



Tom Ward brings more than 22 years of courtroom litigation experience to his practice, focusing on criminal defense, white-collar defense, and civil litigation in state and federal courts.

Tom began his legal career in 1997 when he graduated from the University of Colorado School of Law, winning the school's prestigious Rothgerber Moot Court Competition along the way. After an internship with the ACLU of Colorado, he served as a Deputy State Public Defender for the Colorado Public Defender's Office in both their Denver and Pueblo offices.

During this time, Tom represented thousands of accused individuals and developed a reputation as a tenacious and innovative courtroom litigator. Tom won not guilty verdicts in jury trials for defendants charged with offenses ranging from misdemeanors in county court to serious felony matters including first-degree murder and sexual assault.

In 2001, Tom founded The Ward Law Firm, P.C. Over the next 15 years, the firm developed a reputation statewide for providing highly skilled, aggressive, results-oriented representation in both criminal and civil cases and was twice named to U.S. News and World Report's Best Law Firms in the field of White-Collar Criminal Defense. During his time with The Ward Law Firm, Tom made federal criminal defense a focal point of his practice. Having represented countless federal defendants as a member of the Criminal Justice Act panel since 2003, Tom has become known as one of Denver's top federal criminal defense lawyers.

Throughout his career, Tom has successfully represented individuals and corporate entities in a wide variety of cases including white-collar prosecutions in United States District Court, drug trafficking and serious violent felonies in state courts, and regulatory proceedings conducted by the Attorney General and other agencies. Tom has litigated numerous high-profile cases including a Jefferson County first degree murder trial that was featured on CBS 48 Hours.

Tom stays active in the legal community as a member of the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and serves on the Board of Directors of the Colorado Lawyers Committee.

Areas of Practice

- Federal Felonies
- Colorado Felonies
- Fraud
- Drug Possession and Distribution
- Sex Crimes
- State and Federal Probation Violations

- White-Collar Crime
- Theft
- Civil Forfeitures
- Record Sealing/Expungement
- Civil Litigation
- Personal Injury

Professional Experience

- Legal Intern, ACLU of Colorado (1997)
- Public Defender, Office of the Colorado State Public Defender, Denver Office (1997 – 1998)
- Public Defender, Office of the Colorado State Public Defender, Pueblo Office (1998 – 2001)
- Partner, The Ward Law Firm P.C. (2001 – 2016)
- Partner, McDermott Stuart & Ward LLP (2016 – present)

Education

- B.A., Finance, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1992)
- J.D., University of Colorado School of Law (1997)

Bar & Court Admissions

- State of Colorado (1997)
- U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado (2003)
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit (2006)
- Supreme Court of the United States (2007)

Honors & Distinctions

- Criminal Defense: White-Collar, *The Best Lawyers in America*® (2015 – 2023)
- "Best Law Firms" Tier 1 in Criminal Defense: General Practice, *The Best Lawyers in America*® (2021-2023)
- "Best Law Firms" Tier 1 in Criminal Defense: White-Collar, *The Best Lawyers in America*® (2021-2023)
- "Best Law Firms" Tier 1 in Personal Injury Litigation - Plaintiffs, *The Best Lawyers in America*® (2021-2023)
- Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent® Rated (2013 – present)
- Top Lawyers in Colorado-Criminal Law, 5280 Magazine (2020-2021)
- Colorado Super Lawyers (2014 – present)
- 10/10, AVVO
- Colorado Rising Stars, Super Lawyers (2009, 2010)
- Community Contribution Award, Colorado Lawyers Committee (2004)
- Winner, Rothgerber Moot Court Competition, University of Colorado School of Law (1997)

Professional Affiliations

- Member, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (2014 – present)
- Member, Colorado Bar Association (2002 – present)
- Member, Criminal Justice Act Panel, U.S.D.C for the District of Colorado (2002 – present)
- Member, Colorado Criminal Defense Bar (2001 – present)

Publications & Presentations

- Interview, Featured Alumni: Dru Nielsen ('97) and Tom Ward ('97), Colorado Law, University Colorado Boulder (2019)
- Interview, Criminal Risk Assessments in Colorado, Super Lawyers (2018)
- Interview, A Blurry Picture, Law Week Colorado (2017)
- Lecturer, Felony Murder, Hunter S. Thompson and the Last Gonzo Campaign, West LegalEdcenter (2011)
- Lecturer, Medical Marijuana and the Federal Non-Enforcement Policy, West LegalEdcenter (2011)

Pro Bono

- Volunteer Defense Lawyer, Homeless Court, Project Homeless Connect Convention
- Board of Directors, Colorado Lawyers Committee