

# Lester A. Pines

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Senior Partner

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Lester Pines is a Senior Partner in the firm.

A Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, he is a respected civil and criminal litigator and appellate advocate. In his over 40 years of practice, he has appeared in trial and appellate courts throughout Wisconsin, in numerous federal district courts, and before the federal 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. After a recent trial, one of Lester's clients wrote:

"Seeing you in action was like watching an artist create a classic painting from a blank canvas but instead of paint you used facts, figures and, most importantly, words to achieve a masterpiece in the courtroom."

His wide-ranging civil trial practice encompasses commercial claims, employment disputes, constitutional and civil rights matters, personal injury and intellectual property cases. His criminal defense work has involved many high profile cases, especially involving teachers, police officers and other public employees. He is counsel to Madison Teachers Inc., which represents the employees of the Madison Metropolitan School District.

Recent challenges to the constitutionality of newly enacted laws that Lester brought on behalf of his clients include:

- A challenge to Wisconsin's Voter I.D. law for the League of Women Voters.
- Challenges by Planned Parenthood to laws limiting access to abortion services.
- An action to defeat legislation aimed at limiting the power of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, representing a citizen group

Previously, in cases in which he was appointed by former Wisconsin Governor Jim

Doyle, Lester defended Wisconsin's law creating domestic partnerships for same sex couples and stopped an attempt by then Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen to suppress voting in the 2008 Presidential election.

Among the many cases Lester has argued before the Wisconsin Supreme Court, two in particular have shaped Wisconsin law. In 2010 he represented the Zurich American Insurance Company in *Miller v Hanover Insurance*, securing the reversal of a \$2,000,000 default judgment against his client and achieving a significant change in Wisconsin law regarding relief from such judgments. In an original action in 1996, he successfully argued the case of *Thompson v. Craney*, which delineated the constitutionally vested powers of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and protected them from being altered by the Legislature.

### Education

- University of Wisconsin Law School, Madison, Wisconsin
  - J.D. – 1974
- University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin
  - B.A. – 1972, with Distinction in History

### Honors and Awards

- Wisconsin Super Lawyer (General Litigation)
- Best Lawyers in America, White Collar & Non-White Collar Criminal Defense, and Labor & Employment
- Ben Minkoff Volunteer Service Award, Jewish Federation of Madison, 2004
- Harry & Velma Hamilton Branch Service Award for exemplary volunteer efforts, NAACP Madison Branch, 2009
- Fair Wisconsin Leadership Award, 2010
- University of Wisconsin Law School Adjunct Professor of the Year, 2010
- Wisconsin Law Journal "Leader in Law", 2011
- Alex Temkin Distinguished Service Award, Jewish Federation of Madison, 2014

### Professional Associations and Memberships

- American Bar Association, Litigation Section
- Wisconsin Association for Justice
- Wisconsin Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- American Association of Justice

- National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- James E. Doyle Chapter of the American Inns of Court, President, 2002-2007
- Downtown Madison Rotary
- Jewish Federation of Madison Board of Directors; President, 2007 - 2010