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YEAR IN  
REVIEW

**WIGGIN**  
WIGGIN AND DANA

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## MANAGING PARTNER'S LETTER

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am pleased to share our 2025 Year in Review. Over the past year, we navigated new challenges, embraced new opportunities, and delivered meaningful results for our clients.

Across the firm, our team continued to strengthen our reputation for excellence and impact. None of this would have been possible without the dedication and talent of our people. I am proud of what we achieved together in 2025 and deeply grateful to our clients and colleagues for their trust and partnership. I hope you enjoy reflecting on last year's highlights, and I look forward to all we will accomplish together in 2026.



A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "An Dind". The signature is fluid and cursive.

## LITIGATION



Kevin Smith  
Department Chair

Wiggin and Dana's Litigation Department successfully handled a range of significant disputes in 2025, representing global corporations, major institutions, and high-net-worth individuals across industries. From high-stakes trials and appellate matters to cross-border disputes, regulatory enforcement actions, intellectual property litigation, international trade compliance, and white collar investigations, the firm provided strategic and effective counsel at every stage of litigation across the country. This experience reinforces Wiggin and Dana's role as a trusted advisor to clients facing their most complex legal challenges. In addition, the firm launched its new False Claims Act Defense and Compliance Practice Group, established in response to heightened federal scrutiny and a significant rise in FCA investigations and litigation.

The year marked continued growth for the Department and significant professional recognition, underscoring the excellence of Wiggin's work on behalf of its clients.

#### › Antitrust and Technology Disputes

In the wake of the *U.S. v. Google* ad-tech litigation, the firm has served as co-lead counsel with Cravath for OpenX in the first private antitrust action brought by an ad exchange rival, with litigation actively proceeding as part of the SDNY ad tech MDL. *(Benjamin Diessel, Nathan Denning, Colleen Kozikowski)*

#### › International Trade Compliance

Against a backdrop of increasing cross-border regulatory complexity, Wiggin and Dana advised leading aerospace, defense, and multinational companies on international trade compliance, consent agreement obligations, and complex regulatory and insurance related issues. The firm's work included advising clients such as Boeing, Czechoslovak Group, and USAIG on matters involving ITAR, EAR, OFAC, and CFIUS, as well as supporting multinational companies in developing pre-litigation strategies, managing internal investigations, and strengthening global compliance programs. Our team also counseled clients in global travel and services, environmental and industrial, and other regulated sectors on trade and sanctions risk in connection with cross-border transactions, regulatory audits, and government scrutiny affecting global operations. *(Alan Levesque, David Ring, Sean Koehler, Julie Edelstein)*

#### › Commercial Litigation

Amid the broader nationwide PFAS litigation landscape, the firm represented 3M in consumer and environmental protection actions brought by the Connecticut Attorney General and a related class action filed by twenty-nine plaintiffs concerning alleged PFAS present in firefighting gear. The matters seek commercial and personal injury damages from alleged exposure to and effects of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly referred to as "forever chemicals." *(James Glasser, Kevin Smith)*

Following a Connecticut bench trial, Wiggin and Dana secured a win for the owners of a legendary blues guitarist and singer's intellectual property rights and for the estate of his late wife, proving the former manager's breach of fiduciary duty and establishing aiding-and-abetting liability against the manager's wife, a rare finding in Connecticut. The court also awarded punitive damages. *(Timothy Diemand, Joshua Taylor)*

#### › Appellate

On appeal, Wiggin and Dana won a complete victory for Yale University in the Connecticut Appellate Court, which held that alumni lack standing to challenge trustee election rules and are not "members" under the Connecticut Revised Nonstock Corporation Act, reinforcing Yale's self-governance framework. *(Jonathan Freiman)*

#### › Intellectual Property Litigation

In a Western District of Texas patent dispute, Wiggin and Dana secured dismissal with prejudice for Computer Services Inc. in a case brought by a non-practicing entity that had extracted settlements from most other defendants, with the court granting CSI all requested relief. *(Pierre Yanney)*

In a separate complex patent matter, the firm represented Panasonic in a complex patent dispute with Optimum Imaging Technologies, executing a favorable declaratory judgment strategy and securing institution of IPRs on all four asserted patents, concluding with a favorable settlement in May 2025. *(Joseph Casino, Thomas Landman)*

#### › White Collar Crime Defense, Investigations, & Corporate Compliance

In matters involving criminal investigations and regulatory enforcement, Wiggin and Dana represented corporations, executives, and individuals in complex white collar matters involving criminal investigations, regulatory enforcement, and internal reviews. The firm's work included advising on nationally significant government investigations involving billions of dollars in potential exposure, cross-border enforcement and asset matters raising complex jurisdictional issues, and criminal sanctions and export control investigations. The firm also conducted sensitive internal

# LITIGATION

investigations, responded to subpoenas and government inquiries, and secured favorable outcomes, including declinations of criminal charges, while counseling clients across regulated industries on crisis management and compliance risk. *(James Glasser, David Ring, Julie Edelstein, Paul Tuchmann, Robert Hoff)*

## > Aviation

With clients and matters nationwide, Wiggin and Dana represented manufacturers, operators, insurers, and other defense and aerospace companies, successfully handling pre-litigation investigations, cross-border disputes, and commercial, product liability, and other tort-related litigation, including serving as lead counsel in a trial in Montana. *(Kevin Smith, Robyn Gallagher, David Roth, Armando Ghinaglia, Colleen Kozikowski, Caitlyn Doerr, Jared Lincoln)*

## > Art and Museum Law

Spanning international disputes, repatriation claims, and cultural property governance, the firm represented museums, universities, collectors, dealers, and family offices on a wide range of issues, including international litigation over rare collectibles, advice on repatriation claims from groups and individuals outside the United States, transactional matters such as purchase and loan agreements, compliance with the Native American Graves

Protection and Repatriation Act, and governance matters like drafting museum collections policies. *(Jonathan Freiman, David Hall, Giuseppe Scaravilli, David Roth)*

## > False Claims Act Defense and Compliance

In the False Claims Act practice, the firm represents Yale University in a D.C. case brought by private plaintiffs alleging long-standing noncompliance with Title IX and false certifications when obtaining federal grants. In June, after plaintiffs amended their complaint under seal, the federal government initiated an investigation to determine whether to intervene. Wiggin and Dana represents Yale in both the investigation and the lawsuit. *(Jonathan Freiman, Jolie Apicella, Daniel Passeser, Rachel Canna, Colleen Kozikowski, Jessica Nelson)*

## > Medical Malpractice Defense

After a six-week trial involving complex medical issues, the firm achieved a significant defense win in New Haven Superior Court, addressing issues including retinal detachment and MRSA infection. *(Kevin Budge, Catherine Baiocchi)*

## > Insurance

Rounding out the year, Wiggin and Dana obtained early dismissal of broad claim file demands and later secured summary judgment entirely for Massachusetts Bay Insurance Company and Citizens Insurance Company of America on one reimbursement claim, with recovery on the other limited to approximately \$35,000, in an MSP Recovery suit under the Medicare Secondary Payer Act. Notably, the court held secondary payers can sue primary payers only for amounts actually paid for health care, not charged amounts as argued by MSP Recovery in hundreds of cases. *(Michael Menapace, Chloe Booth)*

## CORPORATE



Paul Hughes  
Department Chair

In 2025, the Corporate Group continued to guide clients across the United States and around the world through complex, high-impact transactions spanning a broad range of industries. Our teams earned expanded recognition in leading legal rankings, including *Chambers USA*, *Legal 500*, and the *New England Legal Awards*. We were featured in top-tier publications, contributed thought leadership through articles and books, and participated in and hosted dynamic industry events throughout the year.

Below are highlights from our practice groups that showcase our leadership, momentum, and commitment to delivering exceptional results.

#### › M&A Matters

Represented SuranceBay, LLC in the sale of all issued and outstanding equity securities, and the IP assets of its affiliated entity Anatole Software, Inc., to Verisk Analytics, Inc. *(Paul Hughes, James Greifzu, Daniela Badiola Spanos, Selma Tabakovic, Scott*

*McClure, Christian Chandler, Frank Duffin, Daniel LaRose, David Speranzini, Dimitrios Tournas, Christopher Daiss, Mark Heaphy, Adam Silverman, Benjamin Diessel)*

Represented the Sellers and the Company, a dealership specializing in the sale, rental, parts, and service of Bobcat of Connecticut and other equipment and accessories, in the sale of all outstanding equity interests of the Company to a private equity firm. *(Bill Perrone, R.J. Kornhaas, Christian Vidaurre, Dimitrios Tournas, Scott McClure, Christian Chandler, Mark Heaphy, David Speranzini, Daniel LaRose, David Devich)*

Represented Central New York Infusion Services, LLC in its sale to BioMatrix Specialty Pharmacy, LLC, a subsidiary of Frazier Healthcare Partners. *(Mark Kaduboski, Kristina Wesch, Eli Rudolph)*

Represented EQT Partners and its portfolio company Anticimex International AB in Anticimex's entry and expansion into the U.S. pest control market. *(Mark Kaduboski, James Greifzu, Eli Rudolph, Brian Sturm, Jordan Yellen)*

Represented Becnel Rental Tools, a provider of oil and gas extraction tools and services, in its sale to a strategic corporation. *(Heather Rahilly, Bill Perrone, Eli Rudolph)*

#### › ECVC Matters

Represented 6K in its Series E funding round, which included \$82 million in first-close investments from Anzu Partners, Energy Impact Partners, Launch Capital, Material Impact, and Volta Energy Technologies. *(Evan Kipperman, Brian Sturm, Eli Rudolph, Jackie Yuan, Scott McClure, Christina Chandler, Dimitrios Tournas, Tamia Simonis)*

Represented CiDRA Holdings LLC in its Series E financing to accelerate commercialization of its P29 technology. *(Paul Hughes, Eli Rudolph)*

Represented Third Prime Alpha III in advising on investments across its early-stage portfolio, including:

- » First Resonance – \$12.5 million extended funding round *(R.J. Kornhaas)*
- » CalmWave – \$5.25 million funding round *(Evan Kipperman)*
- » Datch, Inc. – \$15 million Series A extension *(Evan Kipperman)*
- » Everstar – \$4 million pre-seed funding round *(Evan Kipperman)*

#### › Life Sciences Matters

Acted as lead counsel for BioArctic AB (publ) in its global exclusive license agreement with Bristol Myers Squibb for its PyroGlu-AB antibody program, including BAN1503 and BAN2803. The agreement includes a \$100 million upfront payment

and up to \$1.25 billion in milestone payments, plus tiered royalties. *(Patti Melick, Toby Bannon, Kelsey Loomis, Adam Silverman)*

Represented BioArctic AB (publ) in its option, collaboration, and license agreement with Novartis Pharma AG combining BrainTransporter™ technology with a Novartis antibody directed to an undisclosed neurodegenerative target. The agreement includes a \$30 million upfront payment and potential additional payments of up to \$772 million. *(Patti Melick, Toby Bannon, David Devich)*

Represented Aptar Pharma in its acquisition of device technology assets from SipNose Nasal Delivery Systems. *(Patti Melick, Heather Rahilly, Anthony Sabatelli, Brittany Lyon)*

Represented Aptar Pharma in its acquisition of the clinical trial materials manufacturing capabilities of Mod3 Pharma (formerly Enteris Biopharma) from SWK Holdings. *(Patti Melick, Heather Rahilly, Brittany Lyon, Selma Tabakovic)*

Assisted Cila Therapeutics with global patent filings and overarching patent strategy to secure a competitive grant from the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), to advance its CIL-Key platform. *(Katie Rubino, Anthony Sabatelli)*

## CORPORATE

### › Outsourcing Matters

Represented a leading global service provider in a large-scale outsourcing and transformation transaction covering finance and accounting, human resources, sourcing and procurement, applications infrastructure, and global field support across more than 130 countries. *(Mark Heaphy, Tamia Simonis, Christopher Daiss)*

Represented a leading technology services provider in an outsourcing arrangement with a global retail and food-service company. *(Tamia Simonis, Christopher Daiss)*

Represented a global service provider in an applications management, infrastructure, and technology development transaction for a leading investment management and financial services company. *(Mark Heaphy, Tamia Simonis)*

Represented a global technology services provider in an outsourcing arrangement to provide infrastructure and managed security services to an international restaurant company. *(Tamia Simonis, David Devich)*

### › Health Care Matters

Represented Masonicare in its affiliation with United Methodist Homes, Inc., pursuant to a Membership Substitution Agreement under which Masonicare became the ultimate parent entity. *(Debbie Cardinali, Maureen Weaver, Kristina Wesch, Michael Lipp, Madiha Malik, Jason Stevenson)*

Continued to represent Bristol Hospital in managing defaults under its tax-exempt bond financing, including negotiations with the majority bondholder, Fidelity. *(Kristina Wesch, Peter Lahny, Jonathan Tross)*

Continued to represent LeadingAge CT on legislative and regulatory matters during the 2025 state legislative session affecting nursing home Medicaid rates, provider taxes, value-based payment systems, and resident rights. *(Jody Erdfarb, Madiha Malik, Maureen Weaver, Matthew Brown, Debbie Cardinali, Caroline Park)*

## PRIVATE CLIENT SERVICES



Michael Clear  
Department Chair

In 2025, Wiggin and Dana's Private Client Services team advised individuals, families, fiduciaries, and business owners on some of the most significant wealth planning and trust-related matters in the country. The group's work encompassed high-value international estate planning, sophisticated business succession strategies, multigenerational trust administration, and fiduciary litigation involving billions of dollars in assets.

In recognition of this work, the group advanced to a *Chambers* Band 1 ranking, and Michael Clear was elected to the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC), joining Dan Daniels and Carolyn Reers among the firm's Fellows.

### › International Planning Amid Global Uncertainty *(Carolyn Reers)*

The firm remained at the forefront of cross-border estate planning as regulatory regimes and residency patterns evolved.

In one engagement, attorneys advised a U.S. citizen who had lived in the United

Kingdom for more than two decades on the implications of newly enacted UK tax rules affecting personal holdings and long-standing trust structures with combined assets exceeding \$170 million. Working closely with UK counsel and tax advisers, the team restructured the client's estate plan, guided her exit from the UK, and facilitated her re-establishment of U.S. residency, while preserving flexibility should she choose to return abroad.

In another matter involving a private-equity principal now residing in Portugal with his family, Wiggin and Dana redesigned a global estate plan worth approximately \$1 billion. The work included charitable planning through a testamentary charitable lead annuity trust, coordination of U.S. and European investment holdings, and structuring a substantial private placement life insurance policy to streamline compliance and enhance tax efficiency amid cross-border operations.

### › Business Succession and Family Wealth Planning *(Michael Clear, Vanessa Maczko, Erin Nicholls)*

The team also guided closely held business owners through succession planning and multigenerational wealth strategies.

Wiggin and Dana worked with the founder of a culinary education company on a comprehensive estate and business-transi-

# PRIVATE CLIENT SERVICES

tion plan involving the consolidation of investments into a limited liability company, gifts to grantor trusts, and alignment with buy-sell agreements. The work included advising family members on trust administration, divorce-related planning considerations, and the founder's own prospective inheritance, ensuring the family's broader wealth picture was structured for long-term tax efficiency.

In another matter, lawyers advised the beneficiary of multiple family trusts whose trustee sought to consolidate separate vehicles. By raising technical tax and perpetuities-law concerns, the team prevented the commingling of trusts with vastly different termination horizons, protecting future generations and potentially saving millions in estate taxes over time.

› **Resolving High-Conflict Fiduciary and Probate Disputes**  
*(Steve Malech, Matt Smith)*

Wiggin and Dana's fiduciary litigation practice remained a cornerstone of the group's work in 2025, handling emotionally charged family disputes and challenging multistate matters with equal rigor.

In one probate dispute involving the heirs of a prominent business figure, attorneys reframed negotiations to emphasize not only financial outcomes but family relationships themselves. The resulting settlement resolved claims between a mother and son

while restoring personal communication and family engagement, demonstrating the team's ability to blend advocacy with diplomacy in sensitive matters.

In a confidential multijurisdictional engagement, the firm defended trustees overseeing hundreds of millions of dollars in trust assets—including ownership interests in a well-known retail enterprise—against coordinated fiduciary-breach claims filed across several states. Wiggin and Dana led a unified national defense, negotiated a comprehensive resolution, and secured an orderly division of interests that protected the trust's value and brought finality to a dispute that had spanned generations.

The team was also retained in a sealed guardianship proceeding involving control of a real-estate enterprise valued at more than \$1 billion. Attorneys are defending designated fiduciaries in litigation concerning dozens of operating companies and complex trust arrangements, while managing overlapping governance, tax-liability, and succession issues that reach across generations and asset classes.

› **Future Focused—Your Hub for Wealth Planning Insights**

In addition to client work, Wiggin and Dana's Private Client Services team expanded its thought-leadership platform in 2025 with Future Focused, a suite of resources designed to deliver timely, practical guidance to clients and referral partners.

› **Future Focused: Private Wealth Insights Blog**  
[www.privatewealthinsights.com](http://www.privatewealthinsights.com)

The blog serves as a central destination for analysis of estate-planning strategies, wealth-transfer developments, and emerging regulatory trends.

› **Future Focused: Sophisticated Estate Planning Podcast**  
[www.privatewealthinsights.com/category/podcast/](http://www.privatewealthinsights.com/category/podcast/)

Available across major streaming platforms, the podcast features conversations with industry leaders and Wiggin and Dana attorneys on advanced planning topics. Among the most-listened-to episodes in 2025:

- » Strategic Gifting: Reducing Taxes by Removing Assets
- » Wealth Wars: Navigating the Battlefields of Family Disputes with Partner Steve Malech
- » Speaker Showcase: Hot Topics in Estate Planning with Michael Clear and Erin Nicholls

Together, these resources equip advisors, families, and fiduciaries with insight into today's most challenging wealth-planning decisions.

# REAL ESTATE, ENVIRONMENTAL, CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES



Robyn Abbate  
Department Chair

Wiggin and Dana's Real Estate, Environmental, Construction, and Facilities teams advised clients in 2025 on leasing, regulatory compliance, and infrastructure development efforts spanning jurisdictions, industries, and technical demands. The group's work ranged from fast-paced national leasing and major enforcement negotiations with the EPA to first-of-its-kind clean energy construction projects and long-term development planning.

## › Driving National Leasing and Portfolio Growth

### Headquarters and R&D Leasing on the West Coast

The firm advised a new client in 2025 on a 16-year lease, plus extension options, for more than 83,000 square feet of office, lab, and R&D space in San Jose, CA—serving as the company's new West Coast headquarters. The engagement included critical power infrastructure considerations, and the team continues to advise on multi-phased design and construction contracts for the \$20 million fast-track buildout. *(Robyn Abbate, Michael Lipp)*

## Supporting Rapid Multi-Jurisdictional Expansion

Beginning with a single lease in 2024, the firm supported a fast-growing public safety equipment and vehicle services provider through three additional commercial lease transactions in just five weeks across California and Florida in 2025. The transactions included a complex sub-sublease and a direct yard lease with an institutional landlord. Since then, the client has expanded into multiple new regions across the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeast, with most transactions completed against sophisticated institutional landlords under tight deadlines—illustrating Wiggin and Dana's capacity to execute nationwide leasing with speed and precision. *(Dimitri Tournas)*

## Co-Working and Flex Space Transactions Nationwide

Over the past year, Wiggin and Dana represented a flexible workspace provider in six new lease transactions across the U.S., involving over 200,000 square feet of unique office environments. Negotiations with some of the country's largest landlords, including REITs and private equity owners, required tailored strategies and creative solutions. *(Robyn Abbate)*

## Ongoing Lease Advisory for National Pest Control Portfolio

The team advised a major pest control company and its portfolio entities on approximately 10–15 lease transactions in 2025, including headquarters leases in

New Jersey and Maryland. These matters involved both M&A-related leasing and stand-alone transactions, supporting continued national growth and integration. *(Dimitri Tournas)*

## › Multi-State Real Estate Acquisitions and Development

Wiggin and Dana guided a multi-brand franchisee through the acquisition of nine properties across four states to support development of standalone Valvoline Instant Oil Change and Little Caesars locations. The work included complex title and zoning analysis in multiple jurisdictions and reflects the firm's transactional depth and development insight. *(Robyn Abbate)*

## › Environmental Enforcement and Compliance

The firm represented a major regional supplier of bulk petroleum products in a U.S. EPA enforcement matter involving alleged Clean Air Act violations at two New England terminals. After months of negotiation, the firm secured settlement agreements under which the EPA withdrew several allegations and significantly reduced the proposed penalties—an outcome that preserved operational continuity and mitigated reputational exposure. *(David Speranzini)*

## › Construction Advisory for Emerging Clean Energy Technology

In 2025, Wiggin and Dana began representing a clean energy company devel-

oping groundbreaking technology in connection with large-scale construction and engineering projects across the U.S., with projected costs exceeding \$100 million. The firm advised on early-stage project contracting strategies, RFP development, and infrastructure interface planning, helping to lay the foundation for multi-year, multi-phase development. *(Elliot Kaiman)*

## › Structuring Clean Energy Agreements

### Municipal Fuel Cell and Solar Energy Initiatives

Wiggin and Dana advised a Connecticut-based energy consultancy on a Master Services Agreement with a major Connecticut city, supporting deployment of approximately 10 megawatts of distributed generation capacity using advanced fuel cell technology. The team also structured a parallel solar development project on a capped landfill—highlighting the firm's ability to support innovative public-private partnerships and long-term sustainability goals. *(Elliot Kaiman)*

### University-Wide Energy Storage Deployment

The firm also advised a Connecticut university on a master battery energy storage agreement, enabling scalable deployment across multiple campuses. The framework is expected to help the university achieve key sustainability benchmarks, reduce operational expenses, and improve energy resilience. *(Elliot Kaiman)*

# LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND BENEFITS



Larry Peikes  
Department Chair

Across industries and jurisdictions in 2025, Wiggin and Dana's Labor and Employment team handled some of the most challenging employment disputes facing employers nationwide. The group defended clients in major discrimination and retaliation claims, wage-and-hour class actions rarely seen before juries, whistleblower litigation spanning multiple courts, and regulatory challenges with implications for entire industries.

## › Defending Employers in High-Exposure Discrimination and Retaliation Claims

In a confidential arbitration involving a national corporation, Wiggin and Dana defended against state and federal claims alleging race, national origin, and disability discrimination, retaliation, and violations of the Family and Medical Leave Act. Following extensive discovery and a multi-day evidentiary hearing before a former Superior Court judge, the arbitrator issued a complete defense award after post-hearing briefing and oral argument, delivering a decisive victory for the employer. *(Larry Peikes)*

The team also obtained summary judgment for a major national retailer in a New York Supreme Court action involving allegations of severe workplace harassment. While courts are required to credit plaintiffs' factual allegations at the summary-judgment stage, Wiggin and Dana reframed the case to focus on the employer's prompt and thorough response—highlighting security-camera reviews, witness interviews, and internal investigations that revealed no corroboration of the claims. The court agreed, dismissing the case in its entirety in a comprehensive written decision.

*(Larry Peikes)*

## › Rare Jury Trial in Wage-and-Hour Class Action

Wiggin and Dana's extensive jury trial experience was on full display in the defense of a restaurant-franchise operator in a high-stakes wage-and-hour class action challenging the classification of restaurant general managers as exempt executives under Wisconsin law.

After class certification and substantial discovery, the court denied cross-motions for summary judgment—sending the case to a full jury trial, an exceptionally rare outcome in wage-and-hour class actions. The matter was tried before a 12-person jury, where our client faced an uphill battle due primarily to an unfavorable legal landscape and questionable evidentiary restrictions imposed by the judge. Although these

hurdles proved too steep to overcome, the team did showcase its command of complex employment issues in a courtroom setting.

Following the verdict, attorneys pursued post-trial motions addressing critical legal questions, including jury instructions, evidentiary rulings, and due-process concerns, while preserving appellate rights. *(Larry Peikes)*

## › Industry-Wide Regulatory Challenges in Healthcare

The team also represented a hospital system in pending federal litigation brought by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission challenging a late-career practitioner policy requiring cognitive testing for physicians aged 70 and older at reappointment.

The EEOC alleges violations of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Wiggin and Dana is defending the policy based on recognized statutory defenses, including bona fide occupational qualification and business necessity, supported by national and international research on age-related cognitive decline.

Because similar policies are being evaluated or implemented by healthcare systems nationwide, the matter carries broad sig-

nificance for employers navigating workforce-safety initiatives amid regulatory scrutiny. *(Mary Gambardella, Caroline Park)*

## › Combating Serial Whistleblower Litigation

In another significant matter, Wiggin and Dana defended a major metropolitan hospital system and senior physicians against sweeping whistleblower and retaliation claims brought under federal and state False Claims Acts, along with related tort claims for defamation, emotional distress, and business interference.

After extensive motion practice, the court imposed sanctions against the plaintiff, prompting voluntary dismissal of the case. When new counsel attempted repeatedly to revive the litigation, the team successfully blocked each effort, including defeating motions in district court, quashing subpoenas issued in related proceedings, and prevailing on appeal at the Second Circuit. The appellate court issued a comprehensive ruling analyzing a rarely invoked rule of civil procedure governing attempts to reopen closed matters, providing valuable precedent favoring finality. *(Mary Gambardella, Larry Peikes, Jeffrey Babbitt, Daniel LaRose)*

# NEW PARTNERS

## Jevera Hennessey

Wiggin and Dana expanded its Private Client Services Department with the addition of Jevera Hennessey as a partner in the firm's Greenwich office. A highly regarded trusts and estates attorney, she strengthens the firm's *Chambers* High Net Worth-ranked group, which advises clients on estate planning, business succession, philanthropic structures, and complex domestic and international trust matters.



Hennessey brings decades of experience serving individuals and families in the Greenwich community, with a practice focused on estate planning, trust administration, and related tax issues. She previously practiced at several prominent

Connecticut firms, most recently as a partner at Whitman Breed Abbott & Morgan, and earlier co founded Kaye and Hennessey. Her arrival brings the Private Client Services team to 20 attorneys.

## Vasiliki (Vasi) Yiannoulis-Riva

Wiggin and Dana has expanded its Real Estate, Environmental, Construction and Facilities Department with the addition of Vasiliki (Vasi) Yiannoulis Riva as a partner in its Stamford and New York offices. Yiannoulis Riva brings more than a decade of experience advising clients on commercial real estate transactions, including acquisitions, sales, leasing, and financing.



Her practice also includes representing ultra high net worth individuals in real estate investments and guiding hospitality, retail, and restaurant clients through complex leasing and acquisition matters.

Before joining Wiggin and Dana, Yiannoulis Riva practiced at Polsinelli and Withersworldwide, focusing on commercial real estate and leasing. She began her legal career as a Legal Fellow in the U.S.

Senate and holds degrees from Harvard University and Georgetown University Law Center. Admitted in both New York and Connecticut, she looks forward to contributing her client focused approach to the firm's growing real estate practice.

## Andrew Bauer

Wiggin and Dana added Andrew Bauer as a partner in its New York office, joining the firm's Emerging Companies and Venture Capital (ECVC) practice. Bauer brings extensive experience advising technology driven and venture backed companies at every stage of growth, from early stage startups to publicly traded businesses. His practice spans commercial transactions, corporate governance, regulatory compliance, and strategic counseling.



He also serves as outside general counsel to clients in fintech, artificial intelligence, life sciences, and other innovation focused sectors, helping executive teams navigate complex legal and business challenges.

Before joining Wiggin and Dana, Bauer built a broad corporate practice centered on supporting high growth companies through critical operational, regulatory, and transactional matters. He is known for partnering closely with leadership teams to guide business critical decisions and internal investigations. His addition strengthens the firm's growing ECVC platform and enhances its ability to support clients across the technology and life sciences ecosystem.

## Julie Edelstein

Julie Edelstein joined Wiggin and Dana's Washington D.C. office as a partner in the Litigation Department and the International Trade Compliance and White Collar practice groups. Edelstein brings more than 15 years of government experience, most recently serving as Acting Principal Deputy Chief of the Counterintelligence and Export Control Section within the Department of Justice's National Security Division. Her background includes extensive work on national security, counterintelligence, and export

control matters, giving her deep insight into the government's enforcement priorities and investigative approach.

Before joining the DOJ's National Security Division, Edelstein served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia's Civil Defensive Division. Her arrival strengthens the firm's capabilities in high stakes investigations, regulatory compliance, and



national security related litigation. At Wiggin and Dana, she will advise clients navigating complex enforcement risks and expanding regulatory scrutiny in areas involving national security, trade controls, and government investigations.

## Katherine 'Katie' Rubino

Wiggin and Dana has expanded its Boston presence by adding Katherine Rubino as a partner in its Corporate Department and its Emerging Companies and Venture Capital, Intellectual Property, and Life Sciences groups. Known for advising early stage and high growth companies, Rubino brings extensive experience in IP strategy, strategic partnerships, licensing, and complex transactions. Her arrival supports the firm's strategic growth in the region following the office's formal launch last year. She has been a prominent presence in the startup ecosystem, frequently mentoring founders and speaking on issues at the intersection of life sciences and intellectual property.



Rubino previously led the life sciences practice at Caldwell and is active in the startup ecosystem as a mentor, advisor, and frequent speaker. A former pharmacist with a PharmD and B.S. from Northeastern University and a J.D. from

Suffolk University, she co authored *You Are an IP Company* in 2024. She joined Wiggin and Dana to offer clients the firm's full-service capabilities across all stages of growth.

## Gabriella Bensusur

Gabriella was recently promoted to Partner in Wiggin and Dana's Litigation Department; she is also a member of the firm's Antitrust and Technology Disputes Practice Group. Gabriella has litigated on behalf of some of the world's largest and most innovative companies in the pharmaceutical, technology,



and food and beverage industries dealing with various cutting edge antitrust and commercial litigation issues. She has experience handling client needs from pre-litigation and antitrust counseling through trial and appeal.

Prior to joining the firm, Gabriella was an associate at a global law firm in New York where her practice focused on complex litigation in the areas of antitrust and other commercial disputes, regularly defending clients against class action litigation and federal, state, and international investigations. She also maintained an active pro bono practice, with a particular interest in representing victims of domestic violence in family court proceedings, securing divorce, child support, and safe custody and visitation rulings for her many clients.

Gabriella earned her J.D. from Cornell Law School where she was Notes Editor for Cornell Law Review and a member of the Cornell Moot Court Board. She received her B.A. in Philosophy and Government from Cornell University.

Following graduation from law school, Gabriella clerked for the Honorable Christopher C. Conner of the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

# DRIVE

As Wiggin and Dana enters the fourth year of our DEI Strategic Action Plan (DEI DRIVE), we are proud to share key milestones that have advanced firmwide development, representation, and inclusivity.

## › Expanding DRIVE People Groups

Our DRIVE People Groups (DPGs) continue to flourish. These inclusive, employee-led groups are centered around shared values and support individuals from historically underrepresented backgrounds. Open to all members of the firm, with ally participation critical to their success, our DPGs include:

- » DRIVE Caregiving
- » DRIVE People of Color
- » DRIVE Pride
- » DRIVE Women

In 2025, DPGs supported a wide range of initiatives, including the Women Leaders Fireside Chat, the Middletown Pride Parade, the Back-to-School Backpack Drive, the Lavender Law Career Fair, the Wiggin Page Turners Book Club, and the annual Halloween party. These groups remain essential in fostering community and connection across Wiggin and Dana.

## › Months of Significance Series

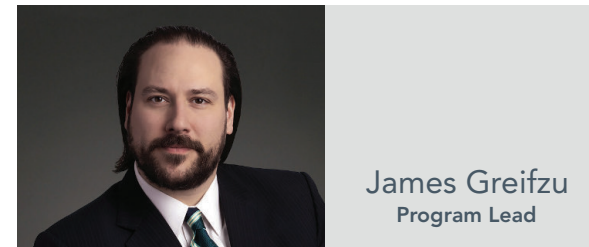
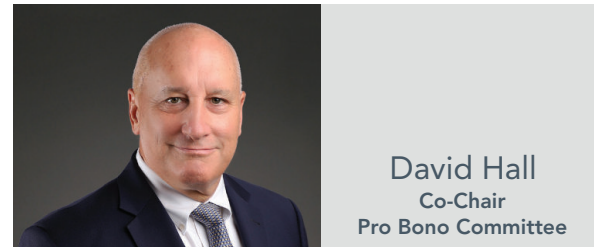
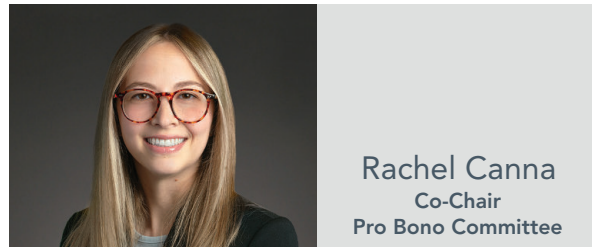
This year's Months of Significance series grew to include engaging events like Hispanic Heritage Month trivia, an LGBTQ+ Allyship Workshop, and a Caregiving documentary discussion. We also welcomed inspiring speakers, including Dr. Matthew Delmont and Lt. Colonel Olga Custodio. Together, these heritage month events brought our community together to learn, celebrate, and reflect.



## The Firm's Commitment

Wiggin and Dana remains steadfast in our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion — both within the firm and across the legal profession. We are proud of our accomplishments and look forward to the progress ahead. For any questions, please contact Meaghan Mahoney, DEI and Development Manager, at [mmahoney@wiggin.com](mailto:mmahoney@wiggin.com).

# PRO BONO



## › Pro Bono Year in Review

Wiggin and Dana’s pro bono work this year spans the practice areas of employment, immigration, criminal justice, constitutional law, and civil rights law, reflecting the breadth of the firm’s public-interest advocacy.

In federal employment actions, the firm represents Mr. Monte Hawkins, former Senior Advisor for National Security in the Office of the Commissioner at U.S. Customs and Border Protection, in two related appeals before the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, challenging both a suspension without pay and a constructive discharge.

In immigration, the firm obtained immediate relief for an Iranian asylum seeker after filing an amended complaint and a motion for a preliminary injunction challenging a government memorandum that paused immigration benefits for nationals of 19 countries. The client’s work authorization was approved one week later.

In a Criminal Justice Act appointment, the firm is handling an appeal—assigned by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act—on behalf of Mr. Joshua Gilbert, following his conviction for a gang-related murder in August 2025.

On the constitutional front, the firm submitted an amicus brief on behalf of Professor Akhil Amar and Representative Mickey Edwards in the U.S. Supreme Court supporting a legal challenge to President Trump’s executive orders imposing a broad new tariff regime. The brief advances a unique argument for reading the statute at issue narrowly, based on the difficulty inherent in Congress reclaiming power once courts find it has been delegated to the Executive Branch.

In civil rights, pursuant to the District Court’s request, the firm represents Mr. Victor Jordan in a sexual abuse case involving a former mental health counselor at a DOC facility and in a separate matter concerning his conditions of confinement at the same facility. His first case is scheduled for trial in April.

## › Wiggin Opportunity Initiative (WOI)

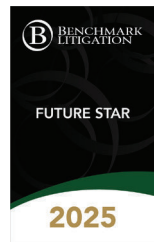
For the fifth consecutive year, Wiggin and Dana provided over \$1 million in pro bono legal services on an annualized basis to qualifying small businesses and individuals across the country through its Wiggin Opportunity Initiative (WOI). The firm continues to be ahead of schedule in providing an aggregate of \$10 million in free legal services over the 10-year program period.

Launched in July, 2020, the firm pledged to contribute \$10 million in free legal services to these businesses by 2030. This initiative aims to fuel their success, encourage their growth, and promote greater diversity among business leaders.



# ACCOLADES

# OUR LOCATIONS



## Boston

One Federal Street, 21st Floor  
Boston, Massachusetts 02110  
+1 857 491 9660

## New Haven

One Century Tower  
265 Church Street  
New Haven, Connecticut 06510  
+1 203 498 4400

## New York

437 Madison Avenue  
35th Floor  
New York, New York 10022  
+1 212 551 2600

## Washington, DC

600 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Suite 375  
Washington, DC 20001  
+1 202 800 2470

## Philadelphia

Two Liberty Place  
50 S. 16th Street, Suite 2625  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102  
+1 215 988 8310

## Palm Beach

Consultation available by appointment  
251 Royal Palm Way, Suite 601  
Palm Beach, Florida 33480  
+1 561 701 8702

## Stamford

Two Stamford Plaza  
281 Tresser Boulevard, 14th Floor  
Stamford, Connecticut 06901  
+1 203 363 7600

## Hartford

20 Church Street  
16th Floor  
Hartford, Connecticut 06103  
+1 860 297 3700

## Greenwich

30 Milbank Avenue  
Greenwich, Connecticut 06830  
+1 203 363 7600

## Westport

60 Church Lane  
Westport, Connecticut 06880  
+1 203 363 7680

## Madison

23 Woodland Road  
Unit B1  
Madison, Connecticut 06443  
+1 203 498 4540

[www.wiggin.com](http://www.wiggin.com)