Rated, Litigation, General Commercial, 2020-present
- Alumnus of the Year, S.J. Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah, 2019
- Practitioner of the Year, Utah State Bar, Business Law Section, 2018
- Lawyer of the Year, Securities/Capital Markets Law, Best Lawyers in America, 2020
- Lawyer of the Year in Litigation-Securities, Best Lawyers of America, 2013
- Chair, Utah State Bar Litigation Section, 2020-2021
- Chair, Utah State Securities Section, 2005-2006
- Member, American Bar Association House of Delegates, Utah State Bar Representative (November 2017-present)
- Member, Utah Supreme Court Professionalism and Civility Counseling Board, September 2022-August 2026
- Chair, Member Services Committee, ABA Board of Governors, 2025-present
- Member, ABA Board of Governors Profession, Public Service & Diversity Committee, 2024-2025
- Member, ABA Board of Governors Governance Committee, 2024-2025
- ABA, Board of Governors Liaison to Coordinating Council for the Center of Professional Responsibility, 2024-present
- ABA, Board of Governors Liaison to ABA's Forum on Franchising, 2024-present
- ABA, Board of Governors Liaison to ABA's Litigation Section Council, 2024-present
- ABA, Board of Governors Liaison to ABA's Scope and Correlation of Work Committee, 2025-present
- ABA, Board of Governors Liaison to ABA's Dues Working Group, 2025-present
- Member, Select Committee, ABA House of Delegates, August 2022-August 2024
- Member, ABA Standing Committee on Membership, August 2021-August 2024
- Regional Cochair - Utah, ABA Judicial Intern Opportunity Program, August 2021-August 2024
- Sustaining Life Fellow of the American Bar Association Foundation (2015-present)
- Adjunct Professor of Law, teaching Business Organizations Law 7050-001, S.J. Quinney College of Law (2015-2021); Procuring and Managing Legal Services Law 6350-001 (2019-2021);

Commercial Law 7060-001 (2023-current); and UCLA Transactional Law Competition Law 7096-009 (2023-current).

- Team Editor, American Bar Association's *Litigation News* (May 2021-August 2024)
- Associate Editor, American Bar Association's *Litigation News* (October 2019-May 2021)
- Contributing Editor, American Bar Association's *Litigation News* (October 2017-2019)
- Recognized in Best Lawyers of America since 2010
- Recognized in Mountain States Super Lawyers since 2009
- Maintains a Martindale-Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ rating

Prior to joining Parsons, Mr. Christiansen practiced for six years in Los Angeles, California as an associate attorney at Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy, now known as Milbank (1990-93) and as an associate at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan (1993-95). Mr. Christiansen maintains an active practice in California. He is willing to do certain types of large cases on a contingency fee basis. Mr. Christiansen has served as an expert witness in multiple securities litigation matters.

Experience

Representing Biodigester in High-Stakes Lawsuit Against Hog Farm

Served as legal counsel for a biodigester company in a federal lawsuit against a large hog farm operation. The case, stemming from the farm's depopulation efforts, involves complex issues related to methane conversion and tax credits. Despite initial setbacks in obtaining injunctive relief, the litigation progressed with the filing of an amended complaint seeking over \$300 million in damages.

Defense Against Consumer Class Action for Kratom Product Manufacturer

Served as defense counsel in a consumer class action filed against a kratom product manufacturer in federal court. The lawsuit, seeking unspecified damages, alleges alleged addiction issues related to the company's kratom-containing products. Defended the client by filing an answer denying material allegations and asserting various affirmative defenses. Discovery is continuing.

Arbitration and Counterclaims

Defended lawsuit filed in district court by filing a motion to compel arbitration as well as filing counterclaims that resulted in the client being awarded over \$1 million in damages.

George Najjar v. New U Life Corporation, et al.

Defended client against lawsuit filed by the alleged founder of an MLM company alleging the client froze the founder out of a partnership and misappropriated funds. A favorable settlement was reached.

Obtained Preliminary Injunction Enjoining Former Executive from Breaching Nonsolicitation Agreement

On July 31, 2021, in a hotly-contested international arbitration proceeding, Parsons Behle & Latimer obtained a preliminary injunction enjoining a former executive of a direct selling company from

attempting to convert the customers of his prior employer to join a competing direct selling company.

Erik Christiansen Representative Matters

- *Kessman v. Myriad Genetics, Inc.*, 2019 US Dist LEXIS 49996 (D. Utah Mar. 25, 2019);
- *Rumbaugh v. Usana Health Scis., Inc.*, 2:17-CV-106 (D. Utah 2018)
- *Grigsby v. Income Prop. USA, LLC* 2018 WL 4621766 (D. Utah 2018);
- *Miller v. Union Cent. Life Ins. Co.*, 2:14-CV-575 (D. Utah 2018);
- *Ariix, LLC v. NutriSearch Corp.*, 2018 WL 1456928 (S.D. Cal. 2018);
- *CFTC v. Tallinex*, 2:17-cv-00483-DN (D. Utah 2018);
- *Morris v. Overstock.com*, 2:18-CV-00271 (D. Utah 2018);
- *Zesch Enterprises, LLC v. Partsolutions, LLC*, Third Judicial District Court, Utah (2017);
- *Rawcliffe v. Anciaux*, 2017 UT 72, 416 P.3d 362 (2017);
- *Eleutian Tech., Inc. v. Ellucian Co.*, 2017 US Dist Lexis 25589 (D. Utah 2017);
- *Brian C. v. ValueOptions*, 2017 WL 4564737 (D. Utah 2017);
- *Strong v. Cochran*, 2:14-cv-788-TC (D. Utah 2017)
- *Jamberry Nails v. Newman*, 2:16-cv-1152 (D. Utah 2016);
- *SEC v. Gilbertson, et al.*, 0:16-CV-03779 (D. Minn. 2016);
- *Meretta v. Cottonwood Capital, LLC*. (D. Utah 2016);
- *Lindley Constr., Inc. v. Bank of the West*, 16-CV-0048-F (D. Wyo. 2016);
- *DEC Unlimited, Inc. v. Send Out Cards, LLC*, 2:16-MC-00935-DN (D. Utah 2016);
- *Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc. v. Reyes*, 665 Fed. Appx. 736 (10th 2016);
- *Ackerman v. SEC*, 2:15-MC-00023 (D. Utah 2015);
- *Advanced Engine Management, Inc. v. Alticity Performance*, 2:15-CV-05394 (C.D. Cal. 2015);
- *Alcon Labs., Inc. v. Reyes*, 2:15cv252-DB (D. Utah 2015);
- *PICS Auditing LLC v. Browz LLC*, 8:15-CV-00952 (C.D. Cal. 2015);
- *Pliuskaitis v. USA Swimming.*, 2:15-CV-00198 (D. Utah 2015)
- *USANA Health v. Lee*, 2:14-CV-00541 (D. Utah 2014);
- *Greenfuels Processing I v. Covol Fuels No. 5*, 2:13-CV-00878 (D. Utah 2013);
- *Center for Excellence in Higher Education v. Meiling*, 2:13-CV-01052 (D. Utah 2013);
- *Winzler v. Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc.*, 681 F.3d 1208 (10th 2012);
- *HCG Platinum v. Preferred Product Placement*, 2:11-CV-00496 (D. Utah 2011);
- *Abbott v. Law Office of Patrick J. Mulligan*, 440 Fed. Appx. 612 (10th 2011);
- *Lee v. Max Intl., LLC*, 638 F.3d 1318 (10th 2011);
- *UBS Bank USA v. Mullins*, No. 2:08-CV-814 TS (D. Utah 2011);
- *Wirth v. Taylor*, 2:09-cv-127 TS (D. Utah 2011);
- *1-800 Contacts v. Clearlab SG.*, 2:10-CV-00353 (D. Utah 2010);

- *In re Imergent Secs. Litig.*, 2:05-CV-204 (D. Utah 2010);
- *Lee v. Max Int'l, LLC*, 2:09-cv-00179 (D. Utah 2010);
- *SEC v. Stanford Int'l Bank., Ltd.*, 776 F. Supp. 2d 323 (N.D. Tex. 2011);
- *Development West v. Bank of the West*, 2:10-CV-01000 (D. Utah 2010);
- *Law Debenture Trust Co. v. Parker International*, 2:10-CV-00956 (D. Utah 2010);
- *Melaleuca, Inc. v. Max International, LLC*, 2010 WL 1651949 (D. Idaho 2010);
- *SEC v. Stanford Int'l Bank., Ltd.*, 2009 US Dist Lexis 133001 (N.D. Tex. 2009);
- *Abbott v. Mulligan*, 647 F. Supp. 2d 1286 (D. Utah 2009);
- *Sparks v. Saxon Invs., LLC*, 2:09CV151DAL (D. Utah 2009);
- *Petito v. Brewster*, 562 F.3d 761 (5th 2009);
- *VesCor Capital Corp. v. Valle Verde LP*, 2:07-CV-363 (D. Utah 2009)
- *Ellison v. Utah County*, 2009 UT App. 72 (2009);
- *UBS Bank v. Hawit*, 2:09-Cv-00032 (D. Utah 2009);
- *Burgess Group v. Cornerstone Financial Services*, 2:09-CV-00860 (D. Utah 2009);
- *In re Nature's Sunshine Products Inc. Sec. Litigation*, 251 F.R.D. 656 (D. Utah 2008);
- *Schipaanboord v. Volkswagen of America, Inc.*, 2:08-CV-00074 (D. Utah 2008);
- *Siskin Enterprises. Inc. v. Wood*, 2:08-CV-00225 (D. Utah 2008);
- *UBS Bank v. Mullins*, 2:08-CV-00814 (D. Utah 2008);
- *Galindo v. Asset Recovery Trust*, 2008 WL 3851434 (D. Utah 2008);
- *Certified Engineering Systems v. National City Commercial Capital.*, 2:07-CV-00293 (D. Utah 2007);
- *In re Nature's Sunshine Products Inc. Sec. Litigation*, 486 F. Supp. 2d 1301 (D. Utah 2007);
- *C5 Invs. Inc. v. Ernst & Young*, No. 06-CIV-0210-WFN (D. Idaho 2007);
- *Stalsberg v. New York Life Ins. Co.*, 2:07-CV-29 BSJ (D. Utah 2007);
- *Energytec, Inc. v. Proctor*, 516 F. Supp. 2d 660 (N.D. Tex 2007);
- *Borghetti v. Muir*, No. 2:04-cv-00861 (D. Utah 2005);
- *Cintas v. Bell*, 2:06-MC-00205 (D. Utah 2006);
- *Citibank v. Forte*, 2006 Ut. App. 344 (August 17, 2006);
- *Citibank v. Forte*, 2006 Ut. App. 279 (June 29, 2006);
- *Great American Ins. Co. v. Woodside Homes Corp.*, 448 F. Supp. 2d 1275 (D. Utah 2006);
- *Basic Research v. BDirect*, 2:06-CV-00932 (D. Utah 2006);
- *Molano-Youman v. Hartford Life.*, 1:05-cv-00083 (D. Utah 2005);
- *Firestone v. Imergent, Inc.*, 2:05cv00204 DB (D. Utah 2005)
- *O'Very v. Spectratek Technologies, Inc.*, 2004 WL 5642004 (C. D. Cal. 2004);
- *SEC v. Wolfson*, 309 B.R. 612 (D. Utah 2004);
- *Holliday v. Volkswagen Amer.*, 2:04-CV-00512 (D. Utah 2004);

- *Busico v. Citibank (SD), NA.*, 2:04-CV-01178 (D. Utah 2004);
- *Case Data v. Xerox Corp.*, 1:04-CV-00140 (D. Utah 2004);
- *Elf Athletics v. JSR Research*, 2:15-cv-00748 (D. Utah 2004);
- *O'Very v. Spectratek Technologies, Inc.*, 2003 WL 25781235 (C.D. Cal. 2003);
- *Wyatt v. Nebeker*, 2:03-CV-00961 (D. Utah 2003);
- *Innovative Optics v. Paradigm Med.*, 2:03-CV-00582 (D. Utah 2003);
- *SEC v. Wolfson*, 2003 WL 23356418 (D. Utah 2003);
- *Total Renal Care v. Stinson*, 2:02-CV-00307 (D. Utah 2002);
- *Spiegel v. Tenfold*, 192 F. supp. 2d 1261 (D. Utah 2002);
- *Sunrise Fin., Inc. v. PaineWebber, Inc.*, 164 F. Supp. 2d 1277 (D. Utah 2001);
- *Trillium USA, Inc. v. Bd. Of County Commissioners*, 2001 UT 101, 37 P.3d 1093 (2001);
- *Kennecott UT Copper v. Minet Ltd.*, 2001-CV-00084 (D. Utah 2001);
- *SOS Staffing Services v. Sollenne*, 2:00-CV-00194 (D. Utah 2000);
- *Hodges v. Howell*, 2000 UT App 171, 4 P.3d 803 (2000);
- *Allman v. Ensign Bickford Ind., et al.*, 2:00-CV-00525 (D. Utah 2000);
- *Barton v. Tenfold*, 2:00-CV-00669 (D. Utah 2000);
- *Sunrise Fin., Inc. v. PaineWebber, Inc.*, 4 F. Supp. 2d 1035 (D. Utah 1998);
- *Sunrise Financial, Inc. v. PaineWebber, Inc.*, 948 F. Supp. 1002 (D. Utah 1996);
- *Froland v. Northeast Savings*, 1995 WL 818750 (Cal. Ct. App. 1995);

Mr. Christiansen has obtained terminating sanctions in the following cases:

- *Granite Seed Company v. William Agnew*, Case No. 150905897, Third Judicial District Court, State of Utah (September 26, 2017)(representing plaintiff).
- *Palatine Capital Investment Group v. Alpine Securities Corporation*, FINRA Case No. 10-05507 (January 6, 2012)(representing respondent).
- *Markyl Lee v. Max International, LLC*, 638 F.3d 1318 (10th Cir. 2011)(representing defendant)(Circuit Judge Gorsuch).

Accomplishments

Professional

Maintains a Martindale-Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ Rating

Ranked in Chambers USA for Litigation: General Commercial, 2019-present

Recognized as Utah Business Magazine "Utah Legal Elite" in civil litigation, 2023, 2024, 2025

Recognized in "The Best Lawyers in America," Securities Litigation and Commercial Litigation, since 2010; Salt Lake City Lawyer of the Year, Litigation - Securities, 2022

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Recognized in "Mountain States Super Lawyers," Securities Litigation, since 2009

Academic

University of Utah College of Law (J.D., 1990)

Articles Editor, *Utah Law Review*

William H. Leary Scholar

Author, "Sterling v. Velsicol Chemical Corporation: Emotional Distress Damages for the Duration of Toxic Exposure," *Utah Law Review* 759 (1989)

Author, "Miranda-Like Warnings Required in Non-Custodial Settings," *Utah Law Review* 260, No. 1 (1989)

University of Utah (B.A. in Political Science, 1987)

University of Utah (B.A. in English, 1986)

Associations

Professional

Member, ABA Standing Committee on Membership (August 2021-August 2024)

Regional Cochair - Utah, ABA Judicial Intern Opportunity Program (August 2021-August 2024)

State Membership Chair, ABA State Membership Committee (2019-August 2024)

Member, ABA Litigation Section Membership and Marketing Committee (2020-2021)

Utah State Bar, Litigation Section, Executive Committee (2015 - 2022) Chair (2020-2021)

Utah State Securities Commission, Chair and Commissioner (June 2009 - October 2017)
(Appointed by Governor John M. Huntsman, Jr. in June 2009, and re-appointed by Governor Gary R. Herbert in June 2013).

Securities Litigation Committee of the ABA Section of Litigation, Web Editor (2012 - 2016)

Coverage Magazine, Official Journal of ABA's Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee, Editor-in-Chief (2007 - 2015)

Publications Editorial Board, ABA's Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee (2015 - 2018)

Federal Bar Association, Utah Chapter, Chair (2008 - 2009)

University of Utah Board of Advisors for Undergraduate Education, Chair (2009 - 2011)

Utah State Bar, Securities Section, Chair (2005 - 2006)

University of Utah Young Alumni Board, Chair (2000 - 2002)

University of Utah College of Law, Member, Board of Trustees (1996 - 1999)

Community

Member, Salt Lake County Arts & Culture Advisory Board (August 2018 - 2024)

Visit Salt Lake, Executive Committee (2009-current), Chair (2013 - 2014), Legal Advisor (2019 - present)

Utah Film Center, Board of Trustees (2017 - current)

KRCL 90.9 FM, Community Advisory Board (2015 - current)

CUAC, Board of Trustees (2015 - 2017)

KRCL 90.9 FM, Community Radio, Member, Board of Directors and Executive Committee (2006 - 2011)

International Sculpture Center, Hamilton, New Jersey, Member, Board of Trustees and Executive Committee (2006 - 2011)

Salt Lake Art Center (now known as UMOCA) Chair, Board of Trustees (2006 - 2009)

Articles

“Class Action Representation: Everyone is on the Same Team,” *Litigation News, print edition, Spring 2021, Vol. 46, No. 3 at 4, Apr. 6, 2021*

“Breach of Duty Results in Forfeiture of \$7.5 Million Contingency Fee,” *Top Story, ABA’s Litigation News, Dec. 23, 2020*

“Did Time Run Out on Employee’s Noncompete?” *ABA’s Litigation News, Vol. 46, No. 1, at 14, Nov. 2, 2020*

“Snap Removal: A New Tool for Out-of-State Defendants,” *ABA’s Litigation News, Aug. 31, 2020*

“Discovery Cannot Be Used to Find a Class Action Plaintiff,” *ABA’s Litigation News, June 8, 2020*

Presentations

“Regulatory Reform, Part Deux: Reports from Utah, Arizona and California,” at the 46th ABA National Conference on Professional Responsibility, June 3, 2021

“A Discussion about Diversity and Inclusion with ABA President Refo and distinguished guests from the Utah State Bar,” Utah State Bar and American Bar Association, Feb. 2, 2021

“Litigation Skills Series Special Edition - Yes You Can Do a Virtual Jury Trial!” Utah State Bar Litigation Section, Jan. 28, 2021

“The High Stakes Risks for Utah Companies Doing Business Overseas,” World Trade Center Utah/Parsons Behle & Latimer, Dec. 3, 2020 (co-presented with Brent R. Baker and Jeffrey C. Corey)

“Recent Developments in Federal and State Securities Litigation in 2020,” Utah State Bar Virtual Securities Section Annual CLE Meeting, Nov. 18, 2020

“Preserving the 7th Amendment in the Face of COVID-19: Perspectives from the Bench and Trial Lawyers,” Moderator, Virtual CLE presentation for the Utah State Bar Litigation Section, June 11, 2020

“Social Distance Litigation: Best Practices for Advocates in the New Normal,” The Litigation Section of the Utah State Bar, May 18, 2020

“To Compete or Not To Compete... That is the Legislation,” Utah State Bar Litigation Section, May 26, 2016 (co-presented with Christina M. Jepson)

*To view additional insights and related news items, visit parsonsbehle.com/people/erik-a-christiansen#insights