

# SUPER LAWYERS RECOGNIZES 28 O'NEIL CANNON ATTORNEYS

Each year, *Super Lawyers* surveys the State of Wisconsin's 15,000 attorneys and judges, seeking to recognize the State's top attorneys. Recently, *Super Lawyers* published its lists for 2025, which include the Top 10 Attorneys in Wisconsin, Top 50 Attorneys in Wisconsin, Top 25 Attorneys in Milwaukee, Super Lawyers (consisting of the top 5% of attorneys in Wisconsin), and Rising Stars (consisting of attorneys who are 40 years old or younger or who have been in practice for 10 years or less).

*Super Lawyers*, who previously referred to the firm as "the Milwaukee mid-sized powerhouse," recognized twenty-eight of our attorneys.

Those attorneys are the following:

- Dino Antonopoulos:
  - Super Lawyer
- Nick Chmurski:
  - Rising Star
- Doug Dehler:
  - Super Lawyer
- Jim DeJong:
  - Super Lawyer
- Seth Dizard:
  - Top 50 Attorneys in Wisconsin
  - Top 25 Attorneys in Milwaukee
  - Super Lawyer
- Maura Falk:
  - Rising Star
- Pete Faust:
  - Top 50 Attorneys in Wisconsin
  - Super Lawyer
- John Gehringer:
  - Super Lawyer
- Joseph Gumina:
  - Super Lawyer
- Jessica Haskell:
  - Rising Star
- Mike Kennedy:
  - Rising Star
- Grant Killoran:
  - Super Lawyer
  - Top 50 Attorneys in Wisconsin
  - Top 25 Attorneys in Milwaukee

- JB Koenings:
  - Super Lawyer
- Dean Laing:
  - Top 10 Attorneys in Wisconsin
  - Top 50 Attorneys in Wisconsin
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  - Super Lawyer
- Trevor Lippman:
  - Rising Star
- Greg Lyons:
  - Super Lawyer
- Patrick McBride:
  - Super Lawyer
- Jason Meehan:
  - Rising Star
- Joe Newbold:
  - Super Lawyer
- Erica Reib:
  - Rising Star
- Chad Richter:
  - Super Lawyer
- Ryan Riebe:
  - Rising Star
- John Schreiber:
  - Super Lawyer
- Jason Scoby:
  - Super Lawyer
- Steve Slawinski:
  - Super Lawyer
- Kelly Spott:
  - Rising Star
- Christa Wittenberg:
  - Rising Star

*Super Lawyers* is a national rating service that rates attorneys in all 50 states. The selection process utilized by *Super Lawyers* is multi-phased and includes independent research, peer nominations, and peer evaluations. One court recently had this to say about *Super Lawyers*:

“[T]he selection procedures employed by [*Super Lawyers*] are very sophisticated, comprehensive, and complex. It is abundantly clear . . . that [*Super Lawyers* does] not permit a lawyer to buy one’s way onto the list, nor is there any requirement for the purchase of any product for inclusion in the lists or any quid pro quo of any kind or nature associated with the evaluation and listing of an attorney or in the subsequent advertising of one’s inclusion in the lists.”

We are proud to be one of the few firms in Wisconsin with more than 50% of its attorneys

recognized by *Super Lawyers*.

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## **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.

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## **SUPER LAWYERS RECOGNIZES 30 O'NEIL CANNON ATTORNEYS**

Each year, *Super Lawyers* surveys the State of Wisconsin's 15,000 attorneys and judges, seeking the State's top attorneys. Recently, *Super Lawyers* published its lists for 2024, which include the Top 10 Attorneys in Wisconsin, Top 50 Attorneys in Wisconsin, Top 25 Attorneys in Milwaukee, Super Lawyers (consisting of the top 5% of attorneys in Wisconsin), and Rising Stars (consisting of attorneys who are 40 years old or younger or who have been in practice for 10 years or less).

Thirty of our attorneys were recognized by *Super Lawyers*, which has referred to the firm as "the Milwaukee mid-sized powerhouse." Those attorneys are the following:

- Emily Behn:
  - Rising Star
- Nick Chmurski:
  - Rising Star
- Doug Dehler:

- Super Lawyer
- Jim DeJong:
  - Super Lawyer
- Seth Dizard:
  - Top 50 Attorneys in Wisconsin
  - Top 25 Attorneys in Milwaukee
  - Super Lawyer
- Pete Faust:
  - Top 50 Attorneys in Wisconsin
  - Top 25 Attorneys in Milwaukee
  - Super Lawyer
- John Gehringer:
  - Super Lawyer
- Joseph Gumina:
  - Super Lawyer
- Jessica Haskell:
  - Rising Star
- Mike Kennedy:
  - Rising Star
- Grant Killoran:
  - Super Lawyer
- Dean Laing:
  - Top 10 Attorneys in Wisconsin
  - Top 50 Attorneys in Wisconsin
  - Top 25 Attorneys in Milwaukee
  - Super Lawyer
- Trevor Lippman:
  - Rising Star
- Greg Lyons:
  - Super Lawyer
- Patrick McBride:
  - Super Lawyer
- Jason Meehan:
  - Rising Star
- Britany Morrison:
  - Rising Star
- Joe Newbold:
  - Super Lawyer
- Erica Reib:
  - Rising Star
- Chad Richter:
  - Super Lawyer
- Ryan Riebe:
  - Rising Star
- John Schreiber:
  - Super Lawyer
- Jason Scoby:

- Super Lawyer
- Steve Slawinski:
  - Super Lawyer
- Kelly Spott:
  - Rising Star
- Christa Wittenberg:
  - Rising Star

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We are proud to be one of the few firms in Wisconsin that had more than 50% of its attorneys receive recognition by *Super Lawyers*.

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## **20 O’NEIL CANNON LAWYERS SELECTED AS 2025 BEST LAWYERS; ANOTHER 5 NAMED BEST LAWYERS: ONES TO WATCH**

We are pleased to announce 20 of our lawyers have been included in the 2025 Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*, and an additional five have been selected as 2025 *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*.

The following are the O’Neil Cannon lawyers named to the 2025 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*

- Emily Behn – Commercial Litigation
- Trevor Lippman – Litigation – Trusts and Estates
- Erica Reib – Labor and Employment Law – Management and Litigation – Labor and Employment
- Kelly Spott – Trusts and Estates
- Christa Wittenberg – Commercial Litigation

#### **About Best Lawyers**

Best Lawyers has published their 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.

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# NAVIGATING TRUST LITIGATION: INSIGHTS FROM THE TONY BENNETT CASE

Nearly one year after Tony Bennett's death, his children are embroiled in a trust dispute. While Tony Bennett's fame and prominence are unique, the nature of this dispute is common. In the filing, Tony Bennett's two daughters accused their brother, Danny—who served as Tony's manager and also serves as the trustee of the Family Trust—of managing their father's trust for Danny's own benefit and that of his company. The action seeks an order for a full accounting and inventory of all property and assets so that they can be distributed in accordance with the terms of the Family Trust.

While much trust litigation revolves around the terms of a trust or its amendments, there are many situations that can lead to legal proceedings even when no one disputes the trust's terms. For example, a beneficiary may question why certain assets were not included in the trust or removed from the trust before a loved one's death. In addition, a beneficiary may question the actions taken by a trustee during their loved one's life and after their death. This is particularly relevant in high-profile cases like Tony Bennett's, where the management of substantial assets and legacy can be contentious.

In general, a trustee has a legal and fiduciary duty to uphold the terms and intentions of a trust. Under Wisconsin's Trust Code, a trustee has a duty to keep "current beneficiaries and presumptive remainder beneficiaries who so request, reasonably informed about the administration of the trust." Wis. Stat. § 701.0813(1). Such information may include copies of trust documents, details about the trustee, and a list of the trust's assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, and the trustee's compensation. If you are a trustee seeking to uphold or administer a trust, or a beneficiary concerned about a trustee's actions, consulting with a knowledgeable attorney to evaluate your options is advisable.

Trevor C. Lippman is a shareholder at O'Neil Cannon and assists clients with all matters related to inheritance disputes, including questions about the creation and administration of trusts and wills. Lippman has assisted hundreds of clients navigate the difficult waters involved in elderly financial abuse allegations and inheritance litigation. To schedule an initial consultation with Lippman, call 414.276.5000 or email him at [trevor.lippman@wilaw.com](mailto:trevor.lippman@wilaw.com).

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**SUPER LAWYERS RECOGNIZES 28 O'NEIL**

# CANNON ATTORNEYS

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Twenty-nine of our attorneys were recognized by *Super Lawyers*, which has referred to the firm as "the Milwaukee mid-sized powerhouse." Those attorneys are the following:

- Nick Chmurski:
  - Rising Star
- Doug Dehler:
  - Super Lawyer
- Jim DeJong:
  - Super Lawyer
- Seth Dizard:
  - Top 50 Attorneys in Wisconsin
  - Top 25 Attorneys in Milwaukee
  - Super Lawyer
- Pete Faust:
  - Super Lawyer
- John Gehringer:
  - Super Lawyer
- Joseph Gumina:
  - Super Lawyer
- Jessica Haskell:
  - Rising Star
- Mike Kennedy:
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- Grant Killoran:
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- Trevor Lippman:
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- Greg Lyons:
  - Super Lawyer
- Patrick McBride:
  - Super Lawyer

- Brittany Morrison:
  - Rising Star
- Joe Newbold:
  - Super Lawyer
- Erica Reib:
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- Chad Richter:
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- Ryan Riebe
  - Rising Star
- John Schreiber:
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- Jason Scoby:
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- Steve Slawinski:
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- Kelly Spott:
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**19 O’NEIL CANNON LAWYERS SELECTED AS  
2024 BEST LAWYERS; ANOTHER 4 NAMED BEST**

# LAWYERS: ONES TO WATCH

We are pleased to announce 19 of our lawyers have been included in the 2024 Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*, and an additional four have been selected as 2024 *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*.

The following are the O'Neil Cannon lawyers named to the 2024 lists:

## *Best Lawyers in America*

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- James G. DeJong - Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law, and Securities / Capital Markets Law
- Seth E. Dizard - Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law and Litigation - Bankruptcy
- Peter J. Faust - Corporate Law and Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- John G. Gehringer - Commercial Litigation, Construction Law, Corporate Law, and Real Estate Law
- Joseph E. Gumina - Employment Law - Management and Litigation - Labor and Employment
- Dennis W. Hollman - Corporate Law and Trusts and Estates
- Grant C. Killoran - Commercial Litigation and Litigation - Health Care
- JB Koenings - Corporate Law
- Dean P. Laing - Commercial Litigation, Personal Injury Litigation - Plaintiffs, and Product Liability Litigation - Defendants
- Gregory W. Lyons - Commercial Litigation and Litigation - Insurance
- Patrick G. McBride - Commercial Litigation
- Joseph D. Newbold - Commercial Litigation
- Chad J. Richter - Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships) and Corporate Law
- John R. Schreiber - Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law and Litigation - Bankruptcy
- Jason R. Scoby - Corporate Law
- Steven J. Slawinski - Construction Law

## *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*

- Trevor C. Lippman – Litigation – Trusts and Estates
- Erica N. Reib – Labor and Employment Law – Management and Litigation – Labor and Employment
- Kelly M. Spott – Trusts and Estates
- Christa D. Wittenberg – Commercial Litigation

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## **EX-ATTORNEY CONVICTED OF STEALING MORE THAN \$800,000 FROM ELDERLY VICTIM WITH DEMENTIA**

The United States Attorney's Office from the Southern District of Ohio recently issued a press release that highlights how elderly individuals suffering from dementia may be vulnerable to financial abuse. The press release can be found [here](#).

As the release explains, the attorney defrauded his client—an elderly woman in her 80s—over the course of seven years, between 2012 and 2019. The attorney's law license was revoked in 2015. The attorney stole the funds using a myriad of methods, including utilizing his role as the victim's power of attorney and status as a lawyer to transfer money to himself, to force the victim's signature on a revocation of a family member's separate power of attorney, and to cash out the victim's U.S. Treasury Bonds and life insurance policies. The attorney was sentenced to five years in prison and ordered to pay \$882,502 in restitution.

This tragic story underscores the difficulties in flagging and investigating alleged financial abuse when the victim is not capable of protecting his or her own interests. It also rebuts the assumption that some courts and attorneys make in inheritance litigation that one only needs to look back a year or two prior to the victim's death to evaluate whether elder financial abuse of the victim may have occurred. Here, the victim suffered dementia for at least seven years.

If you or a loved one suspects that an elderly person with dementia is being taken advantage of, you should consider reporting elder abuse. There may also be options to pursue an investigation through a civil action. For example, in Wisconsin, there are routes to seek court review of an agent's conduct under a financial power of attorney.

Trevor C. Lippman is a shareholder at the law firm of O'Neil Cannon. Lippman assists clients with all matters related to inheritance disputes, including questions surrounding the creation and administration of trusts and wills. Lippman has assisted hundreds of clients navigate the difficult waters involved in elderly financial abuse allegations and inheritance litigation. To schedule an initial consultation with Lippman, call 414.276.5000 or email him at [trevor.lippman@wilaw.com](mailto:trevor.lippman@wilaw.com).

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## THE RECENT DEATH OF LISA MARIE PRESLEY LEADS TO BREWING TRUST DISPUTE

### **Inheritance Disputes are Common Even Among the Wealthy**

An inheritance dispute appears to be brewing following the recent death of Elvis Presley's only child, Lisa Marie. According to various news outlets, Lisa Marie appointed her mother, Priscilla Presley, and her then manager, Barry Siegel, as co-trustees of her trust in 1993. Following Lisa Marie's death on January 12, 2023, Priscilla discovered an amendment to the trust purportedly signed in 2016 that replaced both Priscilla and Barry Siegel as co-trustees.

According to Priscilla, there are various reasons the 2016 amendment may be invalid. One of these reasons is because the purported trust amendment was not delivered to Priscilla during Lisa Marie's lifetime as required under the terms of the original trust. Priscilla also raised concerns over the authenticity of the document and the signatures on the document itself.

Ultimately, a California court will be tasked with sorting through these issues that may pit a grandmother against her grandchildren.

## **Disputing an Amendment to a Trust in Wisconsin**

The Wisconsin Trust Code recognizes the right for the settlor of a revocable trust to amend that trust. The capacity necessary to amend a trust is the same as the capacity required to make a will. The Wisconsin Trust Code holds that the terms of a trust prevail over any provision of the Wisconsin Trust Code unless certain exceptions exist.

It is not clear on the face of the Wisconsin Trust Code how a Wisconsin court would treat the specific claim Priscilla Presley appears to be making – that the amendment is not valid because it was not delivered to her as required by the terms of the trust. The Wisconsin Trust Code states that a settlor “may revoke or amend a revocable trust” by “substantial compliance with the method provided in the terms of the trust.” Here, a Wisconsin court would have to review the terms of the Presley trust and determine whether the other components of the amendment without delivery to Priscilla amounted to “substantial compliance.”

If a trust does not provide a method to revoke or amend a trust, Wisconsin recognizes one may be able to revoke or amend a trust by referencing the trust or the trust property as part of a will or codicil or by “[a]ny other method manifesting clear and convincing evidence of the settlor’s intent.”

Challenging or seeking to uphold a trust amendment can be complicated and fact intensive. These issues also oftentimes deal with dynamic family relationships. If you are a trustee and a beneficiary is seeking to challenge a trust amendment or a beneficiary who has questions involving a trust amendment, it may be best to reach out to an attorney with experience handling matters under the Wisconsin Trust Code.

Trevor C. Lippman is a shareholder at the law firm of O’Neil Cannon. Trevor assists clients with all matters related to inheritance disputes, including questions surrounding the creation and administration of trusts and wills. Since graduating from University of Wisconsin Law School in 2013, Trevor has assisted hundreds of clients navigate the difficult waters involved in elderly financial abuse allegations and inheritance litigation. Trevor prides himself on protecting the rightful legacies of those who have passed on and seeks to understand each client’s unique concerns. To schedule an initial consultation with Trevor, call 414.276.5000 or email Trevor directly at [trevor.lippman@wilaw.com](mailto:trevor.lippman@wilaw.com).

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***SUPER LAWYERS RECOGNIZES 25 O’NEIL***

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  - Super Lawyer
- Erica N. Reib:
  - Rising Stars
- Chad J. Richter:
  - Super Lawyer
- John R. Schreiber:
  - Super Lawyer
- Jason R. Scoby:
  - Super Lawyer
- Steven J. Slawinski:
  - Super Lawyer
- Kelly M. Spott:
  - Rising Stars
- Christa D. Wittenberg:
  - Rising Stars

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