

UTAH

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

Burbidge Mitchell & Gross

Holland & Hart

Parr Brown Gee & Loveless

Snell & Wilmer

Stoel Rives

Recommended

Fabian & Clendenin

Manning Curtis Bradshaw & Bednar

Parsons Behle & Latimer

Ray Quinney & Nebeker

Local litigation stars

John Anderson

Stoel Rives
Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Kevin Anderson

Fabian & Clendenin
Commercial Litigation, Energy, Environmental

Arthur Berger

Ray Quinney & Nebeker
Intellectual Property

Lois Baar

Holland & Hart
Employment Litigation

Blaine Benard

Holland & Hart
Commercial Litigation

Bryon Benevento

Snell & Wilmer
Commercial Litigation

Kenneth Black

Stoel Rives
Commercial Litigation

John Bogart

The Telos Ventures Group
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Securities

Richard Burbidge

Burbidge Mitchell & Gross
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Products Liability, Securities

Robert S Clark

Parr Brown Gee & Loveless
Antitrust, Appellate, Commercial Litigation

M David Eckersley

Prince Yeates & Geldzahler
Litigation, Personal Injury

Ray Etcheverry

Parsons Behle & Latimer
Commercial Litigation

Brett Foster

Holland & Hart
Intellectual Property

Craig Galli

Holland & Hart
Energy, Environmental Litigation

George Haley

Holland & Hart
Commercial Litigation

John P Harrington

Holland & Hart
Commercial Litigation

Jeffrey Hunt

Commercial Litigation, Media Law
Parr Brown Gee & Loveless

David Jordan

Stoel Rives
Commercial Litigation, Securities, White-Collar Crime

David Mangum

Parsons Behle & Latimer
Antitrust, Intellectual Property

Brent Manning

Manning Curtis Bradshaw & Bednar
Commercial Litigation

D Matthew Moscon

Stoel Rives
Commercial Litigation

Michael O'Brien

Jones Waldo
Employment Litigation

Ronald Russell

Parr Brown Gee & Loveless
Commercial Litigation, Real Estate Law

Alan Sullivan

Snell & Wilmer
Commercial Litigation, Health Law, Intellectual Property

Francis Wikstrom

Parsons Behle & Latimer
Civil Litigation, White-Collar Crime

David Zimmerman

Holland & Hart
Construction Litigation, Energy

Future stars

James Ahlstrom
Parr Brown Gee & Loveless

Chad Derum
Manning Curtis Bradshaw & Bednar

Matt Evans
Ray Quinney & Nebeker

David Reymann
Parr Brown Gee & Loveless

Utah

It was a busy past year for the Salt Lake City legal market, which saw a notable re-shuffling of the law firm landscape. With the departure of over two dozen Holmes Roberts Owens litigators to rival Holland & Hart and a marked push by national players like Stoel Rives to heighten their market presence, many long-established local firms have been bolstering their regional footprints as well, giving clients with regional interests several places to turn to for top litigation talent. The state's established firms are seeing a steady flow of casework related to contract disputes, real estate, products liability, natural resources, class actions and personal injury claims along with intellectual property, energy and utilities matters. On the transactional side, many corporate practices are buzzing along with mergers, acquisitions and consolidation work as well.

Highly recommended firms

Burbidge Mitchell & Gross

Founded in 1976, the Salt Lake City firm of Burbidge Mitchell & Gross continues to prove itself to be a top Utah litigation boutique through its highly skilled litigation team led by distinguished trial attorney **Richard Burbidge**. Although smaller than several of its competitors, the five-lawyer firm handles high-stakes, multimillion-dollar business disputes and plaintiff class-action cases. As one peer summarizes, "They are a terrific firm, they are not a huge firm but they are very good at what they do."

Still considered by many competitors as "the best there is in town," Burbidge is praised for his broad commercial practice, which includes antitrust, contract disputes, mass torts, intellectual property, personal injury, securities fraud, and products liability matters. Admitted in both Utah and California, name partner Jefferson Gross is a widely accomplished Utah trial lawyer, who handles complex litigation ranging from patent infringement and personal injury to class actions. Along with its trial prowess, the overall firm is recognized for its antitrust and products liability strengths as demonstrated in its handling of significant tobacco and pharmaceutical litigation in multiple jurisdictions.

Holland & Hart

With a Utah office operating since 1994, the Colorado-headquartered firm of Holland & Hart now houses over 400 lawyers in 15 offices across the Rocky Mountains, the Southwest and Washington DC. While the firm is historically rooted in oil, gas and energy-related litigation, over the years Holland & Hart has built a leading reputation for its expertise in commercial litigation, products liability, intellectual property, insurance, employment, construction and real estate matters. Already highly regarded in Salt Lake City, the firm made a substantial boost to its litigation practice in 2011 with the addition of 27 of Holmes Robert Owen attorneys, including

former HRO litigation head **Blaine Benard**, who peers refer to as "one of the top litigators in the state." Benard focuses on high-stakes commercial disputes, health care and intellectual property matters.

Other standout talent at the firm includes **Lois Baar**, who is noted statewide for her significant labor and employment practice. **Craig Galli** is praised for his expertise in oil and gas production and exploration issues along with environmental matters along with partner **David Zimmerman**, who is sought out for oil and gas litigation issues along with construction law matters. **Brett Foster**, who merged his own litigation boutique with Holland & Hart in 2001, is considered an expert in patent, trademark, copyright and trade secret disputes and recently secured a \$23.9 million patent infringement award on behalf of client K-Tec, manufacturer of **Blendtec** blenders, against competitor Vita-Mix Corporation after a five-year battle.

Parr Brown Gee & Loveless

Formed in 1975 in Salt Lake City, the 70-lawyer firm of Parr Brown Gee & Loveless has built a premier reputation in the state as both a transactional and litigation firm, servicing regional and national clients such as SkyWest Airlines, Brigham Young University and WindRiver Petroleum. The firm's litigation team is spearheaded by **Robert Clarke**, the former president of the Utah chapter of the Federal Bar Association, who specializes in complex litigation including antitrust, securities, class actions, trade secrets and intellectual property matters. As one large client remarks, "Rob Clark has excellent legal skills and exercises excellent judgment in resolving matters in a manner that works best for the client, taking into consideration all issues including litigation costs, strength of case, and strategic issues."

Partner **Jeffrey Hunt** is considered an authority on media and First Amendment issues, representing major publications such as the *Salt Lake Tribune*, and **Ronald Russell** is routinely recognized by peers for his expertise in commercial litigation and real estate including lender enforcement, title and

escrow claims, zoning, land use, construction and foreclosure matters. Overall, the Parr Brown team is held in high regard, with one client summarizing, "They are all very capable and have done a great job for us, this is the firm that I have the most comfort using on critical cases." The firm is currently acting as co-counsel to 300 plaintiffs in a \$2 billion class-action suit stemming from the 2007 San Diego County wildfires, and the team led by Clark was successful on behalf of publicly traded client Nevada Chemicals in blocking a derivative suit related to a tender offer to purchase the company. After the decision was upheld on appeal, the \$80 million merger was allowed to proceed.

Snell & Wilmer

With origins dating back to 1938, Snell & Wilmer has steadily expanded its litigation platform across the Southwest US with over 400 attorneys now practicing in nine offices across Utah, Arizona, California, Nevada and Mexico. The firm's Salt Lake City team is considered a top litigation choice for both local and national clients in a range of practice areas including antitrust, construction law, tort disputes, environmental, intellectual property, securities law, real estate, and product liability, and competitors agree, with one stating, "They have a very strong litigation group and they deserve to be in the top-tier."

Standout talent includes veteran trial lawyer, **Alan Sullivan**, who has over 30 years trying cases at the state and federal level involving insurance, intellectual property, natural resource development and health care. Partner **Bryon Benevento** is a distinguished Utah trial lawyer that specializes in commercial litigation, intellectual property and products liability defense in numerous jurisdictions around the country.

Stoel Rives

With almost 400 attorneys spread across 11 offices, Stoel Rives has carved out a substantial litigation name in the western US with established offices in Utah, California, Idaho, Oregon, Minnesota, Alaska and Washington. Utilizing its deep resource base, the firm's Salt Lake City team is continuing to bolster its market share providing high-quality services in business litigation, labor and employment disputes, natural resources and environmental law, mass torts, intellectual property, real estate and corporate transactions including mergers and acquisitions. As one competitor points out, "They are doing interesting things over there. They are building up their presence quite a bit."

Leading talent at the firm includes **Kenneth Black**, who is widely admired for his handling of high-profile litigation involving the financial services industry including SEC investigations and derivative shareholder suits with peers emphasizing, "Kenneth Black

is extremely capable, he is very good in the courtroom.” As a former US Attorney for the District of Utah, **David Jordan** is a highly accomplished litigator who focuses on a broad range of issues including commercial cases, antitrust, securities, mining and white-collar criminal matters. As chair of firmwide litigation, **D Matthew “Matt” Moscon** is praised by peers for his notable skills handling commercial disputes, products liability, real estate and construction law matters and has worked on behalf of clients in projects including the state’s light rail system and Kimball Junction Shopping Center and Outlet Mall. Partner **John Anderson** is a leading products liability litigator, focusing on emphasis on drug and medical device litigation.

Recommended firms

Fabian & Clendenin

With roots dating back to 1919, the Salt Lake City firm of Fabian & Clendenin enjoys a respected reputation throughout the region, with additional offices in Nevada, Ohio and Washington DC. The firm handles complex litigation in areas including business disputes, products liability, medical malpractice, environmental, employment and real estate, and is particularly noted for its strengths in issues relating to the mining industry and public utilities with clients that include PacifiCorp and UtahAmerican Energy. As chair of the Fabian’s litigation group, **Kevin Anderson** is highly praised trial lawyer, noted for handling of high-profile, multimillion-dollar cases, including the deadly Crandall Canyon mine disaster.

Manning Curtis Bradshaw & Bednar

Manning Curtis Bradshaw & Bednar is a litigation boutique based in Salt Lake City with 14 attorneys focusing on commercial litigation matters ranging from business

disputes, class actions, employment, insurance, intellectual property and products liability to real estate and medical malpractice previous clients include Lorillard Tobacco, the Intermountain Power Agency and the Sinclair Oil Corporation. The firm has an impressive reputation throughout the state, with competitors enthusiastically stating, “They have great, great people over

and class-action defense. As a former assistant US attorney, senior partner **Francis Wikstrom** is an accomplished general practitioner who is particularly noted for his white-collar expertise along with toxic torts, construction law, and intellectual property. As head of the firm’s antitrust and intellectual property practice, **David Mangum** is considered an expert IP litigator, with clients

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there, very fine lawyers.” Co-founder **Brent Manning** is widely recommended for his expertise handling commercial disputes breach of contract claims, antitrust investigations, insurance coverage disputes, and class-action defense work, and as one peer summarizes, “Brent Manning is a tremendous lawyer.”

Parsons Behle & Latimer

Founded in 1882 and noted as one of Utah’s oldest law firms, Parsons Behle & Latimer has built a considerable regional presence with a 50-lawyer litigation group and two additional offices in Nevada. With its wide resource network and stable of senior litigation talent the firm is considered a go-to firm in multiple areas including commercial litigation, mining, natural resources, environment, energy, employment, real estate, health care and intellectual property. Firm president **Ray Etcheverry** is widely praised for his significant experience in antitrust, securities law, intellectual property,

that include Baker Hughes, Danaher Corporation, Iomega, and Innovative Medical Device Sourcing.

Ray Quinney & Nebeker

With offices in Provo and Salt Lake City and half of its 90 lawyers dedicated to litigation, Ray Quinney & Nebeker is uniformly praised as a solid player in Utah’s legal market, with highly skilled attorneys providing counsel in matters including antitrust, construction law, intellectual property, personal injury, and securities law. Standout talent at Ray Quinney includes **Art Berger**, who is specifically noted for his premier IP practice, where competitors state, “He is one everyone’s shortlist.” As the former President of the Utah State Bar, the firm’s managing director **John Adams** is a prominent litigator recognized statewide for his complex business disputes, banking industry litigation, health care and false claims acts defense, as well as insurance fraud matters.

