

# JAMES H. CHALAT

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW

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## Profile

**Professional:** Admitted to practice in all Colorado state courts and the United States District Court for the District of Colorado (1977), the United States Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit (1981) and the United States Supreme Court (1981). Admitted on examination to all Michigan state courts (1983). *Pro haec vice* (for particular case) admissions to the United States District Courts of Kansas, Utah, West Virginia, Wyoming, and state trial courts in: Arizona, California, New York, Virginia and Utah.

**Personal:** Born 1953, Livermore, CA. Reared: Detroit, MI. Married, Linda Jane 1987. Four children.

## Practice interests

Plaintiffs' personal injury and wrongful death cases. Auto, car, truck, motorcycle, bicycle and pedestrian cases. Medical malpractice. Skiing accidents, ski lift accidents, skier versus skier/snowboarder collisions. Traumatic brain and spinal cord injury cases. Legal malpractice and legal ethics proceedings. Cases involving children.

## Education

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
*B.G.S. with distinction 1974*

THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER COLLEGE OF LAW (STURM COLLEGE OF LAW)  
*J.D., 1977, Asst. Editor, Administrative Law Review*

## Notable Verdicts and Cases

- \$18.5 million judgment, *Mendakota v. Savage v. Ruszkowski, et al.*, 2008cv104, Clear Creek County District Court (2/17/2010) drunk driving/pedestrian run-over case with coverage dispute
- \$10.1 million jury verdict, *Bargai v. Carlson*, 2005CV1550, Denver District Court (6/19/2007) Medical malpractice. *Case settled prior to entry of judgment.*

- \$8.1 million jury verdict, *Grigg v. Wintergreen Partners*, Record No. 42956, Supreme Court of Virginia (July 8, 2005) *appeal dismissed, judgment affirmed and satisfied*. Ski area liability for skier/groomer accident.
- \$1.4 million jury verdict, *Ngyugen v. Stecher*, 01CV2541, Arapahoe County District Court (August 2002) *verdict reduced on non-economic damages, and judgment satisfied*.
- \$2.4 million jury verdict, *Ulisse v. Shvartsman*, 61 F.3rd 805 (10th Circ. 1995). *Case settled prior to re-trial*.
- *Amicus curiae*, *Cooper v. Aspen Skiing Co.*, 48 P.3d 1229 ( Colo. 2002) non-enforceability of a minor's waiver and release.
- *Amicus curiae*, *People v. Hall*, 999 P.2d 207 (Colo. 2000) criminal culpability for reckless skiing.
- Non-settling defendant's damages, *Wong v. Sharp*, 734 F. Supp. 943 (D. Colo. 1990).
- Attorney discipline, Respondent suspended, *People v. Watson*, 833 P. 2d 50 (Colo. 1992).
- Representation of blind vendors, *Hudson v. Boxer*, 632 F. Supp. 1569 (D. Colo. 1986).
- Plaintiffs' counsel, in three mass disaster cases: Glenwood Springs propane explosion, Teller lift failure, Steamboat Springs natural gas disaster.
- \$6.2 million, *Hoar v. Great Eastern*, 256 Va. 374, 506 S.E.2d 777 ( VA 1998).

### **Professional Affiliations and Recognition**

- Faculty of Federal Advocates, Board of Directors 2008-current.
- Colorado Super Lawyers, 2006 - 2011, featured in 2006.
- AVVO rated 10/10 "Superb," top personal injury lawyer visits in Denver, Colorado, September 2011
- Board Certified since 1983 by the National Board of Trial Advocacy, re-certified continuously since.
- Listed in the Bar Registry of Preeminent Lawyers, by Martindale-Hubble
- Master Benchers, Thompson G. Marsh, American Inns of Court. President of the Inn, 2003-2004; recipient of the Alfred C. Harrell award for civility, professionalism and excellence.
- President's Circle, American Association of Justice (f/k/a The Association of Trial Lawyers of America).
- Colorado Trial Lawyers Association, Member of the Board of Directors 1996-2000
- American, Colorado, Denver, Michigan and Michigan Trial Lawyers Bar Associations
- Instructor & Diplomate - National Institute of Trial Advocacy
- Assistant Special Disciplinary Counsel, State of Colorado (1992-1995)
- Joint ABA/NITA advocacy program in Oxford, England (1985).

## **Community Service**

- Colorado Supreme Court, Pro Bono Award 2010-2011
- Volunteer Attorney Coach, Colorado Bar Association High School Mock Trial Competition, 2004 - 2010. 2009 Regional Championship, 2007 Colorado State Champion, Placed 10<sup>th</sup> Nationally.
- Trustee, The Colorado Ballet (1995-1997)
- Jefferson County, Juvenile Review Board (1988-1990)
- Various leadership and service positions in Jefferson County public schools and the Evergreen, CO community.

**Publications, References, and Press/Media contacts available upon Request.**