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”.

Mass Tort

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.

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Thomas V. Girardi

When Thomas V. Girardi opened the doors of the Girardi Firm in downtown Los Angeles in 1965, he had a vision of building a law firm that would help anyone who had been injured, by providing excellent counsel and a willingness to go to court to help them achieve a measure of justice. “There is a moral component to every one of our cases, and that’s been true since day one,” says Girardi. “That’s allowed us to create a world-class law firm that’s truly here for the little guy.”

That philosophy has made Girardi | Keese into a firm that has succeeded far beyond Girardi’s original dream. Today, it employs 30 lawyers and 30 law clerks in an office downtown where “there’s always something happening,” reports partner, David Lira. The firm has achieved more than 20 billion in verdicts and settlements during its history, including $4.85 billion against a pharmaceutical company for harm caused by one of its drugs; $2.2 billion for California consumers defrauded by a power company in the California energy crisis; $785 million against an aviation firm; $633 million for the residents of Hinkley, California, against a power company; and $545 million in a class action against an insurance group.

While big dollars tell part of the story of Girardi | Keese, it leaves out the larger impact the firm has on the thousands of people who walk through its doors, “one of the things that’s most amazing about torn and the firm is that it’s still a firm that represents a single individual who suffered an injury because it’s the right thing to do,” says partner Robert Finnerty. Because of that, leading trial lawyers including David Lira, Bob Finnerty, Amy Solomon, James O’Callahan, John Girardi, David Bigelow, Keith Griffin, John Courtney and Andre Rekte, Bigelow, and Jack Girardi have amassed more million-dollar results in California than any other plaintiff firm.

For more info go to www.law.com/socalbest. “And now;” says Lira, “we’re creating a whole new generation of trial lawyers who will be here to help those who’ve been injured.” In the past few months, two of the firm’s younger lawyers achieved magnificent results. Christopher Aumais had a jury return $3.3 million (the offer was $100,000) and Alexandra Steele was successful in obtaining a jury verdict of $2.4 million (the offer was $250,000). The firm takes great pride in its results and the character of its lawyers, as well as the preparation it brings to each case. “One thing that sets us apart is the resource we can dedicate to a case,” says Lira. The firm conducts millions of dollars of research on its own dime, hiring the best experts to ensure each client has the best shot at justice. “And we do this almost always with absolutely no cost to the client unless we win.” “Always, always there have been the fundamentals that existed then and do now,” says Solomon, who joined the firm in 1986 as a law clerk, “we have the passionate desire to fight for the little guy. And to help people who have been harmed get their lives back to the best that it can be done, and to do that in the most professional and ethical way. But always, we have an eye on putting 12 jurors in the box and letting the civil justice system do what it does best. That has never changed and will never change.” “We all learned from the beginning from torn that being a trial lawyer is [about] the ultimate warrior for the voiceless,” she says. A world-class law firm with unsurpassed results. For 46 years, Girardi | Keese has set the standard for excellence in law practice.
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.
Morrow, Morrow, Ryan, Bassett & Haik

Based in Opelousas, Morrow, Morrow, Ryan, Bassett & Haik is a close-knit and family oriented team of skilled attorneys. In 1975 Patrick C. Morrow opened the law firm in Opelousas, Louisiana and was soon joined by partners, James Ryan and Jeffrey Bassett. Since then the partners have been joined by Patrick’s son, P. Craig Morrow, Jeffrey’s son, Taylor Bassett and James’s daughter Kathleen Ryan. In 2008 Richard Haik, Jr. joined the firm and in 2016 his father, former federal judge Richard “Dicky” Haik, Sr., became of Counsel at MMRB&H.

While still a family oriented firm, Morrow, Morrow, Ryan, Bassett & Haik has emerged as a proven powerful force of frontline litigators to be reckoned with in national class action lawsuits and multidistrict litigation. For more than 40 years the firm’s success and advocacy in personal injury and maritime law has built them a notoriously stellar reputation and AV rating by Martindale-Hubbell. The firm’s founder, Patrick C. Morrow, was awarded the very prestigious 2016 Stalwart Award by the Louisiana Association for Justice.

MMRB&H attorneys represent victims and families who have suffered all types of personal injury causing harm or death. The firm is dedicated to pursuing just compensation for victims resulting from the carelessness of others. “We not only have the knowledge and experience of a large law firm, but we always provide personalized treatment and respect for all our clients,” says firm founder Patrick C. Morrow.

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.