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**Institutional  
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# BENCHMARK PLAINTIFF

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO AMERICA'S LEADING PLAINTIFF FIRMS & ATTORNEYS

# OREGON

## Local litigation firms

### Highly recommended

Esler Stephens & Buckley

Gaylord Eyerman Bradley

Markowitz Herbold Glade & Mehlhaf

Stoll Stoll Berne Lokting & Shlachter

Williams Love O'Leary & Powers

### Recommended

Buchanan Angeli Altschul & Sullivan

The Corson & Johnson Law Firm

Dwyer Williams Potter

Hobbs Straus Dean & Walker

Paulson Coletti

Michael Wise & Associates

## Local litigation stars

### Kelly Anderson

Kelly L. Anderson  
Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury

### Gary Berne

Stoll Stoll Berne Lokting & Shlachter  
Business, Class Action, Securities

### Paul Buchanan

Buchanan Angeli Altschul & Sullivan  
Employment/Labor

### Kim Buckley

Esler Stephens & Buckley  
Civil, Commercial, Securities

### John Coletti

Paulson Coletti  
Personal Injury, Product Liability, Wrongful Death

### Don Corson

The Corson & Johnson Law Firm  
Insurance, Personal Injury, Wrongful Death

### Jeffrey Edelson

Markowitz Herbold Glade & Mehlhaf  
Commercial, Construction, Employment/Labor, Real Estate

### Michael Esler

Esler Stephens & Buckley  
Commercial

### Bill Gaylord

Gaylord Eyerman Bradley  
Product Liability, Medical Malpractice

### Edmund Goodman

Hobbs Straus Dean & Walker  
Indian Law

### Keith Ketterling

Stoll Stoll Berne Lokting & Shlachter  
Securities

### Steve Larson

Stoll Stoll Berne Lokting & Shlachter  
Commercial, Securities

### Linda Love

Williams Love O'Leary & Powers  
Mass Tort

### David Markowitz

Markowitz Herbold Glade & Mehlhaf  
Commercial, Real Estate

### Leslie O'Leary

Williams Love O'Leary & Powers  
Mass Tort, Product Liability

### Steve Osborne

Hobbs Straus Dean & Walker  
Indian Law

### Tom Powers

Williams Love O'Leary & Powers  
Toxic Tort

### Starla Roels

Hobbs Straus Dean & Walker  
Indian Law

### Kerry Shepherd

Markowitz Herbold Glade & Mehlhaf  
Commercial, Securities

### Robert Shlachter

Stoll Stoll Berne Lokting & Shlachter  
Commercial, Intellectual Property

### John Stephens

Esler Stephens & Buckley  
Civil, Commercial

### Geoffrey Strommer

Hobbs Straus Dean & Walker  
Indian Law

### Mike Williams

Williams Love O'Leary & Powers  
Mass Tort, Product Liability

### Tim Williams

Dwyer Williams Potter  
Personal Injury

### Michael Wise

Michael Wise & Associates  
Commercial, Personal Injury

# Oregon

## Highly recommended firms

### Esler Stephens & Buckley

Esler Stephens & Buckley is a three-person law firm representing clients with claims involving business disputes, antitrust, real estate, intellectual property, toxic torts, environmental claims, securities fraud and more. The firm has represented a unique combination of clients ranging from major companies such as Honeywell and Northwest Natural Gas to government entities, smaller regional businesses and restaurants. Additionally attorneys represent individuals, including a number of celebrities who have been victimized by fraudulent actions. **Michael Esler** formerly served on the Oregon State Bar Disciplinary Board. **John Stephens** is admitted to practice before the courts of Oregon, the Northern District of California, the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

### Gaylord Eyerman Bradley

Gaylord Eyerman Bradley is a three-person law firm that has been representing plaintiffs in a variety of civil claims for the past 25 years. The firm focuses exclusively on claims involving defective products, negligent medical care and various forms of catastrophic injury. Among the firm's successes is an \$80 million verdict against tobacco giant Philip Morris. The case, which asserted that Philip Morris committed fraud by advertising cigarettes were less dangerous than they actually were, involved extensive litigation that took place over the course of 12 years. In 2009 the US Supreme Court finally upheld the jury verdict against the tobacco company. In another notable matter, the firm obtained a favorable verdict against a nail gun manufacturer that involved a nail gun double firing and causing serious brain injury to a man. The state's cap on non-economic damages was held unconstitutional when the nail gun matter was appealed. **Bill Gaylord** is a widely recognized trial lawyer, particularly in the realm of product liability, medical malpractice and personal injury litigation.

### Markowitz Herbold Glade & Mehlhaf

Portland-based Markowitz Herbold Glade & Mehlhaf is a litigation and trial boutique that focuses on a range of business and appellate matters for both plaintiffs and defendants. The firm actively handles cases involving corporate governance, securities, intellectual property, unfair competition, business torts, contracts and employer and employee rights, product defects, class actions and antitrust. One competitor states, "They are an excellent

boutique litigation firm that belongs in the top tier." **David Markowitz** is one of the firm's founding partners and a widely acclaimed trial lawyer in the Pacific Northwest. He has been honored by numerous publications for his business litigation skills and formerly served as the state chair of the American College of Trial Lawyers. **Jeffrey Edelson** concentrates his practice litigating cases involving business, real estate, construction and employment matters. In the plaintiffs' arena, he is particularly active handling claims involving trade secret violations, contract breaches and securities.

### Stoll Stoll Berne Lokting & Shlachter

Portland-based Stoll Stoll Berne Lokting & Shlachter is one of the Pacific Northwest's most prominent law firms, particularly in the realm of plaintiffs' class-action cases involving securities fraud, employment, consumer protection, antitrust, environment and insurance. Outside of class actions, the firm is active in corporate business law, dispute resolution and appellate litigation. Peers in Oregon consistently praise the firm's reputation, with one competitor saying, "They have great litigators who are highly knowledgeable of the issues at stake." The firm is currently involved in a nationwide, FLSA collective action against Rite-Aid on behalf of assistant store managers who are alleging violations of overtime laws. In another matter, Stoll Stoll Berne recently filed a class action against Chase Bank in federal court in Oregon on behalf of thousands of consumers who accepted an offer to transfer the balances on loans held by lenders to their Chase credit card accounts. Plaintiffs allege Chase then consolidated the debt into a fixed, long-term loan and coerced consumers out of the loans by increasing the minimum monthly payment of the loan balance. By taking such actions, plaintiffs say, the bank breached the loan agreement and breached the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing.

**Steve Larson** is a highly acclaimed trial lawyer who plays a leading role handling the firm's class action cases involving securities, corporate disputes, intellectual property and more. In one notable matter, he obtained settlements of \$85 million and \$19 million representing two classes of consumers in litigation against Hartford Financial Services Group and Nationwide, alleging the insurance companies violated the Fair Credit Reporting Act by failing to inform policyholders they were being charged higher premiums according to credit scores. **Keith Ketterling** concentrates his practice representing individual and institutional investors in securities litigation.

### Williams Love O'Leary & Powers

Williams Love O'Leary & Powers focuses on representing those who have suffered serious personal injuries as a result of dangerous drugs and defective medical devices. Founded in Portland in 1986, the firm has developed a national reputation for expertise in the medical litigation arena, often playing leading roles in class action multi-district cases. The firm recently obtained a \$5.5 million jury award for a Portland man whose shoulder was damaged by a pain pump. The suit alleged that I-Flow marketed its On-Q Painbuster to orthopedic surgeons even though the FDA rejected approval of the device for lack of safety data.

**Mike Williams** is an acclaimed trial lawyer who concentrates his practice on litigation involving medical devices and pharmaceutical mass torts. He has frequently served as lead counsel in class cases and obtained numerous multimillion-dollar verdicts. His is a past president of the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association and is a frequent lecturer. **Leslie O'Leary** has more than 15 years experience handling mass tort cases, including fen-phen cases. **Linda Love** has represented more than 1,000 injured workers and tried hundreds of cases in hearings before the Workers' Compensation Board.

# Methodology

Welcome to the second 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 five 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 rankings and editorials cover all 50 states. The guide's results are the culmination of a four-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.

In an effort to provide the most accurate and comprehensive coverage of the US litigation market, we have taken a two-fold approach to our research. The national section of our guide identifies the firms and attorneys who have displayed the ability to consistently handle complex, high-stakes cases in multiple jurisdictions. These selections are consistently recommended within the US business and legal communities for the quality of their litigation professionals and trial work. The results of our national research are highlighted in eight separate specialized rankings for antitrust, civil rights/human rights, employment/labor, insurance, intellectual property, mass torts/products liability, personal injury, and securities.

Regional and local expertise is also a crucial factor in commercial litigation, and in the second section of the guide 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 June 2012. 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**