

TOP 100 LAWYERS

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2023 3RD QUARTER EDITION



113

LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT
RECIPIENTS



INFLUENTIAL
ATTORNEYS IN
NORTH AMERICA

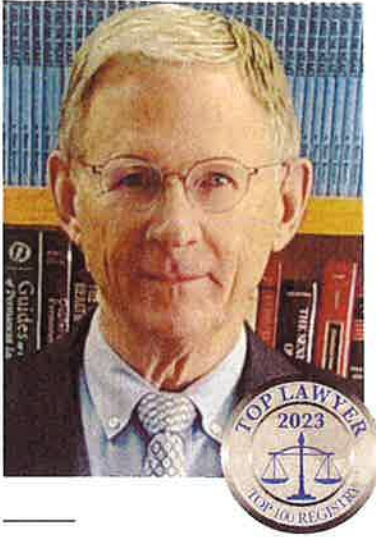
PERSONAL INJURY

ATTORNEY
OF THE YEAR

TREY MORRIS

Attorney / Founding Partner of Morris & Dewett Injury Lawyers

MULTIPLE PRACTICE AREAS



MERIT BENNETT

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Merit Bennett, Esq., is a highly experienced attorney in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with a diverse legal practice that spans personal injury, civil rights, employment discrimination, and various other areas of law. Mr. Bennett is the founding attorney of The Bennett Law Group, a legal firm based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He has led the firm for many years and has gained a reputation for his expertise in various legal disciplines.

Mr. Bennett's practice areas include personal injury law (auto/truck collisions) and civil rights/employment discrimination law. This broad range of expertise allows him to assist clients in diverse legal matters. Early in his career, Mr. Bennett served as a public defender, defending juveniles and adults charged with felonies in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He later engaged in general private practice in Colorado Springs, Ouray, and Montrose, Colorado, gaining valuable experience in various legal areas. Mr. Bennett has been involved in several high-profile cases. Mr. Bennett also has extensive experience in representing childhood/clergy sexual abuse victims (over 100 matters against the Catholic Church and other religious denominations) and victims of exposure to pesticides, mold, chemicals, or other toxins. Mr. Bennett and his former partner, Steve Tinkler, obtained million-dollar jury verdicts in a sexual harassment case against Wal-Mart and a pesticide exposure case against Terminix International. In 2016, he garnered a multi-million-dollar settlement against the Honolulu Police Department for race and gender discrimination against three of its police officers.

Mr. Bennett's educational background is notable. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Western European Area Studies from the United States Air Force Academy. He also completed Airborne (Parachute Training) School and was a varsity athlete in wrestling and rugby. Mr. Bennett earned a Master of Political Science from the University of Colorado in 1972. His master's thesis at the University of Colorado was The Assis-

tant to the President for National Security Affairs: The Development of the Role of This Executive Office in the Decision-Making Process and its Impact on Governmental Operation, for which Mr. Bennett interviewed in Washington, D.C., Clark Clifford (lawyer and political advisor to Presidents Harry S. Truman, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Jimmy Carter). Mr. Bennett also interviewed Dean Rusk at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia. Mr. Rusk was the U.S. Secretary of State from 1961 to 1969 under Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. Subsequently, in 1975, he obtained his Juris Doctor from the Washington College of Law at the American University in Washington, D.C. His law review research topic, The Entrapment Debate: From Sorrells and Sherman to Russell, received the Washington College of Law Best of Clinical Program Award at graduation. Mr. Bennett is known for his expertise in legal ethics and professionalism. He has taught a Continuing Legal Education Ethics Course for the New Mexico State Bar. He has also authored two books: "Law and the Heart, A New Paradigm" and "Legal Professionalism, Fifty Words That Strike the Heart." Mr. Bennett's daughter, Talia Kosh, joined his firm in 2004, expanding the practice to include areas such as art law, trademark law, copyright law, entertainment law, and non-profit organization law. Mr. Bennett is a highly respected attorney with a wide range of legal skills and a track record of success in complex cases. His dedication to his clients and contributions to the legal field have earned him recognition and respect within the legal community.