

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

Dorsey & Whitney

Faegre & Benson

Leonard Street and Deinard

Robins Kaplan Miller & Ciresi

Recommended

Anthony Ostlund Baer Louwagie & Ross

Bassford Remele

Briggs & Morgan

Fredrickson & Byron

Gray Plant Mooty

Greene Espel

Lindquist & Vennum

Maslon Edelman Borman & Brand

Winthrop & Weinstine

Minnesota

Business continues to grow steadily in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St Paul. Recent litigation follows suit with ongoing cases based on the drug Mirapex, which some Parkinson's patients believe has caused strong gambling addictions. People throughout the US are following the cases closely since they will likely determine the validity of all other cases to follow.

Highly recommended firms

Global law firm **Dorsey & Whitney** proudly supports its system of “applying a business perspective to clients’ needs,” and thoroughly believes that dedication to client service is a “core value” in maintaining those relationships. The firm has more than 300 lawyers in the Minneapolis office and is frequently recognized for its business law practice. Securities, class actions and intellectual property remain strong trial areas for the firm, and continue to bring in a steady flow of clients. Peers recently lauded the efforts of lawyers for their work with the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota in a case involving the racial profiling of a client at the Minneapolis-St Paul International Airport by the Drug Enforcement Agency. The case finally settled late in 2007, the incident took place in 2001, with the client receiving \$20,000 in what became the first recorded matter of the Agency paying to settle a racial-profiling matter.

Clients often praise **Roger Magnuson**, the head of the strategic litigation group. His work is cited by peers in areas of white-collar criminal law, First Amendment cases and international arbitration matters. One recent trial involved the successful representation of Craig Potts, former CEO of Cash Systems. There were 26 different claims brought against Potts, but the jury found him innocent on all charges. With more than 30 years of experience, **Marianne Short** practices within areas of antitrust, securities, healthcare and products liability. Her courtroom experience also includes time as a Minnesota state appellate judge. Past clients include 3M, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota and Governor Jesse Ventura. **Thomas Tinkham** focuses his practice primarily within areas of commercial litigation. Companies like 3M and ABC often turn to Tinkham for insurance and contract disputes. Associate **Gretchen Agee** also receives praise for her work within the litigation group.

Faegre & Benson regularly handles business litigation matters for clients throughout the Midwest and around the world. With offices from the Twin Cities to London and Shanghai, they counsel clients with more than 500 available attorneys. Antitrust, product liability, employment and intellectual property are all strong practices within the litigation group. Clients include Koch Industries, Wyeth, Novartis, DuPont and UPS in various trial matters. The firm recently successfully represented the town of Telluride, Co. in an eminent domain lawsuit that ensures several hundred acres of land remain as open space.

Complex civil litigation is the area of emphasis for trial lawyer **Jerry Snider**. He often handles matters concerning antitrust, trade secrets, contract and insurance law with past clients including General Mills, IBM and other law firms. Minneapolis attorney **James Volling** focuses his work on internal investigations and white-collar criminal defense suits. Peers praise the business litigation work of **Charles Webber** including government, energy and employment law. Recent case work includes defending a refining company in a \$1 billion whistleblower case. **Amy Freestone**'s main practice areas include pharmaceutical and product liability litigation. Her client list includes Novartis Pharmaceuticals and The Minnesota Vikings.

Clients praise the work of **Leonard Street & Deinard** for the firm's quick “responsiveness”. The firm is used for its work not only in Minnesota, but across the nation. One client praised the sharp attention to detail of the firm stating that they normally only allow law firms one misstep, whether in the form of a misspelled word in a document or unreturned phone call, but has never had a problem with Leonard Street & Deinard. Antitrust, banking, construction, employment, insurance and white-collar criminal work are just a few of the litigation focus areas.

“I’ve brought him on to a case near the end. I’ll discharge another firm, bring him in, and he makes it right for me,” says one client”

—Tod Noteboom of Leonard Street and Deinard

Local litigation stars

Joseph Anthony
Anthony Ostlund Baer Louwagie & Ross

Michael Ciresi
Robins Kaplan Miller & Ciresi

Scott Davies
Briggs & Morgan

Thomas Fraser
Fredrickson & Byron

Terrence Fleming
Lindquist & Vennum

Clifford Greene
Greene Espel

Richard Ihrig
Lindquist & Vennum

Roger Magnuson
Dorsey & Whitney

Richard Mark
Briggs & Morgan

James McCarthy
Lindquist & Vennum

Gregory Merz
Gray Plant Mooty

William Pentelovitch
Maslon Edelman Borman & Brand

Lawrence Purdy
Maslon Edelman Borman & Brand

Todd Noteboom
Leonard Street and Deinard

Martin Lueck
Robins Kaplan Miller & Ciresi

Lewis Remele Jr
Bassford Remele

Jerry Snider
Faegre & Benson

Marianne Short
Dorsey & Whitney

Byron Starns
Leonard Street and Deinard

Timothy Thornton
Briggs & Morgan

Thomas Tinkham
Dorsey & Whitney

Charles Webber
Faegre & Benson

Robert Weinstine
Winthrop & Weinstine

James Volling
Faegre & Benson

Prominent clients include JPMorganChase, Honeywell, Microsoft and Heartland Advisors. One recent case involved the successful representation of St Paul Pioneer Press in an employment, contract and trade secret dispute.

Todd Noteboom received consistent praise for his trial skills. "I've brought him on to a case near the end. I'll discharge another firm, bring him in, and he makes it right for me," says one client. Noteboom serves as chair of the class action and securities practice groups, and is recognized for his work in banking law matters. **Byron Starns** litigates within areas of antitrust, commercial, energy, representing Hennepin County in eminent domain litigation involving the new Minnesota Twins new ballpark. For his work in corporate, class action and business litigation, **Arthur Boylan** receives praise.

Recommended firms

Located in Minneapolis, **Anthony Ostlund Baer Louwagie & Ross** maintains itself as a "law firm all other business litigators respect." With a focus solely on business litigation, the firm handles antitrust, contract, employment, real estate and trademark matters, and often handles cases for peer attorneys involved in various lawsuits. One recent example involves representation of client, Brian Williams against his former firm, Heins Mills & Olson for fees the firm owed to him after a trial. The jury verdict awarded Williams \$1.6 million.

A founder of the firm, **Joseph Anthony** focuses his business litigation strengths in several areas including antitrust, banking and securities matters. Recent case work includes the successful representation of Park Dental Group in a breach of contract and fiduciary

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—Gray Plant Mooty

Bryant Tchida focuses his work on class action cases with an emphasis in securities and financial services litigation.

Robins Kaplan Miller & Ciresi places significant emphasis on litigation with a large group of 163 lawyers in Minneapolis. Primary practice areas include antitrust, class action, health care, insurance, intellectual property, mass tort and product liability. The firm also has significant litigation practices in Atlanta, Boston and Los Angeles. Recent case work involves successful representation of Grantley Patent Holdings in a patent infringement trial against Clear Channel Communications. After a seven-day trial, the firm won roughly \$89 million from the court and jury in the final verdict.

Michael Ciresi focuses his practice on product liability and business litigation. Peers also find him consistently among the top intellectual property litigators in the state. One recent case involves representing a plaintiff in a lawsuit against the seller's of the Parkinson's disease drug, Mirapex. The suit claims the drug allegedly causes an addiction to gambling. Ciresi also made headlines as a recent contender for a seat in the US Senate race. Recently elected chairman of the executive board, **Martin Lueck** receives praise for his extensive intellectual property work. Case representation includes his large victory for Eolas Technologies in a patent infringement case against Microsoft. Peers praise the work of **Anne Lockner** in her intellectual property and white-collar criminal practice. Lockner also worked on the Eolas Technologies trial.

duty matter. The firm's client received \$130 million in the jury verdict after a month-long trial. Also commended for his work is associate **Courtland Merrill**, who focuses on contract disputes and intellectual property litigation.

Litigation is the primary focus of **Bassford Remele**, a Minneapolis firm. The firm commits itself to "providing high quality legal services with integrity, professionalism and respect," to clients and members of the surrounding community. Commercial litigation strengths include product liability, securities, insurance and professional liability. Recent case work includes successful representation of Ronald Zebeck, the former CEO of Metris Companies in a suit against his former employer, Metris. The lawsuit resulted in a jury award of more than \$30 million to the client, with an additional payment of roughly \$10 million in attorney fees.

Key to the trial was litigator **Lewis Remele Jr**, who helped to argue the case. He represents clients in a variety of torts and commercial matters, including contracts, employment and product liability law. Other notable clients include American National Can Company, ConAgra and The Travelers Companies. Peers commend the construction litigation work of **Scott Andresen**, who also lectures on approaches to construction cases.

Briggs & Morgan employs roughly 170 lawyers in all aspects of civil law. Business litigation, such as product liability and securities cases, and intellectual property law is a notable strength of the firm. Also important is the class action defense practice

Future stars

Norman Abramson
Gray Plant Mooty

Gretchen Agee
Dorsey & Whitney

Scott Andresen
Bassford Remele

Jason Asmus
Briggs & Morgan

Arthur Boylan
Leonard Street and Deinard

Kevin Decker
Briggs & Morgan

Dean Eyler
Gray Plant Mooty

Christianna Finner
Winthrop & Weinstine

Amy Freestone
Faegre & Benson

Justice Lindell
Winthrop & Weinstine

Anne Lockner
Robins Kaplan Miller & Ciresi

Courtland Merrill
Anthony Ostlund Baer Louwagie & Ross

Crystal Patterson
Fredrickson & Byron

Daniel Sacco
Lindquist & Vennum

Haley Schaffer
Maslon Edelman Borman & Brand

Samuel Sigelman
Lindquist & Vennum

Bryant Tchida
Leonard Street and Deinard

John Ursu
Greene Espel

Masha Yevzelman
Fredrickson & Byron

Julian Zebot
Maslon Edelman Borman & Brand

area that received significant attention after the firm handled the Canadian Pacific Railway case. The lawsuit resulted in thousands of personal injury claims against the rail company based on a train derailment in 2002.

Scott Davies focuses his litigation work in the labor and employment division. One recent client includes the company, Gold'n Plump, an all-natural chicken company, in an extensive class action litigation suit. Peers also seek his representation, as Dorsey & Whitney did in a lawsuit. Legal malpractice defense, securities and intellectual property are all practice areas of **Richard Mark's** litigation work, who also devotes his time to increasing the diversity at firms through the Twin Cities Diversity in Practice. **Timothy Thornton** won several accolades from peers for his work with the Canadian Pacific Railway. He provides an array of litigation services in matters such as Employment Retirement Income Security Act, class actions, securities, product liability and toxic torts. Associate **Jason Asmus** focuses his work on professional liability, real estate and zoning litigation matters, and often handles disputes between commercial landlords and tenants. **Kevin Decker** focuses his litigation work on mass torts and toxic torts, which include cases involving complex railroad litigation.

Business and law go hand in hand at **Fredrickson & Byron**, a Minneapolis firm with international offices in England, Mexico and China. Prominent practice areas within litigation include intellectual property, employment law and technology. The firm is taking a proactive approach to e-discovery with the implementation of Exterro Fusion, described as a "fully integrated e-discovery and litigation support management platform." The firm continues to grow with the addition of several new employees, 16 of whom were added in Minneapolis.

Thomas Fraser has more than 30 years experience in corporate and commercial litigation. Peers often recommend his work in shareholder disputes, antitrust, medical malpractice lawsuits and securities cases. **Crystal Patterson** focuses her litigation practice on insurance and complex business transactions. Case representation includes successfully defending a corporation against a former employee for alleged compensation discrepancies of more than \$1 million. The court only awarded him \$5,000 by the end of trial. Clients also turn to associate **Masha Yevzelman** for litigation with an emphasis in tax and business law.

Gray Plant Mooty serves clients using "fresh, creative thinking and innovative strategies with a tradition of excellence." Litigation strengths include antitrust, product liability, intellectual property and white-collar criminal defense law. The firm made headlines for being picked by the Minnesota State Legislature to investigate the I-35W bridge collapse, and recently presented its

findings in a 15-inch thick report examining the work of the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The firm took the case knowing it would likely exceed the agreed upon \$500,000 fee, but knew how important the findings would be to the state.

Co-chair of the business and litigation practice, **Gregory Merz** is often involved in antitrust, employment and complex internal investigations. Peers often recognize his extensive work on pro bono matters. Telecom remains a strong practice area with Northern PCS Services a recent client. **Norman Abramson** focuses his litigation experience in intellectual property law. He has significant experience in trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets and unfair competition. **Dean Eyler's** litigation experience focuses on antitrust, complex commercial and intellectual property law. Case experience includes lead counsel on a false advertising and deceptive trade practice matter.

Greene Espel focuses on complex business, commercial and constitutional litigation, and unlike most other firms, does not have a firm management structure. The firm places equal importance on all members of the firm, without labels of partner or associate. The practice emphasizes employment, intellectual property, professional liability, environmental law and white-collar criminal defense, among others. Although the firm is small, it consistently attracts top business and commercial clients. A notable few are 3M, Baxter Healthcare, Metropolitan Airports Commission and Rolls-Royce. Casework representation includes defending The Kingsmen, a rock band, for control the rights to its popular song, "Louie Louie."

Peers often praise **Clifford Greene** for his constitutional, product liability and consumer fraud litigation trial work. A founding partner, Greene's case work includes defending class actions and personal injury claims involving blood therapy. Peers also commend the work of **John Ursu** for his complex business and constitutional litigation practice.

Litigation remains strong at **Lindquist & Vennum**, with antitrust, complex commercial matters, intellectual property and securities law practices. The firm recently represented a case before the Supreme Court concerning whether a tribal court had the proper jurisdiction to settle a dispute regarding a bank's sale of its land on an American Indian reservation in *Plains Commerce Bank v Long Family Land & Cattle Company*. Originally, a court ruled that the tribal court qualified for jurisdiction over the bank, but the bank hoped to reverse the decision. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of Lindquist & Vennum's client, Plains Commerce Bank, stating that the tribal court did not have jurisdiction on the civil claims between the tribal members, and the non-tribal owned bank.

Terrence Fleming's practice focuses primarily on commercial fraud, including

investor-broker disputes, shareholder class actions and merger and acquisition litigation. Fleming also lectures about ethics in the practice of law. Antitrust, energy and environmental litigation is the primary emphasis for **Richard Ihrig**, who regularly handles high-profile complex commercial matters for the firm. **James McCarthy** covers areas of antitrust, business fraud and tax litigation. Case representations include banks that “recovered tax refunds in excess of \$50 million after trial court victories.” Product liability and employment litigation are the strengths of **Daniel Sacco**. He has case experience from Minnesota to California. **Samuel Sigelman**’s emphasizes commercial and construction litigation. Case work includes “obtaining multimillion-dollar awards for clients, both at trial and via summary judgment.”

Maslon Edelman Borman & Brand considers itself as a firm “large enough to handle the most challenging and sophisticated legal matters,” but still “small enough to recognize and appreciate the individuality of each of our clients, lawyers and staff.” Litigation is a primary focus of the firm, with practice areas including business, construction, employment, insurance and intellectual property. Recent case work includes defending

employees of Wal Mart in a massive litigation against their employer. The case, so far, awarded more than \$6.5 million in damages to roughly 56,000 current and former Minnesota Wal-Mart employees. The lawsuit claimed that Wal-Mart denied the employees enough time to take rest and meal breaks throughout the day, and violated Minnesota’s Fair Labor Standards Act. The second phase of trial will begin soon to decide punitive damages and statutory penalties.

Peers commend **William Pentelovitch** for his work in securities, contracts, banking and intellectual property. He also contributed his legal expertise of noncompetition agreements recently to the first edition of the Minnesota Business Torts Deskbook. **Lawrence Purdy** focuses his trial work on defending medical device and pharmaceutical manufacturers, and often handles large product litigation lawsuits that span the US. Associate **Haley Schaffer** focuses her work on business and intellectual property litigation, while associate **Julian Zebot** focuses on business torts, contracts and class action lawsuits.

With offices in Minneapolis and St Paul, **Winthrop & Weinstine** offers clients “legal services of exceptional quality, innovative character and unsurpassed value.” Litigation is

a major focus here with strengths including commercial, construction, employment and intellectual property law. The firm recently made news with its trademark case in defense of Denco, an ethanol producer in Minnesota selling a product called “Monster Deer Block.” The firm convinced another company, Monster Cable that the deer product, used to attract wild deer, would not cause confusion with their electric cable products designed for household electronics. The firm also boasts a strong associate program that allows younger attorneys to get first-chair experience quickly, and recently added several new lawyers to its Minneapolis office.

Clients and peers appreciate the litigation work of **Robert Weinstine**, a founding partner who is integral in the success the firm sees today. Business litigation strengths include antitrust, construction, product liability and securities law. One notable client includes the Stockwalk Group, in a litigation matter that eventually settled with Deutsche Bank for an undisclosed sum. Peers laud the work of **Christianna Finnern**, who focuses her litigation strengths on complex civil litigation issues, and **Justice Lindell**, who covers a wide area of litigation including antitrust, intellectual property, employment and shareholder disputes.