

# Wisconsin

**Madison and Milwaukee continue to stand as the major litigation centers for most cases in the state. However, globalization has seen several firms now expanding services as far as China in order to capitalize on the growing economic boom abroad. Intellectual property matters in patent and copyright infringement continue to drive the local scene.**

## Highly recommended firms

**Foley & Lardner** receives top praise as a litigation firm with strengths in the state, as well as a growing national level. Lawyers offer expertise in intellectual property, antitrust, securities and employment litigation, among others. The “innovative spirit pervades all aspects of [the] business,” and blends “relevant services with first-hand industry experience.” Offices in the state include Madison and Milwaukee and offer a significant venue for much of the intellectual property litigation the firm sees thanks to the US District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin. The popularity, due to the speed of the court’s docket as well as low legal fees, only adds to the litigation here for trademarks, trade secrets, patents and copyrights. The Milwaukee office also sees several real estate and securities matters. The firm’s sports industry practice receives attention for representing big names such as the Green Bay Packers and Jacksonville Jaguars.

**Michael Bowen** receives recommendation for his commercial litigation practice at the trial and appellate level for lender liability and franchises. Peers praise the work of **Jon Christiansen** for his array of case work including antitrust, construction, energy and insurance dispute resolution. Former chair of the distribution and franchise practice, Christiansen focuses primarily on commercial litigation. With more than 30 years of experience, **James Clark** has a significant litigation and alternate dispute resolution practice with areas of emphasis including real estate, contract, product liabilities and professional malpractice defense. Associate **Maksim Chester** is a member of the securities and insurance litigation teams. He focuses mainly on the defense of government enforcement actions and internal corporate investigations. **Paul Hunter**’s main focus lies in electronic and patent matters. Hunter has created patenting programs at two national banks. He practices within “clean technologies,” or “products,

services and processes designed to reduce or eliminate environmental impacts.”

The Madison attorneys at **Heller Ehrman** receive mention for litigation representing “diverse practice areas such as intellectual property rights and Indian Affairs.” The firm sees its fair share of antitrust and energy matters as well, catering to a client base with ties to the science and technology industry. Almost all of the lawyers within the Wisconsin office have a connection to the intellectual property industry. Past clients include Philip Morris and Wisconsin Paper Council.

**Charles Curtis** receives praise for his complex commercial practice handling antitrust, intellectual property and consumer litigation. Curtis founded the appeals and strategy practice, and has roughly 25 years of experience in counseling and litigating. His cases involve firms, trade groups, governmental bodies and sometimes tribal entities. **John Skilton** divides his time between Madison and Washington focusing on intellectual property matters in the form of patents and trademarks. With nearly 40 years as a trial lawyer, Skilton has tried “more than a dozen patent cases.” Associate **Christopher Hanewicz** handles intellectual property in the life sciences division, as well as securities litigation.

**Michael Best & Friedrich** is a regional firm with a national and global reach for its notable commercial litigation practice. The firm houses more than 200 attorneys in locations around the state including Milwaukee, Madison, Waukesha and Manitowoc. Additional offices include Chicago, Beijing and Shanghai. The firm has served clients in Wisconsin for more than 150 years, and offers a diverse litigation practice for its similarly diverse client base. The litigators pride themselves on being “seasoned in all aspects of pre-trial procedure and discovery,” and “have the skills and experience necessary to obtain successful results in arbitrations, mediations and all forms of alternative dispute resolution.”

## Local litigation firms

### Highly recommended

Foley & Lardner

Heller Ehrman

Michael Best & Friedrich

Quarles & Brady

### Recommended

Godfrey & Kahn

Kravit Hovel & Krawczyk

Liebmann Conway Olejniczak & Jerry

Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren

Stafford Rosenbaum

von Briesen & Roper

**“The ‘innovative spirit pervades all aspects of [the] business,’ and blends ‘relevant services with first-hand industry experience.’”**

- Foley & Lardner



## Local litigation stars

Michael Bowen  
Foley & Lardner

George Burnett  
Liebmann Conway Olejniczak & Jerry

Brian Butler  
Stafford Rosenbaum

Jon Christiansen  
Foley & Lardner

James Clark  
Foley & Lardner

Gregory Conway  
Liebmann Conway Olejniczak & Jerry

Charles Curtis  
Heller Ehrman

Frank Daily  
Quarles & Brady

Scott Hansen  
Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren

Stephen Kravit  
Kravit Hovel & Krawczyk

Beth Kushner  
von Briesen & Roper

Stuart Parsons  
Quarles & Brady

David Peterson  
Godfrey & Kahn

John Skilton  
Heller Ehrman

Donald Schott  
Quarles & Brady

James Troupis  
Michael Best & Friedrich

Eric Van Vugt  
Quarles & Brady

Brady Williamson  
Godfrey & Kahn

Major practice areas of the firm include intellectual property, products liability and business torts. The firm recently welcomed 15 new associates to its many offices, as it continues to grow its litigation presence.

Past chair of the litigation practice, **James Troupis** has a range of experience including intellectual property, antitrust, products liability, breach of contract and securities cases. **Charles Crueger** receives recognition for handling intellectual property and business litigation matters with a focus on patents and complex commercial issues. Representative clients include Proctor & Gamble and AT&T.

Peers praise the work of **Quarles & Brady** for its extensive litigation practice with local Milwaukee roots. What once was a small firm has grown to encompass approximately 450 lawyers spread across offices including

### Recommended firms

**Godfrey & Kahn** has more than 190 attorneys in five Wisconsin offices and shops in the District of Columbia and Shanghai. The firm has lasting relationships with clients based on “developing innovative solutions in the course of providing excellent legal advice and client service.” Partners emphasize effectively representing the client in the most appropriate and cost-effective manner. Clients include Kohl’s Department Stores, Land’s End and Google. The firm recently expanded its operations in the state with the addition of six new associates. **David Peterson’s** litigation practice emphasizes products liability and employment matters. Past client representations include obtaining a favorable settlement as lead counsel for Heart Technology in a medical device product liability case and receiving a

**“The litigators pride themselves on being ‘seasoned in all aspects of pre-trial procedure and discovery.’”**

- *Michael Best & Friedrich*

Madison, Chicago, Phoenix and Tucson. The firm maintains a “common-sense, solution-oriented approach” to meeting a client’s needs. Clients of the firm include national and multinational corporations, government agencies, nonprofit groups, charities and high-net-worth individuals. Litigation strengths include antitrust, intellectual property, products liability and securities. Representative work includes defending a pharmaceutical company in several patent infringement matters, and obtaining a complete defense verdict for Manitowoc Boom Trucks in a products liability case.

**Frank Daily** heads the products liability practice for the firm’s national group of litigators. Daily has handled cases in “state and federal courts throughout the country,” and is a member of the Product Liability Advisory Council. Sherwin-Williams, Mautz Paint Company and Miller Brewing are all past clients. **Stuart Parsons** has more than 40 years of experience handling business litigation matters with an emphasis on securities and antitrust class actions. Harnischfeger Industries, Harley-Davidson, Kohler and Microsoft are all notable past clients. **Donald Schott** and **Eric Van Vugt** receive mention for their deep knowledge of the litigation market. Schott handles securities and health care related litigation, while Van Vugt focuses on professional liability and products liability. Peers praise the work of **Steven Berryman** for his experience handling cases related to business torts and antitrust issues, as well as **Cristina Hernandez-Malaby** for her complex commercial experience in class actions.

summary judgment for an international trademark licensing dispute. **Brady Williamson** receives praise for his focus on First Amendment, media law and campaign finance disputes. He is involved in constitutional and election law projects in Iraq, Sudan and Ukraine. Peers laud the work of **Jonathan Ingrisano** for his work on internal corporate investigations, trade secrets and product liability matters. Registered patent attorney **Roxana Wizorek** receives mention for her intellectual property practice.

Litigation boutique **Kravit Hovel & Krawczyk** handles an array of litigation for clients around the state. The firm boasts an expertise in fraud, insurance, intellectual property infringement, securities and commercial claims. Past clients include American Suzuki Motors, Colony Insurance Group and the Wisconsin Education Association Council. **Stephen Kravit** handles business litigation matters in securities, antitrust and white-collar criminal defense.

A prominent firm in Northeast Wisconsin, **Liebmann Conway Olejniczak & Jerry** receives peer recommendations as a top firm for professional malpractice, construction and real estate litigation. Started in 1976, the firm now employs roughly 20 lawyers. Commercial litigation in insurance, labor and employment, medical malpractice and product liability receive mention for the firm’s top lawyers. Past clients include Krueger International and Bellin Health. **George Burnett** and **Gregory Conway** both receive commendation by peers for their legal acumen. Burnett handles litigation involving

## Future stars

Steven Berryman  
Quarles & Brady

Patrick Brennan  
von Briesen & Roper

Maksim Chester  
Foley & Lardner

Drew Cochrane  
Stafford Rosenbaum

Paul Hunter  
Foley & Lardner

Chuck Crueger  
Michael Best & Friedrich

Christopher Hanewicz  
Heller Ehrman

Cristina Hernandez-Malaby  
Quarles & Brady

Jonathan Ingrisano  
Godfrey & Kahn

Daryll Neuser  
Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren

Laura Perez  
Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren

Amie Trupke  
Stafford Rosenbaum

David Weber  
Liebmann Conway Olejniczak & Jerry

Roxana Wizorek  
Godfrey & Kahn

intellectual property, workers compensation, employment, real estate and insurance coverage, while Conway focuses on corporate law and litigation. **David Weber** receives praise for his products liability, personal injury and fraud practice, and has handled more than 40 trials.

With three offices in Wisconsin, and one in Illinois, **Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren** is recommended for its ability to handle various areas of business litigation. Top practice areas include antitrust, securities, intellectual property, employment and real estate law. The firm houses approximately 200 attorneys and serves a diverse client base. The trial teams at the firm “focus on particular kinds of cases or on particular industries,” in order to provide clients with the best service. Past clients of the firm include the City of Milwaukee, Harley-Davidson, Mellon Consulting and Weigel Broadcasting. **Scott Hansen** receives mention for his franchise and unfair competition practices. Past case work includes winning a “no-liability decision for a motor vehicle manufacturer” that was “accused of misappropriating trade secrets allegedly worth \$250 million.” Also receiving recommendation is **Daryll Neuser**, who represents clients in labor and employment litigation such as discrimination claims and union relationships.

Madison firm **Stafford Rosenbaum** is a business-focused litigation firm with several local and national clients. Litigation practice strengths include contract, construction, intellectual property and real estate. The firm

serves several industries such as a manufacturer of construction equipment, copyright holders and motor vehicle manufacturers in “lemon law and breach of warranty cases.” Caterpillar, Madison Development Corporation and Madison Gas and Electric are all past clients of the firm.

**Brian Butler** brings more than 40 years of litigation experience to his clients in cases involving products liability, contract disputes, breach of fiduciary duty, intellectual property and defamation. **Drew Cochrane** handles a variety of commercial litigation including contracts and labor and employment, while colleague **Amie Trupke** focuses her practice on business litigation such as intellectual property, building construction and contract disputes.

Peers recommend **von Briesen & Roper** for its strong litigation presence and extensive framework of offices around the state. Madison, Milwaukee, Racine, Mequon and Brookfield are all locations. The litigation practice includes emphasis on class actions, antitrust, healthcare, insurance coverage, professional responsibility and construction disputes. The firm recently lost one of its lawyers, who left to launch his own firm, but the firm remains strong. Peers and competitors praise the work of **Beth Kushner** who handles complex commercial disputes with an emphasis on “cases [that] involve high exposure and difficult facts.” **Patrick Brennan** receives mention for his diverse trial practice encompassing civil and criminal cases, with an emphasis on white-collar criminal law.



## SCOTT HANSEN



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Scott Hansen has litigated and counseled clients about disputes with competitors, suppliers, dealers, distributors and franchisees for 30 years. His clients are large and mid-sized businesses across the manufacturing and service sectors. Their disputes frequently involve antitrust, antitermination and business relationship statutes, fraud and other aggravated behavior, intellectual property and trade secrets. Scott also helps clients create, consolidate and modify their domestic and international distribution systems in ways that reduce the risk and cost of litigation.

In *Chambers USA, America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, Scott's competitors describe him as "a tough and extremely smart litigator," and year after year have named him among the best business litigators in Wisconsin. He is listed in *Best Lawyers in America* and among the top 50 Super Lawyers in Wisconsin by *Law & Politics Magazine*, and has been elected a fellow of the Wisconsin Law Foundation and a member of the American Law Institute.

Scott's recent successes include winning a no-liability decision for a motor vehicle manufacturer wrongfully accused of misappropriating trade secrets allegedly worth \$250 million, winning summary judgment for a cleaning products manufacturer wrongfully sued by eight dealers seeking more than \$200 million in damages and injunctive relief and winning summary judgment for Milwaukee County and the Milwaukee County Pension Board, dismissing all claims that they wrongfully enacted over \$150 million of unconstitutional new pension benefits.

For more information and a list of Scott's reported decisions, please go to [www.reinhardt.com](http://www.reinhardt.com).

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Boerner Van Deuren s.c. Attorneys at Law

## DARYLL NEUSER



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Daryll Neuser is a shareholder in the firm's labor and employment department and works closely with the firm's litigation department. Daryll represents a wide range of employers who need practical, creative, management-side counsel to help them preempt and deal with difficult and complex labor challenges.

Before practicing law, Daryll acquired several years of experience as a human resources professional in two manufacturing corporations, one of which was a unionized facility. This hands-on experience has enabled Daryll to provide his clients with insights into the relationship between their business objectives and legal constraints with the goal being to actively manage the business without unnecessary litigation.

When litigation does result, however, Daryll zealously represents his clients before state and federal administrative agencies as well as in state and federal court. Examples of Daryll's recent work include working with many clients to obtain no probable cause determinations in employment discrimination claims before incurring the costs of formal litigation, litigating and managing over 40 business closing complaints, totally avoiding liability for the client, and obtaining summary judgment on the retaliation claims of a Fair Labor Standards Act collective action to effectively bring the litigation to conclusion, initiating unfair labor practice proceedings against a union and persuading the National Labor Relations Board to issue a secondary boycott complaint against the union, effectively ending consumer appeals and other pressures on Reinhart's client and its customers and defending clients in many industries in unfair labor practice litigation before the National Labor Relation Board.

Daryll's professional affiliations include the State Bar of Wisconsin, the American Bar Association (Labor and Employment Division) and the Society for Human Resources Management. He is also a member of the advisory board for the Greater Madison Society for Human Resources Management. In addition to his work for the profession, Daryll is involved in his community through a variety of volunteer activities including Relay for Life, an event to benefit the American Cancer Society.

An established writer and speaker, Daryll has published several practical articles on topical labor and employment issues for both legal and industry journals including "Seven Rules for Working With an Attorney", January 2003, *HR Magazine*, "Whistleblower Protection for Wisconsin Health Care Workers", May 2004, *Wisconsin Lawyer* and "How to Conduct Effective Investigations of Workplace Matters", June 2005, *Employee Relations Law Journal*. Daryll is a frequent speaker to business and professional audiences including human resources professional organizations and in-house groups of corporate HR professionals. *Law & Politics* has regularly recognized Daryll as one of Wisconsin's Rising Stars, ranking him among the top young lawyers in the state.

Daryll is an alumnus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, from which he earned a master's in industrial relations, as well as his law degree, cum laude.

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Beth Kushner specializes in complex litigation and has successfully handled a broad range of business and commercial disputes, product liability claims, fraud and RICO cases, antitrust disputes and class actions. She has a particular expertise in cases that involve high exposure and difficult facts, and her clients appreciate her creative, pragmatic and cost-effective approach to litigation.

Beth has significant experience coordinating joint defense among multiple defendants in both single lawsuits and national multi-front litigation. She has a demonstrated ability to devise and implement winning strategies and to do so without losing sight of cost, business disruption or public relations. She enjoys the respect of lawyers and judges in Wisconsin and around the country.

Beth is listed in *Who's Who in American Law*<sup>®</sup> and *The Best Lawyers in America*<sup>®</sup> and is a fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America. Since 2005, she has been named a "SuperLawyer" by *Law & Politics* in civil litigation and is also listed in the *SuperLawyers* "Corporate Counsel Edition." She is AV-rated by *Martindale-Hubbell*.

Beth is a 1979 graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law and is admitted to practice in Wisconsin, Virginia, the Eastern and Western Districts of Wisconsin, the US Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit and the United States Supreme Court.