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.”

James F. Humphreys

The law firm of James F. Humphreys & Associates, L.C. begins with a commitment to provide complete, able, and aggressive help to its clients and continues that commitment until the client’s case or claim is concluded.

James Humphreys & Associates, L.C. represents men, women, and children, like you and yours, and your friends, and neighbors, who have been injured through no fault of their own, by the indifference, negligence, and greed of others. We know you need the sort of zeal in representing your claim that we bring to every client’s case.

The firm concentrates its practice in the areas of mass and complex litigation involving asbestos, including mesothelioma and lung cancer, toxic substances, bad drugs, defective medical devices and other harmful products plus workplace injuries at sites including electrical generating facilities, chemical and steel plants, railroads, and coal mines, and brain injuries resulting from highway, on the job, athletics and other incidents.

The Humphreys firm works with a network of local high-quality law firms in other states in order to be able to provide representation to its clients in almost every state in the United States.

Jim Humphreys received the coveted AV rating representing the highest possible standing for both legal ability and integrity when judged by fellow lawyers and judges and was named by his peers as a “Super Lawyer” in another survey. Humphreys and Associates was recognized as among the top 75 plaintiffs firms in the entire United States in a survey conducted among defense law firms. Jim Humphreys has also been named among the top 100 lawyers in West Virginia.

James Humphreys & Associates, L.C.
At Marc J. Bern & Partners LLP, the firm’s trial-tested lawyers enjoy a reputation for their willingness to take on well-funded defendants, and with good reason: they have been part of legal teams which have achieved more than $3 billion in recoveries since 2000.

The firm currently represents thousands of claimants in mass torts relating to defective drugs and devices, such as the Bard and Cook IVC Filter, Xarelto, Plavix and Zostavax. It also handles Federal Employers Liability Act (FELA) lawsuits nationwide on behalf of railroad workers suffering from cancers caused by job-related exposures, and has represented thousands of claimants seeking compensation under the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.

Founding partner Marc J. Bern has been a tort litigation trailblazer for more than 40 years. He has broken ground again in 2017 by representing more than 4,000 plaintiffs in an ongoing action against Merck, alleging that its Shingles vaccine, Zostavax, is defective and causes harmful side effects. He also continues to represent the families and children of Flint, Michigan who have been victims of the city’s unsafe water crisis. With his previous firm, he proudly represented more than 10,000 heroic men and women in the World Trade Center Disaster Site Litigation. Bern was intimately involved in the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010. His accolades include 20-plus years with an AV Preeminent® rating by Martindale-Hubbell®, 12 annual honors in Super Lawyers, and membership in the prestigious Million Dollar Advocates Forum. National media outlets often quote and source him on notable cases.

Senior partner Joseph Cappelli heads the firm’s Philadelphia office and has successfully tried cases in more than 20 states, garnering him widespread recognition in and out of the courtroom. A sought-after authority on FELA railroad litigation, Cappelli also has extensive knowledge of many occupational-related diseases, such as asbestos-related cancer and mesothelioma. He is well-versed in identifying railroad industry workplace hazards involving exposure to asbestos and other cancer-causing chemicals. Cappelli also champions the cause on behalf of our nation’s bravest, representing firefighters nationwide who’ve suffered noise-induced hearing loss.

Edward L. C. Marcowitz, the firm’s managing partner, has secured millions of dollars in settlements for thousands of 9/11 victims and recovery workers through his work with the original VCF and the current, reauthorized Zadroga Act. He worked on many pro bono projects after the September 11th attacks including as a member of Trial Lawyers Care, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America publicly acknowledged those tireless efforts in 2004. In another pro bono effort related to the 9/11 attacks, Marcowitz achieved ground-breaking pension decisions on behalf of New York City firefighters who suffered career-ending illnesses as a result of their heroic efforts. He has been named to the National Association of Distinguished Counsel and included in Super Lawyers for the past six consecutive years. He also proudly serves as the personal attorney to the Zadroga Family.

With their deep, combined experience, these partners lead the 25-plus lawyers at Marc J. Bern & Partners LLP who fearlessly bring the fight to pharmaceutical and medical device companies, as well as our nation’s railroads and hold them accountable for injuries and illnesses. Headquartered in New York with regional offices throughout the country, the firm continues to fiercely advocate for plaintiffs-only in mass tort litigation and personal injury litigation.
ALAN N. BICK

Bick Law LLP joins American Lawyer Media in recognizing Alan N. Bick as a 2017 Top Rated Lawyer in Mass Tort Law. Alan Bick is the co-managing partner at Bick Law LLP. He is a pre-eminent environmental lawyer with over 25 years of experience. He has extensive experience in cost recovery actions under CERCLA, RCRA, and the state equivalents; defense of agency enforcement actions; mass and toxic tort defense; natural resource damage actions; and CEQA, NEPA and ESA litigation. His in-depth knowledge of environmental issues and business background makes him uniquely positioned to help companies navigate today’s complex regulatory environment and plan for future changes in the law that are likely to impact business operations.

Bick Law LLP is a top-tier environmental law firm committed to providing world class environmental litigation, compliance, and transactional services to businesses, tailored by industry and personalized to each client’s needs.

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DOUGLAS A. PETTIT

Douglas A. Pettit has extensive trial and litigation experience in the areas of civil litigation, business litigation, and professional liability. He has tried over 30 cases in California. His extraordinary record of favorable outcomes and exemplary client service has resulted in recognition by his peers over the years. He was inducted into the American Board of Trial Advocates in 2007 as the youngest member of the San Diego Chapter. He has been selected for inclusion in the San Diego Super Lawyers list every year since 2007 and most recently listed as one of the Top 10 San Diego Super Lawyers in both 2015 and 2016. Doug has been recognized by the San Diego Business Journal’s Best of the Bar, the San Diego Magazine’s Best Lawyers and Best Lawyers in America. Notably, Best Lawyers in America awarded Doug as Best Lawyers’ 2015 San Diego Legal Malpractice Lawyer of the Year. Doug is also a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, an honor limited to one third of the percent of the lawyers in America.

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THOMAS S. INGRASSIA

Thomas S. Ingrassia is a founding member of Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz, and serves as the firm’s Chief Financial Officer. As co-chair of the firm’s Employment and Labor Department, Tom regularly assists his clients in developing and enforcing appropriate employment practices and policies and defending all forms of employment litigation before State and Federal courts and administrative agencies. Tom has achieved Martindale-Hubbell’s highest rating for his legal ability and ethical standards. Tom has been selected for inclusion in San Diego Super Lawyers every year since 2008 and honored as one of the “Top 50 Attorneys” in San Diego for 2016 and 2017. Tom has also been selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America, a publication regarded as the definitive guide to legal excellence, each year since 2013.

Tom is a widely-acclaimed speaker who is frequently invited to provide employment practices and employee management training for private firms, other attorneys, and professional organizations throughout California. Tom’s leadership in the community was formally recognized with his election as the 2002 President of the San Diego Society for Human Resource Management, the region’s largest organization of human resource professionals.