

PRACTICES

Business Litigation
State and Local Tax
Tax Controversy and Litigation
Bankruptcy and Restructuring

EDUCATION

University of Denver College of Law, J.D., 2002
Order of St. Ives
Denver University Law Review, General Editor

Wesleyan University, B.A., 1994
English
Departmental Honors
Varsity Lacrosse

BAR ADMISSIONS

Colorado

COURT ADMISSIONS

U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Colorado
U.S. Tax Court
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia
U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
U.S. Supreme Court

Jonathan Bender

Partner

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Jon helps clients navigate and solve complex problems in and out of the courtroom. He has been recognized by clients, adversaries, and neutrals as a top tier trial lawyer who presents issues clearly and persuasively.

He has significant experience in federal and state courts, regulatory agencies, arbitrations, and mediations. He focuses his practice on three areas: complex commercial litigation, state and local tax controversies, and bankruptcy/receivership matters.

In his business litigation practice, he advises clients in a variety of industries, including recreation/hospitality, mining, commercial and multifamily real estate, oil and gas, healthcare, and financial services. He has successfully litigated breach of contract and business tort claims for over two decades and has successfully tried multiple cases to judgment and verdict.

In his state and local tax practice, he represents clients in sales, use, gross receipts, and property tax matters. He recently won a multi-million dollar refund on one of his client's qualification for a statutory medical services deduction after a multi-day district court trial.

In his bankruptcy/receivership practice, he represents creditors in bankruptcy adversary proceeding litigation and creditors and court-appointed receivers in receivership cases across multiple industries.

Jon is also a longstanding member of the firm's diversity committee and serves as the Administrative Partner of the Denver office. In that role, he is responsible for administrative oversight and direction of the office and drives market-based initiatives to promote the firm's brand and services.

EXPERIENCE

Pro Bono

Jon maintains an active pro bono practice, having represented clients in administrative, district court, and appellate litigation. Notably, he has briefed issues before the United States Supreme Court concerning the legality of lethal injections and the public's right to record public officials performing their official duties. See *Estate of Lockett v. Fallin,* Case No. 16-1255; *Frasier v. Evans,* Case No. 21-57.

In addition, he worked with a team of Holland & Hart lawyers for four years to litigate habeas corpus petitions on behalf of several Guantanamo Bay

detainees in district and appellate courts, which involved obtaining a secret security clearance and working at a secured government facility. He was recognized nationally and locally for his efforts related to these representations.

He also frequently represents minors requiring assistance in proceedings involving judicial bypass of statutory parental notification requirements in Denver Juvenile Court.

CLIENT RESULTS

Representing commercial lender in multiple disputes concerning distressed residential properties.

Representing owner of multifamily property in defense of putative class action involving Colorado Consumer Protection Act, warranty of habitability, premises liability, and unjust enrichment claims.

Representing higher education institutions in litigation concerning punitive exit fees related to departure from one athletic conference to another.

Represented lead investors of emerging growth company in civil litigation, bankruptcy proceeding, and related adversary claims involving executive misconduct. Successfully obtained relief requested. Upheld on appeal.

Representing natural resources company in challenge to multi-billion dollar valuation of gathering system.

Represented medical providers in cases involving qualification for tax deduction.

Defended natural gas processor in pipeline valuation case involving alleged omission of appurtenances in property declarations before the Colorado Board of Assessment Appeals. Obtained complete defense judgment.

Prosecuted fraudulent transfer claims against multiple corporate and individual defendants in trial. Successfully obtained multimillion dollar award, including attorneys' fees. Upheld on appeal.

Defended premises liability and fraud lawsuit brought by former employees against industrial supply company. Case dismissed on Rule 12 motion. Upheld on appeal.

Defended fraud, fraudulent conveyance, and alter ego claims against real estate developer and custom homebuilder. Defeated all claims at trial.

Defended nonprofit neighborhood organization in breach of employment contract case. Defeated all claims at trial.

Obtained complete defense judgment in representation of automobile manufacturer in dealer termination challenge in AAA arbitration.

Defended Olympic athlete in challenge to team selection criteria and

obtained favorable written determination in AAA arbitration.

Represented natural resources company in challenge to multi-billion dollar valuation of gathering system. Obtained favorable decision from property tax administrative appeal board.

Represented hospitality company in defense of pandemic-related claims concerning impossibility of performance. Claims favorably resolved.

Represented public utility in trespass and interference with easement claims. Injunctive relief obtained and claims favorably resolved.

Represented motion picture exhibitor in multiple property tax appeals. Claims favorably resolved.

Defended engineering firm against allegations of federal and state antitrust violations. Claims dismissed on summary judgment.

Defended health care insurance company on alleged Section 2 Sherman Act violations. Claims favorably resolved.

Defended mining company in breach of contract and estoppel case before International Centre for Dispute Resolution. Claims favorably resolved.

Represented member of limited liability corporation in corporate dissolution proceeding. Client's interest favorably acquired.

Represented gas company in resolving business interruption claim for lost profits that coincided with economic uncertainties related to COVID-19 pandemic. Claims favorably resolved.

Represented victim investors in receivership proceeding and related government investigations involving widespread fraud and Ponzi scheme. Claims favorably resolved, with criminal indictments returned and prison sentences imposed against adverse parties.

Represented ski area operator in defending claims related to on-mountain injuries. Claims favorably resolved.

BLOG POSTS

"Warning Sign: AI Trouble Ahead," *The Pulse*, August 27, 2026

"The Thoughtful Use of AI: Everybody Wins," *The Pulse*, August 03, 2026

"Silence Is Power, Both in Litigation and in Life.," *The Pulse*, July 22, 2026

RECOGNITION

- Litigation Counsel of America, Fellow
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Commercial Litigation, 2020-2027; Tax Law, 2022-2027; Bet-the-Company Litigation, 2026, 2027
- Colorado Super Lawyers®, Business Litigation, 2013-2026

- Colorado Super Lawyers®, Top 100 Lawyers, 2021-2023
- Colorado Super Lawyers® Rising Stars, 2009-2012
- *5280 Magazine* Top Lawyers, Commercial Litigation, 2016-2019
- Martindale-Hubbell®, AV Preeminent® Rating
- *Benchmark Litigation*, Litigation Star, 2026
- *Denver Business Journal*, Forty Under 40, 2011
- Sandra Day O'Connor Award for Professional Service, 2010
- *Law Week Colorado*, Pro Bono Leader of the Year, 2010
- ACLU Carle Whitehead Memorial Award, 2010

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Corporation, Executive Committee Member
- American Bar Association, Litigation Section, Member
- Colorado and Denver Bar Associations, Tax and Litigation Sections, Member
- Colorado Bar Foundation, Fellow
- Faculty of Federal Advocates, Member
- Doyle's Inn of Court, Member
- Legal Aid Foundation of Colorado, Former Board of Trustees Member
- Wesleyan Lawyers Association, Member
- Denver Bar Association, Court Mediation Services, Volunteer Mediator
- International Association of Defense Counsel, Member
- Public Education & Business Coalition, Former Board Member