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”

### Lewis G. Feldman

**SANTA MONICA**

**Heritage Capital Ventures LLC**

After a storied 35-year career in Big Law as one of America’s most recognized capital markets lawyers, Lew founded Heritage Capital Ventures LLC in 2015 to invest in online technologies for traditionally offline processes that result in greater capital access and lower costs to consumers, businesses and governments. Lew’s been involved in raising and deploying more than $100 billion in debt and equity in the real estate and financial technology arenas. Lew also serves as Chairman of the Board of the UCLA Ziman Real Estate Center at the John Anderson School of Business. Lew has numerous media appearances to his credit on CNBC, CBS, Bloomberg, ABC, Fox, and Sirius XM. Lew’s ideas and opinions have been featured in national, regional and trade publications, including Barron’s, The Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Fortune and Forbes.

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### Richard B. Andrade

**LAGUNA HILLS**

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Mr. Andrade’s practice focuses primarily on construction litigation (public and private), including “changed conditions”, change order and differing site condition claims, Mechanic’s Lien and Stop Notice Litigation, management side labor law including the defense of wage and hour claims/litigation, prevailing wage claims/litigation and trust fund litigation and General Business Litigation. He counsels and represents project owners, general contractors, subcontractors and material suppliers.

Mr. Andrade has specialized in the construction industry for over 30 years. He has extensive experience in all aspects of the California Judicial System, the Federal System and the American Arbitration Association, having actually tried over 300 trials in these various forums. Mr. Andrade served on the Board of Directors for the Engineering Contractors Association for 28 years, is an affiliate member of the Southern California Contractors Association and the Associated General Contractors of California. Mr. Andrade also was counsel to the Engineering Contractors Association for 28 years, and is a member of the Associated General Contractors Statewide Legal Advisory Committee to the Construction Industry, as well as a member of the Southern California Contractors Legal Advisory Committee.

Mr. Andrade holds a California State Contractors License, and was actively involved in the construction industry as an owner of a company for over 10 years.

Mr. Andrade’s goal, in representing clients, is to achieve the optimum cost-benefit result possible within the context of the facts, law and good legal representation. He attempts to solve problems, not create them, to achieve ends rather than frustrate them, and to do so in an aggressive yet ethical manner.
West Coast

Forsberg & Umlauf, P.S.

Founded in 1993, Forsberg & Umlauf, P.S. provides dynamic service in all phases of civil defense and insurance coverage litigation. The decision to specialize in civil litigation defense is important for two reasons: (1) our focus allows us to develop consistent litigation management systems and trial techniques to benefit our clients with lower overhead; and (2) other firms feel more comfortable referring business or specific cases because there is little threat of losing a client who seeks more generalized services.

We take pride in providing high-level professional service to a wide range of local, national and international clients while maintaining a reputation of excellence with judges, other lawyers, and clients. We help solve our clients’ civil litigation needs, including trials, hearings, appeals, arbitration, settlement and mediation with experience, passion, dedication and hard work. Our firm is committed to providing an early evaluation in each case. We prepare litigation management plans and budgets in every case. More importantly, we discuss these plans and budgets with our clients to obtain approval and to ensure we are meeting their goals and needs.

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Bowles & Verna

The attorneys at Bowles & Verna are pleased to have been listed in San Francisco’s Top Rated Lawyers. B&V is a litigation law firm with 22 attorneys grounded in the philosophy that clients deserve cost-effective, result-oriented representation by innovative lawyers with exceptional judgment. The firm’s track record since its founding more than 30 years ago is testament to this principle.

UNIQUE PRACTICE MIX. While most firms exclusively represent plaintiffs or defendants in litigation matters, B&V both prosecutes and defends complex cases—from representing major corporations in business, employment or real estate disputes to protecting the rights of individuals denied insurance benefits or victimized in catastrophic accidents. Understanding both sides, B&V enjoys a unique strategic perspective on how to achieve the best result for the client.

EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS. With more than 200 jury trials, B&V attorneys have established a reputation as the “go to” lawyers in difficult cases. Partners have defended multimillion-dollar fraud and wrongful termination cases and obtained multimillion-dollar verdicts and settlements for aggrieved business owners and accident victims.

Bowles & Verna LLP

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**California**

**Los Angeles, Irvine**

**Ronald L. Fein**

Ron Fein, an accomplished securities, real estate finance and transactional lawyer with over 47 years of experience, provides business and legal counsel to entrepreneurs, as well as established businesses, throughout the U.S. and internationally. Ron advises with respect to high-tech start-ups, business combinations, corporate and real estate financings and securities matters in a broad public and private company practice and also uses that experience to analyze circumstances attendant to the troubled company environment.

Prior to founding RL Fein, Inc., for nearly two decades, Ron practiced at Stutman, Teistr and Glatt, where he was a senior shareholder. He began his career in 1969 as a corporate lawyer with Gibson Dunn & Crutcher until he was appointed as the youngest Chief Deputy Commissioner of the California Department of Corporations by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. in 1975. Thereafter, he became the firm-wide Chairman of the Mergers and Acquisitions and Corporate Finance Section and served as a member of the firm-wide Administrative Committee of Jones Day, one of the world's largest multinational law firms and ultimately migrated to Stutman in 1991.

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**California**

**Sacramento**

**Mike Hackard**

Mike Hackard is a California trust, estate and elder financial abuse litigator. He is the chair of Hackard Law, a law firm focused on estate, trust and probate litigation as well as elder financial abuse litigation. Mike’s book, The Wolf at the Door: Undue Influence and Elder Financial Abuse details how the family members of a victimized elder can successfully team up with a knowledgeable lawyer to prevent elder financial abuse or to recover damages against wrongdoers where the abuse has already occurred.

Mike is active in blogs and podcasting and believes that the American public’s demand for information that fits into their lives should be the driving force for lawyer social media communications. Of the dozens of client reviews about Mike his favorite is that written by a West Point graduate: “If I need a lawyer that knows how to storm the hill and win almost any battle – it is Mike Hackard.” Hackard Law is currently litigating in most of California’s large urban counties.

**Hackard Law**

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**California**

**Santa Ana**

**Douglas Borthwick Esq.**

Tenacious, dedicated and committed to getting the best possible result. Mr. Borthwick works strategically to resolve disputes and is not afraid to come up with creative strategies to get his clients what they need. Attorney Douglas Borthwick blends a background in civil litigation with significant experience in insurance defense, medical malpractice defense, plaintiff personal injury and family law. Before founding his own firm, his formative years were as an associate attorney at AV rated firms with ABOTA certified trial lawyers.

Mr. Borthwick is currently President and Owner of the Law Offices Douglas Borthwick. He is admitted to practice before all of the courts in the state of California and the United States Supreme Court. He has licensures on inactive status pending payment of dues and updating continuing education hours in the jurisdictions of Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Ohio, Arkansas, Minnesota, North Dakota, and District of Columbia. He has his main office in Santa Ana and is available to meet at offices in Riverside, Rancho Cucamonga, and Ontario.

Mr. Borthwick has the highest AV preeminent rating awarded by Martindale-Hubbell, the leading attorney directory. Mr. Borthwick was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1965. He graduated with high honors (Magna Cum Laude) from Muskingum University in 1988 with Bachelor of Arts degrees in Business, Economics, and Religion. At Muskingum University he was the recipient of the prestigious Wall Street Journal Award. He received his Juris Doctorate degree in 1991 from Capital University Law School where he was the recipient of an academic scholarship and was on the Dean’s List. Mr. Borthwick is married with a daughter and 3 grandchildren.

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**California**

**Los Angeles**

**John S. Peterson**

John S. Peterson, trial lawyer, devotes his practice to representation of real estate and business owners in eminent domain and inverse condemnation, landslide and subsidence, real estate and land use law. He is the founder of Peterson Law Group PC with offices in Los Angeles and Irvine, California. The firm fights for its clients emphasizing personalized attention and a results-oriented philosophy drawing on Mr. Peterson’s more than thirty-five years of practice, successful jury and non-jury trial experience and, collectively, hundreds of millions of dollars in judgments, settlements and transactions. Representative clients range from local owners and businesses to publicly traded corporations. The firm embraces creativity and pragmatism in problem solving and offers personalized service and value-added billing arrangements. Peterson is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, is recognized in Best Lawyers, Super Lawyers and is Martindale-Hubbell AV Rated. Peterson Law Group PC has been recognized in U.S. News-Best Lawyers “Best Law Firms”, including Tier 1, Los Angeles, 2014-2015, Eminent Domain and Condemnation Law.

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Douglas Borthwick Esq. was the recipient of the prestigious Wall Street Journal Award. He received his Juris Doctor degrees in Business, Economics, and Religion. At Muskingum University, he graduated Magna Cum Laude from Muskingum University in 1988 with Bachelor of Science honors. He is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell, the leading attorney directory.

Mr. Borthwick is currently President and CEO of Borthwick Law, an AMLIKC certified firm with offices in Riverside, Rancho Cucamonga, and Ontario. He is admitted to practice before all of the federal courts in the state of California, Minnesota, North Dakota, and District of Columbia. He has his main office in Santa Ana, California.

Mr. Borthwick was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1965. He graduated with high honors (Summa Cum Laude) from the University of Minnesota, School of Law, in 1990. He went on to practice law in Washington D.C. for over 20 years in various capacities, including as an associate attorney at a large Washington D.C. law firm, and as the managing attorney at a small litigation firm in Maryland. He was the recipient of the prestigious Wall Street Journal Award. He received his Juris Doctor degrees in Business, Economics, and Religion. At Muskingum University, he graduated Magna Cum Laude from Muskingum University in 1988 with Bachelor of Science honors.

Mr. Borthwick is married with a daughter and 3 grandchildren. He is a former trial lawyer and is available to meet at offices in Riverside, Rancho Cucamonga, and Ontario.

Mr. Borthwick has been described as “legendary”, a “copyright folk hero”, and practicing “law in service of soul”. A strategic thinker, Mr. Borthwick is outside General Counsel for clients who produce entertainment events. He helps iconic clients secure their legacies with effective business and nonprofit structures and IP enforcement. He was the legal architect of Burning Man’s for-profit to nonprofit transition with multiple subsidiaries. He helped the Cesar Chavez Foundation and Dolores Huerta Foundation create lasting infrastructures.

Brooke Oliver is a creative, rigorous, and scholarly IP, art, and entertainment lawyer. Admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court, she is rated “Preeminent” (since 1998), among the top 5% Intellectual Property lawyers nationally (American Lawyer, National Law Journal), and Northern California’s SuperLawyers, Top Attorneys, and Top Women Attorneys. Brooke has been described as “legendary”, a “copyright folk hero”, and practicing “law in service of soul”. A strategic thinker, Brooke is outside General Counsel for clients who produce entertainment events. She helps iconic clients secure their legacies with effective business and nonprofit structures and IP enforcement. She was the legal architect of Burning Man’s for-profit to nonprofit transition with multiple subsidiaries. She helped the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation and Dolores Huerta Foundation create lasting infrastructures.

Brooke successfully prosecuted the Dykes on Bikes’ trademark registration to the U.S. Supreme Court twice. Her copyright and trademark litigation in District Courts and 9th and Federal Circuits informs her transactional work. She is a foremost expert on the Visual Artists’ Rights Act, murals, and public art law.

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