

NEWS & INSIGHTS

Saxton & Stump welcomes respected trial attorney Rory Connaughton as shareholder

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LANCASTER, Pa., April 7, 2025 — Saxton & Stump continues to expand its elite litigation team with the addition of seasoned Lancaster County trial attorney [Rory O. Connaughton](#) as a shareholder in the firm's [Commercial Litigation](#) and [Labor and Employment](#) groups. Connaughton brings three decades of experience representing financial institutions, publicly traded corporations, and closely held companies. He will be based in the firm's Lancaster office, a region where he has practiced his entire career.

Saxton & Stump CEO [James W. Saxton](#) emphasized that his addition further strengthens the firm's ability to handle high-stakes litigation.

"Our goal is always to build a litigation team that delivers exceptional advocacy for our clients," Saxton said. "Rory's high-profile experience, strategic approach, and stellar reputation make him a tremendous asset to our firm. His leadership in the courtroom and his commitment to successful client outcomes further reinforce Saxton & Stump as the go-to firm for complex litigation matters."

Before joining [Saxton & Stump](#), Connaughton was the founder and managing partner of a respected Lancaster County law firm, where he played a pivotal role in its growth and success. His broad litigation practice includes:

- Commercial disputes, including contract enforcement, partnership, and corporate governance disputes and litigation, business torts, fraud and construction disputes
- Employment matters, such as enforcing restrictive covenants, protecting trade secrets, and defending against discrimination claims

Recognized for his excellence in litigation, Connaughton has been named to the Pennsylvania Super Lawyers list every year since 2014.

At Saxton & Stump, Connaughton reunites with former colleagues [Robert W. Pontz](#) and [Ryan C. Givens](#), who joined the firm within the last year. He will also collaborate with the [Hon. Lawrence F. Stengel \(Ret.\)](#), a longtime friend and mentor.

"Working with Bob and Ryan was always a strong and collaborative experience, so it's a pleasure to team with them again," Connaughton said. "I've also had the privilege of knowing Judge Stengel and appearing in his court for many years. I am excited by the opportunity to work alongside him. With its deep bench of attorneys, diverse practice groups, and forward-thinking approach, Saxton & Stump is the right place for my clients and my practice."

Beyond his legal practice, Connaughton has played a significant role in bringing the U.S. Women's Open to Lancaster Country Club in 2015 and 2024, helping generate over \$50 million in economic impact for the region. As a key leader in the event's executive committee, he served as vice chair in 2024, further reinforcing his commitment to Lancaster's growth and success.

He earned his law degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and his undergraduate degree from Washington & Jefferson College.

Saxton & Stump's strategic growth outlook

With over 250 professionals, including more than 130 attorneys, Saxton & Stump's innovative model continues to attract highly talented and experienced attorneys, driving the growth of the law firm and its affiliate companies nationwide.

Saxton & Stump provides solutions for complex legal issues and partners with clients to create a roadmap for their success. The firm is committed to empowering clients by delivering five-star service and results-focused advice.

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