RWL | RIFKIN WEINER LIVINGSTON LLC

RWL Complex Civil Litigation, Class Actions and White Collar Criminal Defense

“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

About RWL

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.

Where law, government and business converge, and where public policy and public opinion intersect, RWL is there to assist – using our "team approach" to navigate through the maze of Maryland laws, regulations and governmental institutions.

RWL provides our clients with sound legal and practical business advice in courtrooms, boardrooms and hearing rooms. Our attorneys regularly appear before arbitration and mediation panels, state and federal courts and appellate courts, legislative hearings, Board of Public Works, and Maryland State Board of Contract Appeals.

RWL and its attorneys have annually been included in a number prestigious law firm rating systems that rank outstanding lawyers and law firms who have achieved a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement, including top rankings in Chambers, Best Lawyers, Super Lawyers and Martindale-Hubbell.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS

CANNABIS POLICY, ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND LITIGATION

COMPLEX COMMERCIAL AND CIVIL LITIGATION

ELECTRONICALLY STORED INFORMATION (ESI)

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND LOBBYING

MEDIATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

NATIONAL PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT

SPORTS LAW, GAMING AND FACILITIES

STATE CONTRACTING, PROCUREMENT AND BID PROTESTS

WHITE COLLAR CRIMINAL DEFENSE AND INVESTIGATIONS

Complex Civil Litigation, Class Actions and White Collar Criminal Defense

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 Litigation and Class Actions

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

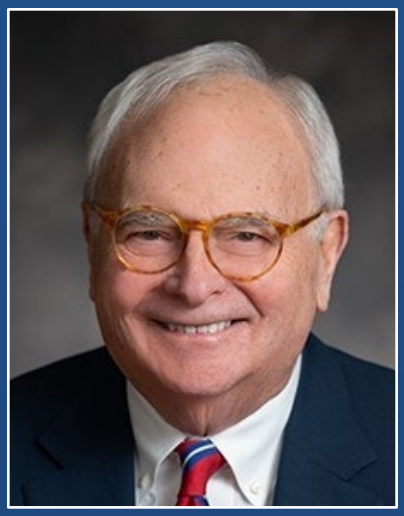
Lawyers at RWL effectively battle the challenges of class action litigation and relish the ability to seek justice for a class of people who have been harmed by the same defective product, injury or fraudulent action. The RWL attorneys who litigate class action suits have decades of experience counseling 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

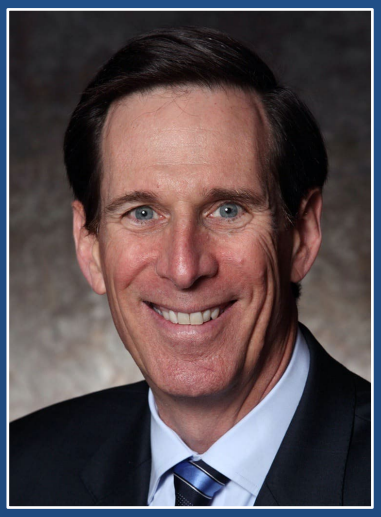
- Experienced and highly regarded trial attorney and civil litigator, as well as Chair of the firm's White Collar Criminal Defense practice and Co-chair of the firm's Complex Civil and Commercial litigation practice.
- Represented the Baltimore Orioles with respect to telecast rights disputes related to ownership of telecast rights and to determination of telecast licensing fee.
- 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.
- 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.
- Represented the Baltimore Orioles with respect to telecast rights disputes related to ownership of telecast rights and to determination of telecast licensing fee.
- 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 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.

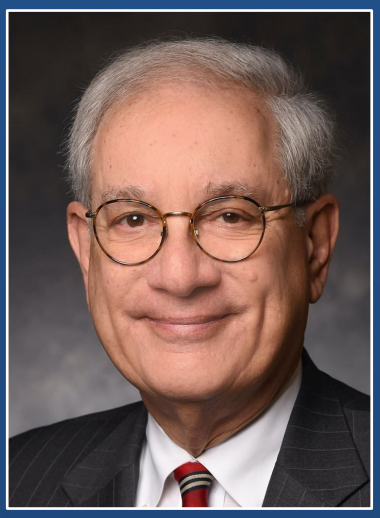
Meet the Team



ALAN M. RIFKIN, ESQ.
Managing Partner and Chair of Sports Law, Gaming and Facilities 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
- Adjunct professor, "Sports and the Law", at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law.
- Panel moderator for "Discussion of NCAA v. Alston" Faculty Webinar Series, University of Maryland School of Law (2021).

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

STUART A. CHERRY, ESQ.
Partner, Co-Chair of National Practice Development Group, and Co-Chair of Cannabis Policy, Administrative Law and Litigation Group

- 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.
- Currrently 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 25 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, trusts, and estates.
- Extensive experience advising commercial and professional policyholders on a variety of insurance-related issues and disputes.
- Represented clients in the state and federal courts in Virginia, Maryland, the District of Columbia, North Carolina and Florida.
- 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

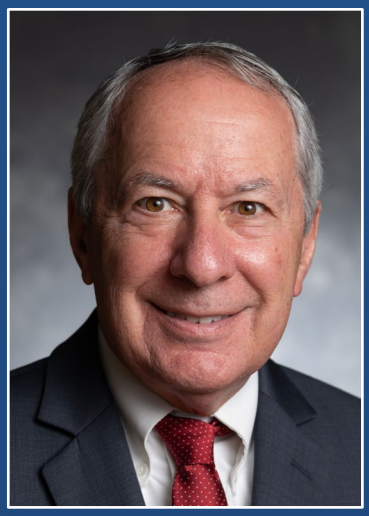
- Member of the firm's Complex Commercial and Civil Litigation and Business and Commercial Transactions practice groups.
- Over 25 years of courtroom experience, including in the areas of business and commercial litigation, shareholder/partner disputes and business separations, estates and trusts litigation, 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 Co-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 HARMAN MAUNZ, ESQ.
Partner

- Partner in the firm's Business and Commercial Transactions; Complex Commercial and Civil Litigation; State Contracting, Procurement and Bid Protest; 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.

Meet the Team

EMILY T. GORDON
Law Clerk

- In the Firm's Administrative Law, Business and Commercial Transactions, and Complex Civil and Commercial Litigation practice groups.
- Recent graduate of the Wake Forest University School of Law, emphasizing intellectual property, transactions, and administrative law in coursework.
- Participated in the Wake Forest Law Intellectual Property Clinic, worked as a Research Assistant to a Clinical Professor of Law in Intellectual Property, and served as Symposium Editor of the Wake Forest Law Review while in law school.

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