

Snell & Wilmer



William N. Poorten III

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Main Bio

Bill Poorten's practice is concentrated in the area of commercial litigation, including common carrier liability, probate and trust litigation, real estate, easement and title disputes, construction, architect and engineer liability, issues related to real estate development, environmental, natural resources, and securities. He has experience before the Arizona Registrar of Contractors, in AAA, NASD and NYSE arbitrations, and in both state (Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas) and federal court (Arizona, Oklahoma, and Texas), including jury trial and appellate practice.

Representative Litigation

Recent Key Appellate Litigation

- *Nunez v. Professional Transit Management of Tucson, Inc.* (Feb. 2012) – Arizona Supreme Court held that in Arizona, common carriers are held to a duty of reasonable care and not the highest degree of care practicable.

Education

- Arizona State University, College of Law (J.D., cum laude, 1985)
- State University of New York at Buffalo (B.A., magna cum laude, 1981)
 - Phi Beta Kappa

Professional Memberships & Activities

- American College of Trial Lawyers (2017)
- The American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) (2014)
- American Bar Association
 - Tort and Insurance Practice Section
- Arizona Commission on Judicial Performance Review (2003-2008)
- Federal Bar Association
- Morris K. Udall Inn of Court (2003-2007)
 - Past President (2007)
 - Treasurer (2004-2006)
- Pima County Bar Association

- Chairman Rules Committee (2002)
- State Bar of Arizona
 - Construction Section
 - Trial Practice Section
 - Volunteer Bar Counsel
- Tucson Defense Bar Association
- The Defense Research and Trial Lawyers Association
- Volunteer Lawyer Program (1985-present)

Representative Presentations & Publications

- "[Common carriers have their day in court](#)," Author, BUSRide Magazine (February 2016)
- "Fundamental of Construction Law in Arizona," Sterling Education Services (March 2004)
- "Construction Management/Design-Build in Arizona," Lorman Education Services (Feb. 2001) (May 2002)
- "Summary of Arizona Lien and Bond Law," Arizona Institute of Credit (Feb. 2000)
- "Overview of Consultation and the Enforcement Process Under the ESA," U.S. Home Corp., MOLD Retreat (April 1999)
- Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl Forum, The Metropolitan Pima Alliance (Feb. 1998)
- "Registrar of Contractors: Structure, Regulation and Adjudication," State Bar of Arizona (Spring 1997)

Professional Recognition & Awards

- Gold 'n Gavel Star for 1985, ASU Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law (2017)
- Top 50 Pro Bono Attorneys in Arizona, Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education (2014)
- Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers (2017)
- The Best Lawyers in America[®], Commercial Litigation, Construction Litigation, Construction Law, Real Estate Litigation (2007-2020)
 - Tucson Lawyer of the Year, Construction Litigation (2014)
- Arizona's Finest Lawyers

Community Involvement

- Legal Community Against Hunger, Committee Member (2008-2014)
- Arizona Access to Justice Forum, Tucson, AZ (2014)
- Fox Tucson Theatre, Board of Directors (2012-2013)
- Citizens for Accountability for Regional Transportation Committee (2005-present)
- Educational Enrichment Foundation, Board of Directors (2009)
- KXCI (Foundation for Creative Broadcasting)
 - Board of Directors (2002-2005, 2014-present)
 - Treasurer (2014)
 - Vice President (2005)
- Asthma Foundation of Southern Arizona

- Board of Directors, Secretary and Treasurer (1994-2005)
- Tucson Blues Society
 - Board of Directors (1995-1999)
 - Vice President (1997-1999)
 - Festival Director (1999)
- Snell & Wilmer, Community Leadership Award (2004)
- Snell & Wilmer, Outstanding Mentor (2000-2002), Mentor Hall of Fame (2002)
- State Bar of Arizona, Top Pro Bono Attorney (2007, 2014)
- Volunteer Lawyers Program, Outstanding Pro Bono Attorney of the Month (October 2004, December 2010)

Bar Admissions

- Arizona
- New York

Court Admissions

- Supreme Court of Arizona
- Supreme Court of New York
- United States Supreme Court
- United States District Court, District of Arizona
- United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit