

Idaho

Idaho firms mostly situate in capital city Boise, offering clients localized legal aid, with attorneys who “know the area.” A number of regional and national firms are located in the state as well, which often draw on satellite offices for assistance, when necessary.

Highly recommended firms

Boise firm **Hall Farley Oberrecht & Blanton** has a grasp on complex legal matters, with practice groups including commercial litigation, insurance, employment and labor law and real estate. The complex litigation group, the firm’s most reputable, has taken on aviation, products liability, construction, securities and general tort cases. Recently, lender liability matters, personal injury and medical malpractice disputes take precedence at the firm. Founding shareholder and managing partner **Donald Farley** focuses his practice on insurance defense and commercial litigation. Farley’s specialties over the years include products liability and automobile and truck liability claims as well.

Not only is **Hawley Troxell Ennis & Hawley** Idaho’s largest firm, but it is also the oldest, dating back to the late 1800s. Headquartered in downtown Boise, the firm boasts several offices in the area, including two more shops in the state and a recently-opened office in Reno, Nev. The firm’s robust practice areas include a hearty civil and commercial group, which handles matters ranging from aviation to legal malpractice. The firm is especially noted for its strength in insurance bad faith work and intellectual property, as well as both legal and medical malpractice.

Peers note senior litigator **Merlyn Clark** for his work in civil and criminal litigation, more specifically his complex civil work. His specialties over the years include work in real estate, contract and commercial law, business entities and employment litigation. Clark is also recognized for his mediation work, including ongoing representation of the Idaho Supreme Court in legal malpractice matters. Partner **Craig Meadows**, active in a number of aviation cases recently including one multidistrict matter, is also busy with legal malpractice litigation. As chair of the firm’s litigation group, he also has representative experience in insurance, commercial and products liability litigation.

The success of the Boise office of **Holland & Hart** is only bolstered through its interaction with the firm’s nearby regional locations. Partners are also based in 12 other offices throughout the country, including neighboring Utah, Nevada, Wyoming and Montana, as well as the flagship Colorado office. The firm is notable for its tailor-made approach to litigation to fit clients’ needs, yet offering a broad array of practice areas, including business litigation, intellectual property, real estate, torts and employment law. The team of 14 attorneys handles cases for both the plaintiffs and defendants.

Prior to joining **Holland & Hart** 25 years ago, partner **Steven Andersen** worked in private practice. Now, he has extensive experience representing both plaintiffs and defendants in complex litigation, including trying to verdict more than 50 civil cases in federal and state courts. He developed a niche in intellectual property and is praised in the region for never losing an intellectual property case at trial. In the general commercial realm, Andersen has represented companies and industries in various disputes, including the defense of lender liability, aviation manufacture defect and product liability claims. Senior litigator **Walter Bithell** has more than 35 years of trial experience, including time at **Langroise Sullivan & Smylie** before the firm merged with **Holland & Hart** in 1984. His practice is focused on business and commercial litigation, specifically construction, class action tort, products and professional liability litigation. Bithell’s experience stretches beyond private practice, acting as Deputy Attorney General for the State of Idaho and general counsel for the Idaho State Department of Insurance and the Idaho State Tax Commission before joining the **Langroise** firm in 1972.

West coast firm **Stoel Rives’** Boise location is equipped to handle an array of complex commercial litigation, including intellectual property, securities, class actions and antitrust law. Boise attorneys also focus on

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

Hall Farley Oberrecht & Blanton

Hawley Troxell Ennis & Hawley

Holland & Hart

Stoel Rives

Recommended

Elam & Burke

Greener Burke Shoemaker

Perkins Coie

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Local litigation stars

Steven Andersen
Holland & Hart

Walter Bithell
Holland & Hart

Richard Boardman
Perkins Coie

Kelly Cameron
Perkins Coie

Merlyn Clark
Hawley Troxell Ennis & Hawley

William Dryden
Elam & Burke

Donald Farley
Hall Farley Oberrecht & Blanton

Mark Geston
Stoel Rives

Richard Greener
Greener Burke Shoemaker

James LaRue
Elam & Burke

Craig Meadows
Hawley Troxell Ennis & Hawley

Walter Sinclair
Stoel Rives

Future stars

Eric Bjorkman
Perkins Coie

Tracy Crane
Holland & Hart

Bradley Dixon
Stoel Rives

Keely Duke
Hall Farley Oberrecht & Blanton

Teresa Hill
Stoel Rives

Nicole Snyder
Holland & Hart

environment and natural resources law, labor and employment and real estate and development, which are often incorporated into the office's litigation practice. Partner **Mark Geston** represents clients in legal malpractice, products liability and complex commercial disputes. He has acted as lead counsel for aircraft manufacturers in wrongful death, personal injury and hull loss actions and as lead counsel in construction and product liability litigation relating to residential housing developments. Geston recently handled a matter for an international seed and food products company in an arbitration matter concerning a joint venture for the development and sale of genetically specialized produce. Practicing for more than 30 years, sources praise **Walter Sinclair's** litigation expertise, which emphasizes a variety of business, corporate and complex litigation. Sinclair has acted as lead counsel in a number of agricultural product liability matters, environmental and securities cases. In an ongoing matter for client DuPont, he acts as lead counsel for the company in a \$1.2 billion mass tort agricultural products liability defense suit. Other representative clients include Albertsons, the Amalgamated Sugar Company, AmeriPride, Johnson & Johnson, Micron Technology and St. Luke's Regional Medical Center.

Recommended firms

Elam & Burke is upfront about its goal to be both victorious and economical. The firm looks for an alternative solution to that process before heading to trial. However, the firm is equipped with a strong set of litigators if alternative dispute resolutions are deemed ineffective. The boutique handles antitrust, aviation, commercial, civil rights, environmental, products liability and tort disputes. Established in 1928, the firm's majority of work comes from insurance bad faith matters. Peers both noted partners **William Dryden** and **James LaRue** for their work in insurance matters, particularly first- and third-party insurance defense. Having litigated at the firm for more than 30 years, LaRue also focuses his practice on professional malpractice and products liability defense, as well as providing supervision and legal services to a number of insurance companies. Dryden, a 25-plus-year

Elam & Burke veteran, is well-versed in environmental, commercial and construction matters, as well as mediation.

Newcomer **Greener Burke Shoemaker** emerged onto the Boise scene in 2005 and has continued to distinguish itself as a strong litigation firm in the region. The firm took a hit after the recent departure of partner Thomas Banducci, but the team of 10 attorneys has reformed its practice and continues specializing in high-stakes litigation. Firm leader **Richard Greener** has previous experience at Cosho Humphrey and built a strong general commercial litigation profile. Greener's experience in court has covered all bases: from securities work to patent infringement and products liability. His long list of clients includes Micron Technology, OfficeMax, AutoZone and Burton Snowboards. The firm handles litigation for clients, as both plaintiff and defense counsel. Representative clients include the City of Boise, Greyhound, Mobil Oil, University of Idaho and Nokia.

Peers acknowledge international firm **Perkins Coie** for its strong intellectual property litigation practice. The firm recently established its Boise office in 1997, with less than ten attorneys drawing on other offices across the region for support when needed. The full-service firm has experience in a number of areas, including products liability, environmental insurance coverage, trademark infringement and natural resources damage work.

Partner **Richard Boardman** focuses his practice on civil and commercial litigation, as well as construction law and intellectual property. His representative experience includes work for Powers Steel, the City of Boise, Oregon Iron Works, International Engineering and Tri River. **Kelly Cameron** handles mostly complex commercial matters, with additional expertise in employment litigation, products liability, telecommunications and constitutional litigation. He defended Amazon.com in claims that cookies constituted wiretaps violated state law, a case which was dismissed with prejudice at pretrial. In his defense of Switchboard.com, a similar cookies matter was also dismissed at pretrial. Cameron also represented an airplane manufacturer in a product liability defense matter.