

NEW MEXICO

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

Keleher & McLeod

Modrall Sperling Roehl Harris & Sisk

Peifer Hanson & Mullins

Rodey Dickason Sloan Akin & Robb

Sutin Thayer & Browne

Recommended

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

Carpenter & Stout

Freedman Boyd Daniels Hollander Goldberg & Cline

Hinkle Hensley Shanor & Martin

Madison Harbour & Mroz

Miller Stratvert

Montgomery & Andrews

Local litigation stars

Paul Bardacke

Sutin Thayer & Browne
Complex Commercial Litigation, Environmental Litigation, Insurance, White Collar Crime

Arthur Beach

Keleher & McLeod
Complex Commercial Litigation, Insurance, Products Liability

Eric Burris

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Employment Litigation, Energy

William Carpenter

Carpenter & Stout
Personal Injury, Products Liability

Nelson Franse

Rodey Dickason Sloan Akin & Robb
Health Law, Professional Liability

David Freedman

Freedman Boyd Daniels Hollander & Goldberg
Appellate, Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Products Liability, Securities

Scott Gordon

Rodey Dickason Sloan Akin & Robb
Complex Commercial Litigation, Employment Litigation

Gail Gottlieb

Sutin Thayer & Browne
Civil Rights, Commercial Litigation, Employment Litigation

Bruce Hall

Rodey Dickason Sloan Akin & Robb
Complex Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Thomas Keleher

Keleher & McLeod
Commercial Litigation, Construction Litigation, Insurance

Walter Melendres

Montgomery & Andrews
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Employment Litigation, Products Liability

Charles Peifer

Peifer Hanson & Mullins
Class Actions, Commercial Litigation

Douglas Schneebeck

Modrall Sperling Roehl Harris & Sisk
Antitrust, Class Actions, Commercial Litigation, Health Law, Insurance, Products Liability

Andrew Schultz

Rodey Dickason Sloan Akin & Robb
Complex Commercial Litigation, Media

Stuart Shanor

Hinkle Hensley Shanor & Martin
Commercial Litigation, Employment Litigation, Products Liability

Thomas Stahl

Rodey Dickason Sloan Akin & Robb
Employment Litigation, Entertainment Litigation

David Stout

Carpenter & Stout
Insurance, Personal Injury, Products Liability

Future stars

Lisa Ortega
Rodey Dickason Sloan Akin & Robb

Todd Rinner
Rodey Dickason Sloan Akin & Robb

Seth Sparks
Rodey Dickason Sloan Akin & Robb

Gary Van Luchene
Keleher & McLeod



New Mexico

A leading producer of crude oil and gas, New Mexico is an important site for energy and environmental litigation. Albuquerque is home to many of the state's litigation firms. The city's rapid population growth (with sources calling it the 6th fastest growing city in the United States) and resulting competition for jobs, has led to an increase in employment litigation.

Highly recommended firms

Keleher & McLeod

Based in Albuquerque, Keleher & McLeod is comprised of 30 attorneys focusing on construction, employment, health care, insurance defense and products liability matters. One attorney describes the firm as "great, with a solid client roster." The firm is well known for handling local litigation and recently won an important victory in the New Mexico Supreme Court. The Court ruled in favor of the firm's client, a major utility company, recognizing the utility's right to recover when a condemner has paid contributions in aid of construction. This decision helped resolve an important issue in New Mexico utility condemnation law.

Arthur Beach has been noted for his strong insurance defense work, with over 38 years of experience litigating cases in state and federal courts. Beach handles suits relating to medical and legal malpractice, automobile accidents, and products liability claims in addition to antitrust and real estate matters. Named partner **Thomas Keleher** also excels at insurance defense work. His practice concentrates on construction-related matters and he has experience representing engineers, landowners and developers in real estate litigation.

Modrall Sperling Roehl Harris & Sisk

Modrall Sperling Roehl Harris & Sisk boasts a strong complex commercial practice and is adept at handling unfair trade claims, warranty disputes, media disputes, and fraud allegations. The firm also has a thriving appellate practice. In recent years, the firm's subspecialty in Native American law has seen a lot of activity. Johnson & Johnson, Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway turn to Modrall Sperling for their products liability matters.

Douglas Schneebeck acts as chair of the firm's class action and mass torts group. He stands out for his notable antitrust, securities and medical device and pharmaceutical work. Representative clients include 3M Company, GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, Medtronic, and Sears Roebuck & Company.

Peifer Hanson & Mullins

Staffed with seven attorneys, Peifer Hanson & Mullins is a top-notch boutique litigation firm. Based out of Albuquerque, the firm is

focused on prosecuting and defending clients in civil litigation suits. The firm has represented clients in business disputes, employment litigation, First Amendment cases, and securities fraud claims. The firm's team boasts 60 years of collective trial experience.

A competitor calls **Charles Peifer** "an outstanding lawyer." Formerly of Rodey Dickason Sloan Akin & Robb, Peifer is known as an esteemed commercial litigator, with a focus on medical malpractice, products liability, general tort, and employment cases. He has been chairman of the Supreme Court of New Mexico's Committee on Uniform Jury Instructions for Civil Cases since 2004.

Rodey Dickason Sloan Akin & Robb

Lauded for its insurance defense practice, Rodey Dickason Sloan Akin & Robb has a strong team of 54 attorneys. The firm recently shifted its focus to mass torts cases, with an especial focus on medical device liability. The firm has enjoyed some major employment litigation victories, including the recent defense of a client in a matter filed in federal court by a surgeon alleging national origin and age discrimination as an improper reason for his termination. He sought significant damages, claiming that his career had been ruined due to the client's claims that his performance was substandard. The firm obtained summary judgment on behalf of the defendant and an award of costs against the surgeon.

In the commercial sphere, Rodey Dickason represented a New Mexico municipality that brought suit against a major vendor of computer software programs. The client claimed that the software implementation failed to work properly due to the vendor's misrepresentations of the viability of the product. The case was settled favorably. The firm has done appellate work for the City of Las Cruces, Presbyterian Healthcare Services and the University of New Mexico.

Bruce Hall has a well-regarded complex litigation and appellate practice in the areas of environmental, products liability, and professional liability. He has served as lead appellate counsel in numerous cases that have shaped medical malpractice and products liability law in New Mexico.

Andrew Schultz serves as the head of the firm's complex and high risk litigation practice group. Schultz's personal practice

focuses on class action and civil rights litigation. In addition, he is highly familiar with the state and federal courts; prior to joining the firm Schultz worked as a law clerk for the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Nelson Franse is noted for his focus on entertainment, medical malpractice defense, personal injury defense, products liability, professional malpractice defense, and sports law. He has extensive jury trial experience in both the state and federal courts. **Thomas Stahl** leads the firm's labor and employment litigation groups and focuses on defending employers. His mediation and arbitration work is also noteworthy. **Scott Gordon** specializes in civil work, including employment and labor issues. Since 1986, Gordon has amassed first chair trial experience and has served as lead counsel in cases regarding discrimination, breach of contract, wrongful termination, and personal injury claims.

Sutin Thayer & Browne

With locations in Albuquerque and Santa Fe, Sutin Thayer & Browne is a go-to firm for matters relating to contract disputes, lender liability, securities fraud, intellectual property, and employment issues. A versatile firm, Sutin Thayer is well-equipped to handle litigation for both plaintiffs and defendants. The firm's clients include Bank of America, Sun Healthcare Group and Wild Oats Market.

With over 30 years of litigation experience, **Paul Bardacke** maintains a strong practice comprised of complex commercial, environmental, white-collar, and oil and natural gas royalty litigation. He is also praised for his class action work and has previously represented the state of New Mexico in litigation. **Gail Gottlieb** focuses on cases in commercial, civil rights, and employment litigation. She often defends claims of wrongful termination under retaliatory discharge and breach of implied contract.

Recommended firms

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

With offices in 12 cities across California, Colorado, Nevada and New Mexico and Washington, D.C., Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck commands a major presence in the southwestern United States. The firm is best known for its general commercial litigation and products liability practices. The firm represented Defiant Technologies in a lawsuit brought by Nanodetex in which Defiant was sued for alleged conversion of intellectual property. The firm had argued that the improper basis of the claim was to drive a competitor out of business and successfully obtained an injunction against the plaintiff. The case is currently on appeal to the Tenth Circuit.

Eric Burris is the chair of the Albuquerque litigation group and has more than 20 years of complex civil litigation experience. He is best known for his defense work, advising clients on economic torts, intellectual property claims, employment and labor issues, mass torts, products liability and other personal injury disputes. Clients include Qwest Corporation, Philip Morris USA, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Sony Corporation, and the Public Service Company of New Mexico.

Carpenter & Stout

Carpenter & Stout has a strong plaintiff practice focusing on insurance and toxic torts matters. The firm also handles personal injury, products liability and wrongful death cases. One competitor states that “the firm’s personal injury practice is one of the finest in the state.” Founding partner **William Carpenter** has been practicing since 1968 and receives praise for his outstanding personal injury and products liability practice. He is a past president and current member of the New Mexico Trial Lawyers Association. Fellow partner **David Stout** has sustained a robust personal injury and products practice. He also handles bad faith insurance cases.

Freedman Boyd Daniels Hollander Goldberg & Cline

Established in 1974, Freedman Boyd Daniels Hollander Goldberg & Cline handles a wide variety of civil and criminal matters. The firm’s team of nine lawyers has experience practicing in both federal and state trial and appellate courts. The firm has taken cases in the antitrust, class action, and personal injury areas. Founding partner **David Freedman** has tackled significant class action litigation for clients across the country. In the personal injury area, he has succeeded in obtaining multi-million dollar awards for injured clients. He is an esteemed member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Hinkle Hensley Shanor & Martin

Hinkle Hensley Shanor & Martin enjoys a

strong practice in southern New Mexico and traces its roots to 1888. The firm excels in oil and natural gas litigation. In addition to its headquarters in Roswell, the firm also has offices in Santa Fe and Midland, Texas. Peers say that “the firm’s energy litigation practice is very accomplished.” The firm handles commercial, employment, insurance, and environmental litigation as well. The Santa Fe office also maintains a focus on public utility representation.

Stuart Shanor receives praise for his strong managerial duties and his booming commercial and financial services practice. He is admitted to practice before the United

expertise in pharmaceuticals; prior to working as a litigator he was a pharmacist.

Miller Stratvert

Led by Gary Gordon and Scott Hatchet, **Miller Stratvert** comprises over 50 attorneys that handle class actions, multidistrict litigation, and other civil litigation. The firm has a high degree of success working in over 20 practice areas including antitrust, construction, products liability, propane and natural gas, and professional liability law. The team has achieved major victories for ExxonMobil, Home Depot, State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance and Shell Oil.

“One competitor states that ‘[Carpenter and Stout’s] personal injury practice is one of the finest in the state.’ Founding partner William Carpenter has been practicing since 1968 and receives praise for his outstanding personal injury and products liability practice”

States Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, the Court of Claims, the District Court of New Mexico, and the New Mexico Supreme Court.

Madison Harbour & Mroz

Formed in 1991, Madison Harbour & Mroz has a reputation as a leading civil litigation firm. The firm’s 13 attorneys emphasize work in insurance, malpractice, civil rights and employment law. Its roster of insurance clients include Chubb Group of Insurance Companies, Underwriters at Lloyds London, and Bankers Standard Insurance Company. The firm also represents financial services companies like Bank of America, and Liberty Mutual, as well as major corporations and franchises like Pfizer and the Sacramento Kings. Name partner **William Madison** is also a member of the International Society of Barristers and the American Society of Pharmacy Law. Madison possesses unique

The firm is also known for contributing to the community, with attorneys volunteering their time to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program, the Presbyterian Ear Institute and the Center for Civic Values.

Montgomery & Andrews

Located in Santa Fe, Montgomery & Andrews is commended for its remarkable civil and commercial practice. The firm’s 5-attorney team deals with a range of civil matters, namely with regards to antitrust, natural resource law, and products liability. “There are some really solid people there,” notes a peer.

Walter Melendres is the president of the firm and handles cases relating to personal injury, medical malpractice, and products liability. With over 35 years of experience, he has successfully represented energy and mining companies in contract disputes, property cases, and environmental litigation.

