

Brian Augenthaler

Associate

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Bio

Brian Augenthaler is an associate attorney with Keating Bucklin & McCormack, Inc. P.S. His practice includes governmental and insurance defense litigation, including law enforcement, land use, road design, and motor vehicle accident matters.

Representative clients include the Cities of Bellevue, Tacoma, and Tukwila, as well as the University of Washington and Harborview Medical Center.

Prior to joining Keating Bucklin & McCormack in 2010, Brian served at the Federal Bureau of Investigation for three years, earning an exceptional service award from FBI Director Robert Mueller. Brian interned for the Honorable Judge Eric Aarseth in Anchorage and externed for the United States Attorney's Office in Seattle. While in law school, Brian earned four CALI awards in Constitutional Law, Evidence, Aviation Accident Law, and Business Law. When not at work, Brian enjoys playing video games, snowboarding, and reading fiction.

Representative Cases

Brian Augenthaler and Ruth Nielsen obtained a defense verdict on behalf of Stevens Pass Ski Area and a lift operator, who was individually named. The plaintiff claimed the defendants' negligence caused him to fall from a chairlift and injure himself. After a short deliberation, the jury returned a verdict in favor of Stevens Pass and the lift operator.

Brian Augenthaler and Andy Cooley obtained a defense verdict on behalf of the University of Washington in King County Superior Court. The officers were accused of excessive force. The jury returned a verdict exonerating the officers.

Brian Augenthaler obtained a defense verdict on behalf of Marysville Police Department officers in federal district court. The officers were accused of wrongful arrest and First Amendment retaliation. The jury returned a verdict exonerating the officers.

Brian Augenthaler and Andy Cooley obtained a defense verdict on behalf of the Port of Seattle in a two week trial in federal district court. The plaintiff was a current Port employee throughout the litigation and at trial. The plaintiff became incensed after receiving a critical performance evaluation and accused her supervisor of retaliating against her. She also learned a co-worker had delivered some critical feedback to her supervisor and consequently made baseless allegations that the co-worker was sexually harassing her. The plaintiff made a multitude of claims at trial, ranging from gender-based employment discrimination to sexual harassment and retaliation under the Americans with Disabilities Act. After careful deliberation on all eight claims, the jury rejected the plaintiff's version of events and found the Port did not engage in illegal discrimination. The jury also found the

plaintiff was not the victim of sexual harassment, vindicating both the Port and the employee wrongfully accused of sexual harassment.

Brian Augenthaler and Steve Thorsrud obtained a defense verdict on behalf of the City of Renton and its police officers in the Federal District Court, Western District of Washington. The plaintiff claimed he was arrested without probable cause and with excessive force when he caused a disturbance at a medical clinic. The jury deliberated for only forty-five minutes before returned a verdict in favor of the police on all claims.

Brian Augenthaler and Andy Cooley received a defense verdict on behalf of Harborview Hospital following a three week employment discrimination jury trial in King County Superior Court. The employee claimed he was discharged for filing a complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and on the basis of his race. Andy and Brian presented Harborview's defense to the jury, and the jury returned a verdict in favor of Harborview Hospital. The claim of race discrimination was dismissed on the morning before closing arguments based on a Harborview motion for judgment as a matter of law.

Presentations

"Preparing Your Expert," presented at the Washington Defense Trial Lawyers' Deposition Skills CLE, Seattle, Washington 2018

"The Second Amendment" presented at Cascade High School, Leavenworth, Washington 2018

"Risk Managing Recreation Programs," presented at the Washington Cities Insurance Authority's Full Board Meeting, Tukwila, Washington 2018

"Lessons Learned," presented at the California Association of Tactical Officers' Conference, San Diego, California 2017

"Ethics: Social Media," presented at the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys' Summer Conference, Chelan, Washington 2017

"The Top 10 Lessons the Ethical Lawyer Can Learn from O.J." presented at the Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys' Spring Conference, Blaine, Washington 2017

"Whistle Blower & Retaliation," presented at the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys' Summer Conference, Chelan, Washington 2016

"Primer on the Law of Pediatrics: Medical Privacy and Mandatory Reporter Duties," presented at the Vision Clinics of Development and Learning, Bellevue, Washington 2014

Professional and Community Activities

- Washington State Bar Association
- Washington Defense Trial Lawyers
- Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys

- Association of Ski Defense Attorneys

Education, Recognition, and Honors

- Western Washington University—B.A. Political Science, magna cum laude, 2008
- Seattle University—J.D. Degree, magna cum laude, 2011
- CALI Awards: Constitutional Law, Evidence, Business Entities, and Aviation Accident Law