



# Appeals and Advocacy Group Attorney Guide

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## QUICK-REFERENCE PAGE INDEX

## PAGE

<b>Practice Areas Index</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Justin J. Bustos .....	3
Vail C. Cloar .....	3
Scot L. Claus .....	3
Bennett Evan Cooper .....	4
Phillip J. DeRosier .....	4
John P. Desmond .....	4
Peter H. Ellsworth .....	5
Autumn Gentry .....	5
K. Scott Hamilton .....	5
Samantha A. Pattwell .....	5
Jeffery V. Stuckey .....	6
Kelly M. Telfeyan .....	6
Mark C. Walker .....	6
Anjali D. Webster .....	6



## Justin J. Bustos | MEMBER

Reno | 775.343.7503 | JBustos@dickinsonwright.com

Justin J. Bustos represents clients in the United States Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Nevada Supreme Court. Justin has extensive experience writing briefs and arguing complex appeals in the areas of commercial litigation, constitutional law, class actions, civil rights, intellectual property, and criminal defense. He is a member of the Criminal Justice Act Appellate Panel for the unofficial Northern District of Nevada, which is a panel of court-approved attorneys authorized to represent indigent defendants in federal appeals to the Ninth Circuit. Justin has successfully argued a number of precedent-setting appeals in both state and federal court. He is routinely acknowledged by Mountain States Super Lawyers and Nevada Legal Elite.



## Vail C. Cloar | ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY

Phoenix | 602.285.5092 | VCloar@dickinsonwright.com

Vail served as a clerk for Justice (now Chief Justice) Robert Brutinel of the Arizona Supreme Court, and received the highest score on the Arizona Bar Examination. Vail has participated in appeals before the Arizona Court of Appeals, the Arizona Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court. In addition to his focus on appellate litigation, Vail has experience with eminent domain matters, municipal litigation, legal malpractice defense litigation, and complex commercial litigation.



## Scot L. Claus | MEMBER

Phoenix | 602.285.5086 | SClaus@dickinsonwright.com

Scot Claus is the Chair of the firm's Constitutional Law Practice Group. However, his appellate practice is wide-ranging and varied, including the following areas: Constitutional Law and Defense of Governmental Entities, Complex Commercial Litigation, Class-Action Litigation, Securities Fraud Litigation, Professional Liability Defense, Real Property Litigation (including commercial leasing disputes, easement and boundary disputes, and condemnation matters), Product Liability, and Intellectual Property. He regularly argues cases before the federal and state courts of appeal, and also argues appeals before the Trademark Trial and Appeals Board. In addition to his practice, Additionally, Scot is an Adjunct Faculty member at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University where he teaches three classes: Private Property Rights, Real Estate and Business Valuation, and Trademark Prosecution.



## Bennett Evan Cooper | MEMBER

Phoenix | 602.285.5044 | BCooper@dickinsonwright.com

Ben Cooper advocates for clients in high-stakes appeals and writ proceedings in the U.S. Supreme Court, federal circuit courts, and state supreme and intermediate appellate courts from coast to coast. Admitted in Arizona and California, he emphasizes such fields as insurance coverage and bad faith defense, intellectual property, taxation, and other complex civil and constitutional litigation. He is the author of the 1,000-page treatise *Federal Appellate Practice: Ninth Circuit* (Thomson Reuters 2020), and the lead author of the 800-page treatise *Arizona Trial Handbook* (Thomson Reuters 2020-21). He has served as Chair of the American Bar Association's Council of Appellate Lawyers, the inaugural court-appointed Chair of the Appellate Lawyer Representatives to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, and Chair of the State Bar of Arizona's Appellate Practice Section. A former judicial clerk for Ninth Circuit Judge Alex Kozinski, Ben is ranked in appellate practice by Chambers USA, Best Lawyers in America, and Southwest Super Lawyers.



## Phillip J. DeRosier | MEMBER

Detroit | 313.223.3866 | PDerosier@dickinsonwright.com

Phil DeRosier has nearly 20 years' experience representing industry-leading corporations, banks, insurance companies, and individuals in the Michigan Supreme Court, Michigan Court of Appeals, and U.S. Courts of Appeals. Phil has briefed and argued a wide variety of appeals, ranging from commercial contracts to insurance to business torts. He also devotes a significant part of his practice to briefing dispositive motions and working with trial counsel on pre- and post-trial motions, jury instructions, and preserving issues for appeal.

Phil is a past Chair of the Governing Council of the State Bar of Michigan's Appellate Practice Section, and is consistently recognized in Best Lawyers and Michigan Super Lawyers in the area of appellate practice. Phil is co-chair of the Michigan Appellate Bench Bar Conference and a contributing author to the Institute for Continuing Legal Education's *Michigan Appellate Handbook*. Before joining the firm, Phil served as a law clerk for former Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr., and was a staff attorney at the Michigan Court of Appeals.



## John P. Desmond | MEMBER

Reno | 775.343.7505 | JDesmond@dickinsonwright.com

John P. Desmond practices in the area of complex commercial litigation – primarily significant business disputes. Over the years, he has also had significant experience in the areas of product liability, class actions, and appellate work. He has argued several issues of first impression before the Nevada Supreme court.



## Peter H. Ellsworth | MEMBER

Lansing | 517.487.4710 | PEllsworth@dickinsonwright.com

With over 40 years of experience in practice areas including administrative litigation and judicial appeals as well as municipal finance, municipal law and energy, and administrative law, Peter has served as lead counsel in numerous successful appellate cases. He has represented key clients including cities and other municipalities, utilities, universities, hospitals, political parties and resort hotels.



## Autumn Gentry | MEMBER

Nashville | 615.620.1755 | AGentry@dickinsonwright.com

Autumn represents clients in state, federal, and appellate courts in civil and commercial litigation matters, including employment claims, products liability claims, insurance bad faith claims and coverage disputes, breach of contract, non-compete/non-solicitation agreements, collection actions, premises liability actions, and worker's compensation.



## K. Scott Hamilton | MEMBER

Detroit | 313.223.3041 | KHamilton@dickinsonwright.com

K. Scott Hamilton has 30 years of experience representing clients in the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Second, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Tenth Circuits, the Michigan Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, and several other state courts of appeals, resulting in dozens of published opinions. Scott was Editor-in-Chief of *The Wayne Law Review* and law clerk to Judge Cornelia G. Kennedy of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. He is a Life Member of the Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference, past Co-Chair of the Appellate Practice Committee of the Federal Bar Association for the E.D. Mich., member of the Sixth Circuit Practice Institute, and served as an adjunct professor of law at Michigan State Law School teaching Appellate Procedure.



## Samantha A. Pattwell | MEMBER

Lansing | 517.487.4776 | SPattwell@dickinsonwright.com

With a practice that involves all aspects of commercial litigation and real estate litigation, Samantha serves as counsel in both trial and appellate cases in state and federal courts. She has handled numerous cases to victory from the trial court level through appeal. Her appellate experience includes briefing a wide range of matters, including those involving unsettled law and complicated facts, in the Michigan Supreme Court, the Michigan Court of Appeals, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Samantha has also successfully argued appeals in the Michigan Court of Appeals and Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.



## Jeffery V. Stuckey | MEMBER

Lansing | 517.487.4766 | JStuckey@dickinsonwright.com

Jeff has served as appellate counsel on numerous matters for nearly 35 years. He has extensive appellate experience representing regulated entities, commercial interests, trade associations, universities, ballot question committees and political candidates in the areas of administrative law, gaming, insurance, telecommunications, receiverships, energy, elections, tax, and constitutional litigation. In addition, he has considerable experience in administrative and complex trial court proceedings in anticipation of appeal. He is recognized for appellate practice by Best Lawyers of America and Super Lawyers.



## Kelly M. Telfeyan | OF COUNSEL

Nashville | 615.620.1721 | KTelfeyan@dickinsonwright.com

With a practice focused on appellate law, construction litigation, and commercial litigation, Kelly has drafted appellate briefs and successfully argued appeals before the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and the Tennessee Court of Appeals at Nashville.



## Mark C. Walker | MEMBER

El Paso | 915.541.9322 | MWalker@dickinsonwright.com

Mark has served as lead appellate counsel in state and federal courts in Texas for 35 years, with dozens of reported cases. He has also served as lead trial counsel with more than 75 jury verdicts. Mark's appellate experience covers a very broad range of business, tort, commercial, government, education, campaign finance, free speech and other disputes, with arguments before several state courts of appeals, the Texas Supreme Court, and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.



## Anjali D. Webster | ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY

Reno | 775.343.7498 | AWebster@dickinsonwright.com

Anjali Webster has represented clients in the Nevada Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court. She also served as pro bono counsel for Nevadans for a Court of Appeals, a bipartisan political action committee composed of Nevada legislators advocating for a court of appeals in Nevada, a ballot measure which passed and created the Nevada Court of Appeals. Anjali is a past Chair of the Nevada State Bar Appellate Litigation Section, and a chapter author of Nevada's Appellate Practice Manual. Prior to joining the firm, Anjali served as a law clerk for Justice James Hardesty at the Nevada Supreme Court. Anjali is routinely acknowledged by Mountain States Super Lawyers, Best Lawyers in America, and Nevada Legal Elite, and received the 2015 Nevada State Bar Volunteer of the Year Award for her work toward the Nevada Court of Appeals ballot measure.