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”

**California**

**San Francisco**

**John O’Connor**

“Nation’s Top Attorney Fee Expert” – TheNALFA.org

A versatile, highly experienced, complex case trial lawyer, John O’Connor has for over 25 years devoted a significant portion of his practice to attorneys and attorney fee disputes, both as an expert witness and as a litigator. From years of evaluating, assessing, and litigating fees, O’Connor brings a depth of expertise and context as an expert witness that only an experienced litigator can offer in fee disputes.

O’Connor has tried a wide variety of cases in federal, state and arbitration courts throughout the country, including not only professional liability, attorney fee, and law firm buy-out cases, but also patent, anti-trust, civil RICO, ADA/disability discrimination, civil rights, employment, insurance coverage and bad faith, construction, product liability, toxic tort, defamation, fraud and contract, real estate, white collar criminal, and sports management, among others. This experience allows him to distinguish between efficiency and inefficiency in litigation management.

He has frequently associated with other firms to provide trial and deposition assistance, either on behalf of a separate co-party or as co-counsel, and often serves as local counsel. O’Connor and Associates prides itself on being cooperative, responsive, and efficient.

**O’Connor and Associates**

**Massachusetts**

**Boston**

**Berluti McLaughlin & Kutchin LLP**

Berluti McLaughlin & Kutchin LLP is a multi-disciplinary law firm that specializes in trial advocacy, business law, corporate transactions, commercial and real estate finance, and sophisticated estate planning.

Robert Berlutipractices all aspects of complex civil litigation. He advises clients in all aspects of business disputes, including shareholder, valuation, derivative actions, individual and class action wage and hour cases, trade secrets, intellectual property, non-compete and non-solicitation agreements, employment law, contract, real estate, and construction disputes. Mr. Berluti has tried cases in state and federal courts in Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, and New Hampshire, as well as state and federal administrative agencies, including FINRA and the Internal Revenue Service.

Edward D. Kutchin has a practice that focuses on the areas of corporate transactions, complex business litigation, and commercial finance. Prior to joining the firm, he was a founding partner of Kutchin & Rufo, P.C., a firm that specialized in corporate law, complex commercial litigation, commercial finance, and real estate law. Drawing on his background as a corporate attorney, Mr. Kutchin’s practice also involves the litigation of a wide variety of disputes in federal and state court, including breach of contract, business tort, securities fraud, real estate-related disputes, and employment matters for clients across a diverse spectrum of industries.

Berluti McLaughlin & Kutchin LLP is a multi-disciplinary law firm that specializes in trial advocacy, business law, corporate transactions, commercial and real estate finance, and sophisticated estate planning.

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