

Massachusetts

GO TO Lawyers

Commercial/Consumer Law 2025

MASSACHUSETTS
Lawyers Weekly

Letter from the Publisher



Dear readers,

Welcome to Massachusetts Go To Lawyers, a feature we debuted in 2020 to showcase leaders in the Massachusetts legal community by practice area.

For this list, we’ve chosen to focus on commercial/consumer law. The attorneys featured here were all nominated by their colleagues and chosen by a panel from Lawyers Weekly. We expect that some readers will argue that there are some excellent lawyers who should have been included. Let us know! And we look forward to featuring more outstanding attorneys in the next category, commercial real estate. The Go To Lawyers in that field will be recognized in December.

Susan A. Bocamazo

Susan A. Bocamazo, Esq.
Managing Director
Bridgetower Media

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NICOLE J. BENJAMIN

Shareholder
Adler, Pollock & Sheehan
Boston and Providence



Years in practice: 18
Best known for:
My unparalleled work ethic, responsiveness, organization and relentless desire to win. I pride myself on collegiality and professionalism, qualities that have a place even in high-stakes, bet-the-company litigation.
Why I chose my practice area:
As a lifelong learner, practicing as a litigator gives me endless opportunities to learn about my clients’ businesses and work with experts. My appellate practice grew from serving as lead law clerk to then Chief Justice Frank J. Williams of the Rhode Island Supreme Court.
Most memorable case:
Cases that reach trial are unforgettable. My December 2024 federal court trial and March 2025 state court trial stand out as career highlights, with credibility being crucial. Notable cases include a commercial dispute over munitions sales commissions to Saudi Arabia, where we prevailed in Massachusetts and the 1st Circuit, and successfully petitioning for a rare writ of advisory mandamus on behalf of Rhode Island’s governor and House speaker before the 1st Circuit during COVID-19.

What makes me a leader in my field:
I seek opportunities to influence the law’s evolution. I am active nationally in organizations that educate others, including the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel, the Defense Research Institute, and the American Bar Association.
Outlook for 2026:
AI is transforming the legal profession. While it won’t render lawyers obsolete, those ignoring its capabilities risk being left behind. As a trial lawyer, I anticipate rigorous testing of evidence admissibility and authenticity rules as jurors increasingly scrutinize what’s real versus AI-generated.
Bar involvement/leadership roles:
President, Rhode Island Bar Association (2023-2024), where I launched a Leadership Academy; president, Federal Bar Association Rhode Island Chapter (2025-present); vice chair, Board of Directors, Roger Williams University School of Law; Executive Council member, National Conference of Bar Presidents; extensive leadership roles within the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel

NATHANIEL P. BRUHN

Partner
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
Boston



Years in practice: 12
Best known for:
I hope I am known for vigorously representing my clients through creative and thoughtful advocacy, carrying myself with integrity and professionalism, and treating everyone with respect and courtesy.
Why I chose my practice area:
I have always known that I wanted to litigate high-stakes, complex cases. I am adversarial by nature but I also love solving complex problems and learning about new businesses and industries. I’m fortunate that I get to do all three.
Most memorable case:
Recently, Morgan Lewis secured complete victory for Samson Energy and its owners, the Schusterman family, in a \$7.2 billion fraudulent transfer litigation in Delaware Bankruptcy Court. After years of litigation and a three-week trial, we achieved a complete victory. My pro bono cases are equally rewarding — from preventing evictions to helping clients obtain asylum.
What makes me a leader in my field:
My ability to work across industries and courtroom venues sets me apart. I am

as comfortable representing a national manufacturer in a state dispute as a family-owned business in a federal one. Serving as chair of Morgan Lewis’s Pro Bono Committee in Boston has afforded me an excellent platform to lead and benefit the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
Outlook for 2026:
Generative AI will continue to shift the litigation landscape in ways both known and unimaginable, changing how lawyers approach research, discovery, and drafting. Younger, more technologically adept lawyers will drive increasing digital fluency.
Bar involvement/leadership roles:
Chair, Morgan Lewis Pro Bono Committee, Boston
Representative clients:
BMW, Samson Energy Co., Stewart Lender Services, Connecticut Insurance Commissioner as Rehabilitator of PHL Variable Insurance Company, Penn Entertainment, Charles Schwab, Fidelity

JOSEPH M. CACACE

Partner
Todd & Weld
Boston

Years in practice: 17
Best known for:

I focus my practice on business litigation, high-stakes commercial disputes, and defamation cases. These cases are often high-profile and high-conflict. I am known not just for tenacious advocacy, but also for creative thinking and comprehensive strategies that help clients resolve complex disputes. Also, as is typical at Todd & Weld, I represent parties on both sides of the “v,” which helps me provide better strategic advice to clients because I can anticipate how the other side will likely react.

Why I chose my practice area:

The legal and factual complexity in business and commercial disputes and defamation cases makes them endlessly interesting. I enjoy helping clients get justice, whether they are a shareholder who has been frozen out of a company, a majority owner whose actions are being challenged, or an individual or business whose reputation has been harmed.

Most memorable case:

A pro bono matter that I handled for about six years. Together with a group of attorneys and organizations, I led the representation of two families who had been separated at the



U.S. border under the first Trump Administration. After two federal lawsuits, an appeal to the D.C. Circuit and six years of litigation, we finally resolved the lawsuit in 2024, obtaining a favorable settlement.

What makes me a leader in my field:

I strive to be responsive to client needs and think creatively to achieve clients’ objectives. While we at Todd & Weld are known for zealous and aggressive advocacy, we also actively work to foster civility and collegiality with opposing counsel even in the most difficult cases.

Outlook for 2026:

Artificial intelligence will transform the way we practice law and do business. Embrace it or be left behind.

Bar involvement/leadership roles:

Member, Board of Governors, Law Clerks’ Society of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts; member, MBA Appellate Bench Bar Committee and Amicus Brief Committee

Representative clients:

I take pride in representing a wide range of clients, from individuals to large businesses.

LAWRENCE G. CETRULO

Founding Partner
Cetrulo LLP
Boston

Years in practice: 50
Best known for:

The trial of toxic tort defense and commercial litigation. Bar service, community service, philanthropy.

Why I chose my practice area:

I had a broad range of trial experiences with Tom Burns at Burns & Levinson and I followed this up as assignments came my way. The practice chose me.

Most memorable case:

One, the successful defense of an eight-week trial in federal court in a billion-dollar property damage case brought by the Prudential Insurance Company of America; two, the successful prosecution of a year-long, \$500 million insurance coverage arbitration resulting in a compensatory damage award for 100% coverage and an additional \$400 million in punitive damages; three, securing an acquittal in federal court of a college coach accused of crimi-



nal wire fraud in the recruitment of varsity athletes.

What makes me a leader in my field:

Trial skills acquired under the mentorship of Tom Burns, one of the best trial lawyers in Massachusetts legal history.

Outlook for 2026:

Fewer trials, less opportunity for young lawyers to learn the art of trial law.

Bar involvement/leadership roles:

I have been a leader in trial education for 45 years through the Defense Research Institute and the IADC.

Representative clients:

Ashland Inc., Armstrong World Industries, 3M Corporation, Ametek Inc., Honeywell, Bendix, Hercules Inc., Riley Stoker Inc., Owens-Illinois Inc.

LOUIS M. CIAVARRA

Partner
Prince Lobel Tye
Worcester

Years in practice: 40
Best known for:

Solving complex business litigation problems through vigorous client representation and practical problem-solving approaches.

Why I chose my practice area:

It allows me to focus on solving client problems while constantly learning new areas of law and understanding client business operations.

Most memorable case:

A class action trial we prepared for in the BLS, filed six years ago involving complex scientific and legal issues. This was the first class action tried in Massachusetts. My first jury trial over 35 years ago with Judge Robert Keeton was equally memorable — he demanded preparation and excellence regardless of experience level. I’ve been fortunate to try cases against many of Massachusetts’s preeminent lawyers.

What makes me a leader in my field:

A commitment to clients and their problems, combined with meticulous preparation. Edward Bennet Williams once told me there is no substitute for being prepared and knowing the facts better than



anyone else. This requires hands-on work and not delegating the hard work to others.

Outlook for 2026:

Even though trials are not common in business disputes, you need to be prepared to try the case in order to get a favorable outcome for your client. But trials are different now and are constantly changing. Trials will continue to rely on electronic evidence, new ways of presenting your case in a persuasive way, and we can’t just rest on the way we have done it for years.

Bar involvement/leadership roles:

While I am currently inactive in leadership positions, I served as president of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Federal Bar Association but stepped back to allow younger lawyers to advance.

Representative clients:

I have had the privilege of representing such varied businesses as Demoulas Supermarkets, National Grid, General Dynamics, AECON, Polar Beverages, ARCO, and Thermo Fisher.

PRINCE LOBEL CONGRATULATES



LOUIS CIAVARRA
on his recognition in
**MASSACHUSETTS
LAWYERS WEEKLY’S
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COMMERCIAL/CONSUMER
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EBEN P.
COLBY

Partner
Skadden
Boston

Years in practice: 24

Best known for:

For more than two decades, I've worked with asset management companies across jury and bench trials, regulatory investigations, administrative proceedings, and arbitrations. I've been involved in the industry's most significant litigation, from excessive-fee litigation under the Investment Company Act to ERISA litigation, derivative actions, fiduciary matters, shareholder class actions, and activism defense. My practice includes defending clients in high-profile SEC, DOJ, and CFTC investigations.

Why I chose my practice area:

Before law school, I worked in political campaigns. I loved the competitiveness and camaraderie but craved more substantive engagement. Strategizing, trials, and arguments seemed like a natural fit. Today, inspiration comes from exceptional challenges, difficult matters, worthy adversaries, and working with incredibly talented colleagues on a team I love.

Most memorable case:

Securing a U.S. Supreme Court grant of certiorari on whether private plaintiffs can challenge contracts under the Investment Company Act; leading a complete trial victory for

Eaton Vance closed-end funds against activist investor Saba Capital; securing dismissal of excessive fee claims for BlackRock subsidiaries after an eight-day bench trial; and defending a major asset manager in SEC, DOJ, and CFTC investigations involving over a billion dollars.

What makes me a leader in my field:

I take my work seriously without taking myself too seriously. My pro bono work, including securing recoveries for labor trafficking victims, has been recognized through Bloomberg Law's Pro Bono Innovators honor and the Supreme Judicial Court's Pro Bono Honor Roll.

Outlook for 2026:

The investment management industry is making new assets like digital assets and private investments available through registered mutual funds, which will lead to regulatory scrutiny and litigation.

Bar involvement/leadership roles:

Co-chair, Boston Bar Journal Board of Editors; member, Boston Bar Association's Amicus Committee; former co-chair, BBA's Financial Services Section

CAROLYN
MARCOTTE
CROWLEY

Partner
Barclay Damon
Boston

Years in practice: 19

Best known for:

Advising a wide array of clients, including in the automotive, higher education, biotechnology, health care, consulting services, manufacturing, and hospitality services industries, on myriad commercial litigation, consumer and employment issues.

Why I chose my practice area:

I enjoy advising clients on business-related disputes, including how to avoid and resolve the same and ways in which they can minimize risk.

Most memorable case:

Many years ago, I was involved in a case involving close out goods and a claim for breach of contract relating to the same.

What makes me a leader in my field:

My depth of experience handling these types of matters for clients over the last approximately 20 years.

Outlook for 2026:

There will be various changes based on AI.

Bar involvement/leadership roles:

I am the co-chair of my firm's Women's Forum.

Representative clients:

Various clients in the automotive, higher education, biotechnology, health care, consulting services, manufacturing and hospitality services industries

AMY
CRAFTS

Shareholder
Sheehan, Phinney,
Bass & Green
Boston

Years in practice: 22

Best known for:

I defend clients facing federal and state government investigations, conduct internal and independent investigations, and litigate complex business disputes. With over 20 years of experience in state government and multinational law firms, I represent businesses and their executives in matters alleging fraudulent business practices, violations of the False Claims Act and consumer protection laws, and other commercial matters.

Prior to joining Sheehan Phinney in early 2025, I served for 10 years as an assistant attorney general in the Attorney General's Office in numerous leadership capacities, including chief of the False Claims Division, where I led investigations and litigation of fraud in state contracting and consumer protection violations.

Why I chose my practice area:

Early in my career, I was assigned to work on a joint federal/state investigation and became fascinated with the process and strategy. After defending several investigations, I joined the AGO to gain the government's perspective, experience I now leverage to advise clients under investigation.

Most memorable case:

Two independent investigations stand out: one involving allegations of patient abuse at Carney Hospital's Adolescent Psychiatric Unit, and another involving an undercover video controversy at a community-based organization (featured on The Colbert Report!).

What makes me a leader in my field:

I frequently write and speak on developments in federal and state government enforcement. I recently moderated a Boston Bar Association panel on Massachusetts' new law governing private equity investments in health care and was a panelist at a Lawyers Weekly webinar on health care fraud.

Outlook for 2026:

Since returning to private practice in early 2025, federal enforcement efforts have shifted significantly. It will be interesting to see these changes' impact and whether state attorneys general fill any void.

SHEEHAN PHINNEY

Well Deserved

Congratulations to our friend and colleague Amy Crafts on being recognized as a Go To Commercial/Consumer Lawyer.

Amy Crafts

Shareholder

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Business Litigation / Healthcare / Government Investigations & White-Collar Criminal Defense

Boston / Concord / Manchester / Portsmouth / Upper Valley

SHEEHAN.COM

DAVID L.
FERRERA

Partner
Nutter
Boston



Years in practice: 30
Best known for:
I have established a strong reputation as a top-tier litigator defending companies in complex and multi-jurisdictional cases. My work often involves distilling intricate scientific concepts into clear, compelling narratives for judges and juries. Both in-house counsel and external legal teams regularly turn to me for my ability to make witness testimony and legal arguments accessible to lay people's understanding while still firmly rooted in sound science.
Why I chose my practice area:
While certainly the subject matter of my clients' cases interests me, the primary reason I chose my practice area is the people with whom I have worked through the years. Senior lawyers, doctors, scientists, and engineers all took a personal interest in my career development that taught me to marry courtroom skills with substantive understanding.
Most memorable case:
For over 30 years, I have served as a trusted legal advisor to a U.S.-based company, guiding it through complex product liability litigation across more than 40 states and 10 countries. The most memorable engagements involved

European litigation, including trials at the Four Courts in Dublin, Ireland.
What makes me a leader in my field:
As my litigation practice has grown globally, I've adapted my expertise to navigate diverse legal systems and cultural contexts. This evolving landscape of multi-district litigation has positioned me uniquely at the intersection of legal strategy and scientific expertise, ensuring that rigorous academic principles remain central to my clients' defenses worldwide.
Outlook for 2026:
The rise of social media has fueled mistrust of learned experts, long-term studies, and peer-reviewed literature. Addressing this trend will be a critical skill for defense counsel representing the scientists and engineers who build innovative products.
Bar involvement/leadership roles:
President-elect, Boston Bar Foundation; former chair, BBF Grants Committee (2019-2023); editor-in-chief, Massachusetts Courtroom Advocacy; fellow, International Association of Defense Counsel, Litigation Counsel of America and American Bar Foundation

JAVIER F.
FLORES

Office Managing Partner
Dinsmore & Shohl
Boston



Years in practice: 20
Best known for:
I'm best known to my clients as a trusted legal advisor who brings nearly two decades of experience to tackle matters that are critical to their business. Whether evaluating complex legal issues or navigating high-stakes litigation, I'm relied upon for clear judgment, strategic thinking and a steady hand. Within the legal community, I'm seen as formidable in the courtroom, meticulous in preparation and fair in every interaction.
Why I chose my practice area:
One of the most enjoyable aspects of my job is learning a client's business and developing a deep understanding of industry practices and regulatory frameworks. I am naturally curious, so a new case or client is always exciting, as it often allows me to deep dive into an area or issue, exposing me to ideas and concepts I might otherwise never have known about.
Most memorable case:
My most memorable cases tend to be the ones most meaningful for my clients. Recently, I defended two prominent children's literacy authors named in a class action attacking the effectiveness of their literacy products.

My clients were most troubled that their life's work, furthering the education of children, was being questioned. Obtaining a dismissal on their behalf was tremendously fulfilling. I also led the defense of a health data platform provider in consumer class action claims in West Virginia pending for more than a decade, successfully defeating many claims before reaching a favorable resolution.
What makes me a leader in my field:
My practice is unique in terms of breadth of experience, which includes class action litigation, commercial disputes, unfair business practices claims, product liability litigation and matters involving NCAA regulations. Having such broad experience is beneficial because you can always apply lessons and nuances to future litigation, even when it involves markedly different issues.
Bar involvement/leadership roles:
Board vice chair, Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción (IBA); commissioner, Boston Office of Fair Housing and Equity; past leadership roles on Executive Committee of the Hispanic National Bar Association

JONATHAN D.
FRIEDMANN

Founding Partner
Rudolph Friedmann
Boston



Years in practice: 43
Best known for:
Over four decades, I've earned a reputation as a fearless and effective trial lawyer who takes on challenging, complex cases — including matters of first impression —and secures outstanding results. I'm known for my tenacity, strategic mindset, and ability to think several steps ahead. Colleagues describe me as "a bulldog in a suit" —unwavering in advocacy and unwilling to back down, while crafting compelling arguments and connecting with judges and juries.
Why I chose my practice area:
My decision to become a lawyer was driven by a desire to help people. I was drawn to commercial and business law because disputes could often be resolved through logical reasoning rather than emotional confrontation. Working with CEOs, founders and executives who have built or transformed businesses from the ground up has been both professionally enriching and personally fascinating.
Most memorable case:
A recent case involved an executive sued by her former employer for breach of fi-

duciary duty, conversion, and breach of contract. After litigating for over four years and trying both jury and bench trials, we secured complete victory — winning all counts and prevailing on a counterclaim for indemnification. The court awarded over \$1 million in attorneys' fees with no appeal filed. Had she lost, the consequences would have been devastating for her business and family.
What makes me a leader in my field:
I've litigated complex cases in state and federal courts nationwide, tackling cutting-edge issues with an aggressive, strategic, results-driven approach. What distinguishes my practice is the trust clients place in me for seeing the bigger picture, prioritizing clear communication, and delivering practical, forward-thinking advice.
Outlook for 2026:
I anticipate increased use of the Business Litigation Session in Suffolk County due to its accessibility, specialized structure, and high-caliber judges.



Congratulations to David Ferrera
on being recognized by
Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly as a
2025 Go To Commercial/Consumer Lawyer.

MATTHEW J. GRIFFIN

Partner

Peabody & Arnold

Boston



Years in practice: 27

Best known for:

Defending complex product liability matters for manufacturers and retailers, particularly pharmaceutical manufacturers in mass tort and multi-district litigation.

Why I chose my practice area:

I enjoy applying complex medical and scientific issues to litigation. Working with leading expert witnesses and developing deep knowledge of clients' products is enormously rewarding.

Most memorable case:

I was integral to a decade-long mass tort proceeding resolved in my client's favor after multiple trials and appeals. It exposed me to a talented network of lawyers in my field and strengthened my litigation skills.

What makes me a leader in my field:

My experience developing expert witness teams for complex product liability matters distinguishes my practice.

Outlook for 2026:

I am concerned about eroding confidence in valid scientific opinion and research, which will likely increase product liability claims lacking merit.

Bar involvement/leadership roles:

I am active in product liability sections and committees of the Defense Research Institute and American Bar Association. I previously served as chair of the ABA TIPS Pharmaceutical, Medical Device & Biotechnology Committee.

KAREN M. LAFOND

Director

Fletcher Tilton

Worcester



Years in practice: 22

Best known for:

Practical and efficient commercial finance and transactional work representing both lenders and borrowers, with representative matters ranging from U.S. Small Business Administration debenture financing to very large complex commercial financing transactions.

Why I chose my practice area:

The worlds of commercial finance and commercial real estate provided an opportunity to fuse my love of business, finance and real estate with the passion and practicality that a lawyer brings to a transaction. My practice encompasses commercial and residential real estate matters ranging from acquisitions, sales, conveyancing, leasing and financing of real property. I also represent corporate clients on matters including formation, governance, asset sales, stock sales, succession planning, mergers and acquisitions.

Most memorable case:

Serving as an integral part of numerous financing transactions that have revitalized Central Massachusetts. I often pass by housing developments, commercial properties,

manufacturing businesses, and family businesses knowing I had a hand in the project.

What makes me a leader in my field:

Being highly sought after for my ability to deliver legal services in a timely, cost-effective and efficient manner, while also serving on our firm's management committee at a firm that has been leading Central Mass. for over 200 years.

Outlook for 2026:

With varied economic shifts, there will be challenges to the lending environment. With fluctuations in market conditions and predicted interest rate drops, I foresee increased refinance transactions and movement of current loans, plus an uptick in real estate transfers and mergers and acquisitions.

Bar involvement/leadership roles:

Chair of the Commercial Lending Department at Fletcher Tilton and member of the firm's Management Committee; board member, Worcester Chamber of Commerce and Worcester Regional Research Bureau; former trustee of Worcester State University

Peabody & Arnold Congratulates

Matthew J. Griffin

for being selected as a 2025

“Go To Commercial/Consumer Lawyer”

by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly



PEABODY & ARNOLD

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KEVIN M. MCGINTY

Member
Mintz
Boston



Years in practice: 35
Best known for:

Consumer protection class actions and other complex business disputes, particularly those involving health care payers, providers and technology companies. My work spans multistate litigation, False Claims Act defense and regulatory investigations. I'm known as a collaborative problem-solver who tailors litigation strategies to the unique needs of each client.

Why I chose my practice area:

I worked on class actions as an associate and found that I enjoyed and had an aptitude for the procedural intricacies of Rule 23. Betsy Burnett, then chair of Mintz's litigation practice, encouraged me to make class actions a focus. For the past 25 years it has been central to my professional life.

Most memorable case:

A high-stakes adversary proceeding in Bankruptcy Court with our late chairman, Bob Popeo, on behalf of the note holder for an insolvent Class A office tower. Recently, I obtained judgment on the pleadings in a consumer class action alleging deceptive advertising of fares. Other notable victories in-

clude obtaining summary judgment for the carpenters' union on Sherman Act claims and obtaining dismissal of a TCPA class action.

What makes me a leader in my field:

I have deep expertise in a highly technical area of the law but know how to harness it in the service of effective advocacy.

Outlook for 2026:

Data breach class actions may abate as threat actors focus on ransomware rather than identity theft. Website monitoring claims may grow in frequency. With increasing regulatory scrutiny of "drip pricing" practices, we are likely to see growing claims based on transaction fees disclosed only at checkout.

Bar involvement/leadership roles:

My partner Larry Schoen and I co-author the Massachusetts chapter of the American Bar Association's annual 50 state survey of state class action law. I was appointed by the Supreme Judicial Court to serve on the IOLTA Committee, where I serve on a subcommittee overseeing cy pres distributions in class action settlements.

ERIKA A. O'DONNELL

Co-Managing Partner
Shepard O'Donnell
Boston



Years in practice: 20+
Best known for:

I am a nationally respected litigator and personal injury law expert representing victims of toxic exposure and institutional sex abuse. I'm recognized for my advocacy, legal acumen, and deep compassion for clients suffering from mesothelioma, lung cancer, asbestos-related diseases, smoking-related cancers, and other life-altering injuries stemming from corporate negligence.

Why I chose my practice area:

I grew up in a blue-collar family in Worcester. When my dad suffered a serious construction accident injury, my family struggled to find a passionate attorney to help us get deserved compensation. I decided to pursue a career ensuring families never experience what mine did. I firmly believe in holding large corporations accountable for their wrongdoings and providing responsive, compassionate counsel who understands the local court system.

Most memorable case:

One of my proudest achievements was representing the Summerlin family in *Summerlin v. Philip Morris USA, et al.* After a

five-week trial in Suffolk Superior Court, we secured a \$43 million verdict. I've also successfully identified and sued previously unsued defendants in Massachusetts asbestos cases and litigated complex secondary exposure cases involving mesothelioma.

What makes me a leader in my field:

With nearly 20 years of experience in complex litigation against Fortune 100 defendants, I'm trusted by clients and lawyers, regularly receiving referrals for my unmatched success record and ethical approach. I am the first female plaintiffs' liaison counsel in the Massachusetts Asbestos Litigation docket, and was among MLW's "Top Women in Law" (2023).

Outlook for 2026:

I anticipate substantial changes in the MAL resulting from multiple eight-figure trial verdicts. A renewed focus on ADR will likely guide litigation in 2026. For institutional sex abuse practice, focus remains on legislative bills protecting survivors' rights.

Congratulations

Karen LaFond for being selected as a 2025 Commercial Consumer "Go To Lawyer" honoree by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly.

Fletcher Tilton is proud to congratulate Attorney Karen LaFond, a valued member of the firm's Transactional Group as well as the firm's Management Committee. She represents regional and national lenders, borrowers, and businesses in all aspects of commercial finance, real estate, and corporate law. Her deep experience, practical insight, and commitment to excellence make her an indispensable resource to her clients and colleagues alike.

Congratulations, Karen, on this well-deserved recognition!



Fletcher Tilton ^{PC}
Attorneys at law

200 YEARS
EST. 1822
★★★★★

GEORGE W. PRICE

Partner
Casner & Edwards
Boston



Years in practice: 25
Best known for:

Representing clients in high-stakes business disputes, federal investigations, and litigation involving fiduciary duty, trade secrets, fraud, and regulatory matters. My law enforcement background as a Senior Special Agent with the DEA provides unique perspective on investigations and criminal exposure issues.

Why I chose my practice area:

My six years as a DEA Senior Special Agent, combined with prior experience as a private investigator and Boston Police officer, gave me deep understanding of commercial and investigative complexities. Law practice was a natural progression from this foundation.

Most memorable case:

I represented a private equity firm in multi-state litigation filed in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in California, defending the client against claims for breach of fiduciary duty. The case revolved around the client's investment in a distributor of medical devices that filed for Chapter 11. The litigation was commenced by the Creditors' Committee and eventually involved concurrent proceedings before several federal district court judges. I obtained a very favorable settlement and the claims were dismissed with prejudice.

I also represented the target of a Department of Justice investigation into alleged antitrust and bid rigging violations. We successfully prepared a memorandum that was sent to the DOJ, resulting in no charges filed. I also obtained [among others]: a \$3.76 million judgment for a plaintiff in a trade secrets theft case after three years of litigation, and a \$9.5 million ex parte attachment and \$2.5 million settlement for a foreign transit authority defrauded of \$5 million in counterfeit tokens.

What makes me a leader in my field:

I have secured multimillion-dollar judgments and negotiated highly favorable settlements in cases with criminal and regulatory exposure. My litigation practice spans commercial and consumer law broadly — from fiduciary duty and partnership disputes to environmental matters and civil rights. I am recognized as an expert source for respected media outlets.

Outlook for 2026:

Consumer and commercial litigation will become increasingly complex and contentious. AI presents novel legal and ethical challenges requiring innovative client solutions.

STEPHEN
RIDEN

Co-founding Partner
Beck Reed Riden
Boston



Years in practice: 26
Best known for: Representing companies and individuals in complex disputes involving trade secrets and restrictive covenants, including noncompete agreements. I also frequently advise clients on protecting proprietary information and navigating employee transition issues.

Why I chose my practice area: The work is endlessly interesting because no two matters are ever the same. Disputes involving restrictive covenants are inherently fact intensive and nuanced, and each case presents a unique set of facts and potential arguments. Trade secret protection and misappropriation matters often require a detective's mindset, which makes the work both challenging and enjoyable. The fast-paced nature of these disputes keeps things exciting. When my partners and I founded Beck Reed Riden 15 years ago, we shared a passion for this kind of work.

Most memorable case: The occasions when a judge decided to have parties present live testimony rather than ruling on a motion for preliminary injunction based on the papers. These situations

compressed written discovery, depositions, witness preparation, and a mini-trial into just a few weeks — requiring total focus and teamwork under significant time pressure.

What makes me a leader in my field: Showing up for my clients and colleagues prepared, engaged, and committed to doing the best I can.

Outlook for 2026: Noncompete law remains in constant flux, with states likely continuing to revise their statutes and the FTC signaling aggressive enforcement ahead. Blockbuster trade secret verdicts will continue highlighting the importance of proactive compliance and thoughtful litigation strategies.

Bar involvement/leadership roles: President of the Boston College Law School Alumni Association (2020); chair and co-chair of the Boston Bar Journal Board of Editors (2020-2022); co-chair of the Boston Bar Association's Business and Commercial Litigation Section; articles editor for The Federal Lawyer

ANDREW M.
SCHNEIDERMAN

Partner
O'Hagan Meyer
Boston



Years in practice: 19
Best known for: Defending consumer-based class action lawsuits pertaining to claims under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, Chapter 93A, and state statutes nationally.

Why I chose my practice area: I found the class aspect of the litigation very interesting and reflecting a unique area of the law I had yet to explore. There was also a lack of expertise in my prior office at the time an initial class action was referred, and I decided at that point to educate myself in this area of the law and develop it accordingly.

Most memorable case: *Dorrian v. LVNV Funding, LLC*. This was a class action case litigated to the Supreme Judicial Court wherein we were victorious in establishing that passive debt buyers are not considered "debt collectors" under the Massachusetts Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

What makes me a leader in my field: Devotion to the practice, knowledge of the area of law, and unwavering representation of my clients. I am recognized as a leader based upon my track record of resolving cases when it is in the best interest of the client to do so and litigating claims wherein there is a viable defense (however remote) and/or it would advance the collective goals of the industry.

Outlook for 2026: A greater increase of claims based upon little known or new state protection statutes insofar as the caselaw surrounding these claims is not as developed as those involving their federal counterparts. Therefore, plaintiffs have a greater likelihood of securing a settlement based upon the absence of controlling law interpreting such statutes and the difficulty in forecasting how a court would rule with respect to the same.

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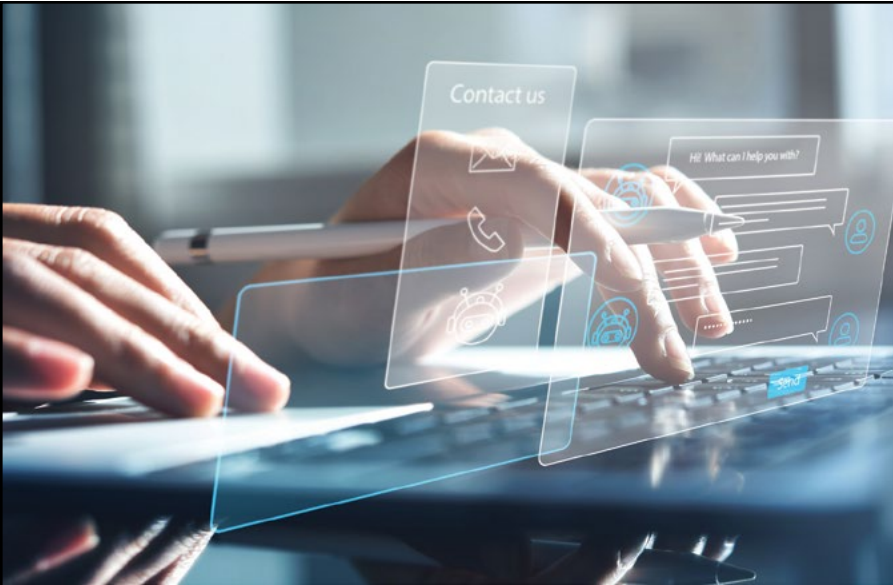
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DAVID G. THOMAS

Principal Shareholder
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Boston



Years in practice: 27
Best known for: I advise on individual and corporate disputes throughout the entire dispute-resolution life cycle, including strategic negotiation, mediation, alternative dispute resolution, and trial. I specialize in unfair or deceptive business practices disputes, particularly under 93A. As a certified mediator, I work with clients to avoid disputes by identifying and addressing potential risks in business policies and practices. Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly named me a “Go To Lawyer” in Business Litigation.

Why I chose my practice area: I was drawn to litigation and dispute resolution because of my deep interest in the justice system.

Most memorable case: *Gregory Ford et al. v. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston* and related cases, where I represented hundreds of victims of clergy abuse during the Boston Clergy Abuse Crisis in the early 2000s.

What makes me a leader in my field: I’m recognized as a leader in Chapter 93A litigation, combining extensive hands-on litigation experience with a commitment to advancing the field through writing and teaching. I’ve authored Chapter 93A practice guides for MCLE and PLI and maintain a Chapter 93A blog, offering unique insights into emerging legal trends and strategies in consumer and commercial litigation.

Outlook for 2026: Chapter 93A litigation in Massachusetts will expand significantly due to new “junk fee” and negative option regulations issued by the AG. These regulations will likely spur a surge in private and class actions targeting undisclosed or misleading fees in travel, telecommunications, and online subscriptions. Additionally, courts are broadening their interpretation of “injury” under Section 9, increasingly recognizing non-economic and privacy-related harms as sufficient to support 93A claims.

Representative clients: National Grid, MGM, Envision Healthcare, Verizon Wireless, Macy’s Inc., Sterling Jewelers Inc., Oxford Global Resources, Dick’s Sporting Goods, Brooks Brothers Inc., Guitar Center, JPMorgan

U. GWYN WILLIAMS

Partner
Latham & Watkins
Boston



Years in practice: 32
Best known for: A wide range of cases in products liability, mass torts and consumer class actions. With nearly three decades of experience, I’ve defended clients in complex, multi-defendant and class action cases in both state and federal courts across the U.S. and Canada, involving a wide array of consumer products, pharmaceutical and medical devices, and industrial equipment. I also frequently advise private equity firms and operating companies on diligence and liability risk assessment during corporate transactions.

Why I chose my practice area: Because the work often involves individual plaintiff cases that have been aggregated together in some fashion, products liability cases offer the opportunity to really dig into how to defend against the facts of a single person’s claim while also dealing with complex strategic issues and novel legal arguments.

Most memorable case: The cases I will remember the most aren’t so much the big trial or motion practice wins or losses, but rather the ones where we had a really great team working together. When that happens, and everyone on the team is performing at the top of their game, it’s a really special experience.

What makes me a leader in my field: My leadership is defined by my ability to anticipate litigation trends, develop innovative legal strategies, and foster collaboration among diverse legal teams, often across multiple jurisdictions and multiple law firms.

Outlook for 2026: Most recently, we’ve seen more cases being brought by cities and local municipalities on public nuisance theories or under consumer protection statutes, and I don’t think that kind of litigation has finished running its arc yet.

Bar involvement/leadership roles: I have been a leader of the class action/mass tort practice at Latham since I came to the firm 13 years ago. I also maintain an active pro bono practice, with a particular focus on juvenile justice and child welfare protection. I’ve been appointed as a special assistant attorney general, representing the Department of Children and Families in appeals before the Appeals Court.

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HARVEY J. WOLKOFF

Partner
Quinn, Emanuel, Urquhart & Sullivan
Boston



Years in practice: 50+
Best known for: My experienced trial skills, particularly in handling very large and complex business trials. When I left Ropes & Gray and became a founder of the Boston office of Quinn Emanuel, one of the namesake partners said of me, “He is one of the top two or three trial lawyers in all of Massachusetts.” I also have a good sense of which matters can only be resolved by a jury and which can be negotiated.

Why I chose my practice area: I thought from the beginning that litigation would provide opportunities to deal with new and different fact patterns, people and areas of the law, and would never get stale — and I was right. I still love what I do.

Most memorable case: The Market Basket matter, in which we represent the board of directors, is scheduled for trial in Delaware Chancery Court. Another standout was an international arbitration for LoJack conducted in Hong Kong, where we secured a \$100 million award. I also tried a mortgage-backed security case in federal court in New Haven where I opened as a Ropes & Gray lawyer and closed as a Quinn Emanuel lawyer, securing over \$200 million for my client.

What makes me a leader in my field: I have an extremely high win percentage in jury trials. I focus on the client’s top goals and chart a flexible course that can pivot as things change. That flexibility and readjusting may be something that sets me apart.

Outlook for 2026: AI will bring significant changes to business litigation — both concerning and exciting. I also see many more opportunities for diversity and inclusion, an important trend that I hope continues far into the future.

Bar involvement/leadership roles: Co-head, Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights, regional head, Anti-Defamation League; active member, American College of Trial Lawyers.

Representative clients: EF Institute for Cultural Exchange, Inc.; Cultural Care, Inc.; Boston Children’s Hospital; DSM Holdco, Inc.; Demoulas Supermarkets Inc.; Berkeley Research Group; Alexander Buffet Rozek; Highfields Capital Management; VRBO and Expedia