

NEWS RELEASES

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## Services

Appellate  
Banking & Finance  
Class Action Defense  
Commercial Litigation  
Construction & Design  
Construction Litigation  
Corporate  
Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation  
Employment Litigation Defense  
Energy Regulation  
Environmental  
ERISA & Employee Benefits Litigation  
Insolvency & Commercial Bankruptcy  
Intellectual Property  
Intellectual Property Litigation  
K-12 Education  
Labor & Employment  
Land Use

# More than 90 Husch Blackwell Attorneys Named to *The Best Lawyers in America*® Ones to Watch

*The Best Lawyers in America*® has named 94 Husch Blackwell lawyers to its 2026 "Ones to Watch" listing, 36 of whom are being listed for the first time. The "Ones to Watch" list, established in 2020, recognizes attorneys who are earlier in their careers for outstanding professional excellence in private practice in the United States.

\*Denotes Ones to Watch honorees listed for the first time.

## **ARIZONA** **Phoenix**

\*Alejandra Curiel-Molina – Commercial Litigation

Andrew McNichol – Commercial Litigation

\*Brendan Melander – Commercial Litigation; Labor and Employment Law - Management; Litigation - Labor and Employment

\*Brandon Stein – Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law

## **CALIFORNIA** **Los Angeles**

Hilda Akopyan – Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions - Defendants; Product Liability Litigation - Defendants

Allison Scott – Labor and Employment Law – Management; Litigation - Labor and Employment

# HUSCH BLACKWELL

Rochelle Smith – Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions - Defendants; Product Liability Litigation - Defendants

## **COLORADO**

### **Denver**

\*Megan Beebe – Corporate Law; Mergers and Acquisitions Law

\*Maria Bock – Corporate Law

Megan Fugier – Insurance Law; Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions - Defendants

Heather Gasper – Real Estate Law

## **FLORIDA**

### **Palmetto Bay**

Caitlyn McCutcheon – Product Liability Litigation - Defendants

## **GEORGIA**

### **Atlanta**

Baylee Culverhouse – Health Care Law

## **ILLINOIS**

### **Chicago**

\*Mary Deweese – Education Law

\*AJ Fabianczyk – Commercial Litigation; Insurance Law

\*Jon Micah Goeller – Energy Law; Environmental Law

Claire LaFont – Real Estate Law

Samuel M. Mitchell – Labor and Employment Law - Employee; Labor and Employment Law - Management; Litigation - Labor and Employment

Jennifer Ralph – Labor and Employment Law - Management

\*Kayla Schmidt – Commercial Litigation; Product Liability Litigation - Defendants

## **LOUISIANA**

### **New Orleans**

# HUSCH BLACKWELL

Chelsea Gaudin Favret – Litigation - Environmental; Litigation - Labor and Employment; Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions - Defendants; Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants; Product Liability Litigation - Defendants

Jordan Nixon – Commercial Litigation; Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions - Defendant; Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants; Product Liability Litigation - Defendants

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

### **Boston**

Samuel Lee – Energy Law, Real Estate Law

\*Mara Pollets – Energy Law, Real Estate Law

## **MINNESOTA**

### **Minneapolis**

Natalia Kruse – Banking and Finance Law; Commercial Litigation

## **MISSOURI**

### **Jefferson City**

\*Elizabeth LaFoe – Health Care Law

### **Kansas City**

\*Kenyon Briggs – Corporate Law; Mergers and Acquisitions Law

Drew Canning – Health Care Law

\*McKinley Duke – Trusts and Estates

\*Sierra Faler – Commercial Litigation

Sara Fevurly – Commercial Litigation

\*A.J. James – Education Law

Rachel Kim-Walter – Labor and Employment Law - Employee; Labor and Employment Law - Management; Litigation - Labor and Employment

Brynna Krough-Deaton – Energy Law; Real Estate Law

\*Jessica McDowell – Labor and Employment Law - Management; Litigation - Labor and Employment

## HUSCH BLACKWELL

Nikki Multer – Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions - Defendants; Product Liability Litigation - Defendants

Bryce Navarro – Banking and Finance Law; Mergers and Acquisitions Law

\*Kip Randall – Criminal Defense: White-Collar

Mary Sprouse – Corporate Law, Energy Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law

\*Courtney Steelman – Labor and Employment Law - Management; Litigation - Labor and Employment

\*Lucas Whited – Corporate Law; Mergers and Acquisitions Law

### **Springfield**

Christina Brunty – Commercial Litigation; Labor and Employment Law - Management; Litigation - Labor and Employment; Product Liability Litigation - Defendants

\*Ryan Olson – Commercial Litigation

### **St. Louis**

Lazaro Aguiar – Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions - Defendants; Product Liability Litigation - Defendants

Molly Dugan – Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions - Defendants; Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants; Product Liability Litigation - Defendants

Brandon Hall – Corporate Law

\*David Human, Jr. – Real Estate Law

Katie Jenner – Real Estate Law

Mary Kate Mullen – Commercial Litigation

Theresa Mullineaux – Commercial Litigation; Education Law

Nicholas Scholz – Corporate Law; Mergers and Acquisitions Law; Trusts and Estates

\*Shmuel Shulman – Commercial Litigation

Sydney Thomas – Alternative Dispute Resolution; Commercial Litigation

# HUSCH BLACKWELL

Ryan White – Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions - Defendants; Product Liability Litigation – Defendants

Sarah Zimmerman – Commercial Litigation

## **NEBRASKA**

### **Omaha**

\*Amanda JoLee – Commercial Litigation; Labor and Employment Law - Management; Litigation - Labor and Employment

Casey Kidwell – Corporate Law; Mergers and Acquisitions Law

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

### **Philadelphia**

Marisa De Feo – Commercial Litigation

## **TENNESSEE**

### **Chattanooga**

\*Adam Buddenbohn – Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions - Defendants; Product Liability Litigation - Plaintiffs

### **Nashville**

Shelby Lomax – Banking and Finance Law; Financial Services Regulation Law

Ryan Wautlet – Tax Law; Trusts and Estates

## **TEXAS**

### **Austin**

\*Lauren Collins – Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law

Tara LeDay – Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law

Taylor Wood – Real Estate Law

Alaina Zermeno – Energy Law

### **Dallas**

Alex Brakefield – Appellate Practice; Commercial Litigation; Criminal Defense: White-Collar

Colin Byrne – Litigation - Trusts and Estates

## **HUSCH BLACKWELL**

Andrew Katon – Labor and Employment Law – Employee; Labor and Employment Law – Management; Litigation - Labor and Employment

\*Megan Mainiero – Real Estate Law

\*Cooper Page – Labor and Employment Law - Management

Tom Zavala - Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law

### **Houston**

Jarett Dillard – Construction Law; Litigation - Construction

Quinncy McNeal – Litigation - Construction

\*Brenda Phelps – Product Liability Litigation - Defendants

### **WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Joshua Gostel - Commercial Litigation; Insurance Law; Litigation - Construction; Medical Malpractice Law - Defendants; Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants; Personal Injury Litigation - Plaintiffs

\*Jamie Nakoa McCabe – Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants

Julia Kopcienski – Criminal Defense: White-Collar

\*Danny Solomon – Appellate Practice; Commercial Litigation

\*Ryan Spraker – Education Law

### **WISCONSIN**

#### **Madison**

\*Catherine Albrecht-Wiese – Banking and Finance Law

Joseph Diedrich – Appellate Practice; Commercial Litigation; Communications Law

\*Jordan Hughes – Corporate Law

Mary Parmeter – Banking and Finance Law; Real Estate Law

#### **Milwaukee**

## HUSCH BLACKWELL

Margaret Brend – Commercial Litigation; Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants; Product Liability Litigation - Defendants

Thomas Chmielnik – Corporate Law; Mergers and Acquisitions Law

Catarina Colón – Labor and Employment Law - Employee; Labor and Employment Law - Management; Litigation - Labor and Employment

Angela Harden – Commercial Litigation; Litigation - Real Estate

\*Brian Laning – Intellectual Property Law; Patent Law

\*Blake Nold – Commercial Litigation; Construction Law

\*Rachel Paulus – Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions - Defendants; Product Liability Litigation - Defendants

Adam Roundy – Banking and Finance Law; Securities / Capital Markets Law

Jason Smathers – Commercial Litigation; Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law

McKenzie Tibbetts – Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships); Corporate Law; Tax Law

Kelsey Toledo – Education Law; Health Care Law

The firm also has more than 280 attorneys named to *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2026 listing, which is based on a national survey involving detailed evaluations of lawyers by other lawyers.