

WYOMING

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

Davis & Cannon

Hirst Applegate

Holland & Hart

Williams Porter Day & Neville

Recommended

Hickey & Evans

Lathrop & Rutledge

Schwartz Bon Walker & Studer

Spence Law Firm

Yonkee & Toner

Local litigation stars

Kay Lynn Bestol

Sundahl Powers Kapp & Martin
Appellate, Civil Litigation, Insurance

Patrick Day

Holland & Hart
Appellate, Class Actions

Richard Day

Williams Porter Day & Neville
Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Kate Fox

Davis & Cannon
Civil Litigation, Employment Litigation

Paul Hickey

Hickey & Evans
Commercial Litigation, Employment Litigation

Richard Mincer

Hirst Applegate
Civil Litigation, Products Liability

Patrick Murphy

Williams Porter Day & Neville
Insurance, Products Liability

Thomas Nicholas III

Hirst Applegate
Commercial Litigation, Insurance

Kent Rutledge

Lathrop & Rutledge
Commercial Litigation, Insurance, Products Liability

Gary Scott

Hirst Applegate
Insurance

Judith Studer

Schwartz Bon Walker & Studer
Commercial Litigation, Insurance

John Sundahl

Sundahl Powers Kapp & Martin
Insurance, Medical Malpractice, Products Liability

Tom Toner

Yonkee & Toner
General Commercial Litigation

Future stars

Billie Addleman
Hirst Applegate

Dale Cottam
Hirst Applegate

Walter Eggers III
Holland & Hart



Wyoming

Known for its beautiful geography, it should come as no surprise that environmental litigation is predominant in Wyoming. Energy and mineral litigation are also active practices in the state, with lawyers based in the major cities of Cheyenne, Sheridan, and Casper representing oil, gas and mineral-producing companies.

Highly recommended firms

Davis & Cannon

Established in 1948, Davis & Cannon has offices in Cheyenne, Gillette and Sheridan. The firm and its twelve attorneys excel in national class actions and natural resource matters. The Cheyenne office focuses on the representation of state government agencies, while the Sheridan office deals with mineral development, ranching, water rights and other business issues. The firm also practices complex commercial litigation, products liability defense, employment law and transactional matters. The firm's lawyers have appeared before state and federal courts throughout Wyoming. A peer calls **Kate Fox's** practice "stupendous." Her expertise lies in employment and water litigation.

Hirst Applegate

Hirst & Applegate has extensive experience in complex commercial, employment, energy, and real estate litigation. "They are very concise and know how to quickly resolve matters," says a client. A client praises **Gary Scott** for his "absolute professionalism." He has served as lead counsel in nearly 60 jury and bench trials in state and federal courts throughout Wyoming. Senior partner **Thomas Nicholas** has been with the firm since 1978 and has served as lead counsel in personal injury, wrongful death, and oil and gas royalty cases.

"**Richard Mincer** is very reliable," notes a peer. Mincer concentrates on civil litigation and tort work, and primarily handles products liability and transportation defense cases. **Billie Addleman** has quickly made a name for himself in the fields of medical malpractice, real estate litigation, and wrongful death defense. In 2009 Mincer and Addleman, along with **Richard Schneebeck**, successfully defended a Wyoming Chemical plant in a toxic tort and wrongful death case. The plaintiff was the estate of a deceased contract worker at the plant who claimed he developed irritant-induced asthma after exposure to ammonia while working at the plant. The court granted summary judgment in favor of the defendant, citing that the plaintiffs failed to establish a direct cause and effect between the exposure and the worker's death. **Dale Cottam** has been cited as a "strong rising star" in the arenas of public utilities and energy law.

Holland & Hart

National firm Holland & Hart's expansion into

the Wyoming market has proven successful. The firm maintains offices in Cheyenne and Jackson Hole and represents clients in natural resources and complex civil litigation. The Cheyenne office is among the largest in the state with 17 attorneys offering a full range of complex litigation services. The firm's Jackson Hole location opened in 1981 to serve clients in western Wyoming and handles personal injury, employment and real estate litigation. Clients include ExxonMobil and ConocoPhillips. **Patrick Day** receives accolades for his impressive commercial litigation practice representing major coal producers, oil and gas companies, pipelines, refineries and gas plants. "He's a great lawyer. He certainly deserves to be included on a top list," says a competitor.

Williams Porter Day & Neville

Williams Porter Day & Neville has provided quality legal service to clients for over 70 years. The firm has very strong ties to the state, with 14 out of 15 litigators coming from Wyoming and studying at the University of Wyoming Law

“Williams Porter Day & Neville has very strong ties to Wyoming, with 14 out of 15 litigators coming from Wyoming and studying at the University of Wyoming Law School.”

School. Based in Casper, the firm boasts vibrant insurance defense, personal injury and energy practices and its lawyers have appeared in all state and federal courts in the region. Representative clients include Chubb Group, CAIG, Transamerica Insurance, and First American Title Insurance.

Richard Day has 45 years of legal experience and practices personal injury, professional malpractice, products liability, employment, and environmental litigation. Peers consider **Patrick Murphy** a "highly visible star" in the Wyoming market. Possessing 30 years of experience, Murphy concentrates in insurance bad faith, products liability, personal injury, and medical malpractice claims.

Recommended firms

Hickey & Evans

Hickey & Evans has provided quality service to its clients for over 75 years. The firm has an ample practice devoted to insurance defense,

environmental law, utilities matters, administrative law, and general litigation. "They do a lot of commercial work," notes a competitor. Representative clients include Qwest, First National Bank of Wyoming and the Warren Federal Credit Union. The firm's administrative law practice has successfully advised numerous school districts and government entities.

Named partner **Paul Hickey** has tried several cases in state and federal courts regarding oil and gas, negligence, and commercial matters. Peers respect the strength of his practice as well as his 30 years of experience.

Lathrop & Rutledge

Established in 1958 as Lathrop & Lathrop, Lathrop & Rutledge houses a modest but formidable team of five attorneys known for their "excellent work" in medical injury cases. The firm's client base includes professionals, insurance companies, and corporations and it is equipped to tackle professional liability, employment, commercial and general civil litigation. Clients include CIGNA, OHIC Insurance Company, Wyoming Hospital Association, Emergency Medical Physicians and Colorado Interstate Gas.

A mainstay of the firm since 1974, **Kent Rutledge** maintains an active practice representing clients in matters of professional liability defense, insurance and bad faith litigation, and products liability defense. He is admitted to practice in the Federal Court in the District of Colorado and in the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Schwartz Bon Walker & Studer

Schwartz Bon Walker & Studer is a Casper-based boutique litigation firm known for its insurance defense practice. The firm has eight partners and one associate; peers describe the firm's practice as "newsworthy." Clients include Allstate Insurance Company, Mid Continent Casualty Company, Safeco Companies, The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, National Farmers Union Insurance Company, and the First Interstate Bank of Casper. Peers recognize **Judith Studer** for her accomplished energy practice.

Spence Law Firm

Founded over 50 years ago by partner Gerry Spence, Spence Law Firm has been recognized for its work in medical malpractice, employment discrimination and civil rights matters. Headquartered in Jackson, the firm also has affiliated offices in Idaho and New Mexico and its attorneys are licensed to practice in several states. The firm has successfully

represented individuals against major energy companies like Pioneer Drilling and Denali Oil and Gas, Columbus Southern Power Company and American Electric Power.

Sundahl Powers Kapp & Martin

Described as “an extremely bright lawyer” by a peer, **Kay Lynn Bestol** primarily focuses on personal injury defense, although she also handles civil rights, insurance coverage, professional malpractice, and civil rights matters. Possessing over 35 years of experience, **John Sundahl** is “well-known and highly respected” among his fellow litigators. He excels in complex defense-side litigation, and has been involved in insurance, environmental, public utilities, banking and railroad disputes.

Yonkee & Toner

One of the smallest boutiques in the state, Yonkee & Toner receives accolades for its success in a wide variety of practice areas including water rights, oil and gas litigation, and medical malpractice disputes. Local clients include Sheridan County School Districts, North Big Horn Hospital District, and West Park Hospital while national clients include State Farm Insurance and Metropolitan Life Insurance. Named partner **Tom Toner** is praised by contemporaries for his concentration in natural resources, water rights, and commercial litigation.

