

# **RWL Complex Civil and Commercial Litigation Services**

“The lawyers at Rifkin Weiner Livingston are outstanding. Not only are they thorough and dedicated to their clients’ interests, but they find creative solutions to complex legal problems. They are counselors in the truest sense of the word.”

TED ARGEROPLOS  
President, AMA Systems

# Firm Overview and RWL Practice Groups

With offices located in the state capital of Annapolis, Baltimore, and the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, RWL provides an important link to principal business, commercial and governmental centers.

Since its founding in 1989, RWL and its many attorneys have created an impressive record of service to the state and in the practice of law. As one of Maryland's first law firms to recognize that a client's legal issues can often be addressed through a comprehensive approach that may include all of the various branches of government, RWL has established itself in the areas of business and commercial transactions, administrative law, health care law, government relations, sports franchise law, procurement law, zoning and land use, and complex litigation.

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE**

**BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS**

**COMPLEX COMMERCIAL AND CIVIL LITIGATION**

**ELECTRONICALLY STORED INFORMATION (ESI)**

**MEDIATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

**SPORTS LAW, GAMING AND FACILITIES**

**STATE CONTRACTING, PROCUREMENT AND BID PROTESTS**

**WHITE COLLAR CRIMINAL DEFENSE AND INVESTIGATIONS**

# Complex Civil and Commercial Litigation

## EXPERIENCED REPRESENTATION

With deep and varied experiences, RWL's team of litigators have been at the forefront of cutting-edge, precedent-setting litigation. They appear before state and federal courts and administrative and arbitration tribunals.

RWL lawyers know when and how effectively to approach the legal process to achieve practical results that are in the best interests of our clients. Our experienced appellate attorneys help chart a course to provide our clients strategic representation from pre-litigation through conclusion.

## AREAS OF SERVICE

- Business Fraud
- Contractual Disputes Between Companies
- Disputes Over Business Operation and Control
- Partnership Litigation
- Privacy Litigation
- Internal Investigations
- Complex Commercial Disputes
- Major Class Action Litigation
- False Claims Act Litigation
- Zoning/Land Use and Real Estate Litigation
- Public Contract Procurement Litigation
- Anti-Trust Litigation
- Election Law Litigation
- State and Federal Constitutional Law Challenges
- Corporate Defense
- Catastrophic Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Cases
- Defamation and Slander Litigation
- Intellectual Property Disputes
- Executive Employment Disputes (Intra-Corporate Issues – Employment Litigation at the C-Suite Level)
- Product Liability
- Bankruptcy Trustee Litigation and Adversary Proceedings
- Estates and Trusts Litigation
- Professional Liability
- Attorney Disciplinary Proceedings

# Complex Civil and Commercial Litigation

## NOTABLE REPRESENTATIONS

- Arbitrated for the Baltimore Orioles franchise in numerous contract, litigation, and regulatory issues, including:
  - Represented the Baltimore Orioles and its Mid-Atlantic Sports Network in a dispute with the Nationals and MLB over rights fees
  - Prevailed against the Baltimore Orioles' State Agency Landlord in a stadium lease arbitration
- Represented client regarding fees arising from the tobacco industry's national settlement agreement with the State of Maryland
- Represented investor in multimillion dollar accounting fraud lawsuit
- Represented clients in substantial medical malpractice and personal injury claims generating millions of dollars in settlements
- Represented families in automotive product liability cases for faulty seatbelts and "Flaming Fords" resulting in multimillion dollar settlements
- Obtained nearly \$1 million from a jury trial of a commercial contract dispute involving claims of tortious interference with contractual rights
- Represented a national healthcare company to resolve a \$1.2 million collection claim
- Settled a case for a record \$185 million by bankrupt national retailer Merry-Go-Round against financial advisor for failed Chapter 11 reorganization

## CLASS ACTION LITIGATION

Lawyers at RWL effectively battle the challenges of class action litigation and relish the ability to seek justice for a class of people who have been harmed by the same defective product, injury or fraudulent action. The RWL attorneys who litigate class action suits have decades of experience counseling clients on legal strategies that address complex cases involving millions of plaintiffs and have played a critical role in shaping the outcome of such suits throughout the world.

## NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CLASS ACTION EXPERIENCE

RWL attorneys have served as lead or co-lead counsel in a variety of class action cases spanning the country and the world.

- National class-action lawsuits on behalf of consumers
- Human rights claims
- Sex-discrimination and other discrimination lawsuits
- International government reparations
- Lead paint claims
- Consumer product defects
- Consumer fraud
- Securities fraud

# Meet the Team



## **ARNOLD M. WEINER, ESQ.**

Partner and Co-Chair of Complex  
Civil and Commercial Litigation  
Practice Group

- Experienced and highly regarded trial attorney and civil litigator, as well as Chair of the firm's White Collar Criminal Defense practice and Co-chair of the firm's Complex Civil and Commercial litigation practice.
- Primary counsel in several large business disputes that have generated hundreds of millions of dollars in settlements for his clients.
- Previously served as an Assistant United States Attorney and Assistant Attorney General for the state of Maryland, and as Principal at multiple prestigious Baltimore area law firms, including the Law Offices of Arnold M. Weiner, Weiner & Weltchek, and Weiner, Astrachan, Gunst, Hillman & Allen, P.C.
- Former Assistant United States Attorney and Assistant Attorney General for the State of Maryland. Lead defense attorney in the high-profile prosecutions of Maryland Governor Marvin Mandel, Congressman Edward Garmatz, and Baltimore Mayor Sheila A. Dixon, as well as many other notable criminal trials.
- Lead counsel in lengthy civil trials both as plaintiff's attorney and as defendant's attorney, in federal and state courts throughout the United States.
- Has taught courses in civil procedure, criminal procedure and trial practice and procedure at the University of Maryland School of Law.
- Served on the Editorial Board of the Review of Law and currently serves on the Homeless Persons Representation Project Board of Directors.
- Listed in the Best Lawyers in America since 1983.
- Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers for over 30 years.
- Top Ten Maryland Super Lawyers.
- University of Maryland School of Law Distinguished Graduate Award (2019).
- Daily Record Icon Success and Leadership Award (2017),
- Daily Record Leadership in Law Award (2011).
- Baltimore Business Journal Power Twenty Award (2010).
- Featured in cover story of Super Lawyers Magazine (2007).

# Meet the Team



## M. CELESTE BRUCE, ESQ.

Partner and Co-Chair of Complex  
Civil and Commercial Litigation  
Practice Group

- Twenty-five years of experience in broad-based commercial and complex civil litigation in state and federal courts and before administrative and arbitral tribunals.
- Experienced in litigating commercial, business, stockholder and partnership disputes and dissolutions, land use and zoning matters, contract disputes, fraud and fraudulent transfers, commercial bankruptcy adversarial proceedings, preferences disputes, derivative claims, employment disputes, appeals and appellate practice, and regulatory and agency adversary proceedings.
- Experienced in representation of clients on matters involving sports franchise and media rights law, business torts, corporation and partnership dissolution, corporate governance, election law and referendum issues, franchise disputes, asset purchase agreements and sales, stock purchase and sale agreements, business entity creation and dissolution, and catastrophic injury and medical malpractice.
- Member of the Maryland State Bar Association, District of Columbia Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, Montgomery County Bar Association, Women's Bar Associations of Maryland and Montgomery County, and American Bar Association.
- Immediate past president of the Federal Bar Association, Maryland Chapter and instrumental in creating and organizing the Maryland Chapter's Women in the Law Program.
- Primary Counsel in successfully litigating land use and zoning entitlements on behalf of multi-national retail corporation.
- Primary Counsel in successfully defending multi-million dollar lease termination dispute involving an off-track betting facility.
- Primary Counsel representing RSN in contract dispute with auditor.
- Primary Counsel in successfully litigating breach of employment agreements and stockholder purchase agreement on behalf of medical service provider corporation.
- Primary Counsel in successfully defending derivative and other shareholder claims on behalf of construction company, resulting in termination of claimant shareholders' rights.
- Primary Counsel in successfully defending shareholder and partnership claims against President of a software company.
- Primary Counsel in successfully litigating claims against neighboring landowner for contamination of client's site.



# Meet the Team



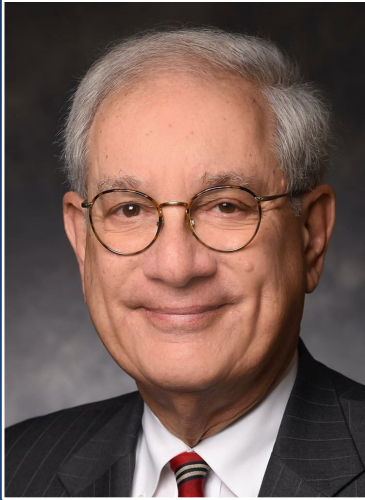
## **ALAN M. RIFKIN, ESQ.**

Managing Partner, Chair of Sports Law, Gaming and Facilities Practice Group and Co-Chair of Business and Commercial Transactions Practice Group

- Managing Partner of RWL, which was founded in 1989 after serving as Counsel and Chief Legislative Officer to former Governor William Donald Schaefer and after previously serving in the same capacity to the Senate of Maryland.
- Well-recognized commercial and business attorney who has represented many national and international corporations and institutions for over three decades. Current areas of practice include business and commercial transactions, complex civil and commercial litigation, sports franchise and media rights, class action suits, and false claims act cases.
- Led a negotiating team for the Maryland Jockey Club, The Stronach Group and the Preakness Stakes® for a \$375 million public/private partnership for the rebuilding of Pimlico Race Course and Laurel Park
- Contributed as a consulting witness and expert for the Baltimore Orioles and the Mid-Atlantic Sport Network in an arbitration matter before Major League Baseball
- Represented the Maryland Jockey Club and The Stronach Group, owners of the Pimlico Race Course and the Preakness Stakes® in eminent domain litigation involving Baltimore City
- Represented the Tufton Group in the negotiations with a local municipal government concerning improvements to the City of Aberdeen’s Minor League Baseball Stadium, home of the Aberdeen Ironbirds
- Outside counsel to various professional sports franchises and sports networks, including: the Baltimore Orioles, Mid-Atlantic Sports Network (MASN®), Maryland Jockey Club and the Preakness Stakes®, among others
- Represented the Baltimore Orioles in negotiations with Major League Baseball concerning compensation for the Orioles in connection with the relocation of the Washington Nationals to Washington, D.C.
- Negotiated the Baltimore Orioles’ spring training facilities lease with Sarasota County, Florida
- Represents the Maryland Jockey Club, owners of the Preakness Stakes® and Pimlico Race Course in a wide variety of commercial, regulatory and litigation matters
- Represented the widow of one of the U.S. Postal workers who died as a result of contact with the now-infamous “anthrax letters” mailed to the United States Congress.



# Meet the Team



**CHARLES S. FAX, ESQ.**  
Of Counsel and Chair of Class  
Action and False Claims Act  
Litigation Practice Groups

- Chair of the firm's Class Action Litigation and False Claims Act Litigation practices.
- Experience includes litigating business and corporate/contractual disputes, including business fraud, government procurements, insurance coverage disputes, False Claims Act cases, business defamation and executive employment claims.
- Represents plaintiffs and defendants in consumer class actions and civil rights litigation.
- Representative clients include public and closely held corporations, broker-dealers, trustees, law firms and business executives and employees.
- Taught as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Baltimore School of Law since 2010.
- Authored a regular column on recent developments in civil procedure for the American Bar Association Section of Litigation magazine "Litigation News" since 2008.
- Co-author, with United States District Judge Paul W. Grimm and Paul Mark Sandler, Esq., of "Litigation Problems and Their Solutions" (ABA Publishing 2013) – a widely cited textbook on civil discovery in federal courts, now in its third edition.
- Co-lead plaintiffs' class counsel in *Simon, et al. v. Republic of Hungary, et al.*, 812 F.3d 127 (D.C. Cir. 2016), a worldwide putative class action by Hungarian-born survivors of the Hungarian Holocaust in World War II against the Hungarian government and its national railway, seeking reparations
- Co-lead plaintiffs' class counsel in *Chambers, et al. v. Whirlpool, et al.*, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 140839 (C.D. Cal. Oct. 11, 2016), a nationwide class action against Whirlpool Corporation and Sears Roebuck alleging defectively designed dishwashers that can lead to combustion.

# Meet the Team



**BARRY L. GOGEL, ESQ.**  
Partner and Chair of Mediation and  
Dispute Resolution Practice Group

- Represents businesses, professional athletes, politicians, artists, large institutions and litigants of all levels of sophistication.
- Array of experience includes professional malpractice, complex fraud, telecast rights disputes, Lanham Act, automotive product liability, procurement bid protest and condemnation cases.
- Primary counsel is multimillion dollar fraud case brought by investor against accounting firm.
- Primary counsel in banking fraud case brought against banks who assisted client in execution of Ponzi scheme.
- Primary counsel in automotive products liability cases brought against manufacturers for faulty seatbelt design and spontaneous combustion, resulting in multimillion dollar settlements.
- Adjunct professor of Negotiations and “Sports and the Law” at the University of Maryland Francis Carey King School of Law, where he also coaches the Law School’s Alternate Dispute Resolution Team.
- Chair of RWL’s Mediation and Dispute Resolution practice.
- Former chair of the Board of Maryland Youth and the Law (MYLaw) and on its Law Links committee, which places Baltimore City high school students in law firms and legal agencies for paid summer internships.
- Member of the American Bar Association, the Maryland State Bar Association, the Baltimore City Bar Association and the American and Maryland Associations for Justice.
- Daily Record Leadership in Law Award 2020.
- Listed in Best Lawyers in America since 2013.
- Listed in Super Lawyers since 2011.
- AV Rated by Martindale Hubble since 2010.

# Meet the Team



**LIESEL J. SCHOPLER, ESQ.**

Partner

- Partner in the firm's litigation group with a broad-based commercial litigation and complex civil litigation practice.
- Experience includes litigating business and corporate/contractual disputes, including False Claims Act cases, business defamation and executive employment claims. Practice also includes representing clients in consumer class actions and civil rights litigation.
- Previously worked in the Washington, D.C. office of a global law firm, representing clients in the energy industry on a variety of regulatory and litigation matters before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Department of Labor (DOL), and the federal courts.
- Served as a general aviation officer in the U.S. Navy.
- Member of the Maryland State Bar Association, District of Columbia Bar Association, Anne Arundel Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, and American Bar Association.
- Member of legal team representing a class of millions of owners of allegedly defective Whirlpool-made dishwashers in *Chambers, et al. v. Whirlpool, et al.*, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 140839 (C.D. Cal. Oct. 11, 2016).
- Member of the legal team representing 14 plaintiffs, survivors of the Holocaust who were stripped of their possessions and deported from Hungary by the Hungarian National Railway, in a putative class action against Hungary and its national railway in *Simon, et al. v. Republic of Hungary, et al.*, 812 F.3d 127 (D.C. Cir. 2016).

# Meet the Team



**STUART A. CHERRY, ESQ.**

Partner

- Partner in the firm's litigation group with a broad-based commercial litigation practice.
- Previously served as Deputy Legal Counsel to Maryland Governor Larry Hogan from 2017-2019, as part of the Governor's in-house legal team.
- Advised the Governor and members of his Administration on constitutional issues, executive authority, regulatory matters, procurements, ethics, clemency and paroles, and significant litigation.
- Previously served as the Public Information Act Officer for the Office of Governor, coordinating the Administration's responses to document requests from media and other requesters.
- Successfully represented clients in the Maryland Cannabis industry in litigation matters.
- Helped draft executive orders and advised on appointment issues, including judicial appointments. In depth knowledge with regard to how State government works.
- Previously represented clients in federal and State courts throughout Maryland, conducted trial work, argued significant motions and presented before the Maryland Court of Special Appeals.
- Represented clients from a broad variety of sectors, including large retailers, commercial lenders, landlords, businesses of all shapes and sizes, insurance companies, and individuals.
- Member of the Maryland State Bar Association, the Baltimore County Bar Association, and the Simon E. Sobeloff Law Society.
- Previously served as a member of the board of the Maryland Lawyers Campaign Against Hunger and the Star Spangled Banner Flag House, a museum dedicated to the memory of Mary Pickersgill, the maker of the flag that inspired Francis Scott Key's famous poem that later became national anthem.
- Served in a leadership role in 2018 for the campaign to elect the Baltimore County Sitting Judges.

# Meet the Team



**MADELAINE K. KATZ, ESQ.**  
Partner

- Member of the firm’s Complex Commercial and Civil Litigation, Class Action Litigation and False Claims Act Litigation practice groups.
- Focuses practice on cases involving complex and unique procedural and evidentiary issues, and is well-versed in litigating matters involving personal injury, product liability, premises liability, professional liability, sanctions, community associations, property disputes, contract disputes, fraud, estates, toxic tort, employment, insurance coverage, appeals and appellate practice.
- Experience practicing in state and federal courts in all three jurisdictions of Maryland, D.C. and Virginia helps dissect and understand opposing counsel’s strategy and position cases for a favorable outcome.
- Member of the Maryland State Bar Association, Bar Association of Montgomery County, Maryland, D.C. Bar Association, Virginia Bar Association (“VBA”), Virginia Association of Defense Attorneys (“VADA”), Fairfax Bar Association, and Northern Virginia Estate Planning Council.
- Former Chair of the VBA, Young Lawyers Division and on the VBA’s Board of Governors from 2020-2021.
- Currently serves on the Board of Directors for VADA, having been a past chair of its Products & Toxic Torts section.

# Meet the Team



**MICHAEL T. MARR, ESQ.**  
Partner

- Member of the firm's Complex Commercial and Civil Litigation, Class Action Litigation and False Claims Act Litigation, Business and Commercial Transactions, and White Collar Criminal Defense and Investigations practice groups.
- Over 20 years of legal experience representing a wide variety of clients including real estate and construction firms, technology companies, government contractors, health care practices and providers, law firms and individual attorneys, national and regional insurers, and business owners and executives.
- Represented clients in the state and federal courts in Virginia, Maryland, the District of Columbia, and North Carolina.
- Significant experience in alternatives to litigation in resolving parties' disputes.
- Prior to receiving law degree, was the owner of a small manufacturer, a financial planner, and a commercial real estate agent. These practical experiences allow him to provide clients with real world advice and guidance.
- Member of the Virginia State Bar, the Fairfax County, Virginia Bar Association, the McLean, Virginia Bar Association, the Maryland State Bar, the Maryland State Bar Association, and the Bar Association of Montgomery County, Maryland.
- Affiliated with the Fairfax County, Virginia Foster Care and Adoption, Department of Family Services as a foster and adoptive parent.



# Meet the Team



**GEOFFREY W. WASHINGTON,**  
**ESQ.**  
Partner

- Member of the firm's Complex Commercial and Civil Litigation and Business and Commercial Transactions practice groups.
- Over 25 years of courtroom experience, including in the areas of business and commercial litigation, shareholder/partner disputes and business separations, estates and trusts litigation, intellectual property/employment covenants litigation, and zoning matters.
- Served on the Baltimore City Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals for over a decade, including as serving as Chair for eight years.
- Chairman of the Board of the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership since 2018, when he was appointed by Senate President Bill Ferguson.
- Past President of the Federal Hill Preparatory School Parent-Teacher Organization, Inc. from 2019-2021.
- Member of the Maryland Bar Association, Baltimore City Bar Association, Fourth Circuit Bar, Monumental Bar Association, and Washington, DC Federal Bar.
- Received the Attorney Advocate of the Year Award from the Maryland Small Business Administration in 2022.



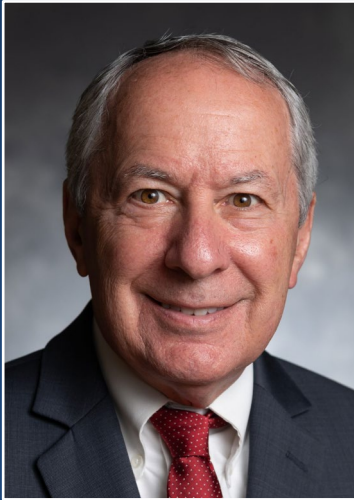
# Meet the Team



**SCOTT A. LIVINGSTON, ESQ.**  
Partner and Chair of State Contracting,  
Procurement and Bid Protest Group

- With extensive experience in Maryland procurement law, has represented hundreds of government contractors on bid protests and other state contract disputes totaling more than \$5 billion.
- Attorney of record in more than 50 decisions published by the Maryland State Board of Contract Appeals. Handled more appeals to the Maryland State Board of Contract Appeals than any other private practitioner attorney in over 30 years in practice.
- Previously served as an Assistant Attorney General of Maryland advising the Secretary of Transportation of Maryland. Helped draft Maryland's procurement regulations governing administrative procedures for resolution of bid protests and contract claims.
- Regular speaker on procurement law subjects, including construction claims, bid protests and MBE compliance for organizations including the Public Contract Law Section of the American Bar Association.
- Provides legal services to government contractors relating to bid protests, litigation and settlement of claims against agencies of the State of Maryland.
- Awarded the "Champion of Equal Justice" from Legal Aid of Maryland, for 17 years of pro bono procurement law advice that supported \$102 million in contracts for legal services to Children in Need of Assistance.
- Author and publisher of the "Maryland Procurement ALERT" newsletter, with timely information on legal developments of interest to companies doing business with the State of Maryland.
- Conducted webinars on COVID-19 and Protecting the Contractors Profit Margin for the Maryland Transportation Building Materials Association and Associated Builders and Contractors (Spring, 2020).
- Co-author of "Principles of Maryland Procurement Law," with Lydia B. Hoover, 29 University of Baltimore Law Review 1 (2000).

# Meet the Team



**MICHAEL D. BERMAN, ESQ.**  
Of Counsel

- Member of the firm’s Complex Commercial and Civil Litigation and Electronically Stored Information (ESI) practices.
- Previously was the Deputy Chief of Civil Litigation, Office of the Attorney General of Maryland (2001-2008).
- Adjunct faculty member at the University of Baltimore School of Law.
- Guest lecturer at Judicial College of Maryland.
- Editor-in-chief and a contributing author in “Electronically Stored Information in Maryland Courts” (Maryland State Bar Ass’n. 2020)
- Co-editor of two other American Bar Association books on electronic discovery and co-author of a number of law review and other articles regarding electronically stored information.
- Experienced in federal and Maryland courts, with extensive appellate experience.
- Past Chair of bar association’s Federal District Court Committee; Subcommittee to Propose Revisions to ESI Protocol of District of Maryland; Litigation Section Council; and, American Bar Association Litigation Section Book Publishing Board.
- Co-author of University of Baltimore article on Maryland referendum law.
- Graduate of University of Maryland at Baltimore and College Park, as well as the University of Wisconsin – Madison.
- Law clerk for the Hon. R. Dorsey Watkins, United States District Judge, United States District Court for the District of Maryland.
- Awarded Army Commendation Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Paratrooper’s Badge, and Expert Infantry Badge.

# Meet the Team



**DEVON L. HARMAN, ESQ.**  
Associate

- Associate in the firm's Business and Commercial Transactions, Complex Commercial and Civil Litigation, and Sports Law, Franchise, Facilities Media Rights and Gaming practice groups.
- Advises and defends clients in high-stakes, civil and criminal litigation at the state and federal levels.
- Experience advising clients in an array of regulatory compliance and administrative law matters.
- Assists clients with government contracts at the federal, state and local levels.
- Member of the Maryland State Bar Association.

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