

BUSINESSNH

M A G A Z I N E

RAISING THE BAR

NH'S TOP ATTORNEYS

BY ERIKA COHEN AND MATTHEW J. MOWRY

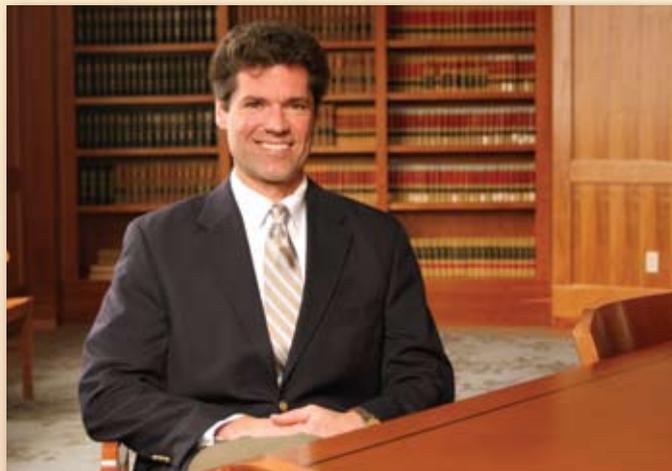
Nulli secundus—or in Latin, second to none. When businesses or individuals need legal representation, they look for the best, whether it's a business merger or acquisition, a bankruptcy case, a divorce or a matter of litigation. They seek attorneys with a track record to get the job done.

The lawyers on this list are a devoted, competitive and driven lot who believe deeply in the law. So who are the top attorneys in the state? To find out, we surveyed lawyers across the state, asking them whom they would hire in a variety of legal fields. We wanted to know who NH lawyers consider to be best in class. Attorneys were allowed to nominate people from their own firm, but only if they also provided an equal number of nominations from other firms. Outside nominations were given more weight than internal nominations.

What emerged is a list of fascinating people (people who farm, develop alternative energy installations, fly planes, raise fainting goats, or in the case of Amy Kanyuk, recently took up learning the cello, in addition to being legal eagles), who have the respect of their colleagues and are known as go-to attorneys within their fields.

Two attorneys, Alan Reische and Cathy Green, made this list the last time we compiled it in 2002. There were also two ties. The first was between Reische, named a top attorney for corporate law, and Richard Samuels, named top attorney for securities law, who each received an equal number of votes for Mergers and Acquisitions. And it should come as no surprise that when it came to immigration law, the founding partners of GoffWilson, which is solely focused on immigration, both landed on top.

We're certainly not the first to recognize these attorneys, who between them have an impressive list of accolades and professional achievement. They also share a passion for the law, a zeal for their clients and a deep-rooted commitment to give back to the communities where they live and serve. We congratulate these attorneys for being named the best in their fields by their peers. They all raise the bar for the legal profession in NH.



CHRISTINE CARRIGAN

Bankruptcy: Peter N. Tamposi

The Tamposi Law Group in Nashua

www.thetamposilawgroup.com

Years practicing law: 15

Law School: Suffolk Law School in Massachusetts

An adrenaline junkie, Peter N. Tamposi likes the challenge and excitement of the unexpected, making business bankruptcy law a perfect fit. It's a practice involving copious amount of litigation, risk and uncertainty, but also great satisfaction.

"The dirty little secret of bankruptcy is it's a lot of litigation," Tamposi says, describing bankruptcy law as "the wild west of litigation."

"You can't always anticipate going into a hearing who the witnesses are, what the evidence is and what issues will come up. You sometimes just have to improvise," he says.

Tamposi has represented both creditors and debtors in Chapter 11 filings, but he prefers representing debtors as he then has control of the entire case and can help a business save jobs and serve its customers.

That's exactly what he did in 2009 for Candia-based Viking Oil and its customers. Fluctuating oil prices adversely affected profits, leading the company to file Chapter 11 bankruptcy last fall. Tamposi worked with the company to craft an agreement that allowed Viking to make good on more than \$100,000 in prepaid contracts. The company was later sold and some secured creditors did not get as much as they otherwise might have.

Bankruptcy law also means negotiating with numerous parties related to the case including creditors, debtors and trustees. Cases can involve loan restructuring and workouts, liquidation, and foreclosure and secured party sales.

Tamposi worked for Nixon Peabody for 11 years, first in litigation and then in bankruptcy, both on the creditor and debtor side. Last year he moved to Donchess, Notinger & Tamposi in Nashua, a smaller firm where he focused almost exclusively on representing debtors. He recently left to found The Tamposi Law Group.

The down economy has kept Tamposi busy and presented new challenges. With the commercial credit markets mostly dried up, it is much more difficult for companies that are restructuring to secure financing. "It makes it more of a challenge for a debtor to emerge from bankruptcy. It's changed the nature of the game a little," he says.

A native of Nashua, Tamposi has two children, ages 11 and 13. He is an avid outdoorsman, and enjoys mountain biking, Telemark skiing, snowboarding and photography. This year he began teaching bankruptcy law at Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord. He serves on the board of the Nashua Children's Home and the NH Charitable Foundation, Greater Nashua Region. "It just feels like home," he says of Nashua and why he volunteers with local charitable organizations. ■