

# Top 100 Law Firm Highlights



## KASOWITZ

KASOWITZ BENSON TORRES & FRIEDMAN LLP

1633 Broadway, 22nd Floor • New York, NY 10019  
Phone: (212) 506-1700 • www.kasowitz.com

### LOCATIONS

New York, NY (HQ)  
Atlanta, GA  
Houston, TX  
Miami, FL  
San Francisco, CA  
Newark, NJ

### MAJOR DEPARTMENTS & PRACTICES

Litigation  
Creditors' Rights & Bankruptcy  
Employment Practices & Litigation  
Matrimonial & Family Law  
Insurance Recovery  
Intellectual Property

### THE STATS

No. of attorneys: 340  
No. of offices: 6  
Summer associate offers (2009): 14 out of 14  
Managing Partner: Marc E. Kasowitz  
Hiring Partner: Aaron H. Marks

### BASE SALARY

1st year: \$160,000  
2nd year: \$170,000  
3rd year: \$185,000  
4th year: \$210,000  
5th year: \$230,000  
6th year: \$250,000  
7th year: \$265,000  
8th year: \$280,000  
Summer associate: \$3,077/week



### THE SCOOP

In just over a decade, the young firm of Kasowitz Benson Torres & Friedman has risen to the top tier of New York litigation practices. While focusing on complex civil litigation, Kasowitz is broken down into six practice areas: litigation, creditors' rights and bankruptcy, employment practices and litigation, matrimonial and family law, insurance recovery and intellectual property. Indeed, the firm takes pride in not practicing outside of those discrete areas: "These practice areas reflect the ongoing focus of Kasowitz to be the best at what we do, and not merely to 'do it all,'" the firm reports in its promotional materials.

The firm's major clients include Comcast, Donald J. Trump, Fortress Investment Group, Hilton Worldwide, General Electric Company, MBIA Inc. and News America Corporation. Most recently, Kasowitz is representing MBIA Inc. in actions brought by twenty of the world's largest financial institutions in which the banks seek to set aside MBIA's \$5 billion transformation of its structured finance insurance business, and Hilton Worldwide in a civil action brought by Starwood Hotels and in a related grand jury investigation, arising from alleged misappropriation of trade secret materials.

In 2009 Kasowitz was ranked #4 nationally and #3 in New York in the American Lawyer Student Edition: Summer Associate Survey. This is the highest national ranking of any New York firm. The rankings are based on feedback from all 15 members of Kasowitz's 2009 summer associate class and are measured against responses from 4,804 law students at 124 law firms throughout the country.

### QUALITY OF LIFE

#4 Business Outlook  
#8 Overall Satisfaction  
#19 Hours

### BEST IN PRACTICE

#20 Class actions

### OUR SURVEY SAYS

#### ASSOCIATE LIFE

**Vault's Verdict:** *Friendly associates, substantive assignments and caring partners keep Kasowitz associates glowing.*

#### Satisfaction

- "The best law firm in NYC hands down! The firm environment is extremely congenial and supportive."

—New Yorker

- "While I am a junior attorney, since my first day, I have been asked to do work that friends at larger firms are jealous of. The benefit of this firm is that you have the work of a large legal practice, but a smaller office with only a few hundred attorneys, so that from the get-go, you are doing real work and actually being a lawyer, as opposed to merely flipping through documents."

—Junior Contact

- "I actually look forward to coming to the office each day. The people at the firm are very supportive and collegial and make it a wonderful environment in which to work. The work itself involves sophisticated legal matters, is very challenging and diverse and very fast-paced."

—Litigation Associate

## KASOWITZ

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- “I absolutely love working at Kasowitz. It's a challenging and rewarding job! There is very little ego and politics at this firm. Attorneys focus on doing the very best job for the client.”

—Midlevel Associate

### Firm Culture

- “Lawyers at Kasowitz Benson are extremely friendly, outgoing people who enjoy spending time with each other inside and outside of the office.”

—New Yorker

- “Lawyers are very friendly and supportive of one another - a true team effort. Also lawyers will often get together to socialize and actually know about and like each other. The firm's culture is geared to high quality people of excellent character and it shows throughout the firm on all levels.”

—Litigator

### Associate/Partner Relations

- “There definitely is two-way respect. My experience as an associate has been very positive in light of the fact that already I have developed many great working relationships directly with partners. I prefer this to working through multiple levels of associates.”

—Litigator

- “Partners are engaging and expect an associate to give an opinion instead of just recite the law. I have never dealt with the typical big-firm hierarchical treatment.”

—New Yorker

- “Partners are highly respectful of associates, value associates' work, and involve associates in all aspects of a case. Partners socialize with associates and contribute to the overall camaraderie at the firm.”

—Labor & Employment Associate

- “Honestly, great partners—great people. Could not be happier!”

—Midlevel Contact

### Office Space

- “We just moved into a beautiful new office!”

—San Francisco Contact

- “The offices are located in a major building near the theatre district on the west side of midtown and have nice views.”

—New Yorker

### SCHEDULE/COMPENSATION

**Vault's Verdict:** *Associates are content with the firm's market compensation and relatively balanced workload.*

### Hours

- “I work probably 10-12 hours a day on average, often more. But I love it; the work is interesting and edifying, and if you're going to be pulling long days, you might as well be doing it with a great group of people.”

—Junior Associate

- “I have weeks where I see friends after work every night, and others where I'm more focused on work. It all seems to balance out.”

—New Yorker

- “Hours are consistent and are rarely inhumane. Not only is it rare that plans are broken, but senior attorneys are very understanding and accommodating.”

—New Yorker

### Compensation

- “Kasowitz pays the same market rates as other big firms. Our 2009 bonuses were at the top of the market.”

—Midlevel Associate

- “It's market. It's generous.”

—Bankruptcy Associate

### TRAINING

**Vault's Verdict:** *Associates continue to take advantage of the firm's in-house CLEs and mentoring opportunities.*

- “The firm sponsors in-house CLEs and is part of the PLI. Partners informally train and mentor associates by involving them in all aspects of the case and giving extensive feedback.”

—Midlevel Contact

- “Younger associates do receive official mentors and formal training is conducted through the summer program and frequent in-house CLEs. Most training, however, is hands-on, informal, and provided directly by partners and senior associates.”

—New Yorker

### OVERALL BUSINESS OUTLOOK

**Vault's Verdict:** *Associates are positive about their firm's continued growth, in spite of the recession.*

- “Kasowitz has continued to thrive and hire when other firms were suffering and laying people off.”

—Labor & Employment Associate

- “The firm is thriving and continually improving and growing.”

—New Yorker

- “The firm is vigorous and performing well, even during this difficult climate.”

—Litigator

- “The firm is doing great - we have more work than we can handle, we're constantly hiring, and because we only do litigation, we've been spared from the ravages of the recession.”

—Junior Associate