

AUGUST 20, 2026 | NEWS

137 Shumaker Lawyers Honored by Best Lawyers® in 2027 Edition

Shumaker is proud to have 137 lawyers recognized in the 2027 editions of *The Best Lawyers in America*® and *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America*®.

SERVICE LINE

Bankruptcy,
Insolvency &
Creditors' Rights
Benefits
Construction
Corporate, Tax
& Transactions
Early Dispute
Resolution
Environmental &
Energy
Health Law
Insurance
Recovery
Intellectual
Property
Labor &
Employment
Land Use &
Zoning
Litigation &
Disputes
Merger,
Acquisitions &
Divestitures
Nonprofit & Tax-

Exempt
Organizations
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
Abigail Young
Bechtol
Tom BenGera
Stacy RC
Berliner
Steven M.
Berman
Willard A. Blair
Thomas C. Blank
Michael E. Born
Elizabeth R.
Brusa
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
Katherine H.
Crawford
Andrew S.
Culicerto
Meagan R.
Cyrus
Duane A. Daiker
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
Reinaldo R.
Gomez de la
Vega
Cheryl L.
Gordon
William H.
Gosline
J. Douglas
Grimes
Benjamin R.
Hanan
Reed Hauptman
Douglas G.
Haynam
David B. Heedy
Scot A. Hinshaw
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
Mark Lehman
Katie Hinson
Lewis
Hanna M.
Lindsay
S. Alex Long, Jr.
Zachary P.
Madden
Ernest J.
Marquart
Andrew J.
Mayts, Jr.
Michael S.
McGowan
Timothy C.
McCarthy
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
Steven E.
Nicholas
Ashley B. Norus
Hunter G.

Norton
Michael J.
O'Callaghan
James D.
O'Donnell
Andrew J.
Oppenheim
Samantha R.
Peckham
Felix C. Pelzer
Kelley M.
Petcavich
Raven K. Peters
W. Jan
Pietruszka
Jan W. Pitchford
Malcolm J.
Pitchford
Thomas G. Pletz
Samuel P.
Queirolo
David J.
Rectenwald
Terence S.
Reynolds
David Ricco
Mindi M. Richter
Joseph J.
Santaniello
Justin P. Senior
Meghan O.
Serrano
Julianne M.
Servetas
Michael E.
Shammas
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
Christa L.
Sullivan
Michael S.
Taaffe
Frederick M.
Thurman, Jr.
J. Todd
Timmerman
Seth P. Traub
Christina
Davidson
Trimmer
Juan C.
Villaveces
Gregory H.
Wagoner
Mark Wagoner
Justin J. Wallace
David F.
Waterman
Martin D.
Werner
James F. White,
Jr.
David W.
Wicklund
Charles A.
Wood, Jr.
Thomas M.
Wood
Gregory C.
Yadley

MEDIA CONTACT

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Among the honorees, 104 were selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers*, and 33 were included in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch* in their respective fields. Additionally, four received the “Lawyer of the Year” designation, awarded annually to only one lawyer with the highest peer feedback per practice and geographic region.

The complete list of Shumaker attorneys recognized includes:

Lawyer of the Year

Tampa

- Willard A. Blair: Mergers and Acquisitions
- W. Kent Ihrig: Banking and Finance Law

Toledo

- W. Reed Hauptman: Real Estate Law
- Michael S. McGowan: Tax Law

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, Product Liability – Defendants
- J. Douglas Grimes: Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Intellectual Property

- Patrick B. Horne: Copyright Law, Litigation – Intellectual Property, Patent Law, 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
- Hunter G. Norton: Commercial Litigation
- Jan W. Pitchford: Real Estate Law
- Malcolm J. Pitchford: Real Estate Law
- Meghan O. Serrano: Commercial

Litigation

- Christa Sullivan: Commercial Litigation, Real Estate Law
- Michael S. Taaffe: Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Securities
- Juan C. Villaveces: Real Estate Law

St. Petersburg

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

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
- Sarah M. Glaser: Litigation – Health Care
- 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
- Justin J. Wallace: Tax 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: Mergers and Acquisitions Law, Securities / Capital Markets Law
- 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
- Scot A. Hinshaw: Litigation – Labor and Employment
- Regina M. Joseph: Corporate Law
- Peter E. Krebs: Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- Zachary P. Madden: 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
- 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
- Martin D. Werner: Banking and Finance 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

- Abigail Young Bechtol: Commercial Litigation
- Tom BenGera: Intellectual Property Law, Litigation – Intellectual Property, Litigation – Patent, Patent Law, Technology Law
- Rhett N. Butler: Corporate Law, Health Care Law
- Kelley M. Petcavich: Medical Malpractice Law – Defendants, Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants
- Michael E. Shammas: Commercial Litigation

Columbus

- Katherine H. Crawford: Health Care Law

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

Sarasota

- Jill Bowen: Real Estate Law
- 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
- Justin P. Senior: Commercial Litigation
- Charles A. Wood: Commercial Litigation

Tampa

- Jillian Askren: Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Environmental, Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions – Defendants
- Elizabeth R. Brusa: Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Financial Services Regulation Law, Litigation – Bankruptcy
- Mary B. Catala: Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Corporate Law, Nonprofit / Charities Law
- Reinaldo R. Gomez de la Vega: Corporate Law
- Haley D. Kole: Labor and Employment Law – Management, Litigation – Labor and Employment
- Mark Lehman: Commercial Litigation, Corporate Law, Insurance Law
- Christina C. Nethero: Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships), Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- Steven E. Nicholas: Commercial Litigation
- 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

- 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

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