

WEST VIRGINIA

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

Allen Guthrie McHugh & Thomas

Bowles Rice McDavid Graff & Love

Dinsmore & Shohl

Jackson Kelly

Spilman Thomas & Battle

Steptoe & Johnson

Recommended

Bailey & Glasser

Carey Scott & Douglas

Flaherty Sensabaugh & Bonasso

Goodwin & Goodwin

Hendrickson & Long

Huddleston Bolen

Jenkins Fenstermaker

The Tinney Law Firm

Local litigation stars

Benjamin Bailey

Bailey & Glasser

Bankruptcy, Energy Litigation, Environmental Litigation

Rebecca Betts

Allen Guthrie McHugh & Thomas

Antitrust, Personal Injury, Securities

Michael Carey

Carey Scott & Douglas

Construction Litigation, Personal Injury, White Collar Crime

Michael T. Cimino

Jackson Kelly

Products Liability

Alvin Emch

Jackson Kelly

Appellate, Commercial Litigation, Energy Litigation, Products Liability

Brian Glasser

Bailey & Glasser

Bankruptcy, Class Actions, Energy Litigation, Environmental Litigation

Thomas Goodwin

Goodwin & Goodwin

Appellate, Complex Commercial Litigation

David Hendrickson

Hendrickson & Long

Insurance, Medical Malpractice, Products Liability

Henry Jernigan

Dinsmore & Shohl

Antitrust, Appellate, Class Actions, Products Liability

Niall Paul

Spilman Thomas & Battle

Class Actions, Commercial Litigation, Employment Litigation

Jeffrey Phillips

Steptoe & Johnson

Energy Litigation, Governmental Liability, Personal Injury

Thomas Scarr

Jenkins Fenstermaker

Employment Litigation, General Commercial Litigation

Don Sensabaugh

Flaherty Sensabaugh & Bonasso

Health Law, Medical Malpractice

Gerard Stowers

Bowles Rice McDavid Graff & Love

Business Litigation

David Thomas

Allen Guthrie McHugh & Thomas

Environmental Litigation, Products Liability

John Tinney

The Tinney Law Firm

Antitrust, Appellate, Class Actions, Products Liability

James Walls

Spilman Thomas & Battle

Appellate, Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Marc Williams

Huddleston Bolen

Appellate, Class Actions, Insurance, Transportation

Future stars

David Fenwick

Goodwin & Goodwin

Angela Herdman

Spilman Thomas & Battle

Robert James

Flaherty Sensabaugh & Bonasso

Brian Lindsay

Jenkins Fenstermaker

Ramonda Lyons

Dinsmore & Shohl

Ashley Pack

Dinsmore & Shohl

Marc Weintraub

Bailey & Glasser



West Virginia

West Virginia is known as a plaintiff-friendly jurisdiction, which has made the state a hotbed for asbestos suits and other products liability claims. Employment cases have steadily increased with constraints on job opportunities and the decline of the coal industry.

Highly recommended firms

Allen Guthrie McHugh & Thomas

Twenty-lawyer boutique firm Allen Guthrie McHugh & Thomas excels in complex commercial litigation and counts tobacco manufacturers, pharmaceutical manufacturers and hospitals among its clients. Founded in 1981 by a former U.S. Attorney, the firm currently includes six former Assistant U.S. Attorneys and three former West Virginia Assistant Attorneys General. The firm focuses on products liability, securities, white-collar criminal defense and toxic tort litigation. Clients include Altria Corporate Services, Appalachian Pain Therapy, Professional Anesthesia Services, Yamaha Motor Corporation and 3M Company.

Managing partner **David Thomas** joined the firm in 2000 and has tried cases in West Virginia, Mississippi and Delaware. He excels in the fields of environmental, professional malpractice, products liability, toxic tort and consumer class action litigation. A former U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia, **Rebecca Betts** represents high-profile corporate clients in antitrust, securities, and mass tort litigation.

Bowles Rice McDavid Graff & Love

Founded in 1920 in Charleston, Bowles Rice McDavid Graff & Love has expanded to six cities in West Virginia and an out-of-state location in Kentucky. The firm handles antitrust, class action, contract, insurance coverage, medical malpractice, products liability, and toxic tort litigation. In October 2008, the firm grew its Morgantown office with the addition of four new partners. This will help to augment the firm's energy and real estate practice in northern West Virginia. **Gerard Stowers** chairs the Risk Management group; his expertise lies in legal malpractice and personal injury.

Dinsmore & Shohl

With headquarters in Ohio, Dinsmore & Shohl enjoys a strong presence in West Virginia through its Charleston, Morgantown and Wheeling offices. The firm is recognized for its general commercial, mass torts, and products liability practices. Competitors are starting to notice the firm's burgeoning intellectual property department as well. Clients include Allegheny Energy, Massey Energy, and RJ Reynolds Tobacco.

Henry Jernigan is the managing partner for the West Virginia office and serves clients in

mass torts, products liability and natural resource litigation. Clients include Proctor & Gamble, Black & Decker, and Chrysler. **Raymonda Lyons** is known for her work in insurance, mining, natural resources, and motor vehicle litigation. She has tried cases in district courts in West Virginia and North Carolina. New partner **Ashley Pack** is a member of the labor and employment department. She also litigates media and First Amendment matters.

Jackson Kelly

One of the oldest firms in West Virginia, Jackson Kelly was established in 1822 and has grown considerably from a single office in Charleston to a six-office entity with locations in Colorado, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia. The firm stands out for its white-collar criminal defense, health and environmental practices.

In July 2009, Jackson Kelly obtained a dismissal in the Second Circuit Court of

companies in proceedings before the Mine Safety and Health Administration and Occupational Safety and Health Administration. He is also an active member of the Board of Governors of the Defense Trial Counsel of West Virginia.

Spilman Thomas & Battle

Peers praise Spilman Thomas & Battle for its strong presence in the Mid-Atlantic region. The firm concentrates on general commercial litigation with a particular focus on antitrust, construction, intellectual property and products liability. The firm has served as general counsel to the past two governors of West Virginia. The recent addition of Olen York has helped to strengthen the firm's intellectual property practice. York handles patent, trademark, copyright, trade secrets, unfair competition, licensing matters.

Niall Paul excels in employment litigation, trade practice disputes and complex tort claims. **James Walls** defends employment discrimination and personal injury defense claims. He also has a notable appellate practice. **Angela Herdman** focuses on personal injury and insurance litigation.

Steptoe & Johnson

With more than 180 lawyers and eight offices in West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky, Steptoe & Johnson is known for its formidable products liability, energy, health care and employment practices. Representative clients include American Electric Power, Patriot

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Appeals on behalf of its client Applied Research Associates, Inc. in a suit in which the plaintiff alleged that the defendant defrauded the US government in its investigation concerning the collapse of the World Trade Center Towers. The original suit claimed that the defendants failed to consider that the Twin Towers were destroyed due to military-grade energy weaponry being fired at the buildings. Attorney Gail D. Zirkelbach represented Applied Research Associates.

Former firm CEO and managing partner **Alvin Emch** has been practicing at Jackson Kelly since 1977 and has contributed significant wins in the areas of personal injury, products liability, class actions, and other complex litigation. He was instrumental in implementing the country's first district-wide mediation program in a United States District Court. **Michael T. Cimino** has successfully defended coal

Coal Association, St. Mary Hospital and West Virginia University. The addition of David Hammond is expected to add considerably to the firm's real estate and land use and natural resource practices. The firm recently opened a new office in Lexington, Kentucky. **Jeffrey Phillips**, a seasoned litigator who practiced with Steptoe & Johnson for 18 years, has been named managing partner of the new office. He has tried 45 cases to verdict in state and federal courts and has an extensive appellate practice.

Recommended firms

Bailey & Glasser

Boutique firm Bailey & Glasser is known throughout West Virginia for its work in coal and energy litigation. The firm has a diverse practice and has been involved in high-stakes contract disputes, criminal defense, and

health care compliance work.

A peer calls **Benjamin Bailey** “a solid litigator”; he concentrates in complex commercial litigation and white collar criminal defense work. Competitors have commented on his willingness to go to trial. Co-founding partner **Brian Glasser** has a varied practice that includes products liability, commercial litigation, criminal defense, and appellate work. **Marc Weintraub** deals primarily in corporate finance, real estate, securities, and energy matters.

Carey Scott Douglas & Kessler

Peers compliment the six-person team at Carey Scott Douglas & Kessler for its employment, products liability, and criminal defense work. The firm also handles class actions, oil and gas, asbestos, and contract cases. **Michael Carey** devotes a majority of his practice to litigation, specifically commercial disputes, class actions, and white-collar criminal defense. Carey served as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia.

Flaherty Sensabaugh & Bonasso

The 40 lawyers at Flaherty Sensabaugh & Bonasso dedicate a bulk of their practice to representing individuals, small businesses and corporations in class actions, medical malpractice, products liability and employment litigation. In May 2009, the firm obtained summary judgment for a hospital in southern West Virginia in an alleged personal injury and wrongful death suit. In February 2009 the firm also obtained summary judgment for a real estate appraiser in a case where the plaintiffs unsuccessfully argued that their house did not sell due to the defendant’s low appraisal.

Named partner **Don Sensabaugh Jr.** is highly regarded for his medical malpractice

and health care practice. Peers have commended **Robert James’** civil litigation practice, which emphasizes professional liability, labor law, motor vehicle law, and general litigation. He represents clients in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

Goodwin & Goodwin

With offices in Charleston, Parkersburg and Ripley, Goodwin & Goodwin boasts considerable experience in the areas of employment law, insurance coverage, products liability, and professional liability. **Thomas Goodwin** enjoys a noteworthy complex commercial litigation practice, representing clients in state and federal courts. Before his work in private practice, Goodwin assisted Governor John D. Rockefeller. **David Fenwick** is adept at matters pertaining to employment and telecommunications litigation. He has argued on behalf of clients before regulatory and licensing entities. His employment expertise had led him to author a number of articles pertaining to labor litigation.

Hendrickson & Long

Hendrickson & Long deserves praise for its strong general litigation practice. The firm is best known for its work in asbestos defense, commercial law, and medical malpractice. Founding partner **David Hendrickson** possesses over 20 years of trial experience and practices in the areas of insurance defense, medical malpractice, products liability and toxic tort litigation. He often represents manufacturers and premises owners in asbestos litigation. In addition to his asbestos work, he is also knowledgeable in cases involving benzene, PCBs and aromatic hydrocarbons.

Huddleston Bolen

Founded in 1871, Huddleston Bolen has

dedicated itself to the practice of railroad litigation, class actions, mass torts, employment law, and general commercial litigation. Clients in the banking and finance industry include United Bank, First Sentry Bank and the Community Trust Bank NA; notable corporate and business clients include Pepsi Bottling Company, St. Mary’s Medical Center, and Marshall University.

Breakout star **Marc Williams** has had success at the trial and appellate level in cases involving employment, insurance, complex commercial and personal injury issues.

Jenkins Fenstermaker

Full-service firm Jenkins Fenstermaker is headquartered in Huntington and has a reach into the litigation markets of Virginia, Georgia and Florida. The firm’s notable practice areas include personal injury, products liability, insurance, health care and business litigation. Litigation group head **Thomas Scarr** concentrates in civil litigation with an emphasis on employment law. Scarr also typically handles personal injury, products liability, toxic tort and medical malpractice claims. **Brian Lindsay** is noted for his products liability work, specifically in the fields of asbestos and silica litigation, and insurance defense.

The Tinney Law Firm

The Tinney Law Firm handles antitrust, professional liability, products liability, personal injury and white-collar criminal defense. The firm’s clients include businesses and government entities; select clients include General Motors, Ernst & Young, Motorola, and the city of Summersville, West Virginia. With over 35 years of trial experience, **John Tinney** is viewed favorably for his work in products liability, professional liability and mass torts. Clients include Schering-Plough, Liberty Mutual, and the City of Charleston.

