



Practice Areas

- Corporate
- Environmental
- Intellectual Property
- Litigation
- Appellate
- Commercial Litigation
- Insurance Litigation
- Products Liability Litigation
- Startup & Emerging Business
- Zoning & Land Use

Education

- George Washington University Law School, J.D., 2007
 - Semi-finalist, Van Vleck Constitutional Moot Court Competition
 - Best Regional Brief, UCLA Constance Baker Motley National Moot Court Competition
 - Vice President, Federalist Society
- State University of New York at Buffalo, B.A., *magna cum laude*, 2004
 - Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society
 - Pi Sigma Alpha

James P. Youngs

PARTNER

P: 315.565.4558
F: 315.565.4600
jyoungs@hancocklaw.com

James P. Youngs is Chair of the Litigation Department. He represents companies, organizations and individuals in a broad range of matters, including business and contract disputes, unfair competition and trade secrets claims, and environmental, construction, employment and products liability litigation.

Mr. Youngs is a member of the Intellectual Property Practice, defending and prosecuting trademark and copyright infringement cases, and helps clients develop, prosecute and monitor trademark and copyright portfolios before the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the United States Copyright Office.

Mr. Youngs also assists entrepreneurs, startup companies and emerging businesses in identifying, assessing and protecting their intellectual property assets and rights. He helps emerging companies that are in all stages of maturity develop and implement IP management and enforcement strategies, including registration, licensing and, when necessary, litigation. Mr. Youngs regularly advises new and existing businesses seeking to obtain Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) Certification with New York State and the federal government.

Prior to joining the Firm, Mr. Youngs was a law clerk at the United States Department of Justice, Office of Legal Policy, where he assisted with federal judicial nominations, including the nomination and confirmation of two United States Supreme Court Justices.

Representative Matters

- Obtained a unanimous decision from the Appellate Division, Third Department annulling a denial by the New York State Division of Minority and Women Business Development of MWBE certification.
- Obtained summary judgment on behalf of solar energy developer in an anti-SLAPP Act case brought by competitor in federal court, and successfully cleared pending real estate litigation to permit an approximately \$25 million project to proceed.
- Obtained dismissal of a products liability suit against an out-of-state client based on the lack of New York court jurisdiction.
- Secured dismissal of a class action lawsuit brought against a city in Upstate New York by over two dozen property owners alleging damages as a result of lead and arsenic contamination allegedly emanating from a city-owned property.
- Secured summary judgment of behalf of the former state prosecutors in a malicious

National Honor Society

- Golden Key Honor Society
- University Honors Scholar

Admissions

- New York
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the District of Vermont
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York

prosecution and false imprisonment case brought by criminal defendants acquitted of murder.

- Obtained an order in an Article 78 proceeding on behalf of a public library district, directing two municipal boards to fund a construction project through a special tax levy.
- Won summary judgment on behalf of a sitting New York State judge sued on federal constitutional grounds by the father of a minor criminal defendant charged with hate crimes and attempted murder.
- Defended a local business against trademark infringement, unfair competition and other Lanham Act claims brought by a national company in federal court, obtaining dismissal of the suit and favorable resolution by way of a coexistence agreement.
- Advise dozens of businesses through New York State regarding Empire State Development review of application for MWBE certification; won agency hearing on appeal challenging denial of certification for defense contractor.
- Obtain cancellation of trademark registrations before the PTO Trademark Trial and Appeals Board, permitting subsequent registration of clients' competing marks.

Professional Credentials

- Board of Directors, Stone Quarry Hill Art Park
- Board of Directors, Cazenovia Community Preschool
- Adjunct Professor, Le Moyne College (Introduction to Business Law, Spring Semester 2011)
- Member, [Federation of Defense & Corporation Counsel](#)
- Member, Onondaga County Bar Association
- Member, New York State Bar Association
- Member, American Intellectual Property Law Association
- Member, New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers
- Charter Member and Treasurer, ToastMasters International: Good Morning Syracuse

Honors & Recognitions

- Selected, *The Best Lawyers in America* (2024, 2025)
- Selected, Upstate New York *Super Lawyers* (2024)
- Selected, Upstate New York *Super Lawyers* – Rising Star (2015 – 2018)

Press & Publications

News

- [James P. Youngs Named to The New York State Small Business Development Center Advisory Board](#)
- [24 Hancock Estabrook Attorneys Selected as Super Lawyers 2023](#)
- [James P. Youngs Elected to The Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel](#)
- [26 Hancock Estabrook Attorneys Selected to The Best Lawyers in America 2024](#)
- ["It took nearly six years for this woman-owned business to get certified in New York." Albany Business Review](#)

- “She’s on verge of WBE certification after 5 years, \$40K in legal fees.” Albany Business Journal
- “She’s the boss. The state isn’t convinced.” Albany Business Journal

Publications

- Corporate Law Alert: New York Governor Kathy Hochul discusses Minority and Woman Business Enterprise (“MWBE”) certification difficulties in “State of the State” address
- ALFA Business Litigation Newsletter, October 2021: Third Department Annuls New York State’s Denial of MWBE Certification
- Corporate Alert: Third Department Annuls New York State’s Denial of MWBE Certification
- Corporate Legal Alert: Adopted Regulations for NYS MWBE Certification
- Corporate Legal Alert: Proposed Regulations for NYS MWBE Certification
- Environmental Law Alert: Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has Issued Clarifications as to what Constitutes “Essential Construction”
- Corporate Law Alert: New York State Reauthorizes the Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise Program for State Contracts
- Fall 2016 Hancock Estabrook Newsletter, Briana Wright and Jim Youngs

Speaking Engagements

- New York Small Business Development Center: “Regulatory Changes to MWBE Certification”
- New York Small Business Development Center: “Helping Clients Identify and Protect Intellectual Property”
- New York Small Business Development Center’s Annual Conference
- 2nd Annual Minority Business & Economic Empowerment Summit, “Minority and Woman-Owned Business Certification
- Hancock Estabrook Fifth Annual Advisors to Small Business Symposium
- Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship (WISE), “How to Obtain New York State Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Status”
- Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship (WISE), “Protecting Your Company’s Trademarks, Copyrights and Trade Secrets”
- Hancock Estabrook Third Annual Advisors to Small Business Symposium

Reported Decisions

- *Pinnacle Empl. Services, Inc. v. Pinnacle Holding Co., LLC*, 2024 WL 382140 (E.D. Cal. 2024)
- *Sherbk, Inc. v. City of Syracuse Bd. of Zoning Appeals*, 204 A.D.3d 1406 (4th Dep’t 2022)
- *Lemmon v. Town of Waterloo*, 221 AD3d 1499 (4th Dep’t 2023)
- *Jacklyn PP. v. Jonathan QQ.*, 221 A.D.3d 1293 (3d Dep’t 2023)
- *Thorpe v. Duve*, 20-3679-CV, 2022 WL 332804 (2d Cir. 2022)

- *DeWolf v. Wayne County*, 201 A.D.3d 1301 (4th Dep't 2022)
- *Scherzi Systems, LLC v. White*, 197 A.D.3d 1466 (3d Dep't 2021)
- *Pottorff v. Centra Fin. Group, Inc.*, 192 A.D.3d 1552 (4th Dep't 2021)
- *DeWolf v. Syrett*, 191 A.D.3d 1265 (4th Dep't 2021), *appeal dismissed*, 36 N.Y.3d 1106 (2021)
- *Crossroad Co. v. Mercer's Dairy Corp.*, 2021 WL 1382380 (Trademark Tr. & App. Bd. 2021)
- *Thorpe v. Duve, et al.*, 2020 WL 5763941 (N.D.N.Y. 2020)
- *Dynamic Energy Solutions, LLC v. Pinney*, 387 F. Supp. 3d 176 (N.D.N.Y. 2019)
- *Scofero v. VNA Homecare Options, LLC*, 2017 WL 3097612 (W.D.N.Y. 2017)
- *Oneida Pub. Library Dist. v. Town Bd. of Town of Verona*, 153 A.D.3d 127 (3d Dep't 2017)
- *Deshotel v. Mandile*, 151 A.D.3d 1811 (4th Dep't 2017)
- *Shephard v. Ray*, 137 A.D.3d 1715 (4th Dep't 2016)
- *JGB Properties, LLC v. Ironwood, LLC*, 2015 WL 1399997 (N.D.N.Y. 2015)
- *Etasam, Inc. v. Syracuse Ass'n of Zeta Psi, Inc.*, 122 A.D.3d 1427 (4th Dep't 2014)
- *Pacherille v. Burns*, 30 F. Supp. 3d 159 (N.D.N.Y. 2014)
- *American Underground Engineering, Inc. v. City of Syracuse*, 2012 WL 3202853 (N.D.N.Y. 2012)
- *Murtaugh v. New York*, 810 F. Supp. 2d 446 (N.D.N.Y. 2011)
- *McGregor v. Jarvis*, 2010 WL 3724133 (N.D.N.Y. 2010)
- *Cuomo v. M&E Technical Services*, 2009 WL 2878451 (N.D.N.Y. 2009)
- *Smith v. New Venture Gear, Inc.*, 319 Fed. Appx. 52 (2d Cir. 2009)
- *Carter v. New Venture Gear, Inc.*, 310 Fed. Appx. 454 (2d Cir. 2009)