

115 Lippes Mathias Attorneys Recognized in the 2027 Edition of The Best Lawyers in America®



August 21, 2026 | **PRESS RELEASES**

Lippes Mathias LLP is pleased to announce that 114 of its attorneys across 12 offices—Albany, Buffalo, Chicago, Clarence, Cleveland, Jacksonville, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse, Tampa, Washington, D.C., and West Palm Beach—have earned recognition in the 2027 editions of The Best Lawyers in America®, The Best Lawyers in America: Lawyer of the Year, and The Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch.

Widely regarded as the legal profession's preeminent peer-review guide, Best Lawyers bases each edition's selections solely on confidential evaluations submitted by practicing attorneys nationwide.

The following Lippes Mathias attorneys received 2027 Lawyer of the Year recognition from The Best Lawyers in America, with their respective practice areas listed below:

Buffalo, N.Y.

- [Johnny A. Mueller](#) – Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law
- [Andrew M. Wilson](#) – Immigration Law

Syracuse, N.Y.

- [Marc S. Beckman](#) – Health Care Law

Listed below are Lippes Mathias attorneys recognized in the 2027 edition of The Best Lawyers in America, followed by their respective practice areas:

Albany, N.Y.

- [Conor E. Brownell](#) – Commercial Litigation
- [Matthew L. Hosford](#) – Health Care Law
- [Keith R. Jacques](#) – Government Relations Practice; Labor Law - Union
- [Anoush Koroghlian-Scott](#) – Health Care Law
- [Lawrence H. Schaefer](#) – Labor Law - Union
- [David E. Siegfeld](#) – Elder Law
- [Karl J. Sleight](#) – Commercial Litigation
- [Scott E. Thompson](#) – Trademark Law

Buffalo, N.Y.

- [Scott S. Allen, Jr.](#) – Commercial Litigation; Criminal Defense: White-Collar
- [Brian J. Bocketti](#) – Banking and Finance Law; Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships); Commercial Finance Law; Corporate Law; Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- [Kevin J. Cross](#) – Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships); Commercial Litigation
- [Jillian E. Deck](#) – Banking and Finance Law
- [Courtney Donahue Tasner](#) – Trusts and Estates; Litigation - Trusts and Estates
- [Thomas J. Fennell](#) – Real Estate Law
- [Raymond L. Fink](#) – Banking and Finance Law; Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law; Commercial Litigation; Litigation - Bankruptcy
- [John J. Flynn](#) – Criminal Defense: White-Collar; Litigation - Municipal
- [Nisha V. Fontaine](#) – Immigration Law
- [Scott E. Friedman](#) – Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships); Corporate Law
- [Thomas J. Gaffney](#) – Commercial Litigation; Construction Law; Litigation - Construction
- [Steven S. Grieco](#) – Corporate Law
- [Hon. Carol E. Heckman \(Ret.\)](#) – Appellate Practice; Arbitration; Commercial Litigation; Mediation; Native American Law
- [Margaret A. Hurley](#) – Commercial Litigation; Litigation - Real Estate
- [Gregory T. Ivancic](#) – Corporate Law
- [Elizabeth M. Klarin](#) – Immigration Law
- [John J. Koepfel](#) – Corporate Law; Mergers and Acquisitions Law; Venture Capital Law
- [Nathaniel J. Kuzma](#) – Employment Law - Management
- [Brendan H. Little](#) – Commercial Litigation
- [Christian M. Lovelace](#) – Commercial Transactions / UCC Law; Corporate Law
- [Ricky P. Luthra](#) – Real Estate Law
- [Brian C. Mahoney](#) – Commercial Litigation
- [Eileen M. Martin](#) – Immigration Law
- [Kirstie A. Means](#) – Commercial Litigation
- [Kevin T. Merriman](#) – Insurance Law

- [Paul A. Mitchell](#) – Corporate Law; Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- [Johnny A. Mueller](#) – Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law; Litigation - Bankruptcy
- [Sean M. O'Brien](#) – Commercial Litigation
- [Helen Osgood](#) – Commercial Finance Law; Real Estate Law
- [Jennifer C. Persico](#) – Commercial Litigation; Litigation - Municipal; Litigation - Real Estate; Municipal Law
- [Brendan J. Rich](#) – Corporate Governance Law; Corporate Law; Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- [Amy Habib Rittling](#) – Employment Law - Management; Labor Law - Management; Mediation
- [Meghann N. Roehl](#) – Medical Malpractice Law - Defendants
- [Paul J. Schulz](#) – Corporate Law; Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- [Blaine S. Schwartz](#) – Real Estate Law
- [Tessa R. Scott](#) – Commercial Litigation
- [Ryan V. Stearns](#) – Real Estate Law
- [Charles E. Telford III](#) – Trusts and Estates
- [Dennis C. Vacco](#) – Commercial Litigation; Corporate Compliance Law; Criminal Defense: White-Collar
- [Paul F. Wells](#) – Real Estate Law
- [Andrew M. Wilson](#) – Immigration Law

Chicago, Ill.

- [Joshua R. Rich](#) – Litigation - Intellectual Property; Patent Law

Clarence, N.Y.

- [Gary P. Bluestein](#) – Litigation and Controversy - Tax; Tax Law
- [Daniel F. Brown](#) – Commercial Litigation

Cleveland, Ohio

- [Joseph D. Dreher](#) – Copyright Law; Patent Law
- [Jude A. Fry](#) – Litigation - Intellectual Property
- [Richard M. Klein](#) – Copyright Law; Litigation - Intellectual Property

Jacksonville, Fla.

- [Daniel D. Akel](#) – Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships); Corporate Law
- [Edward C. Akel](#) – Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships); Litigation - Trusts and Estates; Litigation and Controversy - Tax; Tax Law
- [Alessandro A. Apolito](#) – Litigation - Trusts and Estates; Trusts and Estates
- [Helen S. Atter](#) – Corporate Law
- [Kathleen H. Cold](#) – Corporate Law; Tax Law; Trusts and Estates
- [Patricia M. Dodson](#) – Commercial Litigation; Litigation - Labor and Employment
- [Musa K. Farmand](#) – Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants; Personal Injury Litigation - Plaintiffs
- [Jason C. Hill](#) – Real Estate Law
- [H. Leon Holbrook III](#) – Corporate Law
- [Michael J. Lufkin](#) – Employment Law - Management
- [Thomas R. Ray](#) – Construction Law; Litigation - Construction
- [Bethany Ray Reichard](#) – Commercial Litigation
- [Robert G. Riegel, Jr.](#) – Employment Law - Management; Labor Law - Management; Litigation - Labor and

Employment

- [Christopher A. Walker](#) – Banking and Finance Law; Corporate Law; Real Estate Law

New York, N.Y.

- [Matthew D. Asbell](#) – Litigation - Intellectual Property; Trademark Law

Rochester, N.Y.

- [Alan R. Feldstein](#) – Real Estate Law
- [Kelly S. Foss](#) – Appellate Practice; Commercial Litigation
- [Svetlana K. Ivy](#) – Appellate Practice; Commercial Litigation
- [Amy L. Reichhart](#) – Environmental Law
- [Jeremy J. Wolk](#) – Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships); Corporate Law; Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law; Mergers and Acquisitions Law; Venture Capital Law

Syracuse, N.Y.

- [Marc S. Beckman](#) – Health Care Law
- [Stephen H. Cohen](#) – Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law; Health Care Law
- [Michael J. Compagni](#) – Health Care Law
- [Bruce A. Smith](#) – Health Care Law
- [Laura L. Spring](#) – Litigation - Labor and Employment

Washington, D.C.

- [Klint A. Cowan](#) – Native American Law
- [Brendan P. Kelleher](#) – Employment Law - Management; Labor Law - Management
- [Michael G. Rossetti](#) – Native American Law
- [Bryan C. Shade](#) – Native American Law

West Palm Beach, Fla.

- [Michael R. Bakst](#) – Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law
- [Conrad Damon](#) – Real Estate Law
- [Michael J. Posner](#) – Real Estate Law
- [Cathleen D. Ward](#) – Real Estate Law
- [Philip H. Ward III](#) – Real Estate Law
- [A. Max Zaretsky](#) – Real Estate Law

Below are the Lippes Mathias attorneys selected for the 2027 edition of The Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch, along with their respective practice areas:

Albany, N.Y.

- [Juliana E. Piemonte](#) – Labor and Employment Law - Employee
- [John M. Tuppen](#) – Labor and Employment Law - Employee

Buffalo, N.Y.

- [Vadim V. Belous](#) – Real Estate Law
- [Richard R. Capote](#) – Environmental Law; Real Estate Law

- [Hannah E. Cominsky](#) – Commercial Litigation
- [Ashley R. Drzymala](#) – Real Estate Law
- [Kennedy A. Farr](#) – Health Care Law
- [J. Tyler Finn](#) – Corporate Governance and Compliance Law; Corporate Law; Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- [Donell L. Gibson, Jr.](#) – Corporate Governance and Compliance Law; Corporate Law; Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- [MacKenzie E. Hamill](#) – Corporate Law; Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- [Christopher J. Kolber](#) – Corporate Law
- [Anthony M. Kroese](#) – Commercial Litigation; Corporate Law; Litigation - Intellectual Property; Real Estate Law
- [Gregory T. Measer](#) – Health Care Law
- [Mitchell J. Ream](#) – Banking and Finance Law; Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships); Corporate Law; Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- [Thomas R. Southard](#) – Commercial Litigation
- [Carmen A. Vacco](#) – Commercial Litigation; Criminal Defense: White-Collar

Jacksonville, Fla.

- [Mark D. Canfield](#) – Litigation - Real Estate; Real Estate Law

Rochester, N.Y.

- [Michael J. Gionta](#) – Corporate Law; Health Care Law
- [Megan N. Ha](#) – Banking and Finance Law
- [Alexis B. Telga](#) – Banking and Finance Law

Tampa, Fla.

- [Marshall J. Kobrin](#) – Corporate Law; Intellectual Property Law; Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- [Matthew H. Maizes](#) – Corporate Law
- [Sara A. Qureshi](#) – Corporate Law

West Palm Beach, Fla.

- [Samantha L. Gozlan](#) – Litigation and Controversy - Tax
- [Spencer R. Sater](#) – Commercial Litigation

About Lippes Mathias LLP

Lippes Mathias is a full-service law firm ranked among the top 200 law firms in the U.S. by size, with nearly 230 attorneys serving clients regionally, nationally, and internationally. With offices in Buffalo, Clarence, Albany, Long Island, New York, Rochester, Syracuse, and Saratoga Springs, N.Y.; Greater Toronto Area; Chicago, Ill.; Jacksonville, Tampa Bay, and West Palm Beach, Fla.; Cleveland, Ohio; San Antonio, Texas; Oklahoma City, Okla. and Washington, D.C., the firm represents publicly and privately-owned companies, private equity and venture capital firms, independent sponsors, real estate developers, financial institutions, municipalities, governmental entities, and individuals.

Year after year, Lippes Mathias is proud to be recognized by The Best Lawyers in America®, U.S. News - Best Lawyers®, Super Lawyers, and Chambers USA. For more information, visit www.lippes.com.

Related Team



Edward C. Akel
Partner



Daniel D. Akel
Senior Counsel



Scott S. Allen, Jr.
Partner | Team
Leader - Agriculture



Alessandro A. Apolito
Partner | Office
Leader, Jacksonville



Matthew D. Asbell
Partner



Helen S. Atter
Partner | Team
Leader - General
Counsel Services



Michael R. Bakst
Partner



Marc S. Beckman
Partner | Team Co-
Leader - Health Care



Vadim V. Belous
Senior Associate



Gary P. Bluestein
Of Counsel



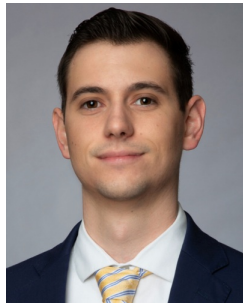
Brian J. Bocketti
Chief Growth Officer
| Partner | Executive
Committee | Team
Co-Leader - Banking
& Financial
Transactions



Daniel F. Brown
Senior Counsel



Conor E. Brownell
Partner



Mark D. Canfield
Senior Associate



Richard R. Capote
Partner



Stephen H. Cohen
Partner



Kathleen H. Cold
Partner



Hannah E. Cominsky
Senior Associate



Michael J. Compagni
Partner | Office
Leader, Syracuse



Klint A. Cowan
Partner | Team Co-
Leader - Indian Law



Kevin J. Cross
Managing Partner |
Chairman | Executive
Committee



Conrad Damon
Partner



Jillian E. Deck
Partner | Team Co-
Leader - Banking &
Financial
Transactions



Patricia M. Dodson
Counsel



Joseph D. Dreher
Partner | Team Co-
Leader - Intellectual
Property



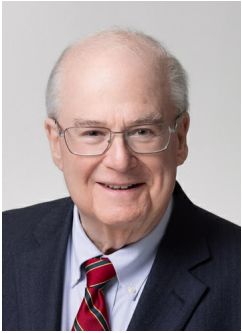
Ashley R. Drzymala
Associate



Musa K. Farmand
Partner



Kennedy A. Farr
Associate



Alan R. Feldstein
Senior Counsel



Thomas J. Fennell
Partner



Raymond L. Fink
Partner



J. Tyler Finn
Partner



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Senior Counsel |
Team Leader -
Municipal Law |
Team Co-Leader -
Lobbying & Public
Policy



Nisha V. Fontaine
(Jagtiani)
Partner



Kelly S. Foss
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Scott E. Friedman
Partner | Team Co-
Leader Startups &
Venture Capital |
Team Co-Leader -
Family Business



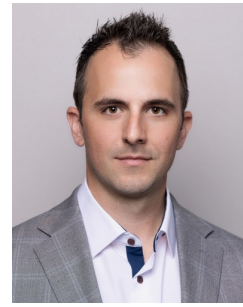
Jude A. Fry
Partner



Thomas J. Gaffney
Chief Operating
Officer | Partner |
General Counsel |
Team Leader -
Construction
Litigation



Donell L. Gibson, Jr.
Partner



Michael J. Gionta
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Steven S. Grieco
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Megan N. Ha
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Officer | Team
Leader -
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MacKenzie E. Hamill
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Hon. Carol E.
Heckman (Ret.)
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Leader - Alternative
Dispute Resolution



Jason C. Hill
Partner



H. Leon Holbrook III
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Matthew L. Hosford
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Margaret A. Hurley
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Gregory T. Ivancic
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Svetlana K. Ivy
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Leader - Appellate



Keith R. Jacques
Partner | Team Co-
Leader - Public-
Sector Labor



Brendan P. Kelleher
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Leader K-12
Education



Elizabeth M. Klarin
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Richard M. Klein
Partner



Marshall J. Kobrin
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John J. Koepfel
Partner | Executive
Committee | Team
Leader - Private
Equity | Team Leader
- Independent
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Anthony M. Kroese
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Nathaniel J. Kuzma
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Leader - Consumer
Financial Services
Litigation



Christian M.
Lovelace
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Leader - Franchising
& Licensing | Team
Leader - Asset
Receivable
Management | Team
Co-Leader -
Corporate



Michael J. Lufkin
Partner



Ricky P. Luthra
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Brian C. Mahoney
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| Team Leader -
Canada-U.S. Cross
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Counseling &
Litigation



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Leader - Financial
Restructuring &
Insolvency



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Leader -
Electronically Stored
Information



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Senior Counsel



Jennifer C. Persico
Partner | Executive
Committee | Team
Leader - Litigation



Juliana E. Piemonte
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Michael J. Posner
Partner | Florida
Board Certified In
Real Estate Law



Sara A. Qureshi
Counsel



Thomas R. Ray
Partner



Mitchell J. Ream
Partner



Bethany Ray
Reichard
Partner



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Partner | Team
Leader- Brownfield &
Superfund Cleanup
and Redevelopment



Brendan J. Rich

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Leader - Corporate |
Team Leader -
Mergers &
Acquisitions



Joshua R. Rich

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Robert G. Riegel, Jr.

Partner



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Malpractice Litigation
Defense



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Partner | Team Co-
Leader –
Government &
Corporate
Investigations | Team
Co-Leader -
Lobbying & Public
Policy



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Lawrence H.

Schaefer
Partner



Paul J. Schulz

Senior Counsel



Blaine S. Schwartz
Partner



Tessa R. Scott
Partner | Team Co-
Leader -
Electronically Stored
Information



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Leader - Indian Law



David E. Siegfeld
Partner | Team
Leader - Trusts &
Estates



Karl J. Sleight
Partner | Office
Leader, Saratoga
Springs



Bruce A. Smith
Partner



Thomas R. Southard
Senior Associate



Laura L. Spring
Partner



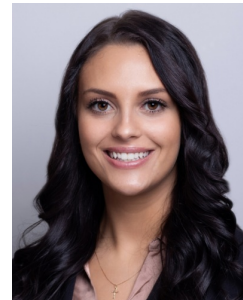
Ryan V. Stearns
Partner | Team
Leader - Cannabis



Courtney Donahue
Tasner
Partner



Charles E. Telford III
Partner



Alexis B. Telga
Associate



Scott E. Thompson
Partner | Team Co-
Leader - Intellectual
Property



John M. Tuppen
Counsel



Carmen Alexander
Vacco
Senior Associate



Dennis C. Vacco
Partner | Team Co-
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Government &
Corporate
Investigations



Christopher A.
Walker
Partner | Executive
Committee



Cathleen D. Ward
Partner | Office Co-
Leader, West Palm
Beach



Philip H. Ward, III
Partner



Paul F. Wells
Partner | Executive
Committee | Team
Leader - Real Estate



Andrew M. Wilson
Partner | Chief
Advisory Officer |
Team Co-Leader -
Immigration



Jeremy J. Wolk
Partner



A. Max Zaretsky
Partner

New York: Albany, Buffalo, Clarence, Long Island, New York City, Rochester, Saratoga Springs, Syracuse // Florida: Jacksonville, Tampa Bay, West Palm Beach
Illinois: Chicago // Ohio: Cleveland // Oklahoma: Oklahoma City // Ontario: Greater Toronto Area // Texas: San Antonio // Washington, D.C.

Attorney advertising: Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.