



Todd & Weld LLP

J. Owen Todd

Founding Partner

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J. Owen Todd serves as mediator and arbitrator in resolving a variety of civil litigation matters, including product liability, complex commercial litigation, employment discrimination, and personal injury claims.

During his distinguished legal career, J. Owen Todd, a Founding Partner of the firm, has handled virtually every kind of case from murder to mass tort litigation and from bankruptcy litigation to “bet-the-company” commercial cases in every type of court throughout 36 states. Mr. Todd has appeared as counsel for Cardinal Bernard Law, the Massachusetts Trial Court, numerous attorneys, judges and law firms, F. Lee Bailey, professional athletes, Staples, Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency, and many major companies in the New England area.

He currently concentrates his practice on providing ADR services, including presiding over arbitrations and mediations.

Mr. Todd began his legal career began in 1960 when he was appointed a law clerk to a Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Justice. In the following year, he joined the Boston law firm of Hale and Dorr (now Wilmer Hale) and in time became a Partner, a Senior Partner, Co-Chairman of the Litigation Department, and the Chairman of the Executive Committee of that firm.

Mr. Todd left private practice in 1988 to become a Justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court. In 1992 he resigned from the bench to become one of the founding partners of Todd & Weld.

While consistently named in the *Best Lawyers in America* and other leading legal directories, Mr. Todd is most proud of the recognition of his peers reflected by his fellowship in the American College of Trial Lawyers and his presidency of the Massachusetts Trial Lawyers Association.

Practice Areas

- Appellate Litigation
- Professional Liability Litigation
- Business Litigation
- Real Estate Litigation

Experience

- Todd & Weld LLP, Founding Partner, 1992-present
- Massachusetts Superior Court, Associate Justice, 1988-1992
- Hale and Dorr LLP, Senior Partner, 1961-1988
- Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, Law Clerk, 1960-1961

Bar Admissions

- Massachusetts, 1960
- U.S. District Court, Massachusetts, 1961
- U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit, 1964
- U.S. Tax Court, 1964
- U.S. Supreme Court, 1972

Education

- Boston College Law School (J.D., 1960) Commercial Law Review
- Harvard University (A.B., 1957)

Professional Activities

- Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers
- Massachusetts Trial Lawyers Association President, 1994 to 2014
- Boston Bar Association Co-Chair, Administration of Justice Section, 1993-1994
- Massachusetts Bar Association, Leadership Academy Steering Committee (2016-2017)
- American Bar Association
- Fellow, American Board of Trial Advocates

Publications/Presentations

- Co-Editor, Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education: Massachusetts Trial Advocacy
- Model Jury Charges, "Eminent Domain"
- Lecturer for Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education

- Lecturer for Boston Bar Association

Honors and Awards

- Selected by *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* to its inaugural Hall of Fame class (2023)
- Named to *Best Lawyers in America* in Commercial Litigation; Eminent Domain and Condemnation Law; Personal Injury Litigation – Plaintiffs (1983-present)
- Named to Massachusetts *Super Lawyers* for Business Litigation (2004-present)
- Named Litigation Star in Benchmark Litigation (2021-2025)
- Included in Who's Who Legal: Litigation 2015
- Named one of "Boston's Top Rated Lawyers" by Legal Leaders™ based upon his AV Preeminent Rating® by Martindale-Hubbell® (2014)
- Lawyer of the Year 2002, *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*
- Honorary Doctorate of Law and Letters from New England School of Law

In the Community

- Former Commissioner, State Ethics Commission, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- Trustee, Austin Jones Foundation
- Member, Governor's Commission on Suffolk County Sheriff's Department
- Fellow, Boston Bar Foundation
- Trustee, J. Owen Todd Charitable Foundation

News & Insights

- Firm attorneys recognized as Litigation Stars in Benchmark Litigation 2025
- Firm attorneys recognized as Litigation Stars in Benchmark Litigation 2024
- Owen Todd selected to Mass. Lawyers Weekly inaugural Hall of Fame class
- 30 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2022 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Nineteen Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2023 Best Lawyers in America
- 30 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2021 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Sixteen Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2022 Best Lawyers in America
- 30 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2020 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Firm attorneys recognized as Litigation Stars in Benchmark Litigation 2021
- Seventeen Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2021 Best Lawyers in America
- 31 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2019 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Gary Todd to present at 29th Annual MBA Annual Family Law Conference
- Fifteen Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2020 Best Lawyers in America

- 30 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2018 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Fourteen Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2019 Best Lawyers in America
- Todd & Weld attorneys recognized in New England's Best Lawyers publication
- J. Owen Todd selected as ADR Lawyer of the Year
- 24 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2017 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Ten Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2018 Best Lawyers in America
- Summer 2017 Family Law Newsletter: When can prenups be challenged on fairness grounds?
- Eight Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2017 Best Lawyers in America