

THE NEW YORK AREA'S BEST LAWYERS®

2007 EDITION



INTRODUCTION

THE TRUSTED GUIDE TO FINDING A LAWYER IN THE NEW YORK AREA

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, KEEP THIS SOMEWHERE YOU CAN EASILY FIND IT.

For many kinds of legal issues, you can plan in advance. Wills, pre-nuptial agreements—even real estate issues—give you time to think and shop around for the right lawyer. For unexpected, life-changing events, you need to be able to find a good lawyer—fast.

In life, conflict is inevitable, so you are going to need good lawyers along the way. Everyone—from mighty CEOs to newly minted college graduates—has need of highly trained advocates at some point in their life, whether it's planning for life's long-anticipated transitions or responding to the unforeseen.

New York is full of legal talent, so there is no reason not to look for the best. You need to be confident that you hire the best possible lawyer to protect yourself, your business, and your family.

"The New York Area's Best Lawyers®" helps take the mystery out of a finding a top-tier advocate. 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 have to earn a spot with exemplary work that attracts the notice of their colleagues, and they have to stay at the top of their game to remain on the list each year. Best Lawyers, the leading referral list in the legal profession, and ALM, the nation's leading legal journalism and information company, both teamed up to provide this invaluable resource for readers, whatever their legal needs may be.

Lawyers are arranged by their legal specialty—from Administrative Law to Workers Compensation—making it simple to find the professional you need, whether you're starting a business or selling one, getting married or getting divorced, patenting your invention or buying a second home.

Make sure to keep this important guide around—the lawyers listed in "The New York Area's Best Lawyers" are only a phone call away.

METHODOLOGY

This list is excerpted from the 2007 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*, the preeminent referral guide to the legal profession in the United States. Published since 1983, Best Lawyers lists attorneys in 77 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 2007 edition of *Best Lawyers*, which was published in September 2006, 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 more than 20 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 2007 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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ANDREA HYDE

Trusts and Estates
Estate Planning
Estate Administration
Fiduciary Litigation

A prominent trusts and estates attorney, Andrea Hyde is a partner in Putney, Twombly, Hall & Hirson LLP's Garden City office. Ms. Hyde provides a full range of services in the areas of estate planning, estate administration, and fiduciary litigation, offering wealth transfer counseling to families consistent with their values and goals. Ms. Hyde is a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel and a member of the New York EPTL-SCPA Legislative Advisory Committee (which advises the NYS Legislature on broad reformulations of trust and estate law). She is a past-President of the New York Women's Bar Association, a former-Chair of the Life Insurance and Employee Benefits Committee of the Trusts and Estates Law Section of the New York State Bar Association, and lectures frequently in the areas of estate planning, estate administration, and fiduciary litigation.



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