

BRENT WILLIAMS-RUTH

E-MAIL BRENT@WILLIAMS-RUTHLAW.COM

AREAS OF EXPERIENCE

- **Attorney, Campaigns, Business Development, and Fundraising:** For nearly twenty years, I have worked with people from all walks of life – from being a law school intern in the Juvenile Division of the King County Prosecutor's Office to Campaign Manager for a successful State House race, to raising money for non-profits that support public health and pro-bono legal work. My diverse background has exposed me to a great number of situations and people that provide me with empathy and compassion and an unfaltering belief in what is right

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Attorney/Consultant

WA

Law Offices of Brent Williams-Ruth Federal Way,

July 2015 - Present

- Estate planning and estate administration services through unique client engagement offering created from the inception of the firm that brings back the concept of the "family" attorney called the "concierge estate planning client" serving clients with assets up to \$4.5 billion.
- Assisting in basic Medicaid planning and elder law issues, such as guardianship/conservatorship
- Event consultant hired to produce events ranging from corporate/company events to public fundraising events for Seattle University School of Law.
- Campaign Manager for Representative Kristine Reeves, who became the first African American woman elected to the Washington House of Representatives since 1992, defeating the incumbent in both the primary and general election.

Senior Associate Attorney

WA

Scheer & Zehnder, LLP Seattle,

February 2013 – June 2015

- Serve as only one of two associates for coverage matters arising Washington, Alaska, and Oregon, including coverage counsel for \$80 million wildfire claim, asbestos claims, personal injury claims, and construction claims.
- Research complicated and novel coverage issues and issue corresponding opinion and recommendation letters, denial letters, reservation of rights letter
- Prepare presentations regarding various coverage related issued including consent judgments, claims handling, and cyber liability
- Respond to written discovery from opposing counsel, including reviewing client documents to determine responsive and/or privileged materials.

Associate Attorney

WA

Lether & Associates, PLLC Seattle,

December 2011 – February 2013

- Participated in complex insurance coverage litigation matters with varying potential exposure including up to and in excess of \$30 million under Commercial General Liability policies.
- Drafted coverage opinion letters, denial letters, and reservation of rights letters
- Drafted summary judgment motions, declaratory judgment complaints and other pleadings associated with first and third party coverage litigation – including review and analysis of client materials in response to written discovery requests.

Review Center Attorney

WA

Perkins Coie, LLP Seattle,

January 2011 – December 2011

- Conducted electronic document review and litigation support for the Commercial Litigation division. Cases involved WWII era asbestos claims, employment litigation, securities litigation, federal grand jury investigations, and international anti-trust litigation.

Associate Attorney
WA

Cole, Lether, Wathen & Leid, P.C. Seattle,

February 2003 – October 2005

- Participated in first- and third-party insurance defense litigation matters ranging from construction defect, water intrusion to novel medical claims in personal injury suits
- Lead associate responsible for conducting discovery and production of documents on six construction related matters ranging from multi-million-dollar municipal projects to private commercial properties and residential disputes
- Participated in jury trials as either second or third chair attorney with a focus on discovery, trial binders and exhibits.

Associate Attorney

Logue Law Offices Tacoma, WA

July 2002 – March 2003

- Handled workers compensation litigation with experience in Administrative hearings and Superior Court trials, including handling all discovery matters with opposing counsel.

Student Representative/Marketing Coordinator

West Group, Inc. Seattle, WA

2000 – 2002

- Assisted with Advanced Legal Writing classes by teaching KeyCite Alert, West CiteLink, West Check
- Developed strong legal research skills while teaching others basic research techniques

Judicial Intern – Judge D. Gary Steiner
WA

Pierce County Superior Court Tacoma,

May 2001 – September 2001

- Drafted orders for bench trials
- Researched and analyzed motions, in-trial objections, pre-trial rulings, and final judgments
- Researched legal issues for weekly motion docket
- Drafted written opinion on issue of first impression, upheld by Washington State Court of Appeals – 115 Wash.App. 874
- Drafted written opinion on issue of attorney fees in minor litigation, upheld by Washington Court of Appeals – 112 Wash.App. 818

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Event Director
WA

American Lung Association of the Northwest Seattle,

April 2008 - December 2010

- Managed and directed the two large scale annual fundraising events – a Walk/Run and an Urban Stairclimb
- Negotiated, drafted, and reviewed sponsorship contracts with corporate partners
- Lead efforts to recruit participants and donors to support designated events and the overall organization
- Recruited and lead community volunteer committee to support premier events

HuskyTron Liaison/Production Coordinator
WA

University of Washington Seattle,

January 2005 – September 2012

- Attended all home football games and coordinate with two others all non-game related activity within Husky Stadium

Director, New Business Development
WA

Fisher Communications Seattle,

February 2007 – December 2007

- Created, managed and executed all Non-Traditional Revenue (NTR) events and promotions for Fisher Radio Seattle
- Developed administrative tracking protocol to manage NTR projects and proposals
- Created dedicated web sites, TV, print, and radio advertising campaigns for NTR events to control & direct messaging

Event Producer/Consultant
WA

Toast to the Northwest - University of Washington Seattle,

February 2005 – May 2008

- Solely responsible for the creation, production, coordination, organization, and implementation of a new wine festival and gala fundraising event for the Husky Marching Band
- Procured corporate partners, negotiated, drafted and reviewed all partnership contracts/agreements

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Regent, Board of Regents
WA

Seattle University Seattle,

August 2023 – Present (1st term ends September 2026)

- Philanthropy Committee Member
- Attend scheduled meetings (in-person and via zoom) to obtain information about the state of the University and its programs to serve as community ambassador supporting and promoting Seattle University and its students, faculty, staff, and programs.
- Attend and participate in events that showcase Seattle University – including, but not limited to, Red Mass, various athletic events, the President's State of the University, Commencement, investiture ceremonies, and the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony and Mass.

RPPT Executive Committee (PT Council Member)
WA

Washington State Bar Association (WSBA), Seattle,

October 2023 – Present

- Serve as RPPT EC Liaison to WSBA Board of Governors
- Assist with legislative priorities for the Probate and Trust Council, including facilitating developing member support for legislation to adjust Estate Tax law through direct contact with members
- Active member of the RPPT section through list serv submissions and responses, attending section CLE and Midyear meetings.

LGBT Section Executive Committee

Washington State Bar Association (WSBA), Seattle, WA

January 2025 – Present

- At-Large member assisting with section communication
- Assisting Chair with Executive Committee meeting operations
- Provide section members with opportunities to connect after Executive Committee Meetings

Director, Foundation Board of Directors
WA

Wesley Homes Foundation, Des Moines,

May 2024 – Present

- Assist with fundraising efforts supporting Wesley Homes
- Serve as stakeholder ambassador and input to Wesley Homes Executive Team

Governor, Board of Governors
WA

Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) Seattle,

August 2020 – November 2024

- Elected by entire WSBA Membership to At-Large position June 2022
- Elected by 8th Congressional District WSBA Members, June 2020 – early ascension when predecessor resigned
- Key Committees: Personnel (2023-2024 Chair); Budget & Audit; Membership Engagement; Nominations, and Board Legislative Committee
- Drafted and proposed multiple policies to assist with streamlining, efficiency, including by-law amendments to aid in the operations and policies of the WSBA
- Served as appointed representative (and interim co-Chair) to the Washington State Supreme Court Task Force on Bar Licensure; appointed Chair of the Ethics/Character & Fitness subcommittee responsible for once in a generation change to attorney licensure (see Seattle Times Op Ed: <https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/editorials/new-alternatives-to-wa-bar-exam-level-the-field-for-law-licensing/>)

Member/Chair Character & Fitness Board
WA

Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) Seattle,

September 2016 – September 2020

- Conduct (and Chair) confidential quasi-judicial hearings to establish whether applicant to join the WSBA complies with court rules establishing the requisite moral character and fitness
- Draft opinions (having written both majority and dissenting positions) with citations to the transcript and submitted evidence to the Washington Supreme Court in support or opposition the recommendation of the Character and Fitness Board.

Member, Alumni Board of Governors (ABOG)
WA

Seattle University Seattle,

June 2020 – August 2023

- The purpose of the ABOG is was to expand the reach of Seattle University, increase alumni engagement and giving, strengthen SU's reputation in the community, and advocate its mission and values in my individual community.
- Participated in meetings both remotely and in-person.
- Participate in alumni engagement events around the community

Washington Leadership Committee
WA

Claims Litigation Management (CLM) Seattle,

May 2012 – June 2015

- 2015 Washington CLM President
- 2014 Educational Director responsible for organizing and executing Northwest Regional mini-conference with a night social and a full day of educational panels on topics ranging from diversity in claims adjusting to coverage and cyber liability
- 2012-2013 Event Chair responsible for organizing networking and education events for insurance industry and defense counsel, including golf tournament, holiday party, and quarter-day continuing education seminar

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor

WA

December 2001

- Member of Student Bar Association

Seattle University School of Law

Seattle,

Bachelor of Arts (Political Science)

March 1999

- At-Large Senator of the ASUW
- Worked with coalition of students from across state universities to address affirmative action initiative (I-200)

University of Washington

Seattle, WA

Associates of Arts

March 1997

- Cum Laude
- Elected Vice President of Legislation then elected President
- Ex-Officio member of the College Board of Trustees

Tacoma Community College

Tacoma, WA

REFERENCES

Professional, Personal, and Client references available upon request