

# Stephen J. Conover

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Partner

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## Service Areas

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Commercial Litigation
- Litigation
- Professional Ethics/Grievance
- Professional Liability

## Education

- St. John's University School of Law, J.D., 1981
- University of Notre Dame, B.A., 1978

## Admissions

### Bar Admissions

- Connecticut; 1982
- U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut; 1984
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York; 1992

- U.S. Supreme Court;1982
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## Overview

Steve Conover is a partner in Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey's Litigation Group. He regularly represents lawyers, law firms and corporate legal departments throughout Connecticut in grievance defense matters. He actively advises local and national law firms on malpractice prevention and risk management, and counsels clients on sensitive ethics, professional responsibility, and business matters.

In 2007, Steve completed 11 years of service as Court-appointed Grievance Counsel involved with the State's lawyer disciplinary/grievance process in administrative and judicial proceedings. He now regularly defends lawyers facing sanctions from formal Grievance Complaints filed with Connecticut's Statewide Grievance Committee. In addition, Steve provides guidance to lawyers and law firms in their partnership agreements, management of partner departures, lateral hires, dissolutions, licensing, and ethics compliance.

Steve is an experienced neutral arbitrator trained by the American Arbitration Association and is regularly selected to decide complex commercial & construction disputes. He is a member of the American Arbitration Association's panels for Large & Complex Commercial, and Construction Cases. Steve is also a neutral mediator trained (40 hours) at Quinnipiac University Law School Center for Dispute Resolution. Since 1996, Steve has served by appointment as a Special Master mediating civil cases each month in the State Superior Court in Stamford.

Steve has a long history of leadership in the state and local bar, including his election as a Board Member (1993-2003) and as President (2003-2004) of the Fairfield County Bar Association. Steve is active in the Connecticut Bar Association as an elected member of its Board of Governors, and as a member of the Professional Ethics Committee, and Profession Discipline Committee. Steve was a member of the CBA Task Force on the Unauthorized Practice of Law.



Steve is a frequent speaker for the Fairfield County Bar Association, the Bridgeport Bar Association, the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association and the Connecticut Bar Association on the topics of legal ethics, grievance defense, lawyer discipline and law firm risk management.

Since his admission, Steve has maintained an active trial practice representing clients in commercial & construction disputes in State and Federal Courts, and in arbitration, mediation, and administrative hearings before Boards, Committees, and Commissions throughout Connecticut.

In 2012, Steve was appointed to a four-year term on the Connecticut Judicial Compensation Commission which evaluates the adequacy and determines the sufficiency of compensation paid to State Court judges. From 2012 until 2016, he served on the Connecticut Judicial Selection

Commission which investigates and recommends lawyers for appointment as judges and evaluates incumbent judges for elevation (to the Appellate Court and the Supreme Court) and for reappointment; Steve was Vice-Chair when his term on the Commission ended in Spring 2016.

## Distinctions

- Selected for inclusion in [Connecticut Super Lawyers for Professional Liability Defense Lawyers, 2011-2016](#)
  - AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated in [Martindale-Hubbell™](#)
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## News

- [36 Attorneys Selected to the 2016 Connecticut Super Lawyers and Rising Stars List](#)
- [Stephen J. Conover presents on Hot Topics in Ethics](#)
- [CBA Connecticut Legal Conference 2016](#)

## Alerts

- [Real Estate E-Alert: Property Tax Revaluation – Appeal Deadline February 17, 2017](#)
- [Real Estate E-Alert: Property Tax Valuation – Notice of Preliminary Value](#)

## Publications

- [Separating from a Firm: Stay clear-eyed and client-focused](#)
  - [Social Media and Ethical Obligations for Lawyers](#)
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## Events

- [Speaker, What's a Mediation Advocate to do? A Guide for Mediation Advocates](#)
- [Speaker, What's a Mediation Advocate to do? A Guide for Mediation Advocates](#)
- [Advanced Ethics Problems Vexing Practicing Lawyers](#)
- [Ahead of the Curve: Lawyers Risk Management, Simsbury Regional Bar Ethics CLE July 2017](#)
- [Ahead of the Curve: Risk Management for Lawyers](#)
- [Ahead of the Curve: Risk Management for Lawyers - December 6th](#)
- [Becoming a Judge in Connecticut: The Judicial Selection Process](#)
- [Complying with the CT Rules of Professional Conduct: Avoiding Discipline & Malpractice CLE](#)
- [Connecticut Bar Association Ethics Program: Avoiding Discipline & Malpractice](#)
- [Ethics: The Year in Review. Connecticut Legal Conference and Annual CBA Meeting June 12, 2017](#)
- [Fairfield County Bar Association Professional Symposium](#)
- [Handling Thorny Ethical Issues in Commercial Litigation CLE](#)
- [Hot Topics in Ethics CLE](#)
- [How to Ethically Manage Client Trust Accounts](#)

- [Lawyers in Transition: Ethics Issues to Address When Changing Jobs](#)
  - [Legal Ethics: Top Mistakes that Lead to Malpractice Training Seminar 12.19.17](#)
  - [Legal Ethics: Top Mistakes that Lead to Malpractice Training Seminar 12.21.17](#)
  - [Modest Means Representation & Unbundled Legal Services](#)
  - [Presenter, Ahead of the Curve - Risk Management for Lawyers.](#)
  - [The Competitive Edge Law Practice Risk Management](#)
  - [The Mysteries of the Judicial Selection Process Revealed](#)
  - [Time to Turn Out the Lights? Lawyers' Ethical Path to Retirement or Closing a Law Firm](#)
  - [What To Do If a Grievance Arrives](#)
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## **Affiliations**

- Fairfield County Bar Association, President, 2003 – 2004
  - Fairfield County Bar Association, Director, 1993 – 2005
  - Fellow of Connecticut Bar Foundation, 2010 – Present
  - Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers, 2006 – Present
  - Connecticut Bar Association, Board of Governors, 2010 – Present
  - Connecticut Bar Association, House of Delegates, 2009 – Present
  - Connecticut Bar Association, Standing Committee on Professional Ethics, 1996 – President
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