

Partner ▪ kenzo.kawanabe@dgsllaw.com ▪ 303.892.7541



## EXPERTISE

Litigation &amp; Trial

## EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center, J.D.  
University of Colorado, B.A., *Boettcher Scholar*

## ADMITTED IN

Colorado, United States District Court for the District of Colorado, United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, and United States Supreme Court

Kenzo Kawanabe is a trial lawyer who represents clients in high-stakes cases relating to commercial disputes, mass torts, products liability, and intellectual property. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and has significant litigation experience including:

- Leader of a defense team regarding hundreds of plaintiffs as part of a nationwide mass tort litigation against a pharmaceutical company.
- Trial counsel for a subsidiary of a supermajor oil company in a dispute with the State of California concerning breach of contract and environmental claims exceeding \$100 million. The case settled on favorable terms the third day of a jury trial.
- Represented various clients regarding Lanham Act infringement and consumer protection act claims.
- Trial counsel defending an engineering company in a \$170 million power plant case (jury denied fraud claim and awarded a fraction of claimed damages).
- Trial counsel in *County v. Brown Group Retail, Inc.* (District of Colorado) (favorable toxic tort trial).
- Trial counsel for a NYSE company against false advertising, breach of contract, and conspiracy claims (full defense jury verdict).
- Trial team leader in a five-week trial on behalf of schools and students against the State of Colorado in a historic public education finance case.

Mr. Kawanabe served on the DGS Executive Committee and as Pro Bono Partner. He teaches at the National Institute for Trial Advocacy and dedicates significant time to volunteer work, including board service for Colorado Legal Services and the Colorado Lawyers Committee.

Mr. Kawanabe is a fourth-generation Coloradan who engages in community service. He serves on the board of advisors for the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System and as board chair for the Boettcher Foundation. Mr. Kawanabe is the former board chair of The Denver Foundation, one of the nation's largest community foundations which annually grants tens of millions of dollars to nonprofit organizations. He also served on the boards of the Sakura Foundation, Colorado Nonprofit Development Center, Community Resource Center, Foundation for Sustainable Urban Communities, Barton Institute for Philanthropy and Social Enterprise, and Asian Americans Advancing Justice.

Mr. Kawanabe clerked for then Chief Justice Mary J. Mullarkey of the Colorado Supreme Court. He is a member of the American Bar Association (ABF fellow), Colorado Bar Association (board of governors and Bar Fellow), Denver Bar Association (board of trustees and Executive Committee), National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (first-ever General Counsel), Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Colorado (past president and foundation president), and Minoru Yasui Inn of Court.

## RECOGNITION

- American College of Trial Lawyers Fellow
- AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rating from Martindale-AVVO
- Benchmark Litigation
- *Best Lawyers*® (Past Lawyer of the Year for Mass Tort)
- *Chambers USA* Litigation Leader (Band 1)
- Colorado Super Lawyer (TOP 10) from Thomson Reuters
- Colorado Client Choice Award
- 5280 Top Lawyer
- Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America

## AWARDS

- Asian American Hero, Asian Avenue Magazine (2020)
- National Philanthropy Day (Colorado): Volunteer of the Year (2019)
- *Law Week Colorado* Barrister's Best for Colorado's Best Commercial Litigator (2017)
- PEBC Investing in Education Award (2014)
- Colorado Education Association Coloradan Award (2013)
- Colorado Lawyers Committee Team Award (2012)
- American Constitution Society Impact Award (2012)
- APABA Minoru Yasui Award (2012)
- *Law Week Colorado* Lawyer of the Year (2011)
- CASE Leadership Award (2011)
- Denver Mayor's Pascoe Civic Leadership Award (2009)
- Denver Bar Association Richard Marden Davis Award (2005)
- University of Colorado Outstanding Young Alumni (2004)
- NAPABA Best Lawyers Under 40 (2003)
- *Denver Business Journal* Top 40 Under 40 (2001)