



Todd & Weld LLP



Media, First Amendment, and Defamation Law

Individuals and businesses facing reputational harm rely on the knowledgeable and experienced First Amendment lawyers at Todd & Weld for aggressive, incisive counsel.

Whether it is your own reputation or that of your business, it takes a lifetime to establish your good name but only seconds to lose it unfairly in our age of instant global communication. Todd & Weld attorneys vigorously help clients fight back when this happens. Achieving a successful result in a defamation case is difficult – especially for a public figure – but our First Amendment lawyers have proven time and time again to be up to the task.

Our national media and First Amendment litigation and trial practice includes handling defamation claims on behalf of high-profile individuals and entities. We have represented high profile judges, attorneys, religious groups, businesses, politicians, entrepreneurs and even a national news media outlet and a rock star in highly publicized cases. We also regularly represent lesser known but equally important individuals and businesses who have suffered injury to their reputation because of a portrayal in a blog or other type of online attack.

Businesses victimized by online corporate or product disparagement regularly seek redress through our aggressive and astute representation.

Reflective of the firm's reputation and standing, our attorneys are regularly recognized for excellence in First Amendment Law in *Best Lawyers in America*, a peer-review publication. Founding Partner Howard Cooper has been named by *Best Lawyers* as Lawyer of the Year in Boston for his First Amendment work.

Attorneys

- Joseph M. Cacace
- Nicholas B. Carter
- Howard M. Cooper
- Megan C. Deluhery
- Christian G. Kiely
- David H. Rich
- Seth J. Robbins
- Benjamin J. Wish
- Josh L. Launer

Representative Results

Recent representative results in Media, First Amendment, and Defamation matters include:

- Obtaining a noteworthy settlement of a defamation lawsuit brought against prominent attorney Alan Dershowitz by Virginia Giuffre, including an agreement by Ms. Giuffre to drop her lawsuit and to issue a public statement acknowledging that she “may have made a mistake” in identifying Mr. Dershowitz as someone she was trafficked to in her youth by Jeffrey Epstein
- Securing a court ruling that a school committee’s policy governing the public speaking portion of its meetings violated the free speech provisions of the Massachusetts Constitution
- Persuading the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to uphold a defamation verdict for a Saudi Arabian scientist who sued two individuals arising from numerous publications falsely accusing her of fabricating and exaggerating her academic credentials
- Persuading a Massachusetts Superior Court judge to dismiss a \$5.5 million defamation case under the Massachusetts statute prohibiting lawsuits filed in response to the exercise of constitutional free speech and petitioning rights
- Obtaining a \$2.9 million jury verdict following the publication of numerous false statements against a political official

News & Insights

- Todd & Weld Attorneys Howard Cooper and Charlotte Bednar Secure Massachusetts Appeals Court Victory in Defamation Case
- Todd & Weld Attorneys Secure Major Ruling Allowing Constitutional Claims to Proceed in Case Involving Efforts to Remove “Gender Queer” From School
- Todd & Weld Named to 2026 “Best Law Firms” in Multiple Categories by Best Lawyers
- Co-Managing Partner Megan Deluhery Named to 2025 “Top Women of Law” Class by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly
- Joe Cacace Comments on 1st Circuit Ruling Upholding Free Speech

- Nick Carter offers insights in news article on Instagram addiction suit before SJC
- Christian Kiely in podcast discusses Netflix defamation suit
- Article by firm attorneys assesses free speech on college campuses in the wake of pro-Palestine protests
- Newsmax settles defamation suit filed by Smartmatic
- Law360 features recent success of firm in Netflix defamation suit
- Howard Cooper offers analysis of federal court ruling barring government contact with social media companies
- Firm's defense of media outlet in high-profile defamation case highlighted in news article
- Howard Cooper featured in article on high-profile defamation case
- Howard Cooper, Maria Davis file amicus brief in support of school officials and teachers in legal dispute over curriculum

Results

- Todd & Weld Attorneys Howard Cooper and Charlotte Bednar Secure Massachusetts Appeals Court Victory in Defamation Case
- Todd & Weld Attorneys Secure Major Ruling Allowing Constitutional Claims to Proceed in Case Involving Efforts to Remove "Gender Queer" From School
- Christian Kiely persuades judge to deny motion to dismiss 'Varsity Blues' defamation case
- Firm obtains \$500K defamation judgment against Church Militant
- Firm obtains settlement of Dershowitz defamation case, including accuser's statement of potential mistaken identity
- Firm obtains dismissal of defamation suit under MA anti-SLAPP statute