

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Administrative Law

The attorneys of Hutchison & Steffen are well-versed in environmental regulation and bring experience in addressing numerous environmental concerns. The Firm embraces federal, state, and local laws for clean air and water, hazardous and solid waste, radioactive mixed waste, radioactive waste disposal, endangered species, and the clean-up of hazardous waste sites. The Firm's attorneys have successfully solved complex environmental problems to include alleged violations of hazardous waste recycling and disposal standards, claimed infractions of the laws governing indirect discharges of water-borne pollutants and pre-treatment standards, and exoneration of clients from charges of improper storage of radioactive mixed wastes.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

The Law Firm of Hutchison & Steffen offers a distinct alternative dispute resolution practice. The Firm provides advice and representation to clients who desire to resolve disputes in mediation, arbitration, or other alternative dispute resolution processes. Also, the Firm counsels clients at the time of contract formation about the merits of various dispute resolution processes and how to achieve the greatest benefits through contract language. The Firm's attorneys are seasoned practitioners before mediators and arbitrators.

Separately, the Firm's attorneys serve as mediators and arbitrators in matters that do not involve clients. The Firm is routinely asked to provide their experienced services in disputes involving commercial, construction, medical malpractice, personal injury, and employment matters.

Appellate Litigation

The attorneys of Hutchison & Steffen bring to their clients an extensive history in the practice of appellate law. They have participated as counsel in cases before the United States Supreme Court, Federal Appellate Courts, and the Nevada Supreme Court. The Firm's appellate litigators are licensed before the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, U.S. District of Columbia Court of Appeals, and state appellate courts in Nevada, Utah, California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Ohio, and the District of Columbia. In addition, the Firm's litigators have worked as law clerks for both federal courts of appeals and the Nevada Supreme Court.

The Firm's experience in the Nevada Supreme Court is unparalleled in the state, and two of Hutchison & Steffen's attorneys offer combined experience of almost thirty years. One was with the Court for fifteen years, retiring as Chief Justice, and another was both a staff attorney and a long-time supervising staff attorney at the Court.

HUTCHISON & STEFFEN
ATTORNEYS

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Asset Protection & Business Planning

The attorneys of Hutchison & Steffen understand the importance of protecting a client's assets against claims by potential creditors. The Firm's attorneys employ a variety of asset protection techniques to discourage or make impractical the seizure of assets or the collection of judgments. Hutchison & Steffen's asset protection strategies include the creation of Spendthrift Trusts, Offshore Asset Protection Trusts (OAPT's), Separate Property Trusts, retirement plans, family limited partnerships, and the gifting of property to descendants. The Firm's attorneys strive to identify all potentially exposed assets, before recommending methods best determined to judiciously safeguard the client's property.

Business & Commercial Litigation

Hutchison & Steffen brings extensive experience to most major areas of commercial litigation. The Firm's practice handles matters of corporate, contract, intellectual property, environmental, employee relations, and product liability. Additionally, counsel is provided in preventative measures to avoid litigation.

At Hutchison & Steffen, the interests of business clients are protected through such pretrial remedies as temporary restraining orders, preliminary injunctions, appointment of special masters, and receiverships. These remedies often require intense preparation so that the client's position is presented to the court in an accelerated trial format. The Firm successfully represents numerous clients each year in these types of proceedings.

When cases proceed to trial, the Firm's in-depth pretrial preparation achieves effective results. Litigators at Hutchison & Steffen have experienced repeated success before juries and judges for large national companies, local companies, and individuals.

Construction Law

The Hutchison & Steffen construction-defect practice brings extensive experience and a solid reputation with the select group of mediators, special masters, expert witnesses, plaintiffs' attorneys, developers' attorneys, and subcontractors' attorneys who dominate Nevada's construction-defect legal practice. The Firm is construction-defect panel counsel for Farmer's Insurance Exchange and Saint Paul Fire & Marine Insurance Company and has numerous individual clients in the construction industry. Additionally, the Firm's attorneys are experienced at representing owners, developers, and a broad spectrum of subcontractors. The attorneys of Hutchison & Steffen have litigated and tried many construction-defect cases and possess extensive educational and hands-on experience in the construction industry, providing a broad base for representing a variety of clients in construction-defect litigation.



Corporate & Transactions

The attorneys of Hutchison & Steffen provide clients with a broad range of legal services related to corporate transactions. These services include drafting documents for the formation and sale of business entities such as corporations, general partnerships, limited liability partnerships, and limited liability companies, as well as contracts and related documents covering many facets of business transactions. The Firm regularly advises corporate clients about the legal effects of commercial transactions between client and vendor, joint ventures, and even competitors.

Additionally, legal services are provided to clients who wish to obtain protection of their intellectual property rights (e.g., trademarks and copyrights) under both state and federal laws.

Creditor's Rights & Bankruptcy

The attorneys of Hutchison & Steffen regularly serve as counsel to creditors in proceedings filed under Chapters 7, 11, and 13 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. With an approach both aggressive and thorough, the Firm effectively guides troubled entities through the reorganization process and a return to profitability. Hutchison & Steffen routinely handles consumer and non-consumer bankruptcy filings and related bankruptcy litigation in the bankruptcy courts of Nevada, Utah, and Colorado.

Employment Law

Hutchison & Steffen offers diverse experience in the complex environment of employment/labor law, with particular expertise in non-competition and confidentiality agreements. Offering knowledgeable advice with regard to various aspects of federal and state labor law and regulations, the Firm represents clients before administrative bodies on various employer/employee matters such as unemployment and workers' compensation claims.

In addition, the Firm provides consultation in the drafting of employee contracts, medical leave policies, drug testing procedures, employee handbooks, anti-discrimination and harassment policies, and general employment policies. The Firm is well-versed in litigating employment issues such as alleged Title VII violations, sexual harassment/discrimination, and age and disability discrimination before the Nevada Equal Rights Commission, the Equal Opportunity Commission, and state and federal courts.

Estate Planning

The Law Firm of Hutchison & Steffen offers exceptional estate planning services with a commitment to meeting the goals and unique needs of each client. The Firm's attorneys provide solid advice and legal tools to maximize clients' wealth, and to ensure the proper distribution of their assets. Hutchison & Steffen's estate planning practice includes the facilitation of wills and trusts, probate administration, and asset protection; additionally, the Firm's attorneys are seasoned and skilled in estate and probate litigation.



Family Law

The Law Firm of Hutchison & Steffen offers a complete range of legal services in the practice of family law. The Firm's attorneys are well-respected by family court judges, mediators, special masters, and practitioners for their experience, family-law knowledge, and aggressive representation of clients. The Firm represents clients in all aspects of family and domestic law, including separation and divorce proceedings, community property division and settlement, child custody, visitation and support, child abuse, termination of parental rights, spousal support, and domestic violence (including protective orders). Representing clients in divorces, both contested and uncontested, the Firm understands the benefits of resolving – out of court – the sensitive and emotional issues that often accompany a family dispute. When circumstances make it necessary to protect clients' interests by proceeding to trial, the attorneys of Hutchison & Steffen provide the most thorough preparation in an attempt to produce positive client results.

Healthcare Professionals Advocacy

The attorneys of Hutchison & Steffen represent physicians and healthcare organizations in a variety of matters to include physician contracting, litigation, medical-malpractice defense, physician licensing, and credentialing. The Firm's practice includes the formation of, and counseling to, professional entities such as corporations and partnerships. With confident counsel by Hutchison & Steffen, healthcare professionals are represented before the Board of Medical Examiners, Chiropractic Physicians' Board, Board of Dental Examiners, and Office of Attorney General. Additionally, the Firm is active in mergers of medical practices, managed-care contracting, hospital contracts, and the purchase and sale of professional practices.

Insurance Defense

The Law Firm of Hutchison & Steffen has an established relationship with many major insurance companies and understands how to effectively report and work with insurance representatives when their insureds are facing litigation. The Firm's attorneys have successfully represented the insureds of these companies in hundreds of challenging and varied cases. The scope of the Firm's representation includes general commercial liability, auto liability, premises liability, and professional malpractice defense. The Firm's attorneys also provide counsel to insurance companies in bad-faith litigation.

Landlord/Tenant

The attorneys of Hutchison & Steffen litigate on behalf of owners/landlords in a comprehensive array of landlord/tenant issues. These matters include commercial and residential evictions related to nuisance, lease violations, abandonment, breach of contract, and non-payment of rent. The Firm has one of the largest and most active landlord/tenant practices in Nevada, and its attorneys are recognized as experts in the field. They are often asked to participate in continuing legal education seminars and programs for both the public and the Bar. They have appeared on various television shows, lecture circuits, and gatherings, including the National Judicial Conference, often at the request of judges before whom they practice. The Firm regularly drafts numerous commercial and residential leases and zealously represents clients in lease negotiations.



Personal Injury

The Law Firm of Hutchison & Steffen offers a personal injury practice which carefully selects the representation of individuals who have suffered personal injuries or damages by motor vehicles, bad faith, wrongful death, and medical malpractice. The Firm has extensive experience in litigating major personal injury actions to successful conclusion.

Professional Liability Defense

Hutchison & Steffen has successfully defended numerous claims of malpractice filed against attorneys, doctors, dentists, and other professionals. Fellow professionals demand the highest degree of aggressive and competent representation, and the Firm has enjoyed tremendous success in the defense and prosecution of these cases.

Real Estate Law

The Law Firm of Hutchison & Steffen provides a wide-range of legal assistance to clients for transactions related to the acquisition, development, and disposal of real property. The Firm also provides land-use planning, eminent domain, and zoning advice to clients. In its experienced representation of businesses and developers against defaulting lending institutions, the Firm has been highly successful.

Trust & Probate Litigation

Hutchison & Steffen represents trustees, banks, investment professionals, and private individuals who are involved in disputes concerning estates and trusts. The Firm's practice includes will contests, disputes over the distribution of trust assets, interpretation of instruments and the application of the law, the allocation of estate tax burden, and the modification of trusts. When appropriate, the Firm works closely with other trust and estate professionals to maximize the client's opportunities for a successful resolution of these disputes.

Hutchison & Steffen's attorneys aggressively represent clients in a wide range of trust and probate litigation before probate, district, and federal courts in trial and on appeal. The Firm has successfully resolved disputes both in and out of court, and is experienced in litigating and resolving issues of undue influence, competency, fiduciary duties, and accounting. Cases run the full spectrum from million-dollar will contests to smaller family disputes.