

JOHN ALLISON, J.D.
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Summary

John Allison is a successful lawyer with broad experience, both as a law firm partner in private practice and as Assistant General Counsel in the legal department of a Fortune 100 company. He is also a certified professional coach. John founded The Coach for Lawyers, LLC which is dedicated to helping lawyers enjoy a successful and fulfilling professional career. The firm offers individual coaching, mentoring and professional training for lawyers, as well as business coaching and strategic planning services for solo practitioners and small law firms. John is the author of *The Art of Practicing Law: A Practical Guide for Lawyers*.

John's Law Practice Experience

Larson King LLP, St. Paul, Minnesota, 2010 to 2013. Law practice focused on strategic crisis and litigation management, mediation advocacy and settlement counsel services.

3M Company, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1994 to 2010. Assistant General Counsel with overall responsibility for the litigation managed by the Office of General Counsel worldwide. Member of the Office of General Counsel Management Committee for ten years. Legal advisor to senior executive management and the company's Medical Department, Public Affairs Department, and Environmental Remediation Program.

Betts Patterson & Mines, Seattle, Washington, 1986 to 1994. Active trial and litigation practice in state and federal court, representing individuals, small businesses, large corporations and other organizations. Served on the firm's Executive Committee for four years, with responsibility for leading the firm's efforts in marketing and practice development.

Garvey, Schubert & Barer, Seattle, Washington, 1969 to 1986. Active trial and litigation practice in state and federal court. Served as Managing Partner of the law firm for one year, and brought profitability to the firm's Washington, D. C. office as its manager for eighteen months.

Selected Law Practice Highlights

Served as primary coach/supervisor for a team of 11 members of 3M's legal department.

Redesigned 3M's processes for managing litigation and for selecting, hiring and evaluating outside counsel.

Created and led teams of lawyers and consultants successfully defending 3M Company in mass tort product liability litigation. Worked extensively with medical, scientific and technical experts.

Participated in mediations as 3M's company representative, and personally negotiated settlements of thousands of claims and lawsuits with lawyers from all over the country.

Selected Law Practice Highlights (continued)

Developed effective strategies for managing significant issues involving 3M's fluorochemicals business, and led the litigation team that defeated class certification and obtained a unanimous jury verdict in favor of the company.

Played a major role in persuading *U. S. News & World Report* to publish an unprecedented full-page clarification of an unfavorable and erroneous article about one of 3M's products.

Briefed and argued three appeals resulting in published opinions by the Washington State Supreme Court (*Hall v. Armstrong Cork, Inc.*, 692 P.2d 787; *In Re Johns-Manville Corp.*, 660 P.2d 271; and *Ford v. Logan*, 483 P.2d 1247).

Wrote a government contracting handbook and testified before the U. S. Congress in a legislative oversight hearing on behalf of a trade association client.

Selected Professional and Community Activities

Judge *Pro Tempore* and Arbitrator, King County (Washington) Superior Court, 1983 to 1994, and Judge *Pro Tempore*, Seattle (Washington) Municipal Court, 1979 to 1987.

Chair, Toxic and Hazardous Substances and Environmental Law Committee, 1992 to 1993, and Member, Standing Committee on Professionalism, 1993 to 1996, American Bar Association Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section.

Bar Examiner, Washington State Bar Association, 1985 to 1994.

President, Board of Directors, Mendocino Coast Healthcare Foundation, since 2019.

Member, Board of Directors, Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, 2002 to 2010.

President, Board of Directors, Jewish Family Service of St. Paul, 2005 to 2007.

Certified as an EMT by the State of California and serves as a member of the Volunteer Fire Department in his community, since 2015.

Honors and Awards

"AV" rated in Martindale Hubbell
Order of the Coif

Education

J.D., University of Washington School of Law.
Comments Editor, *Washington Law Review*.

B.S., Stanford University.

Published Books

Author, *The Art of Practicing Law: A Practical Guide for Lawyers* (The Coach for Lawyers, LLC 2017), available at <https://www.amazon.com/Art-Practicing-Law-Practical-Lawyers/dp/1544028695>.

Author, *Transforming the Practice of Law: Reclaiming the Soul of the Legal Profession* (The Coach for Lawyers, LLC 2015), available at <http://www.amazon.com/Transforming-Practice-Law-Reclaiming-Profession/dp/0692514120>.

Author, *Choosing Your Lawyer: An Insider's Practical Guide to Making a Really Good Choice* (The Coach for Lawyers, LLC 2013), available at <http://www.amazon.com/Choosing-Your-Lawyer-Insiders-Practical/dp/0615859828>.

Other Publications

Contributing Columnist for *The National Jurist* online publications, July 2017 to June 2020.

Author, "How to Reduce Stress in the Legal Profession," *NWSidebar* (January 15, 2019), accessible at <https://nwsidebar.wsba.org/2019/01/14/how-to-reduce-stress-in-the-legal-profession/>.

Author, "Preparing for Negotiation," *Bar Association of San Francisco Bulletin* (February 2018), accessible at <http://blog.sfbar.org/2018/01/22/preparing-for-negotiation/>.

Author, "7 Tips for Negotiating Effectively," *NWSidebar* (January 26, 2018), accessible at <https://nwsidebar.wsba.org/2018/01/26/7-tips-for-negotiating-effectively/#more-12063>.

Author, "Tips for Deposing Adverse Experts," *NWSidebar* (November 21, 2017), accessible at <https://nwsidebar.wsba.org/2017/11/21/tips-for-deposing-adverse-experts/>.

Author, "Changing Where You Practice," *Bar Association of San Francisco Bulletin* (March 2016).

Author, "Effective Communication in 3 Simple Tips," *NWSidebar* (March 2, 2016), accessible at <http://nwsidebar.wsba.org/2016/03/02/effective-communication-in-3-simple-tips/#more-10292>.

Foreword, in M. J. Pitera and B. Hillmer, *Storytelling for the Defense* (Indie Books International, LLC 2016), available at http://www.amazon.com/Storytelling-Defense-Attorneys-Courtroom-Plaintiffs/dp/1941870414/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1457051936&sr=8-1&keywords=merrie+jo+pitera.

Author, "Creating Successful Client Relationships," *Bar Association of San Francisco Bulletin* (August 2014).

Author, "Moving In-House," *St. Petersburg International Legal Forum Digest* (Digest 07, March 26, 2014), accessible at <http://www.spblegalforum.com/digest07>.

Other Publications (continued)

Author, "Effective Crisis Management," *USLAW Network, Inc. Journal*, Fall/Winter 2010.

Co-author with J. Rizzardi, "Effects of Bankruptcy on Environmental Liabilities," *28 Tort & Insurance Law Journal* 636 (1993).

Author, "Evidence Supporting Recoverable Damages for Potential Disease," *24 Tort & Insurance Law Journal* 39 (1988).

Comment, "Section 11 of the Securities Act - A Proposal for Allocating Liability," *45 Washington Law Review* 95 (1970).

Note, "Duty to Warn Extended to Non-Commercial Vendor," *43 Washington Law Review* 484 (1967).

Selected Presentations

Guest Lecturer, "Negotiating in Practice," ADR Course, William Mitchell College of Law, February 10, 2011.

Panelist, "Mediation and Settlement Strategies," Drug and Medical Device Litigation 2009, American Conference Institute, December 10, 2009.

Speaker, "Emerging Responsibilities of In-House Counsel," The Network of Trial Law Firms Fall 2009 Program, November 6, 2009.

Guest Lecturer, Mediation Training Course, Hamline University School of Law, November 18, 2008.

Panelist, "Who Should be Allowed to Mediate?," The 11th Annual ADR Institute, Minnesota CLE, October 31, 2008.

Guest Lecturer, "A Manufacturer's View of Product Liability," Torts II Course, Hamline University School of Law, October 15, 2008

Speaker, "An Environment of Change: International Acquisitions and Due Diligence," Eighth Annual Superconference, May 20, 2008.

Panelist, "An In-House Perspective on Professional Responsibility," Eighth Annual Superconference, May 20 and 21, 2008.

Speaker, "Scientific Uncertainty in the Courtroom," The Association of General Counsel Spring Meeting, April 27, 2007.

Speaker, "Making the Most of Mediation," The 18th Annual General Counsel Conference, June 12, 2006.

Selected Presentations (continued)

Speaker, "Litigation Management: Communication, Unanticipated Contingencies and Crisis Management," 2004 USLAW Network Client Conference, March 19, 2004.

Speaker, "Enlarging the Mediator's Tool Box: Managing the Facilitative-Evaluative Context With New Techniques," CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution Spring Meeting, June 25, 2002.

Speaker, "Handling Mass Tort Litigation," Corporate Counsel Program, Minnesota Institute of Legal Education, January 30, 2002.

Speaker, "Mediator and Lawyer Ethics: Exploring Challenges to the Core Value of Self-Determination," American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution Annual Meeting, April 27, 2001.

Speaker, "Mediation Advocacy," Minnesota Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution Spring Conference, June 16, 2000.

Speaker, "Preparing for Mediation: A Client's Perspective," American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution Annual Meeting, April 7, 2000.

Speaker, "Big Stakes Litigation: Staffing and Managing the Interdisciplinary Team," The Association of General Counsel Spring Meeting, May 12, 2000.

Program Co-Chair and Speaker, "Corporate Counsel Institute: Managing Conflict in the 21st Century," Minnesota Institute of Legal Education, January 21, 2000.

Speaker, "Preparing for Mediation: Leaving the Adversarial Process Behind," The 2nd Annual ADR Institute, Minnesota State Bar Association Continuing Legal Education, November 8, 1999.

Speaker, "The Challenge of Mass Torts: Does Reformation Mean Revolution?," American Bar Association Toxic and Hazardous Substances and Environmental Law Committee Spring Meeting, April 26, 1996.

Program Chair and Speaker, "Environmental Liability: Current Issues and Criminal Exposure," American Bar Association Annual Meeting, August 10, 1992.

Presenter, "Uses of Science in Environmental Law - Cross-Examination Regarding Causation," American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting, February 17, 1990.

Program Co-Chair and Speaker, National Institute on Pollution Liability, "Strategies for Managing the Combined Challenges of Superfund and Toxic Tort Claims," American Bar Association and Bureau of National Affairs, Inc., November 10-11, 1988.

Speaker, "Role of Science in Toxic Substances Litigation: Causation, Damages and Policy Considerations," American Bar Association Annual Meeting, August 9, 1988.