



John Langan

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Chair

Syracuse

P: 315.425.2754

jlangan@barclaydamon.com

Education

- St. John's University School of Law, JD
- Colgate University, BA

Practices & Industries

- Commercial Litigation & Complex Trials
- Energy
- White Collar & Government Investigations

Admitted to Practice

- New York

Court Admissions

- US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- 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

John served as Barclay Damon's managing partner for 20 years, stepping down in 2021 as part of a firm-approved succession plan. During his tenure, the firm grew from 60 to nearly 300 attorneys, with some of its most strategic practice areas reaching national prominence.

John's work with lateral partner recruitment and integration has involved overseeing 12 separate firm-to-firm combinations ranging in size from 10 to 60 attorneys and including deals with Saperston & Day; Damon Morey; Menter, Rudin & Trivelpiece; Gilberti Stinziano Heintz & Smith; and Shapiro, Lifschitz & Schram, among other respected firms. In his roles as former managing partner and current chair of the firm, John has also helped recruit and lead the integration of dozens of large group deals involving attorneys deciding to leave regional and national competitors to join Barclay Damon.

In 2019, John turned his focus to growing the firm's New York and Boston offices and, less than five years later, eight lawyers in two offices has become 90-plus lawyers in Boston, New Haven, New York, and Washington DC. Major market office growth jump-started with the successful recruitment and integration of a 20-attorney group from LeClairRyan, which added nationally prominent lawyers in New York and Boston and a new 12-lawyer office in New Haven. John's work continued and, at the end of 2023, Barclay Damon combined with the 10-lawyer Washington DC-based powerhouse Shapiro, Lifschitz & Schram, establishing a fully staffed Capitol District office and adding additional depth in the areas of corporate, real estate, litigation, and power and energy construction law. Momentum continued, and 2024 saw an explosive run of new talent with the addition of a five-lawyer IP group from Murtha Cullina in New Haven; a three-lawyer IP group from Gardella Grace in Washington DC; and an 11-lawyer group focused on IP, real estate, finance, and corporate from Burns & Levinson in Boston.

The standout success of the firm's signature lateral recruitment program has come from an innovative onboarding system and personal commitment by senior leadership to client, attorney practice, and cultural integration, which John helped develop and oversee. The result is record-high retention of lateral partners, who expand their practices and thrive at the firm for the remainder of their careers, as compared to national statistics showing that typically over one-third of laterals leave within the first four years of joining a new firm. Altogether, the transformative impact of the firm's uniquely successful growth strategy has created a seamless and stable platform of nine high-performing offices in midsize and major market cities across the Northeastern United States and in Toronto.

As the firm's chair, John reports to the managing partner and focuses on the continued growth of the firm's major market offices, managing some of the firm's largest client relationships, and driving select, strategic initiatives appointed by the firm's Management Committee.

In his legal practice, John capitalizes on his experience as a former Wall Street project finance lawyer and trial lawyer at a leading New York firm. He serves a large roster of corporate and individual clients in disputes involving white-collar and corporate fraud and complex commercial litigation matters in both state and federal court.

Bar Associations

- Northern District of New York Federal Court Bar Association, Judicially Appointed Organizing Member, Founding Trustee, and Former President
- Onondaga County Bar Association, Member and Former Board of Directors Member
- New York State Bar Association, Insurance Committee Member

Representative Experience

- Served as lead counsel in a number of high-profile cases investigating and prosecuting fraud and employee theft for publicly traded and privately held companies, including a CFO embezzlement scheme for a public energy equipment manufacturer, multiple vendor and employee theft cases for a public utility, and controller defalcation of financial records for a large, privately held medical device manufacturer.
- Served as secondary counsel in a New York City case involving a scheme by a group of employees to defraud their company during a leveraged buyout of a national publishing house.

- Handled multiple matters pursuing civil claims and criminal referrals for premium theft and conversion by insurance agents on behalf of national insurance companies.
- Handled numerous theft-of-trade-secret cases testing the validity and scope of restrictive covenants in business contracts, including representing a regional construction equipment supplier, a technology-based manufacturer of residual gas analyzers and particle detectors, and an energy marketing company.
- Prevailed as lead counsel in a well-publicized breach-of-contract dispute between two major New York public utilities over operating rights to the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit Two.
- Obtained a permanent injunction on behalf of a New York State power authority against a real estate developer over easement rights related to a major transmission and distribution line.
- Prosecuted a breach-of-contract claim on behalf of New York State over issues related to a gaming facility operator.
- Prosecuted and defended numerous businesses related to Lanham Act claims, including defending an Indiana corporation engaged in the manufacture of Adirondack chairs against claims of trademark and trade dress infringement, prosecuting claims of trademark infringement for a foundation protecting the well-known Roycroft arts-and-crafts trade name and marks, representing a regional tanning-bed company in protection of its trade name, and representing a regional grocery store in the New York City area against misuse of its name and mark.
- Represented a national entertainment company in prosecuting claims of copyright infringement related to the Batman film series.
- Defended a prominent Upstate New York municipality in an Article 78 challenge to the issuance of a special permit for the siting and construction of an urgent-care hospital.
- Represented majority and minority shareholders in corporate shareholder disputes in a wide range of industries, including construction, loan financing, insurance, and investment advising, and in a shareholder dispute involving New York City's Bronx Terminal Market.
- Successfully defended a British roofing-systems manufacturing company at trial against products liability claims before a South Carolina jury.

Prior Experience

- Barclay Damon LLP, Managing Partner
- Hiscock & Barclay, LLP, Managing Partner
- Hiscock & Barclay, LLP, Partner
- Hiscock & Barclay, LLP, Associate
- Whitman & Ransom, Associate
- Hawkins Delafield & Wood, Associate
- Hawkins Delafield & Wood, Summer Associate

Selected Community Activities

- Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County Family Law Clinic, Volunteer
- Syracuse Say Yes to Education, Volunteer
- Colgate University Sophomore Connections Alumni Network, Volunteer
- Colgate University “A Day in a Life” Program, Participant
- Syracuse City Rescue Mission, Volunteer

Selected Honors

- Merit Selection Panel for Appointment and Reappointment of US Magistrate Judge, Judicially Selected Chair; Second Merit Selection Panel for Appointment and Reappointment of US Magistrate Judge, Judicially Appointed Member
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®: Commercial Litigation, 2024–2025
- Onondaga County Bar Association, 145th Annual Distinguished Lawyer Award, 2022
- Capital District Lawyers Helping Lawyers Committee and New York State Bar Association, Ray of Hope Award, October 2008
- Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Peer Review Rated for Very High to Preeminent Ethical Standards and Legal Ability

Selected Speaking Engagements

- NYS Appellate Division Admissions Ceremony, “Disruptive Forces in the Legal Profession and Opportunities for New Market Entrants,” Keynote Speaker
- Thomson Reuters 19th Annual Law Firm Leaders Pre-Conference Workshop, Panelist
- Business & Commercial Litigation in Federal Courts, “The Expert Down the Hall”
- Commercial Litigation CLE Series: The Client’s Perspective of Business Litigation, “Advice From the Experts: Successful Strategies for Winning Commercial Cases in New York State Courts”
- Syracuse University College of Law, “Corporate Counsel & Litigation Management Course” Periodic Guest Speaker

Selected Media

- *New York Law Journal*, "Seeing 'Unlimited' Opportunities in Clients and Talent, Barclay Damon Targets Growth in 4 Major Markets"
- Law360, “Creating Barclay Damon: Lessons From a Law Firm Merger”
- *Successful Partnering Between Inside and Outside Counsel*, "Law Firm Staffing"
 - The chapter addresses traditional notions of leverage and the use of junior attorneys; contract and contingent attorneys; staffing decisions as part of legal process outsourcing (LPO); the impact on law firm staffing of the make or buy decision; and promoting inclusion and diversity in law firm staffing decisions.
- Law360, “Why Midsize Firms Run the Gamut on Diversity”
- *Commercial Litigation in New York State Courts*, Fifth Edition, “Career and Practice Development” Chapter Co-Author
- *Central New York Business Journal*, "Onondaga County Bar Association Honors Barclay Damon's Langan With Distinguished Lawyer Award"

Selected Alerts & Blog Posts

- Update: Barclay Damon's Efforts to Address COVID-19