18 O’NEIL CANNON LAWYERS SELECTED AS 2026 BEST LAWYERS; ANOTHER 5 NAMED BEST LAWYERS: ONES TO WATCH

We are pleased to announce 18 of our lawyers have been included in the 2026 Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*, and an additional five have been selected as 2026 *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*.

The following are the O’Neil Cannon lawyers named to the 2026 lists:

Best Lawyers in America

- Doug Dehler – Litigation – Insurance
- Jim DeJong – Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law, and Securities / Capital Markets Law
- Seth Dizard – Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law and Litigation – Bankruptcy
- Pete Faust – Corporate Law and Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- John Gehringer – Commercial Litigation, Construction Law, Corporate Law, and Real Estate Law
- Joseph Gumina – Employment Law – Management and Litigation – Labor and Employment
- Dennis Hollman – Corporate Law and Trusts and Estates
- Grant Killoran – Commercial Litigation and Litigation – Health Care
- JB Koenings – Corporate Law
- Dean Laing – Commercial Litigation, Personal Injury Litigation – Plaintiffs, and Product Liability Litigation – Defendants
- Greg Lyons – Commercial Litigation and Litigation – Insurance
- Patrick McBride – Commercial Litigation
- Joe Newbold – Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Real Estate, and Personal Injury Litigation – Plaintiffs
- Chad Richter – Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships) and Corporate Law
- John Schreiber – Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law and Litigation – Bankruptcy
- Jason Scoby – Banking and Finance Law, Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships), and Corporate Law
- Steve Slawinski – Construction Law

Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch

- Maura Falk – Trusts and Estates

- Trevor Lippman – Litigation – Trusts and Estates
- Kelly Spott – Trusts and Estate
- Christa Wittenberg – Commercial Litigation

About Best Lawyers

Best Lawyers has published its list for over three decades, earning the respect of the profession, the media, and the public as the most reliable, unbiased source of legal referrals.

Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch recognizes associates and other lawyers who are earlier in their careers for their outstanding professional excellence in private practice in the United States.

Lawyers on *The Best Lawyers in America* and *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch* lists are divided by geographic region and practice areas. They are reviewed by their peers on the basis of professional expertise, and they undergo an authentication process to make sure they are in current practice and in good standing.

SETH DIZARD NAMED 2026 “LAWYER OF THE YEAR” FOR LITIGATION – BANKRUPTCY IN MILWAUKEE

O’Neil Cannon attorney Seth Dizard has been named the 2026 Best Lawyers® “Lawyer of the Year” for Litigation – Bankruptcy in Milwaukee. This honor is awarded to only one lawyer in each practice area and metropolitan region, based on exceptional peer-review ratings for professional excellence, integrity, and expertise. In addition to this distinction, Dizard is listed in the 2026 edition of The Best Lawyers in America® for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law.

As head of the firm’s Banking, Receivership, and Creditors’ Rights Practice Group, Dizard regularly serves as a court-appointed receiver throughout Wisconsin and represents financial institutions, creditors, and distressed businesses in state and federal courts. Since joining the firm in 2007, he has managed and transitioned over $200 million in assets, guided complex insolvency proceedings, and resolved high-value disputes. Recognized statewide for his skill in financial workouts, post-judgment collections, and trust administration, Dizard has earned numerous accolades, including the 2023 Judge Dale E. Ihlenfeldt Bankruptcy Award and repeated selections to Best Lawyers, Wisconsin Super Lawyers, “Top 50 Lawyers” in Wisconsin, and “Top 25 Lawyers” in Milwaukee.

CHAD RICHTER NAMED 2026 “LAWYER OF THE YEAR” FOR BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS IN MILWAUKEE

O’Neil Cannon attorney Chad Richter has been named the 2026 Best Lawyers® “Lawyer of the Year” in Milwaukee for Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships). This honor is awarded to only one lawyer in each practice area and metro region, based on outstanding peer reviews for professional excellence, integrity, and skill. In addition, Richter was recognized in the 2026 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Corporate Law.

A shareholder in the firm’s Business Law Practice Group, Richter serves as corporate counsel to privately held businesses, advising on mergers and acquisitions, ownership transitions, commercial contracts, franchise/dealership matters, and complex business transactions. Over his career, he has represented hundreds of clients on deals ranging from $1 million to $220 million, spanning industries from manufacturing and engineering to technology and healthcare. His practical, results-driven approach has made him a trusted advisor to companies navigating high-stakes transactions and growth opportunities.

O’NEIL CANNON ADDS THREE ATTORNEYS

O’Neil Cannon is pleased to welcome attorneys John Bolden, Elise Braunel, and Andrew Campbell to the firm.

John Bolden

John Bolden advises clients on a broad range of transactional matters, including corporate, mergers and acquisitions, and real estate. With a background in business and logistics, he offers a practical, solutions-focused approach to every transaction. At Marquette University Law School, he served as an associate editor of the *Marquette Law Review*, was a moot court semifinalist, and held leadership roles with the Black Law Students Association. John was inducted into the Pro Bono Honor Society and selected as the 2025 class graduation speaker.

Elise Braunel

Elise Braunel assists clients with estate planning, probate and trust administration,

succession planning, general tax, and employee benefits issues. A Marquette University Law School graduate, Elise earned honors for her work in estate planning. She held leadership positions with the Association for Women Lawyers and the Estate Planning Society.

Andrew Campbell

Andrew Campbell represents clients in civil litigation matters, including business and trust disputes. He has litigated in state and federal court and teaches probate and estate administration at the University of Wisconsin Law School. He serves on the State Bar's Solo, Small Firm & General Practice Section Board and contributes to legal publications on landlord-tenant law. Previously, Andrew practiced at a Milwaukee litigation firm. He was Editor-in-Chief of the *Wisconsin International Law Journal* while in law school.

O'Neil Cannon, founded in Milwaukee in 1973, is a full-service law firm that focuses on meeting the many needs of businesses and their owners. Our experienced attorneys work with businesses and their owners at all stages of the business life cycle, helping them start, grow, and transition their businesses. We also assist business owners with their personal legal needs, including tax and estate planning, as well as family law. For more information about the services we provide, please visit our website.

CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS RECOGNIZES FAUST AND O'NEIL CANNON FOR M&A EXCELLENCE

We're proud to announce that Attorney Pete Faust and O'Neil Cannon's mergers and acquisitions team have been recognized by *Chambers and Partners* as among the top in Wisconsin for M&A and general corporate law.

O'Neil Cannon is one of only seven Wisconsin firms ranked by *Chambers and Partners* in this category. Faust, the firm's president and managing shareholder, is one of just 23 Wisconsin attorneys to earn individual recognition for excellence in M&A.

In addition to Faust, O'Neil Cannon's mergers and acquisitions team includes Dino Antonopoulos, JB Koenings, Britany Morrison, Chad Richter, Jason Scoby, James DeJong, Cate Heerey, Michael Kennedy, Jason Meehan, Samuel Nelson, and Nancy Wilson.

Chambers and Partners, a London-based research firm, evaluates law firms and attorneys across 185 countries. Each year, more than 200 researchers conduct thousands of interviews with lawyers and clients to identify and rank the leading professionals in the legal field.

O’NEIL CANNON ELECTS DINO ANTONOPOULOS, JESSICA HASKELL, AND RYAN RIEBE AS SHAREHOLDERS

O’Neil Cannon is pleased to announce that attorneys Dino Antonopoulos, Jessica Haskell, and Ryan Riebe have been elected as shareholders of the firm.

Antonopoulos is a member of the firm’s Business and Real Estate Practice Groups. With nearly 20 years of experience, Antonopoulos has established a strong reputation as a corporate and real estate transactional attorney. Known for his exceptional communication skills, dedicated client advocacy, and proven track record of success, he continues to deliver favorable results. Learn more about Antonopoulos.

Haskell is a member of the firm’s Banking, Receivership, and Creditors’ Rights Practice Group. In addition to her legal work, she serves as Chair of the Milwaukee Bar Association’s Bankruptcy Section and is a board member of the State Bar of Wisconsin’s Bankruptcy, Insolvency, and Creditors’ Rights Section and the Wisconsin Network of the International Women’s Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation. Learn more about Haskell.

Riebe is a member of the firm’s Litigation Practice Group. He advises individuals and businesses on a wide range of litigation matters, representing clients in state and federal courts as well as in mediation and arbitration. Learn more about Riebe.

We are proud to welcome these attorneys to our shareholder group and look forward to their continued contributions to the firm’s success.

FAUST RECOGNIZED IN M&A POWER LIST

Corporate attorney Pete Faust has been recognized in Wisconsin Law Journal’s M&A Power List, a list “comprised of attorneys hand-picked as power players in the M&A space.”

Faust, the President and Managing Shareholder of O’Neil Cannon, has closed hundreds of successful mergers, acquisitions and financing deals. He advises buyers, sellers, lenders and investors on a full range of business law matters, from entity formation and securities issues to corporate governance and exit strategies. Faust’s clients, ranging from entrepreneurs to

established institutions, rely on his practical approach and extensive transactional experience.



THE POWERLIST
WISCONSIN LAW JOURNAL
Mergers and Acquisitions Attorneys

O'NEIL CANNON WINS WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT CASE

Wisconsin Supreme Court Case

O'Neil Cannon recently secured a victory before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. On January 22, 2025, the court ruled in favor of O'Neil Cannon's client in *Morway v. Morway*. This case underscores the importance of understanding the finality of court orders and the associated timelines for filing appeals.

Case Background

David and Karen Morway finalized their divorce on March 25, 2019, in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin. As part of the divorce decree, David was obligated to pay monthly spousal maintenance to Karen. In May 2022, anticipating the expiration of his employment contract with the Utah Jazz, David filed a motion to modify or terminate his spousal maintenance obligations, citing a substantial change in his financial circumstances. The family court commissioner initially reduced David's maintenance payments, but Karen appealed this decision. Following a three-day trial, the circuit court issued an oral decision on April 19, 2023, denying David's motion. This decision was formalized in a written order on May 24, 2023.

Procedural Posture

On September 1, 2023, David sought to appeal the circuit court's May 24 order, along with two other subsequent orders dated June 27 and August 28. However, the court of appeals dismissed his appeal as untimely, determining that the May 24 order was final for purposes of appeal under Wisconsin Statute § 808.03(1), despite the entry of the subsequent orders.

According to this statute, a party has 90 days to file a notice of appeal from a final order. David's notice of appeal as to the May 24 order was filed beyond this 90-day window, leading to the dismissal.

Supreme Court's Analysis

The central issue before the Wisconsin Supreme Court was whether the May 24 order constituted a "final order" under § 808.03(1). David contended that the order was not final because it lacked explicit finality language and did not dispose of all matters in litigation. He also argued that the order's finality was ambiguous, suggesting that it should be liberally construed to preserve his right to appeal.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court disagreed with David's arguments. The court emphasized that an order is considered final if it disposes of the entire matter in litigation as to one or more of the parties. In this case, the May 24 order explicitly denied David's motion to modify or terminate maintenance, thereby resolving the substantive issue before the court. The absence of explicit finality language did not render the order ambiguous, nor did it affect its finality. Consequently, the Wisconsin Supreme Court held that the order was final and that David's appeal was untimely.

Implications

The *Morway v. Morway* decision serves as a crucial reminder for litigants and attorneys regarding the importance of understanding when a court order is deemed final. Even in the absence of explicit finality language, or incorrect language, an order that resolves all substantive issues is considered final for purposes of appeal. Failing to recognize this can result in missed deadlines and the forfeiture of the right to appeal.

In conclusion, *Morway v. Morway* reinforces the principle that the finality of a court order hinges on whether it disposes of all substantive matters in litigation. Litigants must remain vigilant in recognizing such finality to protect their appellate rights.

Greg Lyons argued the case before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. In addition to Lyons, the briefs were submitted by Jean Ansay and Ryan Riebe.

ATTORNEYS CHRISTINA RUUD AND CATE HEEREY HAVE JOINED O'NEIL CANNON

Attorneys Christina Ruud and Cate Heerey, both experienced Milwaukee attorneys, have joined O'Neil Cannon.

Ruud is a member of the firm's Business and Real Estate Groups. She concentrates her practice in commercial real estate with an emphasis on all aspects of acquisition and disposition transactions, real estate development and financing, and complex commercial leasing. Ruud also regularly represents owners of large real estate portfolios in all facets of asset management and provides contract drafting services to real estate brokerage firms.

Heerey is a member of the firm's Business Law Practice Group. Her primary focus is mergers and acquisitions, representing clients in the lower end of the middle market. Heerey specializes in drafting, reviewing, and negotiating a variety of contracts, including, purchase agreements, supply and distributions agreements, master service agreements and terms and conditions.

We are pleased to welcome Ruud and Heerey to the firm.

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SEASON OF GIVING

In the spirit of the holiday season, the attorneys and staff at O'Neil Cannon once again held a holiday donation drive. This year, the firm collected items and monetary donations for **Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity**. Habitat for Humanity is a global nonprofit housing organization working in local communities across all 50 states in the U.S. and in approximately 70 countries. Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity works toward a world where everyone has a decent place to live, helping families become first-time homebuyers and making critical home repairs affordable for existing homeowners. Since its founding in 1984, Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity has helped nearly 1,500 local families build or repair their home.