

DELAWARE

Local litigation firms

Highly Recommended

Abrams & Laster

Morris Nichols Arsht & Tunnell

Potter Anderson & Corroon

Richards Layton & Finger

Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom

Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor

Recommended

Ashby & Geddes

Balick & Balick

Bouchard Margules & Friedlander

Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz

Duane Morris

Grant & Eisenhofer

Greenberg Traurig

Morris James

Prickett Jones & Elliot

Proctor Heyman

Seitz Van Ogtrop & Green

Local litigation stars

Kevin Abrams

Abrams & Laster
Complex Commercial Litigation

Thomas Allingham

Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom
Commercial Litigation

Lawrence Ashby

Ashby & Geddes
Commercial Litigation

R. Franklin Balotti

Richards Layton & Finger
Commercial Litigation

Andre Bouchard

Bouchard Margules & Friedlander
Commercial Litigation

Tony Clark

Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom
Bankruptcy

Donald Detweiler

Greenberg Traurig
Bankruptcy, Complex Commercial Litigation

Raymond DiCamillo

Richards Layton & Finger
Commercial Litigation

Jesse Finkelstein

Richards Layton & Finger
Commercial Litigation

Daniel Folt

Duane Morris
Commercial Litigation

Joel Friedlander

Bouchard Margules & Friedlander
Commercial Litigation

James Geddes

Ashby & Geddes
Commercial Litigation

Michael Goldman

Potter Anderson & Corroon
Commercial Litigation

Stuart Grant

Grant & Eisenhofer
Securities

John Hendershot

Richards Layton & Finger
Commercial Litigation

Richard Herrmann

Morris James
Complex Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property

James Holzman

Prickett Jones & Elliot
Complex Commercial Litigation, Securities

Richard Horwitz

Potter Anderson & Corroon
Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property

Rudolf Hutz

Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz
Intellectual Property

John James

Potter Anderson & Corroon
Bankruptcy, Commercial Litigation, Insurance

William Lafferty

Morris Nichols Arsht & Tunnell
Commercial Litigation

Travis Laster

Abrams & Laster
Complex Commercial Litigation

Lewis Lazarus

Morris James
Complex Commercial Litigation

David Margules

Bouchard Margules & Friedlander
Commercial Litigation, Insurance

David McBride

Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor
Commercial Litigation

Edward McNally

Morris James
Commercial Litigation

Chip Price Jr.

Potter Anderson & Corroon
Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Collins "CJ" Seitz

Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz
Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property

A Gilchrist Sparks

Morris Nichols Arsht & Tunnell
Commercial Litigation

Robert Stearn

Richards Layton & Finger
Bankruptcy

Allen Terrell

Richards Layton & Finger
Commercial Litigation

Martin Tully

Morris Nichols Arsht & Tunnell
Commercial Litigation

Gregory Varallo

Richards Layton & Finger
Complex Commercial Litigation

William Wade

Richards Layton & Finger
Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property

Edward Welch

Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom
Commercial Litigation, Securities

Gregory Williams

Richards Layton & Finger
Commercial Litigation

Donald Wolfe

Potter Anderson & Corroon
Commercial Litigation

Future stars

Rolin Bissell
Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor

Anna Gaza
Richards Layton & Finger

Daniel Griffith
Whiteford Taylor & Preston

Thomas Hanson
Morris James

Margaret Manning
Whiteford Taylor & Preston

Kenneth Nachbar
Morris Nichols Arsht & Tunnell

Srinivas Raju
Richards Layton & Finger

Chad Shandler
Richards Layton & Finger

Kevin Shannon
Potter Anderson & Corroon

David Teklits
Morris Nichols Arsht & Tunnell

Jennifer Voss
Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom

Peter Walsh
Potter Anderson & Corroon

Christian D. Wright
Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor



Delaware

Delaware's flexible incorporation laws make it an attractive headquarters for large corporations. More than half of all U.S. companies listed on the New York Stock Exchange and 63 percent of Fortune 500 businesses have incorporated in the state. Naturally, Delaware is also a hotbed for corporate disputes, and in the current unstable economic climate lawyers in the state are seeing an explosion of lawsuits being filed against officers and directors. The Delaware Court of Chancery requires that every plaintiff and defendant that wants his dispute to be adjudicated in the state hire a member of the Delaware Bar.

Highly recommended firms

Abrams & Laster

Corporate and business law boutique firm Abrams & Laster focuses on high-stakes litigation with respect to complex issues unique to Delaware law at both the trial and appellate level. Peers describe main partners **Kevin Abrams** and **Travis Laster** as “stunningly tenacious.” Abrams & Laster maintains a policy of accepting only those matters which offer the firm significant involvement, and its partners regularly act as lead counsel. Abrams & Laster also advises clients in other jurisdictions on matters involving the intricacies of Delaware law.

In 2008 the firm successfully defended **Hank Greenberg**, the former Chairman and CEO of **AIG**, against allegations that he benefited from allegedly self-interested transactions between **AIG** and companies that he owned or co-owned. One of the firm's major clients commends **Kevin Abrams** for being “sophisticated and direct, with the ability to successfully predict possible outcomes and achieve the desired result.”

Delaware Supreme Court. **Kenneth Nachbar** receives accolades from multiple community members for his “professionalism” and “expert guidance” in handling litigation arising from mergers and acquisitions and disputes relating to Delaware corporations.

Potter Anderson & Corroon

Tracing its beginnings to 1826, **Potter Anderson & Corroon** lays claim to being the oldest firm in Delaware and the eighth-oldest continually active firm in the United States. The firm engages in all manner of commercial litigation, bankruptcy and intellectual property matters, and is often retained by other firms as local counsel.

Chairman **Donald Wolfe** is regarded by the community as a “tremendous” litigator who “adheres to the highest standards of Delaware law.” In the last year, Wolfe was involved in the **Bank of America** shareholder litigation which challenged **Bank of America's** acquisition of **Merrill Lynch**. He also represented **Hexion Specialty Chemicals** and **Apollo Management** in expedited litigation relating to the merger agreement between **Hexion** and **Huntsman Corporation**. **Peter**

has seen an “explosion” since the 1990s. Additionally, the firm's corporate advisory group counsels Delaware corporations on corporate governance issues arising from transactions such as mergers, acquisitions, spin-offs, restructurings, divestitures and recapitalizations.

Corporate department chair **Gregory Williams** is respected by peers as “very good in argument” and a litigator “you feel comfortable referring cases to.” In 2008, he successfully defended an application to enjoin the acquisition of **WCI Steel, Inc.** by **Russia's Severstal**. **R. Franklin Balotti** frequently defends and advises corporate board members sued by stockholders for breach of fiduciary duty. **Srinivas Raju** is tipped as a future star for his substantial alternative entity litigation practice, and **Raymond DiCamillo** is also recommended for litigation matters relating to Delaware business organizations and their fiduciaries and constituents. **Raju** and **DiCamillo** are acknowledged by one competitor as “future leaders” in their respective practices.

Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom

The Wilmington office of New York-based **Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom** handles litigation, reorganizations and restructurings for Fortune 500 companies and corporate clients. With approximately 60 attorneys located in Delaware, the firm is known for its “extensive knowledge and experience” in the Chancery court, which has allowed it to attain an edge in competition with local firms. One such competitor claims “they are the only out-of-town firm to open a branch here that plays a major role in big corporate cases.”

Edward Welch concentrates on corporate and securities litigation, including the defense of class actions and derivative actions. His clients include major players across diverse industries, such as **Coca-Cola**, **Citigroup**, **Activision** and **HealthSouth**. **Welch's** partner **Thomas Allingham** is known among peers as being a “great litigator, great writer and persuasive communicator.” **Anthony Clark** heads the corporate restructuring and bankruptcy litigation practice in **Skadden's** Delaware office and is also referred to by peers as a “very good corporate and securities lawyer.”

Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor

With offices in **Georgetown** and **Middletown** as well as its **Wilmington** headquarters, **Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor** offers practices relating to bankruptcy and commercial litigation and maintains a substantial intellectual property and employment law presence. The firm's clients range from national and international corporations, to small businesses and individuals needing legal assistance, and many of the clients are colleagues in the local and national legal community.

Sheldon Sandler is noted for his employment and labor law practice. In May 2009, **Sandler**

“Donald Wolfe is regarded by the community as a ‘tremendous’ litigator who ‘adheres to the highest standards of Delaware law.’”

Morris Nichols Arshat & Tunnell

Morris Nichols Arshat & Tunnell is described by competitors as “generally very strong” and its partners “can always be counted on for good work product.” The firm specializes in general commercial litigation, bankruptcy, and intellectual property, though it considers itself “a full-service firm where everybody does everything.” **A. Gilchrist Sparks**, who is called “great” and “a dean of the Delaware corporate litigation bar” by peers, concentrates on litigation arising from mergers and acquisitions and corporate governance disputes. **William Lafferty** is acknowledged as “well known” by peers, and his practice focuses on shareholder class actions and derivative actions in the Chancery and

Walsh is described as a “terrific” corporate and commercial litigator on both the trial and appellate levels, and his legal prowess is summed up by one peer thusly: “he just wins.” **Michael Goldman's** practice focuses primarily on the fiduciary relationship between Delaware businesses and their owners and managers.

Richards Layton & Finger

Richards Layton & Finger is Delaware's largest law firm, and is also one of its oldest. Partners at the firm represent clients nationally as well as locally and regionally. The firm is known by peers for having a “very deep bench” in corporate and commercial litigation, as well as a bankruptcy practice that

led a team that successfully represented Deloitte & Touche in an appeal before the Delaware Supreme Court in a case arising out of a breach of contract dispute between the company and a former partner in which the employee alleged that Deloitte did not provide him with proper notification upon his termination. The Court deemed that the former partner's claim was unreasonable since his agreement provided that his status with Deloitte was indefinite and Deloitte had properly extinguished plaintiff's expectations within the proper time frame as outlined in the agreement. **David McBride** is commended for being a "great bet-the-company lawyer" in the practice of commercial litigation.

Recommended firms

Ashby & Geddes

Ashby & Geddes, led by partners **Lawrence Ashby** and **James Geddes**, litigates in all state and federal courts in Delaware, and represents clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies to individuals. In early 2009, the firm obtained a reversal of an \$11 million judgment entered by the District Court of Delaware on behalf of Saudi American Bank against The Shaw Group, a provider of engineering, design, construction, and maintenance services. The judgment was awarded after Saudi American Bank claimed in court that Shaw had assumed certain liabilities of a company it purchased in 2000 through an auction sale.

Balick & Balick

Since its inception in 1957, Balick & Balick has evolved from a general practice firm to a firm with a more specialized focus on health law and civil litigation, with clients ranging from individuals to publicly traded corporations. The firm's health care practice is considered one of the most extensive in Delaware and encompasses fraud investigations, litigation, medical malpractice and compliance counseling. The bulk of the firm's cases are currently handled by partner **Adam Balick**.

Bouchard Margules & Friedlander

Bouchard Margules & Friedlander is a litigation boutique practicing corporate litigation, partnership and alternate entity disputes, and commercial litigation. Its partners are familiar with trying cases in the Court of Chancery. The firm also handles intellectual property matters. **Andre Bouchard** and **David Margules**, both former partners at Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom, are referred to as "highly talented" by peers.

Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz

Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz focuses on intellectual property, particularly patent litigation, as well as business litigation. In June 2009, the firm, led by **Rudolf Hutz**, successfully defended FMC Corporation in a patent dispute filed by Ecolab, Inc., in which Ecolab alleged that FMC infringed upon three

patents directed to the use of peroxyacetic acid to sanitize raw meat. **Collins J. "CJ" Seitz** is described by peers as "superior, well respected by the courts." In March 2009, Seitz, acting as co-counsel, successfully expedited a case requiring Dow Chemical Company to complete its purchase of Rohm and Haas in accordance with the terms stated in its purchase agreement.

Duane Morris

Duane Morris established its Wilmington branch in 1985 and has since maintained a multifaceted portfolio of practices there. The bulk of this location's work can be attributed to **Daniel Folt**, who maintains a national corporate and commercial litigation practice,

Morris James

With over 50 lawyers in four offices throughout Delaware, Morris James maintains a commercial litigation presence and boasts extensive expertise in Delaware contract law. The firm has been retained by DuPont to handle its Delaware litigation after a competitive selection process in which DuPont trimmed its number of outside lawyers from 300 to just 41. The firm was also chosen by ALFA International, a global network of independent law firms whose members are consistently recognized for their outstanding trial work, as its exclusive Delaware member. **Edward McNally** is regarded by one peer as "having a good grasp of the Chancery, better than many others."

“Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom is the only out-of-town firm to open a branch here that plays a major role in big corporate cases.”

which includes trial and appellate work involving corporate, securities and partnership matters. Folt also practices intellectual property litigation and recently represented a major credit card provider in a dispute concerning the right to use the mark "Platinum" in connection with a premium credit card solicitation.

Grant & Eisenhofer

Grant & Eisenhofer is a litigation boutique that concentrates on corporate governance and securities litigation and other complex class actions. **Jay Eisenhofer** litigates cases in Delaware and on a national level, and has represented the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana and the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System as co-lead plaintiffs in a securities class action against Tyco International, Ltd. involving acquisition accounting fraud. The plaintiffs reached a settlement with Tyco for \$2.975 billion and with Tyco's former auditor, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, for \$225 million. Other representative clients include DaimlerChrysler, General Motors and Pfizer.

Greenberg Traurig

National firm Greenberg Traurig opened its Delaware office in 1999 and has since operated a noteworthy business reorganization and bankruptcy practice as well as a corporate and securities practice in the state. **Donald Detweiler** is called "very sharp" by peers for his practice in the areas of bankruptcy, corporate restructuring, insolvency, creditor's rights, and post-confirmation litigation trusts, with particular experience representing debtors, creditors' committees, directors and officers, employees, acquirers and litigants in national Chapter 11 bankruptcy cases.

Prickett Jones & Elliott

Founded in 1888, Prickett Jones & Elliott practices complex corporate, alternative entity and business litigation in the Delaware Court of Chancery and other state and federal courts. The firm maintains an office in Wilmington, which is devoted to representing clients involved in business litigation, and in Dover, which provides general litigation, and personal injury services. Director **Gary Traynor** focuses on civil litigation, involving complex commercial and criminal matters.

Proctor Heyman

Proctor Heyman is a corporate litigation boutique that peers describe as "a firm you should keep your eyes peeled for," although it is less than five years old. **Vernon Proctor** and **Kurt Heyman** are mentioned as being "worthy" lawyers who "know their way around the Chancery court." Noteworthy clients include AT&T, Google, PNC Financial, Plumtree Software and Toshiba. The firm often acts as Delaware counsel in the Court of Chancery for many notable out-of-state firms.

Seitz Van Ogtrop & Green

Seitz Van Ogtrop & Green was formed in 1999 when several attorneys handling complex litigation at larger firms decided to start their own practice. For a small and relatively new player in the market, the firm has a broad practice which includes commercial litigation, personal injury, medical malpractice, bankruptcy and intellectual property. The firm has an active arbitration and mediation practice, and its members pride themselves on being effective litigators and trial lawyers in the event that matters cannot be settled.

Abrams & Laster LLP

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Firm profile:

Abrams & Laster LLP is a business litigation and advisory boutique that focuses on high stakes controversies and transactions carrying a high risk of litigation.

The firm's Litigation Practice primarily involves actions in the Delaware Court of Chancery, the nation's preeminent corporate and commercial law court, and the Delaware Supreme Court. The founding partners have been involved in nearly 300 decisions and many more cases. The firm's litigators have extensive experience representing public and private companies, stockholders, directors and executives in a wide range of business, corporate and alternative entity litigation matters at the trial and appellate level. The firm regularly litigates actions involving corporate control disputes, rights of equity holders, large public and private company controversies, complex transactions and significant valuation and appraisal proceedings. Unlike many other firms, Abrams & Laster represents plaintiffs and defendants, giving their attorneys an added measure of insight on strategic and tactical issues in transactions and litigation. The firm has a proven track record of offensive and defensive litigation, including successfully pursuing and defeating injunction applications, conducting expedited trials and prosecuting and defending claims for significant monetary, declaratory or equitable relief. In addition to their Delaware practice, Abrams & Laster frequently represents clients in other jurisdictions on matters involving Delaware law, corporate or business organization issues or other commercial disputes.

The firm's Transactional Practice primarily involves matters where there is a high risk of litigation or which raise complex or novel issues of Delaware law, such as contests for corporate control, private equity and portfolio company matters, going-private transactions, recapitalizations, refinancings and stockholder or board level disputes. Abrams & Laster also advises business entities and their constituents on Delaware issues relating to all phases of their life cycle, ranging from formation questions to continuing issues involving the payment of dividends and asset sales to end-of-life matters such as dissolution and receiverships. The firm regularly provides advice on the preparation and interpretation of certificates of incorporation and bylaws, whether for newly formed entities, initial public offerings, operating companies with internal disputes, reincorporations or corporations seeking to amend their existing governance documents.

Abrams & Laster similarly advises business entities, directors, officers and stockholders on contracts relating to the corporation's governance structure and commercial relationships, including stockholder rights plans, stockholder agreements and indemnification agreements.

Abrams & Laster represents a broad array of clients including national and international corporations, limited partnerships, limited liability companies, joint ventures, stockholders, directors, equity investors and executives.

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