“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 a *.

ADMINISTRATIVE/REGULATORY LAW
James Douglas Ing

APPELLATE PRACTICE
David J. Minkin

ARBITRATION
Byron C. Feldman II

BANKING AND FINANCE LAW
Janel M. Yoshimoto

BANKRUPTCY AND CREDITOR DEBTOR RIGHTS/INSOLVENCY AND REORGANIZATION LAW
Tom E. Roesser

BET-THE-COMPANY LITIGATION
Terence J. O’Toole

BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS (INCLUDING LLCS AND PARTNERSHIPS)
Duane R. Fisher

CIVIL RIGHTS LAW
Douglas S. Chin

CLOSERLY HELD COMPANIES AND FAMILY BUSINESSES LAW
Terrence M. Lee

CONSTRUCTION LAW
Bennett J. Chin

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE LAW
Craig P. Wagnild

CORPORATE LAW
Stewart Pressman

CRIMINAL DEFENSE: GENERAL PRACTICE
Richard H. S. Sing

CRIMINAL DEFENSE: WHITE COLLAR
Richard H. S. Sing

EMINENT DOMAIN AND CONDEMNATION LAW
Calvert G. Chipchase

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (ERISA) LAW
Joanne Lo Grimes

EMPLOYMENT LAW – INDIVIDUALS
William N. Ota

EMPLOYMENT LAW – MANAGEMENT
Amanda M. Jones

ENERGY LAW
Craig I. Nakanishi

ENERGY REGULATORY LAW
Carlito P. Caliboso

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
Lisa A. Bail

FAMILY LAW
Rosalyn Loomis

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS
David J. Minkin

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS PRACTICE
Ivan M. Lui-Kwan

HEALTH CARE LAW
Cuyler E. Shaw

IMMIGRATION LAW
KahBo Dye-Chiew

INSURANCE LAW
Gregory K. Markham

LABOR LAW – MANAGEMENT
Christopher S. Yeh

LABOR LAW – UNION
Sean Kim

LAND USE AND ZONING LAW
Calvert G. Chipchase

LEGAL MALPRACTICE LAW – DEFENDANTS
Joachim P. Cox

LITIGATION – BANKING AND FINANCE
Judith Ann Pavey

LITIGATION – BANKRUPTCY
Ted N. Pettit

LITIGATION – CONSTRUCTION
Gregory W. Kugle

LITIGATION – ENVIRONMENTAL
John P. Manaut

LITIGATION – INSURANCE
Cynthia K. Wong

LITIGATION – LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Wesley M. Fujimoto

LITIGATION – LAND USE AND ZONING
Lisa A. Bail

LITIGATION – REAL ESTATE
Christopher T. Goodin

LITIGATION – SECURITIES
Trevor A. Brown

LITIGATION – TRUSTS AND ESTATES
Eric S.T. Young

LITIGATION AND CONTROVERSY – TAX
Chris S. Mashiba

MAD T LITIGATION/CLASS ACTIONS – DEFENDANTS
Bruce H. Wakuwawa

MASS TORT LITIGATION/CLASS ACTIONS – PLAINTIFFS
Bert S. Sakuda

MEDIATION
Byron C. Feldman II

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE LAW – DEFENDANTS
Gail Y. Cosgrove

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE LAW – PLAINTIFFS
Judith Ann Pavey

MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS LAW
Stewart Pressman

MORTGAGE BANKING FORECLOSURE LAW
Tom E. Roesser

REAL ESTATE LAW
Joel D. Kam

SECURITIES/CAPITAL MARKETS LAW
Stewart Pressman

TAX LAW
Ryan M. Wilson

TRUSTS AND ESTATES
Eric S.T. Young

UTILITIES LAW
Carlito P. Caliboso

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION LAW – CLAIMANTS
Timothy McNulty

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION LAW – EMPLOYERS
J. Thomas Weber
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Methodology for The Best Lawyers in America® and Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch™ in America

This list is excerpted from the 2023 editions of The Best Lawyers in America® and Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch™ in America, the pre-eminent referral guides to the legal profession in the United States. Published since 1983, Best Lawyers® lists attorneys in 150 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 2023 edition of Best Lawyers is based on more than 13 million evaluations of lawyers by other lawyers.

The method used to compile Best Lawyers remains unchanged since the first edition was compiled 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 2023 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 in the Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America 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.