

ALASKA

Leading litigation firms

Highly recommended

Ashburn & Mason

Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot

Feldman Orlansky & Sanders

Patton Boggs

Recommended

Atkinson Conway & Gagnon

Bankston Gronning O'Hara

Davis Wright Tremaine

Dorsey & Whitney

Friedman Rubin & White

K&L Gates

Local litigation stars

Mark Ashburn

Ashburn & Mason

Antitrust, Employment Litigation, Environmental Criminal Law

William Bankston

Bankston Gronning O'Hara

Commercial Litigation, Construction Litigation, Dispute Resolution, Securities

Robert Bundy

Dorsey & Whitney

Business Litigation, Environmental Litigation, Health Law, Personal Injury, Professional Malpractice, White Collar Crime

Jennifer Coughlin

K&L Gates

Employment Litigation, Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury

Louisiana (Luann) Cutler

K&L Gates

Appellate, Governmental Litigation, Employment Litigation

Jeffrey Feldman

Feldman Orlansky & Sanders

Appellate, Complex Civil Litigation

Max Garner

Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot

Construction Litigation, Government Contracts, Personal Injury, Products Liability

Patrick Gilmore

Atkinson Conway & Gagnon

Commercial Litigation

Stephen Hutchings

Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot

Construction Litigation, Government Contracts, Personal Injury

Donna McCready

Friedman Rubin & White

Complex Commercial Litigation

David Oesting

Davis Wright Tremaine

Bankruptcy, Commercial Litigation, Maritime Litigation

Timothy Petumenos

Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot

Complex Civil Litigation

Douglas Serdahely

Patton Boggs

Antitrust, Environmental Litigation

Howard Trickey

Jermain Dunnagan & Owens

Appellate, Employment Law

Richard Vollertsen

Atkinson Conway & Gagnon

Personal Injury, Products Liability

Future stars

Dani Crosby

Ashburn & Mason

Matthew Findley

Ashburn & Mason

Danielle Ryman

DeLisio Moran Geraghty & Zobel

Christopher Slottee

Atkinson Conway & Gagnon

Jacob Sonneborn

Ashburn & Mason



Alaska

Real estate and development in Alaska have been only modestly affected by the economic downturn. According to local attorneys, downsizing and layoffs are not as pervasive in Alaska as in the rest of the country. Oil and gas work out of Anchorage remains robust. Clients looking for specialists in the state will need to look to Anchorage firms, as attorneys in Fairbanks are known to be general practice litigators, due to the fact that there is so much less litigation in that city.

Highly recommended firms

Ashburn & Mason

Partners at Ashburn & Mason advise oil and gas companies on all types of matters, including litigation. In order to serve their clients in the utilities industry, the firm includes a growing team that regularly practices before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. Several attorneys at the firm have prior experience in the Attorney General's office. The firm also has an active employment litigation practice.

Since 2007, the firm, including partners Mark Ashburn, Dani Crosby and Matthew Findley, has represented the State of Alaska with respect to the Point Thomson Unit, the largest undeveloped natural gas reserve in the state. In 2006, the Department of Natural Resources ("DNR") terminated the unit, and the oil companies with a stake in the project have appealed this decision to Alaska Superior Court. The consequences of this litigation are significant, as the value of the oil and gas reserves is likely billions of dollars.

Mark Ashburn is recognized as one of the best litigators in the state. Clients note that "Mark gets it. His comments are usually spot-on. He is not an effusive man, but he is judicious and renders down to succinct points what needs to be done." Ashburn handles numerous cases for the University of Alaska, including discrimination and employment suits.

“A client acknowledges that [Feldman Orlansky & Sanders] has added value in that they handle complex matters very well and have helpful analysis to contribute.”

Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot

Birch Horton has offices in Anchorage and Washington, D.C. Since 1971, Birch Horton has been litigating issues that are unique or pervasive in Alaska, like Native and Tribal law, government concessions and labor and employment law. The partners have experience representing Alaska Native Corporations, Indian housing authorities, and other parties under the Alaska Native

Claims Settlement Act, and are familiar with the various state and federal laws pertaining to the native community.

Partner **Stephen Hutchings** concentrates on commercial litigation, including construction, government contracts, and personal injury claims, and has experience in a number of jury and bench trials throughout the state. **Timothy Petumenos** handles complex civil litigation for both plaintiffs and defendants. His experience trying corruption cases with the Alaska Office of Special Prosecutors has made him particularly well equipped to handle criminal defense cases for the firm. These cases include environmental, tax and public trust issues.

Feldman Orlansky & Sanders

"Feldman Orlansky has been timely and responsive," remarks a client. He acknowledges that "the firm has added value in that they handle complex matters very well and have helpful analysis to contribute." Competitors view Feldman as "an excellent firm, especially in general commercial litigation and appellate work."

"Jeffrey Feldman is one of the best trial attorneys in Alaska," states a satisfied client. The client remarks that "he can communicate, simplify, and convey a story honestly and effectively, which is so important in a litigator. He took a very large and complicated antitrust case to trial for us and he was very impressive." Feldman is

defending British Petroleum in a civil action filed by the state of Alaska regarding an oil spill in Point Thomson. Feldman, along with his colleague Kevin Cuddy, also represents Arctic Slope Regional Corporation in a multidistrict litigation involving challenges to the federal government's decision to list the polar bear as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. The client is intervening to speak on behalf of

Iñupiat Eskimos living on Alaska's North Slope.

Patton Boggs

Patton Boggs is a Washington, D.C.-based firm that is known for their lobbying and regulatory business. One Alaska corporate executive explains that while he uses other firms for his litigation work, he looks to Patton Boggs to provide lobbying advice for his business.

Patton Boggs does counsel local clients and clients with interests in Alaska with respect to several issues that are particularly relevant within the state, including oil and gas, natural resources, utilities, government contracting, corporate governance for ANCSA corporations, public finance, and Alaska Native Law. Patton Boggs' major client in Alaska is ExxonMobil Corporation. **Douglas Serdahely** represented the company in the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill litigation. His other clients include Marathon Oil Company, Matanuska Electric Company, and Travelers Insurance Company. Serdahely has experience representing various energy, transportation and fuel distribution companies in Alaska.

Recommended firms

Atkinson Conway & Gagnon

Some local partners observe that they are less likely to see Atkinson partners litigating, since "they have some experienced senior people that are practicing less and less." Still, the firm continues to provide legal representation for the local community, and partners like **Patrick Gilmore** and **Richard Vollertsen** lead the way. Patrick Gilmore has experience in all manner of civil litigation, including state and local taxation issues, creditor's rights and bankruptcy litigation, real estate litigation, accounting malpractice, and employment litigation. Richard Vollertsen serves as the firm's managing partner, and concentrates his practice on personal injury matters.

Bankston Gronning O'Hara

Bankston Gronning O'Hara has been in Anchorage for thirty years, and the firm's nine attorneys have expertise in general business litigation. The litigators at the firm have experience trying cases at the state and federal level, and have also represented clients in arbitration and mediation work. The firm handles construction litigation on behalf of owners, architects and contractors on both private and public projects. **William Bankston** has represented banks, developers, real estate brokers, contractors and syndicators. He has argued before the U.S. Court of Appeals and Supreme Court of Alaska.

Davis Wright Tremaine

The Anchorage office of Davis Wright

Tremaine offers services in all areas of civil litigation, emphasizing labor and employment, environmental litigation, bankruptcy, health law and intellectual property. **David Oesting** represents clients in commercial and maritime litigation, and has specific expertise representing creditors in bankruptcy proceedings. He is currently defending Alaska cost recovery claims

Dorsey & Whitney

Dorsey & Whitney counsels all manner of clients from their Anchorage office, including local, national, and international companies doing business in Alaska. The firm has offices around the country, and can offer clients with local interests in Alaska all the capabilities of a national firm. **Robert Bundy** is recognized as a leader in commercial and business

faith, professional liability, personal injury, wrongful death and complex commercial litigation. Founding partner **Richard Friedman** is a nationally acclaimed trial lawyer. Peers also compliment partner **Donna McCready** for her personal injury work.

K&L Gates

K&L Gates has a strong employment litigation practice and has represented employers in litigation over wrongful discharge, discrimination, FMLA, sexual harassment, wage and hour and ERISA issues. **Luann Cutler** is noted by peers for her work on employment issues on behalf of private clients and non-profits. Cutler's primary work involves advising the State of Alaska and local municipalities on a wide swath of legal issues. **Jennifer Coughlin** concentrates her practice on complex commercial litigation, including medical malpractice, personal injury, and employment litigation. Her experience with personal injury disputes is especially varied; she has handled cases involving maritime issues, accidents involving automobiles and guns, premises liability issues, and related insurance coverage issues. She also has experience on both the plaintiff and defense side of class actions.

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concerning the cleanup of PCB's at a former U.S. defense site. In 2008, he acted as lead counsel for more than 30,000 plaintiffs in the consolidated proceedings of more than 250 actions brought by local Alaskans injured as a result of Exxon Valdez oil spill. At the conclusion of a four month trial, the jury awarded \$257 million in compensatory damages and \$5 billion in punitive damages.

litigation, and has taken over 200 cases to trial in his career. He also has experience in white-collar criminal defense.

Friedman Rubin & White

Since the firm's inception in 1982, Friedman Rubin & White has been identified as one of the best shops to bring a personal injury suit to trial in Alaska. The firm only selects a minimal number of cases each year, but the partners regularly try cases involving insurance bad

