

# OKLAHOMA

## Local litigation firms

### Highly recommended

Crowe & Dunlevy

Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville

McAfee & Taft

### Recommended

Conner & Winters

Corbyn Hampton

Fellers Snider Blankenship Bailey & Tippens

GableGotwals

Hall Estill Hardwick Gable Golden & Nelson

Kirk & Chaney

Ryan Whaley Coldiron Shandy

## Local litigation stars

### Mark Blongewicz

Hall Estill Hardwick Gable Golden & Nelson  
General Civil Litigation

### Joseph Bocock

McAfee & Taft  
Complex Business Litigation, Health Law, Products Liability

### John Burkhardt

McAfee & Taft  
Employment Litigation, Health Law, Intellectual Property

### George Corbyn Jr.

Corbyn Hampton  
Complex Commercial Litigation, Energy Litigation

### Gary Davis

Crowe & Dunlevy  
Energy Litigation, Products Liability

### Mark Dreyer

Conner & Winters  
Insurance

### Joseph Hampton

Corbyn Hampton  
Complex Business Litigation

### John Hermes

McAfee & Taft  
Antitrust, Complex Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

### John Kenney

McAfee & Taft  
Intellectual Property

### Laura McConnell-Corbyn

Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville  
Employment Litigation

### Kent Meyers

Crowe & Dunlevy  
Antitrust, Intellectual Property, White Collar Crime

### Mack Morgan

Crowe & Dunlevy  
Antitrust, Intellectual Property

### Clyde Muchmore

Crowe & Dunlevy  
Antitrust, Appellate, Insurance, Intellectual Property

### Drew Neville

Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville  
Complex Commercial Litigation

### Reid Robison

McAfee & Taft  
Health Law, Intellectual Property

### Anton Rupert

Crowe & Dunlevy  
Health Law, Intellectual Property, Products Liability

### Patrick Ryan

Ryan Whaley Coldiron Shandy  
Civil Litigation

### Spencer Smith

McAfee & Taft  
Intellectual Property

### Irwin Steinhorn

Conner & Winters  
Complex Commercial Litigation, Securities

### James Sturdivant

GableGotwals  
Commercial Litigation, Insurance, Products Liability

### Terry Tippens

Fellers Snider Blankenship Bailey & Tippens  
Commercial Litigation, Environmental Litigation, Intellectual Property

### Jeff Todd

McAfee & Taft  
Environmental Litigation, Health Law, Intellectual Property

### James Webb

McAfee & Taft  
Employment Litigation, Insurance, Products Liability, Securities

## Future stars

### John Heil III

Hall Estill Hardwick Gable Golden & Nelson

### Gerald Jackson

Crowe & Dunlevy

### Michael McClintock

McAfee & Taft



# Oklahoma

**The majority of the litigation in Oklahoma takes place in Tulsa and Oklahoma City. A major producer of oil and natural gas, Oklahoma has been the scene of numerous energy claims. The state has also felt a steady increase in litigation relating to Native American tribes.**

## Highly recommended firms

### Crowe & Dunlevy

Established in 1902, Crowe & Dunlevy is one of the oldest and largest firms in the state. The firm has over 100 attorneys across its offices in Tulsa, Norman, and Oklahoma City. The firm is best known for its complex commercial and energy litigation. Notable clients include ConocoPhillips and Exxon Mobil. One peer has also praised the firm's antitrust and labor practices.

**Mack Morgan** is the director of the firm's Oklahoma City office and boasts 25 years of trial experience. Morgan has served as lead trial counsel for clients involved in antitrust, securities, intellectual property, negligence, and financial services litigation. He has experience representing both plaintiffs and defendants, and is known for defending class actions for some of the largest corporations in the United States.

**Anton Rupert** focuses on construction, commercial litigation, and products liability disputes. He has been involved in over 40 trials and has successfully earned multimillion dollar victories for his clients.

**Kent Meyers** concentrates his practice in antitrust, commercial and intellectual property litigation. Possessing over 40 years of experience, **Clyde Muchmore** focuses on communications, media, constitutional and appellate law. **Gerald Jackson** is viewed as a "new leading lawyer" by his peers, with a business litigation practice focused on securities, products liability, and energy matters. Prior to joining Crowe & Dunlevy, Jackson worked as the Assistant Counsel to the Committee on Agriculture for the U.S. House of Representatives. Based in Oklahoma City, **Gary Davis** has decades of legal experience dealing with energy, oil and gas, and commercial litigation and has appeared before numerous district courts.

### Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville

Based in Oklahoma City, Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville focuses on complex litigation relating to environmental and natural resource law. The firm's attorneys are also equipped to handle antitrust, employment and white-collar crime cases. Clients include General Electric, Mercedes Benz, and Deutsche Bank.

Peers praise **Drew Neville** for his strong securities practice and his skills in handling "bet-the-company" antitrust cases. Neville has experience working on government

matters, having served as a former legislative assistant in the United States Senate and an assistant U.S. attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma. Recognized for her work in family and employment law, **Laura McConnell-Corbyn** is consistently ranked as one of the top lawyers in the state. She is also a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

### McAfee & Taft

Since the firm's 1952 founding, McAfee & Taft has been identified as one of the more pre-eminent firms in the state. With the opening of a Tulsa office in addition to its Oklahoma City headquarters, the firm has expanded to include 62 lawyers, 47 of whom have first-chair trial experience. McAfee & Taft is equipped to handle a large range of

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civil and criminal litigation, including but not limited to antitrust, banking, general commercial litigation, and insurance coverage. In particular, the firm's products liability practice has been singled out by a peer as "one of the strongest in the state." **Reid Robison** is well known for his products liability work in Oklahoma City. He also maintains a thriving appellate practice, and has tried cases in Oklahoma, Virginia, and Delaware as well as the Court of Appeals for the Fifth, Eighth, Tenth, and Eleventh Circuits.

**John Hermes** is capable of trying a variety of business-related matters in the areas of banking, healthcare, insurance coverage and securities law. His practice has seen a spike in oil and gas litigation.

Along with partner **Spencer Smith**, **Jeff Todd** has been involved in two crop insurance matters in Spring 2008. The first involved the representation of over 90 corn farmers from Parmer County, Texas, and involved an estimated \$2.5 million in claims that the United States Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency had brought against the group. The matter was taken to the National Appeals Division of the USDA, where the hearing officer ruled in

favor of the farmers. The hearing officer agreed with the firm's argument that the RMA had acted capriciously in bringing the action. In the second matter, Todd and Smith represented four wheat farmers from Moore and Dallam counties in Texas in crop insurance matters against the USDA's Risk Management Agency. In that case, the agency claimed that the clients had recalculated the amount owed on their policies "after the fact" and demanded a repayment of several thousand dollars. After an evidentiary hearing in Lubbock, Texas, the hearings officer determined that agency's action was without merit.

**John Kenney's** practice is focused on intellectual property and technical issues, although one peer has noted "he can try anything." Kenney draws expertise from his prior experience as an engineer with the Westinghouse Electric Corporation. Notable clients include Con Agra, a major peanut butter manufacturer, and Dickson Industries.

**Joseph Bocock**, along with partner Kymala Carrier, defended Phillip M. Pourchot, a prominent Oklahoma businessman and part-owner of Central Plastics Company, in a suit brought by trustees alleging numerous breaches of fiduciary duty and seeking over \$7,000,000 in damages. The case went to a

jury trial in federal court, which returned a verdict in August 2008 finding plaintiffs were entitled to nothing.

One of the firm's most recent high-profile cases involved the representation of The Professional Basketball Club, owner of the Oklahoma City Thunder NBA franchise (formerly known as the Seattle SuperSonics), in defending a claim brought by the City of Seattle. The suit related to the team's ability to terminate its lease for Key Arena in Seattle prior to the end of the lease term. After a six-day trial, the parties settled the lawsuit in July 2008. The settlement involved monetary payment to the City of Seattle, but allowed the team to relocate to Oklahoma City immediately. **James Webb** was part of the litigation team at the trial.

**John Burkhardt** is a mainstay in the Tulsa litigation scene and is best known for his work representing oil companies and manufacturers. His practice focuses on employment, oil and gas, securities and bankruptcy litigation. Peers have noted **Michael McClintock's** skill in handling intellectual property matters, specifically patent, trademark, copyrights and cyber-piracy litigation.

## Recommended firms

### Conner & Winters

Conner & Winters has been described by a competitor as a “noteworthy firm” in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Oklahoma. With offices in Texas, Arkansas, New Mexico, and Washington, D.C., the firm has a strong multistate presence. The firm’s Oklahoma City office comprises 16 attorneys and focuses on commercial and insurance litigation. The firm’s largest and oldest location is in Tulsa; the litigators there excel in banking and commercial litigation and are expanding into the niche oil and gas market.

Practicing since 1988, **Mark Dreyer** focuses on work for the propane industry and insurance defense matters. One of his long standing clients is Philadelphia Indemnity Insurance Company, which he has represented in numerous vehicle rental cases. **Irwin Steinhorn** stands out for his skillfulness in securities and environmental matters. For nearly 20 years, he worked as an executive officer and general counsel for a number of New York Stock Exchange companies and served as Chairman of the Business Association Section of the Oklahoma Bar Association.

**Irwin Steinhorn** is renowned for his financial services litigation practice. Among his long-term clients are several New York Stock Exchange companies, waste management businesses, and international enterprises.

### Corbyn Hampton

A fresh face in the Oklahoma litigation sphere, **Corbyn Hampton** was founded in 2007 and has made an impact with its strong business litigation. Although the firm is young, its partners have a wealth of experience. **George Corbyn** alone has 30 years of trial experience under his belt. His practice deals in complex commercial disputes, energy issues, securities, and professional malpractice. He is also admitted to practice in all major Oklahoma courts as well as the United States Supreme Court. **Joe**

**Hampton** brings over 20 years of experience to the firm; he has served as lead counsel in complex jury trials, non-jury trials, and arbitrations. His work in employment and securities law has been described as “stellar” by a competitor. The addition of **Ainslie Stanford** in 2009 adds government and civil litigation experience to an already formidable firm.

### Fellers Snider Blankenship Bailey & Tippens

The team of **Fellers Snider Blankenship Bailey & Tippens** is well known for labor, oil and gas, bankruptcy, antitrust, and securities litigation. Founded in 1963, the firm’s team is based in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. **Terry Tippens** has been called a “top-notch lawyer” by a competitor. He is active in banking, energy, and agricultural litigation and has taken on major personal injury and wrongful death cases. His impressive trial experience includes serving as counsel in over 50 jury trials, with a few cases having over \$100 million on the line. **Eric Eissenstat** has an extensive practice which focuses on class actions, insurance law, intellectual property, and employment disputes.

### GableGotwals

Since the firm’s inception in 1919, **GableGotwals** now has offices in the Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, and Texas. With over 60 lawyers spread across Oklahoma City and Tulsa, the firm handles banking, employment and insurance matters. **James Sturdivant** possesses an impressive 45 years of legal experience and is viewed as a “mainstay” in the Oklahoma litigation market. He primarily focuses on defense work in commercial and antitrust cases.

### Hall Estill Hardwick Gable Golden & Nelson

**Hall Estill Hardwick Gable Golden & Nelson** has been a dominant force in the Oklahoma litigation market since 1967, and has offices in Northwest Arkansas and Washington, D.C. in addition to Tulsa and Oklahoma City. The firm’s most recent victory concerned the defense of Oklahoma City

television station **KFOR** and co-defendant **KWTV** in a defamation case. The plaintiff claimed that news reports broadcast by the stations defamed her and invaded her privacy by placing her in a highly offensive false light. After a seven-day jury trial, an Oklahoma City jury rendered a defense verdict. **Robert D. Nelson** and **Jon A. Epstein** headed the trial team. **Mark Blongewicz’s** practice emphasizes general civil litigation, insurance defense and tort reform. He has seen an increase in employment litigation and litigation concerning Native American ethnic groups. **John Heil III** is well regarded for his intellectual property and commercial litigation practice. Before joining **Hall Estill**, Heil worked in the Tulsa County District Attorney’s Office.

### Kirk & Chaney

**Kirk & Chaney** has been providing quality representation in complex commercial litigation since 1982. The firm’s focus lies in oil and gas, securities, and family law. The firm’s small but powerful team consists of seven partners and three associates, with each partner possessing no less than 20 years of legal experience. Major clients have included **Cingular Wireless**, **National American Insurance**, and **Trigen Energy**.

### Ryan Whaley Coldiron Shandy

**Ryan Whaley Coldiron Shandy** is considered a “strong boutique firm” and its litigation team has tried cases in over 30 states. Based in Oklahoma City, the firm excels in energy and environmental law. In December 2008, the firm initiated the **Ozone Project**, which seeks to reduce American dependency on foreign oil and provide ways to reduce consumer fuel costs.

**Patrick Ryan** remains best known for his work as a United States attorney involved in the prosecution and conviction of **Timothy McVeigh**, the army veteran who bombed the **Alfred P. Murrah Building** in Oklahoma City in April 1995. He primarily handles high profile white-collar crime and civil litigation matters.

