

NEBRASKA

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

Baird Holm

Cassem Tierney Adams Gotch & Douglas

Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather

Fraser Stryker Law Firm

Husch Blackwell Sanders

Kutak Rock

Recommended

Lamson Dugan & Murray

McGrath North Mullin & Kratz

Local litigation stars

Jill Robb Ackerman

Baird Holm
Construction Litigation, Intellectual Property

James Bausch

Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather
Class Actions, Intellectual Property, Securities

Kirk Blecha

Baird Holm
Class Actions, Intellectual Property, Securities

Michael Coyle

Fraser Stryker Law Firm
Appellate, Commercial Litigation, Insurance,
Products Liability

Thomas Dahlk

Husch Blackwell Sanders
Business Litigation, Securities

John Douglas

Cassem Tierney Adams Gotch & Douglas
Civil Litigation, Negligence

James Fitzgerald

McGrath North Mullin & Kratz
Appellate, Commercial Litigation

Charles Gotch

Cassem Tierney Adams Gotch & Douglas
Civil Litigation, Medical Liability

Michael Kinney

Cassem Tierney Adams Gotch & Douglas
Civil Litigation, Insurance, Malpractice

Mark C. Laughlin

Fraser Stryker
Appellate, Class Actions, Commercial Litigation,
Insurance, Intellectual Property

William Lamson Jr

Lamson Dugan & Murray
Appellate, Commercial Litigation, Environmental
Litigation, Professional Negligence

Wayne Mark

Fraser Stryker Law Firm
Commercial Litigation, Construction Litigation,
Insurance, Products Liability

Bartholomew McLeay

Kutak Rock
Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property,
Products Liability

Joseph Meusey

Fraser Stryker Law Firm
Appellate, Class Actions, Commercial Litigation,
Insurance, Professional Liability

John Passarelli

Kutak Rock
Antitrust, Complex Commercial Litigation,
Intellectual Property

Future stars

Andre Barry
Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather

Richard Jeffries
Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather

Lindsey Lundholm
Baird Holm

Gretchen Twohig
Baird Holm



Nebraska

Nebbraska has had relative success in avoiding the deleterious effects of the United States economic crisis. Litigation in the state continues to primarily involve the manufacturing, agricultural and insurance industries.

Highly recommended firms

Baird Holm

With a strong team of litigators, 20 of whom possess first chair trial experience, Baird Holm has impressive intellectual property, insurance and securities practices. "I wouldn't work with any other firm," says a client. The firm's hospital and education-related litigation has been especially noteworthy in the past decade with clients including Developmental Services of Nebraska, Methodist Health Systems, Omaha Public Schools and the Union Pacific Railroad Company.

Partner Kirk Blecha possesses 30 years of trial experience and has been complimented on his "excellent analytical skills." He represented a large hospital in Lincoln in an action for declaratory judgment seeking a ruling that the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' interpretation of a statute was incorrect. The suit originated from the hospital wanting the defendant to change ten acute care beds to rehabilitation beds. The District Court of Lancaster County accepted the plaintiff's argument that a certificate of need was not required for the conversion of ten acute care beds to rehabilitation beds.

Jill Robb Ackerman chairs the firm's litigation team and represents individuals and companies in complex business litigation. Her areas of expertise include corporate disputes, constitutional law matters, copyright issues, unfair competition and technology litigation. She also sits in the House of Delegates for the Nebraska State Bar Association.

Gretchen Twohig is a notable name in the fields of commercial contracts, business torts, ERISA and construction litigation. Lindsey Lundholm is known for her representation of nonprofit companies and public entities in tort, discrimination and breach of contract actions.

Cassem Tierney Adams Gotch & Douglas Founded in 1956, Cassem Tierney Adams Gotch & Douglas is one of Omaha's premier boutique litigation firms. The firm specializes in insurance defense litigation. The firm also represents clients in commercial, malpractice, negligence, and products liability matters. The firm boasts five inductees into the American College of Trial Lawyers and two members of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. Major clients include Daimler Chrysler, First

Management, Hertz, Ryder Truck Transportation Services, U-Haul Corp and United States Aviation Underwriters.

Michael Kenney has been a partner at Cassem Tierney since 1976 and remains a notable name in the Nebraska litigation market. His practice encompasses aviation, products liability, legal and medical malpractice work in addition to the firm's specialty of insurance defense. He serves as an executive counsel member of the Omaha Bar Association.

Charles Gotch focuses on products liability work with a emphasis on drug and medical liability claims. John Douglas is noted for his civil litigation practice, which focuses on issues of legal and medical negligence.

litigation. Richard Jeffries stands out for his expertise in insurance, securities and bankruptcy litigation

Fraser Stryker Law Firm

Fraser Stryker is well-regarded for defending clients in civil litigation. The firm often defends insurance carriers and self-insured entities. Senior member Joseph Meusey maintains a varied practice, representing clients in class actions, commercial litigation and professional liability matters. Peers also mention his appellate work. Michael Coyle enjoys a successful products liability, intellectual property, and general commercial litigation practice. He has recently experienced an uptick in intellectual property disputes over software. Coyle has represented FM Industries, Nebraska Plastics, and Cap Gemini America.

Wayne Mark has over 30 years of legal experience. His practice focuses on construction matters, but he is also well-equipped to handle products liability, professional negligence and insurance cases. His most recent construction clients have been the Omaha Zoological Society, Children's Hospital and Durham Resources.

Partner Mark Laughlin defended former

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Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather has been a mainstay in the Nebraska litigation market for over 150 years. The firm has offices in Aurora, Lincoln, Omaha and Scottsbluff, as well as Fort Collins, Colorado. Despite its attorneys being spread across five cities, the offices stay in close contact, and the 50-plus lawyers form a cohesive team. The firm's client roster includes Caterpillar Financial Services, ConocoPhillips, Lincoln Federal Savings Bank of Nebraska and the University of Nebraska.

Omaha partner James Bausch has a strong practice handling securities litigation and shareholder disputes. Bausch also has experience representing clients in FINRA arbitrations, intellectual property matters and tax cases. He has represented both plaintiffs and defendants in products liability, personal injury and wrongful death claims. "He does an excellent job," says a competitor.

Andre Barry is recognized by his contemporaries for his successful complex commercial and intellectual property practice, handling matters of FINRA arbitrations, agribusiness and commodities

Nebraska Governor Michael Johanns and other defendants in a suit filed by the Omaha Public Schools that challenged the constitutionality of Nebraska's system of funding public elementary and secondary schools. Plaintiffs complained that an additional \$750 million per year should be spent on pre-college public education in Nebraska. The district court dismissed these claims in 2008, and subsequently the plaintiffs voluntarily dismissed their case.

Husch Blackwell Sanders

Enjoying a strong presence in the Midwest, Husch Blackwell Sanders has a 19 person litigation team based out of the firm's Omaha and Lincoln offices. The Nebraska offices work closely with the firm's Kansas City, Missouri. The firm counsels clients on matters including class actions, construction, insurance and intellectual property litigation. The firm has represented companies including Home Instead Senior Care.

Peers praise Thomas Dahlk for his commercial litigation practice, especially his securities and white-collar work. He recently obtained a \$4.2 million settlement on behalf of an heir in an estate litigation

and is working on two matters involving the SEC. Peers say that Dahlk's maintains "a broad based national practice" due to his wealth of experience serving as counsel to financial services corporations, investor groups, and individuals. Clients include Ag Processing, ConAgra Foods, Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company and Waddell & Reed Financial.

Kutak Rock

Although well-known for its national presence, Kutak Rock is also seen as a powerhouse firm in the Midwest. "There's no denying that the firm is top-tier in Nebraska," says a competitor. The firm's Omaha office was established in 1965 and continues to offer expert legal guidance to a vast assortment of clients in the fields of commercial litigation, intellectual property, insurance and products liability. The firm has noticed an increase in commercial litigation due to the current financial crisis.

Bartholomew McLeay practices commercial litigation with a concentration in breach of contract claims, business torts, construction, reinsurance and other complex litigation. He also has the ability to

handle intellectual property disputes, and agribusiness and energy issues. Peers call **John Passarelli** an "obvious star"; his practice focuses on antitrust, intellectual property and technology matters. He is well-known for dealing with complex matters on a trial and appellate level and has tried cases in 9 states on the East and West Coasts.

Recommended firms

Lamson Dugan & Murray

Lamson Dugan & Murray specializes in commercial litigation, employment litigation and products and professional liability law. The firm is distinguished from its competitors by virtue of its dedication to insurance and medical malpractice work. Notable clients include First Mortgage Company, First National Bank of Omaha, Great Plains Communications, Midwest Medical Insurance and Union Pacific Railroad.

William Lamson Jr. serves as chair of the firm's litigation department and is lauded for his medical malpractice, railroad transportation, and insurance defense litigation. In the past two decades, Lamson

has dealt with breach of contract, hostile takeover and insurance coverage issues.

McGrath North Mullin & Kratz

Established in 1959, McGrath North Mullin & Kratz has become one of Nebraska's largest and most notable firms. Headquartered in the commercial hub of Omaha, the firm is highly respected for its commercial, intellectual property, labor, personal injury and products liability practices. The firm's attorneys are known for their collaboration across multiple practice areas to provide unique solutions for its clients. Clients include American Family Insurance Group, Creighton University, Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, The Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha Airport Authority and Physicians Mutual Insurance Company.

James Fitzgerald tackles high-stakes commercial litigation cases, with a focus on contract disputes, breach of fiduciary duty claims and fraud claims. He also represents clients with respect to government investigations.

