



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"



ELITE LAWYERS OF THE SOUTH

ALABAMA HUNTSVILLE

MITCHELL J. HOWIE

The Law Office of Mitchell J. Howie & Associates, P.L.L.C. has been serving clients since 2004 with effective and skilled legal representation. Mr. Howie is a skilled criminal defense lawyer, personal injury lawyer, business lawyer and family lawyer who gets the best possible results for his clients and teaches trial advocacy worldwide for the military.

From 2017 to 2022, Mitchell J. Howie was selected as an esteemed lawyer of America, as a Lawyer of Distinction, and one of the Best Attorneys in America. Between 2015-2022, Huntsville Attorney Mitchell Howie was selected as a member of the Nation's Top One Percent of attorneys by the National Association of Distinguished Counsel. One of the best family lawyers in Huntsville, he was recognized as Top 10 under 40 of Alabama Family Lawyers by the National Academy of Family Law Attorneys. Between 2014-2022 Attorney Mitchell Howie was recognized as one of the Top 100 lawyers by the National Trial Lawyers (NTL). Between 2014 until 2020, Mr. Howie was recognized as one of the Top 40 Lawyers Under 40 by NTL and as one of the TOP TEN Criminal Defense attorneys in Alabama under 40 by the National Academy of Criminal Defense Attorneys.



THE LAW OFFICE OF MITCHELL J. HOWIE & ASSOCIATES, P.L.L.C.

102 South Side Square, Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Phone: 256.533.8074 | Fax: 256.489.7520 | info@mitchellhowie.com | www.mitchellhowie.com

LOUISIANA

ALEXANDRIA

RICHARD J. ARSENAULT

The Wall Street Journal has described Arsenault as having “national notoriety,” BusinessWeek described him as “a Dean of the Louisiana Tort Bar,” and The New York Times described him as one of the “big players” in the legal community. Arsenault has been an invited lecturer at various law schools including Baylor, Duke, Emory, University of Texas, Tulane, George Washington and LSU where he served on the Trial Advocacy faculty. He has been involved in over 25 Multidistrict Litigation proceedings, often serving in leadership capacities. He served as Lead Counsel in the Actos MDL where a jury rendered a \$9 billion verdict. He subsequently served on the negotiating team that secured a \$2.4 billion settlement, which is the largest single mass tort settlement for a drug that is still on the market. He was also appointed to the Pinnacle MDL Executive Committee and was a trial team member where three Bellwether trials resulted in \$502 million, \$1 billion and \$247 million verdicts. Arsenault is listed in the Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers as well as The Best Lawyers in America and has an AV Martindale-Hubbell rating. He has been recognized as one of America’s 50 Most Influential Trial Lawyers by Trial Lawyer magazine, nominated for the Trial Lawyer of the Year Award by the Public Justice Foundation, and recognized by the National Law Journal as one of America’s Elite Trial Lawyers. Arsenault will become one of the first practitioners in the nation to become Board Certified in Complex Litigation. The Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice appointed Arsenault to serve on the Rules of Professional Conduct Class Action, Bench Book, and State MDL Exploratory Committees.



NEBLETT, BEARD & ARSENAULT

2220 Bonaventure Ct, Alexandria, LA 71301

Ph: 318.561.2500 | rarsenault@nbalelawfirm.com | www.nbalelawfirm.com

SOUTH CAROLINA**CHARLESTON**

JIM BUXTON

James T. H. Buxton, Sr. is the founding partner of Buxton & Collie, LLC, a transactional law firm in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. A native of Charleston, Jim graduated from Princeton University and the University of South Carolina School of Law. Jim has served on the South Carolina Bar's Judicial Qualification Commission, and currently serves as The Vice Chair for the South Carolina Bar's Corporate, Banking and Securities Committee. Along with his law partners, he is a co-author of the 2018 SC Bar publication, *South Carolina Business Law Handbook*.



Jim's practice focuses on private securities offerings, business purchase and sale agreements, and deal work involving high net worth individuals and family office clients who engage in private equity transactions. Buxton & Collie also serves as outside corporate counsel for middle market companies and small businesses, including closely held family businesses in a variety of market segments.

Jim is active in the Charleston community, volunteering his time on several boards and foundations. He lives in Mount Pleasant with his wife, Courtney, and their two sons.

BUXTON & COLLIE, LLC

940 Johnnie Dodds Boulevard, Suite 100, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

Phone: 843.606.2397 | Fax: 843.284.8917

jbuxton@buxtonandcollie.com | www.buxtonandcollie.com