## Quinn Emanuel Tops BTI Fearsome Foursome 2026

The BTI Fearsome Foursome are the firms clients tell us they least want to see on the other side of the table in litigation. The Fearsome Foursome define new rules to play by, are relentless, cunning, aggressive, very smart, and play to win – and win big.

Only 4 of the 98 law firms clients don't want to litigate against standout as the most Fearsome. Congratulations to The BTI Fearsome Foursome of 2026 for their intense approach and fierce tactics in today's ever-evolving, complex and dynamic litigation market.

Special congratulations to Quinn Emanuel for its 4th year in a row as the Number 1 Most Feared Law Firm in 2026.

## **Quinn Emanuel**

**Kirkland & Ellis** 

Skadden

**Gibson Dunn** 



The fine print: We asked more than 350 general counsel and in-house litigation heads which law firms they would least like to see as opposing counsel. The majority of clients named, unaided, the law firm members of The BTI Fearsome Foursome. The remainder selected other firms, listed here as the BTI Feared, BTI Awesome Opponents and BTI Intimidating Opponents.



# The BTI Feared: The Most Feared Law Firms in Litigation

#### **Feared**

- Boies Schiller Flexner
- Cravath
- Greenberg Traurig
- Husch Blackwell
- Jones Day
- Latham & Watkins
- Susman Godfrey
- Troutman Pepper Locke
- Wachtell Lipton
- Weil
- Williams & Connolly
- WilmerHale



**BTI Litigation Outlook 2026** 

# The BTI Awesome Opponents: The Most Feared Law Firms in Litigation

### **Awesome Opponents**

- Ahmad, Zavitsanos & Mensing
- Alston & Bird
- ArentFox Schiff
- Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo
- Bartlit Beck
- Bondurant Mixson & Elmore
- Clare Locke
- Cooley
- Covington
- Debevoise
- Dentons
- Duane Morris
- Faegre Drinker
- Fish
- Fried Frank
- Glaser Weil
- Hogan Lovells
- Hueston Hennigan
- Irell & Manella
- Jackson Lewis
- Jenner & Block
- Jones Walker

- Kasowitz Benson Torres
- King & Spalding
- Littler
- Manning Kass
- Maynard Nexsen
- McKool Smith
- Morgan Lewis
- Morrison & Foerster
- Nelson Mullins
- O'Melveny
- Orrick
- Paul Hastings
- Paul, Weiss
- Perkins Coie
- Robins Kaplan
- Ropes & Gray
- Sidley
- Sullivan & Cromwell
- Venable
- White & Case
- Wilson Elser
- Wilson Sonsini
- Womble Bond Dickinson





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# The BTI Intimidating Opponents: The Most Feared Law Firms in Litigation

## **Intimidating Opponents**

- Akin
- Anderson Kill
- Arnold & Porter
- BakerHostetler
- Ballard Spahr
- Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann
- Carpenter Lipps & Leland
- Cleary Gottlieb
- Davis Wright Tremaine
- Dechert
- Desmarais
- DLA Piper
- Dowd Bennett
- Fasken
- Finnegan
- Foley Hoag
- Goodwin Procter
- Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani

- Goulston & Storrs
- Jackson Walker
- Kaplan Hecker & Fink
- Manatt
- McGuireWoods
- Mintz
- Motley Rice
- Osler
- Pillsbury
- Proskauer
- Quarles & Brady
- Robinson+Cole
- Sheppard Mullin
- Slaughter and May
- Vinson & Elkins
- Warner Norcross + Judd
- Wiley
- Winston & Strawn
- Zarwin Baum





# The 98 Firms Most Feared in Litigation — The BTI Fearsome Foursome 2026

Contentious. Mean. Aggressive. Chaotic. Inventive. Complicated: How corporate counsel managing litigation describe the state of litigation.

Corporate counsel demand for more fearsome law firms is growing; it is the only way to keep ahead of the aggressive nature of the claims. Outside counsel able to strike fear in the hearts of their opponents see a winning advantage. They also believe their cases will be settled faster with a more fearsome law firm.

Top legal decision makers single out 98 firms they don't want to see on the other side of the table in litigation. Clients point to the following reasons:

- Smarter strategies others miss or didn't even think of
- Strategically unpredictable
- Stunningly prepared for every eventuality
- Thrive on the whiplash and change
- Pivot and adjust seamlessly
- Loves establishing new precedent where none exists
- Want to win instead of litigate
- Unflinching in the face of adversity

Congratulations to Quinn Emanuel for earning the coveted number 1 spot in the BTI Fearsome Foursome and the other 97 most feared firms of 2026 for their intense approach and fierce tactics in today's ever-evolving, complex and dynamic litigation market.



**BTI Litigation Outlook 2026** 

## Our Methodology and Approach

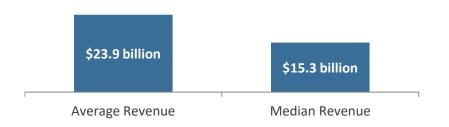
#### INDEPENDENT, ORGANIC, UNBIASED RESEARCH, BASED SOLELY ON CLIENT FEEDBACK

# Survey Participant Demographics Research More than 350 in-depth surveys Time Frame Primarily between February 2025 and August 2025 Incentives Respondents receive a complimentary report of benchmarks and metrics

#### **Legal Decision Makers Responsible for Litigation**

- Head of Litigation
- · Chief and Vice President of Litigation
- General Counsel/Chief Legal Officer
- Direct report to General Counsel

#### **Organizations with Highest Levels of Legal Spending**



## Representative of more than 15 Industry Segments

- Banking
- Chemicals
- Consumer Goods
- Energy
- Financial Services
- Food & Agricultural
- Health Care
- High Tech
- Insurance
- Manufacturing
- Pharmaceuticals
- Professional Services
- Retail Trade
- Real Estate
- Telecom
- Transportation
- Utilities
- Wholesale Trade

solely on in-depth surveys and telephone interviews with leading legal decision makers. This comprehensive analysis trends data from more than 30,000 corporate counsel client interviews conducted over the span of 24 years.

This research is independent and unbiased – no law firm or organization other than BTI sponsors this study.

Each year, BTI reaches out to a strategically designed group of top legal decision makers at large organizations with \$1 billion or more in revenue. We target the decision makers in the industries who spend the most on legal affairs as well as thought leaders and innovative Chief Legal Officers. Our survey also includes Chief Legal Operating Officers and business executives who hire and influence the selection and hiring of law firms.

Participants are granted confidentiality at the individual and organizational level.

## Questions? Comments?



Michael B. Rynowecer, President

For questions, research inquiries, and information on BTI's client feedback programs, market insight research, seminars, training, or workshops, please contact us via email or by calling +1 617 439 0333.

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