

## 95 Lippes Mathias Attorneys Recognized in the 2026 Edition of The Best Lawyers in America®



August 21, 2025 | **PRESS RELEASES**

Lippes Mathias LLP today announced that 95 of the firm’s Albany, Buffalo, Clarence, Cleveland, Jacksonville, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse, Washington, D.C., and West Palm Beach-based attorneys have been listed in the 2026 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*. *Best Lawyers*, the oldest and most respected peer review publication in the legal profession, compiles its lists of outstanding attorneys based entirely on peer review.

Attorneys recognized as “Lawyer of the Year” in the 2026 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* and their practice areas include:

### **Buffalo, N.Y.**

- [Gary P. Bluestein](#) – Tax Law
- [Amy Habib Rittling](#) – Mediation
- [Kevin T. Merriman](#) – Insurance Law
- [Jennifer C. Persico](#) – Litigation – Municipal

## **Rochester, N.Y.**

- [Amy L. Reichhart](#) – Environmental Law

## **Syracuse, N.Y.**

- [Michael J. Compagni](#) – Health Care Law

Lippes Mathias attorneys and their respective practice areas who have been named to the 2026 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* include:

## **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

## **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](#) – Commercial Litigation
- [Jillian E. Deck](#) – Banking and Finance Law
- [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
- [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
- [Amy Habib Rittling](#) – Employment Law – Management; Labor Law – Management; Mediation
- [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
- [Brendan H. Little](#) – Commercial Litigation

- [Christian M. Lovelace](#) – Corporate 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
- [Michael L. Nisengard](#) – Real Estate Law
- [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
- [Meghann N. Roehl](#) – Medical Malpractice Law – Defendants
- [Paul J. Schulz](#) – Corporate Law; Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- [Blaine S. Schwartz](#) – Real Estate Law
- [Ryan V. Stearns](#) – Real Estate Law
- [Lauren A. Suttell](#) – Health Care Law
- [Courtney Donahue Tasner](#) – Trusts and Estates
- [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
- [Alan S. Wexler](#) – Real Estate Law
- [Andrew M. Wilson](#) – Immigration Law

#### **Clarence, N.Y.**

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

#### **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
- [Musa K. Farmand](#) – Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants; Personal Injury Litigation – Plaintiffs
- [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](#) – Corporate 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

## **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

## **West Palm Beach, Fla.**

- [Conrad Damon](#) – Real Estate Law
- [Michael J Posner](#) – Real Estate Law
- [Philip H. Ward, III](#) – Closely Held Companies and Family Businesses Law; Real Estate Law

Attorneys who have been named to the 2026 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch* list and their practice areas include:

## **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

- [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
- [Anthony M. Kroese](#) – Commercial Litigation; Corporate Law; Litigation – Intellectual Property; Real Estate Law
- [Gregory T. Measer](#) – Health Care Law
- [Jessica M. Peraza](#) – Elder Law; Litigation – Trusts and Estates; Trusts and Estates
- [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 Alexander Vacco](#) – Commercial Litigation; Criminal Defense: White-Collar
- [Caroline R. Vilardo](#) – Corporate Governance and Compliance Law; Corporate Law; Mergers and Acquisitions Law

#### **Jacksonville, Fla.**

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

#### **Rochester, N.Y.**

- [Megan N. Ha](#) – Banking and Finance Law
- [Alexis B. Telga](#) – Banking and Finance Law

#### **About Lippes Mathias LLP**

*Lippes Mathias is a full-service law firm with 220-plus 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.*

*Ranked No. 204 on The National Law Journal's NLJ 500 list of the largest law firms in the United States by attorney headcount, Lippes Mathias is proud to be recognized year after year by The Best Lawyers in America®, U.S. News - Best Lawyers®, Super Lawyers, and Chambers USA. For more information, visit [www.lippes.com](http://www.lippes.com).*

## Related Team



New York: Albany, Buffalo, Clarence, Long Island, New York City, Rochester, Saratoga Springs, Syracuse // Florida: Jacksonville, 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.





**Daniel D. Akel**  
Partner



**Edward C. Akel**  
Partner



**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



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



**Vadim V. Belous**  
Associate



**Gary P. Bluestein**  
Of Counsel



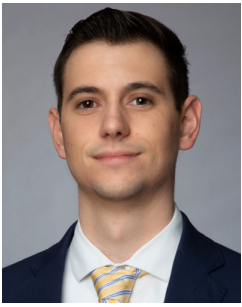
**Brian J. Bocketti**  
Partner | Executive  
Committee | Team  
Co-Leader - Banking  
& Financial  
Transactions



**Daniel 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**  
Associate



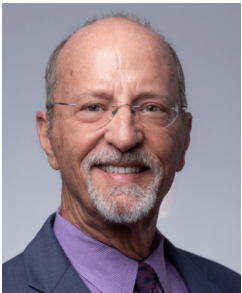
**Michael J.  
Compagni**  
Partner | Office  
Leader, Syracuse



**Klint A. Cowan**  
Partner



**Kevin J. Cross**  
Managing Partner |  
Chairman | Executive  
Committee



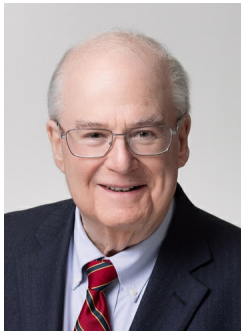
**Conrad Damon**  
Partner



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



**Musa K. Farmand**  
Partner



**Alan R. Feldstein**  
Senior Counsel



**Thomas J. Fennell**  
Partner



**Raymond L. Fink**  
Partner | Team Co-  
Leader - Financial  
Restructuring &  
Insolvency



**J. Tyler Finn**  
Senior Associate



**John J. Flynn**  
Partner | Team  
Leader - Municipal  
Law | Team Co-  
Leader - Lobbying &  
Public Policy



**Nisha V. Fontaine  
(Jagtiani)**  
Partner



**Kelly S. Foss**  
Partner



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



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



**Donell L. Gibson, Jr.**  
Senior Associate



**Steven S. Grieco**  
Partner



**Megan N. Ha**  
Senior Associate



**Amy Habib Rittling**  
Partner | Chief Legal  
Officer | Team  
Leader -  
Employment





**MacKenzie E. Hamill**  
Associate



**Hon. Carol E. Heckman (Ret.)**  
Partner | Team Co-  
Leader - Indian Law |  
Team Leader-  
Alternative Dispute  
Resolution



**H. Leon Holbrook III**  
Partner



**Matthew L. Hosford**  
Partner



**Margaret A. Hurley**  
Partner



**Gregory T. Ivancic**  
Senior Counsel



**Svetlana K. Ivy**  
Partner | Team  
Leader - Appellate



**Keith R. Jacques**  
Partner | Office  
Leader, Albany |  
Team Leader -  
Public Sector Labor



**Brendan P. Kelleher**  
Partner | Team Co-  
Leader K-12  
Education



**Elizabeth M. Klarin**  
Partner



**John J. Koepfel**  
Partner | Team  
Leader - Private  
Equity | Team  
Leader- Independent  
Sponsor



**Anoush Koroghlian-  
Scott**  
Partner



**Anthony M. Kroese**

Senior Associate



**Brendan H. Little**

Partner | Team  
Leader - Consumer  
Financial Services  
Litigation



**Christian M.**

**Lovelace**  
Partner | Team  
Leader - Franchising  
& Licensing | Team  
Leader - Asset  
Receivable  
Management | Team  
Co-Leader -  
Corporate



**Michael J. Lufkin**

Partner



**Brian C. Mahoney**

Partner



**Eileen M. Martin**

Partner | Team Co-  
Leader - Immigration  
| Team Leader -  
Canada-U.S. Cross  
Border



**Kirstie A. Means**

Partner



**Gregory T. Measer**

Senior Associate



**Kevin T. Merriman**

Partner | Team  
Leader - Insurance  
Recovery,  
Counseling &  
Litigation



**Paul A. Mitchell**

Senior Counsel



**Johnny A. Mueller**

Partner | Team Co-  
Leader - Financial  
Restructuring &  
Insolvency



**Michael L.**

**Nisengard**  
Partner



**Helen Osgood**

Senior Counsel



**Jessica M. Peraza**

Counsel



**Jennifer C. Persico**

Partner | Executive  
Committee | Team  
Leader - Litigation



**Juliana E. Piemonte**

Associate



**Michael J Posner**

Partner | Florida  
Board Certified In  
Real Estate Law



**Thomas R. Ray**

Partner



**Mitchell J. Ream**

Senior Associate



**Bethany Ray**

**Reichard**  
Partner





**Amy L. Reichhart**

Partner | Team  
Leader- Brownfield &  
Superfund Cleanup  
and Redevelopment



**Brendan J. Rich**

Partner | Team Co-  
Leader - Corporate |  
Team Leader -  
Mergers &  
Acquisitions



**Robert G. Riegel, Jr.**

Partner



**Meghann N. Roehl**

Partner | Team  
Leader - Medical  
Malpractice Litigation  
Defense



**Michael G. Rossetti**

Partner | Office  
Leader, Washington,  
D.C. | Team Co-  
Leader - Indian Law |  
Team Co-Leader –  
Government &  
Corporate  
Investigations | Team  
Co-Leader -  
Lobbying & Public  
Policy



**Lawrence H.  
Schaefer**

Partner



**Paul J. Schulz**

Senior Counsel



**Blaine S. Schwartz**

Partner





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



**Karl J. Sleight**  
Partner



**Bruce A. Smith**  
Partner



**Thomas R. Southard**  
Associate



**Laura L. Spring**  
Partner



**Ryan V. Stearns**  
Partner | Team  
Leader - Cannabis



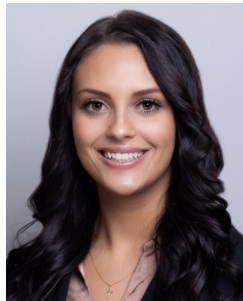
**Lauren A. Suttell**  
Partner | Team  
Leader - Not-For-  
Profit



**Courtney Donahue**  
**Tasner**  
Partner



**Charles E. Telford III**  
Partner



**Alexis B. Telga**  
Associate



**John M. Tuppen**  
Counsel



**Carmen Alexander**  
**Vacco**  
Senior Associate



**Dennis C. Vacco**

Partner | Executive  
Committee | Team  
Co-Leader -  
Government &  
Corporate  
Investigations



**Caroline R. Vilardo**

Senior Associate



**Christopher A.  
Walker**

Partner



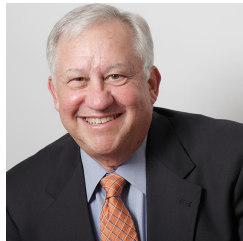
**Philip H. Ward, III**

Partner | Office  
Leader, West Palm  
Beach



**Paul F. Wells**

Partner | Executive  
Committee | Team  
Leader - Real Estate



**Alan S. Wexler**

Retired Partner



**Andrew M. Wilson**

Partner | Chief  
Advisory Officer |  
Team Co-Leader -  
Immigration