THE NUMBER OF LEGAL PRACTICE AREAS HERE—96!—ATTESTS, LIFE IS COMPLICATED.
BUT THERE’S NO NEED TO FACE THOSE COMPLICATIONS WITHOUT AN ADVOCATE.

Here are 5,539 attorneys in Hawai‘i, according to the Hawai‘i State Bar Association. Which means that the 423 attorneys listed here are the top 7.6%.

We turned to Best Lawyers®, publisher of The Best Lawyers in America®, for this list. The research method is pure peer review—no attorneys can buy their way onto the list, nor is any purchase necessary. To determine the list, Best Lawyers takes nominations (and no, lawyers may not nominate themselves, either) in each practice area. Lawyers who appeared in previous lists also make this first cut. Best Lawyers then polls lawyers, asking, “If you were unable to take a case yourself, how likely would you be to refer it to this nominee?”

There are even more layers of research than this, and a detailed explanation of the methodology can be found at bestlawyers.com/methodology.

Don’t see your lawyer on the list? Don’t worry. As Best Lawyers notes: “Ultimately, a lawyer’s inclusion on these lists is based on the subjective judgments of his or her fellow attorneys. While it is true that the lists may at times disproportionately reward visibility or popularity, we remain as confident today as we were three decades ago that the breadth of our survey, the candor of our respondents and the sophistication of our polling methodology largely correct for any biases and that these lists continue to represent the most reliable, accurate, and useful—as well as the most transparent—guide to the best lawyers available anywhere.”

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## 2022 “LAWYER OF THE YEAR” HONOREES

### WHO IS THE BEST OF THE BEST?
According to Best Lawyers, these awards are given to “individual lawyers with the highest overall peer-feedback for a specific practice area and geographic region. Only one lawyer is recognized as the ‘Lawyer of the Year’ for each specialty and location.” Congratulations to all. You can also find the honorees identified in the full listings with an *.

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<th>Specialty</th>
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<td>Ted N. Pettit</td>
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</table>
Best Lawyers recently introduced a list of attorneys who have typically been practicing for less than 10 years and have shown “outstanding professional excellence.” As with the traditional list, the methodology for Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch relies on peer review. Congratulations to these up-and-coming lawyers!
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Methodology for *Best Lawyers®* and “Ones to Watch”

This list is excerpted from the 2022 Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America®,* the pre-eminent referral guide to the legal profession in the United States. Published since 1983,

*Best Lawyers* lists attorneys in 148 specialties, representing all 50 states, who have been chosen through an exhaustive survey in which thousands of the nation's top lawyers confidentially evaluate their professional peers. The 2022 Edition of *Best Lawyers* is based on over 13 million evaluations of lawyers by other lawyers.

The method used to compile *Best Lawyers* remains unchanged since the first edition was compiled almost 40 years ago. Lawyers are chosen for inclusion based solely on the vote of their peers. Listings cannot be bought, and no purchase is required to be included. In this regard, *Best Lawyers* remains the gold standard of reliability and integrity in lawyer ratings.

The nomination pool for the 2022 Edition consisted of all lawyers whose names appeared in the previous edition of *Best Lawyers*, lawyers who were nominated since the previous survey, and new nominees solicited from listed attorneys. In general, lawyers were asked to vote only on nominees in their own specialty in their own jurisdiction. Lawyers in closely related specialties were asked to vote across specialties, as were lawyers in smaller jurisdictions. Where specialties are national or international in nature, lawyers were asked to vote nationally as well as locally. Voting lawyers were also given an opportunity to offer more detailed comments on nominees. Each year, half of the voting pool receives fax or email ballots; the other half is polled by phone.

Voting lawyers were provided this general guideline for determining if a nominee should be listed among “the best”: “If you had a close friend or relative who needed a real estate lawyer (for example), and you could not handle the case yourself, to whom would you refer them?” All votes and comments were solicited with a guarantee of confidentiality – a critical factor in the viability and validity of *Best Lawyers*’ surveys. To ensure the rigor of the selection process, lawyers were urged to use only their highest standards when voting, and to evaluate each nominee based only on his or her individual merits. The additional comments were used to make more accurate comparisons between voting patterns and weight votes accordingly. *Best Lawyers* uses various methodological tools to identify and correct for anomalies in both the nomination and voting process.

Recognition by *Best Lawyers*: Ones to Watch is based entirely on peer review and employs the same methodology that has made *Best Lawyers* the gold standard for legal rankings worldwide. These awards are recognitions given to attorneys who are earlier in their careers for outstanding professional excellence in private practice in the United States. Our “Ones to Watch” recipients typically have been in practice for 5-9 years.

Ultimately, of course, a lawyer’s inclusion is based on the subjective judgments of his or her fellow attorneys. While it is true that the lists may at times disproportionately reward visibility or popularity, the breadth of the survey, the candor of the respondents, and the sophistication of the polling methodology largely correct for any biases.

For all these reasons, *Best Lawyers* lists continue to represent the most reliable, accurate and useful guide to the best lawyers in the United States available anywhere.