



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™.

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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



WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON

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.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Corey R. Chivers is a partner in Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP's Capital Markets practice. He has represented corporations, investment banks, national governments and multinational financial institutions in a wide range of public and private securities offerings, including initial public offerings, major high-yield transactions and investment grade debt offerings.

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CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES, SAN BERNARDINO

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 I 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 I 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 Tom 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, John Girardi, David Bigelow, Keith Griffin, John Courtney and Andre Rekte 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 Tom 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 I Keese has set the standard for excellence in law practice.

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