

IOWA

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

Ahlers & Cooney

Nyemaster Goode West Hansell & O'Brien

Whitfield & Eddy

Recommended

Belin Lamson McCormick Zumbach Flynn

Bradshaw Fowler Proctor & Fairgrave

Finley Alt Smith Scharnberg Craig Hilmes & Gaffney

Hansen McClintock & Riley

Lane & Waterman

Shuttleworth & Ingersoll

Simmons Perrine Moyer Bergman

Local litigation stars

Hayward Draper

Nyemaster Goode West Hansell & O'Brien
Health Law, Insurance, Products Liability

Jay Eaton

Nyemaster Goode West Hansell & O'Brien
Class Actions, Commercial Litigation, Environmental Litigation

Thomas Finley

Finley Alt Smith Scharnberg Craig Hilmes & Gaffney
Health Law, Insurance, Products Liability

Frank Harty

Nyemaster Goode West Hansell & O'Brien
Class Actions, Commercial Litigation, Employment Litigation, Health Law

Glenn Johnson

Nyemaster Goode West Hansell & O'Brien
Intellectual Property

Edward Remsburg

Ahlers & Cooney
General Civil Litigation, General Commercial Litigation

Kevin Reynolds

Whitfield & Eddy
Appellate, Insurance, Products Liability

Richard Sapp

Nyemaster Goode West Hansell & O'Brien
Class Actions, Commercial Litigation, Insurance, Intellectual Property

James Shipman

Simmons Perrine Moyer Bergman
Health Law, Insurance, Products Liability

Randall H. Stefani

Ahlers & Cooney
General Commercial Litigation

Thomas Waterman

Lane & Waterman
Commercial Litigation

Mark Weinhardt

Belin Lamson McCormick Zumbach Flynn
Appellate, Complex Commercial Litigation, White Collar Crime

Future stars

John Clendenin
Nyemaster Goode West Hansell & O'Brien

David Phipps
Whitfield & Eddy

Angel West
Nyemaster Goode West Hansell & O'Brien

Patrick White
Nyemaster Goode West Hansell & O'Brien



Iowa

Because of its highly diversified economy, Iowa has been less affected by the financial crisis than the rest of the United States. Des Moines has become a hotbed for commercial and insurance litigation due to the large number of insurance firms headquartered in the state.

Highly recommended firms

Ahlers & Cooney

Established in 1887, Ahlers & Cooney remains a major presence in the Iowa litigation market. The firm's litigation team includes several senior partners with 25 years of trial experience. In recent years the firm has expanded to serve school districts, cities, counties, city-owned utilities and state agencies. Viewed by many local litigators as a "legend," Richard Santi maintains a position as counsel at the firm, and is still active in insurance, products liability, and aircraft litigation.

Peers call Edward Remsburg a "very talented litigator." He focuses his practice on commercial and construction litigation. Along with Nathan Overberg, Remsburg represents Casey's General Stores in a national Fair Labor Standards Act collective action in which cooks and cashiers allege

including Glenn Johnson. Johnson has been praised by his peers as an "extremely capable lawyer." He has represented clients before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, as well as in federal courts in 14 states.

Hayward Draper has been commended by clients for his "expertise and great litigation skills." His practice primarily focuses on products liability, insurance and banking litigation. In the past three years, Draper has cultivated a strong health care and medical malpractice defense practice. One peer has called Richard Sapp "one of the best products liability lawyers in the state." Sapp recently obtained summary judgment on behalf of Bell Helicopter in a wrongful death and personal injury case arising out of the crash of a helicopter doing aerial photography. Frank Hartly has over 50 jury trials under his belt. In 2009, he represented a lawyer before the U.S. Supreme Court in a

“One client singled out John Clendenin as a ‘very strong trial lawyer.’ He is great on his feet, he presents well, and he’s a great writer,’ says the client.”

they were not sufficiently paid for their overtime services. Randall Stefani maintains a strong personal injury defense practice and has represented school districts and other government agencies. In 2007, Stefani successfully defended the South Tama Community School District against Rambo Associates when Rambo brought an action for breach of contract and unjust enrichment against the school district in connection with the construction of a school building.

Nyemaster Goode West Hansell & O'Brien One of the largest firms in the state, Nyemaster Goode West Hansell & O'Brien employs 31 litigation partners and has offices in Des Moines, Ames, and Cedar Rapids. The firm has recently been handling an increasing amount of employment work. Notable clients include AIG, Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Avivi Life and Annuity Co. and Deere & Company. The firm has recently expanded its intellectual property practice with the addition of several litigators from other Iowa firms,

landmark case addressing the burden of proof in age discrimination cases.

One client singled out John Clendenin as a "very strong trial lawyer." "He is great on his feet, he presents well, and he's a great writer," says the client. Clendenin focuses on insurance, products liability, appellate work and commercial litigation. Patrick White has a notable commercial litigation practice. In 2008, White obtained a jury verdict in favor of client Country Mutual insurance in a breach of contract case. Angel West primarily works with Deere & Company. She has defended the company in licensing agreement disputes and products liability matters.

Whitfield & Eddy

With three offices in Des Moines and a fourth in Mount Pleasant, Whitfield & Eddy stands out among peers for its commercial and insurance litigation practices. Whitfield & Eddy is a member of ALFA International, a global network of independent law firms.

According to a competitor, Kevin Reynolds is "a name that always comes up"

when discussing top litigators. He has represented Fisher Price and Walgreens in products liability matters. He successfully defended Fisher Price in a case regarding property damage resulting from a household fire that occurred because of an alleged defect in a child-sized Barbie Jeep vehicle.

Recommended firms

Belin Lamson McCormick Zumbach Flynn

While primarily focused on real estate litigation, Belin Lamson McCormick Zumbach Flynn has recently seen an upswing in complex commercial cases. Major clients include the Maytag Corporation, General Electric Company, and the Iowa Department of Human Services.

With over 20 years of experience, Mark Weinhardt stands out as one of the top trial lawyers in Iowa, with a practice that includes including complex commercial litigation and white-collar criminal cases. In 2008 Weinhardt and partner David Swinton represented Iowa Heart Center in an action to enforce a restrictive covenant against seven cardiologists who planned to leave the center and practice with a rival entity. The court ruled in favor of Weinhardt's client.

Bradshaw Fowler Proctor & Fairgrave

Established in 1917, Bradshaw Fowler Proctor & Fairgrave is known for its impressive insurance practice, counting EMC Insurance, Acuity Insurance and Nationwide Insurance as clients. The firm has also made waves in the blogosphere; partner Patrick Smith launched the Iowa Employment Law Blog in April 2008. The blog features a series of articles relating to trends and developments in labor and employment regulation. Mark Tripp has also been noted for his insurance litigation skills, primarily in the realm of construction disputes.

Finley Alt Smith Scharnberg Craig Hilmes & Gaffney

Finley Alt Smith Scharnberg Craig Hilmes & Gaffney has distinguished itself as a firm specializing in medical malpractice, products liability and other health issues. In addition, the firm has a concentration in transportation law, with clients like CP Rail System, Norfolk and Southern Railroad, Soo Line Railroad Company, Chicago Central and Pacific Railroad. Thomas Finley continues to be regarded as a star in health litigation. He has represented Iowa Methodist Medical Center, Mercy Hospital Medical Center and Catholic Health Initiatives Corporation.

Hansen McClintock & Riley

Although the firm has only seven attorneys, Hansen McClintock & Riley has proven itself to be capable of successfully representing clients throughout Iowa. Best known for insurance work, the firm has

litigated in a variety of practice areas, and has handled professional malpractice, personal injury and appellate cases. The firm retains two past presidents of the Iowa State Bar Association and three fellows of the Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers. Name partner **John McClintock** receives praise for his trial skills.

Lane & Waterman

Lane & Waterman prides itself on being well-equipped to handle case of varying sizes, from multi-million dollar class actions to smaller individual lawsuits. In recent years, the firm has experienced an upswing in products liability cases. Major clients include Goodyear, Verizon and Lee Enterprises. **Thomas Waterman** stands out as a first-rate trial attorney. In 2009, he argued for taxpayers in Polk, Black Hawk, Dubuque and Scott Counties in four certified class actions. Plaintiffs sued for refunds of excessive municipal cable television franchise fees, which allegedly were retroactively legalized by an Iowa Code. In three of the four counties, the district court ruled that the statute was unconstitutional.

Shuttleworth & Ingersoll

Shuttleworth & Ingersoll has been a fixture on the Iowa litigation landscape since the late 1850s. The firm focuses on commercial

and insurance litigation. Well known throughout the state for its intellectual property practice, the firm is working on rebuilding this group and has found success with the recent hiring of Timothy Klima. Prior to joining Shuttle & Ingersoll, Klima practiced in Washington, D.C. and has 20 years of experience in patent and trade secrets litigation.

Simmons Perrine Moyer Bergman

Based in Cedar Rapids, Simmons Perrine Moyer Bergman maintains strong antitrust, medical malpractice and insurance practices. One competitor says “You can’t deny that [Simmons Perrine] is a top firm.” In January 2009 the firm became the largest in the state when Simmons Perrine Albright & Ellwood merged with Moyer Bergman. The firm has supported various non-profit organizations including the American Heart Association, United Way and the East Central Iowa Chapter of the Alzheimer Association.

In April 2009, partner Phillip Burian defended an individual in a defamation action brought by a former city manager, alleging that statements the defendant made before a city council meeting resulted in the plaintiff’s dismissal from his job. The plaintiff claimed \$2.5 million for damages to his reputation. After a two week trial, the jury returned a defense verdict.

