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”

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Carol Shelly opened her own practice, Shelly Law Offices, LLC in April 2012. Previously, she was a shareholder in the law firm, Mellon Webster & Shelly. Her practice concentrates in plaintiff personal injury litigation, having tried numerous professional negligence cases to verdict. She has secured verdicts and settlements in the millions of dollars for her clients during her 30 plus years in practice. She has briefed and argued cases in the Commonwealth Court, Superior Court and the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. She has served as the Chair of the Civil Litigation Section for the Bucks County Bar Association. Ms. Shelly was the second woman to be elected President of the Bucks County Bar Association and the first woman to be elected President of the Charitable Foundation. Ms. Shelly has been named a Super Lawyer, carries an AV Martindale-Hubbell rating, named to the Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers and is BBB accredited with the Better Business Bureau. Ms. Shelly lectures for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute and the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association.

Carol A. Shelly, Esquire

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DIANNE M. NAST

Dianne Nast, founder of Philadelphia law firm NastLaw, LLC, has extensive and diverse experience in pharmaceutical litigation and antitrust litigation, and much of her professional career has been dominated by this type of litigation. With over 35 years in this field, she is consistently recognized by her clients and peers as one of the best lawyers in the country.

This year, Ms. Nast was appointed as Lead Counsel for Direct Purchaser Class in the Generic Pharmaceuticals Pricing Antitrust Litigation and received a Distinguished Leader Award from The Legal Intelligencer. In 2016, Ms. Nast was a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from The Legal Intelligencer.

Outside of the courtroom, Ms. Nast has a passion for helping her community. She was a co-founder and member of the Board of Directors for the Center for Research on Women and Newborn Health and served as President of the Foundation's Board for ten years.

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NastLaw attorneys combine well over 100 years of complex civil litigation experience. We provide our clients with experienced, confident representation to guide them in the most difficult cases.

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Areas of Practice

NastLaw’s practice emphasizes antitrust and mass tort litigation with a focus on pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

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- Generic Pharmaceuticals Pricing Antitrust Litigation: Co-Lead Counsel
- NFL Concussion Litigation: Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee
- Xarelto Litigation: Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee
- Effexor XR Antitrust Litigation: Executive Committee
- GM Ignition Litigation: Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee
- Modafinil Antitrust Litigation: Executive Committee

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Jerald David August

Jerald David August is a partner in the nationally recognized tax law firm of Kostelanetz & Fink, LLP. While Jerry maintains his office at 7 World Trade Center, New York, NY 10007, he frequently is in the Philadelphia area meeting with clients and referral sources. He is a member of the Pennsylvania, New York, and Florida Bar Associations. Prior to his admission into Kostelanetz & Fink, LLP, last Spring, Jerry was a partner with the national law firm, Fox Rothschild, LLP, and served as the Co-Chair of the Taxation & Wealth Planning Department over his ten year tenure with the firm. Jerry advises clients on the tax impacts of structuring international and domestic business transactions. He also advises high-net-worth individuals, both U.S. citizens and non-residents, on their estate plans. He further is recognized for his expertise in tax controversy matters, including criminal investigations, on behalf of clients before the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Department of Justice as well as various state tax authorities. He has appeared before the U.S. Tax Court, Federal District Courts, the Court of Federal Claims, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals and also represented the Florida Bar Tax Section in filing an amicus curiae brief in a landmark U.S. Supreme Court, Commissioner v. Estate of Hubert, 520 U.S. 93 (1997). August, who graduated with a B.S. (Finance) from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, received his law degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and his LL.M. in Taxation from the New York University School of Law. After practicing tax law for 10 years in Palm Beach, he was admitted as partner in the Miami firm Steel Hector & Davis in 1986. In 1988 he founded his own firm, a tax law boutique, which in 2005 merged with Fox Rothschild, a national law firm with more than 600 lawyers in 22 cities across the country. August, who grew up in Wynnewood and graduated from Lower Merion High, resides both in Haverford, Pennsylvania, and South Tribeca, New York City, with his wife, Susan. He is an active member of the American Law Institute and has published numerous articles on federal taxation for national law journals. August has frequently spoken on matters of federal taxation for the American Law Institute, the Tax Section of the American Bar Association, the New York University Federal Institute on Taxation, the NYU Graduate Tax Law Program, and various tax law programs sponsored by prestigious law schools as well as the Tax Sections of the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Florida Bar Associations. He has long served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Business Entities, a national tax publication, and is the former Editor-in-Chief of the Tax Lawyer, a preeminent tax law review. He is also a columnist on partnership and international tax law for Tax Notes. He has been selected for inclusion in Super Lawyers and The Tax Lawyer for many years. Additional honors include Band 1 Chambers for Taxation and recognition in Philadelphia’s Top Rated Lawyers for the past three years.

Jeffrey Zucker

Jeffrey Zucker has been representing clients in business-related matters for over 25 years—first as an accountant and for the past 20 plus years as an attorney. Jeff concentrates his practice on franchise and distribution-related transactions, litigation and pre-litigation counseling, and also handles general commercial matters. He frequently represents franchisors and manufacturers in litigation regarding trademark, post-termination covenants and related issues. He also assists franchisors and other business clients in reaching effective, common sense solutions to day-to-day problems.

Jeff is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Brookfield Schools, a private nonprofit group of schools which offer educational and clinical services to students with emotional needs. Jeff is also on the Board of Directors and is the Treasurer of the Voorhees Animal Orphanage. The VAO offers shelter, food and medical care to stray, orphaned and unwanted animals in Southern New Jersey.

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Timoney Knox, LLP is a full-service firm serving our clients since 1921 in the practice areas of wills, estates, business, students’ rights, and litigation.

George M. Riter has been the managing partner since 2007. His practice in trust, estate, tax and corporate law focuses on the estate planning needs of individuals, families, business owners, individuals with special needs and non-profit entities and foundations. Mr. Riter’s practice is devoted to evaluating, understanding and addressing all of the client’s needs. His approach is to thoroughly review each client’s unique situation including family dynamics and to assist with analyzing assets, managing liabilities and reducing exposure to inheritance and estate taxes.

Thomas A. Boudlen is a partner at Timoney Knox and focuses his practice in estate and orphans’ court litigation. He has extensive experience in the areas of will contests, trust, fiduciary and surcharge litigation as well as guardianships for incapacitated persons. In addition to litigation matters, Mr. Boudlen assists and counsels clients in estate planning and the review and interpretation of estate documents.

Pennsylvania Wayne

Stuart B. Kurtz

REAL ESTATE, CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL LAW

Stuart B. Kurtz is a founding partner of Kurtz & Revness, P.C. and chairs the firm’s Real Estate and Business Department. He specializes in sophisticated real estate and corporate transactions, including multi-million dollar mergers and acquisitions, licensing and real estate deals. His transactional practice has involved deals throughout the U.S. and internationally. He also has extensive experience in securing and closing financing transactions, including loan closings and debt and equity raises and serving as general counsel to growing entrepreneurial companies. He has been involved in originating, structuring, and closing various commercial real estate developments including hotels, shopping centers, apartment buildings and mixed use projects involving conventional new markets tax credit financing. He has held an AV Preeminent Rating of 5.0 out of 5.0 from Martindale Hubbell for 17 years.

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Pennsylvania Philadelphia

Sidney L. Gold

For 40 years Sidney L. Gold has been a champion of the American workforce, a voice standing strong against racial discrimination and sexual harassment, and a powerful advocate for LGBT rights. He also advocates for workers with disabilities as well as older workers subjected to discrimination because of their age. Mr. Gold, principle shareholder of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey employment law firm of Sidney L. Gold & Associates, P.C., has always been a positive force standing up for equality and civil rights in the workplace.

Mr. Gold’s practice focuses exclusively on all aspects of employment-related litigation, and he represents both employees and employers. Working on the front lines of employment discrimination – long before employment discrimination was well recognized – Mr. Gold has long been the go-to source for wisdom in this respected field. He has written extensively on issues of employment discrimination, given numerous presentations on employment law, and is recognized as one of the preeminent lawyers in his discipline, frequently appearing on news broadcasts offering insight on the latest topics of interest. Attorney Gold also has served as chair of the Labor and Employment Committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Moreover, Attorney Gold has won landmark victories on behalf of his clients, and has been honored with many awards and recognition for his work.

Sidney L. Gold & Associates P.C.

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Pennsylvania Philadelphia

Clifford B. Cohn

For 40 years Clifford B. Cohn has maintained a successful and varied practice handling complex civil and criminal cases while developing a niche practice representing lawyers and clients in a variety of disputes, including partnership breakups, fee disputes, ethical investigations, and legal malpractice. He has successfully represented both clients against their former lawyers and lawyers being sued, as well as being a frequent lecturer on issues involving attorneys’ liability. He has an impressive track record of obtaining victories and achieving large financial settlements from the successful prosecution of a variety of matters, including estate litigation, personal injury matters involving catastrophic injuries and commercial litigation. He is listed as the top one percent of attorneys in the United States by the National Association of Distinguished Counsel, 10/10 by AVVO Top 100 Trial Lawyers by the National Trial Lawyers and for the last 25 years has been 5/5 AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell.

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**Brian R. Price**

Brian R. Price has been practicing law for over 35 years and has extensive experience in estate planning and trust administration, corporate, business and tax planning for individuals and closely held business organizations. He was the sole shareholder and president of the Doylestown and Chalfont Pennsylvania law firm, Brian Price & Associates for 26 years before joining Semanoff Ormsby Greenberg & Torchia, LLC in 2015. Mr. Price has received an AV Preeminent Rating from Martindale Hubbell and has been selected for inclusion in Pennsylvania Super Lawyers® from 2009-2017. In addition to his legal practice, Mr. Price is involved in various community activities in Bucks County. He has served as Director (1980-1987) and President (1985-1986) of the Bucks County Estate Planning Council. Also, he has served as Finance Chair (2009-2014), President (2013-2014) and Treasurer (2014-2015) of the Bucks County SPCA. He is the past Treasurer and currently serves as a Director of the Ann Silverman Community Health Clinic in Doylestown, PA.

**Catherine A. Marriott**

Catherine A. Marriott concentrates her practice in commercial and residential real estate transactions, with a focus on acquisitions, sales and leasing. She represents clients in business transactions, corporate finance, real estate development and estate planning.


Ms. Marriott has been rated AV Preeminent™ by Martindale Hubbell®, which is the highest possible peer review rating issued by Martindale Hubbell® for both legal ability and ethical standards. Mr. Marriott graduated, cum laude, from Dickinson College and from Pennsylvania State University’s Dickinson School of Law. He has represented physicians, nursing homes, hospitals, healthcare staffing entities, mental health and mental retardation facilities and government contractors. In addition, Mr. Marriott has served as counsel to one of the largest national class action settlement trusts. He maintains an AV Preeminent™ rating from Martindale Hubbell.

**Jules S. Henshell**

Jules S. Henshell focuses on health law, issues of privacy, compliance, regulatory and administrative law, appellate law, provider reimbursement and licensing. Mr. Henshell is admitted to the practice of law before the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the Federal District Courts for the Middle and Eastern Districts of Pennsylvania, and the United States Court of Appeals, Third Circuit.

Mr. Henshell has significant experience in government, having served as Regional Counsel to the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare and a Senior Deputy Attorney General in the Special Litigation Section of the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General.

Mr. Henshell has significant experience in government, having served as Regional Counsel to the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare and a Senior Deputy Attorney General in the Special Litigation Section of the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General.

He maintains an AV® Preeminent™ rating from Martindale Hubbell. This is the highest possible peer review rating issued by Martindale Hubbell® for both legal ability and ethical standards. Mr. Henshell graduated, cum laude, from Dickinson College and from Pennsylvania State University’s Dickinson School of Law. Mr. Henshell is admitted to the practice of law before the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the Federal District Courts for the Middle and Eastern Districts of Pennsylvania, and the United States Court of Appeals, Third Circuit.

**Frank P. Spada, Jr.**

Frank P. Spada, Jr. has been representing management in all areas of employment law and labor relations since 1986. He counsels clients on human resource issues, including discipline, hiring, firing and better productivity through employee relations. He also advises clients regularly on the application of the various federal and state employment laws, including the FMLA, FLSA, ADA, ADEA, WARN, ERISA, PHRA, and the NJ LAD. He has handled many matters in the enforcement or defense of non-competition/non-solicitation/non-disclosure clauses in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. His extensive experience also includes employment arbitration, ERISA litigation, independent contractor compliance, non-compete and trade secrets litigation, as well as counseling clients on privacy, security and data protection issues.

In the labor law area, Mr. Spada counsels management in dealing with unions in collective bargaining negotiations, arbitrations, unfair labor practice proceedings, mass picketing and other injunction actions, union elections and de-certifications in the public and private sectors.

Mr. Spada has been certified by the New Jersey Association of Professional Mediators and is a New Jersey Superior Court Rule 1-40 qualified mediator included on the roster of court-approved mediators, as well as being a qualified mediator and arbitrator on the roster of the American Arbitration Association.
Michael B. Dubin
For over 24 years, Michael B. Dubin’s practice has covered a wide range of commercial litigation, employment litigation and counseling, securities litigation and Orphans' Court litigation. His clients range from large international businesses to regional and local businesses and sole proprietorships. Mr. Dubin has defended employers in litigation alleging discrimination and harassment under federal and state law, and wage and hour claims under the Fair Labor Standards Act. He has also represented both employers and employees in litigation involving the enforcement of restrictive covenants. He has had great success representing investors against independent investment advisors, brokers and broker-dealers in investment disputes in federal court and in arbitrations before the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) and the American Arbitration Association (AAA). He also has extensive experience in Orphans’ Court litigation, including will contests, guardianships and actions against personal representatives of Estates. Mr. Dubin has been rated AV® Preeminent™ by Martindale Hubbell, and has been selected for inclusion in Super Lawyers® for the past four years. In addition to his legal practice, Mr. Dubin is a member of the Board of Directors, and officer of Federation Early Learning Services (FELS).

Michael J. Torchia
Michael J. Torchia has been a managing member of the firm since 2000. His practice is concentrated in commercial litigation with an emphasis on employment law. He routinely and successfully represents and counsels local, regional, national and international businesses of all sizes in state and federal courts throughout the country on a variety of litigation matters. He is a sought-after lecturer in programs that advise and train attorneys and human resources personnel, speaks extensively on employment law and litigation topics and is often asked to present in-house training and seminars for clients. Mr. Torchia is a well-known independent workplace investigator, and is routinely hired by other attorneys and corporate executives to investigate a wide variety of workplace misconduct including claims of sexual harassment, discrimination, retaliation and wrongful discharge. He also serves as an expert witness for workplace investigations, and has developed programs and lectures on workplace investigations as well. He is the author of several publications regarding employment law including the Workplace Investigations chapter of the Pennsylvania Employment Law Deskbook published by PLI Press, and an in depth white paper about at-will employment in Pennsylvania.

Charles W. Ormsby, Jr.
Chuck is Chairman of the firm’s corporate department and as such serves as counsel to a variety of entities and businesses ranging from regional financial institutions to non-profit corporations and from sole proprietorships to multi-national corporations. Over the years, Chuck has developed the firm’s commercial/transactional practice into a dynamic commercial department with extensive experience and capabilities in a variety of areas including mergers and acquisitions, employment law, intellectual property, real estate, and commercial litigation, which complement his primarily business counseling and transactional practice. His success is due in large part to the care he demonstrates for each of his clients and the attention to detail he shows in his work. It is those characteristics that have led many of his clients to look to him as much for his business judgment as for his legal analysis. In addition to his legal practice, Chuck is co-founder of Building a Bridge to Uganda, a 501(c)(3) organization serving the spiritual, physical, and educational need of people in Ibanda, Uganda, East Africa.

Howard N. Greenberg
Howard N. Greenberg, has extensive experience in the areas of real estate, business transactions, corporate finance, debtor/creditor relations and estates and trusts. Mr. Greenberg’s practice involves many areas of business including manufacturing, service, distribution, retail, health care, construction, real estate development, management, and syndications. He has been a lecturer to other members of the bar at continuing legal education programs. He has been named a “Super Lawyer®” from 2009 through 2017, enjoys an AV® Preeminent™ rating by Martindale Hubbell®, and has been selected as a Leader in Law by the Philadelphia Business Journal. Mr. Greenberg is a competitive rower and Past President of The University Barge Club in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
For over 25 years, Peter J. Smith has concentrated his practice in the areas of corporate law, business transactions, mergers and acquisitions, contracts, commercial finance, debtor/creditor relations, business disputes, non-profit organizations, real estate, trusts and estates. He counsels clients, large and small, including businesses involved in manufacturing, distribution, marketing, health care, pharmaceutical research, professional services, real estate management and development, construction, retail, e-commerce and technology. In addition, Mr. Smith has experience with start-up ventures, family-owned businesses, limited liability companies and 501(c)(3) public charities. He also represents individuals and families in estate and business succession planning.

Mr. Smith just celebrated his 15th year of being rated AV® Preeminent™ by Martindale Hubbell®. This is the highest possible peer review rating issued by Martindale Hubbell® for both legal ability and ethical standards. Additionally, for six years, he has been selected for inclusion in Super Lawyers®!

William J. Maffucci is a real-estate attorney who handles transactional matters, real-estate litigation, bankruptcy proceedings involving real estate, zoning and land use, and creditors’ rights. His subspecialties include buyer-seller disputes, landlord-tenant proceedings, tangled-title claims, partition actions, boundary disputes, and other disputes between adjoining landowners. He has been rated AV® Preeminent™ by Martindale Hubbell® which is the highest possible peer review rating issued by Martindale Hubbell® for both legal ability and ethical standards. He writes and speaks frequently about real-estate matters, and he is a crusader in the cause of “Plain Language for Lawyers.” He is an active fundraiser and organizer for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and since 2013 he has served as the Interim President of the American Academy of the Sacred Arts. He is fluent in Italian.

Mr. Maffucci received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the State University of New York. He received his B.A. in 1980 with high honors from the State University College at Oneonta. He received his J.D. in 1985 from Buffalo Law School, where he served as editor-in-chief of the Buffalo Law Review. Prior to joining the firm in February 2009, Mr. Maffucci was a partner in the real-estate practice group of a large Philadelphia law firm.

In this fully revised edition, author James A. Matthews, III has provided a thorough and focused examination of the federal, state and local equal opportunity and employment laws governing Pennsylvania employers and employees. In addition, substantial appendices of statutes, regulations, forms and other materials have been included in this new edition.

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