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PRACTICE AREAS

- Commercial Litigation
- Construction
- Insurance
- Personal Injury Defense
- Professional Liability Defense

EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Utah, S.J. Quinney College of Law, 1970
- B.A., University of Utah, 1967

ADMISSION

- California State Bar
- Utah State Bar
- Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals
- Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
- Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals
- United States Supreme Court

ABOUT

Michael Lowe is an accomplished trial attorney. He has practiced for more than 50 years, appearing primarily for the defense, and has dealt with a wide range of legal issues in numerous industries, businesses, and market sectors.

Michael has handled lengthy mediations, arbitrations, and trials to verdict of complex litigation matters in multiple areas of legal discipline, with a practice emphasis on construction industry claims. These include representing general and sub-contractors surety bond loss and work-out difficulties and complex primary, excess, umbrella, and reinsurance coverage matters with an emphasis on environmental pollution, asbestos, sub-prime lease fraud, and other forms of commercial litigation.

During his career, Michael has also handled serious injury cases, professional liability defense, including medical, legal, accounting, engineering, and premises liability. He has tried more than 90 cases to verdict in state and federal trial courts and has appeared in state and federal trial courts nationwide. He has argued matters in most California Appellate Districts and before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. He is also admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

Michael was selected by the Los Angeles Daily Journal to be profiled in an article series devoted to prominent insurance defense counsel in Southern California. He has been a guest speaker and panel member on subjects related to insurance and commercial litigation and trial tactics, the trial of the complex commercial case (both claim and defense), the handling of experts in trial and discovery, and other aspects of defending the insurance industry and defending and pursuing affirmative commercial business claims.

In May 2002, Michael served as one of three lead trial counsel in one of the ten largest cases ever tried to verdict in California. The case involved a six-month trial in three separate phases: insurance coverage, including umbrella/excess policies, admissible evidence, and jury presentation on fact issues. He has also tried cases to verdict in Federal "MDL" (Multidistrict Litigation) lawsuits in California, Nevada, and Ohio Federal District Courts.

Before joining SCM in 2015, Michael was a trial partner for 35 years in the Southern California litigation firm of Booth, Mitchel & Strange.

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

- Utah Bar Association
- California State Bar Association

- American Bar Association: Litigation, Construction, and Insurance Law Sections
- Defense Research Institute
- Western States Surety Association
- Association of Southern California Defense Counsel
- Holds academic class award in Constitutional Law and was Chief Justice of the University of Utah law school moot court program in 1969 and 1970
- Has served as a judge in law school trial and appellate competitions numerous times
- Devotes volunteer time as a Chief Judge in middle and high school educational trial competitions

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Interview by the American Bar Association, quoted in The Brief magazine (publication for lawyers practicing tort and insurance law), in an article titled, "Suggesting a Damages Amount to the Jury During Closing Argument in Cases Involving Intangible or Liquidated Damages," 2014.
- Author, "The Mega-Case: Keeping a Leash on the Beast," an extensive primer on handling complex high-risk litigation, Western States Surety Conference, 2005
- Speaker and panel presenter on a range of issues, primarily relating to insurance and commercial litigation and trial tactics; trial of the complex commercial case; the handling of experts in trial and discovery; and many other topics relating to defending the insurance industry and the pursuit and defense of commercial business claims.