



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"



## WOMEN LEADERS IN LAW

### DC WASHINGTON

#### RACHEL TRINDER

**R**achel Trinder has over three decades of experience as an aviation and aerospace advocate in Washington, DC, advising airports, air carriers, helicopter operators, financial institutions, governments, civil aviation authorities, manufacturers, suppliers, and other entities on an extensive range of domestic and international aviation and aerospace matters. She is a national and international leader in her field, with a very strong record of positive results for her clients.

Rachel has extensive, in-depth experience in the regulatory, government affairs, commercial and legislative issues affecting the aviation and aerospace industries, including a broad range of matters before the U.S. Departments of Transportation, State and Commerce, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This includes airport and air carrier licensing and operations matters, air services development and proceedings, international bilateral agreements, FAA audits, and airport facilitation.

Born in Africa and educated in the U.K. and the U.S., with law degrees from Oxford University and the University of Virginia, Rachel's primary focus is on highly focused strategic thinking, problem solving and advocacy. She believes in a personalized, hands-on approach that involves analyzing client needs and concerns, and developing a plan designed to achieve a successful result as speedily and cost effectively as possible. This may involve addressing issues at the Federal agency or congressional level, or the solution may be commercial, operational, transactional, or based on a combination of approaches, including mediation, arbitration and/or litigation. Rachel has extensive experience in all these disciplines, including in the international arena. She brings to the table a deep well of knowledge about the aviation and aerospace industries that enables her to bring critical perspective to any problem.



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**CALIFORNIA** | SAN FRANCISCO

## MARY ALEXANDER

**M**ary Alexander was recognized as one of the Top 100 Attorneys in California in 2019 as a result of obtaining some of the largest verdicts and settlements in the state. Two such cases include:

**\$305 Million Settlement in Lead Paint Case - The People of the State of California v. ConAgra Grocery Products et al**

Mary Alexander was a lead attorney working tirelessly to negotiate a \$305 million settlement on behalf of ten California counties against several paint companies involved in the nearly 20-year lawsuit over lead paint in California. Ms. Alexander worked on this case for its entirety with the settlement ending two decades of litigation, which included a \$1.15 billion bench verdict. The lawsuit was initially filed in 2000, and soon 10 California local governments joined in bringing a “public nuisance” suit against the companies that once sold lead paint, arguing that lead is a proven toxin causing brain damage in children. The suit sought to hold the paint companies responsible to pay for the cleanup. A trial court in Santa Clara County agreed, ordering the companies to pay more than a billion dollars for the cleanup; subsequent appeal court rulings limited their liability to homes built before 1951. In San Francisco alone, over two thirds (68 percent) of homes were built before 1951, which is more than 235,000 residential units.

**\$21.4 Million Jury Verdict in Benzene Case - The case is Regina Eaves et al. v. Ashland Inc., et al., Contra Costa Superior Court Case No. C16-00815.**

Mary Alexander obtained a \$21.4 million jury verdict on behalf of the families of two brothers who died of cancer as a result of their exposure to the known cancer-causing chemical benzene. The trial lasted over four weeks with the jury deliberating for roughly 3 days. The families of Gary Eaves and his brother Randy Eaves filed a lawsuit against Union Oil which made the benzene-containing rubber solvent the brothers regularly worked with at their jobs in a tire manufacturing plant. The brothers were longtime employees of the plant and exposed to large amounts of benzene in their work. Gary was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma in June of 2013 at the age of just 59. Randy was diagnosed with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia in June of 2016 also at the age of 59. Union Oil was accused of failing to warn Gary or Randy of the potential dangers of benzene exposure. The jury sided with the plaintiffs who contended the oil company knew the solvents they sold contained benzene.



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**TEXAS** DALLAS**MELISSA DORMAN MATTHEWS**

**M**elissa is the firm's Diversity and Inclusion Partner, and represents clients in professional liability, product liability, employment, personal injury, construction, commercial litigation and premises liability matters. She is Texas counsel for a drug and medical device manufacturer, and serves other clients as local counsel in Texas state and federal courts as well. She has extensive experience representing a broad spectrum of industries and clients in attorney-client disputes, business and employment disputes, personal injury cases, and product defect cases. Melissa has gained extensive first-chair trial experience over her 25 years of practice, and has tried cases all over Texas and beyond. She has always been a champion of retaining and promoting women in law, and is spearheading the firm's diversity and inclusion program by focusing the firm's efforts on hiring, training, and retention initiatives.

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**TEXAS** DALLAS - HOUSTON**PATRICIA KAY DUBE****GENERAL CIVIL LITIGATION AND INSURANCE MATTERS**

**P**atricia Kay Dube has 41 years of experience in handling general civil complex litigation in federal and states courts and arbitration proceedings in areas that include commercial litigation, products liability, construction defect, professional malpractice, employment disputes, maritime and transportation, insurance disputes and subrogation litigation. Her practice includes handling of excess and reinsurance matters, negotiation of insurance contracts and manuscript provisions, negotiating complex cost sharing agreements, and related insurance matters on a domestic and international basis. She has experience in the London market and has represented foreign underwriters in evaluation and supervision of product liability claims of recognized international corporations throughout the world. In addition, Ms. Dube is a certified Mediator with certifications from the Harvard Law School Program on Negotiations and the A.A. White School of Alternative Dispute Resolution – University of Houston Law Center. She is also a member of the Texas Bar College.

Ms. Dube has consistently been rated AV Preeminent – Peer Review by Martindale-Hubbell for ethical standards legal ability since 1986. She has been a member of the Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers for over 15 years. Ms. Dube received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1972, a Master of Arts Degree from Sam Houston University in 1973, and earned her J. D. from South Texas College of Law in 1979, where she was assistant editor of Law Review.

Ms. Dube currently practices throughout the state of Texas with the firm of Burt Barr & Associates, LLP out of the firm's offices in Dallas and Houston, Texas.

**PATRICIA KAY DUBE, P.C.**

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**BURT BARR  
& ASSOCIATES, LLP.**





## FLORIDA MIAMI

## MELINDA S. GENTILE

Melinda ("Mindy") S. Gentile is a partner in the Miami office of Peckar & Abramson, P.C., one of the nation's largest construction law firms. As a Florida Bar Board Certified Construction Law Specialist, she has developed an expertise in all aspects of construction law and dispute resolution. With more than 35 years of experience, Mindy offers a deep understanding of the project development and construction lifecycle and possesses an exceptional expertise in avoiding and resolving disputes. Her representation begins at the earliest stages of negotiation and preparation of contract documents and continues through the construction process and any disputes that may arise. Her clients include some of the nation's most notable general contractors, construction managers, trade contractors, owners/developers and surety bonding companies.

Mindy began her career as something of a rarity—a woman in the male-dominated field of construction law and the building and infrastructure industry more broadly. While meeting the challenges associated with this, she works diligently to engage with clients and educate them about best legal and business practices in the construction industry. Mindy endeavors to identify and resolve disputes early in the contracting and construction process in an effort to avoid litigation and facilitate the delivery of projects on-time and on-budget. When dispute resolution cannot be achieved, she vigorously represents her clients in proceedings before state and federal courts, and in arbitration, mediation, administrative proceedings and private negotiations.

Mindy has received numerous accolades including a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section of The Florida Bar; Best Lawyers In America for Construction; Florida Super Lawyers for Construction Litigation; Chambers USA Band 2 Ranking in Construction Law; Legal 500 United States Leading Lawyer in Construction; and a Martindale-Hubbell "AV Preeminent" rating.



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## OKLAHOMA OKLAHOMA CITY

## SARAH LEE GOSSETT PARRISH, ESQ.

Sarah Lee Gossett Parrish is a third generation attorney. She has achieved Martindale-Hubbell's highest AV Preeminent™ rating for peer and judicial review, and has been selected to the Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers™. Ms. Parrish was named one of the National Law Journal's 2019 Cannabis Trailblazers, and she maintains a business litigation practice with a concentration in Oklahoma's cannabis industry, and is also admitted to practice in Texas. Her clients include cannabis dispensaries, cultivators, processors, and ancillary businesses. She also maintains an Oil & Gas Practice and handles all facets of Civil Litigation. She is a member of the American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, International Cannabis Bar Association, National Cannabis Industry Association, NORML, the Oklahoma Cannabis Industry Association, and the Oklahoma Women Cann Association.

Ms. Parrish received her B.A. in Letters from the University of Oklahoma, Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude, where she was a Rhodes Scholarship Nominee Gulf Region Finalist and was awarded the Silver Letzeiser Medal for Outstanding Senior. She served as Chairman of the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women and was instrumental in creating the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame.

Ms. Parrish served as a law clerk for the Hon. Lee R. West, U.S. District Court for the W.D. of Oklahoma; the Hon. William J. Holloway, Jr., U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit; and staff lawyer for Justice James R. Winchester, Oklahoma Supreme Court. Active in her community, she was elected President of the Oklahoma City Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa and President of the Oklahoma City Pi Beta Phi Alumna Club. She is also a Sustaining Member of the Oklahoma City Junior League. Her legal thriller, *Guilt of Innocence*, placed second in the New York Law Journal's 2006 national fiction contest, and she has exhibited her fine art photography ([www.slgparrish.com](http://www.slgparrish.com)) at Art San Diego and SPECTRUM Miami.

## SARAH LEE GOSSETT PARRISH, PLLC

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## WOMEN LEADERS IN LAW



## MARYLAND BALTIMORE

## TERESA D. TEARE

**T**eresa D. Teare is a Partner at the employment boutique law firm of Shawe Rosenthal LLP. Teresa advises clients in all aspects of employment law and employment-related litigation. Teresa represents clients from a broad range of industries including publicly traded companies, non-profits, educational institutions, manufacturers, contractors, and insurance companies, serving as a trusted advisor to her clients as they navigate complex employment issues. She has extensive experience advising employers about obligations under federal, state and local laws and regulations which affect the workplace, and her goal in providing advice is to ensure that her clients avoid legal claims and potential liability exposure. In the event that her clients face claims through the administrative process or in court, Teresa's clients rely on her for vigorous defense of their position. Teresa is an experienced litigator who handles employment-related claims, including discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wrongful termination, wage and hour violations, including collective actions, and enforceability of not-to-compete covenants. In recognition of her litigation experience, Teresa was honored by Best Lawyers of America as "Lawyer of the Year - Litigation, Labor and Employment Law" for the Baltimore region for 2020. She was also selected by The Daily Record as a "Leading Woman" in Maryland in 2016. Teresa is active in her State Bar Association's Labor and Employment Council, where she currently serves as Secretary. Teresa is admitted to practice in Maryland and the District of Columbia, and has been awarded the highest possible AV Preeminent rating in legal ability and ethical standards.



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## OHIO BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

## KIMBERLY RATHBONE

**A**ward-winning Rathbone Group, LLC focuses on insurance subrogation law across the entire country, Canada, and the US Islands, largely on a contingency fee basis. This high volume practice employs a team of licensed claims adjusters that often resolve claims pre-suit, as well as attorneys in house and a network of counsel that advocate for the clients during litigation and post-judgment.

Kimberly Rathbone is the Managing Partner and one of the founding partners of the firm. She has achieved national recognition while practicing all types of insurance subrogation throughout her entire legal career. Her responsibilities include supporting the firm's clients through quality assurance, process creation, data analysis and problem solving to provide innovative solutions to further the clients' goals. Kim also develops creative business and client development strategies for the long-term success of the firm.

The firm's clients include large and small insurance carriers and self-insured companies. In addition to claims litigation and management, RG supports its clients through robust subrogation educational programming, including YouTube and podcast channels, continuing education classes, webinars and speaking engagements.



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## CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES

## GINGER PIGOTT

**A**seasoned product liability litigator, Ginger Pigott handles high-stakes, complex litigation matters primarily for manufacturers of medical devices and other pharmaceutical, life sciences, and health care products. Ginger has served as national and regional counsel for clients involved in single-plaintiff cases, class actions, and multi-district litigation. Ginger also serves as a consultant and trusted advisor to manufacturers and life sciences companies, providing risk assessment analyses and helping to reduce and mitigate the risk of litigation. She regularly seeks to negotiate early resolution opportunities through alternative dispute resolution and dispositive motions. Ginger is known for developing innovative strategies for her clients to achieve both litigation and business goals.

Ginger is Vice Chair of Greenberg Traurig's Pharmaceutical, Medical Device & Health Care Litigation Practice and helps lead the over 80-attorney team which *The American Lawyer* named 2018 "Product Liability Litigation Department of the Year." Ginger has been recognized as a "Life Sciences Star" by LMG Life Sciences and listed in *The International Who's Who of Product Liability Defense Lawyers*, *The Legal 500 United States*, and *Chambers USA*, including the *Chambers USA* "Women in Law Awards."

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## PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

## 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 40 years in this field, she is consistently recognized by her clients and peers as one of the best lawyers in the country.

Ms. Nast serves as Lead and Liaison Counsel in the Generic Drug Price Fixing cases, one of the largest MDLs in the country. In addition to many other court-appointed leadership roles, Ms. Nast has received a Distinguished Leader Award from The Legal Intelligencer and 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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## COLORADO DENVER

## KRISTI ANDERSON WELLS

Kristi Anderson Wells is the founder and managing shareholder of Wells Family Law, PC. Ms. Wells specializes in complex dissolution of marriage actions with a focus on stock rights, non-qualified executive compensation, trust issues, and closely-held businesses. Ms. Wells recently authored *The Executive Compensation Handbook: Stock Option Awards, Restricted Stock Grants, Cash Bonuses, Incentives and Other Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation in Divorce* for the American Bar Association. Ms. Wells has an LL.M. in taxation, as well as years of experience in her former practice advising executives of Fortune 500 companies as a benefits attorney, which informs her family law practice. She speaks regularly on stock and tax issues in divorce. She is also the immediate past president of Colorado Collaborative Divorce Professionals. A skilled litigator, mediator and collaborator, Ms. Wells is committed to guiding families through the divorce process by providing innovative and creative solutions to complex problems. In addition, Ms. Wells has been recognized as a Colorado Super Lawyer, a Top 50 Women Colorado Super Lawyer, and is a Martindale Hubbell AV Preeminent rated lawyer.



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## CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES

## THERESA A. KRISTOVICH

Theresa Kristovich is a highly experienced trial lawyer. After graduating from Stanford University and Berkeley Law, Theresa clerked for the California Supreme Court and then obtained a Diploma in Law in Criminal Law and Jurisprudence from Oxford University. Theresa developed her trial expertise at the United States Attorney's Office in Los Angeles before entering private practice where she has handled numerous grand jury investigations, criminal trials and appeals, while also handling arbitrations and civil jury trials involving securities, trade secrets, commercial litigation, and employment law in both federal and state court.

Theresa values a collaborative approach to litigation and has extensive management experience. She most recently opened and leads the Los Angeles office of Kabat, Chapman & Ozmer LLC. Previously, Theresa served as Vice-Chair of Litigation of a prominent financial institution services firm and the head of California Litigation for a New York firm. Theresa also served as President of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers (ABTL).



**K|C|O**

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## NEW YORK NEW YORK

## KAREN ARTZ ASH

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND FASHION LAW

Fashion and beauty businesses seek Karen Artz Ash, National Co-Chair of Katten's Intellectual Property Department, because of her unique industry expertise. She also serves as Chairman of VOLS serving indigent New Yorkers and is Chair of Katten's NY Pro Bono Committee. She is an Adjunct Professor at New York Law School, writes a monthly legal column, has contributed to several books on fashion law, served on the Federal Mediation Advisory Committee (SDNY), and is a Court appointed Mediator for the Federal Appellate Courts. She was honored at the New York Law School 2018 Gala and received the Lifetime Achievement Award from MIP Magazine and was recognized in Crain's New York Business 2020 list of Notable Women In Law.



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**GEORGIA** ATLANTA**ALLEGRA LAWRENCE-HARDY**

**A**llegra Lawrence-Hardy is the co-founding partner of Lawrence & Bundy LLC, a commercial litigation firm with a comprehensive breadth of experience representing and advising clients across a wide spectrum of industries. Allegra uses creativity and results-oriented strategic analysis to develop legal solutions that work for her clients. Allegra focuses her practice on Crisis Management Business and Commercial Litigation and Labor and Employment law. She has successfully represented Fortune 100 companies throughout the United States and abroad in numerous trials, arbitrations and other forms of alternative dispute resolution. Allegra is known for her skill in trying cases, negotiating complex settlements conducting culturally sensitive investigations, and finding creative solutions. She helps develop processes and tools for improving the efficiency and delivery of legal services.



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**NEW YORK** NEW YORK**DAVIDA S. PERRY**

**F**or over 30 years, Davida S. Perry, Managing Partner at Schwartz Perry & Heller LLP has been the go-to legal counsel for employees experiencing sexual harassment and other forms of workplace discrimination including age, race, pregnancy, sexual orientation, disability, religion, national origin, gender and gender identity.

Ms. Perry has been a long-time advocate against sexual harassment even before the groundswell of support for the #MeToo Movement began in 2017. She has achieved landmark decisions, namely Thoreson, where the court ruled that sexual harassment can be proven by the victim's testimony alone and Bracker, where the appellate court held that the NYC Human Rights Law was constitutional. This paved the way for victims of discrimination working in NYC to avail themselves of one of the most protective and comprehensive human rights laws in the country.

A ten-time New York SuperLawyers recipient, Ms. Perry's opinions have appeared in national and local publications including Time Magazine, Newsweek, Law 360, Thomson Reuters, CNBC, The Washington Times, New York Daily News, New York Post and The Legislative Gazette.

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**FLORIDA** FORT LAUDERDALE, PALM BEACH**ROSE M. LA FEMINA****TRUSTS & ESTATES**

**R**ose M. La Femina is a Florida Bar Board Certified Wills, Trusts and Estates Attorney who focuses her practice in the areas of estate planning, trust and estate administration, probate and trust litigation, and tax. Rose represents business owners, corporate executives, wealthy individuals and professionals and their families with a wide range of estate planning issues.

Rose also represents individuals and corporate fiduciaries in probate and trust administration and litigation matters, including complicated tax planning available after a decedent's death, settling will and trust disputes and resolving controversies with the Internal Revenue Service. Rose acts as liaison between personal injury and medical malpractice attorneys and their clients in establishing special needs trusts for the supplemental needs of individuals while simultaneously preserving their public benefits eligibility.

She also works with non-traditional couples and families regarding the issues that gay and lesbian couples, as well as other individuals in nontraditional relationships, face including the legal complications associated with living together, adoption and separation.

Rose has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* since 2013 and is rated AV Preeminent<sup>®</sup> by Martindale-Hubbell.


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**TEXAS** HOUSTON**E. MICHELLE BOHREER**

**E**Michelle Bohreer is a founder and the managing partner of Bohreer Law Firm PLLC, an employment defense and commercial litigation boutique. Michelle brings over 30 years' experience and a dynamic relationship approach to her legal practice. Michelle views the job of a lawyer from the perspective of counselor and strategic partner first, and then, after all proactive efforts have been taken to avoid litigation, as an advocate zealously representing the interests of the client. Michelle actively engages in preparing and training on employee policies including discrimination and harassment, providing investigation assistance, and defending charges of discrimination and unemployment claims. Prior to attending law school, Michelle received her CPA license and utilizes those skills in analyzing business issues disputes. Michelle believes that clients should be apprised of changes in the law before the client finds out the hard way. Through e-blast and Facebook updates, Bohreer Law Firm highlights potential "trouble spots". Business and employment negotiations and litigation require a lawyer that understands business. Michelle does. Bohreer Law Firm stands at the intersection of business and law.


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## JACQUELYN H. SAYLOR

**ESTATE PLANNING, TRUSTS & ESTATES, PROBATE LAW**

Jackie Saylor is the Immediate Past Chair of the Estate Planning & Probate Section of the Atlanta Bar Association; she was the 107<sup>th</sup> President of that Bar. Jackie is again a Super Lawyer this year in Estate Planning & Probate and was earlier named to the top 50 Women Super Lawyers List. She serves on the Board of Councilors of the Carter Center. Among Jackie's awards are Outstanding Woman in the Profession and the State Bar of Georgia Community Service Award. Jackie has spoken at a variety of legal seminars and has written numerous articles on estate law and the practice of law. She is co-editor and co-author of *Women and Law: A Guide to Legal Rights in Georgia* which she coordinated while she was Treasurer of the Georgia Commission on Women. Jackie graduated from UGA, UNC with an M.A. and Mercer Law School with a J.D. Jackie's husband and legal partner, Murray Saylor, an Attorney-CPA, Accredited Estate Planner, and Wharton Graduate (B.S., M.S.), is a former President of the American Academy of Attorney-CPAs.



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