

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

Hirst Applegate

Holland & Hart

Williams Porter Day & Neville

Yonkee & Toner

Recommended

Davis & Cannon

Hickey & Evans

Lathrop & Rutledge

Schwartz Bon Walker & Studer

Spence Law Firm

Wyoming

In the state, energy matters dominate the legal market. Wyoming, despite being the least populous state in the country, houses several litigation centers.

Cheyenne remains a legal hotbed for the state's trial matters, with a number of shops also located in Casper and Sheridan.

Highly recommended firms

Emerging into the state's scene in the early 1970s, **Hirst Applegate** has quickly grown into one of the most respectable and dependable firms in Wyoming. The Cheyenne-based firm is able in the areas of civil litigation, employment, energy, real estate, as well as business and commercial matters. Attorneys **Billie Addleman** and **Gary Scott** recently obtained a summary judgment on behalf of their clients, real estate brokers whom plaintiffs allege sold them a house with various defects. In its complex civil litigation representation, the Hirst Applegate team represents a number of industries, including manufacturing, biomedicine, hospitals, financial services and insurance. In the recent defense of a Wyoming coal mine, the firm obtained a defense verdict on behalf of its client in a personal injury action. A recent appeal found the US Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit ruling in favor of firm clients in a personal injury matter. The trial court granted summary judgment on behalf of Hirst Applegate's clients and the Court of Appeals agreed with the trial court's decision.

Firm stalwart **Thomas Nicholas** has been at the firm for more than 30 years. With a focus on insurance defense, environmental and commercial litigation, he is proficient in handling matters relating to personal injury, wrongful death, as well as oil and gas disputes.

Regional firm **Holland & Hart's** expansion into the Rocky Mountains area has been quite fruitful. A successful shop in Denver led to the opening of two offices in Wyoming. In 1981, the Cheyenne office was established, providing clients with representation in natural resources, litigation and business matters. Complex civil litigation, including class actions, tax, labor and employment and construction matters, is at the forefront of the firm's representative experience. One of the firm's newest offices, a shop in Jackson Hole complementing the area's bustling resort community, is able in commercial, construction and real estate litigation. Representative clients include ExxonMobil

and ConocoPhillips.

Besides a wealth of experience in litigation for energy clients regarding coal contract disputes, partner **Patrick Day** also handles tax litigation for the same clients. Other clients include major coal producers, oil and gas companies, pipelines, refineries and gas plants. He is also well-versed in class action litigation in both state and federal courts.

A majority of attorneys at the Casper-based boutique **Williams Porter Day & Neville** are Wyoming natives, adding to their knowledge of the area's legal market. For more than 70 years, the firm has ample experience in energy matters, as well as a thriving personal injury and insurance defense practice. The long list of representative clients includes **AIG**, **Chubb Group**, **Conoco Phillips**, **First American Title Insurance**, **OHIC Insurance** and **Transamerica Insurance**.

Founding partner **Richard Day** houses knowledge of general law that has grown for more than 45 years. His litigation experience varies across the spectrum of civil and regulatory issues, including personal injury, professional malpractice defense, products liability, business litigation, employment, environmental and energy matters. For nearly 30 years, **Patrick Murphy** has been a Williams Porter staple. With litigation experience involving medical and legal malpractice, insurance bad faith and products liability, Murphy has recently focused his practice on personal injury and wrongful death defense cases.

Yonkee & Toner is one of the state's smallest boutiques, but the Sheridan law firm is lauded for its legal practice, particularly litigation. Handling a variety of issues, from water rights and oil and gas work to medical malpractice and civil rights disputes, the firm houses a number of high-profile clients, including **State Farm Insurance** and **Metropolitan Life Insurance**. Area clients include **Sheridan County School Districts**, **North Big Horn Hospital District** and **West Park Hospital**. Name partner **Tom Toner** is praised for his litigation specialties in oil and

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gas, natural resources, water rights and commercial matters.

Recommended firms

General practice firm **Davis & Cannon** maintains offices in Sheridan, Cheyenne and Gillette. Established in 1948, the firm is well-equipped to handle a diverse selection of litigation matters, with ample experience in national class actions, natural resources and water law disputes. Partner **Kate Fox** is noted for her general civil litigation practice, as well as expertise in employment and water law.

Providing clients with representation in a range of business matters, **Hickey & Evans** tends to focus its practice on utilities, oil and gas and environmental matters. The firm's experience includes work for Qwest, First National Bank of Wyoming and the Warren Federal Credit Union, as well as a number of

personal injury, insurance, commercial litigation and general civil litigation. Within civil litigation, **Lathrop & Rutledge** is able in employment, construction, real estate and bankruptcy representation. The firm's healthy list of clients includes Colorado Interstate Gas, Washington Group International, Amica Mutual Insurance and Schnidler Elevator Company.

Known for his expertise in civil litigation, partner **Kent Rutledge** has been at the firm since 1974. The **Lathrop & Rutledge** veteran is noted for his professional liability defense, insurance work and products liability experience.

Casper-based boutique **Schwartz Bon Walker & Studer** is recognized in the area for its insurance defense representation. The small team of seven practitioners is well-versed in various aspects of that practice, especially

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school districts and local government entities. A growing energy practice is also of note within the firm. Devoting a majority of his practice to litigation, name partner **Paul Hickey** is well-versed in commercial work, as well as oil and gas and negligence claims. His client base includes SourceGas Distribution, PacifiCorp and Rocky Mountain Power.

As a successor to the former **Lathrop & Lathrop**, **Lathrop & Rutledge** is becoming a prominent trial firm, with more than 80 percent of the practice devoted to litigation. The Cheyenne firm represents clients in the areas of products and professional liability,

Judith Studer, who is singled out for her work in commercial litigation, oil and gas and energy as well. Firmwide clients include Goodyear, Bank of the West, Scottsdale Insurance, Allstate Insurance and Safeco.

Although the firm is dominated by plaintiffs' side personal injury and wrongful death work, the **Spence Law Firm** is praised by peers for its practice, which also includes medical malpractice, civil rights and employment discrimination work. The firm was founded more than 30 years ago by Gerry Spence and the eight-partner shop remains a growing force in Wyoming.

Local litigation stars

Patrick Day
Holland & Hart

Richard Day
Williams Porter Day & Neville

Kate Fox
Davis & Cannon

Paul Hickey
Hickey & Evans

Patrick Murphy
Williams Porter Day & Neville

Thomas Nicholas
Hirst Applegate

Kent Rutledge
Lathrop & Rutledge

Judith Studer
Schwartz Bon Walker & Studer

John Sundahl
Sundahl Powers Kapp & Martin

Tom Toner
Yonkee & Toner

Future stars

Dale Cottam
Hirst Applegate

Walter Eggers III
Holland & Hart

Kay Lynn Bestol
Sundahl Powers Kapp & Martin

Matt Micheli
Holland & Hart

Lindsay Woznick
Hirst Applegate

