

# Maryland

**The tight-knit legal community of Baltimore has seen an influx of national names in recent years. Still, most of the nationwide names employ local talent that has practiced in Baltimore's courtrooms for decades. Many of the local litigation stars cross paths on the streets surrounding the Inner Harbor on a daily basis, even more sit on opposite sides of the state's most important cases.**

## Highly recommended firms

DLA Piper's reach stretches far beyond Maryland, but competitors still acknowledge the firm's "huge presence and authority" in Baltimore courtrooms. "DLA Piper had a vision," one peer says. "Now they have a great local component alongside the obvious international group."

The firm's joint global leader and US litigation chair **Robert Mathias** resides in the firm's Baltimore office. Peers say Mathias has been seen less in Maryland over the past four years as his practice grows, but remains a "formidable opponent in the state." In recent matters Mathias represented a major telecommunications company in disputes arising out of its \$1.75 billion divestiture of its Internet business. He also found injunctive relief in US District Court of Maryland for a patent holding distributor of eyeglass frames, while winning a four-week trial for the client in the US District Court of Eastern New York. **Francis Burch**, the firm's joint chief executive officer, receives mention as a "great trial attorney" by peers.

Competitors call **Neil Dilloff** a person "who can always find great experts." His extensive litigation experience includes insurance, professional malpractice and construction law. In recent years Dilloff won a \$242 million preliminary judgment on behalf of another national law firm and a defense jury verdict in favor of a firm in a \$45 million legal malpractice case.

Peers recommended **Anthony Meagher** for inclusion in *Benchmark* because "he truly is a unique talent in Maryland." Meagher's practice focuses on construction litigation around the country, including the National Football League in its desire to build two new stadiums and a steel manufacturer in construction claims of product defect.

**Charles Scheeler** and **Joel Dewey** were each mentioned as "extremely good commercial litigation lawyers."

Another national firm with local roots, **Hogan & Hartson**, has 24 partners in

Maryland that make this firm a "force to be recognized," according to one peer. The firm's client list reads like a who's who of Maryland names including the Baltimore Ravens, ABS Capital Partners, Lockheed Martin and McCormick & Company.

Competitors "can't stop saying good things about **Mark Gately**," whose skills are "unmatched" among Baltimore litigators. A fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, Gately has fought cases against the Federal Drug Administration and spent a significant amount of time on antitrust and securities matters.

One peer calls **Stephen Immelt**'s healthcare practice "fabulous" and says he is the "premier lawyer in that field." Immelt fought Anti-Kickback Act, Food Drug and Cosmetics Act and False Claims Act cases in more than 20 district courts.

**Lauren Colton** and **Jennifer Walker** are each recognized as "lawyers to watch for" by peers. Colton is "extremely bright" and "communicates well with judges." Walker's practice focuses on healthcare and antitrust issues. Her most recent case includes representation of a major pharmaceutical manufacturer in a class-action dispute regarding reimbursement.

"**Kramon & Graham** would be the first firm on my list if I needed help," one competitor said about the litigation boutique. It's no surprise that a firm founded by two former assistant US attorneys has a strong white-collar practice, but the litigation group also has the ability to handle corporate, commercial real estate, employment, insurance, personal injury, government contracts, procurement, trademark, copyright, taxation, health care and estate and trust litigation.

"He has amazing credibility with the judges in this town," says one peer about **Andy Graham**, who spent two years with commercial litigation powerhouse Shearman & Sterling and three years as an assistant US attorney before starting the firm in Maryland in 1975. **James**

## Local litigation firms

### Highly recommended

DLA Piper  
Hogan & Hartson  
Kramon & Graham  
Zuckerman Spaeder  
Miles & Stockbridge  
Whiteford Taylor & Preston

### Recommended

Baxter Baker Sidle Conn & Jones  
Goodell DeVries Leech & Dann  
Gordon Feinblatt Rothman Hoffberger & Hollander  
Law Offices of Arnold Weiner  
Murphy & Shaffer  
Rosenberg Martin Greenberg  
Saul Ewing  
Shadoan Michaels and Wells  
Venable

**"Competitors call Neil Dilloff a person 'who can always find great experts.' His extensive litigation experience includes insurance, professional malpractice and construction law."**

-DLA Piper



## Local litigation stars

Edward Baines  
Saul Ewing

George Beall  
Hogan & Hartson

Gregg Bernstein  
Zuckerman Spaeder

Herbert Better  
Zuckerman Spaeder

Francis Burch  
DLA Piper

Joel Dewey  
DLA Piper

Neil Dilloff  
DLA Piper

Lawrence Fletcher-Hill  
Gordon Feinblatt Rothman Hoffberger &  
Hollander

Gerard Gaeng  
Rosenberg Martin Greenberg

Mark Gately  
Hogan & Hartson

Andrew Graham  
Kramon & Graham

James Gray  
Venable

Lawrence Greenwald  
Gordon Feinblatt Rothman Hoffberger & Hollander

Warren Hamel  
Venable

Martin Himeles  
Zuckerman Spaeder

Stephen Immelt  
Hogan & Hartson

Brett Ingerman  
DLA Piper

Harry Johnson  
Whiteford Taylor & Preston

Gerard Martin  
Rosenberg Martin Greenberg

Robert Mathias  
DLA Piper

Anthony Meagher  
DLA Piper

Christopher Mellott  
Venable

Charles Monk  
Saul Ewing

William Murphy  
Murphy & Shaffer

Paul Nussbaum  
Whiteford Taylor & Preston

Benjamin Rosenberg  
Rosenberg Martin Greenberg

William Ryan  
Whiteford Taylor & Preston

Charles Scheeler  
DLA Piper

Michael Schatzow  
Venable

Robert Shaffer  
Murphy & Shaffer

Matthew Sturtz  
Miles & Stockbridge

Steven Tiller  
Whiteford Taylor & Preston

Jerrold Thrope  
Gordon Feinblatt Rothman Hoffberger & Hollander

Jefferson Wright  
Miles Stockbridge

James Ulwick  
Kramon & Graham

Arnold Weiner  
Law Offices of Arnold Weiner

**Ulwick** sometimes gets over shadowed by Graham, according to one competitor, but is “just as good, if not better than Graham.” Ulwick has tried cases in state and federal courts on a range of matters including banking, class action, legal malpractice and Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act litigation. A former assistant US attorney for the District of New Jersey, Ulwick also practices white-collar litigation.

**Miles & Stockbridge’s** litigation practice extends further into local courtrooms than any other in the state. With eight litigation-capable offices stretching from Frederick to Easton, the firm can tackle “any case in any courtroom” according to one peer.

Competitors say **Jefferson Wright** “knows what he is doing in a courtroom” and “has a great relationship with judges.”

**Matthew Sturtz** “does excellent work for me,” one client says. Another notes his ability to handle “a variety of business matters.” Working out of the Towson office, Sturtz defended a major real estate corporation in a contract claim. His client then counter sued the plaintiff to win \$400,000 owed from a material breach agreement.

With three members of *Benchmark’s* Future Stars list, Miles & Stockbridge has a bright future ahead. **Brad Bernstein** and **Joel**

**Perrell** were both described as “prepared and thoughtful” by one peer. Perrell acted as lead counsel to Provident Bank in a groundbreaking bankruptcy case, establishing federal authority within Maryland. The resulting opinion established the procedure by which a putative debtor may raise the issue of whether an entity qualifies as an involuntary debtor and the evidentiary burden that petitioning creditors must meet in order to appoint an interim trustee prior to the entry of an order for relief.

Another Future Star, **Angela Whittaker-Pion** has a burgeoning mass torts practice, representing a publicly traded manufacturing company. Peers say she is “very creative and brings a courtroom presence and credibility with her work.”

With one of the largest litigation groups in Maryland at 99 partners, **Whiteford Taylor & Preston** moves up to the highly recommended category. **William Ryan**, who competitors call “brilliant” and clients call “resourceful,” moved to chair of the litigation department, while Edward Buxbaum was appointed to lead the firm’s business litigation department less than one year ago. In recent litigation Ryan obtained more than \$82 million from former officers and directors of bankrupt company, Just for

Feet. Over a three-year period, Ryan established that the law does not protect directors from failing to do research before a decision is made on the company’s behalf. During the case’s duration, opposing counsel included five of the leading litigation firms.

Peers widely recognize **Harry Johnson** as a “great products liability lawyer” and “visible in the Maryland legal community.” The former president of the Maryland State Bar Association, Johnson has an established legal relationship with most of the judges he faces. **Paul Nussbaum** is said to be “the best bankruptcy lawyer in Maryland,” by one peer. **Alex Koff** has a rare international practice based out of Maryland. Koff’s practice offers an international litigation strategy that doesn’t rely on international offices. Peers call him “innovative” with his approach to litigation in countries such as Singapore, Korea and Canada.

The District of Columbia-based **Zuckerman Spaeder** supports a five-person litigation shop that can “go up against anyone,” one competitor says. With three former assistant US attorneys the firm has a specific expertise in complex civil and criminal white-collar litigation.

**Herbert Better** left the US attorneys’ office in 1973 to found the Baltimore office. Since

then Better represented clients in state and district courts. Competitors say he has “a lot of credibility from judges” as a result of his public sector background. Peers praise **Martin Himeles’** “court presence.” Himeles active practice has seen him obtain the acquittal of a company accused of defrauding the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, defend

**Lawrence Greenwald** is “a statesman of the Maryland bar” according to another peer. Since joining the firm 40 years ago, Greenwald handled cases involving medical, legal and accounting malpractice while defending clients in criminal, mail fraud, arson and vehicular manslaughter matters.

Peers say **Brian Moffet** “has a bright future

**“Rosenberg Martin Greenberg lawyers describe themselves as a place to go when a trial is the only option, and peers agree. One source calls the firm ‘a group of very sophisticated, very impressive trial lawyers.’ ”**

a business executive charged with defrauding the government and win acquittal of a prominent executive charged with federal campaign contribution offenses.

The group’s newest partner, Andrew Torrez was added in March 2008 to bolster its critical commercial litigation practice. Torrez negotiated settlements on behalf of numerous small business clients in Maryland and won arbitration before the American Arbitration Association, saving his clients nearly \$250 million.

#### Recommended firms

**Baxter Baker Sidle Conn & Jones** is “a law firm that matters,” according to one peer. The 11 lawyer litigation team practices a variety of areas including insurance, local white-collar, environmental and education law. **Michael Baxter**, the vice-president of the Maryland chapter of the American College of Trial Lawyers, represents major local hospitals including Howard County General, Johns Hopkins Bayview and Sanai Hospital of Baltimore.

With “one of the best products liability practices in Maryland,” according to peers, **Goodell DeVries Leech & Dann** act as one of the local powers in Maryland. The “very good and competent” professional liability group represents academic medical centers, regional hospitals and individual professionals. The US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit upheld the firm’s significant victory dismissing a lawsuit brought against the government of Carroll County concerning violations of the Clean Water Act. The dismissal gave Carroll County important authority on the issue of diligent prosecution in environmental cases.

**Gordon Feinblatt Rothman Hoffberger & Hollander’s** litigation group looks to resolve business disputes efficiently and effectively. Competitors call Litigation Chairman **Larry Fletcher-Hill** “very good” and “impressive.” A former chief of litigation in the Maryland Office of the Attorney General, Fletcher-Hill represented clients in regulatory practice on the private practice side of matters for more than eight years.

ahead” and proclaim the next generation of the firm “will be very good.” Moffet regularly represents financial institutions and banks. He recently defeated a class certification on behalf of a national mortgage lender in a consumer class action lawsuit involving violations of the Maryland Secondary Mortgage Loan Law.

At the **Law Offices of Arnold Weiner**, business fraud, civil trial and appellate work is the norm. Competitors say “the Local litigation stars list is incomplete if it doesn’t have **Arnold Weiner** on it.” Weiner found fame for representing former Maryland Governor Marvyn Mandel on mail fraud charges in 1977. Ten years after conviction, the US District Court of Maryland overturned the conviction after Weiner made it apparent to judges that Mandel was not attempting to defraud the government under the Federal mail fraud statute. In recent years the firm acquired clients such as Ernst & Young.

**Murphy & Shaffer** is a “terrific litigation boutique,” one competitor says. Both name partners, **William Murphy** and **Robert Shaffer**, were described as “an unstoppable team.” Murphy represented witnesses and targets of Grand Jury, SEC, and Congressional investigations. His client list includes several attorneys in the Office of the White House Counsel from the Clinton administration. Shaffer has a more varied practice, trying state and federal products liability, toxic tort, legal malpractice and securities cases. He also represented clients in front of the Maryland Public Service Commission, Maryland Securities Commissioner and SEC.

**Rosenberg Martin Greenberg** lawyers describe themselves as a place to go when a trial is the only option, and peers agree. One source calls the firm “a group of very sophisticated, very impressive trial lawyers.” Another says the firm “absolutely belongs on the list of recommended firms.”

Competitors commend **Benjamin Rosenberg** for his abilities inside the courtroom. Recently Rosenberg represented Sovereign Bank in a dispute with a prominent real estate developer claiming Sovereign owed damages as a result of

## Future stars

Andrew Baida  
Rosenberg Martin Greenberg

Brad Bernstein  
Miles & Stockbridge

Lauren Colton  
Hogan & Hartson

Gerard Gaeng  
Rosenberg Martin Greenberg

Alex Koff  
Whiteford Taylor & Preston

Brian Moffet  
Gordon Feinblatt Rothman

Joel Perrell  
Miles & Stockbridge

Brent Strickland  
Whiteford Taylor & Preston

Jennifer Walker  
Hogan & Hartson

Angela Whittaker-Pion  
Miles & Stockbridge



the bank's alleged failure to act in good faith on a 20-year lease of a proposed branch site. After a two-day trial Rosenberg prevailed, as a \$1.2 million claim was denied by judges. **Gerard Martin**'s expertise in white-collar crime and professional liability garnered significant respect from his peers. Martin currently represents real estate developer Robert Lipscomb in connection to an investigation into Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon's alleged spending habits. Previous matters include the investigation of a publicly held defense contractor and a major computer services company.

One source calls **Andrew Baida** and **Gerard Gaeng** two of the "brightest young stars in the state." The two, like the generation before them at the firm, are active in local Maryland courtrooms. Baida successfully argued before the Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in Maryland on behalf of a

homeowner for the right to build improvements into the Severna River in Anne Arundel County. Gaeng achieved summary judgment in favor of a national home builder seeking to recover deposits it had paid pursuant to a land acquisition contract that the builder later terminated.

**Charles Monk**, the managing partner of the Maryland office, is recognized as a local litigation star for the second consecutive year. Monk has a range of practice capabilities. Peers call Monk a "true star" and "a problem solver." Recently the firm bolstered its environmental practice adding Randall Lutz, a former director at the Environmental Protection Agency, from Towson firm Hodes Pessin & Katz.

With nearly 600 lawyers nationwide and a home office in the District of Columbia, **Venable** has an expansive set of resources outside of its three Maryland offices. More

than 25 commercial litigation partners reside in Maryland, including **Warren Hamel**, who peers call "an excellent white-collar attorney." A 12-year veteran of the US Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland, Hamel joined the firm in 2002 and quickly moved up the ranks to become co-chair of the white collar defense group. Hamel advises clients on records management, electronic discovery, whistleblower issues and a range of Sarbanes-Oxley related matters.

**Michael Schatzow**'s practice is also white-collar heavy. Schatzow's 32 years of experience trying cases, including seven as a federal prosecutor, make him one of the most recommended in the state. He currently represents Enron in lawsuits and negotiations surrounding the firm's derivatives and financial transactions as well as another large public company in Foreign Corrupt Practices Act litigation.



## ROSENBERG | MARTIN | GREENBERG, LLP

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#### Practice Area Contacts:

|                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Trial and Appellate Litigation     | Benjamin Rosenberg                    |
| Business and Transactional Matters | Newt Fowler                           |
| Real Estate, Banking and Finance   | Barry Greenberg                       |
| Tax and Tax Controversies          | Stuart Rombro and<br>Caroline Ciraolo |
| Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights   | John Roberts                          |

#### Firm Profile:

Rosenberg | Martin | Greenberg, is one of the pre-eminent business law firms in the Maryland region. The firm offers a full range of sophisticated legal services in business and real estate transactions, commercial lending, business litigation, land use, white collar and other criminal defense, bankruptcy, and tax and estate planning. Since 1987, the attorneys at Rosenberg Martin have been helping Maryland business succeed with a unique mix of experience, innovation and initiative. The firm is constantly evolving to meet the challenges of today's changing business environment. RMG's mission is to provide its clients big firm expertise at less than big firm cost. The firm employs cutting-edge technology and highly efficient management systems to fashion creative solutions to complex legal problems. Our principal resource, however, is the talent, experience, and in-depth knowledge of every RMG lawyer. The firm's partners include two Fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers and four who were selected as "Best Lawyers in America" in 2008.

#### Areas of Practice:

Real Estate Development | Banking and Finance | Business and Commercial Litigation | Business and Corporate Structuring | Mergers and Acquisitions | Estates and Trusts | White Collar Crime | Major Personal Injury | Antitrust | Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights | Tax and Tax Controversies | Construction | Contracts and Contract Disputes | Insurance | Technology and Intellectual Property | Appellate Litigation | Government Contracts | Education Law | Military Law | Mediation and Arbitration | Administrative Law | Franchise Law | Employment Law | Real Estate Litigation | Professional Liability

#### Practice Area Highlights:

**Trial and Appellate Litigation.** Civil trials and appeals in state and federal courts, including class action litigation and white collar criminal defense, arbitration, mediation and alternative dispute resolution.

**Business and Transactional Matters:** Representation in a wide array of business matters, including corporate and partnership structuring, mergers, acquisitions, sales of businesses, equipment leasing, business financing and technology.

**Real Estate, Banking and Finance:** Representation of developers, builders, lenders, individual and institutional investors (including pension advisers) in the acquisition, financing, management, leasing, and disposition of residential, commercial and investment properties, land use and planning. Representation of major banks and other financial institutions and borrowers in construction, real estate and commercial lending, regulatory matters, work-outs, litigation, bankruptcy proceedings, and lender liability matters.

**Tax and Tax Controversies:** Federal, state and local taxation of businesses and individuals, including tax assessments, appeals, tax controversies and litigation.

**Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights:** Representation of secured and unsecured creditors, trustees, debtors, landlords, asset purchasers, and creditors' committees in bankruptcy cases and adversary proceedings in the bankruptcy courts in Baltimore and Greenbelt, Maryland. Representation of debtors and creditors in business reorganizations, workouts, loan restructuring, asset recovery and commercial disputes.