

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S  
**BEST**  
LAWYERS®

2010 EDITION

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SHERNOFF BIDART  
DARRAS ECHEVERRIA  
BATTLES UNLAWFUL  
INSURANCE RESCISSIONS

WHO ARE THE  
LAWYERS OF  
THE YEAR?



**PANISH SHEA & BOYLE**  
THE CRUSADE TO HELP AN  
INJURED IRAQI WAR VET

A SPECIAL ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT TO THE  
**Los Angeles Times**

An **ALM** Publication

 **Best Lawyers®**  
THE WORLD'S PREMIER GUIDE

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S BEST LAWYERS®

2010 EDITION

## A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S LEGAL TALENT

*Southern California's Best Lawyers®* helps take the mystery out of locating a high-quality advocate to protect you, your family, your business and all other assets. Keep this comprehensive guide available for those times when you need a first-rate advocate to assist you. The lawyers listed in *Southern California's Best Lawyers* are happy to help.

**PANISH SHEA & BOYLE'S CRUSADE TO HELP AN INJURED IRAQI WAR VET** PAGE 18

**WILLIAM SHERNOFF ON INSURANCE RESCISSION** PAGE 20

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S LAWYERS OF THE YEAR** PAGE 23

## METHODOLOGY

This list is excerpted from the 2010 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America®*, the preeminent referral guide to the legal profession in the United States. Published for more than a quarter of a century, *Best Lawyers®* lists attorneys in 79 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 2010 edition of *Best Lawyers*, which was published in November 2009, is based on more than 2.8 million evaluations of lawyers by other lawyers.

The method used to compile *Best Lawyers* remains unchanged since the first edition was compiled more than 26 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 2010 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.

Voting lawyers were provided this general guideline for determining if a nominee should be listed: "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.

*Best Lawyers* lists are available at [www.bestlawyers.com](http://www.bestlawyers.com). "Best Lawyers" and "The Best Lawyers in America" are registered trademarks of Woodward/White, Inc.

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S BEST LAWYERS BY SPECIALTY

Administrative Law 10	Entertainment Law 22	Medical Malpractice Law 28
Advertising Law 10	Environmental Law 22	Mergers & Acquisitions Law 28
Alternative Dispute Resolution 10	Equipment Finance Law 22	Mortgage Banking
Antitrust Law 10	Ethics and Professional Responsibility Law 22	Foreclosure Law 29
Appellate Law 10	Family Law 22	Municipal Law 29
Banking Law 12	Family Law Mediation 24	Mutual Funds Law 29
Bankruptcy and	First Amendment Law 24	Native American Law 29
Creditor-Debtor Rights Law 12	Franchise Law 24	Natural Resources Law 29
Bet-the-Company Litigation 14	Gaming Law 24	Non-Profit/Charities Law 29
Collaborative Law: Family Law 14	Government Relations Law 24	Personal Injury Litigation 29
Commercial Litigation 14	Health Care Law 24	Private Funds Law 30
Communications Law 16	Immigration Law 24	Product Liability Litigation 30
Construction Law 16	Information Technology Law 24	Professional Malpractice Law 30
Corporate Governance and	Insurance Law 24	Project Finance Law 30
Compliance Law 16	Intellectual Property Law 26	Public Finance Law 30
Corporate Law 16	International Trade and	Railroad Law 30
Criminal Defense:	Finance Law 26	Real Estate Law 30
Non-White-Collar 19	Labor and Employment Law 27	Securities Law 31
Criminal Defense: White-Collar 19	Land Use & Zoning Law 28	Sports Law 31
Derivatives Law 21	Legal Malpractice Law 28	Structured Finance Law 31
DUI/DWI Defense 21	Leveraged Buyouts and Private	Tax Law 33
Elder Law 21	Equity Law 28	Technology Law 33
Eminent Domain and	Maritime Law 28	Trusts and Estates 33
Condemnation Law 21	Mass Tort Litigation 28	Venture Capital Law 34
Employee Benefits Law 21	Media Law 28	Water Law 34
Energy Law 22		Workers' Compensation Law 34

## JAFFE AND CLEMENS

Serving high net worth clients for over four decades—discretely, efficiently, and effectively.



Selected For Inclusion In  
*The Best Lawyers in America®*  
Bruce A. Clemens  
Daniel J. Jaffe  
David M. Luboff  
William S. Ryden

2010  
Southern California's  
**LAWYER OF THE YEAR**  
Family Law  
Bruce A. Clemens  
Best Lawyers®

## CREATIVE FAMILY LAW SETTLEMENTS AND EXTRAORDINARY TRIALS.

433 Camden Drive • Beverly Hills, CA 90210 • Phone: 310.550.7477 Fax: 310.271.8313 • [jaffeclemens.com](http://jaffeclemens.com)

## VICTOR SHERMAN, ESQ.



### CRIMINAL DEFENSE: NON-WHITE-COLLAR, CRIMINAL DEFENSE: WHITE-COLLAR

Victor Sherman founded Sherman & Sherman along with Janet Sherman in 1984, having practiced law since 1966. Mr. Sherman has tried hundreds of cases in both federal and state courts. Recent victories in the last 18 months include acquittals in a federal wiretap case involving 65 kilos of cocaine, an acquittal by a Federal Judge in a complex RICO case, and an acquittal of an attorney in state court on six counts of fraud and perjury. Mr. Sherman has argued before the United States Supreme Court (United States v. \$8,850) and Court of Appeal in many federal circuits. Mr. Sherman conceived of and began sponsoring the yearly Aspen Advanced Criminal Law Seminar in 1980. He can be seen regularly on media outlets providing legal commentary on today's hottest cases.

### VICTOR SHERMAN & JANET SHERMAN A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

2115 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405  
ph: 310.399.3259 fax: 310.392.9029  
www.shermanshermanlaw.com

## N. DENISE TAYLOR



### PERSONAL INJURY LITIGATION, MEDICAL MALPRACTICE LAW

N. Denise Taylor, founding partner of Taylor Blessey LLP in Los Angeles, embraces her reputation as a tough and passionate advocate. She has successfully tried over 100 cases in her career, many of them involving birth injuries and other catastrophic damages. Ms. Taylor has been recognized as a Top 50 Female SuperLawyer, a top female litigator by the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, and Trial Attorney of the Year by *O'Brien's Evaluator*. She serves on the Board of Directors of the ASCDC, and on the ABOTA National Board of Directors. Taylor Blessey LLP specializes in the defense of doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers in medical malpractice, medical staff privilege and medical board cases, and appeals.

### TAYLOR BLESSEY, LLP

300 South Grand Avenue, 14th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90071  
ph: 213.687.1600 fax: 213.687.1620  
dtaylor@taylorblessey.com

## STEVEN E. TRYTTEN



### EMPLOYEE BENEFITS LAW, TRUSTS AND ESTATES

Steven E. Trytten, Esq., CPA, MBA, is a nationally recognized authority on sophisticated tax and estate planning. He lectures across the country, has contributed numerous articles to professional publications, and is frequently quoted in publications such as *The Wall Street Journal* and *Forbes* magazine. Steve is a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel ("ACTEC"), and a "Certified Specialist" in both Taxation and Estate Planning and Probate Law (by the Board of Legal Specialization of the State Bar of California). Steve also serves as a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for *Trust & Estates Magazine*. When Steve takes a break from the creative tax planning he provides his clients, he might be found playing piano at one of L.A.'s jazz clubs.

### ANGLIN FLEWELLING RASMUSSEN CAMPBELL & TRYTTEN LLP

199 South Los Robles Avenue, Suite 600  
Pasadena, CA 91101  
ph: 626.535.1900 fax: 626.577.7764  
www.afrc.com • stryppen@afrc.com

## PETER M. WALZER



### FAMILY LAW

Peter M. Walzer is the founding partner of Walzer & Melcher LLP. He specializes in high stakes family law litigation. Mr. Walzer is certified by the California Board of Legal Specialization, State Bar of California as a Specialist in

Family Law and he was President of the Association of Certified Family Law Specialists. Mr. Walzer is a former chair of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of California, and he is immediate past-President of the Southern California Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. Mr. Walzer was named Family Law Person of the Year 2009 by The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Southern California Chapter. He has published articles on complex family law issues and is the author of the chapter on Premarital Agreements in CEB's treatise, *Marital Settlement and Other Family Law Agreements*.

### WALZER & MELCHER LLP

21700 Oxnard Street, Suite 2080  
Woodland Hills, CA 91367  
ph: 818.591.3700 fax: 818.591.3774  
www.californiaindivorce.com  
pmw@walzermelcher.com

## DONALD L. ZACHARY



### INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

#### Business/Commercial Litigation, Defamation

Since leaving his position as the West Coast Vice President of Law for NBC in 1990, Don Zachary has been involved in

large case litigation and transactions in the areas of intellectual property, entertainment and communications law. Mr. Zachary is honored to represent owners of intellectual property in the acquisition and protection of their assets, negotiating on behalf of clients for the exploitation of intellectual property assets and, when necessary, protecting those assets in the Copyright Office, the Patent and Trademark Office or the courts. Mr. Zachary graduated from the University of Virginia Law School and represents a wide variety of clients, from individuals to internationally recognized companies. He currently serves as Adjunct Professor in the Annenberg School for Communications, teaching Media Law.

### LAW OFFICES OF DONALD L. ZACHARY

371 Brockmont Drive, Glendale, CA 91202  
ph: 818.637.2495 fax: 818.549.0524  
www.dlzlzlaw.com • dzachary@dlzlzlaw.com

To order reprints of Southern California's Best Lawyers,  
please contact 877.257.3382 or  
reprintscustomerservice@alm.com

Mirau, Edwards, Cannon, Harter & Lewin | Redlands, CA  
JOHN K. MIRAU

Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp | Los Angeles, CA  
DAVID WHEELER NEWMAN

Moore & Associates | Santa Ana, CA  
TERRENCE J. MOORE

Morrison & Foerster | Los Angeles, CA  
GARY W. MAEDER

Munger, Tolles & Olson | Los Angeles, CA  
ROBERT K. JOHNSON, STEPHEN D. ROSE

Musick, Peeler & Garrett | Los Angeles, CA  
J. PATRICK WHALEY

O'Melveny & Myers | Los Angeles, CA  
ROBERT BLASHEK

Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker | Los Angeles, CA  
NANCY L. IREDALE

Proskauer Rose | Los Angeles, CA  
MITCHELL M. GASWIRTH, RAJ TANDEN

Rodi, Pollock, Pettker, Galbraith & Cahill | Los Angeles, CA  
WILLIAM R. CHRISTIAN

Rutan & Tucker | Costa Mesa, CA  
PAUL F. MARX

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom | Los Angeles, CA  
MOSHE J. KUSHMAN

Snell & Wilmer | Costa Mesa, CA  
ROGER A. GRAD

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan | Los Angeles, CA  
SCHUYLER M. MOORE

Stutman, Treister & Glatt | Los Angeles, CA  
MARK S. WALLACE

Taylor, Simonson & Winter | Claremont, CA  
MARSHALL W. TAYLOR

## TECHNOLOGY LAW

Greenberg Glusker | Los Angeles, CA  
RICHARD E. NEFF

Greenberg Traurig | Santa Monica, CA  
IAN C. BALLON

Irell & Manella | Los Angeles, CA  
MORGAN CHU, BENJAMIN W. HATTENBACH

Morrison & Foerster | Los Angeles, CA  
RUSSELL G. WEISS

## TRUSTS AND ESTATES

Anglin, Flewelling, Rasmussen, Campbell  
& Trytten | Pasadena, CA

STEVEN E. TRYTTEN  
626.535.1900 | Page 33

Ambrecht & Associates | Santa Barbara, CA  
JOHN W. AMBRECHT

Brucker & Morra | Los Angeles, CA  
ALEX M. BRUCKER

Bryan Cave | Santa Monica, CA  
LAWRENCE H. HELLER

Hoffman, Sabban & Watenmaker | Los Angeles, CA  
PAUL GORDON HOFFMAN

Holland & Knight | Los Angeles, CA  
M. KATHARINE DAVIDSON

Irell & Manella | Los Angeles, CA  
ELLIOT G. FREIER, PAUL N. FRIMMER, MILTON B. HYMAN,  
JOEL RABINOVITZ

Jones Day | Los Angeles, CA  
DAVID S. BOYCE, JAMES F. CHILDS, JR.

Kajan Mather and Barish | Beverly Hills, CA  
KENNETH M. BARISH, ELLIOTT H. KAJAN, STEVEN R.  
MATHER

Kaye Scholer | Los Angeles, CA  
MICHAEL D. FERNHOFF

Latham & Watkins | Los Angeles, CA  
JOHN J. CLAIR, JR.

Law Offices of A. Lavar Taylor | Santa Ana, CA  
A. LAVAR TAYLOR

Law Offices of Edwin G. Schuck, Jr. | Los Angeles, CA  
EDWIN G. SCHUCK, JR.

Loeb & Loeb | Los Angeles, CA  
C. DAVID ANDERSON, TERENCE FLOYD CUFF, THOMAS N.  
LAWSON, PAUL A. SCZUDLO

McKenna Long & Aldridge | Los Angeles, CA  
DUDLEY M. LANG

McPeters McAlearney Shimoff & Hatt | Redlands, CA  
PAUL M. SHIMOFF

## TAX LAW

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld | Los Angeles, CA  
SCOTT H. RACINE

Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis | Los Angeles, CA  
THOMAS W. HENNING

Ambrecht & Associates | Santa Barbara, CA  
JOHN W. AMBRECHT

Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo | Cerritos, CA  
JOHN E. JAMES

Bohm, Matsen, Kegel & Aguilera | Costa Mesa, CA  
JEFFREY R. MATSEN

Ernst & Young | Los Angeles, CA  
WILLIAM P. WASSERMAN, WILLIAM S. WOODS II

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher | Los Angeles, CA  
HATEF BEHNIA, PAUL S. ISSLER

Greenberg Glusker | Los Angeles, CA  
C. BRUCE LEVINE

Greenberg Traurig | Irvine, CA  
JEFFREY C. JOY

Greenberg Traurig | Santa Monica, CA  
CAROL G. PERRIN, SANFORD C. PRESANT

Hochman, Salkin, Rettig, Toscher & Perez | Beverly Hills, CA  
DENNIS L. PEREZ, CHARLES P. RETTIG, EDWARD M.  
ROBBINS, JR., AVRAM SALKIN, STEVEN R. TOSCHER