

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

Byrnes & Keller

Corr Cronin Michelson Baumgardner & Preece

Danielson Harrigan Leyh & Tollefson

Davis Wright Tremaine

Gordon Tilden Thomas & Cordell

Perkins Coie

Summit Law Group

Recommended

Dorsey & Whitney

Heller Ehrman

K&L Gates

Lane Powell

McNaul Ebel Nawrot & Helgren

Stoel Rives

Washington

Most of the state's legal activity is centered in Washington's largest city, Seattle. Several boutiques have set up shop in the city and are succeeding, alongside the regional shops and national powerhouses. Bellevue is also seeing a rise in litigation, due to a number of firms setting up branch offices in the city.

Highly recommended firms

Concentrating exclusively on litigation, Seattle firm **Byrnes & Keller** assists clients in an array of matters, including complex commercial disputes, securities, antitrust, business torts, white-collar criminal defense and products liability. In the past, the firm represented a number of members of the Alaskan seafood processing industry in the Exxon Valdez oil spill litigation. As trial counsel for a major tobacco company in a consumer protection and antitrust matter brought by the State of Washington, Byrnes & Keller was part of one of the largest civil damages cases ever tried in the state. Following ten weeks in the courtroom, the trial was terminated due to a nationwide settlement. In defending a federal securities fraud and Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Practices Act case, a jury trial resulted in no recovery against the firm's client.

Founding partner and "very fine lawyer" **Bradley Keller** has been an exclusive trial partner at the firm for almost 30 years. Focusing on business and tort litigation, Keller is able in both jury and nonjury disputes on both the plaintiff and defense side, with representative experience on RICO, securities fraud, products liability, trade secret and class action matters.

The litigation practice is strong at the Seattle-based **Corr Cronin Michelson Baumgardner & Preece**. Coverage is present in the areas of complex commercial disputes, class action defense, insurance, employment, intellectual property, products liability, securities and construction, as well as niche specialties including entertainment and aviation. The firm represented Amazon.com in a multi-million dollar contract dispute with Expedia.com, the matter settling on favorable terms before trial. Corr Cronin assisted in the defense of Columbia Tower Club in a class of more than 1,000 club employees seeking damages in excess of \$2.75 million over issues regarding wages, tips and bonuses. This matter settled favorably and claims were dismissed. In

current matters, the firm is co-counsel in two putative class actions for Federal Express in an employment matter, as well as representing a number of corporate defendants in hundreds of asbestos cases in Washington and Oregon. Other firm clients include 7-Eleven, Alaska Airlines, Georgia Pacific, OfficeMax, Staples and Unisys.

Founding partners **Kevin Baumgardner** and **William Cronin** are both recognized for their incredible litigation expertise. Baumgardner, who used to head Bogle & Gate's product liability and personal injury practice group, is experienced in trying cases in both state and federal courts in Washington and Alaska, with additional expertise in labor and civil case arbitrations. He focuses his practice on products work, labor and employment, commercial cases and personal injury matters. In the firm's asbestos litigation representation, he was partner-in-charge for a number of defendants in the state's cases, eventually obtaining numerous summary judgments and negotiating several settlements. Business litigation specialist William Cronin represents both plaintiffs and defendants in securities, professional liability and corporate control disputes. His list of representative clients includes national powerhouses like Amazon.com, AT&T Wireless and ExxonMobil.

Senior partner **Kelly Corr's** broad practice varies from class action work to professional malpractice and intellectual property. He represented The Hearst Corporation in a matter against *The Seattle Times*, in which his client attempted to block an attempt by the defendants to end a 20-year joint newspaper operating arrangement. After four years of litigation, the case settled with the *Times* paying Hearst \$24 million and continuing the agreement for an additional nine years. For more than 35 years, **William Squires III** has handled trial matters in the Pacific Northwest. Before his time at Corr Cronin, he was a 20-year veteran at Davis Wright Tremaine and spent time at Summit Law Group. Now, he is an established litigator, with experience in construction, real

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-Gordon Tilden Thomas & Cordell

Local litigation stars

David Bateman K&L Gates
Kevin Baumgardner Corr Cronin Michelson Baumgardner & Preece
Stanton Beck Lane Powell
David Burman Perkins Coie
William Cronin Corr Cronin Michelson Baumgardner & Preece
Kelly Corr Corr Cronin Michelson Baumgardner & Preece
Daniel Dunne Heller Ehrman
Peter Ehrlichman Dorsey & Whitney
Rudy Englund Lane Powell
David Goodnight Stoel Rives
Charles Gordon Gordon Tilden Thomas & Cordell
George Greer Heller Ehrman
Arthur Harrigan Jr Danielson Harrigan Leyh & Tollefson
Bradley Keller Byrnes & Keller
Paul Lawrence K&L Gates
Philip McCune Summit Law Group
David McDonald K&L Gates
Jerry McNaul McNaul Ebel Nawrot & Helgren
Ralph Palumbo Summit Law Group
Stephen Rummage Davis Wright Tremaine
Harry Schneider Jr Perkins Coie
Evan Schwab Dorsey & Whitney
William Squires III Corr Cronin Michelson Baumgardner & Preece
Robert Sulkin McNaul Ebel Nawrot & Helgren
Jeffrey Tilden Gordon Tilden Thomas & Cordell
Peter Vial McNaul Ebel Nawrot & Helgren

estate, commercial, toxic tort, class actions, employment and securities litigation. Squires was counsel to the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in a three-month arbitration, which defeated a contractor's claims for charges and delay that would have doubled the cost of the project. He was also defense liaison counsel in 4,000 consolidated toxic exposure cases and acted as counsel for Lovelace Biomedical Institute in a class action matter following an alleged intentional exposure to electromagnetic pulse radiation.

Founded in 1986, boutique **Danielson Harrigan Leyh & Tollefson** may boast only 13 attorneys, but the team's breadth of knowledge in litigation is immeasurable. Representing plaintiffs and defendants, the firm handles matters relating to complex class actions, construction, securities, real estate, contract disputes and commercial

in the areas of complex litigation and class actions, with additional expertise in appeals work. He represented a cruise line in a state court matter following allegations of unfair and deceptive practices in assessing port charges and taxes on cruise fares. This matter settled on favorable terms. Rummage has also represented several financial services providers in consumer class actions in the state, as well as California, New York and Minnesota. Assisting in the high-profile Exxon Valdez litigation, he was co-counsel in representing plaintiffs in various appellate proceedings following the \$5 billion jury verdict against Exxon. Other clients include the Seattle Times Company, the Seattle Mariners and Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

Calling itself a trial practice firm focusing exclusively on litigation, **Gordon Tilden Thomas & Cordell** is able in a range of

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-Byrnes & Keller

insurance coverage litigation. Niche work has been found in the areas of sports litigation, with the firm in litigation involving the Seattle Mariners and Seattle Seahawks, as well as aviation and maritime work. Additional clients include BP North America Petroleum, the City of Seattle, Commonwealth Insurance, AIG Aviation and Weyerhaeuser.

Formerly of Lane Powell, **Arthur Harrigan's** litigation experience was heightened with his stint as chair of the firm's commercial group. “He is a very fine lawyer,” says one peer. Since founding the Danielson firm, his representative list of significant matters includes the defense of one of Seattle's largest law firms in a \$51 million action by National Union Fire Insurance arising out of Seafirst Bank's losses in the Penn Square failure. He also represented King County in its attempt to halt the Seattle Seahawks' owners from moving the team to southern California.

With two offices in the state, regional powerhouse and international firm **Davis Wright Tremaine** enjoys a strong litigation practice, while drawing on its other offices in the area. The Seattle office serves a variety of clients in a number of industries, including publishing, banking, medicine and health care. The Bellevue office, established in 1982, is well-known for its expertise in environmental, real estate, employment and civil litigation, as well as a general business practice. Representative clients include Bank of America, Shell Chemical, Westward Seafoods and Providence Health Systems.

Seattle partner **Stephen Rummage** practices

complex litigation. With expertise running the gamut, the firm limits its practice to civil litigation. The Seattle-based firm is able in several areas, including insurance coverage, professional liability, product liability, real estate and intellectual property. In products work, the firm represented the wholesaler following an e-coli outbreak traced to Jack-in-the-Box restaurants in the Pacific Northwest, as well as representing a national pharmaceutical company in the state's “Fen-phen” diet drug litigation. Other clients include Boeing and Puget Sound Energy.

Boasting a broad-based litigation practice and more than 30 years of trial experience, **Charles Gordon** is best known for his insurance coverage work. Partner **Jeffrey Tilden** is known for an equally varied practice, emphasizing work in personal injury, product liability, real estate, insurance and commercial disputes. “Jeff Tilden is the best trial lawyer in Washington State right now,” praises one competitor.

Offices in Seattle and Bellevue bolster the presence of **Perkins Coie** in the Pacific Northwest, with a firm office also located in Portland, Ore., as well as other locations throughout the country and internationally. The Seattle office, opened in 1912, is the largest law office in the city. Clients range in industries, from aerospace, manufacturing, finance, natural resources and transportation. The Bellevue office is known for its labor and employment work, as well as a range of litigation support for energy companies, real estate entities, municipal agencies and school districts.

Commercial litigator **David Burman** boasts

Future stars

Rima Alaily
Heller Ehrman

Denise Ashbaugh
Summit Law Group

Todd Glass
Heller Ehrman

Erin Howshar
McNaul Ebel Nawrot & Helgren

Steven Jensen
Lane Powell

Brenda Molner
Ater Wynne

Gwendolyn Payton
Lane Powell

Lori Lynn Phillips
Heller Ehrman

Rob Roy Smith
Ater Wynne

David Young
Lane Powell

more than a quarter of a century's experience in litigation, with expertise in antitrust, class actions, intellectual property and false claims, as well as appellate work. Several of his high-profile cases recently include an antitrust and Constitutional challenge matters for client Costco regarding the state's liquor regulations. Peers commend the "very fine" **Harry Schneider Jr** for his litigation and appellate experience, bringing to the table expertise in professional liability, intellectual property financial and commercial disputes.

The Seattle-based **Summit Law Group** rejects the normal structure and template of a traditional law firm to emphasize a more customer service-friendly approach to legal aide. For example, the firm does not call any of its attorneys associates – all are partners. According to the firm, "we hire those who have proven themselves." With a group of 25 lawyers, most are equipped to handle litigation. Commercial disputes are the firm's specialty, with specific expertise in employment, intellectual property and insurance matters. The firm recently represented RealNetworks in an antitrust suit against Microsoft and handles a dispute for client FMC Corporation against Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. The firm's robust list of clients includes Bank of America, the City of Seattle and Nortel Networks.

Firm founder **Philip McCune's** generalist approach to litigation may be seen through his successes in antitrust, class actions, intellectual property, toxic tort, construction and environmental disputes. He argued an antitrust action brought against Microsoft, challenging its anticompetitive practices in the personal computers industry. He was also able to dismiss a class action claim in which flight attendants claimed to be exposed to secondhand smoke. Well-versed in complex commercial litigation and environmental issues, **Ralph Palumbo** recently represented All Alaskan Seafood in a \$1.2 billion antitrust class action. He successfully obtained a unanimous jury verdict following a four-month jury trial. As lead counsel for Trident Seafoods, he obtained a defense judgment in a matter regarding the Clean Air Act. Other clients include Caldera and Alyeska.

Recommended firms

International firm **Dorsey & Whitney** boasts several offices in the west, including Salt Lake City, Orange County, Calif. and Missoula, Mont.

Drawing talent from these offices allows the firm's Seattle location to thrive. Established in 1995, the office is able in litigation, as well as labor and employment, tax, intellectual property and real estate matters. The firm recently represented Swedish Medical Center in its appeal of the Washington Department of Health's rejection of an application to construct a 175-bed hospital in Issaquah, Wash. The project was eventually approved following a reversal

request and a remand to the department for a new analysis of need for the hospital under different parameters.

Senior partner **Peter Ehrlichman** holds a strong broad-based litigation practice, with experience in securities, employment, intellectual property and franchise disputes, among others. He recently defended a financial processing company in Oregon involving various claims against the founder. He also participated in a 14-day contested arbitration. Partner and head of the Seattle office's trial department **Evan Schwab** is also co-chair of the professional malpractice group. His practice focuses on complex commercial matters, securities, class actions and the defense of legal and accounting firms.

The Seattle office of international giant **Heller Ehrman** opened in 1983, providing clients in the Pacific Northwest regionalized coverage in a variety of areas, including energy, intellectual property, labor and employment and corporate representation. The full-service office is singled out for its exceptional accounting liability litigation practice. Representative clients include Skidmore Owings, HSBC, Key Bank and Southern Pacific Funding. With more than 20 years at the firm, **Daniel Dunne** is praised by peers for his work in securities, consumer class actions and professional liability matters. He was chair of the office's litigation department until 2007, currently focusing his practice on the defense of technology companies, financial institutions and various directors and officers in complex litigation in both state and federal court. Partner **George Greer** is equally well-versed in complex matters, with ample experience in energy and securities matters. He has tried various cases regarding securities class actions, SEC investigations and subsequent enforcement proceedings. Greer represented Bonneville Power Administration in an arbitration matter in excess of \$1 billion claimed damages.

In total, **K&L Gates** maintains an attorney roster of more than 1,700 lawyers throughout its 28 offices worldwide. The Seattle office, established in 1883, is the city's oldest law office, as well as one of the largest. Litigation remains one of the firm's staple practice groups, with environmental, copyright matters and constitutional disputes several recent highlight areas. **David McDonald** acts as leader of the intellectual property group, with expertise in technology-based matters with a focus on software disputes. One of his most high-profile clients is Microsoft, which he has represented since 1986. Partner **David Bateman** is also praised for his intellectual property work. With more than 20 years experience in the field, he is noted for counseling a variety of companies, including wireless carriers, internet service providers and software developers. Several of Bateman's top clients include Microsoft and Amazon.com. Noted for his appellate and civil litigation work, **Paul Lawrence's**

expertise runs the gamut, including work in environmental, commercial, technology and constitutional matters.

With offices in the Pacific Northwest, Alaska and London, **Lane Powell** boasts three Washington offices in Seattle, Olympia and Tacoma. Overall, the firm maintains a base of more than 100 litigators. Handling a broad-brush practice of virtually any type of commercial or business litigation, the firm is able in areas such as securities, antitrust, construction and franchise law. In a recent matter, the firm represented Calence in an employee raiding and trade secrets case. After a competitor hired a majority of the company's employees, a number of claims were charged, including Computer Abuse and Fraud Act and Trade Secrets Act claims. All of the defendant's motions for summary judgment were defeated and a settlement was eventually negotiated.

Partner and director of the firm's litigation practice, **Rudy Englund** handles commercial and complex litigation, class actions relating

to labor and employment matters, intellectual property and business dispute resolution. He represents Wal-Mart in class actions across three states regarding wage and hour disputes. Prudential and Wells Fargo are two main clients as well. **Stanton Beck** is chair of the firm's construction group and peer-noted for representing architects and engineers in construction matters. He is also active in a niche motorsports practice.

Newcomer to the market **McNaul Ebel Nawrot & Helgrem** was formed in Seattle in 1995 and is known for its strong bench of attorneys who have practiced long before the firm was founded. Name-partner **Jerry McNaul** began his trial experience as an attorney with the Federal Trade Commission in the District of Columbia from 1968 to 1970. His practice tends to focus on commercial, employment and construction matters. **Robert Sulkin** practices in the areas of commercial litigation, securities, environmental and real estate disputes. Representing both plaintiffs and defendants, Sulkin is well-versed in matters

relating to intellectual property, shareholders' rights, malpractice and disputes involving financial institutions. With more than 30 years of trial experience, **Peter Vial** maintains a strong commercial practice, with an equally viable arbitration and mediation expertise. In a recent high-profile matter, the McNaul team represented current and former female employees of the Boeing Company who sued alleging gender-based workplace discrimination.

The Seattle office of regional power **Stoel Rives** houses about 75 attorneys is praised for its representation of emerging companies in a full range of legal matters. Peer note the especially able **David Goodnight** for his telecommunications work. He serves as legal counsel for Qwest in matters relating to the Telecommunications Act and he often represents Amazon.com and Weyerhaeuser Company in various matters. His expertise also lays in commercial, products liability, civil rights, securities, malpractice and land use disputes.