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Top 100 Lawyers 2025



Peter Stris

Stris & Maher LLP
Cerritos

Peter Stris never planned to become a lawyer. The founder of Stris & Maher LLP originally intended to write music for films during college, but somewhere between winning a national debate championship and losing a recording contract, his trajectory shifted toward the courtroom rather than the recording studio.

“I realized I was less interested in background scores and more interested in front-line arguments,” Stris said. “Law was a natural fit.”

More than 20 years later, Stris has argued 10 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and built a litigation practice that crossed

a significant milestone in the past year. He originated matters where his firm recovered more than \$300 million for clients, reflecting both the scale of cases the firm handles and its capacity to meet complex legal challenges.

The firm’s recent success includes two cases for Texas bitcoin mining company Rhodium that demonstrate Stris’ approach to high-stakes litigation.

In the first matter, the company faced an existential threat when its landlord — recently acquired by a direct competitor — attempted to force an eviction and locked the company out of its facilities. In re Rhodium Encore LLC, 24-90448 (S.D. Tex., filed Aug. 24, 2024).

“Armed security locked Rhodium out of its facilities and cut off power to thousands of mining machines, threatening to shut the business down overnight,” Stris said.

Stris’ legal team secured emergency relief within days, ultimately winning a preliminary injunction and proceeding to trial. After a week-long proceeding before U.S. District Judge Alfredo Perez, the court ruled in Rhodium’s favor, upholding the company’s contracts and rejecting the landlord’s claims. The victory enabled Rhodium to sell its assets for \$186 million to the same competitor that had attempted the eviction.

Simultaneously, the firm defended Rhodium against a patent infringement lawsuit in the Western District of Texas. Managing Partner Elizabeth Brannen led the de-

fense, successfully excluding the plaintiff’s experts through Daubert motions and winning summary judgment of non-infringement. *MidasGreen Technologies v. Rhodium Enterprises, Inc.* 6:22-cv-00050 (W.D. Texas, filed Jan. 13, 2022).

These cases illustrate Stris’s philosophy that narrative clarity often determines case outcomes. In the eviction matter, he said the opposing side attempted to “flood the record with technical lease disputes, hoping to create enough confusion to justify the eviction.” The firm’s strategy centered on a simple premise: contracts must be honored.

Stris has positioned his firm at the forefront of artificial intelligence adoption in legal practice. While many law firms have discussed innovation incrementally, he believes the profession now faces transformation.

“The capabilities of AI tools have advanced to a point where they’re reshaping how litigation teams analyze records, draft filings, and prepare for trial — not in theory, but in daily practice,” Stris said.

The firm uses AI-driven workflows for document review, drafting assistance, and case organization while maintaining focus on strategic decision-making and advocacy. Stris views this technology as an amplifier rather than a replacement for traditional litigation skills.

“We view AI not as a threat to the craft of litigation, but as an amplifier of it,” he said.