

TOP RATED LAWYERS™

2020 EDITION
THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO LEGAL REPRESENTATION



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 JOSE | SAN FRANCISCO | BEVERLY HILLS

DANIEL J. BERGESON

Daniel J. Bergeson is the founding partner of Bergeson, LLP, Silicon Valley's leading business litigation law firm. His expertise encompasses all aspects of complex business litigation and trial work for technology companies and individuals. He represents companies, founders, entrepreneurs, C-level executives, directors, and special committees in high-stakes litigation and investigations. Mr. Bergeson is the past President of the Board of Governors of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers (ABTL), Northern California Chapter and is also a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation (ABF). He is repeatedly in the elite group selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers of America as well as Northern California Super Lawyers, as compiled in Law & Politics Magazine. Mr. Bergeson is listed among Silicon Valley's Top Attorneys in San Jose Magazine, and was recognized as a 2020 California Litigation Star by Benchmark Litigation. He has received the highest peer-review rating for ethical standards and legal ability from Martindale-Hubbell.



BERGESON, LLP

111 N. Market Street, Suite 600 33 New Montgomery Street, Suite 1210 San
San Jose, CA 95113 Francisco, CA 94105
p: 408.291.6200 p: 415.365.9586

9350 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 206
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
p: 310.846.5257

dbergeson@be-law.com • www.be-law.com

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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 intellectual property, 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



201 Mission Street, Suite 710, San Francisco, CA 94105

p: 415.693.9960 | f: 415.692.6537

www.joclaw.com

CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO

MARY ALEXANDER

Mary 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. 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.

Mary Alexander is also liaison council in the headline making Ghost Ship Warehouse fire litigation.

MARY ALEXANDER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

44 Montgomery Street, Suite 1303, San Francisco, CA 94104
Phone: 415.433.4440, Fax: 415.433.5440 • www.maryalexanderlaw.com



TOP RATED LAWYERS

CALIFORNIA OAKLAND | STOCKTON | WALNUT CREEK | MODESTO

VAN BLOIS LAW

For more than 45 years, The Van Blois Law Firm has served as a powerful advocate in Northern California for persons who have been seriously injured, disabled or killed as a result of someone else's wrongdoing. With offices in Oakland, Walnut Creek, Stockton and Modesto, the firm effectively represents persons throughout Northern and Central California as well as the San Francisco Bay Area. The firm's experienced legal team is led by R. Lewis Van Blois, whose more than 150 jury trials in California have earned him a reputation as one of the state's most knowledgeable and revered injury attorneys. Certified as a civil trial specialist by the National Board of Trial Advocacy and the California State Bar for more than 35 years, Mr. Van Blois has achieved millions of dollars in awards and settlements on behalf of clients in various areas of personal injury and wrongful death. He has been selected by Best Lawyers as the Product Liability Litigation-Plaintiffs "Lawyer of the Year" in Oakland, California for 2018 and as the Northern California Lawyer of the Year for Plaintiff Personal Injury Litigation for 2020.

Thomas C. Knowles, who has been practicing in California for more than 40 years and is rated AV Preeminent by Martindale Hubbell, specializes in product liability, construction site accident, and trucking accident cases. His experience as a former defense lawyer representing an auto manufacturer has provided the knowledge to effectively represent injured persons against manufacturers in product liability cases.

The firm's seasoned attorneys have several decades of injury law experience and know how to effectively settle as well as fight and win in court.

7677 Oakport Street, Suite 565, Oakland, California 94621

Phone: 510.635.1284 | Fax: 510.635.1516

Stockton: 209.478.2400 | Walnut Creek: 925.947.1055

www.vanbloislaw.com



R. Lewis Van Blois



Thomas C. Knowles

CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO

STEVEN A. FABBRO

Steven A. Fabbro has over 30 years of experience specializing in personal injury, product liability, traumatic brain injury, premises liability and wrongful death cases involving individuals who have suffered catastrophic, life-changing injuries.

He works with highly experienced forensic experts in the fields of accident reconstruction, economic evaluation, mechanical engineering, medical care and physical rehabilitation to prepare and prove cases on behalf of his clients who are victims of tractor-trailer collisions, construction accidents, automobile accidents, or defective machinery and industrial equipment.

Mr. Fabbro has also handled several large mass tort cases involving hundreds of claims of toxic exposure, contaminated food products, defective medical devices, pharmaceutical products and vaccines, and food supplements.

His client base is comprised of individuals from across the Americas, Asia, and Europe. Mr. Fabbro is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the California Supreme Court, the United States Court of Appeals, the United District Courts for the Northern, Southern and Eastern Districts of California.

Mr. Fabbro accepts cases on a contingency fee basis. Office locations in San Francisco and Modesto serve the San Francisco Bay Area and Central Valley, California.



LAW OFFICES OF STEVEN A. FABBRO
Experience and Proven Results

601 Montgomery Street, Suite 688, San Francisco, CA 94111
p: 415.391.6850 • f: 415.391.6856
www.fabbrolaw.com