

People



Adam L. Massaro

Partner, Litigation

Denver

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vCard

Adam Massaro is an intellectual property and corporate litigator. Adam handles complex, multi-million dollar matters, including the representation of international clients ranging from South Korea to India. He has tried multiple cases, including obtaining a seven-figure jury verdict and defending a client against a seven-figure claim where he secured a complete defense win at trial. Whether a U.S. or foreign-based business, Adam works to ensure his clients' legal and business interests are aligned.

Adam works with clients on intellectual property matters in a broad range of areas, including software, internet-based technologies, industrial equipment, and sporting goods. He has litigated intellectual property and high technology cases in Colorado, California, Nevada, and Arizona Federal District Court.

Adam represents clients in the cannabis industry in both state and federal court, including obtaining a complete defense win at trial for a client, obtaining injunctive relief for a plant-touching entity, and enforcing cannabis intellectual property rights. He provides strategic counseling to cannabis companies throughout the industry, including multi-state operators, publicly traded entities, cannabis brands, and investors in the space.

Notable Work

Trade Secret Litigation: Representation of a financial institution in theft of trade secret litigation (Wyoming state court). Obtained a seven-figure verdict for client after second chairing a two-week jury trial and obtained punitive damages.

Patent Infringement Litigation: Representation of an intimate apparel company in patent infringement lawsuits involving backless strapless bras (Central District of California Federal District Court). Cases resolved successfully.

Patent Litigation: Representation of patent owner in Smart Card credit card cases. (Colorado Federal District Court). Cases resolved

Areas of Experience

Litigation
Cannabis
Equine Law
Commercial Disputes
Intellectual Property Litigation
International

Education

J.D., University of Denver Sturm College of Law, 2010
B.A., Pennsylvania State University, 2007

Admissions

Bars

Colorado

Courts

Colorado Supreme Court
All Colorado State Courts
Colorado Court of Appeals
U.S. District Court, District of Colorado
U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit
U.S. Supreme Court

Related Content

Super Lawyers Names Akerman Lawyers in Colorado and Nevada
March 13, 2024

Adam Massaro Among *Attorney Intel's* Top 25 in Colorado
February 13, 2024

112 Akerman Lawyers Across the U.S. Named to 2023 *Super Lawyers* and Rising Stars Lists
September 28, 2023

successfully.

Patent Infringement Litigation: Representation of firearm accessory company in a patent infringement lawsuit involving charging handles for assault rifles (Nevada Federal District Court). Case resolved successfully.

Patent Litigation: Representation of company in patent litigation regarding the extraction of copper during the mining process (Arizona Federal District Court). Case resolved successfully.

Patent Infringement Litigation: Representation of defendants in patent infringement lawsuit concerning secondary lithium ion batteries. (Colorado Federal District Court). Defendants' motion to dismiss granted resulting in complete dismissal with prejudice. Case resolved successfully.

Trademark Infringement Litigation: Representation of Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce in a trademark infringement action (Colorado Federal District Court). Case resolved successfully.

Trademark Litigation: Representation of Colorado law firm in trademark dispute. (Colorado Federal District Court). Case resolved successfully.

Patent Infringement Litigation: Representation of patent holder in a major infringement suit involving a healthcare industry website where consumers locate and compare physicians (Colorado Federal District Court). Case resolved successfully.

Trade Secret Litigation: Representation of dental implants company over theft of trade secrets related to novel dental implants procedure. (Colorado state court). After filing motion for preliminary injunction, case resolved successfully.

Copyright and Trade Secret Litigation: Representation of copyright and trade secret holder in a case involving stolen source code and computer fraud crimes. (Minnesota Federal District Court).

Trade Secret Litigation: Representation of a cutting edge mobile app developer in theft of trade secret litigation, which garnered media coverage (Colorado state court). Case resolved successfully.

Cannabis Litigation: Representation of licensed Colorado cannabis entity in a business interference case, which garnered media coverage (Colorado state court). Obtained temporary restraining order in favor of client. Opposing side later conceded to preliminary injunctive relief.

Cannabis Litigation: Representation of a publicly traded company affiliated with the cannabis industry against former CEO (AAA Arbitration). Former CEO claimed he was owed millions in restricted stock units and damages. After first-chairing (and trying solo) a multi-day arbitration, the arbitrator issued a complete defense award in favor of the client.

Cannabis Litigation: Representation of investors in business separation involving distressed cannabis asset. Within days of engagement, developed a multi-pronged strategy to allow for the investors to have a successful exit. Matter resolved successfully.

Cannabis Litigation: Representation of publicly traded company affiliated with the cannabis industry related to whether engineering

design of large-scale, in-door grow facility provided adequate lighting and space between the canopy and the lighting. Case settled on favorable terms (Colorado state court).

Cannabis Intellectual Property Enforcement: Representation of clients in the acquisition of and enforcement of intellectual property, including cannabis trade secrets and licensing rights.

Construction Defect Litigation: Representation of engineering firm against HOA in multi-million dollar construction defect case. Obtained dismissal of CCPA claim against firm. Approximately two weeks before trial, secured favorable evidence destruction ruling against HOA. Case settled the same day on favorable terms. (Colorado state court).

Healthcare Litigation: Representation of major healthcare company in case with \$500 million at issue. (Colorado state court). Coordinated and developed multiple technical, economic, and damages experts. Case resolved successfully.

Fraud Claims: Representation of a telecommunications company against one of the largest telecommunications companies in the United States. (Colorado Federal District Court). The opposing side alleged that client was part of a conspiracy with other downstream, long-distance carriers to defraud the company in the amount of at least \$13 million. Achieved a complete dismissal of all claims as a result of filing a motion to dismiss at the outset.

Malpractice: Representation of international law firm where plaintiff alleged the firm committed malpractice, breached fiduciary duties, and committed other business torts. (Colorado state court). The plaintiff sought in excess of \$20 million in damages. Days before trial, the plaintiff settled for a fraction of the alleged damages.

Ownership Dispute: Representation of an individual in a dispute over the ownership of a series of roofing companies; second-chaired four-day jury trial. (Colorado state court). Jury determined that client was a 50 percent owner of the roofing companies and awarded him \$578,085 in damages.

Business Dispute: Defended a national lumber supplier in a dispute over sold lumber; first-chaired one-day bench trial. (Colorado state court). Complete defense judgment for client on all counts.

Contract Dispute: Representation of a company in a contractual dispute involving a medical office facility; second-chaired one-day bench trial. (Colorado state court).

Published Work and Lectures

- *DOCKET*, Official Magazine of the Denver Business Journal, Quoted, "Running With The Bulls," October 22, 2018
- Association of Corporate Counsel, Speaker, "Indemnification Provisions Dos and Don'ts in our Highly Connected Digital World," September 2018
- Association of Corporate Counsel, Speaker, "Considerations of When to Protect your Intellectual Property Through Trade Secret Versus Patent Litigation," May 2017
- *Denver Business Journal*, Quoted, "Adam Massaro Racks up Big Case Experience in Just 3 Years," April 2015
- ABA Probate & Property, Author, "Solar Power for Commercial Buildings," January/February 2010

Affiliations

- Denver Active 2030 Children's Foundation, Member 2010-Present; Vice president, 2014; Charity Review Committee, 2014-2015; President-Elect 2020-2021
- Elder Justice Colorado, Board Member, 2011-2013
- Denver Kids Inc, Mentor, 2011-2013
- Faculty of Federal Advocates, Member
- Denver Bar Associations, Member
- The Colorado IP American Inn of Court, Member

Honors and Distinctions

- Attorney Intel, 2024, Listed as one of the "Top 25 Attorneys of Colorado"
- *Law Week Colorado*, 2023, Named a "Lawyer of the Year"
- *ColoradoBiz* Magazine, 2023, GenXYZ Most Influential Young Professionals, Finalist
- *Super Lawyers* Magazine, 2014-2024, Listed in Colorado as a "Rising Star" for Intellectual Property Litigation
- Gary McPherson Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year Award, Finalist, 2015
- *The Denver Business Journal*, Featured in "Making Their Mark" Section, 2015
- Downtown Denver Leadership Program, 2015
- *Law Week Colorado*, Listed as an "Up-and-Coming Lawyer," 2012