



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"



MICHIGAN TROY

RAMI FAKHOURY

Mr. Rami Fakhoury is the founder and Managing Attorney of Fakhoury Global Immigration, (FGI). FGI specializes in U.S. and global business-based immigration. The firm's clients represent many of the world's most innovative brands ranging from the Automotive, High Tech, Engineering and Healthcare industries. For the past 20 years, Mr. Fakhoury has grown his practice to become one of the largest independent immigration law firms. Rami Fakhoury's emphasis on immigration expertise and service excellence has heavily influenced his firm's immigration practice. FGI distinguishes itself from traditional immigration law firms through the application of technology-driven solutions and Six Sigma processes.



Mr. Fakhoury, and Fakhoury Global Immigration, has received multiple awards such as the AV ranking from Martindale-Hubbell, Super Lawyers 2016, Who's Who Legal and US News 2016. All of these awards recognize outstanding legal thinking, high ethical standards and excellent results. Mr. Fakhoury's thought leadership in immigration is far-reaching. He has co-authored and published 4 immigration law books and is a regular contributor to news sources on US immigration. Mr. Fakhoury also provided immigration advice on immigration policy reform. Rami Fakhoury is an equity partner with the Alliance of Business Immigration Lawyers (ABIL), the largest international consortium of immigration lawyers.



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MISSOURI KANSAS CITY

LEON VERSFELD

Mr. Leon Versfeld serves as the United States Managing Partner of the Global Immigration Law Firm of Versfeld & Hugo, LLC. He represents a variety of clients from startup businesses to Fortune Companies, both nationally and internationally, on the hiring of Foreign National Workers, Executives and Specialized Workers in the L1, H1B, TN, E3, O and H2B visa categories; and advises clients on strategies to obtain permanent residency. Additionally, he provides counsel on all issues related to Immigration Employment Compliance and HR best hiring practices, including Form I-9 and ICE audits.

Mr. Versfeld represents entrepreneurs with the EB-5 green card investment process as well as treaty investment visas.

He serves as the immigration counsel to the Major League Soccer team, Sporting Kansas City, and has assisted similar athletic organizations with visas for coaches, players and staff, as well as individual athletes and artists seeking to obtain green cards through their extra-ordinary accomplishments.

Mr. Versfeld often speaks at national and international Continuing Legal Education events where he educates other lawyers on the topic of U.S. Immigration and has testified before the Missouri Legislator on proposed Employment-based Immigration legislation. He has served in numerous criminal and civil cases as an immigration expert witness and authored the Missouri Bar's Administrative Law Book on Immigration and published numerous articles on U.S. Immigration Law.

Mr. Versfeld has been recognized by his peers as one of the "Best of the Bar" (featured in the Kansas City Business Journal), featured in Thomson Reuters' "Super Lawyers", and he has the highest professional rating with Martindale Hubbell and AWO.

He obtained his law degrees from the University of Pretoria (South Africa) and is licensed to practice law in the United States (MO), South Africa, England and Wales.



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MISSOURI ST. LOUIS

MELANIE GURLEY KEENEY

Melanie Gurley Keeney practices in Immigration, Employment and Education law representing corporations, institutions of higher education, and individuals in immigration matters, including obtaining temporary and permanent visas, employer sanctions issues, I-9 compliance, E-Verify, consular processing and naturalization. She was named St. Louis Best Lawyers "Education Law Lawyer of the Year" for 2017 and "Immigration Law-Lawyer of the Year" for 2015 and 2012. Since 1997, she has been listed in *St. Louis Magazine's* "St. Louis' Best Lawyers" and in "The Best Lawyers in America" in Education Law, Employment Law - Management and Immigration Law. She has



been named to "Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers;" as a "Top 50" Woman Lawyer in Missouri and Kansas. In 2016, Missouri Lawyers Weekly awarded Melanie the Women's Justice Litigation Practitioner Award. In 2014, Washington University School of Law honored Melanie with the International Women's Day Award for Employment Law. Melanie represents public and private employers in the full gamut of employment issues, including state and federal litigation. She is a featured speaker and provides preventive employment law services, including supervisor training and compliance audits. Melanie is a founding Shareholder of the Firm and serves as Chairwoman. She graduated from Baylor University, *phi beta kappa*, and from Washington University School of Law.

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