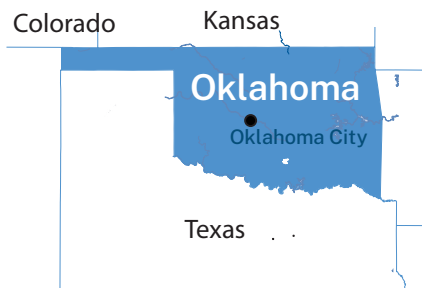

CHAMBERS USA 2023

The Leading Lawyers and Law Firms in the USA

Oklahoma



How lawyers are ranked

Every year we carry out thousands of in-depth interviews with clients in order to assess the reputations and expertise of business lawyers worldwide. The qualities we look for (and which determine rankings) include technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial awareness/astuteness, diligence, commitment, and other qualities most valued by the client.

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Corporate/Commercial

Corporate/Commercial
Leading Firms
Band 1
Conner & Winters, LLP
Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation
GableGotwals
McAfee & Taft
Band 2
Hartzog Conger Cason LLP
Band 3
Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson, PC
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Curry Robert A. Conner & Winters, LLP
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Derrick Gary W. Derrick & Briggs, LLP (ORL) ◇
Stong Roger A. Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation
Band 2
Coleman W Chris. McAfee & Taft
Hassell Jeffrey. GableGotwals
Lake Stephen. GableGotwals
Larimore James W. Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation
Melgaard Robert J. Conner & Winters, LLP
Smith Joshua D. McAfee & Taft
Band 3
Cooper H Wayne. Doerner, Saunders, Daniel (ORL) ◇
Coutant Jason B. GableGotwals
Jackson Betsy G. Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden
Ray Stephen. Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden
Sacra J. Ryan. Conner & Winters, LLP
Up-and-coming individuals
Grace Danae V. McAfee & Taft
Hutchison Thomas J. GableGotwals
Wilson Christopher R. Conner & Winters, LLP
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Conner & Winters, LLP

What the team is known for Conner & Winters boasts a versatile bench covering a comprehensive range of corporate and commercial issues, including large and complex mandates with regional or national dimensions. The law firm is especially noted for its handling of oil and gas deals, high-value financings and transactional and compliance assignments in the healthcare

sector. The team is increasingly active handling deals involving private equity sponsors, as well as acting for a number of well-known banks. Its services range from high-value transactions to day-to-day advising.

Strengths

“Conner & Winters is extremely professional and knowledgeable in their space and can handle most complex matters that come their way.”

“The firm always gives a reasonable and accurate estimate as to costs, and have a well-represented and diverse staff.”

“The team are always very responsive and have a developed understanding of how documents work.”

Work highlights Conner & Winters acted for Unit Petroleum Company in relation to the \$56 million sale of Gulf Coast oil and gas properties.

Notable practitioners

Robert Curry is well respected for his extensive experience advising on a range of matters, including M&A, corporate governance concerns and compliance issues. He draws on deep experience when acting for clients in a variety of sectors, such as aviation and energy. **Robert Melgaard** is held in high regard for his wide-ranging corporate practice, which includes advising on capital markets transactions, corporate governance and securities matters. He regularly acts for clients from the energy and manufacturing sectors, among others. **Strengths:** *“Rob is an outstanding lawyer – everyone knows that. He enjoys a really good reputation in the state and has served the Bar for a long time.”* **Ryan Sacra’s** practice covers securities matters, M&A and corporate governance issues. He regularly represents clients in the energy, technology and manufacturing sectors and is noted in the market for his depth of experience in oil and gas-related acquisitions. **Strengths:** *“Ryan is very practical and knowledgeable, as well as a good advocate.”* **Christopher Wilson** is chair of Connor & Winters’ corporate and securities group. He boasts recent experience advising on corporate restructurings and private equity transactions.

Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation

What the team is known for Crowe & Dunlevy has a full corporate and commercial offering with notable expertise in the representation of finan-

cial institutions, the handling of securities transactions and the management of M&A deals in the oil and gas sector. The law firm also acts extensively on healthcare-related transactions and is continuing to develop its niche expertise in the aviation and commercial transportation sectors. The team acts for clients on a range of capital raising activities including note offerings, as well as advising on credit facilities and refinancings. It represents both state and national banks as part of its notable client base.

Strengths

“The firm get to know your industry and provide excellent service at a really, really good rate. They’re very responsive and we’re very happy.”

“The firm consistently handles any challenge we give them and is well staffed in all areas that matter to us.”

“They’re an outstanding firm in Oklahoma, one of the oldest and largest in the business. They’re very competent in complex matters and you know you’re in good hands.”

Work highlights Crowe & Dunlevy advised TD Williamson in relation to restructuring, including entity conversion, replacement of existing credit facility, settlement of shareholder litigation and significant private equity investment.

Notable practitioners

Roger Stong has a plethora of experience in corporate matters, including M&A, joint venture transactions and securities law compliance. He also offers notable expertise in bankruptcy-related issues. **Strengths:** *“Roger is the best commercial lawyer in Oklahoma.”* *“He’s just a pleasure to work with.”* **James Larimore** handles a wide range of corporate matters, including M&A, capital raisings and joint venture transactions. He regularly acts for a broad range of corporates, including clients in the energy, construction and real estate sectors. **Strengths:** *“James is affable and easy to work with. He’s a good guy with very helpful legal knowledge.”*

GableGotwals

What the team is known for GableGotwals has a full-service offering covering M&A and securities transactions, financings and both transactional and contentious healthcare and tax-related mandates. The law firm is regularly sought out for its advice on a wide range of matters, including the

sale and purchase of sizable assets, debt fundraising, strategic recapitalizations and private placements. The team frequently acts for Oklahoma's leading oil and gas companies.

Strengths

"The firm has excellent attention to detail and thoughtfulness."

"We are very pleased with them. They're willing to get the job done and make it enjoyable to work with them."

"They have met all of our needs and are always on time."

Work highlights GableGotwals represented Magellan Midstream Partners in connection with its \$435 million sale of an independent terminals network consisting of 26 refined petroleum products terminals.

Notable practitioners

Jeffrey Hassell is well versed in a wide range of corporate and finance matters, including M&A, the formation of joint ventures and corporate governance. He offers significant experience advising financial institutions and banks as lenders. **Strengths:** *"He's a good lawyer who does excellent work."* **Stephen Lake** is recognized for his corporate practice, which includes advising clients on sales, M&A and securities matters. He regularly advises clients in the oil and gas sector. **Strengths:** *"Stephen is a very good lawyer – smart and sharp."* **Jason Coutant** is highlighted for his substantial expertise in complex securities matters, including regulation and compliance issues. He also advises on real estate-related transactions. **Strengths:** *"He is a really strong lawyer, with a really good grasp on what is important in a transaction. He's well versed in banking and corporate law."* *"Jason is a wonderful attorney."* **Thomas Hutchison** advises on a mix of M&A deals and corporate finance matters, acting for both banks and borrowers. **Strengths:** *"Thomas handles commercial opportunities very well."*

McAfee & Taft

What the team is known for McAfee & Taft have a substantial bench that is well equipped to handle the full range of practice area services for Oklahoma's foremost corporates and organizations, including key energy companies, financial services providers and medical institutions. The law firm is also known for its large and sophisticated healthcare and taxation groups and ability to handle structurally or technologically complex issues in those spheres. The team offers experience of making use of various forms of tax credits and other government incentive programs. It also offers specialist knowledge of the antitrust components of M&A in healthcare transactions.

Strengths

"They have the best lawyers in the state – responsive and cordial."

"They are very competent in all matters, and they

have an incredible work ethic and commitment to excellence."

"The team have great business judgment. They get to know your organisation and your culture and do an excellent job interacting with members on your team at all levels."

Work highlights McAfee & Taft represented Gemini Industries in its approximately \$15 million acquisition of all the assets of Lenmar Wood Finishes & Coatings, a brand of fine wood finishes, from Benjamin Moore, North America's leading paint, color and coatings company.

Notable practitioners

Chris Coleman is highly regarded for his handling of complex corporate transactions, including M&A, financings and securities offerings.

Strengths: *"He is very gifted and talented, and has been in a broad swath of industries."*

Joshua Smith focuses his practice on transactional work, including mergers, acquisitions and financings. His broad clientele includes healthcare and medical device companies, professional sports organizations and teams, as well as aerospace companies. **Strengths:** *"Josh is very talented and experienced in corporate matters. He is very responsive and makes sure to involve others as needed, especially to help manage costs and workloads."*

"He's one of the best deal lawyers in Oklahoma by a significant margin. Jason has excellent experience, demeanor and legal knowledge." *"He understands the crux of what the material matters are, knows when to negotiate and when to listen. He has the unique ability to know when to respond."*

Danae Grace is recognized as an up-and-coming figure in the market who frequently assists clients with substantial corporate transactions. She operates in a wide range of industries, including manufacturing and retail. **Strengths:** *"Danae is extremely bright, driven and talented. Her work is always top-notch. She has wonderful attention to detail and is extremely responsive."* *"She is truly outstanding. Her commitment to service is beyond expectations."* *"She has a different approach, a female approach that commands respect without demanding it, which helps achieve the client's goals."*

Band 2

Hartzog Conger Cason LLP

What the team is known for Hartzog Conger Cason is a respected Oklahoma City boutique, offering local businesses in particular the full range of corporate transactional and organizational services, including assistance with M&A and private placement securities offerings. The law firm is well reputed for its expertise in taxation matters, boasting a tax credit incentive advisory capability which transcends state boundaries.

Strengths

"The firm has the ability to help with the simple as

well as the complex business transactions, and the service levels are exceptional."

"They are well recognized as having a number of outstanding attorneys. This firm and their partners are very hands-on and responsive."

Notable practitioners

John Robertson is a key contact for clients.

Band 3

Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson, PC

What the team is known for Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson boasts a large and widely experienced practice, drawing on the full resources of the firm to deal with transactions for a regional, national and international clientele. The law firm acts extensively for players in the oil and gas space, and offers clients deep expertise in refinancing issues and M&A transactions.

Strengths

"They are our go-to firm. Hall Estill is always available, regardless of the time of day, and you can't beat the rates."

Notable practitioners

Betsy Jackson handles a range of transactions and capital raisings, regularly advising target entities in M&A matters, as well as equity investors. **Strengths:** *"I can never say enough about Betsy Jackson. I depend on her guidance."* *"She is a very, very hard worker, is skilled and has a great reputation."* **Stephen Ray** comes recommended for his expertise in corporate governance and compliance matters. He also advises clients on acquisitions and IPOs. **Strengths:** *"He is a wonderfully nice guy and takes a practical approach."* *"He has worked really hard and has a really good reputation as a strong corporate generalist lawyer."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Wayne Cooper of Doerner, Saunders, Daniel & Anderson focuses his practice on the representation of clients in acquisitions and sales, as well as assisting with public and private offerings. His varied client base includes corporations in the oil and gas, construction and energy sectors.

Strengths:

"Wayne is very senior and enjoys a really good reputation as a good corporate lawyer."

Gary Derrick of Derrick & Briggs remains a strong choice for clients seeking counsel on complex transactional matters, including M&A and debt financings.

Strengths:

"Gary is able, gifted, and very, very knowledgeable about corporate and securities law."

Energy & Natural Resources

Energy & Natural Resources	
Leading Firms	
Band 1	
Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation	
GableGotwals	
Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson, PC	
McAfee & Taft	
Senior Statespeople	
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	
Hardwick James C T Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden	
Hayes J Kevin Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden	
Smith Michael E Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden	
Leading Individuals	
Band 1	
Bomhoff Timothy J McAfee & Taft	
Griffin Jr John J Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional	
Walker L Mark Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional	
Band 2	
Banner Mark Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden	
Brown L Vance Elias, Books, Brown & Nelson (ORL) ◇	
Lees C Ray Porter Hedges LLP (ORL) ◇	
Ragsdale Terry D GableGotwals	
Redwine R Kevin Conner & Winters, LLP (ORL) ◇	
Band 3	
Brown Travis Mahaffey & Gore (ORL) ◇	
Cottingham Dale E GableGotwals	
Robertson Rob F. GableGotwals	
Woolery Todd McAfee & Taft	
Up-and-coming individuals	
Stein Patrick L. McAfee & Taft	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

Band 1

Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation

What the team is known for Crowe & Dunlevy is highly reputed for its handling of key litigation mandates, including royalty payment, title and fracking-related disputes for energy sector clients, as well as bankruptcy-related disputes. The law firm also provides extensive transactional support, particularly on wind farm and other electricity transmission projects. The team is equipped to advise on joint developments and other agreements and attracts an impressive roster of national and global energy companies, advising on Oklahoma-based mandates and those further afield.

Strengths

"They're recognized as one of the leading oil and gas firms and have very good gas lawyers."

"The team is smart, detail-oriented and can break down complex material. I was very impressed with their trial skills."

Work highlights Crowe & Dunlevy represented Diamondback in a putative royalty underpayment class action which was brought by Cook Children's Health Foundation, involving all of Diamondback's wells in the state of Texas.

Notable practitioners

John Griffin is widely recognized for his experience across a range of energy disputes, including regulatory proceedings and large-scale class

actions. He is particularly noted for his oil and gas capabilities. **Strengths:** *"He is a great lawyer with excellent experience and someone who really knows a lot about oil and gas law. He's also a good general litigator."* **Mark Walker** is particularly noted for his strength in disputes involving energy and environmental issues, while also acting on a range of industry transactions. **Strengths:** *"Mark is experienced, knowledgeable about oil and gas, and very well known and respected."* *"Mark can take complicated matters and put them into easy to understand terms."*

GableGotwals

What the team is known for GableGotwals draws on over 60 years' experience in the handling of oil and gas-related issues, not only in Oklahoma, but also in Texas and Kansas, providing both litigation services and specialist support on transactions. The law firm also offers niche expertise concerning title examinations, royalty disputes and regulatory compliance issues, particularly those involving fracking operations or matters considered by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

Strengths

"We love them, they are our go-to firm. We try to use them as much as we can as they are great lawyers who know our business well and are good at what they do."

"They're a well-established firm with a great energy group. They are experienced lawyers who know their stuff."

"The firm has good teamwork and collaboration. They did a fantastic job of helping us with their approach to arguments and met the budgets. I wouldn't hesitate to use them again."

Work highlights GableGotwals represented Magellan Pipeline Company as counsel in a pipeline lease dispute with Highland Pipeline Leasing and its parent, Spectra Energy Partners.

Notable practitioners

Terry Ragsdale comes recommended for his longstanding energy industry expertise, often advising utilities and oil and gas producers. His strength in class actions and single-plaintiff suits is complemented by notable transactional experience. **Strengths:** *"Terry is very knowledgeable in oil and gas."* **Dale Cottingham** is known for his ability to handle complex energy and natural resources disputes, including earthquake litigation and gas-related concerns. This is bolstered by his expertise in environmental law and his in-depth understanding of groundwater pollution.

Strengths: *"Dale is a longtime oil and gas lawyer who is very well respected."* **Rob Robertson** is an experienced litigator who brings significant trial strength to his representation of energy companies. His practice includes handling administrative mandates such as ratemaking cases. **Strengths:** *"Rob is experienced, smart, able and a very good guy. He's also a pleasure to work with."*

Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson, PC

What the team is known for Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson boasts a large practice with a longstanding reputation for representing energy industry clients in contentious and transactional matters, the former increasingly including class actions, as well as royalty disputes and environmental issues. The team also advises extensively on alternative energy and utility regulatory mandates, and is noted for its representation of companies in the midstream oil and gas sector. The practice makes use of experts across the firm to offer a full service to energy sector clients.

Strengths

"They are experts at the regulatory framework of Oklahoma and their knowledge has been very helpful. We are very satisfied with the value."

"The strength of the team is writing and making practical arguments before a judge."

Notable practitioners

James Hardwick is highly respected by peers for his sophisticated oil and gas practice, which benefits from a significant depth of industry experience. He provides counsel on regulatory matters and disputes, as well as issues affecting transactions. **Kevin Hayes** is a well-regarded litigator whose impressive civil disputes practice includes notable strength in class actions arising from the energy industry. He draws on broader strength in commercial litigation and telecommunications matters. **Strengths:** *"Kevin Hayes understands the Oklahoma market very well. He's a very well-connected person and very pragmatic. He will think through the bottom line to find a solution for the client."* **Michael Smith** is a longstanding practitioner in the energy industry, as well as an experienced environmental attorney. He acts on a range of courtroom disputes, as well as drawing praise for his expert work as a mediator. **Mark Banner's** practice is centered on oil and gas litigation. His impressive caseload includes contract disputes and torts, as well as handling real estate-related issues such as land use concerns and leases. **Strengths:** *"He knows everything to do with Oklahoma oil and gas law. He is the guy there, he knows it very well and achieves exceptional results."* *"He is strong in his practical approach in providing legal solutions and is commercially aware."*

McAfee & Taft

What the team is known for McAfee & Taft is well equipped to handle the largest of transactional or contentious mandates for leading regional and national players in the oil and gas and other energy industries. The law firm is frequently involved in royalty and underpayment cases, as well as late payment interest class actions. The team is particularly noted for handling the fullest range of energy litigation issues, including an increasing number of seismicity-related cases, and for representing clients in the upstream, midstream and downstream spaces. The team is also equipped to handle multistate projects such as pipeline constructions.

Strengths

"This is a full-service firm, with the highest quality across all areas."

"The attorneys have a personal touch by being accessible and responsive every time I have a request."

"My experience with them has been excellent, their responsiveness is first-rate, technical knowledge a plus, and they anticipate clients' needs well. They are leaders in the energy space in Oklahoma."

Work highlights McAfee & Taft represented Mewbourne Oil Company in defense of a claim that the company had been systematically failing to pay interest allegedly required by the Oklahoma Production Revenue Standards Act on payments of oil and gas proceeds that were allegedly not paid within the time required by that act.

Notable practitioners

Timothy Bomhoff is a fine choice of counsel for wide-ranging oil and gas mandates, while offering particular expertise in earthquake litigation.

Strengths: "Tim is a pleasure to work with. He always offers great advice and is a good 'outside the box' thinker." "Tim is very responsive and his level of

experience in Oklahoma is fantastic to help resolve issues." "He is thoughtful, dedicated and knows the courts and judges very well - he's a seasoned veteran with excellent vision." **Todd Woolery** is head of the McAfee & Taft energy and natural resources team and advises oil and gas clients on a range of class action and mass tort claims. He is additionally experienced with seismicity-related disputes. **Patrick Stein** is recognized as an up-and-coming lawyer with notable experience acting for clients on contentious matters in the oil and gas space. He counts large energy and resources companies amongst his clientele. **Strengths:** "Patrick Stein is highly responsive and an expert in the energy and complex litigation space - he's pleasant and enjoyable to work with."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Vance Brown of Elias, Books, Brown & Nelson focuses primarily on acting for oil and gas clients on a variety of contentious matters.

Strengths:

"Vance is very capable and has very good expertise in oil law, property and gas."

"He is so well thought of, has lots of experience and has proven very knowledgeable in significant cases."

Travis Brown of Mahaffey & Gore is focused on oil and gas disputes, with additional experience advising on environmental issues and general commercial disputes.

Strengths:

"I have a high regard for him. He's a good lawyer and is razor-sharp."

Ray Lees of Porter Hedges is held in high esteem for his longstanding oil and gas practice. He is well versed in wide-ranging transactions arising from the industry, including joint ventures and acquisitions.

Strengths:

"Ray is well regarded and recognized as one of very best at what he does."

Kevin Redwine of Conner & Winters acts on a range of transactions arising from the oil and gas industry, including financings, acquisitions and private equity deals.

Environment

Environment
Leading Firms
Band 1
Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation
GableGotwals
McAfee & Taft
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Burnett LeAnne Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional
Crook Martin Linda Doerner, Saunders, Daniel (ORL) ◇
Joyce Robert McAfee & Taft
Landreth Lloyd GableGotwals
Shandy Donald Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional
Ternes Mary Ellen Earth & Water Law, LLC (ORL) ◇
Band 2
Hardberger Derek McAfee & Taft
Keele Garry McAfee & Taft
Walker L. Mark Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation

What the team is known for Crowe & Dunlevy is highly reputed for its handling of environmental litigation mandates, including administrative proceedings, CERCLA disputes and citizen suits. The law firm also provides extensive transactional support and advises comprehensively on environmental permitting and compliance requirements,

offering expert advice on air and water quality regulations. The team also has notable experience in wind farms.

Strengths

"The attorneys and support staff do a good job of putting themselves in the client's shoes, are well versed to handle complicated matters and do it with the utmost professionalism."

"They're absolutely tremendous; they can explain technical information in layman's terms and the value is great - we couldn't be more happy. I would recommend them to anybody."

"Crowe & Dunlevy have top-notch legal expertise, as well as practical knowledge of manufacturing, creative problem solving and skillful communications."

Work highlights Crowe & Dunlevy represented poultry house owners and operators in an appeal challenging the issuance of water permits needed to operate the houses.

Notable practitioners

LeAnne Burnett is an impressive environmental expert whose contentious practice is complemented by wider experience in regulatory compliance. She also advises on issues arising from transactions such as financings. **Strengths:** "LeAnne is very personable and has good written and verbal communication. She makes an effort to understand and answer questions." **Donald Shandy** is renowned for his handling of regulatory environmental and energy issues arising from a range of complex projects. He is particularly noted for his handling of administrative proceedings

involving bodies such as the EPA. **Strengths:**

"Don Shandy's service is second to none. He negotiates and listens very well." "Don is as good as it gets on air, EPA and emissions topics. He's my first call when these types of issues arise." "Don is very personable and helpful for his clients. He knows how to take and synthesize information into bite-size chunks." **Mark Walker** is an experienced trial lawyer who heads the Crowe & Dunlevy environmental practice and regularly acts for clients on big-ticket proceedings before bodies such as the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, drawing on notable strength in both environmental and energy regulation. **Strengths:** "Mark is a great attorney. He's very smart, detail-oriented, well organized and can give answers on the spot."

GableGotwals

What the team is known for GableGotwals offers a well-regarded regional practice with strength in both contentious and noncontentious environment matters. The law firm acts for a broad client base in proceedings involving the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, as well as defending against class actions. The team's experience includes advising on regulatory issues stemming from a range of corporate transactions.

Strengths

"GableGotwals is a very well-respected, wonderful firm with superior talent."

Notable practitioners

Lloyd Landreth's environmental practice includes federal and state litigation such as CERCLA

actions, as well as regulatory proceedings. His broad client base includes waste disposal companies and utilities. **Strengths:** *“Lloyd is an extraordinary talent; he has a really nice bedside manner.”*

McAfee & Taft

What the team is known for McAfee & Taft boasts an impressive bench of regulatory environmental experts able to draw on previous agency experience. The law firm’s broad regional and national client base includes a number of wind farm developers. The team regularly acts on disputes involving claims of pollution and other environmental damages, as well as advising on the regulatory elements of transactions and conducting environmental audits.

Notable practitioners

Robert Joyce is a market-leading attorney in environmental law. His impressive practice includes advising on enforcement proceedings, regulatory compliance and toxic tort litigation. **Strengths:** *“He has high technical knowledge and is a consummate professional with broad experience. He’s*

extraordinarily talented when it comes to waste issues.” **Derek Hardberger** offers clients more than two decades’ experience in environmental law, drawing on his time with the US Environmental Protection Agency. He handles environmental audits, as well as advising on waste remediation and the renovation of waste treatment facilities. **Garry Keele** is a highly sought-after attorney whose practice includes environmental due diligence, issues arising from corporate transactions and disputes such as enforcement proceedings. He also advises clients on internal audits and regulatory matters.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Linda Crook Martin of Doerner, Saunders, Daniel & Anderson is a highly skilled attorney who advises on a range of environmental matters, including cross-border mandates involving issues such as groundwater contamination and hazardous waste. She is held in high regard for her

longstanding experience in regulatory compliance, disputes and transactions.

Strengths:

“Her skill set is very, very good. She is a formidable advisory and a cut above rest of the state in terms of environmental lawyers.”

Mary Ellen Ternes of Earth & Water Law is renowned for her expert handling of environmental matters, which is complemented by her former chemical engineering experience. She draws on notable regulatory strength in areas such as air quality when advising on both disputes and transactions.

Strengths:

“Mary Ellen is always very prompt in her response to questions, provides details and has the ability to see and resolve potential issues.”

“Mary Ellen Ternes is a recognized national expert in this field, with the highest level of sophistication and commercial awareness.”

Healthcare

Healthcare
Leading Firms
Band 1
Conner & Winters, LLP
Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation
McAfee & Taft
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Joseph Michael E. McAfee & Taft
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Brennan Elise Conner & Winters, LLP
Dalton Elizabeth L. McAfee & Taft
Rieger Karen Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation
Rogers Patricia A. McAfee & Taft
Band 2
Burkett Teresa M. Conner & Winters, LLP
Gordon Kevin D. Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation
Loomis Cori H. Christensen Law Group, P.L.L.C. (ORL) ◇
Band 3
Parten Terra Lord McAfee & Taft
Ramzel Russell C. Conner & Winters, LLP
Velandia Hilary Conner & Winters, LLP
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Conner & Winters, LLP

What the team is known for Conner & Winters boasts a substantial team offering clients informed and specialist advice, drawing on experience gained by several team members having

worked in healthcare settings. The law firm regularly acts for a range of hospitals, insurers, physician groups and care facilities before federal and state regulators, as well as on a range of transactions.

Strengths

“Their team is exceptional and the service levels are great.”

“They’re open to questions in a collaborative manner and very cognizant of expense management and the value of their services to the client.”

“The firm is always very responsive; we are very satisfied.”

Work highlights Conner & Winters provided advice and contracting in the development of a new venture, Oklahoma CommunityPartners Health Plan, to contract with the Oklahoma Health Care Authority for Medicaid Managed Care.

Notable practitioners

Elise Brennan is head of the Conner & Winters healthcare practice and is renowned for her impressive healthcare expertise. She advises health systems and pharmaceutical companies on a broad range of matters, including M&A and compliance issues. **Strengths:** *“Elise is an exceptional lawyer who helped achieve an outcome which far exceeded my expectations.”* *“Her breadth and scope of knowledge is very beneficial. She is nationally known as amazing.”* *“Elise is not only highly competent but a pleasure to work with.”* **Teresa Burkett** offers broad experience in healthcare matters, including compliance issues, litigation and Medicare reimbursement. Her clients range from healthcare providers and phar-

maceutical companies to individual professionals.

Strengths: *“Teresa is a strong healthcare attorney who is very knowledgeable with extensive experience.”* **Russell Ramzel** is well regarded for handling a range of healthcare mandates, including regulatory advice and transactions.

Strengths:

“Russell is very impressive and does a tremendous job on deals.” **Hilary Velandia** focuses her practice on healthcare law, regularly assisting clients with the full range of matters, including transactions, regulatory issues and litigation. She acts for a variety of clients, such as hospitals, long-term care facilities and companies in the pharmaceutical sector.

Strengths: *“Her expertise has been very nice and makes the process easy – we can get good information from her.”*

Strengths: *“Her expertise has been very nice and makes the process easy – we can get good information from her.”*

Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation

What the team is known for Crowe & Dunlevy offers a dedicated practice group with a deep well of experience acting for hospitals, individual physicians and physician groups, as well as smaller clinics and healthcare providers. The law firm regularly advises on transactions involving physicians’ practices and healthcare properties. The team also handles compliance and policy advice, including compliance audits and insurance disputes.

Strengths

“The team does an excellent job. We are satisfied with the value for the money.”

“They are prompt and professional, and can handle complex matters. Crowe & Dunlevy is an extremely

knowledgeable and professional healthcare law firm.”

Work highlights Crowe & Dunlevy represented Norman Regional Hospital Authority regarding its investment in a new joint venture with Oceans Healthcare to establish a new 48-bed inpatient psychiatric hospital on the current NRHS campus in Norman, Oklahoma.

Notable practitioners

Karen Rieger is co-head of the Crowe & Dunlevy healthcare practice and a market-leading expert who advises clients on a wide range of matters, including HIPAA compliance and Medicare reimbursement, as well as acquisitions and the creation of joint ventures. **Strengths:** “Karen’s knowledge base is so deep and wide. She is one of the top healthcare attorneys in the state and is an excellent person as well.” “I consider Karen to be an expert in healthcare law.” **Kevin Gordon** brings deep experience in handling a range of healthcare disputes as the former chair of Crowe & Dunlevy’s litigation practice group. Of late, he has advised on significant healthcare class action litigation.

McAfee & Taft

What the team is known for McAfee & Taft has a sizable practice spanning the full range of transactional and contentious healthcare work. The law firm advises on a broad array of transactions, as well as joint ventures and partnerships. The team also regularly offers compliance advice, including in relation to pharmaceutical regulations, physi-

cian referral laws and anti-kickback matters, as well as on marijuana issues. The team additionally advises healthcare clients on reorganizations and tax and governance matters.

Strengths

“McAfee & Taft have some of the best attorneys in healthcare and have always gone beyond what would be expected in service.”

“The firm has significant bench strength of attorneys with a variety of expertise.”

“They are a preeminent resource and are incredibly responsive. They bend over backward to assist us. The best firm in terms of experience, liability, negotiating and customer service.”

Work highlights McAfee & Taft advised OU Medicine on restructuring its medical staff bylaws to incorporate approximately 600 new physicians formerly employed by the affiliated university and to align the bylaws with the new medical staff leadership structure.

Notable practitioners

Michael Joseph remains a strong choice for healthcare clients seeking advice on transactional matters. **Elizabeth Dalton** is recognized for her vast experience in healthcare matters, including regulatory proceedings and transactional work. She also leads the firm’s medical marijuana industry group. **Patricia Rogers** is well regarded for her significant experience in healthcare matters, including regulatory issues and transactional work. She is noted for her expertise in HIPAA compliance. **Strengths:** “Patricia Rogers

is one of the best healthcare attorneys in Oklahoma. She goes the extra mile in providing her clients with the best service.” “She is a very experienced resource, efficient in her work and has a wealth of expertise she can apply for clients.” “She is meticulous, smart and plugged into healthcare community. She’s an excellent lawyer who can analyze a situation quickly and accurately.” **Terra Lord Parten** is head of the McAfee & Taft healthcare group, and her work spans the full spectrum of healthcare legal matters, including transactions, HIPAA compliance, anti-kickback issues, staffing and employee matters and the implementation of new technologies. **Strengths:** “Terra is a savior. She is always there for us, providing us with sound guidance, alternatives and suggestions. She is someone I can count on.” “Terra is absolutely a trusted resource. She responds immediately with a measured, thoughtful approach, and seeks to understand the strategic priorities of our organization.”

Other Ranked Lawyers

Cori Loomis of Christensen Law Group is mainly focused on representing healthcare providers in the full spectrum of transactional and regulatory issues.

Strengths:

“She is very knowledgeable and specializes in physician work.”

Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property

Leading Firms

Band 1

Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation

Dunlap Codding

McAfee & Taft

Band 2

GableGotwals

Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson, PC

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation

What the team is known for Crowe & Dunlevy has a full-service practice, catering to the transactional and contentious IP requirements of a regional and national clientele, notably including several leading players in the oil and gas sector. Highly experienced in the licensing and audit of IT assets and, with the support of an international network of partner firms, the management of global patent and trademark portfolios. Also known for its litigation capability, and currently

expanding its ability to handle hi-tech IP issues from the Tulsa office, while also drawing additional support from its Dallas presence. Acts for a broad range of clients, including academic institutions, brewing companies and energy companies.

Strengths

“From top to bottom the team are very fluent and professional, and are very up to date on commercial matters in the field. They maintain a very value forward program.”

“Their expertise is outstanding. They provide routine strategic advice, think outside the box and their communication is great. As far as their craft goes, they’re the best.”

“They provide excellent service and are very responsive. We’re really happy.”

Work highlights Crowe & Dunlevy represented EnergySource Minerals in connection with two Federal Circuit appeals of IPR challenges of patents directed to treated geothermal brine compositions and with related IRP challenges of patents directed to recovery of lithium, manganese, and zinc from geothermal brines.

Notable practitioners

David Sullivan offers significant experience in IP

matters, including patent issues, licensing and trademark prosecution. He is noted for his particular expertise acting for clients in the energy and oil and gas sectors. **Strengths:** “David provides executive leadership and insight but also does the nitty-gritty day-to-day. He’s fantastic to work with.” “Mr. Sullivan is a consummate professional and very well versed in the IP field. He is willing to take calls and examine and discuss complex matters. He is a great team leader.” “He’s a pleasure to work with. He’s civil, professional and knows his stuff.” **Shawn Dellegar** is frequently sought after by clients in the energy and oil and gas sectors for assistance with patent prosecution. He is also experienced in handling IPR challenges.

Strengths: “Shawn does a really good job – he is not only very, very competent but also practical and solution-based.” **Tynia Watson** draws on her experience as an electrical engineer to offer clients informed advice on copyright and trademark lawsuits, in addition to a range of other IP disputes.

Strengths: “Tynia is very good at keeping clients in the loop and has really good work and research capabilities.” “She is well versed in the IP landscape and extremely resourceful and knowledgeable. We

Intellectual Property
Senior Statespeople & Eminent Practitioners
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Kenney John A McAfee & Taft
Rahhal Anthony McAfee & Taft
Watt Terry L Fellers, Snider, Blankenship, Bailey (ORL) ◇
Eminent Practitioners
Rouse Nicholas D Dunlap Codding
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Blue Rachel McAfee & Taft
Brockhaus Marc A Dunlap Codding
LaBrie Michael J McAfee & Taft
McCarthy Randall K Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden
Nelson Todd A GableGotwals
Sorocco Douglas J Dunlap Codding
Sullivan David Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional
Band 2
Brown Dennis D Brown Patent Law, PLLC (ORL) ◇
Campbell Emily Dunlap Codding
Dellegar Shawn Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional
Dougherty, III Clifford C McAfee & Taft
Free Jr Phillip L OKC IP Law (ORL) ◇
Smith Michael H Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden
Band 3
Harvey Derrick Harvey Law (ORL) ◇
Lea III James F. GableGotwals
Watson Tynia Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional
Woodral David G. GableGotwals
Up-and-coming individuals
John Bowman Jessica McAfee & Taft
Oubre Zachary McAfee & Taft
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

are grateful to have her.” “She is very intelligent and a pleasure to work with.”

Dunlap Codding

What the team is known for Dunlap Codding is a respected boutique with a global clientele, partnering with companies of all sizes to provide long-term strategic and holistic IP portfolio management. Particularly noted for its high level of patent prosecution activity and representation of clients seeking to protect IP assets in the healthcare, life sciences, engineering and entertainment sectors. Also active on licensing, trade secrets and rights of publicity issues.

Strengths

“I can’t speak highly enough of them. They give good, solid, legally sound, practical advice.” “They’re extremely responsive and client-oriented. They prioritize taking care of the client.” “They have a very high expertise level and the ability to bring a client in on a call, explain some of the nuances and navigate consultative conversations.”

Work highlights Dunlap Codding represented Quantum Imaging on a patent infringement case against Sony Group relating to the manufacture, usage, selling and importation of the PS4/5 video game consoles and the offering of games across the PlayStation Network.

Notable practitioners

Nicholas Rouse remains a leading IP practitioner with significant expertise in mechanical engineering matters. He also acts as Dunlap Codding’s

managing director. **Strengths:** “Mr. Rouse is very intelligent, sophisticated and ultimately delivers the service you need, without overly complicating any issues.” “He has developed an excellent reputation in IP and I have nothing but respect for him.” **Marc Brockhaus** handles both contentious and transactional matters, with a noted specialty in electrical engineering matters. **Strengths:** “Marc is easy to talk to, friendly and delivers advice in a practical manner.” “Marc provides excellent advice and service on a wide range of patent issues.” “He is very knowledgeable in technology and has high legal skills for patent prosecution.” Head of department **Douglas Sorocco** is respected for his IP practice, which includes patent prosecution and transactional matters. **Strengths:** “Douglas is a very good patent attorney, a great mentor for young lawyers and a great leader for the law firm.” “He doesn’t just follow the algorithm but looks for the best approach, in a very cost-efficient and commercial manner.” “He is incredibly smart and dedicated to the vision of the firm, its efforts on behalf of clients as well as its involvement in the community.” **Emily Campbell** has vast experience handling a wide variety of IP matters, including licensing issues and enforcement strategies. **Strengths:** “Emily is very helpful, knowledgeable, professional and quick to respond, and brings to our attention other matters or concerns that should be considered.” “She is a subject matter expert in her field as well as a visionary and executor for the firm’s client services, community outreach and internal employee relations efforts.” “She thinks outside of the box and isn’t afraid to consult others or be a part of a brainstorming session to find the best answer for a problem.”

McAfee & Taft

What the team is known for McAfee & Taft has a deep bench of experienced IP specialists representing a substantially blue-chip clientele from, among others, the chemical, financial, engineering, and oil and gas sectors. Able to draw on expertise from across the firm to provide a holistic service, including in relation to trade secret and misappropriation cases against former employees. Further noted for its excellent balance of transactional and contentious capabilities, and well equipped to support increased activity on foreign protection issues through ready access to leading IP practices worldwide.

Strengths

“McAfee has smart, top-tier attorneys.” “Their service level goes above and beyond. They’re extremely responsive and will get back to you in hours, not days.”

Work highlights McAfee & Taft acted for TriEnda Holdings in relation to a claim for patent infringement brought by a former officer and employee regarding the use of a process developed by the plaintiff.

Notable practitioners

John Kenney is renowned for his deep experience in IP litigation. He represents clients in state and federal trials as well as handling appeals and arbitrations. **Anthony Rahhal** offers wide-ranging experience in IP matters, including patent applications and prosecution. He also advises on trademark issues and is adept at handling cross-border

mandates. **Rachel Blue** is highly regarded in the market for her extensive experience in IP matters, with particular expertise in trademark issues. **Strengths:** “Rachel is really perceptive, gets directly to the point and is very responsive.” “She is very intelligent, knows her stuff and is a pleasure to work with.” **Michael LaBrie** focuses his practice on advising corporations on various patent issues. He also leads McAfee & Taft’s biotech industry group. **Strengths:** “He’s very seasoned, knowledgeable and very smart.” **Clifford Dougherty** maintains a broad IP practice, spanning transactional matters and litigation. He offers significant experience representing clients before the PTAB as well as in federal court. **Strengths:** “Clifford is very intelligent, knowledgeable, competent and cost-effective.” **Jessica Bowman** frequently advises on allegations of trademark and patent infringement. She regularly appears before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. **Zachary Oubre** is an increasingly prominent member of McAfee & Taft’s IP practice who is regularly sought out for his advice on copyright and patent infringement disputes. He is also co-head of the firm’s cybersecurity and data privacy group. **Strengths:** “Zac is top of his class – he’s intelligent and very knowledgeable.”

Band 2

GableGotwals

What the team is known for GableGotwals has a full-service IP practice offering both litigation and transactional services, including patent oppositions and trademark infringement disputes. Offices serve both the Oklahoma City and Tulsa markets. Able to draw support from the firm’s sophisticated energy and corporate commercial groups, complementing its strength in matters such as complex patent prosecutions. Acts on behalf of an impressively broad clientele on both a domestic and an international platform.

Strengths

“The firm is exceptional and has a lot of extremely talented and knowledgeable attorneys. They can deliver a high caliber of work in a timely fashion and are very cost-effective.”

Notable practitioners

Todd Nelson offers vast experience dealing with a variety of IP issues, including litigation and transactional work. He regularly acts for clients in TTAB proceedings, as well as representing them in patent and trademark disputes in federal courts. **Strengths:** “Todd is just a great individual – he’s an incredibly smart attorney who has a good business mind and is very practical and extremely responsive.” **James Lea** is a former mechanical engineer whose technical expertise informs his patent prosecution practice. He assists with the preparation, filing and prosecution of US and foreign patents and trademarks. **David Woodral** is co-head of GableGotwals’ IP department and frequently handles a range of patent prosecution mandates. **Strengths:** “We put a lot of trust in him – he is an incredibly experienced, gifted patent attorney and very effective at communicating and helping businesspeople understand complex situations.”

Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson, PC

What the team is known for Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson has a comprehensive offering, well equipped to handle both transactional and contentious mandates, with a notably high capability for the representation of clients from the IT, electronics and bioscience sectors. Regularly deals with prosecutions of patents for computer software, hardware and data storage systems. Draws on good relationships with international firms to service client needs on a global basis and is actively developing its offering to hi-tech startup companies operating both within and outside Oklahoma.

Strengths

“The team at Hall Estill work very well together while leaning on each other’s interoffice areas of expertise, and their service level is very good. They have always responded in a timely manner.”

“Our lead partner is outstanding, and his supporting team is consistently of very high quality. Hall Estill are extremely aware of the commercial element of their work.”

“They have handled all levels of work with satisfactory results and we have been very pleased with the cost of the work, especially considering the high quality.”

Work highlights Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson represented the University of Oklahoma in patent prosecution and portfolio management. The firm prepared and prosecuted US and international patent applications at the direction of the University of Oklahoma Intellectual Property Director in the area of biotechnology.

Notable practitioners

Randall McCarthy has a wealth of experience in the management of IP portfolios, licensing issues and patent prosecution. **Strengths:** *“Mr. McCarthy is one of the finest attorneys I have had the opportunity to work with in all my years of business experience.”* *“He is seasoned, very intelligent, knows his stuff and is a good attorney.”* *“He’s a wonderful guy—he’s a good, collegial person to work with, who does hard work for his clients and is well versed in IP law. Everybody loves him.”* **Michael Smith** is recognized for being well versed in all areas of

trademark law, handling patent prosecution and assisting clients with ongoing trademark advice.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Dennis Brown of Brown Patent Law is well regarded for his capabilities in the IP space. He handles patent infringement claims as well as advising on transactional matters.

Phillip Free of OKC IP Law is noted in the market for his impressive IP litigation practice, which includes patent disputes and trademark cases. He also advises clients on portfolio management.

Derrick Harvey of Harvey Law offers an in-depth understanding of the full range of IP matters, which is complemented by his prior in-house experience. He advises on the IP aspects of M&A, as well as licensing issues.

Terry Watt of Fellers, Snider, Blankenship, Bailey & Tippens comes highly recommended for his skilled handling of IP matters. He is an experienced patent attorney and regularly acts for clients in the technology sector.

Labor & Employment

Labor & Employment
Leading Firms
Band 1
Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation
McAfee & Taft
Band 2
Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson, PC
Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.
Band 3
Fuller Tubb Bickford Warmington & Panach PLLC
GableGotwals
Hammons, Hurst & Associates
<small>* Indicates individual with profile.</small>
<small>◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.</small>
<small>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</small>

Band 1

Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation

What the team is known for Crowe & Dunlevy provides full coverage of employment law issues for employers, with key strengths in courtroom litigation and the representation of hospitals and other healthcare providers. Also handles administrative agency actions, immigration-related mandates and workers’ compensation issues. Increasingly sought out by clients from the wider region to handle cases in states such as Arkansas and Texas. Handles matters including discrimination, harassment and wrongful termination suits.

Strengths

“Their input always reflects recent battles in the trenches and breaking legal developments.”

“The team are always very responsive, knowledge-

Labor & Employment
Senior Statespeople & Eminent Practitioners
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Court Leonard Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional
Petrikon Ronald Petrikon Law (ORL) ◇
Eminent Practitioners
Lauderdale Michael F McAfee & Taft
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Broussard Steven Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden
Childers Adam W Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional
Band 2
Fulkerson Sam Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak *
Long Brandon P. McAfee & Taft
Plumb Charles S McAfee & Taft
Puckett Tony G McAfee & Taft
Snapp Randall J Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional
Tubb Jeremy Fuller Tubb Bickford Warmington & Panach
Turner Elaine R Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden
Turner W Kirk McAfee & Taft
Warmington Courtney K Fuller Tubb Bickford
Band 3
Albert Victor Porter Hedges LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Aspan Molly A. Practus, LLP (ORL) ◇
Bru Courtney McAfee & Taft
Hammons Mark Hammons, Hurst & Associates
Hurst Amber Hammons, Hurst & Associates
Thrutchley Chris GableGotwals
Whatley Nathan L McAfee & Taft

able and professional.”

“They’re high-character people: honest, straightforward, personable, intelligent, quick thinkers.”

Work highlights Crowe & Dunlevy represented Crest Discount Foods in an unfair labor prac-

tices complaint brought by an employee with the National Labor Relations Board, who alleged he was retaliated against for attempting to unionize workers at the grocery store chain. The team successfully defended all claims, which were dismissed by the NLRB.

Notable practitioners

Leonard Court’s distinguished reputation is a product of his formidable track record in employment defense matters, having regularly advised on a broad spectrum of highly complex employment litigation over the course of his career. He offers deep expertise in wage and hour issues, having testified on related issues before Congress. **Strengths:** *“Leonard is outstanding, special and one of the best.”* **Adam Childers** leads Crowe & Dunlevy’s labor and employment team and handles a broad range of employment disputes. He is held in particularly high esteem for his expertise in trade secret and noncompete matters. **Strengths:** *“He is very personable and has the ability to break down more complex matters.”* *“Adam has lot of years of experience, and is intelligent, well prepared, very professional and an all-around good attorney.”* **Randall Snapp** is a veteran labor and employment litigator with diverse experience across the spectrum of employment work.

McAfee & Taft

What the team is known for McAfee & Taft is a full-service firm noted for its bench strength and depth. Well equipped to provide comprehensive coverage of all labor and employment questions and offering particular depth of knowledge in employee benefits, ERISA and executive compen-

sation questions and union-related matters for a range of clients. Regularly active on wrongful termination disputes and trade secrets litigation. Also noted for coupling respected litigation skills with an emphasis on strategies to resolve disputes and for initiatives such as the JurisIQ online training service.

Strengths

“McAfee & Taft provide sound legal recommendations no matter the issue.”

“The team are knowledgeable, cordial and responsive – they’re simply the best in this area.”

“They are very proactive, progressive and keep clients informed. We have been so impressed by how responsive they are. They take time to think through issues and make sure they see the big picture.”

Work highlights McAfee & Taft acted for Team Next Level, doing business as Domino’s Pizza, in defense of a lawsuit whereby the plaintiff alleged that he had been terminated in retaliation for filing a claim for an on-the-job injury he suffered when he was carjacked and robbed at gunpoint while delivering a pizza.

Notable practitioners

Michael Lauderdale combines his role as McAfee & Taft’s managing director with an active labor and employment practice, with particular expertise in defending employers in litigation matters. **Brandon Long** is an acknowledged expert in employee benefits and executive compensation matters, with clients regularly turning to him to advise on retirement, health and welfare plans. He acts for both public sector entities and local and regional businesses. **Strengths:** *“Brandon is responsive and knowledgeable.” “He is just phenomenal. He knows his business, is really passionate about what he does and has a plethora of knowledge.” “Brandon understands our workplace culture. We can count on him to always provide sound legal advice.”* **Charles Plumb** is a highly respected and deeply experienced labor and employment attorney who excels in a broad array of contentious and noncontentious employment matters, including regulatory compliance, litigation, union negotiations and administrative proceedings. **Tony Puckett** is often called upon for his abilities in defending employers facing discrimination, wage and hour, and termination disputes, alongside additional expertise in administrative proceedings involving the EEOC, OSHA and NLRB. His clients include both private businesses and public sector organizations. **Kirk Turner** is particularly well versed in litigation, arbitration and administrative proceedings. He draws on over three decades of experience in this field to act for clients facing discrimination, wrongful discharge, health and safety, and wider civil rights matters. **Courtney Bru** offers solid strengths in advising clients on compliance and litigation prevention strategies, as well as representing clients in contentious matters. **Strengths:** *“Courtney is an outstanding, trusted attorney – she’s super intelligent and an excellent writer.”* **Nathan Whatley** is best known for his disputes practice and demonstrates significant skills in acting for employers in areas such as administrative proceedings, trade secrets litigation, and wage and hour matters.

Band 2

Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson, PC

What the team is known for Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson acts for employers on a regional basis from offices in three states, handling all labor and employment issues with an emphasis on providing the best defense against litigation through strategic policy design and assistance with compliance. Notably active on wage and hour and discrimination claim mandates and in tackling sexual harassment issues as well as Americans with Disabilities Act matters. Represents a range of clients including insurance, food and healthcare organizations.

Notable practitioners

Steven Broussard’s clients seek him out for his well-honed skills in employment disputes, including his significant expertise in defending employers against discrimination issues, wage and hour matters, and wrongful discharge claims. **Strengths:** *“I love working with Steven because I have been very impressed with his knowledge.”*

Elaine Turner lends her considerable experience in this sector to employers facing litigation and disputes heard before administrative bodies. **Strengths:** *“Elaine has an impressive background and is very knowledgeable.”*

Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.

What the team is known for Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart fields an esteemed Oklahoma branch of the nationwide labor and employment boutique. Provides sophisticated counsel on both contentious and noncontentious matters, fielding significant capabilities in litigation and arbitration. Specific expertise acting in jury trials for both local and regional employers from a variety of industries including the energy, utilities and healthcare markets.

Strengths

“Ogletree is a very good firm with great senior attorneys and impressive younger lawyers.”

Notable practitioners

Sam Fulkerson (see p.2711) draws from significant litigation experience to counsel employers facing a broad scope of employment disputes and administrative proceedings.

Band 3

Fuller Tubb Bickford Warmington & Panach PLLC

What the team is known for Fuller Tubb Bickford Warmington & Panach is an Oklahoma City-based firm known for advising on a host of labor law matters, including discrimination claims, wage and hour disputes, pension and salary negotiations, and workplace safety issues. The team is also equipped to advise on class action employment litigation.

Strengths

“The firm is outstanding because of its high-quality attorneys.”

“The firm produces excellent work.”

Notable practitioners

Jeremy Tubb is valued by clients for his experience in complex employment litigation and arbitration matters, where he offers expertise in areas such as wage and hour disputes, discrimination claims and workplace investigations. **Courtney Warmington** boasts significant strength in workplace investigations, advising on training programs and defending wage and hour claims. **Strengths:** *“Courtney is a superb trial attorney with a highly regarded mediation practice.” “She is very thorough, detailed, prompt and diligent.”*

GableGotwals

What the team is known for GableGotwals advises employers on a variety of employment law issues, including wrongful termination disputes, wage/hour law violations and a host of discrimination matters. Well equipped to handle employment arbitrations. Clientele spans the construction, food and beverage, oil and gas, and healthcare sectors.

Work highlights GableGotwals represented Magellan Midstream Partners in an FLSA case alleging Magellan denied overtime to the plaintiff and other similarly situated pipeline inspectors.

Notable practitioners

Chris Thrutchley is held in high regard by his clients for handling claims relating to allegations of wrongful termination, harassment and discrimination, unpaid overtime and a host of other contentious employment matters.

Hammons, Hurst & Associates

What the team is known for Hammons, Hurst & Associates boasts a highly regarded employment law practice that is widely recognized for its strength in acting for plaintiffs. The firm regularly acts for plaintiffs facing illegal discrimination, harassment, denial of employee benefits and retaliation, as well as represents employees in administrative hearings.

Strengths

“They are hands down the best attorneys for plaintiffs.”

“They are the most substantial employee firm and are very experienced at that, and very good at the work they do.”

Notable practitioners

Mark Hammons remains a popular choice for employees bringing discrimination, wage and hour, and wrongful discharge claims against businesses. **Strengths:** *“Mark has been killing it for 40 years on the plaintiffs side, in terms of his trial skills and activity.”* **Amber Hurst** enjoys a burgeoning reputation for her abilities in employee-side litigation matters. **Strengths:** *“Amber is a really good trial attorney who works very hard.” “She is very knowledgeable about employment law, and I’ve found her to be very practical about resolving cases. She is also very professional and an excellent negotiator.”*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Victor Albert (see p.2711) regularly defends employers against trade secrets, restrictive covenants and discrimination claims, as well as handling regulatory proceedings and advising on risk

mitigation.

Molly Aspan of Practus is regularly called on to defend employers in employment litigation and administrative proceedings. She also offers experience in regulatory advice, policy development and implementation, and investigations.

Ronald Petrikin of Petrikin Law is a Tulsa-based sole practitioner who is held in high esteem for his longstanding experience in the labor and employment field. He excels in traditional labor matters.

Litigation

Litigation: General Commercial	Litigation: General Commercial	Litigation: Mediators
Leading Firms	Senior Statespeople	Leading Individuals
Band 1	Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	Band 1
McAfee & Taft	Bryant David L. GableGotwals	Burrage Michael Whitten Burrage
Band 2	Meysers D Kent Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional	Corbyn George Corbyn Law Firm (ORL) ◇
Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation	Morse Judy Hamilton Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional	Geister III Charles E Hartzog Conger Cason LLP
GableGotwals	Muchmore Clyde A Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional	Hampton Joe M Hampton Barghols Pierce, PLLC (ORL) ◇
Hartzog Conger Cason LLP	Ryan Patrick M Ryan Whaley Coldiron Jantzen Peters	Martin Tim Durbin, Larimore & Bialick PC
Ryan Whaley Coldiron Jantzen Peters & Webber	Leading Individuals	
Whitten Burrage	Band 1	practices, offering comprehensive dispute resolution coverage, with key expertise in the energy, environmental, financial services and healthcare spheres. Further noted for its regional and international cross-jurisdictional reach and appellate capability. Offers experience handling contentious antitrust matters arising out of large-scale mergers. Significant capabilities in the area of intellectual property litigation, acting for a roster of multinational clients.
Band 3	Burrage Michael Whitten Burrage	Strengths
Baum Glass Jayne & Carwile	Cooper Mary Quinn McAfee & Taft	"They're my preferred firm because of the personable nature of the team."
Conner & Winters, LLP	Corbyn George Corbyn Law Firm (ORL) ◇	"The firm is good at breaking down complex issues, addresses issues quickly and responds promptly to emails and correspondence."
Durbin, Larimore & Bialick PC	Geister III Charles E Hartzog Conger Cason LLP	Work highlights Crowe & Dunlevy acted for Broce Ranch in defence of a shareholder lawsuit in which a minority shareholder sought to dissolve a corporation and sued the officers and other shareholders for breach of fiduciary duty due to alleged mismanagement and taking concerted action to harm his interest.
Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson, PC	Neville Drew McAfee & Taft	Notable practitioners
Kirk & Chaney	Whitten Reggie N Whitten Burrage	Kent Meyers has a broad commercial litigation practice, complemented by notable expertise in antitrust mandates, as well as arbitration proceedings. Judy Hamilton Morse is held in high regard for her extensive civil litigation practice, which includes significant trial experience. She continues to advise clients such as leading financial institutions on disputes, including those involving allegations of fraud. Clyde Muchmore maintains a strong reputation for his long-standing appellate practice, while also handling cases of first instance. He is a fine choice of counsel for disputes involving issues of constitutional law and First Amendment mandates, as well as acting on commercial litigation. Timila Rother chairs the firm's litigation department and is noted for her strong trial skills. She can handle an array of commercial disputes, but has particular strength on insurance matters. Strengths: "Timila is very thoughtful. She takes the time to respond and understand clients, is very professional and a pleasant person to work
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	Band 2	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	Bialick Mark Durbin, Larimore & Bialick PC	
	Carwile John J. Baum Glass Jayne & Carwile	
Band 1	Chaney James Kirk & Chaney	
McAfee & Taft	Donchin David Durbin, Larimore & Bialick PC	
What the team is known for McAfee & Taft fields a large, multitalented group equipped to advise on the management of large, complex disputes both within and outside Oklahoma. Versatile skill set includes specialized expertise in supporting the representation of clients from the medical and insurance sectors and the handling of product liability litigation and bad faith claims. Praised for its excellence in commercial defense matters and readiness to try cases. Well versed in providing representation for clients in the transportation market.	Farris Joseph R. Franden Woodard Farris (ORL) ◇	
	Kirk James Kirk & Chaney	
Strengths	McConnell-Corbyn Laura Hartzog Conger Cason LLP	
"They provide an excellent service and I'm satisfied with the value."	Rother Timila S. Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional	
"McAfee & Taft do an excellent job of grasping the depth and breadth of the issues, and the team are extremely responsive."	Tucker John H Rhodes, Hieronymus, Jones (ORL) ◇	
Work highlights McAfee & Taft defended Express Services along with its local franchise owners in a vicarious liability lawsuit in which the plaintiff alleged he suffered serious injuries when a temporary employee assaulted him at the workplace.	Webber Daniel Ryan Whaley Coldiron Jantzen Peters	
Notable practitioners	Whaley Phillip G Ryan Whaley Coldiron Jantzen Peters	
Mary Quinn Cooper is a go-to litigator for clients such as automotive companies facing large-scale product liability claims, offering notable experience in class actions. She is also well equipped to handle insurance-related disputes. Drew Neville is widely renowned for his leading civil and white-collar criminal defense litigation practice. William Leach is well regarded for his handling of personal injury claims and class action litigation. He often acts on behalf of insurers. Strengths: "William builds really good relationships with everyone involved."	White, Jr. Joe E. White & Weddle, PC. (ORL) ◇	
	Band 3	
	Bocock Joseph H Bocock Law PLLC (ORL) ◇	
	Fogleman Amelia GableGotwals	
	Gibbins Michael J Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional	
	Heatly John B Fellers, Snider, Blankenship, Bailey (ORL) ◇	
	Leach William S McAfee & Taft	
	Love Richard Conner & Winters, LLP	
	Luthey Dean GableGotwals	
	McCampbell Robert G GableGotwals	
	Nelon Robert D Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden	
	Stewart Leasa GableGotwals	
	Thompson John M Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional	
	Band 2	
	Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation	
	What the team is known for Crowe & Dunlevy is one of Oklahoma's oldest and largest litigation	

with.” *“She is client service-driven and possesses a high level of sophistication.”* **Michael Gibbens** is particularly experienced in disputes arising from the energy industry, while also offering notable strength in areas such as employment litigation, environmental law and securities disputes. **John Thompson** is a respected commercial litigator who is frequently retained on disputes involving complex financial products, drawing on previous experience in accounting.

GableGotwals

What the team is known for GableGotwals is a full-service dispute resolution offering, including the handling of appellate cases to US Supreme Court level, arbitration and mediation. Acts for Oklahoma-based clients across the country and national companies with Oklahoma interests. Maintains key strengths in oil and gas royalty and class action, construction, financial services and product liability issues. Further noted for its electronic discovery expertise.

Strengths

“We love them, they are our go-to firm, as they are great lawyers who know our business well and are good at what they do.”

“They have good teamwork and collaboration – we wouldn’t hesitate to use them again. They did a fantastic job of helping us.”

“One strength is their approach to arguments – they come up with spot-on, great questions and meet the budgets.”

Work highlights GableGotwals defended Premier Global Corporation in an investigation and lawsuit by the Oklahoma Department of Securities, concerning allegations that it had not produced documents necessary for its investigation into the statements of Premier in its private placement memoranda.

Notable practitioners

David Bryant is well versed in a range of commercial disputes, as well as handling antitrust, insurance and malpractice claims. **Amelia Fogleman** is a well-regarded lawyer in Oklahoma who is noted for her practice acting on commercial litigation cases as well as her appellate work. Her clientele includes publicly traded companies as well as privately held businesses. **Strengths:** *“Amelia just has a really nice way of making it feel like a team. She is also an excellent writer, who does a terrific job, and has a calm presence.”* **Dean Luthy** is a fine choice of litigator for Native American tribes and gaming manufacturers, offering impressive experience in state and federal proceedings.

Robert McCampbell is a go-to for commercial litigation and administrative actions. He also offers deep experience in white-collar crime, drawing on his time as a US Attorney. **Leasa Stewart** is a noted litigator in the Oklahoma Bar, known for her representation of insurers. **Strengths:** *“Leasa can get up to speed very quickly and put clients in the best position they could be in.”*

Hartzog Conger Cason LLP

What the team is known for Hartzog Conger Cason has a respected Oklahoma business-focused practice with key offerings in the oil and gas, antitrust, insurance, securities and tax controversy spheres. Also active on appellate man-

dates and in the representation of high net worth individuals in family and trust-related disputes.

Strengths

“The firm has a pretty wide team and deep bench available any time you need them. They’re also very clear, thorough, accessible, and always achieve a good outcome.”

“They are highly competent and knowledgeable – capable of understanding the client’s individual business and providing counsel. The senior partners are excellent.”

“I am very impressed with the team with whom I worked at Hartzog as they were both very diligent and responsive to questions.”

Work highlights Hartzog Conger Cason represented Raytheon Company in appealing the rejection of a tax refund by the the Oklahoma Supreme Court. Ultimately it was reversed, finding the taxpayer punctually brought the claim for refund, having paid taxes to the Oklahoma Tax Commission upon filing its amended original return with a proper extension.

Notable practitioners

Charles Geister is held in high regard for his wide-ranging civil litigation practice, which includes notable strength in appellate work as well as ADR proceedings. **Strengths:** *“Charles is really good – he’s responsive, active in court, well respected and has a high level of specialty.”* **Laura McConnell-Corbyn** is an experienced trial lawyer whose commercial practice is complemented by additional strength in employment law and family disputes. **Strengths:** *“Laura is very level-headed and has vast experience.”* *“She is very clever and creative with an excellent reputation.”*

Ryan Whaley Coldiron Jantzen Peters & Webber

What the team is known for Ryan Whaley Coldiron Jantzen Peters & Webber has a boutique practice with an emphasis on the litigation of energy and environmental issues for local, regional and national clients. Also acts on a broad range of contentious issues, including insurance, personal injury and product liability disputes for a varied commercial and financial services clientele.

Notable practitioners

Patrick Ryan is noted for his long-standing trial practice, which sees him regularly appear in big-ticket state and federal disputes. He draws on previous prosecutorial experience when handling a range of civil and criminal cases. **Daniel Webber** is a highly regarded litigator who comes particularly recommended for his white-collar criminal defense practice. He also advises on civil disputes. **Phillip Whaley** has a broad civil practice including product liability mandates, insurance claims and commercial litigation. **Strengths:** *“Phillip is a really good lawyer; he’s very solid and talented.”*

Whitten Burrage

What the team is known for Whitten Burrage is a very good Oklahoma boutique which attracts recognition for its representation of plaintiffs in class action suits. Fields highly experienced litigators with extensive expertise in insurance tort and bad faith cases.

Notable practitioners

Michael Burrage represents clients in large-scale disputes such as product liability claims, as well as serving as a mediator in a range of mandates.

Strengths: *“Michael is great, he does a really good job at mediation.”* **Reggie Whitten** is particularly commended for his track record of success in big-ticket class actions, including those involving issues of product liability. **Strengths:** *“Reggie has a unique set of skills in representing plaintiffs.”*

Band 3

Baum Glass Jayne & Carwile

What the team is known for Baum Glass Jayne & Carwile is a Tulsa-based firm highlighted for its handling of commercial litigation. Particularly strong on insurance defense matters, while also able to handle employment, personal injury and medical malpractice disputes. Experienced in state and federal courts.

Strengths

“The firm has really, really strong litigators.”

Notable practitioners

John Carwile is a go-to for both litigation and arbitration proceedings arising from a range of civil disputes. **Strengths:** *“John is a very solid, dependable, hard-working guy.”*

Conner & Winters, LLP

What the team is known for Connor & Winters handles an impressive range of contentious matters for clients in the energy, insurance and transportation sectors. Strong group of litigators with experience in defending matters such as product liability claims, personal injury suits and discrimination actions. Also noted for its broad commercial litigation practice.

Notable practitioners

Richard Love is highlighted for his expert handling of both commercial disputes and government investigations into allegations such as healthcare fraud, as well as securities regulatory proceedings.

Durbin, Larimore & Bialick PC

What the team is known for Durbin, Larimore & Bialick fields a well-regarded team for advising on complex insurance disputes and a range of commercial litigation. Also handles personal injury claims and various claims for damages.

Notable practitioners

Tim Martin is recognized as a notable practitioner in Oklahoma, particularly praised for his work acting as a mediator. **Strengths:** *“Tim is very knowledgeable, diligent, and is an experienced trial lawyer. He commands a lot of respect among people and is very credible when mediating.”* **Mark Bialick’s** practice covers commercial disputes as well as matters involving insurance and mass tort claims. **David Donchin** maintains a broad civil trial practice which includes environmental litigation, insurance disputes and personal injury claims. **Strengths:** *“David is a very, very good lawyer – he’s solid and experienced.”*

Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson, PC

What the team is known for Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson has a broad bench with good regional and national connections, particularly noted for establishing excellent attorney-client relationships. Impressive industry sector coverage includes the regular handling of class action and royalty cases for energy companies and strengths in the areas of creditors' rights and trust-related disputes and fiduciary litigation. Also displays skills in handling medical malpractice cases and other healthcare-related disputes.

Strengths

"Hall can do a quick turnaround, has good relationships with the court."

Notable practitioners

Robert Nelson has a wealth of experience in First Amendment disputes that sees him act for both regional and national media companies in high-stakes courtroom proceedings. **Strengths:** "Robert is a very solid, senior guy, who has been around forever."

Kirk & Chaney

What the team is known for Kirk & Chaney is an Oklahoma City boutique with substantial commercial experience. Also able to advise high net worth individuals in divorces and on other family-related disputes. Complementary skills in mediation and arbitration.

Notable practitioners

James Chaney is particularly noted for his handling of disputes in the energy industry, which forms part of his broader civil disputes practice. He is a fine choice of counsel for both state and federal proceedings. **James Kirk** draws on significant trial experience in areas such as oil and gas litigation, insurance disputes and securities litigation. He is also a go-to litigator for family law mandates.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Joseph Boccock of Boccock Law takes on single-plaintiff and class actions at both trial and appellate level for a broad client base. His recent caseload includes construction disputes, condemnation cases and embezzlement investigations.

George Corbyn of Corbyn Law Firm maintains his reputation as a leading trial lawyer who acts on a range of civil claims, including those involving financial institutions and energy companies, as well as complex malpractice claims. He is also recognized as an experienced mediator.

Joseph Farris of Franden | Woodard | Farris | Quillin + Goodnight is an expert trial lawyer whose broad civil practice includes product liability actions and malpractice claims, as well as family law disputes.

Strengths:

"Joseph is a super solid lawyer, and a really good guy."

Joe Hampton of Hampton Barghols Pierce is highly recommended for his expertise as a mediator, while also offering experience in arbitration proceedings. He brings long-standing civil trial experience to bear when advising on a range of disputes.

John Heatly of Fellers, Snider, Blankenship, Bailey & Tippens brings long-standing trial experience to his commercial litigation practice. His broad caseload includes accounting, insurance and securities disputes. He is also particularly recognized for his expert appellate capabilities.

John Tucker of Rhodes, Hieronymus, Jones, Tucker & Gable covers appellate proceedings as well as trial proceedings across Oklahoma, drawing on long-standing experience in civil disputes.

Joe White of White & Weddle is noted for his strong trial capabilities, which he brings to a range of state and federal disputes.

Strengths:

"He is an outstanding trial lawyer and very well respected."

Native American Law

Native American Law	
Leading Firms	
Band 1	
Conner & Winters, LLP	
Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation	
Band 2	
GableGotwals	
Leading Individuals	
Band 1	
Luthey Dean GableGotwals	
McBride III Michael Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional	
Ward Stephen R Conner & Winters, LLP	
Band 2	
Burrage Michael Whitten Burrage (ORL) ◇	
Carter R. Daniel Conner & Winters, LLP	
Williams John John T Williams LLC (ORL) ◇	
Band 3	
Fogleman Amelia GableGotwals	
Gomez Daniel E. Conner & Winters, LLP	
Green Nancy Green Law Firm, P.C. (ORL) ◇	
Posey Tim Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden (ORL) ◇	
Williams O Joseph O. Joseph Williams Law Office (ORL) ◇	
Up-and-coming individuals	
Lamirand Jennifer N. Steptoe & Johnson PLLC (ORL) ◇	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

Band 1**Conner & Winters, LLP**

What the team is known for Conner & Winters offers an Oklahoma-based practice operating on a national level for Native American tribes and household-name companies with Indian country clients. The law firm handles transactional, governance and contentious mandates, with key strengths in the areas of lending and financings, energy sector deals and litigation to US Supreme Court level. It is notable for its ability to handle matters within tribal legal systems, and is securing increasing recognition outside state borders. The team also offers counsel on legal infrastructure and tribal governance.

Strengths

"Conner & Winters is very responsive to our needs and requests."

Work highlights Connor & Winters advised Blue-Chip Financial, an enterprise of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians of North Dakota, on a \$50 million refinancing of its operating capital.

Notable practitioners

Stephen Ward maintains a multifaceted practice which spans financings, gaming matters and lit-

igation. **Strengths:** "Stephen Ward is a seasoned and knowledgeable practitioner in the Native American law space. He's practical, a problem solver and easy to work with." **Daniel Carter** is recognized for his impressive experience in Native American law, encompassing transactional matters and litigation. He has notable expertise in the energy sector and gaming matters. **Strengths:** "Daniel Carter provides us with a high level of service on Native American issues and is very sophisticated in his language and preparation of documents." "Daniel Carter is an outstanding lawyer." **Daniel Gomez** is an experienced litigator with a wide-ranging practice that includes bankruptcy and insurance disputes involving Native American law.

Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation

What the team is known for Crowe & Dunlevy acts for Indian tribes on a comprehensive range of transactional and high-stakes litigation mandates. The law firm is well known for its expertise in gaming matters including related hospitality projects, and also advises entities doing business in Indian country, including banks involved in the provision of financial support to significant tribal

business and infrastructure projects. The team is actively involved in a number of tribal jurisdiction, sovereignty and immunity issues, as well as healthcare and pharmaceutical-related disputes. The team is also experienced at the intersection of the internet gaming space and Indian law.

Strengths

"The Crowe & Dunlevy team is always timely and effective."

"The Crowe & Dunlevy team is very well qualified to handle complex matters."

Work highlights Crowe & Dunlevy represented AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation in a federal lawsuit brought by the Cherokee Nation claiming product liability, negligence and abatement related to the alleged opioid crisis.

Notable practitioners

Michael McBride maintains a stellar reputation for his extensive experience in regulatory matters, complex disputes and gaming issues. **Strengths:** *"Michael is very sharp and a great communicator."* *"Michael is very knowledgeable about Indian law."*

resents Indian tribes, vendors, their leaders and organizations in federal, state and tribal courts. The team is active in areas of commercial law, gaming issues, governmental relations and environmental concerns. It regularly deals with dispute proceedings before the US Supreme Court.

Strengths

"The attorneys are always quick to respond with the right answer."

"The team members we work with are outstanding."

Work highlights GableGotwals defended The Seneca-Cayuga Nation in an \$8 million state court commercial foreclosure action and obtained reversal in the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals on sovereign immunity grounds.

Notable practitioners

Dean Luthey has impressive expertise in Native American law as well as a considerable amount of experience in commercial litigation and gaming matters. He is also equipped to advise on utilities disputes. **Strengths:** *"A top-shelf attorney,"*

Amelia Fogleman is noted for her expertise and experience advising Native American tribes on a range of contentious matters, including those relating to the breach of commercial agreements, as well as land disputes.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Michael Burrage of Whitten Burrage is a former district judge who brings a wealth of experience when handling tribal issues.

Strengths:

"Michael is a good lawyer who I enjoy working with."

"Michael is an excellent lawyer in this space."

Nancy Green of Green Law Firm is recognized for her expertise on a range of tribal law matters, most notably with regard to gaming-related issues.

Jennifer Lamirand is an associate justice for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and is able to advise on a wide range of Native American issues. She often assists on environmental and oil and gas-related disputes.

Tim Posey leads Hall Estill's Indian law practice and is well versed in a wide range of matters, including litigation and commercial transactions. He also advises on regulatory issues.

John Williams is sought out for his vast experience advising on a variety of Native American matters. He is also noted for his particular expertise in the energy sector.

Joseph Williams comes recommended for his skilled handling of Native American law matters. He is a well-regarded litigator and offers notable experience representing tribal leaders.

Band 2

GableGotwals

What the team is known for GableGotwals is a well-established Oklahoma firm with expertise in all areas of legal disputes. The law firm rep-

Real Estate

Real Estate
Leading Firms
Band 1
Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation
McAfee & Taft
Band 2
The Center for Economic Development Law
GableGotwals
Phillips Murrah P.C.
Band 3
Conner & Winters, LLP
Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson, PC
Spradling, Kennedy & McPhail LLP
Williams, Box, Forshee & Bullard, P.C.
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

Band 1

Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation

What the team is known for Crowe & Dunlevy offers the full range of real estate legal services, utilizing the wider firm's resources for comprehensive multidisciplinary support. The team frequently advises on acquisitions and development of properties, in addition to finance matters, including tax credit programs and tax-exempt bonds. Its roster of clients includes corporations

active in the healthcare, manufacturing and energy sectors. The team also offers expertise in zoning and land use, including condemnation and eminent domain matters, while regularly handling complex construction litigation. The firm offers additional expertise in alternative dispute resolution techniques.

Strengths

"They are hands down the most professional, most knowledgeable and most experienced firm in Oklahoma. They are an invaluable asset to have."

"The firm provide immediate feedback on when they can deliver and consistently meet deadlines. The depth of the team allows them to be cost-effective."

"I have always been always satisfied with their prompt responses, and they always have someone to answer my questions. As a firm, they're great."

Work highlights Crowe & Dunlevy acted for Quad/ Graphics in connection with the sale of an industrial printing facility located in Oklahoma City. The role included review and revision of the purchase and sale agreement as well as advice and guidance on Oklahoma issues specific to the transaction.

Notable practitioners

Michael Laird is practice head of Crowe & Dunlevy's Oklahoma City real estate team and is recognized for his significant experience advising

on complex real estate transactions, including financing, leasing and development matters. His broad clientele spans multinational energy corporations, private equity firms and healthcare clients. **Strengths:** *"Michael is very experienced and there has never been a situation that he has not been able to resolve."* *"He is knowledgeable, has a real ability to understand business and is a very good lawyer as well as knowledgeable."* *"He has an excellent reputation, he is a very good lawyer and he has an extensive real estate practice."* **Malcolm Rosser** is head of Crowe & Dunlevy's Tulsa-based real estate practice and is noted for his experience handling a wide range of commercial real estate matters. His areas of expertise include development, financing and acquisitions, as well as zoning and land use issues. **Strengths:** *"He's a great lawyer. Besides being knowledgeable, he works extremely well in terms of his personality with clients and has a great relationship with them."*

Zachary Allen is well regarded for his considerable experience advising clients across real estate development, leasing and transactions. He is also well equipped to advise both borrowers and lenders on real estate finance matters. **Strengths:** *"Zac is my preferred lawyer for important, complex retail transactions that require detail and creative thinking. His professionalism, attention to detail and trustworthiness are second to none."* *"I like him*

Real Estate
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Hardin Lloyd McAfee & Taft
Hill Frank McAfee & Taft
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Garbrecht Robert L. McAfee & Taft
Laird Michael S. Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional
Latham Myrna McAfee & Taft
Lewallen Jr Joe C. McAfee & Taft
Rosser IV Malcolm E. Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional
Band 2
Alberty Gregory W. Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden
Allen Zachary W. Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional
Batchelor Leslie V. The Center for Economic
Hasenfratz Sally A. Phillips Murrah P.C.
Band 3
Batchelor Dan. The Center for Economic Development
Berry Jennifer L. Ivester. Ivester Law (ORL) ◇
Box David. Williams, Box, Forshee & Bullard, P.C.
Box Dennis R. Williams, Box, Forshee & Bullard, P.C.
Hoffhines Kari. Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional
Kennedy David D. Spradling, Kennedy & McPhail LLP
Marshall Cole. McAfee & Taft
Pomeroy Emily. The Center for Economic Development
Schuller Stephen A. GableGotwals
Sorem Gentra. Conner & Winters, LLP
Spradling T Scott. Hartzog Conger Cason LLP (ORL) ◇
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

a lot – he has a collegial reputation and is good to work with.” **Kari Hoffhines** is highlighted for her expertise in a wide range of real estate transactions and lease negotiations. She is particularly noted for her handling of financing and renewable energy matters. **Strengths:** “We trust her wholeheartedly and she has never led us astray. She is incredible – extremely trustworthy, dependable, and she goes above and beyond to help her clients.” “Kari’s level of service is the best. She is great at communicating and meeting expectations and has a strong understanding of deal-making dynamics.”

McAfee & Taft

What the team is known for McAfee & Taft is well equipped to handle the fullest range and most sophisticated types of real estate transactions for developers, owners, lenders and investors. The team regularly deals with tax incentive transactions and continues to receive regular mandates from energy companies to assist with property transactions pertaining to the expansion of renewable energy projects. The team is also noted for its expert handling of real estate deals in the healthcare space, including acquisitions, developments, leasing and reorganizations for a range of healthcare clients.

Strengths

“The firm is just incredibly detail-oriented; they leave no stone left unturned.”

“We find that our business’s legal needs are met with complete professionalism. Our lawyer’s output is always thorough, organized and, most of all, protects our interests.”

“Their team are sophisticated at every level and have the experience needed to handle any complex

situation.”

Work highlights McAfee & Taft represented Anthony L Cruse in the partial sale of his healthcare real estate development in southwest Oklahoma through a series of real property and healthcare-related businesses divestitures.

Notable practitioners

Lloyd Hardin is well versed in a broad array of real estate matters including commercial leasing, acquisitions, development and financing transactions. **Frank Hill** is highly regarded for his expertise in the real estate market, offering considerable experience in handling commercial real estate development matters. **Strengths:** “Frank is brilliant! He’s very strong in all regards.”

Robert Garbrecht is an experienced real estate practitioner, highlighted for his extensive knowledge of acquisition, leasing and development projects. He is head of McAfee & Taft’s real estate practice in Oklahoma. **Myrna Latham** exhibits significant experience handling a wide range of sophisticated real estate transactions, including the sale of office towers, hotels and project developments, as well as joint venture advice and reorganizations. **Strengths:** “Myrna has unique talent when it comes to real estate transactions and is involved in complex Oklahoma development issues. She is one of the most well-respected real estate lawyers in Oklahoma.” “She has a strong reputation in real estate and is a really nice person.”

Joe Lewallen is highly skilled in handling a range of complex real estate transactions. He is regularly active on transactions in the energy and natural resources sector, as well as on sales of unimproved land and bond financings. **Strengths:** “Joe continues to make us feel as if we are his top priority. His advice and knowledge guides us through very complex matters always with warmth, humor and an impressive breadth of knowledge.” “He is really, really commonsensical, pragmatic and open to solutions.” **Cole Marshall** offers experience handling a variety of real estate transactions. He is particularly noted for his expertise in the agriculture sector, along with additional expertise in advising healthcare and energy sector clients. **Strengths:** “Cole Marshall always provides complete and personalized advice and service.” “He is a top-notch attorney; we have total confidence in him. He hasn’t made one mistake or discrepancy in advice or counsel.” “He has the ability to negotiate and has been really helpful for our business.”

Band 2

The Center for Economic Development Law

What the team is known for The Center for Economic Development Law is a respected boutique focused on assisting public bodies from local to state level with the realization of community development or redevelopment projects. Acts extensively on public-private collaborations, and well versed in tax increment and other financing incentives, as well as associated environmental, regulatory and potentially contentious issues.

Strengths

“They are a really, really good small firm who are accessible and knowledgeable.”

Notable practitioners

Leslie Batchelor is a highly skilled practitioner, recognized for her experience in handling a range of commercial real estate transactions. She also offers considerable expertise in public-private partnership matters. **Strengths:** “Leslie is fabulous and one of a kind. She helped write the book on municipal practice and is absolutely respected across the board.” **Dan Batchelor** is very well regarded for his considerable experience in the real estate sphere, particularly regarding private and public development projects. **Emily Pomeroy** demonstrates extensive experience advising a wide range of public sector clients and public-private partnerships on significant development and redevelopment projects.

GableGotwals

What the team is known for GableGotwals is regularly sought out by banks and developers, as well as real estate groups and investors, for a broad range of real estate sales, acquisitions and financings. Also well equipped to advise on commercial agreements and partnerships, lease agreements and private placements. Frequently handles transactions involving shopping centers and industrial properties.

Notable practitioners

Stephen Schuller is highly experienced in representing a range of clients across real estate acquisition, leasing and financing transactions. He is also noted for his strength in handling land use and zoning matters. **Strengths:** “Stephen is experienced and well thought of.” “He is exceptional – accurate, efficient and extremely knowledgeable.”

Phillips Murrah P.C.

What the team is known for Phillips Murrah represents developers, owners, lenders and contractors in all areas of transactional support, and in real estate-related litigation. Acts on the construction of a range of commercial, industrial and residential properties. Also offers advice to REITs and other investors on contentious issues pertaining to title insurance as well as tort and conveyancing claims.

Notable practitioners

Sally Hasenfratz is highly regarded in the market for her considerable experience in handling an array of complex real estate transactions. She is especially noted for her expertise in advising on financing issues. **Strengths:** “Sally is a very strong, well thought-of lawyer who has lots of experience and does a great job.”

Band 3

Conner & Winters, LLP

What the team is known for Conner & Winters has a long history of achievement in the real estate area. The attorneys carry out a range of real estate transactions including the purchase, sale, leasing and development of real property, and represent a broad variety of clients, such as Fortune 100 companies, industrial developers, real estate investment trusts, mortgage bankers and individual entrepreneurs.

Strengths

“Conner & Winters has strong lawyers.”

Notable practitioners

Genra Sorem is noted for her experience handling a range of complex real estate transactions including leasing, acquisitions and developments. She is further highlighted for her considerable expertise in advising on financing matters.

Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson, PC

What the team is known for Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson offers the full range of real estate services with ready access to the wider firm’s resources for comprehensive multi-disciplinary support. Areas of activity include the acquisition and construction of hotels as well as multifamily residential properties. Adept at handling financings, loans and tax credit programs. Regularly acts on zoning cases. Represents a diverse client base ranging from financial institutions to government entities, with a particular focus on acting for developers.

Notable practitioners

Gregory Alberty has extensive experience advising a range of clients on complex real estate transactions. He is noted for his particular expertise in multifamily property matters.

Spradling, Kennedy & McPhail LLP

What the team is known for Spradling, Kennedy & McPhail LLP offers clients a range of real estate legal services from its base in Oklahoma City.

Notable practitioners

David Kennedy is highlighted for his expertise in handling real estate transactions and zoning matters.

Williams, Box, Forshee & Bullard, P.C.

What the team is known for Williams, Box, Forshee & Bullard is noted for advising a range of clients, including developers, tenants and landlords, on a variety of real estate transactions and disputes.

Notable practitioners

David Box is recognized for his growing reputation in the market, and highlighted in particular for his expertise in handling an array of complex real

estate transactions. **Strengths:** “David is great to work with, intelligent and has a good relationship with clients and opposing counsel on transactions.”

Dennis Box is a highly regarded real estate practitioner. He focuses his practice on advising clients on a range of complex transactions and land use issues.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Jennifer Ivester Berry of Ivester Law handles a wide array of real estate matters including financing, development and leasing. She has particular expertise in representing clients in the energy sector.

Scott Spradling of Hartzog Conger Cason is well versed in advising clients across a wide range of commercial real estate transactions.

Tax

Tax
Leading Firms
Band 1
Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation
GableGotwals
Hartzog Conger Cason LLP
McAfee & Taft
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Blake T Michael McAfee & Taft
Davis Steven C. Hartzog Conger Cason LLP
Hickey Matthew McAfee & Taft
Band 2
Cason Len Hartzog Conger Cason LLP
Field Jordan Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation
Gonzalez Bonner McAfee & Taft
Guzzy J. Christian Hartzog Conger Cason LLP
Mastin Tony McAfee & Taft
Up-and-coming individuals
Scears James GableGotwals
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

Band 1

Crowe & Dunlevy, a Professional Corporation

What the team is known for Crowe & Dunlevy offers longstanding expertise in state and federal taxation. The law firm routinely advises on tax planning, acting for a variety of clients, including tax-exempt entities.

Notable practitioners

Jordan Field is a director in the firm’s Oklahoma City office and his practice encompasses aviation and commercial space, corporate and securities,

employee benefits and ERISA, healthcare, and particularly taxation. His tax practice includes both tax planning and tax controversy matters relating to federal and state income taxes for entities and individuals. **Strengths:** “Jordan is probably the smartest young tax attorney I know. He has the ability to take real complex tax issues and break them down and get transactions done.” “He is collaborative and has experience, as well as expertise. The quality of his work is very good, and he represents clients well.”

GableGotwals

What the team is known for GableGotwals’ Tulsa-based tax team handles a range of tax planning matters, as well as tax structuring. The team is also well equipped to handle tax matters relating to COVID-19 relief and is experienced advising on tax exemption statuses.

Strengths

“GableGotwals can handle complex matters, provide a quick turnaround, write well-drafted agreements and keep up with trends in the market. You get a lot of bang for the buck.”

Work highlights GableGotwals acted for Bridgestone Retail Operations in relation to a sales and use tax audit conducted by the Oklahoma Tax Commission.

Notable practitioners

James Scears is well versed in handling tax planning and tax structuring matters, regularly assisting clients with obtaining favorable tax incentives. **Strengths:** “James is really sharp. He definitely knows what he’s doing and is an excellent drafter.” “He is responsive, listens and comes

up with fairly simple solutions. We have been happy with how he delivers and provides us with flexibility.”

Hartzog Conger Cason LLP

What the team is known for Hartzog Conger Cason is an Oklahoma City-based firm with notable capabilities in the full range of tax matters. The team advises on tax credits and development incentives, as well as handling controversy work, regularly appearing on behalf of clients in Oklahoma state courts. Clients also benefit from the expertise of the firm’s dedicated charitable organizations group.

Strengths

“The attorneys at Hartzog Conger have a very high level of knowledge of complex issues and the ability to form them into workable client solutions.”

“The depth and breadth of the firm is very strong. They easily handle big and small issues. They are also very responsive to my needs.”

“They’re a huge, international, first-class firm. Their follow-up is immaculate and they’re always a quick response.”

Notable practitioners

Steven Davis is a highly regarded tax attorney with extensive experience advising a broad array of clients on all aspects of tax law. **Strengths:** “Steve Davis is very, very smart. He is a very kind, polite, humble, patient person, and is really good in his interactions with clients.” “He is known as an expert, and can simplify issues and develop solutions in a very helpful way.” “Steve is a great lawyer. His level of knowledge and ability to handle complex issues is very good.” **Le n Cason** has a

broad practice area which includes tax controversies and litigation, the administration of trusts and estates, asset protection, corporate law, estate planning, and mergers and acquisitions.

Strengths: *“Len knows his stuff – he is very smart but also very relatable.” “It is always a pleasure to work with Len. His depth of knowledge, timeliness and ability to form practical solutions are greatly appreciated.” “He has a relaxed style which allows people to talk comfortably.”* **Christian Guzzy** is a well-regarded tax attorney with notable expertise in transactional matters. He has additional expertise in environmental law. **Strengths:** *“Christian is an excellent lawyer.”*

McAfee & Taft

What the team is known for McAfee & Taft boasts a strong team with the ability to handle a variety of tax matters, ranging from tax planning to controversy work. The team regularly advises on the tax aspects of corporate transactions, including acquisitions, dispositions, and reorganizations. The law firm also offers additional expertise in trusts and estates.

Strengths

“McAfee has a full suite of professionals handling a variety of complex tax transactions. They are also very commercially knowledgeable. The firm is worth every penny.”

Notable practitioners

Michael Blake is well versed in the tax aspects of complex transactions, including private equity matters and the structuring of investments. His

clients include corporates and their owners. **Matthew Hickey** regularly advises corporate and individual clients on a wide range of tax matters, including retirement plan issues and tax exemption concerns. **Strengths:** *“Matthew is substantively very capable and responsive, with a good depth of knowledge, plus years of experience.”* **Bonner Gonzalez** is a skilled adviser on tax planning strategies, in addition to offering tax advice on corporate transactions. **Strengths:** *“He is a very good general lawyer, as well as a very capable tax lawyer.”* **Tony Mastin** is well noted for his experience advising clients on tax controversy matters and is particularly well regarded for his expertise with regard to state and local tax issues. **Strengths:** *“Tony is very knowledgeable and respected within tax.”*

Leaders' Profiles in Oklahoma

ALBERT, Victor

Porter Hedges LLP, Oklahoma City
valbert@porterhedges.com

Featured in Labor & Employment (Oklahoma)

Practice Areas: Vic Albert's practice focuses on all aspects of trial law with particular experience in the areas of labor and employment, insurance defense bad faith, construction law and interstate trucking. He has tried over 70 cases to a jury verdict in state and federal courts in Oklahoma. In the past twenty-five years he has also developed an employer-based practice advising employers in policy development, training, hiring and firing, and investigation of employee complaints. He represents employers in all aspects of federal and state litigation, as well as administrative investigations including OSHA, Department of Labor and EEOC matters. Vic is the national defense counsel for clients in the healthcare and insurance industries and assists them with matters in the various states in which they have operations.

FULKERSON, Sam

Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C., Oklahoma City
(+1) 405 546-3751
sam.fulkerson@ogletree.com

Featured in Labor & Employment (Oklahoma)

Practice Areas: Employment Law, Litigation, Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution, Unfair Competition and Trade Secrets, Wage and Hour
Career: Sam is the Oklahoma City Managing Shareholder, a member of the firm's Management Committee and co-chair of the Energy Practice Group. Sam has been included for the past twenty plus years in Chambers USA Guide to America's Leading Lawyers for Business; The Best Lawyers in America (employment law - management labor law - management; labor and employment litigation), which also selected him as Oklahoma City Employment Lawyer of the Year for 2012, 2015, 2017 and 2021; and Oklahoma Super Lawyers, which also has named him to its list of "Top 50 Oklahoma Lawyers" each year since 2012. In 2019 Sam was elected a Fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers, only the second Oklahoma attorney to be selected.

Sam represents management in all areas of employment law. Including counseling clients on best practices and compliance; employee training; counseling on disciplinary, organizational and general business issues; policy drafting and implementation, including multi-state employer policies, drug testing, and dispute resolution programs; issues arising from reorganizations, reductions-in-force, mergers, sales, acquisitions and board disputes; and workplace investigations, including board misconduct. Sam has extensive litigation experience, including a 2020 \$112 million federal jury verdict in a trade secrets trial; and in the past four years he has been lead counsel in lawsuits in federal district court in Atlanta, Nashville, Brownsville, Houston, Dallas, Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Chicago, Phoenix, San Diego, and New Mexico, including as lead counsel in six FLSA collective actions; the state courts of Florida, Tennessee, Ohio, Texas, Oklahoma and California; and administrative agencies in Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, California, Oregon and Washington. Sam also has experience in mediating and arbitrating employment disputes before the Amer-

ican Arbitration Association, the EEOC, and in federal court. Sam's non-litigation practice includes representation of legislative bodies and special interest groups, and he frequently drafts proposed legislation and reviews legislative proposals affecting the workplace. Sam trains and lectures frequently on employment law topics in Oklahoma and elsewhere, he has published scholarly articles in the Oklahoma Law Review and the Society for Human Resource Management Legal Report, and was the primary author of "Age Discrimination in the Workplace: A Primer for Human Resource Professionals," Society for Human Resource Management.

Professional Memberships: Oklahoma Bar Association (Former Chair, Labor and Employment Law Section) American Bar Association Federal Bar Association Equal Access to Justice Commissioner, appointed by Oklahoma Supreme Court, 2020-present Merit Protection Commissioner, gubernatorial appointment, 2016 to 2019 Homeless Alliance, Board of Directors Cristo Rey Catholic High School, Board of Directors