

C. Robert Steringer

Shareholder and President | Portland Office

Bob represents public bodies, political organizations, businesses and private individuals in matters at the intersection of law and public policy. Drawing on experience inside and outside government, Bob advises clients on intergovernmental relations, agency rulemaking and licensing, public records and government ethics. He also litigates cases in those areas and others, including constitutional law, intra-organizational disputes, prevailing wage law, and claims against government bodies and higher education institutions.



As a business litigator, Bob works with clients to identify and execute plans to resolve disputes in ways that make business sense. In some cases, that might involve a business solution such as restructuring a contract or negotiating an owner's exit from the business. In others, it will involve litigating the dispute through trial and any appeals, working closely with the client to maintain focus on achieving the desired result as cost-effectively as possible. Bob assists business clients in a wide variety of matters, including ownership disputes, products liability, professional liability, and breaches of contracts.

As the firm's President, he is also responsible for managing the law firm.

Professional Recognition ▼

- AV Preeminent Peer Review Rated with [Martindale-Hubbell](#)[®]
- Included in [The Best Lawyers in America](#)[®] in the fields of appellate practice and commercial litigation in every edition since 2013.
- Elected as a [Fellow of the American Bar Foundation](#) (2014 – present) (an honorary organization of lawyers, judges and legal scholars whose careers have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the welfare of their communities and to the highest principles of the legal profession, limited to one-third of one-percent of the lawyers licensed to practice in each jurisdiction of the United States)
- Selected to [Super Lawyers](#)[®] for appellate law 2015-2017

Admissions & Memberships ▼

Bob is a member of the Oregon State Bar, Washington State Bar, the American Bar Association, the Multnomah Bar Association, and the Federal Bar Association. He is admitted to practice before all state courts in Oregon and Washington, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. District Court for the State of Oregon.

Bob has served on the Multnomah Bar Association's Board of Directors since 2012, serving terms as Treasurer, President and now Immediate Past President. He also served on the Oregon State Bar Constitutional Law Section Executive Committee from 2009 to 2015, including a term as Chairperson. He previously served as chair of the MBA Professionalism Committee, member of the Oregon State Bar's Public Service Advisory Committee, and member of the MBA Pro Bono Task Force. Since 2011, Bob serves on both the Multnomah Bar Association's mentor program as well as the Oregon State Bar's New Lawyer Mentoring Program as a mentoring lawyer.

Education ▼

Bob is a 1998 graduate from the University of Oregon School of Law, where he was Executive Editor of the *Oregon Law Review*.

Contact Information

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Practice Emphasis

[Appellate Law](#)

[Business and Commercial Litigation](#)

[Business and Corporate Law](#)

[Civil Rights and Other Tort Claim
Defense and Litigation](#)

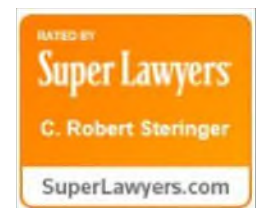
[Ethics in Government](#)

[Government Law and Legislative
Affairs](#)

[Higher Education](#)

[Regulatory \(Administrative\) Law and
Proceedings](#)

Professional Recognition



Trial & Appellate Advocacy Highlights

- Counsel to an educational institution in litigation challenging the decision to expel a graduate student for possessing a deadly weapon on campus
- Prevailed at trial and on appeal on behalf of an intervening water district in election challenge lawsuit, successfully defending its position on the legal status of district residents within annexed territory. *Clackamas County Oregon v. Clackamas River Water*, 280 Or App 366 (2016).
- Obtained jury verdict for \$223,832.05 on promissory estoppel claim relating to ownership of a corporation, in Lane County Circuit Court (2013).
- Obtained judgment of foreclosure on hotel property and money award of \$2,744,647.33 plus interest, costs and attorney fees, in Clatsop County Circuit Court (2012).
- Filed amicus brief in Oregon Supreme Court on behalf of Oregon Association of Hospitals & Health Systems, Oregon Medical Association and American Medical Association in *Paul v. Providence Health System-Oregon*, relating to liability of a health care provider for theft of patient information by a third party (2012).
- Successfully defended trial court judgment affirming city's creation of a local improvement district, 241 Or App 378 (2011).
- Obtained reversal of trial court judgment dismissing client's claim for declaratory judgment that client was a shareholder of a corporation, 241 Or App 255 (2011).
- Filed amicus brief on behalf of Oregon Association of Defense Counsel in *Cohens v. McGee*, 219 Or App 78 (2008), and *White v. Jubitz Corp.*, 347 Or 212 (2009) (both relating to the question of whether written-off medical bills are recoverable as economic damages in negligence cases).
- Successfully defended trial court judgment on appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, affirming summary judgment in favor of municipality and police officer in claim for negligence and violation of Fourth Amendment rights (unpublished opinion) (2009).
- Successfully defended trial court judgment on appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, affirming summary judgment in favor of client in Section 1983 claims asserting violations of various constitutional rights (unpublished opinion) (2009).
- Filed amicus brief in Oregon Supreme Court on behalf of Oregon Association of Hospitals & Health Systems in *Christiansen v. Providence Health System*, 344 Or 445 (2008) (relating to application of the Oregon Constitution's "remedy clause" to a claim for prenatal injuries).
- Obtained decision of the Oregon Court of Appeals remanding order of Oregon Public Utility Commission for reconsideration due to PUC's incorrect interpretation of state law, 224 Or App 485 (2008).
- Obtained decision of the Oregon Court of Appeals affirming, without opinion, a judgment in favor of client against claim for professional negligence, 203 Or App 639 (2006).
- Obtained reversal of trial court's decision to dismiss client's negligence claim based on standards for sufficiency of expert testimony, 200 Or App 15 (2005).

Presentations

- "Administrative Rule Challenges," Administrative Law CLE (November 2015).
- "Any Port in a Storm: Stays of Agency Orders Pending Judicial Review," Northwest Administrative Law Institute, with James W. Nass and Averil Budge Rothrock (September 2014).

Publications

- Co-Author with Hon. Ellen F. Rosenblum and Denise G. Fjordbeck: 2016 update to "Agency Authority and Functions," Chapter 1 in *Oregon Administrative Law*, Oregon State Bar publication.
- Co-Author: Oregon chapter in "Lobbying, PACs, and Campaign Finance – 50 State Handbook," published annually by the State Capital Group through Thomson Reuters/West (2009-2017).
- Co-Author with Brett Applegate: "Dave Frohnmayer in the United States Supreme Court," The Oregon Constitutional Law Newsletter (Winter 2016).
- "Elephant in the Room," Multnomah Bar Association's Multnomah Lawyer (Summer 2015).
- Co-Author with Brett Applegate: "**When Stranahan Doesn't Get You Where You Need to Go – Advocating for New Approaches to Interpreting the Oregon Constitution**," Oregon State Bar's Oregon Constitutional Law Newsletter (Summer 2014).
- Member of the Board of Editors: *Oregon Constitutional Law* (2013 ed.), Oregon State Bar publication (winner of the Association for Continuing Legal Education's "Best Award" of Outstanding Achievement in Publications).

- Author: "Contract Clause," Chapter 8 in *Oregon Constitutional Law* (2013 ed.), Oregon State Bar publication.
- Co-Author with James E. Mountain, Jr. and Jona J. Maukonen: "Postdecision Matters in the Court of Appeals," Chapter 11 in *Appeal and Review: the Basics* (2010 ed.), Oregon State Bar publication.
- Author: "Litigating the 'Fair Value' of a Business Organization," published in Winter 2011 edition of *The Verdict* (OADC publication) (explored strategies for litigating "fair value" in business break-ups).
- Co-author with Susan D. Marmaduke: "Abandoning 'We Can't Tell,'" *Oregon State Bar Bulletin*, 2003 (analyzed the power vested in the judiciary to affirm judgments notwithstanding trial court errors, comparing the Oregon Supreme Court's decision in *Shoup v. Wal-Mart Stores* with Amended Article VII, section 3, of the Oregon Constitution).
- Author: "The Clergy-Penitent Privilege in Oregon," *Oregon Law Review*, 1997 (analyzed the history and application of Oregon's clergy-penitent privilege in the context of a news-making dispute over the recording of a conversation between a jail inmate and a Catholic priest).
- Co-author of Introduction with Kurt Wanless: "Oregon Land Use Symposium – The Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of S.B. 100," *Oregon Law Review*, 1998.
- Author: "Is a Lobbyist's Gift to a Public Official an Empty Gesture?" in Oregon State Bar Constitutional Law Section's March 2011 Newsletter (analyzed Oregon Supreme Court case regarding constitutionality of statutes regulating gifts from lobbyists to elected officials).

News

- **[Bob Steringer Elected to the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation](#)**

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