

BRIAN B. O'NEILL

Faegre & Benson LLP

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Education

University of Michigan Law School
J.D., magna cum laude, Order of the Coif, Law Review (managing editor) (1974)
United States Military Academy at West Point
B.S. (1969)

Employment

- 1969-1977, served to Captain, U.S. Army, Field Artillery (Meritorious Service Medal)
- 1974-1977, Assistant to General Counsel, Department of the Army
- 1977-1981, Associate, Faegre & Benson
- 1981-Present, Partner, Faegre & Benson (litigation group head, 1993-2009)

Practice

General trial and appellate practice for plaintiffs and defendants. Experience in complex commercial, intellectual property, and environmental cases with trials in the following areas: securities, antitrust, environmental, admiralty, bankruptcy, contract, Uniform Commercial Code, patent, trademark, copyright, constitutional, products liability, trade secrets, bank robbery and civil rights. Tried cases in various Minnesota, Alaska, and California courts, and the federal district courts in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Anchorage, Chicago, Philadelphia, Lexington, Los Angeles, St. Louis, the Claims Court, and the District of Columbia.

Professional Recognition

- American College of Trial Lawyers, Fellow (former Regent)
- International Academy of Trial Lawyers, Fellow
- American Board of Trial Advocates, Advocate
- U.S. Supreme Court Historical Society, Trustee
- *The Best Lawyers in America*, Antitrust Law, Bet-the-Company Litigation, Commercial Litigation, Environmental Law, Native American Law, Oil & Gas Law
- Ten Best Trial Lawyers in America, *National Law Journal*, 1994
- First in class, U.S. Army JAG School, 1974

Oil Spill Trials

- *In re the Exxon Valdez*, U.S. District Court (Holland), Anchorage, Alaska (1994 and 1996). Oil spill by vessel *Exxon Valdez*. Appointed by court as chief trial counsel. Trial to jury. Verdict for clients for \$5.3 billion. After review, judgment entered for \$4.5 billion (2003) and \$2.5 billion (2006). Reduced to \$500 million (2008). Profiled in D. Lebedoff, *Cleaning Up* (Harper and Row) and W. Smith, *Fighting for Public Justice* (TLPJ).
- *Kodiak Island Borough v. Exxon Corp.*, District Court (Shortell), Anchorage, Alaska (2002). Claim for city services provided to Exxon. Tried to jury for one month. Defense verdict.
- *In re the Glacier Bay*, U.S. District Court (Holland), Anchorage, Alaska (1991). Oil spill by the tanker *Glacier Bay*, tried 16 test case fisherman information claims (of 805 represented) against BP, verdict for fishermen, cases settled for \$51 million, first American maritime oil spill case tried to jury. Opinions at 746 F. Supp. 1379; 741 F. Supp. 800; 944 F.2d 577, and at 118 Bankr. 683 (*In re Apex Oil*).

Other Spills

- *Anderson, et al. v. Lakehead Pipeline Co., Inc.*, Civ. No. 5-91-75 (D. Minn.) (representation of oiled landowners and families following 1991 3 million gallon pipeline crude oil spill).
- *Admave, et al. v. Amoco Pipeline Co.*, Civ. No. 4-93-50 (D. Minn.) (representation of families suffering groundwater contamination from 20 year old underground gasoline leak from Amoco pipeline).
- *In re the Braer*, International Oil Pollution Treaty Authority (representation of Shetlands Islands fishing fleet in Treaty proceedings resulting from Braer spill).
- *M/V Selendang AYU Oil Spill* (representation of Native Alaskan Village Corporations located on the Aleutian Island of Unalaska to recover damages to lands as a result of a Malaysian soybean tanker that crashed off the coast of Unalaska in December 2004).