

Martha J. Payne

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Overview

Martha represents and assists North American transportation and logistics providers and users on a wide variety of transportation issues. She has extensive experience in drafting and negotiating domestic and international transportation, logistics, and supply chain management contracts. She advises shippers, carriers, and logistics companies of all sizes regarding cargo liability, risk management, contracting, and collection issues. Martha represented U.S. carriers on the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade's Sub-Committee on Uniform Liability Regime, which involved negotiations with representatives of Canadian, Mexican, and U.S. shippers, carriers, and government representatives.

Martha focuses her practice on risk analysis and contract drafting and negotiation. She is fully aware that risk cannot be eliminated, but it should be understood.

Prior to joining Benesch, Martha had experience in operations and administration in the transportation industry, including terminal operations, accounting, pricing, collections, cargo claims management, and finally Senior Attorney for Consolidated Freightways. In the position of Senior Attorney, she was responsible for all transportation related legal issues, including contracts, cargo claims, regulatory matters, and litigation management.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- Lewis & Clark Law School, 1985, J.D.
- Portland State University, 1981, B.S., Business Administration

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Oregon
- U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon

Memberships

- Board of Directors, Fields of Peace
- Advisory Board Member, Siletz Bay Music Festival
- Oregon State Bar Association
- Lincoln County Bar Association
- Transportation Lawyers Association
- Intermodal Association of North America
- Air Forwarder Association
- Conference of Freight Counsel
- Transportation Intermediaries Association
- Transportation Logistics Council
- Transportation Loss Prevention and Security Council
- American Trucking Association
- Oregon Trucking Association
- Canadian Transport Lawyers Association
- Women In Trucking

Awards & Recognition

- Distinguished Woman in Logistics Award, 2025
- Transportation Lawyers Association Lifetime Achievement Award, 2020
- Siletz Bay Music Festival Love of Music Award
- AV® Rated, Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review

Beyond the office

Did you know?

Before becoming an attorney, Ms. Payne was a concert violinist. Now, she feeds her musical needs by chairing the Siletz Bay Music Festival each summer on the Oregon coast.

Favorite Vacation

Costa Rica

Hobbies

Traveling, hiking, creating mosaics, and spending time with family.

News & Insights

- InterConnect Newsletter | Q3 2026
  October 20, 2026 | Newsletters
- Benesch Of Counsel Martha Payne Honored with 2026 Women in Supply Chain Award
  August 25, 2026 | Press Releases
- Martha Payne Publishes Article in Defense Counsel Journal | "Loss, Damage, and Delay Claims in the Logistics Chain"
  July 3, 2025 | Media Mentions
- International Transport Journal Features Of Counsel Martha Payne
  April 16, 2025 | Media Mentions
- Benesch's Martha Payne Wins 2025 Distinguished Woman in Logistics Award
  April 10, 2025 | Press Releases
- BREAKING: FMCSA Extends Comment Period for "Transparency in Property Broker Transactions" Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
  February 20, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights
- Martha Payne quoted in Freight Waves | "More efforts needed to mitigate cargo losses"
  October 30, 2023 | Media Mentions
- MAP-21 Unified Registration System: Did I Miss the Deadline?
  October 30, 2023 | Contributed Content & Presentations
- Reefer Madness and Beyond - What Happens in California Doesn't Stay in California
  October 30, 2023 | Client Alerts & Insights
- Now You See Them, Now You Don't: Longstanding Terms of the NMFC's Uniform Bill of Lading Vanish
  October 30, 2023 | Client Alerts & Insights

Speaking & Events

PAST EVENTS

- Carmack Liability | Martha J. Payne
  March 3, 2025 | Speaking Engagement
- Preventing and Mitigating Loss & Tariffs and Carrier Liability | Martha J. Payne
  May 1, 2023 - May 3, 2023 | Speaking Engagement
- The Way We Were: Transportation Law and Contracts in the Era of Regulation | Martha J. Payne
  January 19, 2023 | Speaking Engagement
- Bills of Lading; What You Need to Know | Martha J. Payne
  March 21, 2022 - March 23, 2022 | Speaking Engagement
- Bills of Lading: What You Need to Know | Martha J. Payne
  November 10, 2021 | Speaking Engagement