

Best Lawyers® 2027

Every year, the national polling firm Woodward/White performs its exhaustive search for the country's top attorneys and publishes the results in one comprehensive volume:

THE BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA®

The 32nd edition, for 2027, has just been completed. Here is the New Hampshire list. Plus, we asked eight of the best lawyers from around the state to share a favorite quotation and to tell us why they love what they do.



LISTED ALPHABETICALLY BY SPECIALTY & ATTORNEY'S NAME

Names highlighted in **red** were selected by Woodward/White as "Lawyers of the Year."

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Matthew Benson: Closely Held Companies &
Family Businesses Law, Corporate Law,
Technology Law, Venture Capital Law

Thomas Burack: Environmental Law

Christopher Candon: Corporate Law,
Bankruptcy & Creditor Debtor Rights /
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Megan Carrier: Commercial Litigation, Litigation
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Andrew Eills: Healthcare Law

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Katherine Hanna: Health Care Law

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2027 "Lawyer of the Year" honorees

Awarded to a single lawyer in each specialty in each community



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Chris Candon

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"I have loved my career as a criminal defense attorney. The role of a criminal defense lawyer is to keep the system honest — to ensure that the constitutional rights of all people are upheld and to stand between the individual and the power of the state. I have been privileged to be able to help hundreds of people make positive change and avoid life-altering consequences during what is often the most stressful and dark period of their lives."

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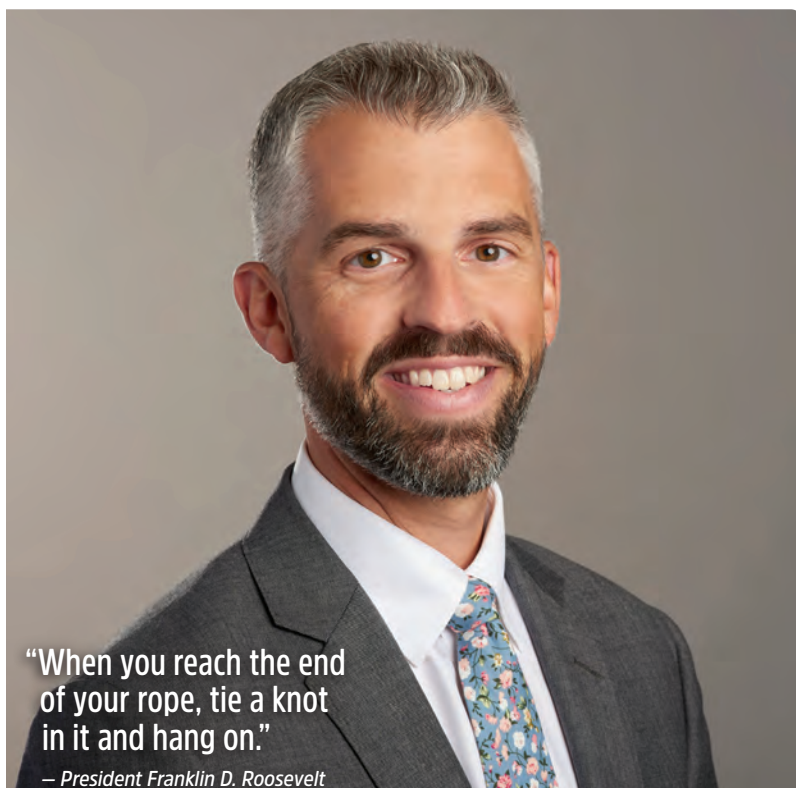
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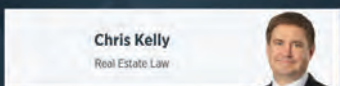
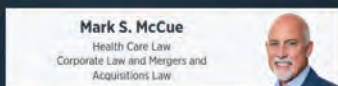
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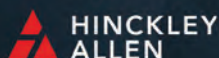
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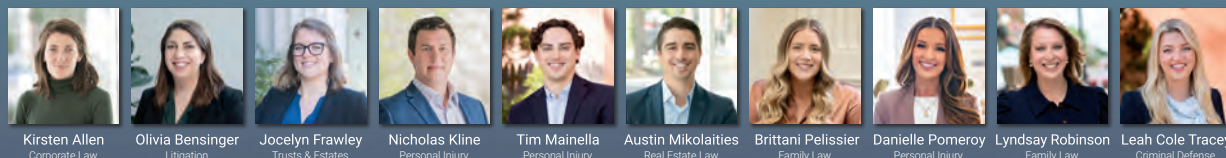
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"Immigration law sits at the intersection of people's biggest hopes for the future and their most complicated realities. In a single week, I might help a rural New Hampshire hospital secure a physician for a community that desperately needs one, guide a family through the final steps to a green card, and strategize with a growing business about how to keep the talent that keeps it running. No two days are alike, but every case is ultimately about helping a person write the next chapter of their life — whether that means advancing a career, reuniting a family, or finding safety. In a field where the rules shift constantly and with great consequences, being a steady guide who can chart paths forward is deeply rewarding. I've also learned more about hope, resilience, and the promise of this country from my clients than from anywhere else."

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Driven in Defense of Those Who Drive

As Senior Counsel at Russman & Phinney Law Offices, Ryan Russman has been fighting for his clients' rights and winning cases in New Hampshire since his practice opened in 1999.

A specialist in DWI law, Attorney Russman is board certified by the National College of DUI Defense (NCDD), the only ABA-accredited organization to board-certify DUI attorneys. Attorney Russman is also an NCDD Sustaining Member as well as a member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the National Trial Lawyers Association.

Russman is one of the best-trained DWI Attorneys in the state. For example, he is certified in practi-

cal gas chromatography, and is a field sobriety test instructor and practitioner, as well as an evidentiary breath alcohol technician, to name a few training highlights.

A specialist in the field of NH DWI defense, he has authored two books on the topic, published informational videos and been featured in many news media programs.

His training and experience explain why he has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® as well as SuperLawyers, and has earned the highest (Preeminent) rating level from LexisNexis and the highest ("Superb" 10.0) rating from AVVO.

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"Not everything that is faced can be changed; but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

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"The most meaningful part of my job is getting to help people in their times of tragedy or loss. Most people come to our office for help after suffering extreme trauma or an extraordinary loss during medical care. Often, they just need answers about what happened and why. Sometimes they just need someone to listen and validate their concerns, because they placed immense trust in their healthcare providers, but when something went wrong, the impact was devastating but they were met with deaf ears and silence. We get to hear them, help them get answers in their time of tragedy, and, if their losses were caused by preventable errors, help them get justice for what happened. While we can never fix what happened in the past, we can help them make their future better and hopefully make the system better to improve healthcare for others in the future."

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METHODOLOGY FOR BEST LAWYERS

This list is excerpted from the 2026 editions of The Best Lawyers in America and Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America, the pre-eminent referral guides to the legal profession in the United States. Published since 1983, Best Lawyers lists attorneys in 150 specialties, representing all 50 states, who have been chosen through an exhaustive survey in which thousands of the nation's top lawyers confidentially evaluate their professional peers. The 2026 edition of The Best Lawyers in America is based on more than 14.7 million evaluations of lawyers by other lawyers.

The method used to compile Best Lawyers remains unchanged since the first edition was compiled more than 40 years ago. Lawyers are chosen for inclusion based solely on the vote of their peers. Listings cannot be bought, and no purchase is required to be included. In this regard, Best Lawyers remains the gold standard of reliability and integrity in lawyer ratings.

The nomination pool for the 2026 edition consisted of all lawyers whose names appeared in the previous edition of Best Lawyers, lawyers who were nominated since the previous survey and new nominees solicited from listed attorneys. In general, lawyers were asked to vote only on nominees in their own specialty in their own jurisdiction. Lawyers in closely related specialties were asked to vote across specialties, as were lawyers in smaller jurisdictions. Where specialties are national or international in nature, lawyers were asked to vote nationally as well as locally. Voting lawyers were also given an opportunity to offer more detailed comments on nominees. Each year, half of the voting pool receives fax or email ballots; the other half is polled by phone.

Voting lawyers were provided this general guideline for determining if a nominee should be listed among

"the best": "If you had a close friend or relative who needed a real estate lawyer (for example), and you could not handle the case yourself, to whom would you refer them?" All votes and comments were solicited with a guarantee of confidentiality – a critical factor in the viability and validity of Best Lawyers' surveys. To ensure the rigor of the selection process, lawyers were urged to use only their highest standards when voting and to evaluate each nominee based only on his or her individual merits. The additional comments were used to make more accurate comparisons between voting patterns and weight votes accordingly. Best Lawyers uses various methodological tools to identify and correct for anomalies in both the nomination and voting process.

Recognition in the Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America is based entirely on peer review and employs the same methodology that has made Best Lawyers the gold standard for legal rankings worldwide. These awards are recognitions given to attorneys who are earlier in their careers for outstanding professional excellence in private practice in the United States. Our "Ones to Watch" recipients typically have been in practice for 5-9 years.

Ultimately, of course, a lawyer's inclusion is based on the subjective judgments of his or her fellow attorneys. While it is true that the lists may at times disproportionately reward visibility or popularity, the breadth of the survey, the candor of the respondents and the sophistication of the polling methodology largely correct for any biases.

For all these reasons, Best Lawyers lists continue to represent the most reliable, accurate and useful guide to the best lawyers in the United States available anywhere.

The Best Lawyers in America and Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America are published by BL Rankings, LLC, Augusta, GA, and can be ordered directly from the publisher. For information call 803-648-0300; write 801 Broad Street Suite 950, Augusta GA 30901; email info@bestlawyers.com; or visit bestlawyers.com. An online subscription to Best Lawyers is available at bestlawyers.com.

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Names highlighted in **red** were selected by Woodward/White as "Lawyers of the Year."



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