

# Connecticut

Connecticut's litigation market has been exposed to a number of significant mergers and changes over recent years. However, senior individual lawyers stand strong in the community offering stability in local courtrooms. Most of the significant players are part of the larger First and Second Circuit community, encompassing all of New England and New York. Often working in neighboring states, these firms and stars dominate Connecticut from their home offices.

## Highly recommended firms

The lawyers of **Day Pitney** are described as a "thriving group" by competitors, who noted the firm's presence in Connecticut has grown since the 2006 merger between Day, Berry & Howard and Pitney Hardin. **Steven Greenspan** is considered at the "top of his class" with a footprint across the country based upon recent growth of the firm. **Joseph Scully** joins Greenspan as a recognizable figure in the Connecticut marketplace. Scully's unique insurance and reinsurance practice gained particular acknowledgment from his peers. The firm remains recognized for its real estate, intellectual property, white-collar and employment capabilities.

"Statesman" **John Nolan** remains active in a variety of practice areas across the country. Nolan, who began litigating when he joined the firm more than 30 years ago, is considered unsurpassed by peers. In one of the firm's most significant matters of 2008, Nolan and Allan Taylor represent a mixed-use development company in a more than \$200 million reinsurance dispute.

**Victoria Woodin Chavey** is considered a member of the next litigation wave to practice in Connecticut. As co-chair of the Employment Litigation group, Chavey obtained favorable judgment for Fortune 50 clients through out the year, including a six-day trial in the US District Court of Connecticut.

Day Pitney remains a firm on the rise with a growing national presence and roots throughout the northeast.

Waterbury-based **Carmody & Torrance** moves up in this year's rankings backed by the power of litigation stars **Maureen Danehy Cox** and **Anthony Fitzgerald**. The two are joined by **James Robertson**, making his first appearance among the Local Litigation Stars.

**Robertson** was active defending client **MacDermid Incorporated** in an antitrust counterclaim arising from a previous intellectual property summary judgment obtained by the firm. In a favorable settlement, **Robertson** proved to be on the cutting edge of antitrust litigation as it is continually fueled by defeated intellectual property claims. (confusing sentence)

The firm boasts one of the "most significant crops of young lawyers in Connecticut," according to one client. Standing out from the group, **Mariella LaRosa** is described by peers as "one of the best" medical malpractice lawyers in the state. **David Hardy** and **Fatima Lahnin** also find themselves among the more significant young attorneys as they work alongside **Fitzgerald**, **Robertson** and **John Horvack** on some of the firm's most important matters. With clients including Northeast Utilities, Timex and the City of Waterbury, **Carmody & Torrance** has a bright future.

Competitors and clients alike admit **Robinson & Cole** is "one of the few firms who can cover all of New England." With 25 lawyers working out of its Hartford office within its business litigation group, the firm has built a reputation as a "well-prepared" group, according to sources.

Clients recommend **Bradford Babbit** for his expertise in business disputes including commercial relationships, tortious conduct, intellectual property and regulatory oversight. **James Wade** is also noted by peers as an "extremely talented" lawyer who can take any business case presented to him. In recent years, Wade represented numerous Fortune 500 clients in grand jury investigations, securities, banking and environmental disputes. **Jeffrey White** is singled out by clients as a "future presence"

## Local litigation teams

### Highly recommended

Day Pitney

Carmody & Torrance

Robinson & Cole

Shipman & Goodwin

Wiggin & Dana

### Recommended

Cowdery Ecker & Murphy

Finn Dixon & Herling

Halloran & Sage

Hurwitz Sagarin Slossberg & Knuff

Jacobs Grudberg Belt Dow & Katz

Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder

Levett Rockwood

McCarter & English

Murtha Cullina

Silver Golub & Teitell

Tobin Carberry O'Malley Riley & Selinger

Tyler Cooper & Alcorn

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*-Day Pitney*



## Local litigation stars

Bradford Babbit Robinson & Cole	Jim Fogarty Fogarty Cohen Selby & Nemiroff	Frank Silvestri Jr Levett Rockwood
Aaron Bayer Wiggin & Dana	David Golub Silver Golub & Teitell	Shaun Sullivan Wiggin & Dana
David Belt Jacobs Grudberg Belt Dow & Katz	Steven Greenspan Day Pitney	Richard Tynan Halloran & Sage
Christopher Bernard Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder	Mitchell Harris Day Pitney	James Wade Robinson & Cole
Francis Brady Murtha Cullina	Robert Izard Schatz Nobel Izard	Richard Weinstein Weinstein & Wisser
William Champlin Tyler Cooper & Alcorn	Hugh Murray Murtha Cullina	Robert White Murtha Cullina
Maureen Danehy Cox Carmody & Torrance	John Nolan Day Pitney	Robert Wyld Shipman & Goodwin
Anthony Fitzgerald Carmody & Torrance	James Robertson Carmody & Torrance	
	Joseph Scully Day Pitney	

in the state. White represented a Fortune 500 national restaurant chain in a product-related premises liability case involving allegedly defective equipment.

The firm with the most offices across the state is **Shipman & Goodwin**, which is peer-rated as Highly Recommended for the second consecutive year. Led by complex business litigator **Frederick Gold**, the firm spreads 34 business litigators across offices in Hartford, Stamford and Greenwich.

The “very impressive” **Robert Wyld** was recognized by peers as a lawyer with a top-rate litigation practice. Recently, Wyld represented two Connecticut agencies in a successful defense of a multi-party action initiated in the US District Court of Massachusetts asserting federal Racketeer Influence and Corrupt Organizations Act claims.

**Wiggin & Dana** is accepted by peers as a significant enough power to land itself among the best firms in Connecticut. The 50-partner litigation group ranges in practice ability from white-collar defense to environmental practices.

The “brilliant” appellate practice chair **Robert Bayer** has argued before the state and federal appeals courts during his career. His most recent victory came in front of the Connecticut Supreme Court on behalf of the University of New Haven in September 2007. The Court’s decision in *Miron v University of New Haven* prevents an employee from suing an employer for defamation based on the employer’s provision of reference information.

**Kevin Kennedy** is proclaimed by peers as one of the “great young talents” in Connecticut. Kennedy’s resume includes a successful defense before the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, Connecticut

Appellate Court and Connecticut Supreme Court. **Erika Amarante** joins Kennedy as future talent of the firm. Her practice ranges from antitrust and trade regulation to franchise and distribution litigation.

#### Recommended firms

**Cowdery, Ecker & Murphy** is noted by peers as a preeminent white-collar and business litigation group. With just five members, the firm has won false claims, government contracting and whistleblower cases. The firm is led by the former chief of the Criminal Division of the US Attorney’s Office for the District of Connecticut, **James Cowdery** who is widely recognized by competitors as the “go-to white-collar attorney” in Connecticut. The firm also includes a mix of veteran trial attorneys, including **Steven Ecker**, as well as a potential star **William Gullotta**.

With more than 70 years courtroom experience, **Halloran & Sage** is one of the broadest practices in Connecticut. The firm’s ability to handle appeals, civil rights, construction, employment, environmental and products liability litigation makes it “powerful,” according to one competitor.

Business litigation co-chair **John Farley** handled stockholder derivatives, contract renewal and unfair trade cases within the last year. In his most recent case, Farley defended a derivative action brought by disgruntled shareholders in two closely held family corporations and transitioned the case into a fair value hearing to buy out minority shareholders.

**Hurwitz Sagarin Slossberg & Knuff** has developed a niche in real estate and land use litigation, proving valuable in the Connecticut marketplace. The firm represents large retailers, major regional developers and local developers in planning,

zoning and property tax disputes.

Led by **Lewis Hurwitz**, the practice is called “impressive” by peers and “excellent” by one competitor.

New Haven-based **Jacobs Grudberg Belt Dow & Katz** was noted for its successful unfair trade and business torts matters. The firm’s white-collar experience includes representing individuals accused of bribing the mayor of a major Connecticut city. Other clients of the 13-lawyer firm include AT&T, Big Y Foods and New England Energy Management.

Practicing litigation from four offices in Connecticut, **Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder** is one of the premier plaintiffs’ attorneys in the state. The talented duo of **Michael Koskoff** and **Richard Bieder** propel the firm’s litigation group onto the map.

**Christopher Bernard** came highly recommended by peers for his medical malpractice expertise. In 2005, he represented a family against a local hospital, winning \$36.5 million, the largest jury verdict in a medical malpractice case in Connecticut history.

Westport-based **Levett Rockwood** makes its first appearance among the state’s recommended firms. As former co-chair of the Connecticut Bar Association’s Federal Practice Section, **Frank Silvestri Jr** came recommended by peers as one of the “toughest opponents” in Connecticut. In 2008, Silvestri obtained summary judgment in favor of St. Vincent’s Medical Center, a major healthcare client.

**McCarter & English’s** Connecticut office is home to a variety of practices, including business, commercial, construction, environmental, intellectual property, employment and product liability litigation.

**David Reif** was a member of a three-person

## Future stars

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Erika Amarante  
Wiggin & Dana

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David Hardy  
Carmody & Torrance

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Kevin Kennedy  
Wiggin & Dana

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Fatima Lahnin  
Carmody & Torrance

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Mariella LaRosa  
Carmody & Torrance

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Jeffrey White  
Robinson & Cole

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Victoria Woodin Chavey  
Day Pitney

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team based out of New York that won a preliminary injunction, after a hearing enjoined termination of a major beer distributor client. The firm extends its grasp south to offices in Delaware, giving it an ability unique in Connecticut, to handle global clients such as Lockheed Martin, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield, Alcatel Lucent and AstraZeneca.

**Murtha & Cullina's** 40-person Connecticut litigation team stands as one of the largest in the state. **Hugh Murray** leads a department handling a variety of matters including antitrust, bankruptcy, insurance and securities cases. **Robert White** established a "very strong" bankruptcy and creditors' rights practice. Competitors call White a "brilliant" business lawyer.

**Silver Golub & Teitell** has a reputation handling the most sophisticated cases in the state. This litigation boutique handled the State of Connecticut's case against the tobacco industry, a corporate whistleblower claim under the Federal False Claims Act

against United Technologies. Local star **David Golub** has worked on employment retirement income security act cases since 1986 and won four multi-million dollar verdicts during that time.

**Tobin Carberry O'Malley Riley & Selinger** makes its debut on the recommended list due to its ability to handle a variety of litigation matters including appellate, gaming and employment litigation. The general litigation team includes **Robert Tobin**, **Jerome O'Malley** and **Thomas Riley**, all of whom have more than 20 years experience in Connecticut courtrooms.

**Tyler Cooper & Alcorn** boasts more than 40 attorneys dedicated to litigation. The firm has experience in numerous business litigation matters. Recently, the group won a \$2 million arbitration on behalf of a technology client, served as counsel in a case involving a breach of software development contract and represented a marketing firm in out-of-state litigation involving claims of tortious interference.

