

RHODE ISLAND

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

Adler Pollock & Sheehan

Hinckley Allen & Snyder

Partridge Snow & Hahn

Recommended

Bengston & Jestings

Blish & Cavanagh

Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge

Higgins Cavanaugh & Cooney

Little Medeiros Kinder Bulman & Whitney

MacFayden Gescheidt & O'Brien

Wistow & Baryllick

Local litigation stars

Joseph Cavanagh

Blish & Cavanagh
Civil Litigation

Robert Duffy

Duffy & Sweeney
Complex Commercial Litigation

Mark Freel

Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge
Products Liability

Matthew Medeiros

Little Medeiros Kinder Bulman & Whitney
Complex Commercial Litigation

Gerald Petros

Hinckley Allen & Snyder
Commercial Litigation, Environmental Litigation

Steven Snow

Partridge Snow & Hahn
Civil Litigation

Patricia Sullivan

Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge
Antitrust

John Tarantino

Adler Pollock & Sheehan
Commercial Litigation



Rhode Island

Rhode Island had been experiencing significant growth in private development before the economy crashed and halted new projects. As expected, construction claims have blossomed. The federal court docket in Rhode Island tends to handle cases rather expeditiously, so parties looking for a quick disposition will be pleased to file here. Rhode Island has become rather advanced in products liability litigation, especially toxic tort cases and asbestos claims. In response to the onslaught of these types of cases over the last few years, the Rhode Island Supreme Court issued rulings that have subsequently dampened the ardor of plaintiffs' lawyers looking to bring cases there.

Highly recommended firms

Adler Pollock & Sheehan

"Adler Pollock & Sheehan is very responsive and very cost-effective, so you can hire them to handle just about any level of work" states a client. The firm has a presence across New England, with offices in Boston and Bristol, New Hampshire in addition to its headquarters in Providence.

In a case that garnered national press coverage, Adler Pollock attorneys defended Atlantic Richfield Company in a public nuisance suit brought by the Attorney General that became the longest jury trial in Rhode Island history. The state was claiming \$3 to 5 billion in damages and costs to remediate all lead-based properties in the state. Atlantic Richfield was the only defendant to be found not guilty at trial, and the decision was affirmed on appeal to the

Hinckley Allen & Snyder

Hinckley Allen & Snyder is recognized as one of the premier firms for environmental litigation in Rhode Island. By way of example, the firm was active in the Sullivan's Ledge Superfund Case. The firm also has a very strong construction litigation group, but that team operates primarily out of the Boston office. Nevertheless, the Boston lawyers will often handle construction disputes in Rhode Island. The firm has offices in Hartford and Concord as well. Representative clients include General Electric, Wyeth Laboratories, Proctor & Gamble, and W.R. Grace.

Gerald Petros heads the firm's environmental group, and his practice is focused on environmental litigation and compliance. He represents clients in private cost recovery actions, Superfund litigation, toxic tort litigation, and insurance coverage

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Rhode Island Supreme Court.

According to clients, John Tarantino is one of the best trial and appellate lawyers in all of New England. He has been instrumental in creating new law on insurance coverage for environmental liability; because of his arguments, Rhode Island now has some of the most favorable insurance law for manufacturers in the United States. A client comments that "Tarantino is one of the most responsive attorneys that I've worked with in 30 years. If you need something he gets back to you-I don't care what day or what time." Another client remarks that "Adler Pollock is a very good firm, but John Tarantino is just exceptional." Peers concur, saying that "he deserves all the praise that he receives." A client also remarks that partner Todd White is "very smart and very practical."

disputes. He also has extensive experience defending clients against federal enforcement actions under the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and various other state and federal environmental statutes.

Partridge Snow & Hahn

Partridge Snow & Hahn has developed a reputation as a sterling firm in southeastern New England. The firm has offices in Providence and Warwick in Rhode Island and an office in New Bedford, Massachusetts. The firm is now one of the largest firms in this region of the country, and advises clients in all variety of industries, including manufacturing, life sciences, health care, finance, and real estate.

Steven Snow counsels clients in complex civil litigation matters, including antitrust, intellectual property, employment and

health care matters. He has litigated consumer class actions on behalf of clients in the banking and health insurance industries, successfully defended securities fraud and breach of contract cases for corporate clients, and has defended and prosecuted patent infringement and trademark, copyright and trade secrets cases.

Recommended firms

Bengston & Jestings

Bengston & Jestings changed its firm name from Carroll Kelly & Murphy in 2009. The firm remains particularly active in insurance defense work. Other specialties include medical malpractice and products liability litigation. The firm has one office in Providence. Representative clients include The Hartford, Omni Insurance Group, Atlantic Mutual Insurance Company, Travelers Insurance Company, and Black & Decker.

Blish & Cavanagh

The attorneys at Blish & Cavanagh have tried cases in state trial and appellate courts in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut. The firm currently has seven partners working out of its sole office in Providence. The partners at Blish & Cavanagh initially represented clients on matters of commercial litigation, malpractice, and libel claims, but has recently expanded their practices to include labor and employment and environmental litigation.

Joseph Cavanagh co-founded the firm in 1986, and has devoted his entire practice to civil litigation. He has a specialized emphasis in media law, and represents newspapers and broadcast media on issues including libel and slander actions, prior restraint litigation, and FOIA requests.

Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge

Edwards Angell Palmer & Dogde has offices around New England, around the country, and around the world. Worldwide, the firm has close to 150 litigators handling civil and criminal litigation, corporate investigations, and regulatory matters.

Mark Freel handles much of the firm's trial work in the Providence office. He regularly represents closely held corporations in shareholder disputes. He also advises manufacturers on intellectual property and products liability issues.

"Patricia Sullivan is bright capable lawyer and is an expert in antitrust and unfair competition work," says a competitor. She advises many clients in the local community, and has represented businesses that are the subject of treble damage actions, as well as companies that face criminal prosecution.

Higgins Cavanagh & Cooney

Higgins Cavanagh & Cooney has a very

strong insurance defense practice. For 50 years, the firm has handled traditional insurance defense work as well as products liability matters. The firm also litigates coverage disputes involving environmental coverage claims, duty to defend, and bad faith. The lawyers in the firm's sole office in Providence also practice in all areas of civil litigation, with an emphasis on business litigation.

Little Medeiros Kinder Bulman & Whitney
Little Medeiros Kinder Bulman & Whitney employs 14 attorneys practicing predominantly commercial litigation. The firm excels at handling partnership disputes and financial services litigation. Additionally, the firm has an active practice litigating and arbitrating employment and construction disputes. The firm recently

handled a \$5 million arbitration claim for O. Ahlborg & Sons, a Rhode Island-based construction manager. The claimant sought damages resulting from the opposing party's termination of a contract to construct luxury condominium units. Partners Christopher Little and Christopher Whitney arbitrated the case under AAA rules, which resulted in an arbitrator's award for \$5 million being issued to the plaintiff. The case has precedential value in defining the bounds of the termination for convenience principle. Peers recognize **Matthew Medeiros** for his quality representation in the areas of business litigation and antitrust.

MacFayden Gescheidt & O'Brien
MacFayden Gescheidt & O'Brien specializes in criminal defense, appellate work, and civil litigation in Rhode Island and

Massachusetts. Partner John MacFayden is often involved in very high profile litigation in the state. He has represented a governor, the Rhode Island General Assembly, mayors, Brown University officials, and a Speaker of the House of Representatives, as well as corporate executives.

Wistow & Barylick
Wistow & Barylick predominantly handles plaintiff litigation in the personal injury and medical malpractice areas. The firm has particular expertise in physician and hospital malpractice cases. Partners also litigate products liability matters and have obtained plaintiff verdicts in hazardous drug cases. The firm also has experience in legal malpractice, insurance bad faith, social worker and adoption malpractice, and wrongful death suits.

