

BENCHMARK *Litigation*

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

Maryland

The tight-knit legal community of Baltimore has seen an influx of national names in recent years. Still, most of the nationwide names employ local talent that has practiced in Baltimore's courtrooms for decades. Many of the local litigation stars cross paths on the streets surrounding the Inner Harbor on a daily basis, even more sit on opposite sides of the state's most important cases.

Highly recommended firms

With one of the largest litigation groups in Maryland at 99 partners, **Whiteford Taylor & Preston** moves up to the highly recommended category. **William Ryan**, who competitors call "brilliant" and clients call "resourceful," moved to chair of the litigation department, while Edward Buxbaum was appointed to lead the firm's business litigation department less than one year ago. In recent litigation Ryan obtained more than \$82 million from former officers and directors of bankrupt company, Just for Feet. Over a three-year period, Ryan established that the law does not protect directors from failing to do research before a decision is made on the company's behalf.

During the case's duration, opposing counsel included five of the leading litigation firms.

Peers widely recognize **Harry Johnson** as a "great products liability lawyer" and "visible in the Maryland legal community." The former president of the Maryland State Bar Association, Johnson has an established legal relationship with most of the judges he faces. **Paul Nussbaum** is said to be "the best bankruptcy lawyer in Maryland," by one peer. **Alex Koff** has a rare international practice based out of Maryland. Koff's practice offers an international litigation strategy that doesn't rely on international offices. Peers call him "innovative" with his approach to litigation in countries such as Singapore, Korea and Canada.

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

Whiteford Taylor & Preston

Local litigation firms

Harry Johnson
Whiteford Taylor & Preston

Paul Nussbaum
Whiteford Taylor & Preston

William Ryan
Whiteford Taylor & Preston

Steven Tiller
Whiteford Taylor & Preston

Future stars

Alex Koff
Whiteford Taylor & Preston

Brent Strickland
Whiteford Taylor & Preston

