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... Standing *the* Test *of* Time

by Kate Fry

Sixty-nine law firms with insurer defense practices have been recommended for at least 75 years by the insurance companies they have represented.

When A.M. Best Co. began rating the financial strength of insurance companies in 1906, subscribers began requesting information on insurance attorneys who were competent to handle their litigation, adjustments and investigations. As the frequency of these requests increased, the company began, in February 1929, to publish the reference work now known as *Best's Directories of Recommended Insurance Attorneys and Adjusters*.



In the beginning, the listing contained the names of attorneys who were qualified and experienced in handling the needs of insurance companies. A select group of these law firms has been recommended continuously since that first edition, including four that were recommended in an earlier A.M. Best publication in the mid-1920s.

The process for a law firm to become recommended has not changed much since the 1920s. Over time, A.M. Best has conducted research and gathered information from insurance companies to determine potential listees. Once a firm has been selected as a potential listee, the firm is contacted once a year and asked to submit an application to A.M. Best. The firm must provide names of their insurance company clients. A.M. Best contacts these companies for feedback on the firm's work and services. If the feedback from these clients is positive, the firm can be listed and recommended in the publication.

Sixty-nine law firms that have been recommended by their insurance company clients for at least 75 years are recognized here as a group for the first time. Additionally, six law firms that have been listed and recommended beyond this milestone are examined in one-page news articles as a part of this feature.

Insurance Defense Firms Recommended for at Least 75 Years

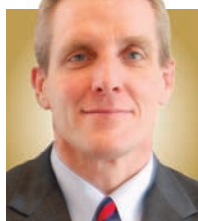
Ainsworth, Sullivan, Tracy, Knaufl, Warner and Ruslander, P.C.	Albany, N.Y.	Nilles Law Firm	Fargo, N.D.
Albrittons, Clifton, Alverson, Moody & Bowden, P.C.	Andalusia, Ala.	Paulling & James	Darlington, S.C.
Baker, O'Kane, Atkins & Thompson	Knoxville, Tenn.	Pender & Coward	Virginia Beach, Va.
Barrett & McNagly, LLP	Fort Wayne, Ind.	PennStuart	Abingdon, Va.
Betts, Patterson & Mines, P.S.	Seattle, Wash.	Pitts, Pitts & Williams	Selma, Ala.
Betty Outhier Williams Law Office	Muskogee, Okla.	Raggio, Cappel, Chozen & Berniard	Lake Charles, La.
Boehl Stopher & Graves, LLP	Louisville, Ky.	Rice, Dolan & Kershaw	Providence, R.I.
Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens & Cannada, PLLC	Jackson, Miss.	Robinson & Cole, LLP	Hartford, Conn.
Christian & Barton, LLP	Richmond, Va.	Rushton, Stakely, Johnston & Garrett, P.A.	Montgomery, Ala.
Connors & Corcoran, LLP	Rochester, N.Y.	Sands Anderson Marks & Miller	Richmond, Va.
Creason, Moore & Dokken, PLLC	Lewiston, Idaho	Semmes, Bowen & Semmes	Baltimore, Md.
Crowe & Dunlevy	Oklahoma City, Okla.	Shaffer & Shaffer, PLLC	Madison, W. Va.
Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Siemer, Austin, Fuhr & Totten	Effingham, Ill.
Fenchel, Doster & Buck, PLC	Algona, Iowa	Spain & Gillon, LLC	Birmingham, Ala.
Gabert, Williams, Konz & Lawrynck, LLP	Appleton, Wis.	Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC	Clarksburg, W. Va.
Garlitz & Williamson, PLLC	Charlotte, N.C.	Swisher & Cohrt, PLC	Waterloo, Iowa
Hampton & Royce, L.C.	Salina, Kan.	Theus, Grisham, Davis & Leigh, LLP	Monroe, La.
Hanft Fride, A Professional Association	Duluth, Minn.	Thompson & Colegate, LLP	Riverside, Calif.
Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen	Peoria, Ill.	Thompson & Knight, LLP	Dallas, Texas
Hornthal, Riley, Ellis and Maland	Elizabeth City, N.C.	Touchstone, Bernays, Johnston, Beall, Smith & Stollenwerck, LLP	Dallas, Texas
Jelliffe, Ferrell, Doerge & Phelps	Harrisburg, Ill.	Trevett, Cristo, Salzer & Andolina, P.C.	Rochester, N.Y.
Johnstone, Adams, Bailey, Gordon & Harris, LLC	Mobile, Ala.	Turner, Padget, Graham & Laney, P.A.	Columbia, S.C.
Jones, Cork & Miller, LLP	Macon, Ga.	Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, LLP	Columbus, Ohio
Kiley, Harker & Certain	Marion, Ind.	Walstead Mertsching, P.S.	Longview, Wash.
Lamson, Dugan and Murray, LLP	Omaha, Neb.	Warren and Young, PLL	Ashtabula, Ohio
Lang Michener LLP	Toronto, Ontario	Webb, Burnett, Cornbrooks, Wilber, Vorhis, Douse & Mason, LLP	Salisbury, Md.
Levene Gouldin & Thompson, LLP	Vestal, N.Y.	Wells Marble & Hurst, PLLC	Ridgeland, Miss.
Logee, Hostetler, Stutzman & Lehman, LLC	Wooster, Ohio	Whelchel & Carlton, LLP	Moultrie, Ga.
Lyne, Woodworth & Everts LLP	Boston, Mass.	Wiggin & Nourie, P.A.	Manchester, N.H.
Mangum, Wall, Stoops & Warden, PLLC	Flagstaff, Ariz.	Wilkinson, Goeller, Modesitt, Wilkinson & Drummy	Terre Haute, Ind.
Manier & Herod	Nashville, Tenn.	Willcox, Buyck & Williams, P.A.	Florence, S.C.
McMillan, McCorkle, Curry & Bennington, LLP	Arkadelphia, Ariz.	Woods Rogers, PLC	Roanoke, Va.
McNeal, Schick, Archibald & Biro Co., LPA	Cleveland, Ohio	Woodward, Hobson & Fulton, LLP	Louisville, Ky.
Menn Law Firm, Ltd.	Appleton, Wis.	Young, Thagard, Hoffman, Smith & Lawrence	Valdosta, Ga.
Mound Cotton Wollan & Greengrass	New York, N.Y.		

Making The Case

The law firm of Rice, Dolan & Kershaw has been recommended by its insurance company clients since 1929.

For more than 100 years, Rice, Dolan & Kershaw has served clients with dedication, experience and reliability, traits that can only be found in a defense trial practice law firm that believes in providing a high-quality product.

Rice, Dolan & Kershaw boasts an impressive client list, one that ranges from national companies to local New England mutual insurance companies. Many of the firm's alumni include a number of Rhode Island Superior Court judges, as well as a Rhode Island Supreme Court justice. The firm also successfully defended a client involving a claim for architects and engineers' malpractice in the longest running civil trial in Rhode Island Superior Court history.



Mark P. Dolan

Keys to Success: Mark P. Dolan, managing partner with the firm, stresses the importance of focus, quality and value: "The firm has consistently been able to provide high quality service for reasonable rates." Since its formation in 1900, the firm has been dedicated to litigation, specifically litigation for insurers, their insureds and self-insureds. "Because of that focus and our decades of experience, we obviously believe we provide a high-quality product," Dolan said.

Future Course: According to Dolan, the firm will adhere to the core values "that have allowed us to flourish over the years." Meanwhile, clients will continue to choose Rice, Dolan & Kershaw as the firm that will best serve their needs.

Vital

Statistics

Name of Firm: Rice, Dolan & Kershaw
Headquarters: Providence, R.I.
Firm Members: John Dolan
 John Kershaw
 Mark P. Dolan
 James D'Ambra
Associates: Stanley Francis Pupecki
 Eric Renner
URL: www.ricedolan.com

Insurance Practice

Specialties

General Defense
 Trial Practice
 Automobile
 General Liability
 Product Liability
 Medical Malpractice
 Legal Malpractice
 Architects and Engineers
 Toxic Torts
 Workers' Compensation

Milestones and

Accomplishments

- Established in 1900
- Alumni include three Rhode Island State Superior Court judges, one Rhode Island Supreme Court justice and a past chairman of the Rhode Island Board of Bar Examiners
- "The firm successfully defended the longest running civil trial in Rhode Island Superior Court history, involving a claim for A&E malpractice, which went over a year. *Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority v. Parsons, Brinckerhoff, et al*, 379 A. 2d 344 (R.I. 1977)."
- The firm's present office manager has been with us for 54 years

Insurance Company Clients

Andover Cos.	Lifespan Risk Services, Inc.
CNA Insurance Cos.	Merchants Insurance Group
EMC Insurance Cos.	Mountain Valley Indemnity Co.
First State Insurance Co.	Progressive Insurance
Government Employees Insurance Co.	Republic Western Insurance Co.
Great American Insurance Cos.	Safeco Insurance Co.
GuideOne Mutual Insurance Co.	Selective Insurance Co. of America
Holyoke Mutual Insurance Co. in Salem	Western Surety Co.
Kemper Insurance Cos.	Western World Insurance Co.
Liberty Mutual Insurance Co.	

For more information about this firm visit www.ambest.com/legal