

# New Jersey

**Products liability and intellectual property continue to fuel the litigation market in New Jersey. One lawyer says there are far more “bet-the-ranch” types of cases, in which everything is on the line. Of the many types of cases, pharmaceuticals continue to thrive in the legal market.**

## Highly recommended firms

**Day Pitney**, although still fairly new to the scene in name, continues to settle itself into the East Coast. Started in 2007 with the merger of Day Berry & Howard and Pitney Hardin, the firm consists of some 400 lawyers in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Washington and New York. The Florham Park office houses 84 lawyers. Litigation emphases includes commercial matters, bankruptcy rights, employment, intellectual property and environmental cases. Clients say they are “absolutely delighted with their work,” and praise lawyers for their major business and commercial practices. “We value their services highly,” says another client. “We fully anticipate that Day Pitney will remain among the top 5 percent of the several hundred firms we use around the world.” Recent case work includes successfully representing Amboy National Bank in a \$30 million class action case involving allegations of breach of fiduciary duty against the board of trustees, among other claims. The court found the board of directors innocent of any wrongdoing. Other clients include Argenbright Security, Days Inns Worldwide and Morris County Cardiologists Consultants.

**Benjamin Haglund** receives praise for his work handling product liability and shareholder disputes. Case work includes representation of a company’s independent outside directors in a class action suit and a cable and wire manufacturer in more than 425 cases filed by electricians. **Dennis LaFiura**, co-chair of the executive committee at the firm practices in areas of professional liability, securities and franchising matters dealing with motor vehicles, hotels and consumer products. Representative clients include Wyndham Worldwide, Century 21 and Ford Motors. **Anthony Marchetta** serves his clients through complex commercial, securities and negligence litigation. **Robert Rose** has more than 30 years of experience including handling environmental insurance litigation matters, in which he won a settlement of more than \$80 million for a

multinational corporation. **John Scordo** often handles litigation involving insurance, contract disputes and real estate-related matters. **Kristine Feher** has significant experience handling employment discrimination and wrongful discharge litigation including cases dealing with breach of contract. Business torts and trade secrets are the main focus of **Elliot Ostrove**.

**Dechert** offers clients 17 offices from across the US and Europe, which allows the firm to “provide seamless legal services to clients.” The firm offers litigation expertise in areas of pharmaceutical, biotechnology, insurance, media and consumer products liability. “They are among the elite products groups,” says one client. “There is no doubt about that.” The firm continues to grow and recently added lawyers to its government restructuring, international arbitration, securities and civil litigation practices. In addition to the new lawyers in the US, the firm added an office in Hong Kong, pairing with Hwang & Co, thus allowing more clients to explore the expanding financial market in China. Representative clients of the firm include Amgen, Baxter, Johnson & Johnson and West Pharmaceutical.

**Ezra Rosenberg** focuses his practice on areas of pharmaceutical, mass torts and product liability litigation work. “Someone with real talent and skill,” says one client. “He has the entire package.” Representative case work includes serving as one of the main counsel for Phillip Morris in various putative class action cases across the US “alleging violations of state consumer protection action statutes.” In white-collar and securities matters, clients can turn to **William Gibson** who has experience representing “companies and individuals accused of securities fraud and market manipulation.” **John Sullivan** has extensive experience defending pharmaceutical companies. One client includes Merck in mass torts and product liability cases, while others are Rhodia and Cardinal Health.

Founded in Pennsylvania, **Drinker Biddle & Reath** now encompasses several offices

## Local litigation firms

### Highly recommended

Day Pitney

Dechert

Drinker Biddle & Reath

Gibbons

Lowenstein Sandler

McCarter & English

Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti

### Recommended

Cole Schotz Meisel Forman & Leonard

Greenbaum Rowe Smith & Davis

Greenberg Traurig

Krovatin Klingeman

Latham & Watkins

McElroy Deutsch Mulvaney & Carpenter

Porzio Bromberg & Newman

Sills Cummis & Gross

Walder Hayden & Brogan

**“Recent case work includes successfully defending David Chase, creator of the *The Sopranos*, against Robert Baer, who claimed he helped develop the series.”**

- Lowenstein Sandler



## Local litigation stars

James Altieri Drinker Biddle & Reath	Joseph Hayden Walder Hayden & Brogan	Gregory Reilly Lowenstein Sandler
Andrew Berry McCarter & English	Shawn Kelly Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti	Gita Rothschild McCarter & English
Joseph Buckley Sills Cummis Epstein & Gross	Gerald Krovatin Krovatin & Associates	Lawrence Rolnick Lowenstein Sandler
Thomas Campion Drinker Biddle & Reath	Alan Kraus Latham & Watkins	Robert Rose Day Pitney
Morrill Cole Cole Schotz Meisel Forman & Leonard	Dennis LaFiura Day Pitney	Ezra Rosenberg Dechert
Glenn Clark Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti	Joseph LaSala McElroy Deutsch Mulvaney & Carpenter	Paul Rowe Greenbaum Rowe Smith & Davis
Douglas Eakeley Lowenstein Sandler	Gerald Liloia Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti	John Scordo Day Pitney
John Gibbons Gibbons	Anthony Marchetta Day Pitney	Philip Sellinger Greenberg Traurig
Michael Griffinger Gibbons	David McLean Latham & Watkins	Anthony Sylvester Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti
Jeffrey Greenbaum Sills Cummis Epstein & Gross	Michael Meisel Cole Schotz Meisel Forman & Leonard	Kenneth Van Deventer Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti
Benjamin Haglund Day Pitney	James Mulvaney McElroy Deutsch Mulvaney & Carpenter	Justin Walder Walder Hayden & Brogan
Lauren Handler Porzio Bromberg & Newman	Anne Patterson Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti	Julian Wells Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti
David Harris Lowenstein Sandler	Michael Quinn Gibbons	

from San Francisco to Chicago to Washington. Local bases are in Florham Park and Princeton. Principal areas of litigation include antitrust, product liability, insurance, intellectual property and white-collar criminal defense. The firm offers “creative dispositive motions, well-crafted trial strategies, and focused and effective appeal” to help clients through lawsuits. One recent victory includes successful representation for client Arthur Anderson in a “securities fraud suit filed by various pension funds, governmental entities and other institutional investors who purchased hundreds of millions of dollars of subordinated notes issued by Bruno’s,” a large supermarket chain.

**James Altieri** heads the insurance practice and represents clients in financial services, pharmaceutical, insurance, entertainment and consumer products matters. **Thomas Campion** co-heads the professional services liability group and also focuses time in the products liability and mass torts litigation practice. He often represents pharmaceutical companies as lead counsel in products liability and business litigation issues. Associate **Matthew Fedor** focuses his trial work on communications litigation involving complex business disputes and class actions.

**Lauren Godfrey’s** litigation practice involves product liability, mass torts, business matters and the defense of pharmaceutical companies.

One of the top law firms in New Jersey, **Gibbons** has 230 lawyers in Newark and Trenton. New York, Delaware and Pennsylvania are also homes to offices for the firm. Lawyers represent clients in business and commercial matters involving intellectual property, insurance and product liability law. The firm participated with the Seton Hall University School of Law in order to establish the Gibbons Institute of Law, Science & Technology in a \$1 million endowment. The firm hopes to ensure the education and training of future lawyers in science and technology that will surely arise in the coming years. Gibbons recently represented Spotts, Stevens & McCoy, an engineering firm, in a class action suit alleging that the company had “a duty to warn the plaintiffs of an increased risk of harm due to beryllium exposure.” The judge in the US District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania found in favor of the defendants.

Founder of the John J Gibbons Fellowship in Public Interest and Constitutional Law, **John Gibbons** focuses his area of litigation on antitrust, intellectual property law, securities

regulation and appellate work. His distinguished career includes work as the chief judge in the US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Litigator **Michael Griffinger** works in areas of antitrust, commercial disputes and securities litigation and includes more than 35 years of experience. His work encompasses both jury and non-jury trials for the railroad, automotive, telecommunications and pharmaceutical industries. **Michael Quinn** spends much of his time litigating intellectual property in trade secrets, copyrights, unfair competition and within the pharmaceutical industry. **Robert Brady** often handles franchise and licensing disputes, non-compete agreements and has experience with injunction proceedings. **Jennifer Marino Thibodaux** works in professional malpractice, class actions and white-collar criminal cases.

With an office in Roseland, **Lowenstein Sandler** has a national presence. The firm says it offers clients a “straightforward, traditional analysis as well as innovative, custom-tailored strategies,” supported by their team of “consummate business counselors, responsive service providers, and dedicated community leaders.” The litigation practice includes all types of work with an emphasis on bankruptcy, financial

## Future stars

William Aumenta  
McElroy Deutsch Mulvaney & Carpenter

Robert Brady  
Gibbons

Rebekah Conroy  
Walder Hayden & Brogan

Matthew Fedor  
Drinker Biddle & Reath

Kristine Feher  
Day Pitney

Peter Gallagher  
Greenberg Traurig

William Gibson  
Dechert

Lauren Godfrey  
Drinker Biddle & Reath

Jennifer Marino Thibodaux  
Gibbons

Gregory Horowitz  
McCarter & English

David Kiefer  
Sills Cummis Epstein & Gross

James Kim  
Cole Schotz Meisel Forman & Leonard

Khaled Klele  
Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti

Jason Lattimore  
Latham & Watkins

Michael Long  
Lowenstein Sandler

Josh Mann  
Porzio Bromberg & Newman

Craig Moran  
Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti

Arnold Natali  
McCarter & English

Elliot Ostrove  
Day Pitney

Lauren Podesta  
Latham & Watkins

Laurie Poulos  
Greenberg Traurig

Matthew Savare  
Lowenstein Sandler

John Sullivan  
Dechert

Susan Usatine  
Cole Schotz Meisel Forman & Leonard

Joanne Vos  
Greenbaum Rowe Smith & Davis

restructuring, creditor rights and intellectual property. Recent case work includes successfully defending David Chase, creator of *The Sopranos*, against Robert Baer, who claimed he helped develop the series. A jury found completely in favor of Chase after only 82 minutes in deliberation. Lucent Technologies and Credit Suisse First Boston are additional clients of the firm. Lawyers often receive accolades from peers for their dedication to prop bono services.

**Douglas Eakeley** handles cases involving securities, antitrust, civil Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act and products liability matters. He also serves as chair of the antitrust and trade regulatory group, and handles high-profile cases for the firm. **David Harris** focuses his work on antitrust, complex business and intellectual property litigation, and has done so for nearly 30 years. Securities, employment and Constitutional law are the main practice areas for **Gregory Reilley**, while **Lawrence Rolnick** chairs the securities litigation and enforcement practice. Grand Metropolitan and HBO are two of Rolnick's clients, and he represents several investment managers and investment funds in class actions and securities suits. **Michael Long** and **Matthew Savare** are both associates in the Roseland office. Long's work focuses on white-collar criminal defense while Savare works on intellectual property and media and entertainment law.

Clients praise the work of **McCarter & English** for its ability "at picking up all of the information," in regard to a trial. One client says the litigators are "very competent, very thorough." Intellectual property, securities and insurance law are all strong practice groups. The lawyers are "very responsive to us when we [need] them," says a client of the Newark lawyers. Product liability, the largest group at the firm, garners praise for work in pharmaceutical and mass tort cases. Recent litigation work includes successful representation of Lockheed Martin in an intellectual property and technology suit involving trade secrets theft.

**Andrew Berry** serves as chairman of the executive committee and focuses his work on insurance and product liability litigation. Representative clients include big names such as Johnson & Johnson, Bristol-Myers Squibb and The New York Giants. Insurance, class actions, products liability and toxic torts are the focus of **Gita Rothschild**. She often defends major Fortune 500 companies in director liability and fiduciary duty claims, and recently won summary judgment for client, Pharmacia & Upjohn. Peers commend the work of **Gregory Horowitz** for his complex commercial and insurance claims litigation involving asbestos, bad faith, environmental, intellectual property and product liability matters. **Arnold Natali** focuses his work on several areas of litigation, with insurance as the most prominent. Coverage claims involve asbestos

and property damage matters.

**Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti** prides itself on putting clients first. The firm addresses a client's "legal needs in concert with their business goals, in the most cost-effective manner." The firm also boasts accessibility to high-tech solutions to meeting the needs of document retrieval and management for its clients. Major litigation practice areas include complex commercial matters, banking issues and reinsurance, with more than half of the attorneys at the firm representing clients in litigation. Recent case work includes obtaining a "\$73.25 million settlement of securities fraud and RICO claims brought on behalf of New Jersey pension funds."

Clients praise the work of **Glenn Clark** for his ability to command a presence in the courtroom. Areas of focus include construction and health care litigation, with many hospitals, insurance carriers and pharmaceutical companies asking for his assistance. **Shawn Kelly** serves as head of the insurance department, and includes a notable client roster with firms such as American Centennial and CIGNA. For banking, securities, insurance and arbitration matters, **Gerald Liloia** works with clients "in need of a lawyer to handle the difficult case that must be won." UBS and Bank of America both use Liloia's counsel. **Anne Patterson** focuses her work on commercial litigation, specifically in products liability law with an emphasis on the pharmaceutical, tobacco and chemical industries. **Anthony Sylvester** has an impressive list of clients in his banking, class actions and entertainment law practice including, Bank of America, New York Commercial Bank and Guns N' Roses. **Julian Wells** and **Kenneth Van Deventer** both represent clients in various aspects of banking and securities litigation matters with clients ranging from top financial companies to regional brokerage firms. Associate **Khaled Klele**'s litigation emphasis lies in contracts and employment disputes, and has a diverse client base. **Craig Moran** has experience handling white-collar criminal issues and corporate investigations.

### Recommended firms

With the main office in Hackensack, **Cole Schotz Meisel Forman & Leonard** has a history in New Jersey law. With 120 lawyers at the firm, litigation is a primary focus, with attorneys taking pride in their clients viewing them as "key business advisors rather than simply as lawyers." Employment law, intellectual property, general commercial and personal injury matters are major areas of focus at the firm. The bankruptcy department continues to grow at the firm, with the recent inclusion of six new attorneys. Recent casework includes representing Daewoo Securities, a major Korean company, in a securities class action fraud case. The lawyers obtained a favorable settlement for their client, and were released from all liability.

The firm actively participates in the well being of the community by offering support to the Holley Child Care and Development Center, a residence in Hackensack that offers assistance and living facilities for children that cannot otherwise live at home. Lawyers participate in several other local programs providing food, shelter and school supplies to children.

After spending two years at Harvard Law School teaching others about litigation, **Morrill Cole** now focuses his time on antitrust, intellectual property and securities fraud matters. Peers and clients consistently praise his work as a “bet-the-company” attorney. **Michael Meisel** tries several cases with a banking law emphasis. Practice areas include shareholder disputes, director liability and corporate reorganization. Case experience includes the \$12 billion reorganization of Mutual Benefit Life Insurance where Meisel served as “lead litigator and special advisor to the New Jersey Insurance Commissioner and the Attorney General.” **James Kim**’s practice focuses on shareholder disputes and intellectual property litigation issues. **Susan Usatine** has significant experience handling contract disputes, probate disputes and unfair competition.

**Greenbaum Rowe Smith & Davis** has more than half of its more than 100 lawyers ready and able to try cases. The firm often tries some of the most significant cases in the state for regional and national clients in both state and federal courts. Practice areas cover the gamut of employment, creditor rights, construction, bankruptcy, intellectual property and white-collar criminal defense, among others. Case representation includes successfully defending a company in a construction case where the plaintiff “sought damages in excess of \$200 million.” The jury dismissed several of the claims, and the matter eventually settled.

Chairman of the firm, **Paul Rowe** recently stepped down from his post as managing partner, turning the position over to two of his colleagues. Rowe serves as chairman of the litigation department and often focuses his time on high profile complex corporate and business issues. In addition to his well-regarded practice, Rowe wrote *New Jersey Business Litigation* and co-authored the *Guidebook to Chancery Practice in New Jersey*. **Joanne Vos** handles complex environmental and toxic tort litigation. With a varied client list, she served as special environmental counsel to the Township of North Brunswick.

The New Jersey office of **Greenberg Traurig**, in Florham Park, houses 22 litigators. Major litigation practices include commercial, securities, construction, intellectual property and tax law. The firm promotes pro bono work through their various commitments to The Alan Ameche Memorial Foundation, Bergen Pines County Hospital Foundation and US Olympic

Committee, New Jersey Chapter.

Former federal prosecutor **Philip Sellinger** has more than 25 years experience in trial with focus areas including class actions, insurance coverage, technology and environmental issues. Recent casework includes representing Toshiba America Information Systems in a class action suit in Georgia involving common product design defects in laptop computers. After a year of litigation, the plaintiffs dismissed the suit, and later re-filed the case in California, seeking a more “favorable” venue. However, the plaintiffs again dismissed their own suit with prejudice, and since no class was certified the client never paid them anything. Litigation associate **Peter Gallagher** serves in the commercial litigation and white-collar criminal defense practice groups, while fellow associate **Laurie Poulos** handles cases in business tort and intellectual property matters.

**Krovatin Klingeman**, formerly known as Krovatin & Associates, consists of only four attorneys. The firm works solely on litigation concerning criminal and civil matters. The firm prides itself on offering counsel through all aspects of litigation, even if that means steps to take in order to avoid costly trials. Case work includes fraud, bankruptcy, drug trafficking and professional malpractice.

Insurance Company of America, Campbell Soup, Harrah’s Entertainment and PricewaterhouseCoopers. Past case work includes successful representation during a 5-month trial of Central Garden & Pet Company in *Axelrod v Central Garden & Pet Company*. Peers mention **David McLean** for his work in professional liability, insurance and complex business disputes. Case experience includes representation of a major accounting firm in a professional liability matter. **Jason Lattimore** litigates in complex commercial and intellectual property matters including trademarks disputes and consumer fraud cases. **Lauren Podesta** earns praise for her work on torts and products liability matters.

**McElroy Deutsch Mulvaney & Carpenter**, one of the largest litigation groups in New Jersey, has more than 200 lawyers spanning four states. The firm takes pride in their “lawyers who are ‘hands-on’ practitioners involved full-time in providing solutions to client problems,” and emphasizes maintaining long relationships based on successful results. The litigation practice encompasses antitrust, insurance, environmental, pharmaceutical, product liability, intellectual property and white-collar criminal defense.

In the Morristown office, **Joseph LaSala**

**“The lawyers are ‘very responsive to us when we [need] them,’ says a client of the Newark lawyers.”**

– *McCarter & English*

When politicians have problems, many of them turn to **Gerald Krovatin** for help. Clients include State Senator Joseph Coniglio, in relation to a federal investigation on budget issues, and Tamika Riley in a high-profile case involving allegations of corruption and fraud during her relationship with former Newark Mayor Sharpe James. Additional representation work includes former chief municipal judge Wanda Molina against allegations of illegally dismissing parking tickets.

Clients of **Latham & Watkins** call the firm a “phenomenal group of attorneys that always want to do the best.” The Newark office often handles cases dealing with antitrust, securities, mass torts, insurance and professional liability litigation, and has a range of lawyers from the firm’s numerous US offices. The firm continues to grow its well-known environmental practice with the addition of new attorneys to aid in litigation and counseling.

**Alan Kraus** handles litigation for product liability, class action, professional malpractice, securities and toxic tort cases. Major clients for Kraus are Prudential

handles environmental, securities, professional liability and multi-party toxic tort litigation, including asbestos and benzene matters. LaSala’s colleague **James Mulvaney** has experience handling construction and reinsurance claims. His work involves providing insurance companies counsel in relation to avoiding litigation and customer claims. **William Aumenta** focuses his litigation efforts on complex commercial and chancery cases, and is certified as a mediator in small claims and landlord-tenancy matters.

**Porzio Bromberg & Newman** offers a variety of litigation services such as product liability, securities, insurance, mass torts and intellectual property. The firm’s vision is “Serving the best interests of our clients by serving the best interests of our people,” and believes that “premium client service, top-quality work and extraordinary results can only be achieved consistently by highly motivated, challenged and committed people.” Prominent clients include Wal-Mart, Pfizer and Wyeth

**Lauren Handler** represents pharmaceutical and manufacturing companies in products

liability cases. With more than 30 years of trial experience, she is “leading the New Jersey hormone therapy litigation,” and has defended polio vaccines and diet drugs in the past. Associate **Josh Mann** handles cases involving real estate and election law.

The full-service law firm **Sills Cummis & Gross** represents clients from its Newark and Princeton offices, as well as a satellite post in New York. The firm serves several industries as well as international clients. Lawyers pride themselves on going “beyond what is expected of a law firm by partnering with our clients and taking an insider’s view of each client’s business.” Litigation strengths include class action work for pharmaceutical companies and personal injury cases that span state lines. The firm has experience with Fen-Phen, hormone replacement therapy and various other pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

With more than 29 years of trial experience **Joseph Buckley** serves as co-chair of the

litigation department, and leads the firm’s banking practice. He helps clients through banking and class action litigation, and serves as lead counsel on trials for banks in both state and federal courts. **Jeffery Greenbaum**, the other co-chair of the litigation department, also serves as chair of the class action practice group. Contracts, professional liability, securities and consumer fraud are just a few of his litigation strengths. Associate **David Kiefer** focuses his efforts on construction law matters. He has experience representing owners, contractors and engineering firms in various construction projects.

**Walder Hayden & Brogan** fights for its clients, and believes “that a case is best resolved when an adversary understands that we are prepared to go the distance.” The firm has the full breadth of litigation services, while white-collar criminal defense stands out as a leading practice area. Others include director liability, antitrust, professional

malpractice and agency proceedings. Past clients of the firm include Hartz Mountain Industries, Northfork Bank and Old Republic Insurance.

Clients turn to **Joseph Hayden Jr** for his criminal law practice. While he “concentrates on complex litigation,” the firm notes that “some of his best results have been cases where a client was investigated but never prosecuted.” **Justin Walder** concentrates his time on criminal defense, with case representation including serving as “Special Master in the Prudential Insurance Company of America Sales Practices Class Action.” Complex commercial, securities fraud, antitrust and consumer fraud litigation are main focus areas of **Rebekah Conroy**. Pro bono is a chief concern of hers, and she participates in the Trial Lawyers Care program, “an organization dedicated to pro bono representation of 9/11 victims and their families.”