

## James W. Bergenn

Partner

860.251.5639

[jbergenn@goodwin.com](mailto:jbergenn@goodwin.com)

Hartford

[View Full Bio](#)



Jim Bergenn handles complex criminal and civil litigation, white collar crime and government investigations, personal injury and wrongful death cases, and other trials with meaningful consequences. Tapping into his 40 years of experience as a trial attorney and trial skills instructor, lawyers and the media alike call on Jim for his insight with respect to investigations, experts and high-profile trials.

Jim's wide range of criminal cases include representing targets of investigations, criminal defendants, grand jury and other witnesses, and crime victims. He works on matters prosecuted by the whole gamut of federal, state and local authorities: US Attorney's Office; Chief State's Attorney's Office; state and federal Grand Juries, FBI; state and local police; SEC; DEA; ATF; DOD; IRS; FDA; FTC; Offices of Inspector General for Federal Agencies; and state regulators, including Attorneys General, DEP, DPH, DMR, DCF, and Office of Consumer Protection.

As an experienced catastrophic injury lawyer, Jim handles matters on behalf of victims of car, truck and bicycling accidents, defective products and premises, construction accidents, drownings, boating accidents, environmental hazards, medical malpractice and sexual assaults. Injuries include death, burns, RSD, paralysis, blindness and Legionnaire's disease, among others. He adeptly uses technology to help jurors understand complex matters in simple terms (video reconstruction, videotaped depositions, and clear illustrations, charts, maps and highlighted documents). Jim leverages his large network of contacts to his clients' advantage, often employing video, expert witnesses, accident reconstruction experts and economic and medical experts to make his clients' cases. [Click here](#) to learn more.

## Distinctions

- Listed in The Best Lawyers in America®: *Criminal Defense: White-Collar* (2009-2026); *Criminal Defense: General Practice* (2010-2026); *Personal Injury Litigation - Plaintiffs* (2018-2026); *Product Liability Litigation - Plaintiffs* (2018-2026); *Criminal Defense: Non-White-Collar* (2009-2016)
- Listed as a Connecticut Super Lawyer®: *Criminal Defense: White-Collar* (2006-2022); *Business Litigation* (2006-2015); *Personal Injury General: Plaintiff* (2006-2024)
- Listed as one of the Top 50 Lawyers in Connecticut by Super Lawyers® (2014, 2016, 2019-2024)
- Named Best Lawyers® "Lawyer of the Year": *Criminal Defense: White-Collar* (2022); *Criminal Defense: General Practice* (2018, 2021); *Criminal Defense: Non-White-Collar* (2014, 2016)
- Shipman Ranked Among *U.S. News & World Report's* and *Best Lawyers* Best Law Firms for 2023 in Tier 1 for both Personal Injury Litigation–Plaintiffs and Product Liability Litigation–Plaintiffs
- Listed as one of the Top 100 Lawyers in New England by Super Lawyers® (2019)
- Benchmark Litigation, Local Litigation Star: Wrongful Death and Personal Injury (Plaintiff) (2012-2015)
- AV Preeminent® Rated, Martindale-Hubbell
- Chosen as a member of The Million Dollar Advocates Forum, a voluntary membership organization that admits only attorneys who have won million dollar verdicts or settlements, and of which fewer than 1% of U.S. lawyers are members
- Firm is ranked Tier 1 by *U.S. News and World Report* and *Best Lawyers* as a Best Law Firm in both Personal Injury Litigation and Products Liability Litigation - Plaintiffs
- American Bar Foundation: Fellow
- Catholic University of America: President's Award
- Connecticut Statewide Grievance Committee for New Haven Ethics Panel
- CBA Task Force on Confidentiality and the Courts Commission
- CBA Task Force for Legal Education
- National Trial Lawyers Top 100 - Civil Plaintiff, Member
- State of Connecticut Judicial Branch: Advisory Commission on Wrongful Convictions

## Professional Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- Connecticut Bar Association: Executive Committee, Criminal Justice Section; Executive Committee, Antitrust and Trade Regulation Section; Ex-Chair, Media and Law Section
- Hartford County Bar Association
- National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
- Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association: Board of Governors

- The National Trial Lawyers Top 100
- The Brain Injury Trial Lawyers Top 25

## Community Involvement

- American Constitution Society: Lawyers Steering Committee
- Town of Glastonbury: Former Conservation Commissioner
- Town of Glastonbury: Former Chairman, Democratic Town Committee
- Town of Glastonbury: Former Boys and girls soccer and basketball coach
- Lector and Religious Education Instructor
- Hartford Apartment Improvement Program, Inc.: Former Board President
- Connecticut Friends for ALS Research
- Covenant Preparatory School: Executive Committee, Board of Directors

## Credentials

### *Education*

- The Catholic University of America, B.A., 1976, *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa
- Columbia University School of Law, J.D., 1979

### *Bar Admissions*

- Connecticut, 1979

### *Court Admissions*

- U.S. District Court, Southern District of NY
- U.S. District Court, District of CT
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of NY
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit