



Mario D. Conte

Mario is a practical problem solver who works with our clients to resolve their complicated business and employment issues and disputes. Mario has been with Hershner Hunter since 2007 and, in addition to his work with clients, serves as the firm's managing partner. His pragmatic approach might have something to do with growing up in his family's agribusinesses where, like any enterprise, getting things done effectively and efficiently was always the goal. With that in mind, Mario helps clients resolve a wide range of legal issues and disputes, principally involving employment laws, policies and relationships, and business-to-business contracts. He also has substantial experience with all phases of complex commercial litigation and trust and estate disputes.

Mario is an advocate for abused and neglected children and serves on the Board of Directors for CASA of Lane County. Outside the office, Mario enjoys spending time with his wife, children, and Amos, their much-loved, albeit ornery, dog.

PRACTICE EMPHASIS

- Employment Law
- Litigation

ADMISSIONS

- Oregon, Washington

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Counsel Employers on Employment Matters
- Representing Employers and Other Clients in Mediation, Arbitration, and Litigation
- Representing Employers in BOLI and EEOC Proceedings
- Non-competition and Non-solicit Agreements and Disputes
- Breach of Contract Claims
- Shareholder, Partner, and Member Disputes
- Trust Disputes

EDUCATION

- University of Oregon School of Law, J.D.
- California State University, Chico, B.A.

Representative Matters

Below are examples of disputes Mario has helped our clients resolve.

- Regularly assist clients to satisfactorily resolve claims brought by current or former employees, through successful motion practice, direct negotiation, or mediation
- Represented clients in pursuing and defending against requests for restraining orders or injunctions to prevent the use of trade secrets and other confidential or proprietary information
- Defended an out-of-state client against allegations that he acted as a de facto trustee and breached his fiduciary duties, resulting in a favorable judgment for our client in all respects
- Successfully defended a regional bank in an action seeking over \$2 million in damages and a preliminary injunction, in which the plaintiffs offered a favorable settlement immediately after hearing our opening statement at the preliminary injunction hearing
- Successfully defended our clients in state court against claims of fraud and financial elder abuse arising from commercial loan transactions
- As lead trial counsel, successfully defended a regional radio broadcaster against claims of age and sex-based employment discrimination
- Successfully defended a suit seeking to force the sale of our clients' interests in real property that had been in their family for decades
- Before an international arbitration panel, worked as co-counsel to successfully defend one of the world's most prominent recycling system manufacturers against breach of warranty claims exceeding \$40 million
- Obtained summary judgment in our client's favor in an easement dispute that threatened public access to our client's successful restaurant franchise
- Negotiated a favorable settlement on behalf of a national bank in a federal employment discrimination case against our client after prevailing on summary judgment against the majority of the employee's claims

ACTIVITIES

- CASA of Lane County, Board Member
- Oregon Association of Defense Counsel, Member
- Lane County Bar Association, Member