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™.

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Congratulations to Patricia Nemeth, Anne Widlak and Susan Koval

Patricia Nemeth, founder of Nemeth Law, P.C. is a litigator, consultant and negotiator and also a certified mediator and arbitrator for all types of civil and commercial litigation, including employment. Ms. Nemeth has been recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America—Labor and Employment, one of the top 50 Women Super Lawyers in Michigan and one of the top 25 Women Business Leaders in Michigan by Super Lawyers. Under her leadership, Nemeth Law has grown to be the largest woman-owned law firm in Michigan to exclusively represent management in the prevention, resolution and litigation of labor and employment disputes.

Anne Widlak has a distinctive sensitivity to complex matters that call for diplomacy and discretion. Among her many honors, Ms. Widlak was named a 2013 Top Rated Lawyer in Labor and Employment by American Lawyer Media and Martindale-Hubbell. She also was selected as one of 25 Leaders in The Law for 2012 by Michigan Lawyers Weekly and is a repeat honoree for Michigan Super Lawyers. Ms. Widlak serves as a Panel Chairperson of the Michigan Attorney Discipline Board and is a Fellow of Litigation Counsel of America.

Susan Koval is an accomplished trial attorney who focuses her practice on employment litigation and arbitration and has extensive experience counseling employers on the full scope of employment and labor relations subject matters. She utilizes a strategic, proactive approach to resolving workplace issues and aggressively defends employers against claims such as wrongful discharge, discrimination including LGBT issues, harassment, retaliation, breach of contract, FMLA and wage and hour claims. Ms. Koval is a repeat honoree for Michigan Super Lawyers, and was selected by Michigan Lawyers Weekly as a “Woman in the Law Class of 2015” honoree.
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Philip G. Villaume concentrates his practice on the areas of employment law, school law, and the criminal and civil defense of professional people facing employment-related misconduct allegations. Mr. Villaume has extensive expertise in the areas of employment law including discrimination claims and whistleblower claims. Mr. Villaume conducts workshops and seminars all over the country on the prevention of workplace and school violence, legal investigations, professional ethics, and eliminating bias and harassment in the workplace and schools. In 2015 and 2016 he was selected as lawyer member of National Association of Distinguished Counsel. Top 1% of lawyers in United States are selected. Mr. Villaume was selected as a Minnesota Super Lawyer 2015 and 2016 in the areas of Employment Law and Criminal Defense. No more than 5% of Minnesota Lawyers are selected for this achievement.

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Winterbauer & Diamond PLLC
Steven Winterbauer and Kenneth Diamond are counselors and litigators dedicated exclusively to representing management in employment and labor matters. They are listed among Chambers USA’s leading lawyers for labor and employment law in Washington, Woodward/White’s Best Lawyers in America®, and Thomson Reuters’ Washington Super Lawyers®. Their firm, Winterbauer & Diamond PLLC, serves as the Washington state representative to the Worklaw® Network, a national consortium of employment and labor law boutique firms, and has been recognized among leading labor and labor law boutique firms, and has been recognized among leading labor and employment law firms in Washington by Chambers USA since 2005. Mr. Diamond serves on the Worklaw Network Executive Committee and has served as an Adjunct Professor of Employment Law for Seattle University School of Law. Mr. Winterbauer is the firm’s managing member and served on the Executive Committee of the Washington State Bar Association Employment and Labor Law Section.

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Bill Martucci is a national employment litigator and policy strategist for a number of Fortune 500 companies. Chambers USA America’s Leading Lawyers for Business notes “Bill Martucci garnered overwhelming feedback for his great knowledge in the employment arena, his ability to relate well to clients, and winning personality in the courtroom.” Clients say: “His trial skills and work ethic are second to none. His vigorous and passionate defense of clients and creative utilization of innovative strategies earns this national practitioner ‘star status.’ He is ‘well informed and well respected,’ and focuses on complex class actions. Bill Martucci is worth having on any dream team for employment litigation and policy issues.” Highly regarded as an exceptional trial lawyer, his jury work has been featured in the National Law Journal. A graduate of Georgetown University Law Center where he earned a Master of Laws in labor and employment, he is included in the Best Lawyers in America for employment and business litigation. He teaches multinational business policy and the global workplace at Georgetown.

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Denman Heard is a passionate advocate on behalf of those who have been injured by dangerous products, pharmaceutical products, occupational disease, toxic exposure, and more. His verdicts totaling nearly half a billion dollars have been highly publicized by the media, including The Los Angeles Times, The Houston Chronicle, The Austin American Statesmen, The Corpus Christi Caller Times, The Dallas Morning News, Lawyer’s Weekly USA, American Lawyer, Texas Monthly, Bloomberg News, Law 360, and other publications. Lawyers Weekly USA has recognized Denham Heard as one of the “Nation’s Top Trial Lawyers.”

Over the past two decades, he has led trial teams in the following:

- The first (and only) Sauer hip implant defect case in the United States
- The first foundry respirator defect silicosis case tried in Texas
- One of the first combined permanent nuisance, intentional trespass, and punitive damage awards in Texas in a groundwater contamination case against a municipal solid waste disposal operation
- Numerous mesothelioma and asbestos verdicts
- Commercial and insurance coverage litigation
- Tobacco Litigation
- De-Puy ASR

In addition, Denman has served as a lead member of trial and discovery teams in national product liability litigation that has resolved many thousands of cases throughout the United States for victims of ASR, Avandia, Fen-Phen, Sulzer, and DePuy ASR.

He has tried over 100 plaintiffs’ claims to verdict, amassing nearly half billion dollars in jury verdicts and well over a billion dollars in settlements.

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