

Methodology

Welcome to the third annual edition of *Benchmark Plaintiff*, the definitive guide to America's leading plaintiff litigation firms and attorneys.

Benchmark Plaintiff was spawned by *Benchmark Litigation*, the only publication on the market to focus exclusively on litigation in the US. Since its inception seven years ago, the Benchmark brand has grown dramatically and garnered industry-wide accolades as the definitive hub for in-depth analysis of the players shaping the dynamic practice of litigation. With *Benchmark's* sharp and steady rise in popularity, its publishing staff increasingly aims to respond to the demands of its audience. One notable stream of feedback we received was that while *Benchmark Litigation* was considered a go-to reference for defense litigators, there was no forum offered by anyone that provided *Benchmark's* level of analysis regarding litigators conducting prosecutorial work. As a response, we developed *Benchmark Plaintiff* to satisfy that demand.

This sister guide serves as a supplement that focuses exclusively on plaintiff litigation. It is the only publication available to do so. While some plaintiff-oriented firms and attorneys are ranked and editorialized in *Benchmark Litigation*, this guide goes a step further in providing plaintiff lawyers their own separate editorial platform, highlighting firms and individuals responsible for bringing the cases that have been particularly salient. This includes many firms not previously touched on in *Benchmark Litigation*; these firms were uncovered through targeted questioning that specifically solicited peer feedback regarding firms conducting plaintiff work to any extent. This guide approaches the editorializing of the plaintiff capacity from a holistic viewpoint, encompassing firms and attorneys who exclusively engage in the plaintiff practice as well as those who equally attend to matters in the defense and plaintiff capacities.

The research methodology behind *Benchmark Plaintiff* mirrors what has proven to be a winning strategy for *Benchmark Litigation*. The guide's results are the culmination of an eight-month research period that allows our researchers to conduct extensive interviews with litigators and their clients. During these interviews we examine recent casework handled by the firms and ask sources to offer their professional opinions on litigators practicing within their state or national practice areas.

Regional and local expertise is also a crucial factor in commercial litigation, and we identify the leading litigation firms and partners in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Each state chapter includes:

Rankings of the top local litigation firms

We divided the firms in each local market into "highly recommended" and "recommended" categories. All listed firms were consistently mentioned by peers and clients, but the "highly recommended" firms received the most mentions, and were held as dominant in their particular jurisdiction.

Rankings of the top local litigation stars

The list of "local litigation stars" for each state reflects only those individuals who were recommended consistently as reputable and effective litigators by clients and peers.

Editorials on every ranked firm

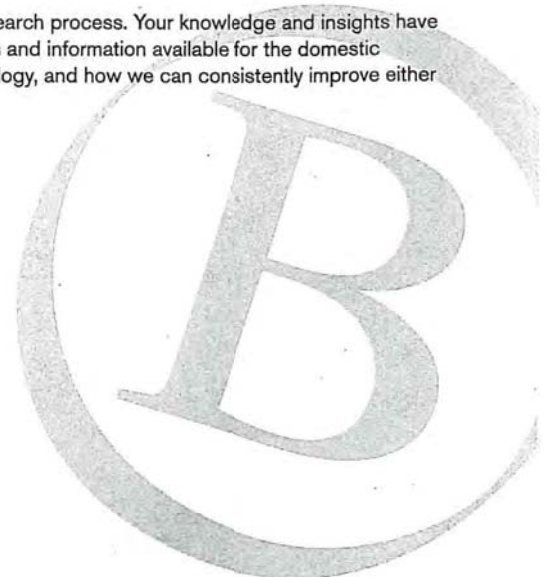
We have made every effort to offer in-depth coverage of the ranked firms. In some cases, however, we were not able to provide editorial content for every ranked firm due to a lack of participation or available information.

Recommendations are based on interviews with the nation's leading private practice lawyers and in-house counsel. These interviews were conducted between January and August 2013. Firms cannot pay to be recommended for the guide. Instead, firms have been independently offered the opportunity to take a professional listing regardless of editorial content.

We would like to thank the law firms and in-house counsel who took the time to participate in our annual research process. Your knowledge and insights have contributed to *Benchmark's* continued success by ensuring that our content reflects the most current trends and information available for the domestic litigation market. We also welcome any and all feedback you have with respect to the guide and its methodology, and how we can consistently improve either going forward.

All information was believed to be correct at the time of going to press.

Michael Rafalowich, Editor



Top 150 Plaintiff Women in Litigation

Top 10 Plaintiff Women

California

Elizabeth Cabraser

Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein
Antitrust, Employment/Labor, Environmental, False Claims Act, Personal injury, Securities

Texas

Kathy Patrick

Gibbs & Bruns
Securities

Illinois

Jill Berkeley

Neal Gerber & Eisenberg
Insurance

New York

Robin Cohen

Kasowitz Benson Torres & Friedman
Insurance

Minnesota

Jan Conlin

Robins Kaplan Miller & Ciresi
Intellectual property

New York

Anne Golden

Outten & Golden
Labor/employment

California

Linda Kornfeld

Kasowitz Benson Torres & Friedman
Insurance

District of Columbia

Rachel Kronowitz

Gilbert
Insurance

Pennsylvania

Dianne Nast

RODANAST
Civil, Class actions

New York

Linda Nussbaum

Grant & Eisenhofer
Antitrust, Class actions

Top 150 Plaintiff Women

Alabama

Leigh Forstman

Pitman Dutton & Hellums
Consumer protection, Environmental, Personal Injury, Medical Malpractice, Civil Litigation

Shannon Holliday

Copeland Franco Screws & Gill
Civil and Commercial

Melissa Prickett

Beasley Allen Crow Methvin Portis & Miles
Mess torts

Dana Taunton

Beasley Allen Crow Methvin Portis & Miles
Appellate

Scarlette Tuley

Beasley Allen Crow Methvin Portis & Miles
Securities

Leila Watson

Cory Watson Crowder & DeGaris
Mess torts, Product liability, Toxic tort, Appellate, Consumer protection

Alaska

Mauri Long

Dillon & Findley
Civil, Medical malpractice

Donna McCready

Friedman Rubin
Personal injury, Medical malpractice

Susan Orlansky

Feldman Orlansky & Sanders
Civil

Meg Simonian

Dillon & Findley
Civil, Insurance

Arizona

Robin Burgess

Sanders & Parks
Civil, Personal injury, Wrongful death

Susan Chetlin

Fennemore Craig
Intellectual property

Arkansas

Amy Stewart

Rcse Law Firm
Antitrust

California

Elizabeth Cabraser

Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein
Antitrust, Employment/labor, Environmental, False Claims Act, Personal injury, Securities

Eve Cervantez

Altshuler Berzon
Employment/Labor, Class actions

Barbara Chisholm

Altshuler Berzon
Employment/Labor, Class actions

Kelly Dermody

Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein
Employment/Labor, Consumer protection

Diane Hutnyan

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan
Antitrust, Class actions, Intellectual property

Linda Kornfeld

Kasowitz Benson Torres & Friedman
Insurance

Karin Kramer

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan
Class actions, Intellectual property, Securities

Danielle Leonard

Altshuler Berzon
Employment/labor, Class actions

Stacey Leyton

Altshuler Berzon
Employment/labor, Class actions

Amy Solomon

Girardi Keese
Insurance, Product liability, Professional malpractice, Toxic torts

Colorado

Joan Bechtold

Sweeney & Bechtold
Employment/Labor

Amy Benson

Bryan Cave
Antitrust, Commercial

Kathryn DeBord

Bryan Cave
Antitrust, Commercial, Intellectual property

Lynn Feiger

Lohf Shaiman Jacobs Hyman & Feiger
Employment/labor

Wendy Fisher

Reilly Pozner
Commercial

Jennifer Hunt

Hill & Robbins
Antitrust, Class Action, Environmental Litigation, Securities

Diane Smith

Burg Simpson Eldredge Hersh & Jardine
Employment/Labor, Personal Injury

Charlotte Sweeney

Sweeney & Bechtold
Employment/Labor

Connecticut**Kathleen Nastri**

Koskoff Koskoff & Bleder
Personal injury

Kathryn Emmett

Emmett & Glander
Civil rights, employment law

Delaware**Christine Azar**

Labaton Sucharow
Securities

Cynthia Calder

Grant & Eisenhofer
Securities

Megan McIntyre

Grant & Eisenhofer
Securities, Complex Commercial Litigation

Maryellen Noreika

Morris Nichols Arshat & Tunnell
Intellectual Property

Cassandra Roberts

Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor
personal injury, workers comp

Mary Thomas

Grant & Eisenhofer
Securities, Class Actions

Neill Walsh

Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor
Personal injury

Natalie Wolf

Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor
Personal injury

District of Columbia**Lynne Bernabei**

Bernabei & Wachtel
Civil Rights, Employment/Labor, False Claims Act

Agnieszka Fryszman

Cohen Milstein
Human Rights

Pamela Gilbert

Cuneo Gilbert & LaDuca
Antitrust, Consumer Protection, Product Liability, Securities

Marla Kanemitsu

Dickstein Shapiro
Complex Commercial Litigation, Insurance

Katherine Kimpel

Sanford Wittels & Heisler
Employment, Civil Rights

Rachel Kronowitz

Gilbert
Insurance

Selina Linde

Perkins Coie
Complex Commercial Litigation, Insurance

Amy Mauser

Boies Schiller & Flexner
Antitrust, Complex Commercial Litigation

Norah Molnar

Cohen Mohr
Complex Commercial Litigation, Insurance

Jule Reiser

Cohen Milstein
Civil Rights, Securities

Hilary Scherrer

Hausfeld
Antitrust, Complex Commercial Litigation

Catherine Serafin

Dickstein Shapiro
Complex Commercial Litigation, Insurance

Christine Webber

Cohen Milstein
Civil Rights

Georgia**Nikole Davenport**

Chitwood Harley Harnes
Class Actions, Securities, Antitrust

Krissi Gore

Chitwood Harley Harnes
Securities

Leigh May

Butler Wooten
Personal Injury, Product Liability

Jill Pryor

Bondurant Mixson & Elmore
Intellectual Property, Complex Commercial Litigation

Randi Schnell

Bondurant Mixson & Elmore
Intellectual Property, Complex Commercial Litigation

Hawaii**Ke-ching Ning**

Ning Lilly & Jones
Commercial, Real estate, Bankruptcy

Judith Ann Pavey

Starn O'Toole Marcus & Fisher
Personal Injury

Idaho**Erin O'Toole**

Bernstein Cushner & Kimmel
Complex Commercial Litigation

Illinois**Susan Capra**

Clifford Law Offices
Civil Litigation

Jill Berkeley

Neal Gerber & Eisenberg
Insurance

Jamie Weiss

Complex Litigation Group
Antitrust, Securities, Personal Injury

Indiana**Ann DeLaney**

DeLaney & DeLaney
Civil Litigation

Kathleen DeLaney

DeLaney & DeLaney
Civil Litigation

Sue Shadley

Plews Shadley Racher & Braun
Environmental, Insurance

Iowa**Karen Lorenzen**

Hayes Lorenzen Lawyers
Commercial Litigation, Medical Malpractice, Products Liability, Personal Injury

Jean Pendleton

Pendleton Zeigler & Herbold
Civil Rights, Employment/Labor, Personal Injury

Kansas**Chelsie Lamie**

Rebein Bangerter Rebein
Personal Injury

Kentucky**Ann Oldfather**

Oldfather Law Firm
Personal Injury, Medical Malpractice, Products Liability

Louisiana**Dawn Barrios**

Barrios Kingsdorf & Casteix
Products Liability, Mass Tort

Debra Fischman

Sher Garner Cahill Richter Klein & Hilbert
Commercial litigation, Personal Injury, Wrongful Death, Torts

Loretta Mince

Fishman Haygood Phelps Walmsley Willis & Swanson
Commercial Litigation, Product Liability

Lynn Swanson

Jones Swanson Huddell & Garrison
Commercial Litigation, Environmental, Personal Injury, Toxic Tort

Maine

Celine Boyle

Smith & Elliot
Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury, Wrongful Death

Cornelia Fuchs

Monaghan Leahy
Civil Litigation, Personal Injury

Janmarie Toker

McTeague Higbee Case Cohen Whitney & Toker
Civil Litigation, Workers Rights

Maryland

Debora Fajer-Smith

Joseph Greenwald & Laake
Civil litigation, personal injury

Massachusetts

Jody Newman

Collora
Employment

Donna Corcoran

Cooley Manion Jones
Civil litigation, personal injury

Kathleen Donovan-Maher

Berman DeValerio
Securities

Jennifer Furey

Cooley Manion Jones
IP

Shannon Liss-Riordan

Lichten & Liss-Riordan
Labor/employment

Elizabeth Mulvey

Crowe & Mulvey
Personal injury, medical malpractice

Hillary Schwab

Lichten & Liss-Riordan
Labor/employment

Leslie Stern

Berman DeValerio
Securities

Indira Talwani

Segal Roitman
Class actions, labor

Michigan

Sharon Woods

Barris Sott Denn & Driker
Commercial, Intellectual Property

Minnesota

Carolyn Anderson

Zimmerman Reed
Civil litigation, Commercial Litigation

Jan Conlin

Robins Kaplan Miller & Ciresi
Intellectual Property

Yvonne Flaherty

Lockridge Grindal Nauen
Product Liability

Anne Lockner

Robins Kaplan Miller & Ciresi
Intellectual Property

Anne Regan

Zimmerman Reed
Employment/Labor, Securities

Karen Riebel

Lockridge Grindal Nauen
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Securities

Kathleen Flynn Peterson

Robins Kaplan Miller & Ciresi
Medical Malpractice, Product Liability

Tara Sutton

Robins Kaplan Miller & Ciresi
Mass Tort, Product Liability

Heidi Silton

Lockridge Grindal Nauen
Product Liability

Rena Steiner

Heins Mills & Olson
Antitrust, Consumer Protection

Mississippi

Judy Guice

The Law Offices of Judy Guice
Civil/Human Rights, Employment/Labor, Toxic Tort

Cynthia Mitchell

Merkel & Cocke
Personal Injury, Professional Malpractice

Missouri

Mary Ann Sedey

Sedey Harper
Employment

Nebraska

Jill Robb Ackerman

Baird Holm
IP, Complex commercial litigation

New Jersey

Esther Berezofsky

Williams Cuker & Berezofsky
Mass Torts, Personal Injury

New Mexico

Margaret Moses Branch

Branch Law Firm
Environment, Toxic Tort

Pia Salazar

Salazar Sullivan & Jasionowski
Medical Malpractice, Nursing Home Negligence

New York

Robin Cohen

Kasowitz Benson Torres & Friedman
Insurance

Susan Davis

Cohen Weiss and Simon
Employment/Labor

Wendy Fleishman

Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein
Mass Torts, Personal Injury

Anne Golden

Outten & Golden
Employment/Labor

Barbara Hart

Lowey Dannenberg Cohen & Hart
Antitrust, Securities

Rebecca Katz

Motley Rice
Securities

Michelle Marsh

Kenyon & Kenyon
Intellectual property

Linda Nussbaum

Grant & Eisenhofer
Antitrust, Class Actions

Jani Rachelson

Cohen Weiss and Simon
Labor/employment

Hollis Salzman

Robins Kaplan Miller & Ciresi
Antitrust

Manisha Sheth

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan
Securities

Ariana Tadler

Milberg
Securities

Robin Henry

Boies Schiller & Flexner
Commercial, Securities

North Carolina

Jacqueline Grant

Roberts & Stevens
Employment, Personal Injury

Sally Higgins

Higgins & Owens
General Commercial, Securities

Ohio

Janet Abaray

Burg Simpson
Commercial and Civil Litigation, Mass Torts, Products Liability

Jennifer DeAngelis

Brewster & De Angelis
Personal Injury

Oklahoma**Judith Finn**

Pinkerton & Finn
Complex Civil and Commercial Litigation, Securities,
Disability Law, Employment/Labor

Judy Morse

Crowe & Dunlevy
Commercial

Oregon**Linda Love**

Williams Love O'Leary & Powers
Mass Torts

Leslie O'Leary

Williams Love O'Leary & Powers
Mass Torts, Products Liability

Starla Roels

Hobbs Straus Dean & Walker
Indian Law

Pennsylvania**Dianne Nast**

RODANAST
Complex Civil Litigation, Class Actions

Barbara Podell

Berger & Montague
Securities

Roberta Pichini

Feldman Shepherd Wohlgelemer Tanner Weinstock Dodig
Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury

Carol Shepherd

Feldman Shepherd Wohlgelemer Tanner Weinstock Dodig
Medical Malpractice

Robin Switzenbaum

Berger & Montague
Commercial, Securities

South Carolina**Jodi Westbrook Flowers**

Motley Rice
Human Rights, Mass Torts, Environmental, Securities

Anne McGinness Kearse

Motley Rice
Products Liability, Mass Torts

Mary Schiavo

Motley Rice
Aviation, Securities, Mass Torts

South Dakota**Nancy Turbak**

Turbak Law Office
Personal Injury

Tennessee**Kathryn Barnett**

Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein
Mass Tort, Personal Injury

Texas**Kathy Patrick**

Gibbs & Bruns
Securities

Karen Oshman

Susman Godfrey
Commercial Litigation, Securities

Mary Kathryn Sammons

Susman Godfrey
Commercial Litigation

Katherine Treistman

Susman Godfrey
Commercial Litigation

Utah**Sara Becker**

Kirtan & McConkie
Commercial Litigation

Lauren Scholnick

Strindberg & Scholnick
Employment/Labor

Vermont**Emily Joselson**

Langrock Sperry & Wool
Personal Injury

Virginia**Lori Searcy**

Searcy Law Office
Commercial, Employment

Washington**Gretchen Freeman Cappio**

Keller Rohrback
Product Liability

West Virginia**Kelly Reed**

Law Offices of Kelly Reed
Employment, Personal Injury

Wyoming**Deb Wendtland**

Wendtland & Wendtland
Personal Injury