



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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## LITIGATION



## TRUST & ESTATE

### CALIFORNIA MOUNTAIN VIEW

#### E. DAVID MARKS

David Marks specializes in litigation and alternative dispute resolution in a variety of real estate and construction matters.

Mr. Marks also uses his experience in construction and real estate law to prepare practical and efficient construction contracts, to review leases and to counsel clients on insurance issues for construction projects. He also assists clients in the purchase and sale of residential property.

##### Professional Background

Mr. Marks joined GCA Law Partners in August 2011. He was previously a partner at Miller Starr Regalia. He has an extensive background in alternative dispute resolution, and currently acts as an arbitrator, mediator and as an Early Neutral Evaluator in Santa Clara County. In May of 2015, he was added to the list of mediators for the California Association of Realtors (C.A.R.) Mediation Panel.

He was the Co-Chair of the Litigation subsection of the Real Estate Section of the California State Bar, is a member of the Santa Clara County Bar Association, participates as an Early Neutral Evaluator for the Santa Clara Superior Court, and is a member of Stanford Professionals in Real Estate (SPIRE). He holds various seminars for Real Estate Agents in Santa Clara County.

He is AV rated by Martindale Hubbell and has been selected as a Super Lawyer in 2011-2013, 2016-2020.

#### GCA LAW PARTNERS LLP

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### SOUTH CAROLINA SURFSIDE BEACH

#### DALTON B. FLOYD JR.

Dalton B. Floyd Jr. - founder of The Floyd Law Firm PC - established 1973 in South Carolina.

A former Assistant Solicitor for Florence County, and Trial & Defense Counsel in the USAF JAG Corps - Dalton Floyd also served as Chairman of the General Practice Section and the Economic & Law Office Management Committee of the SC Bar, has organized three Financial Institutions, and taught "Negotiation 101" at Charleston Law School. His experience with Mediation & Alternative Dispute Resolution, representing plaintiffs and defendants over 50 years, allows his law firm and Floyd Mediation Group, LLC the background to help resolve clients' cases.

Awarded the 2005 "Order of the Palmetto" (SC's highest civilian award) for his service as the Chairman of the SC Higher Education Commission, Mr. Floyd also served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Winthrop University, The SC Higher Education foundation, and currently serves as a Trustee of the Board of Directors at Coastal Carolina University.

The Floyd Law Firm advises clients in a multitude of legal matters, with a proclivity towards helping people develop effective estate plans - including Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney, Revocable Living Trusts, as well as Probate & Estate Administration.



#### THE FLOYD LAW FIRM PC

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## CONSTRUCTION



## MASS TORT

## FLORIDA OPA-LOCKA

## LIDA RODRIGUEZ-TASEFF

Lida Rodriguez-Taseff, Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary for the Opa-locka Community Development Corporation, Inc. (OLCDC), is a Senior Executive with over 25 years of legal experience. She effectively collaborates with leadership and stakeholders on operational transformations, risk avoidance and mitigation, and regulatory challenges.

Ms. Rodriguez-Taseff's distinguished career includes trial law with active courtroom practice at the nation's top AmLaw 100 firms, most recently as a partner with DLA Piper LLP (US) in the firm's Miami office. Substantive areas included real property and construction litigation, business torts, corporate governance, intellectual property, employment, noncompetes and trade secrets, and insurance coverage, with vast experience in project and litigation management and leading cross-functional teams.

Ms. Rodriguez-Taseff graduated from the New York University School of Law as a Root-Tilden-Kern Scholar and recipient of the Vanderbilt Medal, the highest honor bestowed by NYU. She is admitted to practice in New York and Florida.

OLCDC is a dynamic non-profit corporation specializing in the acquisition, development, construction, and management of affordable housing. It deploys its substantial real estate assets in comprehensive and innovative ways, incorporating social services, arts and culture, entrepreneurship, workforce development, and civic engagement.



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## 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 F. 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.

## JAMES F. HUMPHREYS &amp; ASSOCIATES, L.C.

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## BARRY J. MACNAUGHTON

Veteran West Coast real estate and business litigator **Barry J. MacNaughton** has gone the distance to assert his clients' rights throughout his nearly 40-year career. His trial and negotiating skills act together to get his clients the best results.

Recently, MacNaughton secured a more than \$90 million verdict for investors defrauded in their acquisition of a power shopping center where the developer withheld crucial financial information on tenant performance. As lead trial counsel, MacNaughton held the developer accountable through to verdict and secured one of the largest verdicts in Los Angeles County in several years.

MacNaughton's commitment to clients spans a range of business conflicts—from contract disputes, claims involving real estate, construction, employment, trade secrets and unfair competition to corporate governance and litigation arising from corporate acquisitions and divestitures.

Real estate and construction matters are a major emphasis. Working in courts and alternative dispute forums in the West and across the United States, MacNaughton has pursued and defended claims involving construction close out issues, construction defect, environmental liability and specific performance, as well as disputes over real estate partnerships, investor issues and purchases.

MacNaughton has looked to further the legal profession ever since joining the Beverly Hills-based firm in 1982. He was elected the Firm's first managing partner in 2015, and under his leadership, the Firm has grown by 20% and its profits have increased by over 60%. He has guided its expansion in the fields of real estate, manufacturing, distribution, services, technology, digital media and international investment. He's done so while continuing the Firm's emphasis on client service.

MacNaughton earned his J.D., with honors, from the University of Texas and graduated from Trinity University. The *Los Angeles Business Journal* selected him among its 2019 Top Litigators, *The National Law Journal* named him a 2019 Top Rated Lawyer, and he has been recognized by Best Lawyers in America and Southern California Super Lawyers.



## ROBERT M. WAXMAN

Veteran West Coast litigator **Robert M. Waxman** is an aggressive and creative business litigator who is highly sought-after for his expertise in partnership, corporate governance and substantial business tort disputes.

"Clients have called me a 'magician, with approaches that are creative and out of the box,'" says Waxman, who began working at Ervin Cohen & Jessup in the early '80s. "That stems from my dedication to my clients. I put their needs first."

In one such case, Waxman recovered a multimillion-dollar result in high stakes litigation for a substantial U.S.-based company after a significant corporate competitor pulled the plug on a very large business deal.

Also recently, Waxman made new law concerning commercial speech when representing a business that sued a social media giant, where the latter initially prevailed on an anti-SLAPP motion, which was reversed unanimously in a published decision by the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Court of Appeal.

And when a fellow Los Angeles litigator left his job as the head of his firm's litigation department, claiming that his partner status entitled him to dissolve the firm and depart with millions of dollars, Waxman prevailed on two summary judgment motions, finding that the departing individual was not a partner despite firm postings and advertisements to the contrary, nor was he entitled to dissolve the firm, let alone leave with the millions that he sought.

Waxman's areas of practice include general business, commercial and information technology litigation; breach of fiduciary relationships; partnership and shareholder disputes; class action litigation; unfair competition and misappropriation of trade secrets; employment disputes; RICO litigation; computer software and intellectual property litigation; and insurance coverage and bad faith disputes.

Waxman earned his Bachelor's degree *cum laude* from the University of Southern California and his J.D. from the UCLA School of Law. Honors include the American Jurisprudence Award for Conflicts of Law, an AV® Preeminent™ rating by *Martindale-Hubbell*, and being named a 2020 Top Rated Lawyer by *The National Law Journal* and a 2012 Southern California Top Rated Lawyer by *American Lawyer Media*.



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