

# CONNECTICUT

## Leading litigation firms

### Highly Recommended

Carmody & Torrance

Day Pitney

Robinson & Cole

Shipman & Goodwin

Wiggin & Dana

### Recommended

Cowdery Ecker & Murphy

Finn Dixon & Herling

Fogarty Cohen Selby & Nemiroff

Halloran & Sage

Hurwitz Sagarin Slossberg & Knuff

Izard Nobel

Jacobs Grudberg Belt Dow & Katz

Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder

Levett Rockwood

McCarter & English

Murtha Cullina

Pepe & Hazard

Pullman & Comley

Silver Golub & Teitell

Tobin Carberry O'Malley Riley & Selinger

## Local litigation stars

### Bradford Babbitt

Robinson & Cole

Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property

### Aaron Bayer

Wiggin & Dana

Appellate, Commercial Litigation

### David Belt

Jacobs Grudberg Belt Dow & Katz

Antitrust, Appellate, Business Litigation, Employment Litigation

### Francis Brady

Murtha Cullina

Insurance

### James Budinetz

Pepe & Hazard

Complex Business Litigation

### James Cowdery

Cowdery Ecker & Murphy

Commercial Litigation, White Collar Crime

### Maureen Danehy Cox

Carmody & Torrance

Commercial Litigation, Employment Litigation

### George Dagon

Murtha Cullina

Insurance, Products Liability

### Anthony Fitzgerald

Carmody & Torrance

Administrative Law, Commercial Litigation

### Daniel "Dan" FitzMaurice

Day Pitney

Appellate, Insurance

### Evan Flaschen

Bracewell & Giuliani

Bankruptcy

### Jim Fogarty

Fogarty Cohen Selby & Nemiroff

Appellate, Complex Civil Litigation

### David Golub

Silver Golub & Teitell

Civil Rights Litigation, Employment Litigation

### Steven Greenspan

Day Pitney

Commercial Litigation, Insurance

### Mitchell Harris

Day Pitney

Complex Commercial Litigation, Insurance

### Robert Izard

Izard Nobel

Complex Commercial Litigation

### Patrick McHugh

Finn Dixon & Herling

Intellectual Property

### Hugh Murray

Murtha Cullina

Employment Law

### Kathleen Nastri

Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder

Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury

### John Nolan

Day Pitney

Bankruptcy, Energy and Utility Litigation

### Louis Pepe

Pepe & Hazard

Complex Commercial Litigation

### James Robertson

Carmody & Torrance

Commercial Litigation

### Christopher Rooney

Carmody & Torrance

Complex Commercial Litigation

### Joseph Scully

Day Pitney

Insurance, Products Liability

### James "Tim" Shearin

Pullman & Comley

Antitrust, Appellate, Intellectual Property, Products Liability, Professional Liability, Securities

### Frank Silvestri Jr.

Levett Rockwood

Antitrust, Commercial Litigation

### Elizabeth Stewart

Murtha Cullina

Complex Commercial Litigation, Insurance

### Shaun Sullivan

Wiggin & Dana

Complex Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property

### Richard Tynan

Halloran & Sage

Health Law, Insurance

### James Wade

Robinson & Cole

Antitrust, Complex Commercial Litigation, Environmental Law, Securities

### Richard Weinstein

Weinstein & Wisser

Appellate, Complex Commercial Litigation, Medical Malpractice

**Robert White**

Murtha Cullina  
Bankruptcy, Commercial Litigation

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**Robert Wyld**

Shipman & Goodwin  
Commercial Litigation, Insurance, Securities

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**Ronald "Ron" Zdrojeski**

Robinson & Cole  
Commercial Litigation, White Collar Crime

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**Angelo Ziotas**

Silver Golub & Teitell  
Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury

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Future stars

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Erika Amarante  
Wiggin & Dana

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Victoria Woodin Chavey  
Day Pitney

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David Hardy  
Carmody & Torrance

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Kevin Kennedy  
Wiggin & Dana

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Fatima Lahnin  
Carmody & Torrance

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Mariella LaRosa  
Carmody & Torrance

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Aimee Wood  
Pullman & Comley

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Daniel Young  
Wofsey Rosen Kveskin & Kuriansky

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# Connecticut

**Several circumstances have contributed to the increase in litigation out of Connecticut in 2009, including the huge losses incurred by disgruntled Connecticut-based investors and hedge funds, high levels of unemployment due to the Lehman Bros. bankruptcy, the cratering of AIG and the alleged Ponzi scheme perpetrated by Bernard Madoff. Along with these recent economic disruptions, the legal community has witnessed a significant uptick in employment litigation and legal malpractice suits. Despite the recent economic downturn, Connecticut has seen explosive growth in construction, and firms within the state have seen their practices expand in accordance with this trend.**

## Highly recommended firms

### Carmody & Torrance

Carmody & Torrance was formed over 100 years ago and has since grown to include a team of 65 lawyers in its three Connecticut offices. **Anthony Fitzgerald**, revered by peers as “one of the best litigators in New Haven,” practices commercial litigation and administrative law. Also in the New Haven office, **Christopher Rooney** practices commercial and antitrust litigation. He is representing Timex in a breach of contract case between Timex and a company licensed to use Timex’s mark, in which the licensee allegedly failed to meet its royalty payments.

In the Waterbury location, **Maureen Danehy Cox** conducts a substantial amount of employment and intellectual property litigation and has recently expanded into products liability work and utilities litigation. Within the last year, she acted as defense counsel on the case of *Forest Walk vs. WPCA of Middlebury* in which the plaintiff, a development of over 300 units, sought connection to or extension of a sewer due to their purchase of an easement over a neighbor’s property. The plaintiff subsequently brought a claim against the sewer authority when they were denied the easement. In April 2009, the court ruled in the town’s favor. Also operating out of this office, **James Robertson** is known by peers as a trial lawyer as well as a private mediator and arbitrator.

### Day Pitney

Day Pitney, formed in 2007 through the merger of Day, Berry & Howard and Pitney Hardin, is recognized among peers for having established “a commanding presence” in Connecticut. The firm currently maintains five offices throughout the state, as well as offices in Boston, Washington, D.C. and New Jersey.

**Steven Greenspan** is respected by peers as “a real trial lawyer, not just a litigator” and someone who “has a true understanding of financial markets.” In conjunction with Greenspan, **John Nolan**, who competitors call a “true pro,” is currently co-counsel in the defense of the developers and owner of

Blue Back Square, a mixed-use development, against a series of legal attacks by the developer, owner and operators of a large regional shopping mall who attempted to block the construction of Blue Back Square to preserve the mall’s competitive position. The mall’s developers failed to stop construction and Blue Back Square was completed, but Nolan and Greenspan were retained to represent Blue Back Square in its pursuit of compensation for costs and damages incurred as a result of delays caused by the litigation. In the firm’s insurance and reinsurance practices, **Daniel FitzMaurice** and **Joseph Scully** also garner peer praise.

### Robinson & Cole

Robinson & Cole is noted by one competitor as having “the most widespread presence in New England,” and the firm boasts eight offices in the area, as well as one in Florida, to support this claim. The firm contains over 200 lawyers that are admitted to practice in fifteen states. Firm “statesman” **James Wade** is described by one peer as “very persuasive” and “truly passionate. He has fire in his belly – he loves what he does.” Wade formerly served as outside counsel to the Connecticut Democratic Party and in recent years he has tried cases involving antitrust, securities fraud, government contracting fraud, mail

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fraud, and public corruption on behalf of major corporations and their employees.

**Bradford Babbitt** is also recommended by peers for his defense work involving a variety of corporate disputes. Since late 2008, he has been representing a physicians’ practice in New Mexico that purchased a large and expensive piece of medical records and billing software that turned out to be significantly faulty. **Ronald Zdrojeski** is also lauded by peers as someone who “brings a great fire

power” and “deep knowledge of class actions” to his business litigation practice.

### Shipman & Goodwin

Hartford-based Shipman & Goodwin is acknowledged by peers as “deserving of praise.” With approximately 130 lawyers operating from four offices throughout the state, the firm also ranks as one of Connecticut’s largest. Litigation department Chairman **Robert Wyld** is noted by peers as “an obvious choice” for his extensive business litigation and products liability experience.

The firm, and specifically litigator **Robert Simpson**, made news in Connecticut in June 2009 when a court ruled on behalf of its client, Exxon Mobil Corporation, in a personal injury claim in which the plaintiff sought to recover damages for an injury sustained after a fall at an Exxon gas station in 2006. The verdict was decided on Exxon’s behalf after only 40 minutes of deliberations.

### Wiggin and Dana

Wiggin and Dana is a New Haven-based firm with three offices throughout Connecticut as well as one in Philadelphia and one in New York. The firm boasts a national and international client base, with clients from as far away as Latin America calling on its services.

**Aaron Bayer** has drawn praise from peers for his “impressive” appellate practice. Prior to joining the firm, Bayer worked as Deputy Attorney General for Connecticut where he successfully defended the State’s reapportionment and redistricting plan. **Edward “Jack” Dunham** also receives acclaim from peers for his “national presence in franchise litigation.” A client calls him “very smart and very effective.”

## Recommended firms

### Cowdery Ecker & Murphy

Cowdery Ecker & Murphy is praised by one competitor as being “a first-rate firm.” **James**

Cowdery in particular is respected by peers as being “very talented” in the practice of white-collar crime and commercial litigation. The firm also maintains a healthy appellate practice, as well as personal injury and wrongful death practices. Despite being a small firm, one peer maintains that “its depth stacks up to any of the larger firms.”

### Finn Dixon & Herling

New Haven-based Finn Dixon & Herling

provides corporate, transactional, securities, investment management, tax, executive compensation, bankruptcy and litigation counsel. Its clients include venture capital and private equity firms, financial institutions, hedge funds and investment advisors, public and private businesses, executives, management teams and entrepreneurs. The firm is regarded by peers as having “the best investment practice in the state.” **Donna Heller** is noted for her ability to work with investors and stockholders, question management, and address breach of fiduciary duty issues.

#### Fogarty Cohen Selby & Nemiroff

Greenwich-based Fogarty Cohen Selby & Nemiroff is recommended by peers for having a “noteworthy” real estate, commercial and civil litigation practice. **James Fogarty** is described by peers as “like a whip.” He has tried more than 100 civil cases before judges and juries in federal and state courts, and has argued more than 40 cases at the appellate level.

#### Halloran & Sage

Formed in 1935, Halloran & Sage has grown to include three offices throughout Connecticut and one in Washington, D.C. The firm specializes in business and securities law and insurance. One peer notes that “they are an impressive group, definitely making a name for themselves.” **John Farley** is a nationally recognized trial and appellate lawyer who has handled more than 70 cases as lead counsel.

#### Hurwitz Sagarin Slossberg & Knuff

Hurwitz Sagarin Slossberg & Knuff, operating out of Milford since 1967, specializes in real estate law but also offers services including civil and criminal litigation, insurance and reinsurance. The firm is led by **Lewis Hurwitz**, who one peer describes as “very knowledgeable in real estate, more so than many [other attorneys].”

#### Izard Nobel

Izard Nobel is a class actions firm that represents investors, employees, consumers and businesses. The firm divides its practices into four areas that target corporate wrongdoing: investor protection, retirement plans, consumer, and antitrust. The firm recently announced that a lawsuit seeking class certification has been filed in California on behalf of those who purchased common stock of Accuray Inc., which is alleged to have violated federal securities laws by failing to disclose material information concerning contracts in its “backlog.” **Robert Izard** is specifically recommended by peers.

#### Jacobs Grudberg Belt Dow & Katz

Jacobs Grudberg Belt Dow & Katz is a New Haven firm specializing in personal injury

and medical malpractice as well as antitrust issues. Rather than being full-service, the firm prides itself on being strictly a litigation-based operation. **David Belt** and **Ira Grudberg** are both noted by peers as being “formidable opponents” in litigation.

#### Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder

Plaintiffs’ firm Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder practices litigation from four offices throughout Connecticut. Spearheaded by **Michael Koskoff** and **Richard Bieder**, the firm handles class actions with an emphasis on medical malpractice and personal injury, as well as commercial litigation. As of February 2009, the firm is representing Bridgeport Bluefish catcher John Nathans in

presence in New England. In addition to a broad litigation practice, the firm also offers advisory services. The firm has benefited from explosive growth in Connecticut’s construction industry, and has been handling litigation in this arena. **Hugh Murray** is noted by one competitor as “very strong” for his work in employment litigation.

#### Pepe & Hazard

With three offices in Connecticut and one in Boston, Pepe & Hazard makes its initial appearance among the state’s recommended firms. **Louis Pepe** receives several mentions from the Connecticut legal community for being “a gifted trial lawyer” for his handling

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an assault case filed in federal court against a bat-wielding assailant from an opposing team who allegedly caused Nathan severe head injuries after Nathans tried to protect his team’s pitcher, the initial target of the attack.

#### Levett Rockwood

Westport-based Levett Rockwood represents Connecticut health care providers, including acute-care and specialty hospitals, long-term care facilities, and physician groups. Its litigation group also handles a wide range of commercial and white-collar criminal disputes. Additionally, the firm practices in the areas of commercial real estate, advertising, sweepstakes, intellectual property and personal planning. **Frank Silvestri Jr.** represents clients in commercial disputes including antitrust, unfair trade practice and business tort claims, breach of fiduciary duty and securities claims, healthcare matters, and construction and real property claims.

#### McCarter & English

With one office in Hartford and another in Stamford, McCarter & English have established a “respectable” presence in Connecticut. “They are certainly well recognized” says one competitor. The firm’s local offices practice business, commercial, intellectual property and products liability litigation. **David Reif** has handled a variety of complex civil cases in both state and federal courts, and has tried dozens of jury cases to verdict.

#### Murtha Cullina

Murtha Cullina maintains four offices in Connecticut as well as two in Massachusetts, establishing a significant

of complex litigation matters in state and federal court. The firm has seen an extensive amount of litigation due to growth in construction, and this area of its practice is tipped as being “great and expanding.”

#### Pullman & Comley

Pullman & Comley is another new entry to the Connecticut rankings this year, although the firm was established in 1919. The firm has four offices in Connecticut and one in New York. Competitors acknowledge that **James “Tim” Shearin** is “talented, smart, and well-prepared.” Shearin represents clients at the trial and appellate level in commercial and civil litigation, intellectual property, securities, and antitrust.

#### Silver Golub & Teitell

Stamford personal injury plaintiffs’ firm Silver Golub & Teitell is known in the legal community as consisting of “really good trial lawyers.” Litigators **David Golub** and **Peter Mason Dreyer** made news in June 2009 when they successfully represented the family of a man who died in an apartment fire. The town of Greenwich agreed to pay \$1.4 million to his family, who alleged that the town firefighters did not perform a thorough enough search of the building. **Angelo Ziotas** is tipped by a competitor as a future star for his medical malpractice work.

#### Tobin Carberry O’Malley Riley & Selinger

Tobin Carberry O’Malley Riley & Selinger has been in operation in southeastern Connecticut since 1963. The firm practices intellectual property and personal injury litigation. **Glenn Carberry** is regarded by one peer as being “the finest litigator in the Norwich area.”