

THE KALON LAW FIRM, LLC

We Listen. We Counsel. We Advocate.

Litigation Defense in Connecticut

The Kalon Law Firm, LLC is a new insurance defense law firm based in Hartford, Connecticut, the insurance capital of the world. Our vision is to serve our clients as a leading-edge law firm, built on a lean-business and intrinsic-motivation model. Our mission is to serve the interests of our clients by addressing their legal challenges and opportunities so they can achieve their objectives.

We've often heard people say a client hires the lawyer, not the firm. Not so at Kalon. We follow firm protocols and best practices, pair on cases, and have a core skills program to ensure we handle our clients' cases at the same high level of competence no matter what lawyer has the case. Our clients get more than the lawyer; they get the firm.

Legal Services in New Ways

Our Approach: The Kalon Way. At Kalon, we identify your problem, develop a strategy with you to solve your problem, and follow through (including timely, to-the-point communication) at a reasonable fee. Our focus begins with what you want. We have delivery systems (our people and our tech) to meet your needs, and we adhere to quality standards (such as checklists, a diary system, set procedures, an ethics officer, and surveys when a case resolves) to ensure best practices. We pair attorneys and round-table our cases so you benefit from our experience and from second perspectives.

A Model for Better Client Focus

Our innovative approach to practicing law allows us to fulfill our method better than traditional approaches. Because we are digital, we have access to our files at depositions, in court, and anywhere else we have an internet connection, allowing us to produce any necessary document (and documents never get lost). Because our file management software is mobile-friendly, we always have access to our schedules, diaries, and contacts. Because we are distributed, our people work where they are most efficient. And because we have no annual billable-hour goal, our people are not distracted by an irrelevant measure of their legal services to you. Instead, our model is based on intrinsic motivators, encouraging our attorneys to pursue cases with a sense of purpose, mastery, and autonomy within the team.

We maintain a "core skills" program to guide professional team members in communicating effectively, getting things done, and applying emotional intelligence for effective decision making.

Attorney Kriesen has studied Decision Quality (a logic and fact-based method of decision making) at Stanford University and applies this to advise clients and their insurers on risk management.

A Law Firm Like No Other

Kalon is a Greek word for an ideal as defined by ancient Greek philosophers. We decided to name our firm for an ideal to reflect our progressive thinking and to signal that the firm is about our team, rather than just the partners.

Add The Kalon Law Firm Model to Your Panel Counsel Program

Contact The Kalon Law Firm to learn more about our commitment to add value to your panel.

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Advertising Material

PRIMARY PRACTICE AREAS

Commercial General Liability

Our firm handles premises and motor vehicle claims, as well as more complex issues such as insurance coverage.

Professional Liability

We are able to defend claims against insurance agents, real estate agents, attorneys, and dentists. Every effort is made to protect our client's reputation. We can also provide preventative consulting to educate insureds on risk management techniques designed to avoid the majority of E&O claims.

Public Entity Defense

Our attorneys have experience defending the wide spectrum of civil claims brought against public entities, officials, and employees in Connecticut. In state, federal, or tribal court, we represent public officials, towns, cities, police officers, emergency response personnel, teachers, school boards, and other public employees.

Coverage

Our attorneys have a fluent understanding of the Connecticut Insurance Regulations, the standard language of policies, and the case law interpreting both. We are able to analyze and opine whether a policy covers a particular claim.

Trucking and Transportation

We are able to defend motor carriers, private carriers, shippers, brokers, logistics companies, and insurers in property damage or personal injury claims. Members of the firm understand FMCSA safety rules, including hours of service, drug and alcohol testing, and hazardous materials.

Automobile Liability

We have extensive experience defending municipalities, insurers, and their insureds in auto liability cases involving uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage, bodily injury, property damage, and comprehensive coverage claims. Members of the firm can also assist insurers with coverage litigation and declaratory judgment actions.

Premises Liability

We handle general premises liability claims, usually brought against homeowners, raising defenses of duty, notice, and comparative negligence.

Appellate Practice

We handle civil appeals in state and federal courts, including the Connecticut Appellate Court and the Connecticut Supreme Court. We are experienced in drafting persuasive appellate briefs and in presenting oral arguments. The firm can advise clients regarding the preservation of issues for appeal, as well as complex coverage matters.

ADDITIONAL PRACTICE AREAS

Employment Practices Liability

If an insured has a claim or suit brought pursuant to federal or state employment laws that results in an employment practices matter involving discrimination, sexual harassment, wrongful termination, disability, leave, a hostile work environment, or retaliation, we are able to provide a defense. We can also provide consulting to prevent claims and suits.

Connecticut Tribal Defense

There are two sovereign Native American tribes in Connecticut, each with their own court and body of law. Attorney Ronald Houde is admitted to practice before the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Court and the Mohegan Gaming Disputes Court. He has defended tribe members, property owners, and visitors to the casinos in personal injury actions and contract disputes.

Admiralty / Maritime

We are experienced in matters involving personal injury, wrongful death, cargo loss or damage, and marine insurance coverage. Workers' compensation capabilities include matters involving the Jones Act and the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act.

Representative Cases*

Essex Ins. Co. v. William Kramer & Associates, LLC, District Court of Connecticut. 3:2013cv01537 (2016). Attorney Kriesen prevailed on a renewed motion for judgment in favor of the defendant. The plaintiff insurer claimed the defendant independent adjuster negligently failed to name a mortgagee on a property settlement check, resulting in a \$1 million damages payment by the plaintiff insurer to the mortgagee. Attorney Kriesen moved for judgment on the ground the claim was time-barred, but the court held there were issues of fact, and the case asserting there was no equitable tolling of the statute of limitations under the facts at trial and that the claim was time-barred. The trial court agreed, vacated the verdict, and entered judgment in favor of the defendant.

Horrigan v. Town of Washington, 144 Conn.App. 536, cert. denied, 310 Conn. 939 (2013). Attorney Kriesen successfully defended an appeal brought by one of the premier plaintiff's personal injury firms in Connecticut. At trial, the plaintiff claimed, pursuant to the highway defect statute, Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 13a-149, that an open storm drain was a defect and the sole proximate cause of the death of the minor decedent. After the jury returned a verdict for the defendant and the trial court denied the plaintiff's motion to set aside the verdict, the plaintiff appealed. The case was transferred to Attorney Kriesen to defend the appeal. The primary claim on appeal was that the jury's finding was clearly erroneous, requiring a review of the entire trial record. The court unanimously agreed with Attorney Kriesen's argument that certain evidence supported a jury reasonably finding the open drain was not a defect, concluded that finding was dispositive, and did not address the plaintiff's secondary claims. The Supreme Court denied review.

Sports Domain v. Max Specialty Group, et al., NNH-CV09-5025291-S (2011). Attorney Kriesen won a defendant's verdict for his client (James River Insurance Company) on a coverage claim tried to the court. The parties stipulated to the value of damages (\$400,000). The plaintiff suffered a property loss to its sports dome following a snowstorm, a deflation of the dome, and a reinflation, followed by a full-length rip in the dome. The events occurred during the end of one policy period and the beginning of another. Attorney Kriesen successfully argued that, given the evidence and the language of the policies, the loss was not covered by his client's policy.

Giglio v. American Economy Ins. Co., 278 Conn. 794 (2006). Attorney Kriesen successfully defended an appeal challenging the validity of an exclusion in a uninsured motorist policy.

Attorney Kriesen has multiple Defendants' verdicts in state court in personal injury claims involving motor vehicle accidents and a slip and fall claim (representing a snow contractor).

**Disclaimer: Every case is different. Results will vary.*



Christopher P. Kriesen

Founder and Principal

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Christopher P. Kriesen is the founder and principal of the Kalon Law Firm, LLC. He formed the firm in 2017 to fulfill his vision of a better way to practice law. He leads the firm and serves as the ethics officer.

Mr. Kriesen concentrates his insurance defense practice in the areas of municipal liability, professional liability, products liability, uninsured / underinsured motorist liability, premises liability, motor vehicle liability, coverage, land use, and negligent security.

Mr. Kriesen tries cases in state and federal court, and has argued appeals before Connecticut's Appellate and Supreme Courts.

He served as an arbitrator of the Connecticut Superior Court, has taught advocacy to students at the University of Connecticut School of Law, and has been invited several times to speak at legal seminars.

Mr. Kriesen is active in his community. He volunteers at Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford (where he has taught basic literacy and English as a second language) and Hartford Youth Scholars (where he has advised on interviewing and career advancement).

Prior to founding The Kalon Law Firm, he was a partner at an insurance defense firm in Hartford, where he headed the insurance defense practice. He has practiced law for more than 20 years.

Selected Published Decisions*

Giglio v. American Economy Ins. Co., 278 Conn. 794 (2006)

Horrigan v. Town of Washington, 144 Conn. App. 536 (2013)

Professional Associations

Connecticut Bar Association

Connecticut Bar Foundation

Defense Research Institute

Oliver Ellsworth American Inn of Court

Education

Stanford University Graduate School of Business, Executive Education, LEAD (Learn. Engage, Accelerate. Disrupt.) Certificate, Corporate Innovation, 2017

Stanford University, Center for Professional Development: Strategic Decision and Risk Management Certificate, 2016

Trinity College, M.A., with Distinction, Writing, Rhetoric, and Media Arts, 2013

University of Connecticut School of Law, J.D., 1993

Villanova University, B.Sc., *cum laude*, 1988

Admissions

Connecticut, 1993

U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut, 2008

**Disclaimer: Every case is different. Results will vary.*



Ronald J. Houde, Jr.

Attorney

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Ronald J. Houde, Jr. is a trial and appellate lawyer practicing in the areas of municipal liability, premises liability, insurance coverage, Connecticut tribal law, personal and commercial auto, and uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage. He is a member of The Kalon Law Firm's founding team.

Prior to joining The Kalon Law Firm, Mr. Houde was an associate at an insurance defense firm in Hartford. He also served as a clerk to the Honorable Judges of the Hartford Superior Court.

Representative Cases*

Traylor v. Gambrell, Superior Court, judicial district of Stamford-Norwalk, Docket No. X08-FST-CV-14-5015414-S (Sept. 2, 2016) (summary judgment granted in favor of municipality on doctrine of *res judicata*).

Weed v. State of Connecticut, Superior Court, judicial district of New London, Docket No. KNL-CV-15-6024544-S (March 21, 2017) (motion to strike all counts against municipality granted based on doctrine of governmental immunity).

Freiman-Mills v. Town of Windsor Locks, Superior Court, judicial district of Hartford, Docket No. HHD-CV-14-6054005-S (March 30, 2017) (partial summary judgment granted in favor of municipality under doctrine of governmental immunity).

Hines v. Metropolitan, Superior Court, judicial district of Hartford, Docket No. HHD-CV-15-6059947-S (May 22, 2017) (summary judgment granted in favor of insurer holding interpretation of policy exclusion was valid and substantially congruent with regulatory language).

Professional Associations

Connecticut Bar Association
Hartford County Bar Association
Oliver Ellsworth American Inn of Court

Education

Western New England University School of Law, J.D., 2015
University of Connecticut, B.A., 2010

Admissions

Connecticut, 2015
U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut, 2016
Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Court, 2016
Mohegan Gaming Disputes Court, 2017

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Demetra A. Turi

Office Manager

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Demetra Turi manages business operations at The Kalon Law Firm. Prior to joining the firm, she gained more than 27 years of experience at an insurance defense firm in Hartford. Her many roles there included legal assistant, IT manager, bookkeeper, and billing manager. She is a member of The Kalon Law Firm's founding team.

Education

Goodwin College, Certificate Program, Finance and Bookkeeping, East Hartford, CT, 2014

Manchester Community College, Associate's Degree, Legal Assistant, Manchester, CT, 1990

ABOUT OUR BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Billing Rates

The Kalon Law Firm offers competitive rates for the Connecticut market. Our attorneys are driven by client service guidelines, rather than annual billable hour goals. This gives us flexibility to focus on mutually beneficial performance metrics.

Billing and Reporting Systems

The Clio software suite, a secure cloud-based solution, is used for invoicing and legal matter management. The Kalon Law Firm is able to generate invoices and case management reports in a manner consistent with client litigation guidelines.

Ethics and Professional Liability

The Kalon Law Firm practices only in the area of insurance defense. The firm does not bring claims against insureds or their insurers. The firm has an ethics officer to ensure compliance with the rules of professional conduct. Neither the firm, nor any of its attorneys, has been subject to any disciplinary action by a court of law or state bar association.

The firm maintains a professional liability policy through CNA in the amount of \$5 million.

References

Provided upon request.

Firm Contact Information

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