

New Hampshire

Despite its vicinity to powerhouse national firms in Massachusetts, the local New Hampshire litigation teams have carved their niche in the state's courtrooms, and remained for decades. Most litigators were born in the state and returned directly after law school or after a short stint at a national firm. That close community makes local counsel extremely valuable and useful for any out-of-state lawyer that finds himself venturing to the northern courthouses.

Highly recommended firms

The five-person litigation team of **D'Amante Couser Steiner Pellerin** is certainly "gaining ground in New Hampshire," according to one peer. Consistent comments such as that lead the firm's climb in rankings this year. Located in Concord, the firm's practice ranges in specialties from probate and contract disputes to shareholder derivatives cases to First Amendment matters.

The firm brings a great amount of wisdom to each client with state veterans **Richard Couser** and **Roy McCandless**. The pair, recommended by peers as "real talents," represents two churches in ongoing litigation. The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts in a \$9 million real estate dispute involving the construction of a camp and the Londonderry Presbyterian Church in First Amendment religious freedom issues. **Raymond D'Amante** is recognized by peers as a "business litigation expert," handling a number of shareholder derivatives, First Amendment, construction and personal injury claims.

Michael Kostiew is the newest member of the team, coming to the firm as an associate in 2006. Peers describe him as a "hard-working, intelligent lawyer." Firm members say he is rapidly developing a practice in all aspects of the law and often goes to trial without the aid of the well-known name partners of the firm.

Devine Millimet & Branch offers a unique ability to view client's problems as business issues and not legal problems. Lawyers at the firm go beyond typical discovery and take time to investigate how each case will affect the outcome of their client. With a depth that includes more than 20 business litigators, peers say the firm has a "significant presence" around New England.

Competitors "can't say enough" about **Andrew Dunn**, one of the firm's star generalist litigators. With a practice ranging

from insurance defense and coverage to personal injury to commercial litigation, **Dunn** bolsters the firm's Manchester office. Litigation Chair **Steven Grill** is noted as "a leader in the community." Grill represents a variety of publicly traded companies and individual entrepreneurs around New England.

One advantage of the larger group is its ability to mentor young talent, which partners feel is the key to maintaining client relationships. The formal and non-formal meetings designed to grow partners, such as **Joshua Menard**, is "invaluable time," according to one partner. The firm is "very fortunate to have" Menard according to one partner who said he is "easy to work with and alongside of." The associate has extensive experience in construction, real estate, insurance and bankruptcy cases.

McLane Graf Raulerson & Middleton boasts one of the most diverse practices in the state. Litigators from the three New Hampshire offices are called "tactical and aggressive" by peers and have experience practicing in 15 different states as far away as Arizona and as close as Vermont.

The business litigation group numbers 14 directors, including **Jack Middleton**, who peers call "well-known" and a "veteran" of the bar. Middleton is the President of the firm with more than 50 years experience in New Hampshire courtrooms including 24 as a US District Court of New Hampshire judge. Some of his clients include Verizon Communications and Dartmouth College. The co-chair of the firm's litigation department **Bruce Felmly** is also recognized as a leading attorney in the community. Felmly has successfully represented Microsoft in defense of antitrust claims, including arguing in the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Felmly also represented EnergyNorth Natural Gas, New Hampshire's

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

Devine Millimet & Branch

McLane Graf Raulerson & Middleton

Nixon Peabody

Orr & Reno

Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green

Wadleigh Starr & Peters

D'Amante Couser Steiner Pellerin

Recommended

Cook Little Rosenblatt & Manson

Gallagher Callahan & Gartrell

Hinckley Allen & Snyder

Nelson Kinder Mosseau & Saturley

Rath Young & Pignatelli

Sulloway & Hollis

Upton & Hatfield

Wiggin & Nourie

"Competitors 'can't say enough' about Andrew Dunn, one of the firm's star generalist litigators. With a practice ranging from insurance defense and coverage to personal injury to commercial litigation, Dunn bolsters the firm's Manchester office."

-Devine Millimet & Branch



Local litigation stars

Michael Callahan Gallagher Callahan & Gartell	Jamie Hage Nixon Peabody	Thomas Pappas Wiggin & Nourie
Christopher Carter Hinkley Allen & Snyder	Michael Harvell Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green	Michael Pignatelli Rath Young & Pignatelli
Neil Castaldo Hinckley Allen & Snyder	Russell Hilliard Upton & Hatfield	Arnold Rosenblatt Cook Little Rosenblatt & Manson
Michael Connolly Hinckley Allen & Snyder	Edward Kaplan Sulloway & Hollis	Andrew Serell Rath Young & Pignatelli
Richard Couser D'Amante Couser Steiner Pellerin	Michael Lehman Sulloway & Hollis	James Shirley Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green
Andrew Dunn Devine Millimet & Branch	Roy McCandless D'Amante Couser Steiner Pellerin	R James Steiner D'Amante Couser Steiner Pellerin
Bruce Felmy McLane Graf Raulerson & Middleton	Jack Middleton McLane Graf Raulerson & Middleton	Eugene Van Loan Wadleigh Starr & Peters
Kevin Fitzgerald Nixon Peabody	Robert Miller Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green	Martha Van Oot Orr & Reno
David Garfunkel Gallagher Callahan & Gartell	Peter Mosseau Nelson Kinder Mosseau & Saturley	David Vicinanza Nixon Peabody
Steven Grill Devine Millimet & Branch	Richard Nelson Nelson Kinder Mosseau & Saturley	James Wheat Wadleigh Starr & Peters

largest gas utility in three major insurance recovery cases and secured a landmark victory for businesses seeking insurance coverage for environmental claims.

Cameron Shilling chairs the employment litigation group taking on some of the firm's most important clients, including Bauer Nike Hockey and Netria Corporation. Noted as "a very talented lawyer, with a bright future ahead," Shilling has handled employment contract, employment discrimination, harassment and complex electronic discovery cases. Recent experience includes cases under Title VII, the Americans with Disabilities Act and Family and Medical Leave Act.

National firm **Nixon Peabody** boasts four New England offices to add to the firm's 15 other offices ranging from London to Shanghai. The Manchester group shares extensive knowledge of the local business courts, which provides a distinct advantage for its national client base, which includes major pharmaceutical laboratories, start-ups and publicly traded companies.

Manchester Managing Partner **Kevin Fitzgerald** is regarded by peers as "brilliant" and "logical" in New Hampshire courtrooms. Fitzgerald secured multimillion-dollar recoveries for benefit of receivership and defrauded investors as lead counsel for federal court appointed receivership arising out of high-profile SEC enforcement litigation. He also argued multiple appeals in front of the Supreme Court.

With 27 years experience in business and civil litigation, **Jamie Hage** brings knowledge to local clients that most lawyers cannot. He regularly represents small, mid-size and publicly traded companies in federal and state courts. Hage primary focus on complex

business and intellectual property disputes brings powerful expertise to the group.

Peers call **David Vicinanza** "a rare breed of litigator in New Hampshire." Vicinanza's practice in government contracts and investigations is one of few in the state. He served as advisor to the US Attorney General and worked as chief prosecutor in the campaign finance investigation of the 1996 presidential election. His case resume lists numerous representations in front of US District Courts and Circuit Courts of Appeals.

The **Orr & Reno** family lost one of its most prominent lawyers this year, as Local Litigation Star Ronald Snow passed away in March 2008. The loss of the 46-year veteran in New Hampshire law "leaves a huge hole in this state," one competitor says. Still, the firm continues performing at top levels in courtrooms around the state. "They get good results," one source says. "There's no denying that."

The 12-member litigation group practices in a variety of areas including insurance, retail, broadcasting and public relations. **Martha Van Oot** is a "very experienced" trial attorney according to peers who show a good deal of respect for Van Oot's capabilities. Van Oot practices a variety of commercial litigation matters including education, employment, insurance and medical malpractice. Her recent experience includes representing a general partner in a multi-million dollar partnership dispute, and serving as a special master to the Hillsborough County Probate court in *In Re Optima Health*.

Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green is focused on growing its Massachusetts office, while

remaining strong in its home state of New Hampshire where one client says "their expertise is invaluable." Other clients say the firm is "great in the courtroom" and "quickly became an institutional firm for us."

The firm has a diverse practice that includes affordable housing, bankruptcy, construction and health care capabilities. A two-person team of David McGrath and John-Mark Turner defended Anheuser-Busch in an Employment Retirement Income Security Act case that was eventually dropped. While Michael Lambert and Michael Dim represent MOH Incorporated in a contract dispute for involving the licensing rights to indoor snow making technology in North America.

Michael Harvell is designated by clients as "willing to learn every aspect of a company for the client." Since joining the firm more than 30 years ago, he successfully represented a minority stockholder in obtaining injunctive relief against his removal as an officer and director of a closely held business. "New Hampshire veteran" **James Shirley**, as one peer described, adds another 30 years of experience to the firm. Shirley has focuses on a variety of commercial disputes including professional negligence, product liability, toxic torts, real estate and insurance coverage.

Robert Miller is regarded as "another lawyer in a long line of great ones," according to one peer. Miller has a particular expertise in federal courtrooms practicing Constitutional law and intellectual property disputes including trademark and copyright cases.

Wadleigh Starr & Peters is one of New Hampshire's oldest, most productive firms.

Future stars

Michael Kostiew
D'Amante Couser Steiner Pellerin

Joshua Menard
Devine Millimet & Branch

Robert Miller
Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green

Brendan Mitchell
Devine Millimet & Branch

Cameron Shilling
McLane Graf Raulerson & Middleton

After more than 100 years of service to the community, the firm has grown to more than 65 attorneys. "A lot of important people use their firm," competitors say. Their client list includes the Bank of New Hampshire, Ford Motor Company, Honeywell, Manchester School District, Nationwide Insurance and Toyota Motor Credit Corporation.

Eugene Van Loan has more than 40 years experience practicing commercial law in the state. Peers say Van Loan is "more talented than most of his opponents." Van Loan also served as counsel during Louis Wyman's stint as New Hampshire Senator.

Civil and commercial litigator **James Wheat** was recognized by peers as "someone who makes a difference in the legal community." A fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Wheat practiced law in New Hampshire after finishing as a law clerk to the New Hampshire Supreme Court in 1972.

Recommended firms

The multiple-partner litigation group of **Cook Little Rosenblatt & Manson** is a small firm with a large impact on the New Hampshire marketplace. The group formed 11 years ago and now combines big-firm talent with small-firm client attention. Daphne Lessard and **Arnold Rosenblatt** form a duo known for an intellectual property expertise. Rosenblatt has fought patent, trademark and trade secrets cases in US District Courts and US Courts of Appeals. Lessard works with clients on corporate governance, contract, employment and intellectual property litigation. The firm's clients range in technological expertise and include UltraVision Security Systems, NanoComp Technologies, MetaMersion and Newfound Technology Corporation.

Gallagher Callahan & Gartrell provides a multi-disciplinary approach to litigation. The firm's six litigators practice commercial, employment, environmental, banking, professional misconduct and criminal experience. Founding partner **Michael Callahan** is described by sources as "doing great work" in US District Courts and US Circuit Courts of Appeals. Callahan is called upon by competitors to serve as a mediator and arbitrator in many commercial law cases. **David Garfunkel** joined the firm after 10 years in New Hampshire's Public Defender Program. He is recognized by peers as a "great" white-collar and employment discrimination litigator. Garfunkel's peers say "he is super talented" and "brings a lot to courtroom."

The Concord office of New England power-firm, **Hinckley Allen & Snyder** offers a range of litigation capabilities. Antitrust, securities, banking, bankruptcy employment, insurance and products liability all fall under the umbrella of the firm's litigation team. The firm offers practical advice to clients, but has earned a reputation for being "very aggressive in the courtroom," according to

one source.

Michael Connolly joined the firm ten years ago and has "thrived ever since," according to competitors. His white-collar practice has led him to the US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit as well as US District Courts of Massachusetts, Southern and Eastern New York. Peers recommend **Christopher Carter** for his "expertise" in white-collar defense work and a variety of complex commercial litigation areas. **Neil Castaldo** is found to be "terrific" and "very capable" as a healthcare and physician's representative.

In the eyes of Manchester-based **Nelson Kinder Mosseau & Saurley** there is no such thing as a routine case. The firm is attentive to every client, providing them with some of the most talented litigators in the state. The firm offers special expertise in debtor and creditor relations as well as healthcare and medical malpractice. Name partners **Richard Nelson** and **Peter Mosseau** are known by peers as "a talented pair" with "a great sense around the courtroom." Mosseau heads the successful medical malpractice group with 30 years of litigation experience that covers health care providers and health maintenance organizations accused of professional misconduct and negligence. He is also a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers. Nelson has more than 25 years experience in New Hampshire and Massachusetts courtrooms. His resume covers securities, environmental, professional liability and construction matters.

Rath Young & Pignatelli has a litigation group clients say "doesn't mix words," and "lets you know exactly where the case stands." The eight-person team has extensive experience in New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Maine court rooms and have tried hundreds of cases before juries with a record of success.

Founding partner **Michael Pignatelli** "is absolutely fantastic," according to clients. Specializing in business, commercial, medical malpractice and personal injury cases, Pignatelli has more than 25 years litigation experience. He currently represents a high-tech company in a California lawsuit for environmental claims and is settling a multi-million dollar environmental insurance claim for a corporate client.

With 23 lawyers across three offices in New Hampshire, **Sulloway & Hollis** has become one of the most prominent names mentioned in state courtrooms. Lawyers' practice areas include appellate, consumer class-action government relations, insurance and healthcare litigation. **Edward Kaplan** is called "bright" and "a master" of New Hampshire law by peers. Kaplan is admitted, and practices regularly in the US Courts of Appeals for the First and Fourth Circuits. In his more than 30 years experience litigating employment, healthcare and insurance cases, Kaplan has also fought appeals in front of the Supreme Court. **Michael Lehman** is also recognized



by peers as a lawyer with a focus in health care law. Lehman regularly sits next to health care practitioners and major medical service groups in New Hampshire courts.

Upton & Hatfield's four offices spread across the state allow a variety of clients to expect great service. The firm's unique ability to represent individuals, municipalities, businesses and school districts gives the firm a distinct advantage over competition. Clients say **Russell Hilliard** is "more prepared than any other lawyer we work with." A

trait, no doubt, passed down from founding partner Robert Upton, who opened the Concord office more than one hundred years ago. Hilliard has been a member of the firm since 1980 and represents a variety of clients in commercial, insurance and professional discipline litigation.

Built around "delivering the unexpected," **Wiggin & Nourie's** 15 partners in its litigation group pride themselves on preparing and handling any commercial or business litigation matter clients may find

themselves facing. Working with a variety of alternative dispute resolution methods, the firm often handles construction, insurance coverage, administrative and probate litigation matters.

Peers single out **Thomas Pappas** as one of the firm's premier litigators, saying they would refer cases to him if they had a choice. A shareholder, estate and banking expert, Pappas' has more than 20 years experience representing District of Columbia and New Hampshire clients.