

Richard W. Paterniti | Partner

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Biography

Richard W. Paterniti is a partner at Jones Kelleher. His practice involves the litigation and trial of personal injury cases with a focus on medical malpractice, premises liability, motor vehicle negligence and product liability cases. Rich has successfully represented clients in state and federal courts throughout the country and has worked on trial teams that have successfully obtained multi-million dollar resolutions for injured clients at trial, arbitration and mediation. His practice also has included employment and commercial litigation. Throughout his career, Rich also has represented his clients on appellate issues.

Rich has been recognized for his work by his peers and by national organizations. The Personal Injury and Medical Malpractice groups at Jones Kelleher in which he is a partner have received the highest rankings of excellence by various organizations, including the U.S. News and World Report.

Since 2015, Rich has been selected by his peers for inclusion in the Best Lawyers in America publication in the category of Personal Injury Litigation. In addition, the Martindale-Hubbell National Law Directory has awarded Rich an AV rating, the highest possible rating for legal ability and ethical standards.

In 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2023, Rich was selected by his peers as one of the Top 100 Attorneys in Massachusetts, as published in the New England Super Lawyers publication and in Boston Magazine. Since 2011, as published in Boston Magazine, Rich has been selected as a "Super Lawyer," a rating given to the top 5% of practicing attorneys based on an extensive peer review and evaluation process. Prior to that, Rich was selected as a "Rising Star."

Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly selected Rich as one of its "Lawyers of the Year" in 2019. This distinction was based on a landmark decision Rich and his partner, Pat Jones, obtained from the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in which the Court created new law in favor of the firm's clients.

Education

- Boston College Law School
  J.D., 1999
- Middlebury College
  B.A. *(cum laude)*, 1993

Bar Admissions

- Massachusetts
- Rhode Island
- U.S. District Court District of Massachusetts
- U.S. District Court District of Rhode Island
- U.S. Court of Appeals 1st Circuit

BIOGRAPHY (CONTINUED)

Rich is licensed to practice law in the federal and state courts of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, as well as the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. He is a graduate of Middlebury College (B.A., cum laude, 1993) and Boston College Law School (J.D., 1999) and has published several articles on various legal issues. He is a member of the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys, the Rhode Island Association for Justice, the Massachusetts Bar Association, the Rhode Island Bar Association, and the American Association for Justice.

Prior to 2014, Rich worked for more than 15 years at Cooley Manion Jones LLP representing clients in personal injury claims as well as employment and commercial disputes. He also spent more than five years representing clients at a national employment and labor law firm. In addition to his legal work, Rich served on the Board of Directors of Wide Horizons for Children, an organization dedicated to the well-being and security of vulnerable and orphaned children worldwide, for nine years. Over the years, he has contributed his time and energy to other non-profit organizations in the Boston area.

INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP & AFFILIATIONS

- **American Association for Justice**
  Member
- **Massachusetts Bar Association**
  Member
- **Rhode Island Bar Association**
  Member
- **Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys**
  Member
- **Rhode Island Association for Justice**
  Member

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- **Best Lawyers in America**
  Personal Injury Litigation, Plaintiff, 2015—Present
- **Massachusetts and New England Super Lawyers**
  Super Lawyer, 2011—Present
  Top 100 Massachusetts Super Lawyers, 2013, 2015-2017, 2023-Present
  Rising Star, 2009—2010
- **Martindale Hubbell National Law Directory**
  AV Rated, 2014
- **Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly**
  Lawyer of the Year, 2019