

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

Devine Millimet & Branch

Hinckley Allen & Snyder

McLane Graf Raulerson & Middleton

Nixon Peabody

Orr & Reno

Wadleigh Starr & Peters

Recommended

Cook Little Rosenblatt & Manson

D'Amante Couser Steiner Pellerin

Gallagher Callahan & Gartrell

Nelson Kinder Mosseau & Saturley

Rath Young & Pignatelli

Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green

Suloway & Hollis

Upton & Hatfield

Wiggin & Nourie

Local litigation stars

Christopher Carter

Hinckley Allen & Snyder
Complex Commercial Litigation

Michael Connolly

Hinckley Allen & Snyder
Complex Commercial Litigation, White Collar Crime

Andrew Dunn

Devine Millimet & Branch
Civil Litigation

Bruce Felmy

McLane Graf Raulerson & Middleton
Commercial Litigation

Kevin Fitzgerald

Nixon Peabody
Business Litigation

David Garfunkel

Gallagher Callahan & Gartrell
Commercial Litigation, White Collar Crime

Steven Grill

Devine Millimet & Branch
Business Litigation

Michael Harvell

Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green
Business Litigation

Russell Hilliard

Upton & Hatfield
Complex Commercial Litigation, Insurance

Edward Kaplan

Suloway & Hollis
Employment Litigation, Products Liability,
Professional Liability

Michael Lehman

Suloway & Hollis
Products Liability

Roy McCandless

D'Amante Couser Steiner Pellerin
Complex Commercial Litigation

Peter Mosseau

Nelson Kinder Mosseau & Saturley
Medical Malpractice

Thomas Pappas

Wiggin & Nourie
Commercial Litigation

Michael Pignatelli

Rath Young & Pignatelli
Commercial Litigation

Arnold Rosenblatt

Cook Little Rosenblatt & Manson
Business Litigation

Andrew Serell

Rath Young & Pignatelli
Commercial Litigation, Environmental Law,
Insurance

James Shirley

Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green
Business Litigation

Eugene Van Loan

Wadleigh Starr & Peters
Commercial Litigation, Insurance

Martha Van Oot

Orr & Reno
Complex Commercial Litigation

David Vicinanza

Nixon Peabody
White Collar Crime

James Wheat

Wadleigh Starr & Peters
Commercial Litigation

Future stars

Brendan Mitchell
Devine Millimet & Branch

Robert Miller
Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green



New Hampshire

Litigators in New Hampshire are an invaluable resource for out-of-state clients that require legal representation for medical malpractice, insurance, and other types of claims. Given the small size of the market, the legal community in New Hampshire is rather insular, so the value of local counsel in a state like this can hardly be overemphasized.

Highly recommended firms

Devine Millimet & Branch

Devine Millimet & Branch has offices in both New Hampshire and Massachusetts, although the firm is primarily identified with its three locations in the former state. The firm's largest office is in Manchester, New Hampshire, where the state's commercial and judicial headquarters are located. The Concord office is geared towards governmental affairs.

Andrew Dunn is one of the most reputable appellate lawyers in the state, and has argued before both the New Hampshire Supreme Court and the federal courts, including the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals. **Steven Grill**, formerly a litigator in New York, has managed some impressive work for the firm. He has done extensive work for wireless communications companies in land use matters before local boards and in court, and has handles government relations on behalf of these clients. His practice extends to all manner of commercial disputes for public and private companies.

Hinckley Allen & Snyder

"Hinckley Allen & Snyder does very high-end work" claims a competitor in the state. The same peer elaborates that "they are the go-to firm in the area." With offices throughout New England, including Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Hampshire, the firm can provide a truly regional network for clients throughout New England and beyond.

"**Michael Connolly** is terrific" explains a peer. He specializes in business litigation and commercial defense, with an emphasis on SEC investigations. Among the cases he has tried and the internal investigations he has overseen, he has handled issues of public corruption, securities fraud, healthcare fraud, bank fraud, money laundering and tax fraud. **Christopher Carter** represents corporate and individual clients in connection with government and internal investigations into compliance with federal and state false claims statutes, an area which will become the object of increased scrutiny in the coming year. He also investigates allegations of fraud, including bank and healthcare fraud.

McLane Graf Raulerson & Middleton

McLane Graf Raulerson & Middleton is

largest firm in the state, and its litigation practice is second to none in the state. The firm's work for clients ranges from contract disputes, including breach of confidentiality agreements and the like, to complex commercial litigation like theft of trade secrets, breach of fiduciary duty, employment litigation and business torts. Partners at the firm have experience defending class actions in areas including antitrust, consumer protection and products liability. Representative clients include Abbott Laboratories, Sovereign Bank, Verizon Wireless, and Manchester Water Works.

schools, only to have the trade schools close down and leave them with no recourse to get their money back. The case was transferred to the Northern District of Ohio.

Kevin Fitzgerald has a national practice that is particularly focused on federal and state receivership proceedings. He also handles other financial services related litigation and insurance coverage disputes. **David Vincinanzo** excels in white-collar criminal defense work. He previously served as a federal prosecutor in New England and Washington, D.C., and his work in business crimes is almost unparalleled in the state.

Orr & Reno

Orr & Reno has one office in Concord, New Hampshire but the variety of practice areas covered in the firm's sole office rivals those offered at other, much larger, firms. Among the strands of complex commercial litigation that the firm offers are professional liability defense, products liability, insurance coverage, media and defamation and land use and eminent domain. The firm also has a strong employment practice, including litigation

“Bruce Felmy is an outstanding litigator- the best in New Hampshire, as far as I'm concerned,' notes a competitor.”

"**Bruce Felmy** is an outstanding litigator- the best in New Hampshire, as far as I'm concerned" notes a competitor. With over 35 years of trial experience in matters ranging from antitrust to construction litigation to personal injury matters, Felmy is one of the most accomplished lawyers in the state. He currently represents major Connecticut and South Carolina utilities in contribution claims regarding former manufactured gas plants in cases pending in federal court.

Nixon Peabody

Nixon Peabody is a national firm with a significant presence in the Northeast. The firm's Manchester office has 20 attorneys, and its litigation partners concentrate primarily on general commercial and securities work. The firm also has a notable medical device practice in the region. Partner Scott O'Connell works in both the Massachusetts and New Hampshire offices at the firm, and primarily handles class action defense. His practice is anticipating a new wave of government administrative actions. In 2008 he handled a major class action for KeyBank USA regarding its student lending portfolios. Students were claiming that they did not get the benefit of their bargain with the bank after they took out loans in order to pay for tuition at trade

with respect to non-compete agreements, discrimination and sexual harassment claims, FLSA, and OSHA and workplace safety complaints.

"**Martha Van Oot** is very smart and capable" claims a competitor. Her work spans complex commercial litigation, professional malpractice defense, and employment matters. She has also successfully arbitrated employment claims, including an employment discrimination claim.

Wadleigh Starr & Peters

Wadleigh Starr & Peters bills itself as a general practice firm. The firm traces its roots to 1899 and continues to maintain its sole office in Manchester. Most peers in the legal community recognize the firm for its medical malpractice defense work. Not only is the firm well regarded in their defense of physicians and hospitals throughout the state, but its professional liability work extends to defense of lawyers, architects, engineers, and accountants. The firm has represented health providers, including Concord Hospital, insurance companies, and financial institutions including KeyBank National Association and BancBoston Mortgage Corp. Competitors recognize **James Wheat** for his work on medical negligence and insurance defense cases.

Recommended firms

Cook Little Rosenblatt & Manson

Established in 1996 as a commercial law boutique, Cook Little Rosenblatt & Manson has swiftly made inroads in the civil litigation market. Partners at Cook Little obtained a successful judgment in the New Hampshire Supreme Court on behalf of the defendant in a misappropriation of trade secrets case. The Supreme Court affirmed a verdict that was rendered in trial court on behalf of the defendant after a two week jury trial. The firm also works on a wide range of business disputes, including matters involving breach of fiduciary duty. **Arnold Rosenblatt** has tried cases at the state and federal level, and has handled appellate arguments and alternative dispute resolution proceedings.

D'Amante Couser Steiner Pellerin

From its office in Concord, D'Amante Couser Steiner Pellerin handles a range of business litigation, primarily in New Hampshire and Massachusetts courts. Richard Couser, one of the name partners of D'Amante Couser Steiner Pellerin, passed away in September 2008. Partner **Roy McCandless** has extensive experience representing religious and nonprofit organizations, which is a major client base for the firm. McCandless has assisted churches, religious corporations, Christian camps, and conference centers in matters of corporate governance, First Amendment Free Speech claims, and commercial litigation. McCandless handled a construction claim for a Diocese that brought suit for \$11 million regarding negligent construction of buildings at a summer camp, and litigated a First Amendment Religious Liberty claim on behalf of a local Presbyterian church.

Gallagher Callahan & Gartrell

The partners at Gallagher Callahan & Gartrell handle litigation at the trial and appellate level, in areas including civil rights, police liability, employment and wrongful discharge, environmental law, and financial services litigation. **David Garfunkel** is recommended by peers for his white-collar criminal defense work, professional liability, and employment discrimination litigation. In July 2009, the firm earned a victory for its client, the Local Government Center, in a negligence case before the New Hampshire Supreme Court.

The court ruled that the defendants, a nonprofit organization that provides general legal assistance to towns, cities, and municipalities, had no duty to provide legal advice to the plaintiff. Jeanne Herrick tried the case.

Nelson Kinder Mosseau & Saturley

With offices in Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, Nelson Kinder Mosseau & Saturley handles all manner of litigation across New England. Peers note the excellent work coming out of the firm's Medical Services Group; this sub-specialization at the firm assists health care providers with representation in civil suits, administrative hearings, and criminal proceedings.

"**Peter Mosseau** handles medical negligence defense, and is very capable in that area," remarks a local litigator. He focuses on defending institutional and individual health care providers against claims of professional misconduct and is well versed in administrative proceedings as well as trials.

Rath Young & Pignatelli

The firm's litigation practice group has trial experience in the state and federal courts in New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts. **Michael Pignatelli**, one of the firm's founding partners, has experience not only in business and commercial litigation, but also in prosecution and defense of personal injury matters. He has litigated jury trials in both the state and federal courts in New Hampshire. According to peers, "**Andrew Serell** has made a niche for himself in environmental work, and he is pretty decent in that space." Serell's practice emphasizes CERCLA, RCRA, Clean Water Act, and Clean Air Act litigation as well as the representation of municipal and industrial clients with respect to Superfund Sites, and defense and prosecution of administrative appeals of permit decisions.

Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green

Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green has an office in Boston, but the firm handles most of its litigation out of its three New Hampshire offices. Some competitors observe that "the firm has downsized over time, and many of their senior trial lawyers have left. Now it is a group of young turks that are rebuilding the practice." Among some of the earlier generation of litigators that remain at the firm, **James Shirley** is seen as a "smart guy

who is very senior at the firm."

Robert Miller is one of those younger partners that have a promising future building the practice. He concentrates on disputes involving questions of federal jurisdiction and Constitutional law, and also intellectual property work in the areas of copyright, trademark and trade dress. **Michael Harvell's** experience includes trial work involving stockholder and partnership disputes.

Sulloway & Hollis

Sulloway & Hollis is one of the leading medical malpractice firms in the region. The firm has assisted its clients in resolving issues of alleged health care fraud and abuse with investigating government agencies, and also advises clients regarding other industry specific issues like federal and state anti-kickback statutes and antitrust laws.

Michael Lehman dedicates much of his practice to health care law, specifically the defense of medical malpractice suits. He represents hospitals, health care practitioners in litigation, regulatory, and licensing issues. He has also represented drug manufacturers and marketers in products liability cases involving drug and medical devices.

Upton & Hatfield

Upton & Hatfield has four offices around the state, in Concord, Hillsborough, Portsmouth, and North Conway. The firm has experience handling not only business litigation, but also handling litigation for municipalities and school districts.

"**Russell Hilliard** is absolutely terrific, smart and savvy" states one local litigator that is familiar with his work. Hilliard practices in commercial and insurance litigation, representing business, municipalities and professionals.

Wiggin & Nourie

With offices in Portsmouth and Manchester, Wiggin & Nourie handles various aspects of commercial litigation as well as appellate matters. **Thomas Pappas** has handled everything from construction litigation to shareholder and business disputes to bank to estate litigation. In 2008, he obtained a defense verdict for his client, a metal buildings manufacturer, in an arbitration that involved a \$5.9 million claim following the collapse of a manufacturing facility. This is the second victory that he has earned in a roof collapse case.