

TEXAS

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

Baron & Budd

Gibbs & Bruns

McKool Smith

Nix Patterson & Roach

Susman Godfrey

The Buzbee Law Firm

The Lanier Law Firm

Recommended

Arnold & Itkin

Bailey Perrin Bailey

Carter & Bachynsky

Gravely & Pearson

Provost Umphrey Law Firm

Reynolds Frizzell Black Doyle Allen & Oldham

Smyser Kaplan & Veselka

Ward & Smith

Local litigation stars

Jeffery Angelovich

Nix Patterson & Roach
Antitrust, Commercial, Intellectual Property,
Securities

Michael Angelovich

Nix Patterson & Roach
Commercial, Intellectual Property

Kurt Arnold

Arnold & Itkin
Personal Injury, Product Liability

Ashton Bachynsky

Carter & Bachynsky
Employment/Labor

Camp Bailey

Bailey Perrin Bailey
Civil, Personal Injury, Toxic Tort

Ken Bailey

Bailey Perrin Bailey
Civil, Personal Injury, Toxic Tort

Steve Baron

Baron & Budd
Asbestos, Environment, Pharmaceutical

Bradley Beckworth

Nix Patterson & Roach
Class Action, Intellectual Property, Securities

Vineet Bhatia

Susman Godfrey
Antitrust, Commercial

Anthony Bruster

Nix Patterson & Roach
Intellectual Property, Product Liability

Russell Budd

Baron & Budd
Asbestos, Environment

Tony Buzbee

The Buzbee Law Firm
Environment, Mass Tort

Darryl Carter

Carter & Bachynsky
Employment/Labor

Johnny Carter

Susman Godfrey
Antitrust, Securities

Jeffrey Carter

McKool Smith
Intellectual Property

Doug Cawley

McKool Smith
Intellectual Property

Paul Ferguson

Provost Umphrey Law Firm
Personal Injury, Product Liability

Jean Frizzell

Reynolds Frizzell Black Doyle Allen & Oldham
Commercial

Robin Gibbs

Gibbs & Bruns
Commercial, Securities

Lee Godfrey

Susman Godfrey
Commercial

Marc Gravely

Gravely & Pearson
Insurance

Grant Harvey

Gibbs & Bruns
Commercial

Geoffrey Harrison

Susman Godfrey
Commercial

Wesley Hill

Ward & Smith
Intellectual Property, Oil & Gas

Jason Itkin

Arnold & Itkin
Personal Injury, Product Liability

W. Mark Lanier

The Lanier Law Firm
Civil, Personal Injury, Toxic Tort

Robert Madden

Gibbs & Bruns
Securities

Kenneth Marks

Susman Godfrey
Commercial

Mike McKool

McKool Smith
Commercial, Intellectual Property

Harold Nix

Nix Patterson & Roach
Personal Injury, Product Liability, Toxic Tort

David Oliver

Vorys Sater Seymour and Pease
Personal Injury

Karen Oshman

Susman Godfrey
Commercial, Securities

Brady Paddock

Nix Patterson & Roach
Intellectual Property

Kathy Patrick

Gibbs & Bruns
Securities

C. Cary Patterson

Nix Patterson & Roach
Intellectual Property, Personal Injury, Product
Liability, Toxic Tort

Matthew Pearson

Gravely & Pearson
Insurance

Mike Perrin

Bailey Perrin Bailey
Civil, Personal Injury, Toxic Tort

Barrett Reasoner

Gibbs & Bruns
Commercial

Shawn Raymond

Susman Godfrey
Class Action, Commercial, Personal Injury

Chris Reynolds

Reynolds Frizzell Black Doyle Allen & Oldham
Commercial

Nelson Roach

Nix Patterson & Roach
Antitrust, Commercial, Personal Injury, Product
Liability, Toxic Tort

Mary Kathryn Sammons

Susman Godfrey
Commercial

Brad Seidel

Nix Patterson & Roach
Class Action, Commercial, Securities

D. Neil Smith

Nix Patterson & Roach
Commercial, Intellectual Property, Personal Injury

Craig Smyser

Smyser Kaplan & Veselka
Business, Personal Injury, Securities

Theodore Stevenson III

McKool Smith
Commercial, Intellectual Property

Scott Summy

Baron & Budd
Environment

Harry Susman

Susman Godfrey
Commercial

Stephen Susman

Susman Godfrey
Commercial

Katherine Treistman

Susman Godfrey
Commercial

Max Tribble

Susman Godfrey
Commercial, Intellectual Property

Thomas Walter Umphrey

Provost Umphrey Law Firm
Employment/Labor, Personal Injury

T. Gordon White

McKool Smith
Intellectual Property

Steven Wolens

McKool Smith
Class Action, Commercial

T. John "Johnny" Ward, Jr.

Ward & Smith
Commercial, Intellectual Property, Oil & Gas,
Personal Injury

Mark Wawro

Susman Godfrey
Commercial, Securities, Intellectual Property

Texas

Highly recommended firms

Baron & Budd

Dallas-based Baron & Budd is a nationally recognized plaintiffs' firm specializing in the prosecution of environmental claims. Founded more than 40 years ago, the firm built its reputation early on handling asbestos litigation and continues its aggressive representation of mesothelioma victims. Employing more than 35 attorneys and maintaining additional offices in Austin, Los Angeles and Baton Rouge, the firm has expanded into a range of other practice areas including commercial litigation, product liability, dangerous drugs, consumer scams, securities fraud and more. Still, the Baron & Budd name is associated most strongly with environmental matters, particularly in regards to asbestos, water contamination and class action litigation. One New York-based peer states unequivocally, "They are one of the top firms in Texas."

In May 2008, the firm, serving as co-lead counsel for the plaintiffs' steering committee, obtained a landmark \$420 million class settlement on behalf of more than 150 water providers and 17 states regarding claims of methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) contamination in drinking water. The litigation named as defendants some of the nation's top oil and gas companies, including BP. This year, Baron & Budd served as co-lead counsel in a class case against atrazine manufacturer and distributor, Syngenta, related to claims of surface water contamination in the Midwest. In that matter attorneys played a central role negotiating a proposed \$105 million settlement for public water providers in the region. The firm has also recently played a lead role in the Gulf oil spill litigation against BP, serving on the plaintiffs' steering committee and plaintiffs' executive committee.

Steve Baron is a highly respected trial lawyer in Texas who heads up the firm's asbestos and pharmaceutical litigation groups. Among his many successes, Baron served as the point man in negotiating a landmark \$4 billion settlement with Halliburton on behalf of thousands of asbestos cancer victims. **Russell Budd** is a nationally acclaimed plaintiffs' lawyer who has played a central role in many of the firm's most notable wins. He serves on the Board of Governors of the American Association for Justice and formerly served on the board and executive committee of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association.

Gibbs & Bruns

Houston-based Gibbs & Bruns is a top-tier litigation boutique, nationally recognized for employing attorneys with intelligence, in-

depth expertise and a consistent record of winning results for both plaintiffs and defendants. Named by *Benchmark Litigation* as a 2012 Firm of the Year in the realm of securities, Gibbs & Bruns handles virtually every area of commercial litigation in addition to antitrust, employment, oil and gas, intellectual property, insurance and trust and estate litigation. Peers and clients alike consistently heap on praise, with one recent client enthusing, "They did an outstanding job. They were always available, responsive and helpful, and worked closely with their clients to explain complex legal issues. They produced excellent results in all of the cases they were involved in. In all of the depositions and pleadings, they seemed to be far ahead in the depth and breadth of their research and in the quality of their briefs; they also were excellent negotiators in a highly politicized environment." Despite a significant amount of defense representation, a large portion of Gibbs & Bruns' caseload involves plaintiffs' litigation. The firm, in this capacity, has racked up an extensive list of wins in recent years. One major highlight is the \$8.5 billion settlement obtained in 2011 on behalf of 22 institutional investors with claims against Countrywide and its corporate parent, Bank of America, related to securitization pools that issued billions of dollars of Countrywide-issued mortgage-backed securities. The settlement received extensive media attention with one leading publication proclaiming it as "likely to be the single biggest settlement tied to the subprime mortgage boom and subsequent financial crisis of 2008." In another notable case that went to trial, the firm obtained a \$4.58 million jury verdict on behalf of SourceGas Distribution regarding claims that Noble Energy breached its Gas Purchase Agreement with SourceGas by selling the company natural gas at prices that were above the market price and not required under the agreement.

Kathy Patrick, named a Female Litigator of the Year this March by *Benchmark Litigation*, is acclaimed for aggressively representing clients' interests while also bringing intelligence and creativity to the negotiating table. She served as lead counsel in the above-mentioned settlement with Bank of America and continues to play a central role in the firm's securities litigation on behalf of individual and institutional investors. In May, Patrick and other attorneys helped obtain an agreement with Residential Capital and affiliated debtors for an \$8.7 billion allowed claim for nearly 400 residential mortgage backed securities trusts. The litigation was related to Residential Capital's bankruptcy filing in 2012. **Barrett Reasoner**

concentrates his practice on oil and gas litigation, legal and professional malpractice, securities, and intellectual property. He has played leading roles in many notable cases including a lawsuit filed on behalf of an individual investor against JPMorgan Chase, related to roughly \$35 million of asset-backed sewer revenue securities from the bank. The case settled two days into trial on favorable terms to the investor.

McKool Smith

Since its founding in 1991, Dallas-based McKool Smith has undergone aggressive growth, today employing more than 165 litigators in offices Texas, New York, Washington, DC, and most recently, Silicon Valley and Los Angeles. The latter mentioned office came about after the firm's much-publicized announcement in September 2011 that it was joining forces with the Hennigan Dorman firm. McKool Smith represents clients on both sides of the aisle in litigation involving commercial disputes, antitrust, bankruptcy, intellectual property, white-collar crime and more. The firm prides itself on employing litigation generalists who can master many different types of cases. On the plaintiffs' side of the aisle, McKool Smith is particularly well known for expertise in intellectual property matters. One peer says, "In Texas they seem to have the most robust docket by far." Attorney **Doug Cawley** recently won a \$290 million jury verdict on behalf of i4i Limited Partnership in a case against Microsoft, alleging that the technology used in Microsoft Word infringed on an i4i patent. The matter was appealed to the US Supreme Court and the verdict unanimously upheld by justices. In another notable matter, the firm, in 2011, secured a \$391 million judgment for Versata Software in a patent infringement lawsuit against the major global software company, SAP America and its German-based parent company, SAP AG. Firm founder **Mike McKool** is a highly respected trial lawyer who handles many of the firm's biggest litigation matters, frequently representing clients such as Lockheed Martin, American Airlines and Excel Communications. **Theodore Stevenson III** has more than 20 years of litigation experience handling intellectual property disputes. One peer says "Ted Stevenson is a really fine, mostly plaintiffs', IP lawyer." **Gordon White** and **Steven Wolens** are also recognized as litigation stars.

Nix Patterson & Roach

Nix Patterson & Roach is a revered plaintiffs' firm that prides itself on the ability to "stand toe-to-toe with the biggest and most powerful corporations in the world." The firm is able to achieve such an objective through a combination of resources, expertise, and dedication to "withstand long and expensive litigation." The firm has undergone substantial growth since its

founding in Daingerfield in 1965, today employing 27 attorneys and operating additional offices in Texarkana, Austin, Dallas, and most recently, Florida. A support staff of more than 50 professionals further deepens the firm's ability to achieve the best possible results for clients. Attorneys handle a wide range of litigation including toxic tort, securities, personal injury, commercial, nursing home negligence, product liability, automobile accidents, wrongful death and intellectual property. The firm is currently serving as interim lead counsel in a class action brought by Compsource Oklahoma against BNY Mellon seeking to recover losses suffered in BNY Mellon's investments in medium-term notes of Sigma Finance. Serving as co-lead counsel, attorneys at Nix Patterson also obtained settlements valued at more than \$320 million on behalf of the Teachers Retirement system of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Law Enforcement System in a securities fraud case against Delphi. The case was related to Delphi's restatement of all financial statements for a five-year period dating back to its spin-off from General Motors. In April 2011 the firm helped obtain approval of a \$2.6 million settlement with BP on behalf of the Bay County, Florida Tourist Development Council in litigation over the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The deal was reached apart from the Gulf Coast Claims Facility, which is managing the claims on behalf of individuals and businesses affected by the disaster. **D. Neil Smith, C. Cary Patterson** and **Harold Nix** are all litigation stars who contribute to the firm's continuing success.

Susman Godfrey

From New York to California to Texas, peers consistently mention Susman Godfrey in discussions regarding the nation's top litigation boutiques. Based in Houston, the firm employs some 89 attorneys and maintains additional offices in Dallas, New York City, Los Angeles and Seattle. Although litigators do represent defendants in certain matters, the firm is primarily known for its aggressive plaintiffs' practice, particularly its work in class-action matters involving antitrust, securities, consumer protection and product liability. In one example of a notable win, the firm recovered more than \$150 million in a nationwide antitrust class suit regarding allegations of price fixing for Vitamin B4. Attorneys also secured settlements of more than \$150 million stemming from securities class actions against Fleming and Alcatel Corporations. In May 2011, the firm obtained a \$23 million verdict in the Eastern District of Texas representing the Spanish company Fractus in an IP case against Samsung and other defendants who were found liable for infringing patents covering mobile phone antenna technology. The firm is currently serving as co-lead counsel in a class action against Comcast on behalf of cable subscribers in Philadelphia

alleging Comcast conspired with cable TV operators to monopolize the market. The case is seeking some \$2.7 billion in treble damages and was recently granted class certification, which was later upheld on appeal by the Third Circuit.

Stephen Susman is one of the most distinguished plaintiffs' lawyers in the US. Consistently recognized by peers and legal media outlets, he has recently concentrated much of his litigation on environmental issues, emerging as a major player in global warming litigation. In one example he successfully represented a coalition of 37 cities opposing the permitting of coal-fired electric generating plants by TXU. He is also known for his skill attracting top talent to the firm. One competitor acknowledges "Steve Susman hires very smart people." **Lee Godfrey** is a widely praised attorney who one peer describes as "one of the finest trial lawyers in the US."

The Buzbee Law Firm

The Buzbee Law Firm has emerged as a leading plaintiffs' firm known for highly selective case selection and aggressive representation for clients. Operating with the motto of "winning is the only option," the eight-person, Houston-based firm has a track record of consistently winning high-stakes matters, particularly in the realm of mass torts. The firm's reputation as a nationally recognized leader in toxic tort matters was further solidified on the heels of a highly publicized \$100 million jury verdict in 2009 against BP regarding claims that BP Texas City exposed more than 100 workers to toxic chemicals. The firm has aggressively pursued BP in host of other cases related to the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill. In total, attorneys have reportedly recovered more \$500 million from BP.

Tony Buzbee is one of Texas's most well-known trial lawyers, having represented clients ranging from the musician Jimmy Buffett to ordinary workers and residents harmed by the negligence of others. He has obtained a long list of multimillion-dollar recoveries, regularly handling matters involving personal injury, wrongful death, environmental pollution, intellectual property, commercial matters, industrial plant accidents and more.

The Lanier Law Firm

The Lanier Law Firm is a prominent, Houston-based law firm recognized throughout the nation for its work handling litigation involving pharmaceuticals, asbestos, intellectual property, product liability, maritime law, bad faith, insurance, sports entertainment law, commercial disputes and more. The firm, which employs more than 60 attorneys, maintains additional offices in Los Angeles, New York and Palo Alto and is particularly renowned for its work in the personal injury arena. Firm founder **W. Mark Lanier** is a nationally

renowned trial lawyer who consistently represents clients in high-stakes matters involving pharmaceuticals, defective medical products and toxic exposure. He has received extensive praise from legal media outlets around the country for his work on behalf of plaintiffs. In one notable result, he obtained a \$253 million recovery for a client with claims against Merck over the company's prescription drug, Vioxx, which was pulled from the market after being linked to strokes and heart attacks. In the late 1990s he obtained a \$188.3 million verdict on behalf of more than 20 asbestos victims. That case is reportedly considered one of the largest asbestos verdicts in US history. One peer says "Mark Lanier is *the* guy, and Lanier is head and shoulders above most firms."

Recommended firms

Gravely & Pearson

Since its 2003 founding, the five-lawyer San Antonio firm Gravely & Pearson has gained a national reputation for its strong policyholder-side insurance litigation. In May, the firm won a \$1.4 million settlement from United National Insurance Company for underpayment in connection with damages to a policyholder's seven-story office building incurred during Hurricane Ike in September 2008. Name partner and local litigation star **Marc Gravely** consistently wins multimillion-dollar settlements on behalf of businesses and private individuals in claims denial, underpayment and bad faith cases. He also handles construction, general commercial and technology matters; including a \$40 million settlement on behalf of a recent national certified class action consisting of small and large businesses against VeriSign in connection with deceptive marketing of its digital encryption certificates.