

## TEXAS' BEST LAWYERS

# A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO TEXAS' LEGAL SUPERSTARS

**T**exas is home to some of the best lawyers in the United States, and the Houston area has a significant share of that stellar group. From top-ranked plaintiffs' personal injury lawyers to commercial litigators to real estate wizards, from those hired by billionaire clients for major business deals to lawyers whose courtroom pyrotechnics land multi-million-dollar verdicts, the Lone Star state has no shortage of legal talent.

Houston is the place that some of the legal profession's greatest innovators choose to practice. Texas lawyers are among the first to embrace new technologies, new trial techniques, new office management systems, and other cutting-edge improvements that give them and their clients a competitive advantage. That's great news for anyone looking for a top-notch attorney to represent them.

But among the tens of thousands of lawyers in the area, how do you find someone who's the perfect fit for you? Someone who has all the qualities you need: legal smarts, honesty, integrity, a good work ethic, and satisfied clients?

*Texas' Best Lawyers*® takes the mystery out of locating a high-quality advocate to protect you, your family, your business and all other assets.

The exceptional attorneys listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® were nominated by and voted in by their peers. Lawyers can't buy their way into this guide. They must earn a spot through exemplary legal work that attracts the notice of their colleagues. To remain on the list, they must be at the top of their game, year after year. *Best Lawyers*, the leading referral list in the legal profession, and ALM, the nation's leading legal journalism and information company, have teamed up to provide this invaluable resource for readers, whatever your legal needs may be.

Lawyers in this guide are arranged by their legal specialty—from Administrative Law to Workers' Compensation—which makes it easy to find the professional advice you need. Whether you're starting a business or selling one, getting married or getting divorced, patenting your invention, litigating a contract, or buying a home—there's a talented and highly competent attorney here who can help.

Keep this comprehensive guide available for those times when you need a first-rate advocate to assist you. The lawyers listed in *Texas' Best Lawyers* are eager to help.

This list is excerpted from the 2008 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*®, the preeminent referral guide to the legal profession in the United States. Published for a quarter of a century, *Best Lawyers*® lists attorneys in 78 specialties, representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia, who have been chosen through an exhaustive survey in which thousands of the nation's top lawyers confidentially evaluate their professional peers. The 2008 edition of *Best Lawyers*, which was published in November 2007, is based on more than 2 million evaluations of lawyers by other lawyers.

The method used to compile *Best Lawyers* remains unchanged since the first edition was compiled 25 years ago. Lawyers are chosen for inclusion based solely on a 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 2008 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.

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 legal profession in the United States.

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