

VERMONT

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

Dinse Knapp & McAndrew

Downs Rachlin & Martin

Gravel & Shea

Paul Frank & Collins

Sheehey Furlong & Behm

Spink & Miller

Recommended

Cleary Shahi & Aicher

McCormick Fitzpatrick Kasper & Burchard

Theriault & Joslin

Local litigation stars

Jeffrey Behm

Sheehey Furlong & Behm
Antitrust, Employment Litigation, General
Commercial Litigation, Insurance

Crocker Bennett

Paul Frank & Collins
Personal Injury, Products Liability

Ritchie Berger

Dinse Knapp & McAndrew
Complex Commercial Litigation

Dan Burchard

McCormick Fitzpatrick Kasper & Burchard
Civil Litigation

Matthew Byrne

Gravel & Shea
Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property,
Personal Injury, Products Liability

Robert Cain

Paul Frank & Collins
General Commercial Litigation

David Cleary

Cleary Shahi & Aicher
Civil Litigation, Commercial Litigation

Robert DiPalma

Paul Frank & Collins
Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property

Marc Heath

Downs Rachlin & Martin
Products Liability

Thomas Heilmann

Heilmann Ekman & Associates
Civil Litigation

Robert Hemley

Gravel & Shea
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Criminal Litigation,
Employment Litigation, Medical Malpractice,
Personal Injury, Products Liability,

Samuel Hoar

Dinse Knapp & McAndrew
Insurance, Products Liability, Toxic Torts

Peter Joslin

Theriault & Joslin
Commercial Litigation, Medical Malpractice,
Products Liability,

Robert Luce

Downs Rachlin & Martin
Complex Commercial Litigation

Karen McAndrew

Dinse Knapp & McAndrew
Education Litigation, Employment Litigation

Tom McCormick

McCormick Fitzpatrick Kasper & Burchard
Business Litigation, Civil Litigation, Mediation

Robert McKearin

Dinse Knapp & McAndrew
Alternative Dispute Resolution, Employment
Litigation

Elizabeth Miller

Spink & Miller
Complex Commercial Litigation, Products Liability,
Toxic Torts

Eric Miller

Sheehey Furlong & Behm
Complex Civil Litigation, White Collar Crime

John Monahan

Dinse Knapp & McAndrew
Drug and Medical Device Liability, Professional
Malpractice

Robert O'Neill

Gravel & Shea
Commercial Litigation, Criminal Litigation,
Employment Litigation, Environmental and Land Use
Litigation, Estate and Trust Litigation, Medical
Malpractice, Personal Injury, Products Liability

Bruce Palmer

Downs Rachlin & Martin
Insurance

Robert Rachlin

Downs Rachlin & Martin
General Civil Litigation

John Sartore

Paul Frank & Collins
Arbitration, Civil Litigation, Mediation,

Megan Shafritz

Gravel & Shea
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Employment
Litigation, Intellectual Property, Personal Injury,
Products Liability

Tom Simon

McCormick Fitzpatrick Kasper & Burchard
Civil Litigation

James Spink

Spink & Miller
Products Liability, Professional Negligence

Future stars

Debra Bouffard
Sheehey Furlong & Behm

Nolan Burkhouse
Paul Frank & Collins

Tristram Coffin
Paul Frank & Collins

Sonya Sibold
Paul Frank & Collins

Shapleigh Smith Jr.
Dinse Knapp & McAndrew



Vermont

Vermont's legal landscape consists of both mid-sized multi-state firms and local boutiques providing comprehensive legal services to both metropolitan and remote parts of the state. Vermont is home to a host of lawyers with a strong command of Constitutional law, and the legal community retains the collegial atmosphere that is so typical of New England.

Highly recommended firms

Dinse Knapp & McAndrew

Formed in 1997, Burlington-based boutique Dinse Knapp & McAndrew is primarily involved in civil litigation, education and employment law. However, one peer notes that the firm has "shown experience handling products liability claims in the past and should definitely be recognized in that area."

Ritchie Berger is one of Vermont's premier trial lawyers. He defends clients in complex civil litigation throughout Vermont and across New England. In April 2009, Berger was retained to defend a fraud claim brought against a securitized lender in

New York. Downs Rachlin focuses primarily on real estate litigation, intellectual property, products liability, creditors' rights and medical malpractice. The firm also has a burgeoning appellate practice.

Robert Luce is chairman of the firm's Litigation Group, and he has extensive experience managing and trying complex commercial litigation matters. He has successfully represented brain injury and spinal cord victims and their families in Vermont for more than 15 years. He regularly tries cases in state and federal court and is experienced in mediation and arbitration. Luce has successfully represented businesses in significant

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Massachusetts state court. The action was removed to federal court, where Berger was successful in enforcing the jury waiver and choice of law provisions in the loan documents. Following a two-week bench trial, the Court issued a decision rejecting all claims of the borrower-plaintiff and entered judgment for the defense. **Samuel Hoar** is recommended for his broad experience in environmental and toxic tort, products liability, insurance coverage and general litigation matters. **John Monahan** focuses on the defense of medical malpractice claims, legal malpractice claims, and drug and medical device liability, including class actions. **Shapleigh Smith** is touted as a future star for his thriving insurance practice.

Downs Rachlin & Martin

Tracing its roots to 1950, Downs Rachlin & Martin has since blossomed into the largest law firm in Vermont and one of the largest full-service firms in northern New England. The firm employs 85 attorneys and maintains offices in Burlington, St. Johnsbury, Brattleboro, and Montpelier, as well as New Hampshire offices in Lebanon and Littleton, and an office in Plattsburgh,

litigation throughout the Northeast, and he has achieved several recoveries of over a million dollars in personal injury cases. **Andre Bouffard** earns praise for his bankruptcy practice, in which he represents clients in complex foreclosures, receiverships, loan enforcement litigation, intercreditor disputes and lender liability defense.

Gravel & Shea

Tracing its genesis to 1967, Burlington boutique Gravel & Shea today provides legal services in a wide variety of disciplines, including civil litigation, intellectual property, personal injury litigation, and employment law. Peers note that "they have distinguished themselves over the years in commercial contract litigation." In March 2009, the firm obtained a permanent injunction on behalf of the developer of an innovative sports technology product prohibiting a former company employee from making any statements disparaging the product or creating confusion as to whether he is speaking for the company.

Local litigators acknowledge **Robert Hemley** as "the driving force" behind Gravel & Shea's success. **Matthew Byrne**

practices in all areas of business litigation and frequently represents clients in complex commercial cases. Byrne has represented some of the largest corporations in the world in cases involving multibillion-dollar exposure. **Megan Shafritz** advises clients in complex commercial disputes, various areas of employment litigation and other business and civil matters.

Paul Frank & Collins

Paul Frank & Collins serves Vermont and the surrounding areas, including communities across the border in Canada, through offices in Burlington and Plattsburgh, New York. The firm's litigation practice includes products liability, medical malpractice and personal injury, insurance and professional liability.

S. Crocker Bennett has tried many personal injury and products liability cases to verdict in state and federal courts in Vermont. Although he primarily represents hospitals, physician practice groups and individual health care providers in medical malpractice cases, he also represents plaintiffs in significant personal injury cases. Recommended by several peers, **Robert DiPalma** represents lenders in commercial finance transactions and also handles intellectual property litigation, including trademark and copyright infringement, and opposition and cancellation proceedings before the Patent and Trademark Office. He also litigates disputes arising under the Uniform Commercial Code as well as commercial lease disputes.

Sheehy Furlong & Behm

Burlington boutique Sheehy Furlong & Behm represents national, regional and Vermont-based business enterprises, non-profit organizations and individuals. The nine-person firm boasts an impressive list of clients, including Daimler Chrysler, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Verizon New England, and Volkswagen of America, Inc. Peers note that "white-collar crime is one of the most prominent areas of their practice."

One member of the legal community says **Eric Miller** has "really distinguished himself on the defense side of professional malpractice claims and white-collar criminal cases."

Spink & Miller

Another Burlington boutique, Spink & Miller makes its debut as a highly recommended firm this year. With only four members, peers state that the firm is "small, but as good as any of the top-tier firms, and they handle very complex commercial litigation." Competitors also note that **James Spink** is "one of the top litigators in the state." Since 1980, Mr. Spink has tried over 125 cases to verdict. His areas of concentration include transportation, products liability, and professional negligence matters. **Elizabeth Miller** is also lauded as a future star. Miller

represents commercial and individual clients in a variety of complex litigation and administrative matters, including commercial disputes, toxic torts, and products liability.

Recommended firms

Cleary Shahi & Aicher

Rutland-based Cleary Shahi & Aicher serves the often-overlooked southern part of the state, where many clients tend to retain firms in larger nearby metropolitan areas like Boston or New York. A five-member boutique, the firm concentrates primarily on personal injury and insurance claims. In this capacity, **David Cleary** acts as defense

counsel for the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and its affiliates, Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, and Washington, Orange, and Rutland County mental health services.

McCormick Fitzpatrick Kasper & Burchard

Tracing its origins to 1940, Burlington boutique McCormick Fitzpatrick Kasper & Burchard is Vermont's second-oldest law firm. The firm concentrates on employment law, civil and criminal defense litigation and personal injury, as well as insurance claims. **Dan Burchard** and **Tom Simon** receive honorable mention from peers for their "very impressive" litigation acumen.

Therault & Joslin

Therault & Joslin is principally dedicated to handling litigation. The firm's trial practice focuses on the defense of medical malpractice, products liability, personal injury and workers compensation claims. The firm was formed in 1946 in Burlington, where it continues to operate with only three attorneys. However, its presence has not been overlooked by members of the legal community, one of whom notes that "they are very good, and I refer cases to them all the time." **Peter** and **Ted Joslin** are both mentioned by peers for their "excellent litigation skills."

