Jim Milbrand

Partner

Buffalo
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Education

- Albany Law School, JD
- Alleghany College, BA

Practices & Industries

- Commercial Litigation & Complex Trials
- Torts & Products Liability Defense
- White Collar & Government Investigations
- Mass & Toxic Torts

Admitted to Practice

- New York

Court Admissions

- US Bankruptcy Court
- US District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- US District Court for the Northern District of New York
- US District Court for the Southern District of New York
- US District Court for the Western District of New York

Biography

Jim serves as Barclay Damon's Commercial Litigation & Complex Trials Practice Area co-chair. With 24 years of legal experience, Jim is a skilled trial lawyer who primarily concentrates on litigating complex commercial, mass tort, education law, and white-collar criminal matters and has experience in both federal and state court. He routinely represents individuals, businesses, municipalities, and municipal sub-divisions, handling early-stage negotiations through highly public, heavily contested trials. Jim also defends businesses and individuals embroiled in “bet-the-company” matters.

In Jim's white collar practice, he defends high-net-worth individuals and businesses against investigations conducted by the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance, the US Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, state attorneys general, local district attorneys, and various other state and federal agencies.

Jim also represents clients in matters involving regulatory conformity, “whistle blower” litigation, section 807 labor disputes, mass-tort lawsuits, and enforcing noncompetition covenants.

Bar Associations

- Bar Association of Erie County
- New York State Bar Association

Representative Experience

- Defended the Board of Education for the Buffalo City School District in a suit brought by a charter school regarding student busing. The matter involved questions of contractual interpretation, equal protection, due process, and education-

law interpretation. Successfully turned a temporary loss into a high six-figure win after an effective appeal.

- Successfully defended a business and its owner against allegations of tax fraud relating to NYS personal income taxes.
- Coordinated and lead the defense of Fortune 500 clients as regional and local counsel in numerous wrongful-death and injury claims brought by asbestos plaintiffs.
- Represented a local real estate developer to prevent a predatory eviction, successfully thwarting attempts of a rival developer by having the foreclosure action dismissed.
- Successfully argued an appeal affirming the dismissal of a personal injury action against a utility company.
- Successfully represented a biotech start-up business against an attempted hostile takeover.
- Assisted a bank client in obtaining a conviction of a local business owner for federal financial institution fraud and money laundering.
- Successfully represented a local construction business in New York State Labor Law matters, achieving dismissal of the claims.
- Assists an Upstate New York insurance company with reviewing and auditing active and high-value matters.
- Assisted a client in realizing a full-cost settlement for the repair of fire damage to a high-value family home.

Prior Experience

- Hiscock & Barclay, LLP, Partner
- Hodgson Russ LLP, Partner
- Phillips Lytle LLP, Associate
- Law Office of Alan D. Goldstein, Esq., Associate

Selected Community Activities

- Buffalo Police Athletic League, Former Vice President
- Amherst Police Foundation, Member

Selected Honors

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®: Commercial Litigation, 2026 and 2027; Criminal Defense: White-Collar, 2023–2027; Product Liability Litigation – Defendants, 2021–2027

Selected Speaking Engagements

- Hodgson Russ LLP Tax Institute Seminar Series, “Criminal Tax Practice/Asset Protection”
- National Business Institute, “Preparing to Settle Personal Injury Claims in New York”

Selected Media

- *New York Law Journal*, "New York Business Corporation Law 1104-a Dissolution Actions: A Last Resort for Shareholders"
- New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, *Atticus*, “Tax Fraud, Qui Tam, the New Taxpayer-Protection Unit and the Special Investigations Unit: What Does It All Mean to the Criminal Practitioner?”