



Eric S. Chavez

Attorney

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PRACTICE AREAS

Defense Litigation and Personal Injury

OVERVIEW

Eric Chavez is a member of the Litigation Practice Group at Betts Patterson Mines. He practices primarily in the area of insurance defense.

Eric began his legal career as a staff counsel for the Liberty Mutual Insurance Group of Companies, where he defended individual and commercial policyholders in lawsuits arising from motor vehicle accident, premises liability, product liability, construction defect, and timber trespass claims. While employed by Liberty Mutual, Eric also represented Liberty Mutual's subsidiaries, including Safeco Insurance Company, at UM/UIM arbitrations. Prior to entering law school, Eric worked as a claims representative for two national insurers.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Defended insured business owner at trial of personal injury accident arising out of a low speed motor vehicle collision. Plaintiff obtained favorable verdict at arbitration. Insured appealed arbitration decision to trial court. Jury awarded approximately half of plaintiff's medical bills, plus \$750 in general damages, well below the arbitration award and plaintiff's last settlement offer prior to trial.
- Defended insured driver at trial of personal injury action arising out of motor vehicle collision occurring in a parking lot, where insured backed into plaintiff's vehicle twice. Jury awarded plaintiff's medical bills and \$500 in general damages, resulting in an award of approximately 20% of plaintiff's final settlement offer prior to trial.
- Defended insured at trial of personal injury action arising out of a motor vehicle collision occurring at uncontrolled intersection. Even though plaintiff had the right of way, jury found plaintiff 20% at fault for causing the collision, because she failed to see insured's vehicle. Jury reduced plaintiff's damages award by 20%, resulting in a verdict well below plaintiff's final settlement offer, and well within insured's policy limit.
- Obtained defense verdict for insured driver at arbitration of personal injury action where insured side-swiped plaintiff's vehicle on highway.
- Obtained defense verdict for insured driver at arbitration of personal injury action where co-defendant merged in front of insured on freeway off-ramp, causing insured to push co-defendant into plaintiff's vehicle.

- Defended insured homeowner in a personal injury action arising out of a pajama-themed karaoke party. Plaintiff claimed insured jumped on her back, causing extensive knee injuries. Case ultimately settled at mediation for approximately 15% of original demand, well within insured's policy limit.

EDUCATION

Seattle University School of Law - J.D., 2009
California State University, Fullerton – M.A., 2005
University of Southern California – B.A., 2001

ADMISSIONS

Washington Bar, 2009

PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

Washington Law & Politics, "Rising Stars" (2014)

PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

Washington State Bar Association
Editorial Advisory Committee, *De Novo*, WSBA Young Lawyers Division (2010-2012)
King County Bar Association
Latina/o Bar Association of Washington
Hispanic National Bar Association

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Co-Author, *Ensuring You Understand Insurance Law*, *De Novo* (August 2011)