

As Seen In... *U.S. News & World Report's Best Hospitals Issue, August 1, 2009*

Harman, Warren & Harris PLLP

Trial Attorneys *Par Excellence*

Google "Montana litigators," and you'll instantly have the names and numbers of hundreds of attorneys. But drill down, and you'll find that few of them have the breadth and depth of courtroom experience offered by Harman, Warren & Harris PLLP.

With more than 90 years of combined legal experience, including hundreds of trials, partners Steven J. Harman, Paul Warren and Donald L. Harris have successfully represented individuals and businesses throughout Montana in a wide range of civil matters. Their firm, which was established in 2000, is one of the most comprehensive civil litigation practices in the state.

Practice Areas

- Personal injury and wrongful death
- Medical negligence
- Vehicle accidents
- Insurance litigation
- Business and commercial litigation

'We Know How the Other Side Thinks'

"While many lawyers prepare cases for trial, relatively few actually set foot in the courtroom on a regular basis," Harris says. "But we do. We bring many claims others may not because we have higher expectations for our clients in terms of what juries will do. Also, we often try to expand the law, particularly in the area of remedies."

Many of the firm's cases involve "fighting to get insurance coverage for businesses or individuals," Harman says, an area in which he and Harris are exceptionally qualified. As partners in large firms prior to forming Harman, Warren & Harris, both spent many years *defending* insurance companies and corporations. "Now," Harman says, "we regularly represent plaintiffs against the types of entities we used to represent. So we know how the other side thinks. We know how to prepare cases."

In one recent case, for example, the firm's client was a young man whose back had been seriously injured in an auto accident. In Montana District Court and, later, the Montana Supreme Court, Harman fought the driver who had caused the accident and, then, their client's insurance company. The case was eventually settled for \$2 million, far more than the \$15,000 the insurer initially offered.



Left to right: Steven J. Harman, Donald L. Harris, Paul Warren

Harman and Harris have been selected by their peers to be included in *The Best Lawyers in America*. Harman, who teaches a course on trial skills at the University of Montana School of Law, is one of approximately 30 attorneys in the state who belong to the American College of Trial Lawyers. He has earned Martindale-Hubbell's highest peer review rating, an AV rating. In addition, both he and Harris are members of the American Board of Trial Advocates. Harris has received additional certification with the National Board of Trial Advocacy.

Paul Warren has successfully settled or tried insurance bad faith and medical malpractice cases for over \$1 million. Warren's homespun approach with juries stems, in part, from operating a cattle ranch, in addition to his experience as a trial attorney.

In another case, a business dispute, the firm represented a snowmobile dealership whose business substantially relied on selling vehicles, parts and accessories from a particular manufacturer. The manufacturer terminated the dealership agreement without notice and entered into an agreement with a competitor. At trial, the jury awarded the plaintiff all of the damages it requested, over \$7 million.

'We'll See You in the Courtroom'

As long-term residents of Montana, the three partners are highly respected members of the state's legal community. They enjoy excellent working relationships with attorneys across the state, including members of the defense bar. "We know how to work with these people in a civil manner, and that helps us get good results for our clients," Harris says.

But what really sets the partners apart is their trial skills. "Many attorneys don't have a lot of trial experience and are reluctant to go to trial," Harman says. "Yet they know, in the final analysis, they'll see us in the courtroom. And that's a real advantage for our clients."



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