

LEE T. SILVER

SHAREHOLDER

Grand Rapids
616 752 7221
silver@butzel.com



Lee Silver is an accomplished trial lawyer, mediator, and arbitrator. He has received numerous awards based on peer review for his skills as an attorney, has successfully handled numerous high profile cases, and is highly sought after as a mediator and arbitrator. Lee currently serves as a Managing Shareholder of the firm's Grand Rapids office and is Co-Chair of the firm's Mediation and Arbitration Specialty Team.

Lee is a Shareholder practicing in Butzel's Grand Rapids office. Mr. Silver has successfully handled complex commercial litigation cases of virtually every type over the past 40 years in state and federal courts throughout Michigan and well over a dozen other states. This wealth of experience enables Lee to develop the most effective strategies for achieving his client's objectives in an efficient and cost-effective manner. His representative clients range from Fortune 500 companies, financial institutions, manufacturers, and a variety of closely-held companies of all sizes to individual business owners, shareholders, executives, professionals, and other individuals. Lee was named by *Best Lawyers in America* as the 2023 Grand Rapids Lawyer of the Year for Bet-the-Company Litigation and was recognized by *Michigan Super Lawyers* in 2024 as one of the top 10 attorneys in Michigan based on peer review.

In addition to a very busy litigation practice, Lee also has an active mediation/alternative dispute resolution practice throughout Michigan and nationally. He is one of only three Mediators in Michigan to be selected as a Fellow of the American College of Civil Trial Mediators and has also been selected as a member of the American Arbitration Association's prestigious Master Mediator Panel which is comprised of AAA's top Mediator's as rated by attorneys that handle large complex

Primary Practice Areas

Litigation and Dispute Resolution

Mediation and Arbitration Specialty Team

All Related Practice Areas

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

Automotive Industry Team

Business & Commercial Litigation

Construction

Construction Litigation

Employment Litigation

Job Discrimination & Wrongful Discharge

Labor and Employment

Litigation and Dispute Resolution

Media Litigation

Mediation and Arbitration Specialty Team

Non-Compete & Trade Secret

Product Liability Litigation

Real Estate

Real Estate Litigation

Supply Chain Management

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disputes. He has also been selected as a member of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals, was named by *Best Lawyers In America* as the 2021 and 2024 Grand Rapids Lawyer of the Year for Mediation, has been on the approved list of mediators for the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan since 2003, and regularly serves as an Arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association, as well as in private arbitrations. Lee has successfully mediated over 1,200 cases in state and federal courts throughout Michigan and other states and takes great pride in the fact that an extremely high percentage of the cases he mediates settle as a result of the mediation. As a mediator, Lee approaches every matter fully prepared, and he is known for his tenacity and his ability to settle difficult cases by never giving up and believing that every case can be settled. As a trial lawyer with over 40 years of experience who has litigated over 1,000 cases, mediated over 1,200 disputes, served as an arbitrator in over 100 matters, and earned the highest rankings from his peers for his legal ability, Lee is uniquely qualified to analyze a case and help the parties reach a settlement.

Lee specializes in:

- Contract Disputes
- Shareholder and Partnership Disputes, including claims of Minority Shareholder Oppression
- Employment Disputes
- Covenants Not To Compete, Trade Secrets, and Unfair Competition
- Construction Disputes representing owners, contractors, and design professionals
- Supply Chain disputes in the auto industry and other industries
- Probate Litigation
- Uniform Commercial Code
- Financial Services Litigation
- Defamation and Business Disparagement
- Fraud
- Business Torts, including claims for Tortious Interference, Conversion, and Breach Of Fiduciary Duty
- Real Estate Disputes
- Professional Malpractice involving Legal, Accounting, and Design Professionals
- Commission Disputes, including Procuring Cause Claims
- Constitutional and Civil Rights Claims
- Corporate Governance and Liability of Corporate Officers and Directors
- Complex Commercial Litigation

News

LEE T. SILVER

Grand Rapids Attorney Among Michigan's Go-to Trial Lawyers for Bet-the-Company Litigation

New York Times: Charges Against Former Michigan State President Are Dismissed

The Detroit News: Judge dismisses charges against former MSU president Simon in Nassar case

Mistakes Made During Lou Anna Simon Interview, Detective Concedes

Credentials

EDUCATION

J.D., Indiana University School of Law, 1984 (First Place, Moot Court Competition; Member, National Moot Court Team; Teaching Assistant in Appellate Advocacy)

B.A., with honors, University of Redlands, 1981

ADMISSIONS

State Bar of Michigan

United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

United States District Court for the District of Colorado

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan

United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia

United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan

MEMBERSHIPS

American Bar Association (Litigation, Business Law, and ADR Sections)

Federal Bar Association for the Western District of Michigan

American Association for Justice

Michigan Association for Justice

LEE T. SILVER

Grand Rapids Bar Association (Past Chairman of the Bench/Bar Committee; Past Member of the Judicial Evaluation, Finance, and Court Liaison Committees).

Litigation Counsel of America (Trial Law Institute, Diversity Law Institute, Barrister-Order of Juris)

VFM/ADR Advisor Committee, United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan

Awards & Recognitions

The Best Lawyers in America®: Commercial Litigation, 2012-2026; Bet-the-Company Litigation, 2023-2026; Mediation, 2012-2026; Arbitration, 2024-2026; Litigation - Construction, 2025-2026; Litigation - Labor and Employment, 2025-2026; Product Liability Litigation - Defendants, 2025-2026; Construction Law, 2025-2026; Real Estate Law, 2026

The Best Lawyers in America®, Lawyer of the Year - Grand Rapids, Mediation, 2026

The Best Lawyers in America®, Lawyer of the Year - Grand Rapids, Bet-the-Company Litigation, 2023

The Best Lawyers in America®, Lawyer of the Year - Grand Rapids, Mediation, 2021, 2024

Michigan *Super Lawyers*, Business Litigation, 2025

Michigan *Super Lawyers*, Commercial Litigation, 2007-2024

Michigan *Super Lawyers*, Top 10 Attorneys in Michigan, 2024, 2025

Michigan *Super Lawyers*, Top 100 Attorneys in Michigan, 2021-2025

Selected as a Fellow of the American College of Civil Trial Mediators

Selected as a Member of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals

American Arbitration Association - Master Mediator Panel, comprised of AAA's top mediators as rated by attorneys

AV rated by *Martindale-Hubbell* every year since 1997 (the highest rating possible for legal ability and ethics)

Crain's Grand Rapids Business Journal - Notable West Michigan Lawyers

Grand Rapids Magazine - Top Lawyers

Leading Lawyers, Commercial Litigation, ADR Law

LEE T. SILVER

Litigation Counsel of America – Senior Fellow

America's Top 100 High Stakes Litigators

Member, Million Dollar Advocates Forum

Fellow, American Bar Foundation

Previous member of the Board of Directors of the International Society of Primerus Law Firms

Selected as a faculty member for the Hillman Advocacy Program