



The following section features attorneys who have demonstrated leadership qualities and have achieved the AV Preeminent rating by Martindale-Hubbell®.

Martindale-Hubbell®, the company that has long set the standard for lawyer ratings, has supplied ALM with a list of Top Rated Lawyers who have achieved an AV® Preeminent® Peer Review Rating, the highest rating in legal ability and ethical standards. To create this section, Martindale-Hubbell® tapped its comprehensive database of Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Ratings™ to identify lawyers who have been rated by their peers to be AV® Preeminent™.

Martindale Hubbell Peer Review Ratings are driven by the confidential opinions of lawyers and members of the judiciary who receive invitations from Martindale-Hubbell®, via an online survey or by mail, to provide reviews of lawyers of whom they have professional knowledge.

A complete directory of all AV® Preeminent™ lawyers can be found online at Lawyers.com® and Martindale.com, in the Martindale-Hubbell® Law Directory in print and CD-ROM formats, and online through the LexisNexis® services and at lexis.com. Attorneys shown do not constitute the full list of "Top Rated Lawyers"



## WOMEN LEADERS IN THE LAW

### CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES

#### CLAUDIA RIBET

Claudia Ribet, an experienced litigator and appellate lawyer, formed a firm with Karen Silver, a gifted trial lawyer, in the summer of 2014 to start their own boutique family law firm. On January 2, 2015, Ribet & Silver opened its doors to family law litigants in both the trial and appellate courts. Their clients range from celebrities to hardworking professionals and homemakers. She like to think of their firm as a haven where all their clients, famous and not, can expect privacy.

Claudia has won several cutting-edge, now benchmark published decisions in the Court of Appeal, and writes regularly for publications such as the Daily Journal and Los Angeles Lawyer magazine. She is a Fellow of the highly selective American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

It is her exemplary client service, along with the consistent positive results obtained on behalf of clients, that sets Claudia Ribet apart. In the trial court, people know when they hire Claudia that they will not only survive their divorces, they will end up thriving after it. Claudia takes pride in individual, personalized attention as well as flexible and creative problem solving. Claudia has deep understanding of the complex issues that arise in dissolution matters, including, division of assets, valuation of businesses, child custody matters, and child and spousal support. In addition to an academic understanding of the law, Claudia brings compassion and dedication to each and every one of her clients.



#### RIBET & SILVER

1875 Century Park East, Suite 2200, Los Angeles, CA 90067  
p: 424.281.5566 • contact@ribetsilver.com • www.ribetsilver.com

### CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES

#### MELANIE ROSS

Melanie Ross of Ross & Silverman LLP has practiced in all areas of employment law for more than 25 years. She defends employers and managers against claims brought in state and federal court and private arbitrations, including claims for harassment, discrimination, retaliation, wrongful termination, constructive discharge, defamation, whistle blower claims, breach of employment contract, unfair competition, misappropriation of trade secrets and wage and hour and PAGA actions. Ms. Ross has tried several jury cases in Superior Court and has conducted dozens of successful arbitrations before JAMS. In *Suzanne Hughes v. Chris Pair*, 46 Cal. 4th 1035 (2009), Ms. Ross successfully argued a case of first impression defining sexual harassment under Civil Code Section 51.9 before the California Supreme Court. Ms. Ross zealously represents clients in mediations, when settlement is the best solution for a particular case. Recognizing that no two clients are the same and no two cases are identical, Ms. Ross prides herself on tailoring an aggressive defense strategy to each new matter with the goal of achieving a successful and cost-effective result for her client.



#### ROSS & SILVERMAN LLP

1901 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1900, Los Angeles, CA 90067  
p: 310.551.0909, f: 424.217.2698  
mr@rossandsilverman.com • www.rossandsilverman.com

**TOP RATED LAWYERS**  
2016 EDITION  
THE ANNUAL GUIDE TO LEGAL REPRESENTATION

**NORTH CAROLINA** RALEIGH


## EMMETT BONEY HAYWOOD

**Defending the Rights of Property Owners**

Ms. Haywood's law practice is devoted to representing private property owners in land condemnation cases. She has successfully defended hundreds of property owners recovering tens of millions of dollars for her clients. Ms. Haywood received both her undergraduate and law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After practicing for several years with a private law firm, Ms. Haywood went to work with the North Carolina Attorney General's office in Raleigh. For more than nine years there, she represented the North Carolina Department of Transportation in hundreds of land condemnation cases and other matters. In April 2000, Ms. Haywood opened her own private law practice in Raleigh, North Carolina, concentrating in the area of eminent domain and defending the rights of private property owners. Her unique perspective helps her advocate for her clients' interests. In 2001, Martindale-Hubbell, the worldwide directory of lawyers, gave Ms. Haywood an AV rating, its highest legal ability and ethical rating. She was selected by her peers to be included in the 2007 through 2016 editions of The Best Lawyers in America, in the area of eminent domain and condemnation law. In 2011, and again in 2016, Ms. Haywood was selected as Lawyer of the Year for Eminent Domain and Land Condemnation Law (Raleigh). In 2010, Ms. Haywood merged her practice with Nicholls & Crampton, P.A., where she continues to defend the rights of property owners. Fiercely determined, Ms. Haywood is honored to work with her clients to ensure that they are treated fairly.



## NICHOLLS & CRAMPTON, P.A.

3700 Glenwood Avenue, Suite 500, Raleigh, NC 27612  
 p: 919.781.1311, toll free: 866.546.8287, f: 919.782.0465  
[www.landlaw-nc.com](http://www.landlaw-nc.com)

## COHEN RABIN STINE SCHUMANN LLP

FAMILY LAW

Cohen Rabin Stine Schumann LLP, one of New York's top family law firms, located at 11 Times Square, was founded by Harriet Newman Cohen, Bonnie E. Rabin, Martha Cohen Stine and Gretchen Beall Schumann. The firm practices at the forefront of family law, and its casework is both high stakes and far reaching, including complex financial matters involving the city's top CEOs, business owners, legal and other professionals as well as their spouses and partners. Cohen notes: "We've been recognized by Bench and bar as the 'crème de la crème' of family law firms, and that has been very gratifying to me, personally and professionally."

All of the firm's partners and associates have been named as Super Lawyers, all partners are rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell®, and Cohen and Rabin have been recognized as among the Top 25 Women Lawyers in New York.

"We are proud of being lawyers with the highest level of scholarship, skill and commitment to meet our clients' needs," says Rabin.



Front row (left to right): Martha Cohen Stine, Harriet Newman Cohen, Bonnie E. Rabin, Gretchen Beall Schumann  
 Back row (left to right): Laura Tucker, Amanda Laird Creegan, Evridiki Poumpouridis, Lindsay Pfeffer

Stine adds: "We handle cutting edge and intellectually challenging cases for a wide range of clients, including high-profile and other individuals. In all of our cases, we make a true difference in our clients' lives."

The firm handles all aspects of family law, including international and multi-state cases. The firm's attorneys also serve as leaders of the bar, advise legislators on legal reforms and write and teach on family law issues. "This is a highly demanding area of the

law," says Schumann, "but it's rewarding to advocate on behalf of our clients' interests and see them through tough times so they can move on to the next chapter of their lives."

11 TIMES SQUARE, 10TH FLOOR  
 NEW YORK, NY 10036  
 PH: 212.512.0825  
[WWW.CRSSLAW.COM](http://WWW.CRSSLAW.COM)





## WOMEN LEADERS IN THE LAW

## NEW YORK NEW YORK

## LAURA A. BREVETTI

Over the past 25 years, Ms. Brevetti has built a highly respected and successful white-collar criminal defense and business litigation practice. She is a superbly skilled, tenacious, and zealous advocate for her clients, and has been recognized by her peers as one of Manhattan's Super Lawyers and a preeminent-rated lawyer in her specialties. Ms. Brevetti has experience as a General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of a NYSE-listed company, managing attorneys, supervising litigations and major outside law firms, conducting internal investigations, advising the Board, and responding to government and SRO regulatory inquiries.



She now regularly represents individual and corporate clients in investigations and at trial and arbitration; conducts complex internal corporate investigations of allegations of fraud, bribery, and violations of employment and corporate policy; advises companies on matters of governance, compliance, and crisis management; and defends individuals and financial entities facing government and SRO enforcement investigations and actions in securities and other areas.

## LAW OFFICES

## LAURA A. BREVETTI

415 Madison Avenue, 11th Fl, New York, NY 10017  
p: 212.359.2922

[laura.brevetti@brevettilaw.com](mailto:laura.brevetti@brevettilaw.com) • [www.brevettilaw.com](http://www.brevettilaw.com)

## VIRGINIA FAIRFAX

## SHARON K. LIEBLICH

Ms. Lieblich has been practicing domestic relations/family law for over 40 years and has litigated in all areas of domestic relations and family law. She litigates cases at all levels, develops wills, negotiates and writes prenuptial, postnuptial and settlement agreements, negotiates and composes child custody and support agreements, and guides clients toward effective resolution of their circumstances. She is a member of the Virginia State Bar, the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and the National Academy of Family Law Attorneys. In 2015, she was rated by Martindale-Hubbell as Preeminent with 5.0 out of 5 Peer Review. She was listed in the 2014-15 editions of The Best Lawyers in America and named among the top 25 women lawyers in Virginia.



## EDUCATION

B.A., Barnard College; J.D., Harvard Law;  
LL.M. George Washington University School of Law

## SHARON K. LIEBLICH, P.C.

4103 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA 22030  
p: 703.683.6300, f: 703.683.0237

## STEPHANIE RESNICK

A partner and senior trial lawyer at Fox Rothschild LLP, Stephanie Resnick is consistently ranked among top business litigators and lauded by her colleagues and peers for her strategic handling of high-stakes, complex business disputes in both federal and state courts. She has served as lead counsel in numerous high-profile litigation matters.

Stephanie is Chair of the firm's Directors' & Officers' Liability & Corporate Governance Practice and is a member of Fox Rothschild's Executive Committee. She chaired the firm-wide Litigation Department for seven years, overseeing more than 200 attorneys. In state and federal courts across the United States, she's earned a reputation for sound judgment and innovative problem solving. Corporate executives, *Fortune* 500 companies and family owned businesses turn to Stephanie for solutions to their most difficult and sensitive personal and professional issues.

Throughout her career, Stephanie has received numerous accolades, including being named among the "Women Leaders in the Law" by American Lawyer Media; "The Best Lawyers in America" for Commercial Litigation; a "Litigation Star" in Pennsylvania and listed in the "Top 250 Female Litigators in America" by *Benchmark Litigation: Guide to America's Leading Litigation Firms and Attorneys*; and listed among the "Top 50 Women Super Lawyers in Pennsylvania" and "Top 100 Lawyers in Pennsylvania" by *Philadelphia Magazine* and *Law & Politics Magazine*.



**Fox Rothschild** LLP  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



2000 Market Street, Twentieth Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215.299.2082 | [sresnick@foxrothschild.com](mailto:sresnick@foxrothschild.com)  
[www.foxrothschild.com](http://www.foxrothschild.com)

**KENTUCKY****LEXINGTON**

## VIRGINIA L. LAWSON

Virginia L. Lawson has been practicing law in Kentucky since graduating from the Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville in 1984. She practices in the areas of real estate, business, and probate, including litigation, contracts, closings, foreclosures, and brokerage. Professional liability carriers retain her to defend real estate brokers, appraisers, auctioneers, and home inspectors in state courts and administrative agencies. Ms. Lawson is active throughout Kentucky as a mediator. She has been retained numerous times as a consultant in real estate litigation.



Ms. Lawson has taught real estate pre-license and continuing education classes for universities, proprietary schools, real estate foundations, state licensing agencies, and brokerages. She is the author of seven books: *Kentucky Real Estate Law, Sales Contracts for the Real Estate Professional, AMP Real Estate Exam Preparation, Kentucky Real Estate License Law Tutorial, Law of Agency, Kentucky Real Estate License Law Handbook, and Don't Let Wills, Estates & Trusts Be the Death of You.*

## VIRGINIA L. LAWSON & ASSOCIATES, P.S.C.

3306 Clays Mill Road, Suite 107, Lexington, Kentucky 40503

p: 859.233.1882 • [vlawson@vlawson.com](mailto:vlawson@vlawson.com)

**OHIO****CLEVELAND**

**Angela M. Lavin**  
[amlavin@wegmanlaw.com](mailto:amlavin@wegmanlaw.com)



**Tanja M. Holecsek**  
[tmholecsek@wegmanlaw.com](mailto:tmholecsek@wegmanlaw.com)

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**Wegman, Hessler & Vanderburg** (WH&V) has been meeting the legal needs of individuals, organizations and businesses since 1968. Our clients include a number of sophisticated national and international business concerns and it has been our privilege to witness and share in their growth and success over the years. We are committed to excellence and to being responsive to our clients' needs which, in turn, has nurtured our development into a multi-talented and unique firm offering the skills and talents of our attorneys in a number of critical practice areas, including:

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To learn more about the firm visit us at [www.wegmanlaw.com](http://www.wegmanlaw.com)



6055 Rockside Woods Blvd., Suite 200, Cleveland, OH 44131-2302  
p: 216.642.3342