Shumaker

AUGUST 22, 2025 | NEWS

127 Shumaker Lawyers Recognized in the 2026 Edition of Best Lawyers in America®

Shumaker is proud to announce that 127 of the firm's lawyers have been selected for inclusion in the 2026 editions of *Best Lawyers in America®* and the *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America™*. Among the ranked lawyers, 99 were selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers*, and 28 were included in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*, which recognizes lawyers who are early in their careers for their outstanding professional excellence in private practice. Additionally, seven lawyers received the "Lawyer of the Year" designation, awarded annually to only one lawyer with the highest peer feedback per practice and geographic region.

SERVICE LINE

Bankruptcy, Insolvency & Creditors' Rights
Benefits
Corporate, Tax & Transactions
Early Dispute Resolution
Environmental & Energy
Health Law
Insurance

Recovery
Intellectual Property
Labor & Employment
Litigation & Disputes
Merger, Acquisitions & Divestitures
Personal Injury & Wrongful Death
Real Estate, Construction & Development
Taxation
Wealth Strategies
White Collar Defense & Investigations

RELATED PROFESSIONALS

Jillian Askren
M. Scott Aubry
Jaime Austrich
David F. Axelrod
John C. Barron
Tom BenGera
Stacy RC Berliner
Steven M. Berman
Willard A. Blair
Thomas C. Blank
Michael E. Born
John H. Burson
Rhett N. Butler
C. Philip Campbell, Jr.
Hannah Clarke Campbell
James R. Carnes
Mary B. Catala
Lynn F. Chandler
Steven J. Chase

Douglas A. Cherry
Ronald A. Christaldi
Philip S. Chubb
David H. Conaway
David J. Coyle
Andrew S. Culicerto
Meagan R. Cyrus
Duane A. Daiker
C. Jade Davis
Grant P. Dearborn
Hugo S. "Brad" deBeaubien
Katherine S. Decker
Daniel J. DeLeo
Gary R. Diesing
Thomas P. Dillon
G.P. Diminich
Michael E. Dockins
Robert H. Eddy
Julio C. Esquivel
James E. Fanto
Andrew F. Ford
Sharon M. Fulop
Lucas D. Garber
Cheryl L. Gordon
William H. Gosline
J. Douglas Grimes
Benjamin R. Hanan
Reed Hauptman
Douglas G. Haynam
David B. Heedy
Michele Leo Hintson
Patrick B. Horne
Nicholas A.

Huckaby
W. Kent Ihrig
Regina M.
Joseph
Warren P. Kean
Matthew T.
Kemp
John D. Kocher
Haley D. Kole
Peter E. Krebs
P. Wesley
Lambert
Amanda M.
Leffler
Katie Hinson
Lewis
Hanna M.
Lindsay
S. Alex Long, Jr.
Ernest J.
Marquart
Andrew J.
Mayts, Jr.
Timothy C.
McCarthy
Thomas F.
McDonnell, Jr.
Michael S.
McGowan
Brian N.
McMahon
Steven A.
Meckler
J. Douglas Miller
Marcus A. Miller
Peter P.
Murnaghan
John K. Nelson
Christina C.
Nethero
Scott D.
Newsom
Matt Newton
Ashley B. Norus
Hunter G.
Norton
Michael J.
O'Callaghan
James D.

O'Donnell
Andrew J.
Oppenheim
Samantha R.
Peckham
Felix C. Pelzer
Raven K. Peters
W. Jan
Pietruszka
Jan W. Pitchford
Malcolm J.
Pitchford
Thomas G. Pletz
Samuel P.
Queirolo
David J.
Rectenwald
Terence S.
Reynolds
Lindsay Rich
Steinmetz
Mindi M. Richter
Joseph J.
Santaniello
Meghan O.
Serrano
Julianne M.
Servetas
Rebecca E.
Shope
John J. Siciliano
Peter R.
Silverman
Eric L. Simpson
Joseph S.
Simpson
Darrell C. Smith
Bennett H.
Speyer
Nicholas T.
Stack
Karen H. Stiles
David P. Strup
Frederick M.
Thurman, Jr.
J. Todd
Timmerman
Seth P. Traub
Christina

Davidson
Trimmer
Juan C.
Villaveces
Gregory H.
Wagoner
Mark Wagoner
David F.
Waterman
James F. White,
Jr.
David W.
Wicklund
Charles A.
Wood, Jr.
Thomas M.
Wood
Gregory C.
Yadley

MEDIA CONTACT

Wendy M. Byrne
wbyrne@shumaker.com

The full list of Shumaker's recognized lawyers include:

Lawyer of the Year

Akron

- Amanda M. Leffler: Insurance Law

Charleston

- G.P. Diminich: Tax Law

Charlotte

- Warren P. Kean: Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships)
- John D. Kocher: Medical Malpractice Law – Defendants

Tampa

- Mindi M. Richter: Litigation –

Intellectual Property

Toledo

- M. Scott Aubry: Corporate Law
- Mark Wagoner: Appellate Practice

Best Lawyers in America®

Akron

- Stacy R.C. Berliner: Insurance Law, Litigation – Insurance
- P. Wesley Lambert: Commercial Litigation, Insurance Law
- Amanda M. Leffler: Commercial Litigation, Insurance Law, Litigation – Insurance

Charleston

- G.P. Diminich: Corporate Law, Tax Law, Trusts and Estates
- Katie Hinson Lewis: Real Estate Law
- Felix C. Pelzer: Tax Law, Trusts and Estates

Charlotte

- Lynn F. Chandler: Trusts and Estates
- Philip S. Chubb: Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- David H. Conaway: Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law
- Andrew S. Culicerto: Construction Law, Litigation – Construction
- Lucas D. Garber: Commercial Litigation
- J. Douglas Grimes: Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Intellectual Property
- Patrick B. Horne: Litigation – Intellectual Property, Trademark Law
- Warren P. Kean: Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships), Litigation and Controversy – Tax, Tax Law
- John D. Kocher: Medical Malpractice Law – Defendants
- S. Alex Long, Jr.: Patent Law

- Steven A. Meckler: Commercial Litigation
- Terence S. Reynolds: Insurance Law, Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants
- Joseph J. Santaniello: Franchise Law
- Karen H. Stiles: Medical Malpractice Law – Defendants
- Frederick M. Thurman, Jr.: Employment Law – Individuals, Employment Law – Management, Litigation – Labor and Employment
- Christina Davidson Trimmer: Litigation – Intellectual Property

Columbus

- David F. Axelrod: Corporate Compliance Law
- Michael E. Born: Environmental Law, Litigation – Environmental
- Michael J. O'Callaghan: Environmental Law

Sarasota

- Steven J. Chase: Commercial Litigation, Corporate Law, Mediation
- Douglas A. Cherry: Copyright Law, Litigation – Intellectual Property, Patent Law, Trademark Law
- Daniel J. DeLeo: Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Construction
- Cheryl L. Gordon: Tax Law, Trusts and Estates
- Benjamin R. Hanan: Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- Gregory M. Marks: Tax Law
- Hunter G. Norton: Commercial Litigation
- Jan W. Pitchford: Real Estate Law
- Malcolm J. Pitchford: Real Estate Law
- Meghan O. Serrano: Commercial Litigation
- Juan C. Villaveces: Real Estate Law

St. Petersburg

- Andrew F. Ford: Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships)

Tampa

- Jaime Austrich: Commercial Litigation
- Steven M. Berman: Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Commercial Litigation
- Willard A. Blair: Closely Held Companies and Family Businesses Law, Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- C. Philip Campbell, Jr.: Commercial Litigation, Litigation – First Amendment, Litigation – Intellectual Property, Litigation – Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- Ronald A. Christaldi: Health Care Law
- Duane A. Daiker: Appellate Law
- Grant P. Dearborn: Health Care Law
- Hugo S. deBeaubien: Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Commercial Litigation, Employment Law – Management, Litigation – Labor and Employment
- Julio C. Esquivel: Corporate Governance Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- Michele Leo Hintson: Commercial Litigation
- W. Kent Ihrig: Banking and Finance Law, Real Estate Law
- Ernest J. Marquart: Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Commercial Litigation
- Andrew J. Mayts: Banking and Finance Law, Construction Law
- Peter P. Murnaghan: Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants, Personal Injury Litigation – Plaintiffs
- Matt Newton: Land Use and Zoning Law
- W. Jan Pietruszka: Employment Law – Individuals, Employment Law – Management, Litigation – Labor and Employment
- Samuel P. Queirolo: Real Estate Law
- David Ricco: Real Estate Law
- Mindi M. Richter: Copyright Law, Litigation – Intellectual Property, Litigation – Patent, Trademark

Law
- Darrell C. Smith: Banking and Finance Law, Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law, Securities / Capital Markets Law, Securities Regulation
- J. Todd Timmerman: Copyright Law, Litigation – Intellectual Property, Litigation – Patent, Patent Law, Trademark Law
- Seth P. Traub: Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law
- Thomas M. Wood: Commercial Litigation
- Gregory C. Yadley: Banking and Finance Law, Corporate Compliance Law, Corporate Law, Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law, Securities / Capital Markets Law, Securities Regulation

Toledo

- M. Scott Aubry: Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- John C. Barron: Commercial Litigation, Medical Malpractice Law – Defendants
- Thomas C. Blank: Banking and Finance Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law, Securities / Capital Markets Law, Securities Regulation
- John H. Burson: Litigation – Trusts and Estates, Trusts and Estates
- James R. Carnes: Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Labor and Employment, Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants, Railroad Law
- David J. Coyle: Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Litigation – Bankruptcy
- Katherine S. Decker: Commercial Litigation
- Gary R. Diesing: Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law
- Thomas P. Dillon: Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Antitrust, Litigation – Intellectual Property, Litigation – Labor and Employment
- Michael E. Dockins: Litigation – Patent

- Robert H. Eddy: Legal Malpractice Law – Defendants
- Sharon M. Fulop: Real Estate Law
- William H. Gosline: Trusts and Estates
- W. Reed Hauptman: Real Estate Law
- Douglas G. Haynam: Environmental Law, Litigation – Environmental
- John W. Hilbert, II: Banking and Finance Law, Corporate Law, Real Estate Law
- Regina M. Joseph: Corporate Law
- Peter E. Krebs: Corporate Law
- Timothy C. McCarthy: Employment Law – Management
- Michael S. McGowan: Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships), Closely Held Companies and Family Business Law, Corporate Law, Tax Law
- Brian N. McMahon: Franchise Law
- J. Douglas Miller: Litigation – Patent
- John K. Nelson: Commercial Litigation, Insurance Law, Litigation – Mergers and Acquisitions
- Scott D. Newsom: Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law, Litigation – ERISA
- Thomas G. Pletz: Commercial Litigation, Litigation – First Amendment, Litigation – Labor and Employment
- David J. Rectenwald: Trusts and Estates
- Rebecca E. Shope: Litigation – Labor and Employment
- Gregory S. Shumaker: Real Estate Law
- John J. Siciliano: Product Liability Litigation – Defendants, Workers' Compensation Law – Employers
- Peter R. Silverman: Arbitration, Commercial Litigation, Franchise Law, Litigation – Intellectual Property, Litigation – Securities, Mediation
- Joseph S. Simpson: Environmental Law
- Bennett H. Speyer: Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law, Tax Law
- Nicholas T. Stack: Appellate Practice, Commercial Litigation
- David P. Strup: Commercial Litigation
- Gregory H. Wagoner: Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Banking and Finance
- Mark D. Wagoner: Antitrust Law,

Appellate Practice, Commercial Litigation, Franchise Law
- David F. Waterman: Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law, Tax Law
- James F. White, Jr.: Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law, Securities / Capital Markets Law
- David W. Wicklund: Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Antitrust, Litigation – Intellectual Property

Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America™

Charleston

- Hannah Campbell: Trusts and Estates

Charlotte

- Tom BenGera: Intellectual Property Law, Litigation – Intellectual Property, Litigation – Patent, Patent Law, Technology Law
- Rhett N. Butler: Corporate Law, Health Care Law

Columbus

- Meagan R. Cyrus: Commercial Litigation, Insurance Law
- Marcus A. Miller: Commercial Litigation

Sarasota

- C. Jade Davis: Commercial Litigation, Construction Law, Litigation – Construction, Product Liability Litigation – Defendants
- James E. Fanto: Litigation – Securities
- David B. Heedy: Tax Law, Trusts and Estates
- Hanna M. Lindsay: Insurance Law
- James D. O'Donnell: Commercial Litigation
- Raven K. Peters: Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Construction, Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants
- Charles A. Wood: Commercial Litigation

Tampa

- Jillian Askren: Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Environmental, Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions – Defendants
- Mary B. Catala: Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor

Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Corporate Law, Nonprofit / Charities Law
- Haley D. Kole: Labor and Employment Law – Management, Litigation – Labor and Employment
- Thomas F. McDonnell, Jr.: Corporate Governance and Compliance Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- Christina C. Nethero: Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships), Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- Ashley B. Norus: Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships), Corporate Law
- Andrew J. Oppenheim: Commercial Litigation
- Samantha R. Peckham: Insurance Law
- Julianne M. Servetas: Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships), Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law

Toledo

- Katherine S. Decker: Labor and Employment Law – Management
- Kristen M. Fries: Intellectual Property Law
- Nicholas A. Huckaby: Commercial Litigation, Labor and Employment Law – Management, Litigation – Labor and Employment, Medical Malpractice Law – Defendants
- Matthew T. Kemp: Commercial Litigation
- Eric L. Simpson: Real Estate Law
- Lindsay Rich Steinmetz: Environmental Law
- Benjamin J. Timmerman: Real Estate Law

Since it was first published in 1983, *Best Lawyers* has become regarded as the definitive guide to legal excellence. *Best Lawyers* honors the professional accomplishments of the top legal talent based on an exhaustive peer-review evaluation. Lawyers are not required or allowed to pay a fee to be listed; therefore, inclusion in *Best Lawyers* is considered a singular honor.

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