



Todd & Weld LLP

Max D. Stern

Partner

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Max Stern is widely considered as one of the most preeminent criminal defense attorneys in Boston.

Max D. Stern has more than 40 years of experience litigating groundbreaking criminal matters and complex civil cases, appearing and arguing at every trial and appellate level, including the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Stern, a partner at the firm, has taught courses in Advanced Criminal Law and the Legal Profession, among others, at Harvard and Northeastern Law Schools. He is the author of articles in both scholarly journals and the popular press. He regularly lectures on various aspects of trial practice.

Mr. Stern is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the American Board of Criminal Lawyers and was named in 1995 by *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* as one of the 25 Most Influential Massachusetts Lawyers of the preceding quarter century.

Mr. Stern is a *magna cum laude* graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he served as an editor of the law review. After law school, Mr. Stern served as a clerk to United States Circuit Judge Simon Sobeloff of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. Stern is an accomplished photographer. He maintains a photographic website at maxsternphoto.com.

Practice Areas

- Government Investigations and Criminal Defense
- Civil Rights Litigation
- Appellate Litigation
- Professional Liability Litigation
- Business Litigation

Representative Results

- Achieved a significant victory on behalf of client Shannon O'Brien, securing a Superior Court ruling that overturned her removal as Chair of the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission (2025).

Experience

- Partner, Todd & Weld LLP, 2015-present
- Partner, Stern Shapiro Weissberg & Garin, LLP, 1973-2014
- Staff Attorney, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute/NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., 1970-1973
- Law Clerk, Circuit Judge Simon E. Sobeloff, United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, 1969-1970

Bar Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Massachusetts
- U.S. District Court, Massachusetts
- U.S. District Court, Maryland
- U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Federal Claims

Education

- University of Pennsylvania Law School (L.L.B., *magna cum laude*) Editor, University of Pennsylvania Law Review
- Dartmouth College (A.B.)

Professional Activities

- Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers, Member, State Committee, 1994-1998
- Fellow, American Board of Criminal Lawyers
- Member, Boston Bar Association; Member, Executive Committee, Criminal Section, 1985-1988
- Member, Massachusetts Bar Association; Vice Chairperson, Section on Criminal Justice, 1977-1978
- Member, Massachusetts Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; Member, Board of Directors, 2007-Present; President, 2011-2013
- Member, Boston Bar Council, 1983-1986

Publications/Presentations

- "The Right of the Accused to a Public Defense," 18 *Harvard Civil Rights -Civil Liberties Law Review* 53 1983
- Co-Author with D. Hoffman: "Privileged Informers: The Attorney Subpoena Problem and a Proposal for Reform," 136 *U.Pa.L.Rev.* 1783 June 1988
- Lecturer on Law, Harvard Law School: Courses in Federal Criminal Litigation, The Legal Profession, Advanced Criminal Law 1983-1990
- Fellow, Harvard Center for Criminal Justice, Harvard Law School 1981
- Instructor, Northeastern University Law School: Courses in Prisoners' Rights, Equitable Remedies 1977-1979

Honors and Awards

- Named by *Best Lawyers in America* as Civil Rights Law "Lawyer of the Year" in Boston (2025)
- Regularly named to *Best Lawyers in America* for Bet-the-Company Litigation; Civil Rights Law; Criminal Defense: General Practice; Criminal Defense: White Collar (1987-present)
- Regularly named to Massachusetts *Super Lawyers* for Criminal Defense: White Collar (2005-present)
- Named by *Super Lawyers* to Top 100 Lawyers in Massachusetts for Criminal Defense: White Collar (2005-2015)
- Named by *Super Lawyers* to Top 100 Lawyers in New England for Criminal Defense: White Collar (2007-2010, 2012-2014)
- Named by *Super Lawyers* to Top 10 Lawyers in Massachusetts (2007-2008, 2010)
- Accredited with AV Preeminent Peer Review Rating by Martindale-Hubbell
- Named Lawyer of the Year by the Frank G. Murray Inn of Court (2010)
- Received Joseph Balliro Award by the Massachusetts Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers in recognition of a lifelong commitment and dedication to the zealous defense of the accused (2000)
- Named one of the 25 Most Influential Massachusetts Lawyers of the Preceding Quarter Century by *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* (1995)
- Received American College of Trial Lawyers Award for Courageous Advocacy in recognition of his unswerving and courageous efforts as a trial lawyer to restore integrity to the local criminal justice system (1992)
- Accorded special recognition by the Massachusetts Bar Association for his commitment to the highest standards of the criminal defense lawyer and to protecting the rights of the accused (1991)
- Recognized for tireless moral courage in advancing human and civil rights by the Lawyers'
- Committee for Civil Rights Under Law of the Boston Bar Association (1990)
- Accorded recognition by the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild for a lifetime commitment to fighting for justice and racial equality (1990)
- Received the Edward J. Duggan Private Counsel Award by the Massachusetts Committee for Public Counsel Services for zealous advocacy and outstanding legal services to the poor (1989)

- Received the Abraham T. Alper Memorial Award, the annual award of the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, in recognition of notable service in the preservation of civil liberties (1987)

In the Community

- Member, Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts; Member, Advisory Board, 1979-1983, 1986-1987; General Counsel, 1983-1985
- Chairperson, Massachusetts Campaign Against Restoration of the Death Penalty, 1981-1982
- Chairperson, Massachusetts Citizens Against the Death Penalty, 1983-1992
- Deputy Legal Counsel, Democratic State Committee of Massachusetts, 1994-Present
- Member, Advisory Committee, MJT Dance Co., Boston, 1995-2000
- Member, Advisory Committee, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Martha's Vineyard, 1999-Present
- Artist Member, Copley Society of Art

News & Insights

- Thirty-Seven Todd & Weld Attorneys Named to 2025 Massachusetts Super Lawyers & Rising Stars List
- Superior Court Overturns Firing of Shannon O'Brien, Ordering Reinstatement as Cannabis Control Commission Chair
- 21 Todd & Weld Attorneys Recognized in 2026 Best Lawyers in America
- 17 Todd & Weld Attorneys Selected to Boston Magazine's 2022 Top Lawyers
- 30 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2022 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Nineteen Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2023 Best Lawyers in America
- Wrongful termination case of Boston police officer featured in Boston Globe
- 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
- Seventeen Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2021 Best Lawyers in America
- 31 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2019 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Fifteen Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2020 Best Lawyers in America
- Ingrid Martin, Max Stern to present at BBA's 2019 White Collar Crime Conference
- Firm and ACLU file FOIA suit seeking information on border wall 'contract'
- 30 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2018 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Ingrid Martin, Victoria Steinberg named to Top 50 Super Lawyers Lists, and Howard Cooper and Max Stern named to Top 100 Lists
- Fourteen Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2019 Best Lawyers in America
- Todd & Weld attorneys recognized in New England's Best Lawyers publication

- Max Stern photos of Mardi Gras Indians featured in new exhibition
- 24 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2017 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Jeffrey Catalano, Howard Cooper, and Max Stern named to Top 100 Super Lawyers Lists
- Ten Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2018 Best Lawyers in America
- Max Stern, Megan Deluhery quoted in article highlighting recent successes in student discipline cases
- Eight Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2017 Best Lawyers in America

Results

- Max Stern, Michael DiStefano secure acquittal in arson trial
- Federal lawsuit by expelled student against Amherst College allowed to proceed
- Following verdict in favor of client, Max Stern and Megan Deluhery successfully bring litigation to end in student misconduct case