

Legal Eagles recognizes the year's top franchise attorneys

Articles by Megan Glenn, Joe Halpern, Matthew Liedke, Laura Michaels and Emilee Wentland; Survey and research by Jenny Raines

Legal landscapes can be tricky to traverse for franchisors and franchisees alike. Fortunately for the community, Franchise Times has assembled its Legal Eagles for 2024, listing the best lawyers who specialize in all things franchising. The Legal Eagles deploy their talents at firms in the United States and Canada, bringing a plethora of knowledge on a wide variety of topics.


As part of our Legal Eagles coverage, Franchise Times reporters interviewed several attorneys who offer insight on many important developments. For example, Legal Eagles weigh in on major regulatory happenings from last year, and share what to expect in 2024 when it comes to joint employer rules and the Federal Trade Commission's review of franchising.

Experts also share their views on notable legal trends in franchising, such as the emergence

of artificial intelligence and what laws may come with it, as well as franchisor involvement in franchisee ownership transfers and the security of trade secrets.

In an annual survey exploring several hot topics, the Legal Eagles were questioned on what issues in law people in franchising should be more aware of, the most interesting case they worked on in 2023, how those in franchising should navigate labor issues, what M&A and consolidation mean for the franchising space and more.

In addition to the in-depth coverage, Franchise Times profiled both newcomers and tenured Legal Eagles. New Class and Hall of Fame attorneys in this section share their key areas of focus, and, with a dose of personality, what inspires them.

Congratulations to this year's Legal Eagles. 

—Matthew Liedke

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Franchise Times
LEGAL EAGLES[®]

UNITED STATES LEGAL EAGLES®



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Allison Grow Ryan	Cheng Cohen LLC	Chicago, IL	ZOR	L
Susan Grueneberg	Cozen O'Connor	Los Angeles, CA	ZOR	T
Matthew Grueneberg	DLA Piper	Los Angeles, CA	ZOR	T
David Gusewelle	Drumm Law	St. Louis, MO	ZOR	T
Lucie Guyot	Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath	Boulder, CO	ZOR	T
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Evan Harra	Spadea Lignana	Philadelphia, PA	ZOR	T
Kevin Hein	Akerman LLP	Denver, CO	ZEE ZOR	T
Barry Heller	DLA Piper	Reston, VA	ZOR	L
Stuart Hershman	DLA Piper	Chicago, IL	ZEE ZOR	T
Kristian Higgs	Kit Franchise Law	Cincinnati, OH	ZEE ZOR	T
Leon Hirzel	Hirzel Dreyfuss & Dempsey	Miami, FL	ZEE	L T
John Holland	Dady & Gardner, P.A.	Minneapolis, MN	ZEE	L
John Hughes	Quarles & Brady	Chicago, IL	ZOR	L
Scott Husaby	Monroe Moxness Berg PA	Minneapolis, MN	ZEE ZOR	T
Michael Joblove	Venable LLP	Miami, FL	ZOR	L
Todd Jones	Snell & Wilmer	Phoenix, AZ	ZEE ZOR	T
David Kaufmann	Kaufmann Gildin & Robbins LLP	New York, NY	ZOR	T
Kevin Kennedy	Wiggin & Dana	New Haven, CT	ZOR	T
Harold Kestenbaum	Spadea Lignana	Philadelphia, PA	ZOR	L T
Maral Kilejian	Haynes and Boone, LLP	Dallas, TX	ZOR	T
Mark Kirsch	Lathrop GPM	Washington, D.C.	ZOR	T

NAME	LAW FIRM	LOCATION	REPRESENTS	SPECIALTY
Jill Klein	Akerman LLP	West Palm Beach, FL	ZEE ZOR	T
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Peter Lagarias	Lagarias, Napell & Dillon LLP	San Rafael, CA	ZEE	L
Nancy Lanard	Luther Lanard	Plymouth Meeting, PA	ZEE	T
Mark Landauer	Larkin Hoffman	Minneapolis, MN	ZOR	T
Mark Leitner	Laffey, Leitner & Goode LLC	Milwaukee, WI	ZOR	L
Norman Leon	DLA Piper	Chicago, IL	ZOR	L
Michael Levitz	Drumm Law	Minneapolis, MN	ZOR	T
Warren Lewis	Akerman LLP	Washington, D.C.	ZEE ZOR	T
Marc Lieberstein	Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP	New York, NY	ZOR	T
Josh Lignana	Spadea Lignana	Philadelphia, PA	ZOR	L T
Bret Lowell	DLA Piper	Washington, D.C.	ZOR	L T
Julie Lusthaus	Lusthaus Law PC	White Plains, NY	ZEE ZOR	T
Doug Luther	Luther Lanard	Newport Beach, CA	ZOR	L T
Trish MacAskill	Akerman LLP	Denver, CO	ZOR	T
Leonard Macphee	Polsinelli PC	Denver, CO	ZEE ZOR	L T
Kevin Maher	Baker McKenzie	Dallas, TX	ZOR	T
Gina Malandrino	Cheng Cohen LLC	Chicago, IL	ZOR	T
Andrew Malzahn	Dady & Gardner, P.A.	Minneapolis, MN	ZOR	L
April McKenzie Mason	Burr & Forman LLP	Birmingham, AL	ZEE ZOR	T
Andrew Matson	Spadea Lignana	Philadelphia, PA	ZOR	T
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