

HAWAII

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing

Cades Schutte

Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel

Recommended

Carlsmith Ball

Case Lombardi & Pettit

Kobayashi Sugita & Goda

McCorrison Miller Mukai MacKinnon

Paul Johnson Park & Niles

Watanabe Ing

Local litigation stars

Paul Alston

Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing
Appellate, Arbitration, Business Litigation

Ellen Carson

Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing
Arbitration, Commercial Litigation, Health Law

Corlis Chang

Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel
Products Liability

Gary Grimmer

Carlsmith Ball
Civil Litigation

Michael Heihre

Cades Schutte
Commercial Litigation

William Hunt

Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing
Arbitration, Commercial Litigation, Health Law,
Products Liability

Louise Ing

Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing
Arbitration, Business Litigation, Employment
Litigation

Bert Kobayashi

Kobayashi Sugita & Goda
Commercial Litigation, Construction Litigation

John Lacy

Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel
Civil Litigation

Bruce Lamom

Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel
Commercial Litigation

Kelly LaPorte

Cades Schutte
Commercial Litigation

Michael Marsh

Case Lombardi & Pettit
Construction, Employment Litigation, Intellectual
Property

William McCorrison

McCorrison Miller Mukai MacKinnon
Complex Commercial Litigation, Insurance

David Minkin

McCorrison Miller Mukai MacKinnon
Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Colin Miwa

Cades Schutte
Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property

Lisa Munger

Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Environmental
Litigation

David Nakashima

Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing
Appellate, Arbitration, Business Litigation

Terence O'Toole

Starn Law
Complex Commercial Litigation, Construction
Litigation

Corey Park

Paul Johnson Park & Niles
Commercial Litigation

Cheryl Nicholson

Paul Johnson Park & Niles
Commercial Litigation

Ted Pettit

Case Lombardi & Pettit
Commercial Litigation

Jeffrey Portnoy

Cades Schutte
Civil Litigation

Crystal Rose

Bays Deaver Lung Rose Holma
Construction Litigation

Keith Yamada

Cades Schutte
Civil Litigation, Construction Litigation

John Zalweski

Case Lombardi & Pettit
Commercial Litigation

Future stars

Thomas Benedict
Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel

Kurt Fritz
Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing

Bruce Nakamura
Kobayashi Sugita & Goda



Hawaii

The Hawaiian real estate market has always produced a large proportion of the state's litigation work. Business disputes stemming from construction and development keep local lawyers active. Local Hawaiian banks were not heavily involved in the secondary loan markets that have crippled other banks around the country, so they are relatively healthy. Still, there has been a significant increase in unemployment, and the economy has slowed to a degree.

Highly recommended firms

Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing

Unlike other top-flight Hawaiian law firms, which began as transactional firms that grew to accommodate litigation, Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing began as a team of trial lawyers. Partners at the firm handle a wide variety of litigation, but excel in health care, labor and employment, and real estate litigation. A client recalls "their expertise in real estate has been very helpful in terms of strategic thinking, reviewing the documents at issue, and deciphering the legal issues." The firm's employment team represents a major hotel chain in their labor negotiations. Alston Hunt also has the only group dedicated to government procurement issues on the islands. The arcane and complex rules involved in securing government contracts make the firm's legal guidance especially important in this field. Competitors praise **Paul Alston** and **David Nakashima** as "very capable attorneys." Nakashima handles mostly construction and real estate litigation. A client says that Paul Alston is "extremely bright, a strategic thinker, and an aggressive attorney."

Cades Schutte

Cades Schutte has been a major player in the Hawaiian legal market since 1922, making it one of the oldest firms on the islands. The firm handles a lot of work for clients in the banking industry. Competitors point to **Keith Yamada** as excelling in construction and real estate litigation. In mid-2008, he defended a mechanic's lien claim by a drywall subcontractor against his client, a general contractor, which resulted in payment by the claimant of client's fees and costs. **Michael Heihre** is also a real estate litigator specializing in eminent domain. **Kelly LaPorte** has experience in mediating, arbitrating, and litigating disputes involving insurance, telecommunications, schools, and trusts. **Colin Miwa** has experience in general commercial litigation, intellectual property, lender liability, and construction disputes. **Jeffrey Portnoy** is experienced in litigation and alternative dispute resolution. He currently serves as the chair of the firm's litigation department.

Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel

Established in 1878, Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel has been a prominent general practice firm in Hawaii for over 100 years, with peers describing it as one of the best firms in the state.

Competitors claim that the firm is known largely for its transactional work, but "they have depth in their litigation practice."

Lisa Munger practices antitrust, environmental law, land use, and commercial litigation. Her antitrust and competition work is especially varied, and she has assisted clients in both civil and criminal antitrust matters, including responding to requests from the Department of Justice, Federal Trade Commission, and the State of Hawaii's Attorney General's office. She has advised on investigations into allegations of price fixing, monopolization, unfair competition and price discrimination.

Corlis Chang has a products liability practice focusing on medical device and pharmaceutical products. She has also developed a personal injury practice, with expertise in actions resulting from premises liability, malicious prosecution, abuse of process and wrongful death. She has also successfully defended nursing homes in malpractice claims. **John Lacy** practices general commercial litigation, and has represented clients on issues ranging from aviation to admiralty, and from intellectual property to insurance. **Bruce Lamon** concentrates his practice in commercial litigation and arbitration. He has particular expertise in real estate and land use litigation, and has represented property owners, developers, and lenders in rent arbitrations, disputes before the land use commission and zoning board of appeals.

Recommended firms

Carlsmith Ball

Competitors note that Carlsmith Ball has lost a number of litigators over the past few years, but they insist that the remaining partners still produce high-quality work product. The firm maintains offices in Honolulu, Kona, and Maui among other locations in the Pacific Rim. **Gary Grimmer's** practice demonstrates the breadth of experience that lawyers and clients expect from the partners at Carlsmith Ball. Grimmer has handled matters dealing with antitrust, products liability, admiralty law, land use, insurance, securities, and professional liability.

Case Lombardi & Pettit

Located in Honolulu, Case Lombardi & Pettit handles commercial litigation and dispute resolution. Partner **Michael Marsh** handles trademark and copyright infringement actions,

and also has experience in employment matters. He advises management on employment-related lawsuits, and also advises on labor compliance issues. **Ted Pettit** practices in bankruptcy and reorganization. He has served as counsel to creditors' committees, lessors, and secured creditors. **John Zalweski's** practice focuses on corporate defense work, including the defense of directors and officers against claims of accounting and financial fraud.

Kobayashi Sugita & Goda

Kobayashi Sugita & Goda focuses on complex commercial litigation with an emphasis on construction issues. Founding partner **Bert Kobayashi** practices construction law and counsels clients with respect to government procurement and public utilities issues. The firm represents corporations, utilities, and financial institutions in Hawaii, the continental U.S., the Far East and the Pacific Rim, including Motorola, BancWest, Sanwa Bank, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., and Shell Oil Company. The firm also handles work for non-profits, like the University of Hawaii foundation.

McCorrison Miller Mukai MacKinnon

"The lawyers at McCorrison are very aggressive litigators and I can't say anything bad about them," claims a competitor. Name partner **William McCorrison** handles a diverse caseload, including products liability, professional liability, white-collar criminal defense, antitrust, construction litigation, environmental litigation and civil rights litigation. **David Minkin** is also roundly praised for his work in civil rights, criminal defense, health care and legal malpractice.

Paul Johnson Park & Niles

A competitor notes that since the departure of name partner Dennis Niles, "the firm's litigation capacity has been greatly reduced. Although the attorneys that are left at the firm are still good, it is not what it was five years ago." Nevertheless, the firm continues to handle significant litigation, especially concerning commercial litigation, construction law, and real estate law. **Corey Park** focuses on commercial litigation. His real estate experience includes work for resorts, retirement facilities, and residential real estate developments. **Sheryl Nicholson** handles a variety of real estate disputes, including hotel and resort financing, shopping center and other commercial leasing, title insurance, Hawaiian land and water claims, and condominium management.

Watanabe Ing

Founded in 1971, Watanabe Ing is active in commercial litigation. The firm also has an extensive intellectual property practice, and the firm's team represents musicians, publishers, resorts, health care providers, and internet service providers in infringement disputes and licensing matters. The firm also handles a fair amount of legislative and lobbying work on the islands.

CASE LOMBARDI & PETTIT

A LAW CORPORATION

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Managing director: Michael R. Marsh

President of the firm: Dennis M. Lombardi

Number of directors: 13

Number of other attorneys: 8

Firm Profile

Tracing its roots back to 1888, Case Lombardi & Pettit is committed to providing outstanding and cost effective client and legal services.

Case Lombardi & Pettit is a full service law firm offering litigation and dispute resolution, bankruptcy, real estate, business, employee benefits, tax, estate planning, and probate services.

The firm's clients include international, national and local corporations, commercial, professional, and non-profit organizations, financial institutions, real estate developers, land owners, directors and officers, and individuals. Case Lombardi & Pettit provides its clients with international legal resources and expertise through its membership in Lex Mundi, the world's leading association of independent law firms with more than 160 member firms worldwide.

Areas of practice**Litigation and Dispute Resolution**

The Litigation and Dispute Resolution Practice Group is comprised of a team of skillful, experienced, successful, and zealous litigators and trial lawyers. Attorneys from the firm who practice litigation and dispute resolution are creative and conscientious in their representation of clients involved in commercial and civil disputes, complex litigation, financial, business, real estate, and construction matters, and employment and civil rights cases. Lawyers in this Group are committed to achievement by mediation or negotiated settlement, arbitration award, and if necessary, verdict at trial.

Bankruptcy

Our Bankruptcy practice covers all aspects of creditor-debtor relationships ranging from foreclosure, receivership, collection and enforcement of judgments in state and federal court to reorganization and liquidation in bankruptcy court. The firm also represents secured creditors, unsecured creditor committees and landlords in all aspects of bankruptcy proceedings. The firm has a team of creditor counsel experienced in negotiating workouts and restructurings outside of bankruptcy court.

Real Estate

Our areas of expertise include the structuring of real estate acquisitions and sales; commercial financing, including complex construction loans; real estate sales and administration; office and retail leasing; condominium and resort development; community association formation and administration; residential financing; and land use, zoning and entitlement matters. We represent landowners, purchasers, investors and lenders in the acquisition, sale and financing of all types of real estate, including undeveloped land, hotels, shopping centers, office buildings and residential developments.

Business, Estate Planning, Probate & Taxation

Our Business attorneys assist clients in the formation and operation of business entities; prepare profit-sharing, pension and other employee benefit plans; assist clients in addressing the opportunities and challenges faced by an ongoing business; and provide advice regarding transactions governed by the Uniform Commercial Code, asset purchases, stock transfers and financings. The goal of the estate planning, probate and taxation practice group is to design and implement comprehensive business and estate plans and analyze and structure a variety of sophisticated transactions that are designed to fit the client's particular circumstances and concerns.

**KOBAYASHI
SUGITA &
GODA**

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Kobayashi, Sugita & Goda specializes in complex litigation and corporate business relations with an emphasis in commercial and construction issues, representation in finance, transactions, banking, general corporate, regulatory, land use, labor management, wrongful termination, immigration and associated fields.

The firm is committed to excellence and efficiency in legal services, and provides critical expertise necessary to ensure present and future clientele with the continuity and quality of representation needed to address legal problems in Hawaii, the Far East and the Pacific Rim, and the continental US.

The firm is ranked among the best of Hawaii's Law firms and has been selected by *Corporate Board Member* magazine's July/August 2002 special issue as one of the best law firms in Honolulu in its second annual survey of *America's Best Corporate Lawyers*. The survey asked more than 24,000 corporate board members to identify the firms they most admire, nationally and in 50 metropolitan areas.

Bert T. Kobayashi, Jr., Alan M. Goda, Wendell H. Fuji, Lex R. Smith, Ruth K. Oh, and Gregory M. Sato have been listed in the 2008 publication of "Hawaii's Super Lawyers".

Kobayashi, Sugita & Goda, LLP is one of Hawaii's most respected law firms offering a breadth of legal services and industry experience with specialized knowledge of Hawaii's legal and business landscape.

BERT T KOBAYASHI**KOBAYASHI SUGITA & GODA**

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Bert T. Kobayashi, Jr. is one of the founding partners of the law firm, Kobayashi, Sugita & Goda, LLP. His practice concentration is commercial and construction litigation, administrative law, governmental procurement and contracts and public utilities; inclusive of evaluation, consultant, litigation and drafting.

He is a respected member of the business community, as a director of Hawaii's largest bank, the First Hawaiian Bank since 1974; director and member of the audit committee of BankWest Corporation, the bank holding company that owns the First Hawaiian Bank and Bank of the West since 2000; director of Western Air Lines from 1975 to its sale to Delta in 1986; director of Schuler Homes until it merged with Western Pacific in 2001; director of the Waialae Country Club from 1994 to 1997, 2001 to 2007, and its president in 1997; director and vice chair of Friends of Hawaiian Charities which operates the PGA's Sony Open; director and audit committee of Hawaiian Holdings, which owns and operates Hawaiian Air Lines; member of the board of visitors for the Lewis and Clarke College's Northwestern School of Law in Portland, Oregon and Honorary Alumnus in 2003.

He has been listed for over twenty years in Best Lawyers in American in commercial litigation and insurance defense and has also been listed each year in Honolulu Magazine's "Best Lawyers in the State of Hawaii" in the areas of commercial litigation, insurance, construction and anti-trust, the 2008 Hawaii Super Lawyer listing included Mr. Kobayashi as one of the State's twenty-five top attorneys. He has tried over 200 cases to a jury verdict and handled bench trials, arbitrations and mediations in the thousands.

He is a member of the Hawaii Asia Pacific Association, American Bar Association, Hawaii Bar Association, American Trial Lawyers Association, American Board of Trial Advocates, American College of Trial Lawyers, American Board of Trial Advocates, American Law Institute, American Arbitration Association. Further, he was a member of the State of Hawaii's Judicial Selection Commission from 1985 through 1991 and its chairperson from 1987 through 1989.

He was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, raised in Cambridge Massachusetts and Honolulu, where he graduated from Roosevelt High School. He attended the University of Hawaii and graduated from Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He received his Juris Doctor degree in 1965 from the University of California's Hastings College of the Law.

Mr. Kobayashi attended the Combat Platoon Leaders School at Fort Benning, Georgia and the military intelligence school at Fort Holabird in Dundak, Maryland. He served with MACV in Gia Dinh, Vietnam and on temporary assignment to the First Cavalry as head of the strategic interrogation team for Operation Hastings (1966 – 1967). He was honorably discharged in 1967 as a captain.