

Paul M. Kessimian

Co-Managing Partner

Paul serves as the Firm's Co-Managing Partner and as Chair of the Litigation Practice.

Paul represents companies, non-profits, and individuals in high-stakes and complex disputes in court and arbitral bodies. Paul has successfully guided clients through litigations and arbitrations on a wide range of matters, including class actions, trade secrets, insurance and reinsurance, antitrust, ERISA and restrictive covenants, business torts, and intellectual property and licensing.

Paul's practice also includes representing clients who are being investigated by state Attorneys General on a variety of matters.

Paul has managed disputes from inception through trial and has tried cases in both state and federal court as well as before arbitral tribunals.

Paul is a recognized member of the Rhode Island and Massachusetts bars who has served in leadership positions across a host of professional organizations including the Federal Bar Association, Rhode Island Chapter and the American Bar Association. He is regularly included in Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business, Best Lawyers in America, and Benchmark Litigation as a "Litigation Star."

Applying a business-minded approach to every dispute, Paul has a proven track record advising clients across a broad range of industries in high-stakes, big-dollar disputes often alongside or against some of the country's largest and most established firms. Before joining Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP, Paul was a litigator at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP.



CONTACT

401-861-8258

pkessimian@psh.com

EDUCATION

- Columbia University School of Law, J.D.
 - Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar
 - Articles Editor, Columbia Business Law Review
- Providence College, B.A. Political Science and Economics, summa cum laude

BAR ADMISSIONS

Massachusetts

Rhode Island

U.S. Federal District Court,
Massachusetts

U.S. Federal District Court, Rhode
Island

U.S. Court of Appeals, 1st Circuit

EXPERIENCE

Representative Cases

- Defended and prosecuted claims seeking to apportion and recover millions of dollars in costs associated with cleaning up environmental contaminants under Massachusetts law (Mass. Gen. Laws. Ch. 21E). Co-chaired six-week federal jury trial on behalf of client to verdict recovering millions in dollars of costs.
- Defended publicly traded pharmaceutical company in qui tam suits brought in Federal Court in Rhode Island and Boston.
- Successfully briefed and argued before the Massachusetts Appeals Court on behalf of a municipality concerning the scope of its power to revoke building permits, issue cease and desist orders, and control the application of its bylaws.
- Served as co-lead counsel representing the State of Rhode Island in class-wide arbitration brought by tobacco companies on the master settlement agreement and obtained dismissal of those claims after discovery.
- Successfully defended a publicly traded chemical manufacturing and biotechnology firm against a multi-million dollar suit brought by a former landlord. Paul obtained dismissal of plaintiff's claims in their entirety on the eve of trial.
- Litigated the constitutionality of Rhode Island's Mechanics' Lien Law and ultimately prevailed on summary judgment, on behalf of mechanics' lienholders, subordinating over \$20 million in mortgages held by an international bank to the clients' liens.
- Represented toy manufacturer in licensing dispute over royalties with large publicly traded company.
- Successfully represented financial institution on reopened Chapter 11 bankruptcy adversary proceeding upholding the validity of the contingent financial instruments it had obtained pursuant to that bankruptcy.
- Represented one of the nation's largest insurance companies in litigation involving life insurance sales practices.
- Represented publicly traded company in commercial class action concerning compliance with vendor agreements.
- Obtained summary judgment for nonprofit organization on central issue in complex ERISA class action.

INSIGHTS

Honors & Awards

- Partridge Snow & Hahn Attorneys Recognized by 2025 Super Lawyers October 17, 2025
- PSH's Paul Kessimian Elected President-Elect of the Federal Bar Association's Rhode Island Chapter October 6, 2025
- 24 PSH Attorneys Recognized by The Best Lawyers in America® 2026 August 21, 2025
- Chambers USA 2025 Recognizes Partridge Snow & Hahn June 5, 2025
- PSH Attorneys Receive Rhode Island Monthly's 2025 Professional Excellence Award May 30, 2025
- PSH Attorneys Recognized as 2025 Best Lawyers in America® and "Lawyer of the Year" August 15, 2024
- Chambers USA 2024 Recognizes Partridge Snow & Hahn June 6, 2024
- Rhode Island Monthly Recognizes 25 PSH Attorneys in 2024 Professional Excellence in Law Issue May 27, 2024
- Recognized as a Super Lawyer in business litigation by *Rhode Island Super Lawyers*, 2024
- PSH Attorneys Recognized in 30th Edition of Best Lawyers in America August 17, 2023
- Paul Kessimian Appointed as Defense Counsel of Rhode Island (DCRI) President July 24, 2023
- Rhode Island Monthly Recognizes 23 PSH Attorneys in 2023 Professional Excellence in Law Issue June 14, 2023
- Chambers USA 2023 Recognizes Partridge Snow & Hahn June 5, 2023
- PSH Attorneys Recognized in 2023 Edition of Best Lawyers in America August 18, 2022
- Three Partridge Snow & Hahn Attorneys Selected as Fellows of Rhode Island Bar Foundation July 27, 2022
- Fellow of the Rhode Island Bar Foundation, June 23, 2022
- Chambers USA 2022 Recognizes Partridge Snow & Hahn June 9, 2022
- Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP Announces New Co-Managing Partners April 1, 2022

- [Partridge Snow & Hahn Named in Benchmark Litigation's 2022 Rankings and Stars](#) October 2021
- [PS&H Attorneys Recognized in 2022 Edition of Best Lawyers in America](#) August 23, 2021
- [Rhode Island Monthly Recognizes PSH Attorneys in 15 Practice Areas](#) June 11, 2021
- [Paul M. Kessimian Elected to President-Elect of Defense Counsel of Rhode Island](#) June 2021
- [Chambers USA 2021 Recognizes Partridge Snow & Hahn](#) May 20, 2021
- [Partridge Snow & Hahn Named in Benchmark Litigation's 2021 Rankings and Stars](#) November 2020
- [Partridge Snow & Hahn Attorneys Recognized in the 2021 Edition of Best Lawyers in America](#) August 20, 2020
- [Partridge Snow & Hahn Attorneys Recognized in Professional Excellence Law Issue In Rhode Island Monthly](#) June 2020
- [Chambers USA 2020 Recognizes Partridge Snow & Hahn](#) May 2020
- [Paul Kessimian Elected to Secretary of Rhode Island Chapter of Federal Bar Association](#) November 13, 2019
- [Partridge Snow & Hahn Named in Benchmark Litigation's 2020 Rankings and Stars](#) November 8, 2019
- [PS&H Partner Paul Kessimian Elected Vice President Of Defense Counsel](#) June 14, 2019
- [Chambers USA 2019 Recognizes Partridge Snow & Hahn in Massachusetts and Rhode Island](#) May 1, 2019
- [Partridge Snow & Hahn Named in Benchmark Litigation's 2019 Rankings and Stars](#) December 7, 2018
- [Partridge Snow & Hahn Attorneys Have Been Named to the 2019 Edition of Best Lawyers in America](#) November 5, 2018
- [PS&H Attorneys Named 2018 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars](#) *American Lawyer Media*, October 22, 2018
- [PS&H Attorneys Named 2017 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars](#) October 2017
- [Best Lawyers in America 2018 Names PS&H Providence Attorneys Bernardo, Gamboli, Gilden, Merten and McCarthy "Lawyers of the Year"](#) 11 Attorneys in Providence and Boston Named "Best Lawyers", August 16, 2017
- [Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP Announces New Managing Partner and Other Firm Leaders](#) April 1, 2017
- [Paul Kessimian named a winner of Benchmark Litigation Under 40 Hot List – 2016](#) August 16, 2016
- [Selected by *Providence Business News* as a 2012 40 Under Forty Honoree](#)
- [Recognized by the *New England Business Bulletin* as a 2011 Top Young Professional Under Forty](#)
- [Selected as a "Local Litigation Star" and 40 & Under Hot List 2019 by Benchmark: Litigation](#)
- [Chambers USA – Consistently ranked as leading attorney in Commercial Litigation](#)
- [Recognized for commercial litigation by *Best Lawyers in America*](#)
- [Recognized as a "Rising Star" in business litigation by *Rhode Island Super Lawyers*](#)

Publications

- [Bloomingdales' Tracking of Web Visitors Doesn't Trigger Jurisdiction](#) *Paul Kessimian was quoted in a Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly article*, May 16, 2024
- [Massachusetts and Rhode Island Charities: Unlocking Restricted Funds](#) April 22, 2024
- [Court Clarifies When Duty to Preserve Evidence in Litigation Arises](#) February 14, 2023
- [Rule 26\(e\) Supplementation of Expert Reports: Not As Easy As It May Look](#) January 2, 2023
- [Five Tips for Using Proportionality to Limit Wild Goose Chases in Discovery](#) June 11, 2020
- [RI Supreme Court Decision to Impact Real Estate, Title and Mortgage Industries](#) June 3, 2020
- ['Business Interruption' Recovery May Be Uphill Climb For Insureds](#) *As seen in Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly*, May 14, 2020
- [Christian Jenner & Paul Kessimian: Data Hygiene](#) December 6, 2019
- [Paul M. Kessimian Comments on Appellate Decision in Long-Arm Statute Case](#) *As seen in Mass Lawyers Weekly*, July 2, 2019
- [Seeking and Preparing Litigation Holds](#), published in *From the Trenches III: Pretrial Strategies for Success*, Sawnie A. McEntire ed., October 7, 2018
- [U.S. District Court Officially Adopts Established R.I. Deposition Standards](#) *As seen in RI Lawyers Weekly*, August 16, 2018

- [Bankruptcy Bar Assesses Supreme Court Nixing of Structured Dismissal](#) *Paul Kessimian was quoted in a Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly article*, April 13, 2017
- [New Supreme Court Decision Reminds Parties to Bankruptcies to Keep their Priorities Straight](#) March 31, 2017
- [Got A Priority Bankruptcy Claim? Nothing To Worry About Then, Right? Wrong.](#) 03 November 2016
- [The Nature of Workers' Compensation as Affected by Pain and Suffering](#) March 16, 2016
- [Harsh & Costly Lesson from Unilateral Use of E-Discovery Tools](#) September 30, 2014
- [e-Discovery Update: Avoid Sanctions by Appropriately Preserving Electronically Stored Information](#) July 15, 2013

Speaking Engagements

- [A Primer on Evidence in the Digital Age: Admitting ESI Evidence at Trial](#), presented at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Rhode Island Bar Association on June 1, 2023
- [What Now? Contract-ing COVID](#) — included a survey of the pertinent law as well as a panel discussion of recent cases (from Rhode Island and elsewhere) involving legal issues arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic, presented at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Rhode Island Bar Association June 23, 2021
- [Paul Kessimian Shares Insights in Virtual Litigation Academy Video](#) August 3, 2020
- [PS&H Partner Paul Kessimian Speaks at National Center for State Courts Webinar](#) July 20, 2020
- [PS&H Partners Michael Gamboli and Paul Kessimian Speak at Rhode Island Bar Association 2018 Annual Meeting](#) June 6, 2018

AFFILIATIONS & BOARDS

Professional Affiliations

- Roger Williams University School of Law
 - Board of Directors
- Defense Counsel of Rhode Island
 - President
- American Bar Association
 - Litigation Section's Commercial & Business Litigation Committee
 - Web and Practice Point Editor of Commercial & Business Litigation Committee
- Massachusetts Bar Association
- Rhode Island Bar Association
- Federal Bar Association, Rhode Island Chapter
 - President-Elect
 - Executive Committee Member
- Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel

Boards & Community Involvement

- Providence College
 - Vice Chair, Liberal Arts Honors Leadership Council
 - Member, President's Council
- Rhode Island Supreme Court
 - Member, Committee on Artificial Intelligence and the Court ("CAIC")