

THE NEW YORK AREA'S BEST LAWYERS®

THE GUIDE TO THE TOP ATTORNEYS
IN NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY AND CONNECTICUT

All individuals—from CEOs to brand new college graduates—have a need for highly trained advisors at some point in their life; whether it's planning for life's long-anticipated transitions or responding to unforeseen events; estate planning; incorporating a business; real estate issues—all require top notch legal advice and guidance. You may also face a sudden, life-changing event which you don't have the luxury of time. Perhaps you or a family member is involved in an accident or accused of a crime. These are all serious matters for which you need first-rate legal representation.

You want an advisor who listens to and understands you, who provides you with the best guidance and advice possible. You need a lawyer who is competent, smart, caring, and hardworking—a trusted counselor who is ethical and has earned the respect of his or her peers. *The New York Area's Best Lawyers®* helps take the mystery out of locating a high-quality advocate to protect you, your family, your business and all of your assets.

The exceptional attorneys listed in this guide are only those attorneys who have been selected by their peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America®*. These attorneys were nominated by and voted in by their peers. Lawyers can not buy their way into this guide. They must earn a spot through exemplary legal work that attracts and maintains the notice of their colleagues. To remain on the list, they must be at the top of their game, year after year. *Best Lawyers*, the leading referral list in the legal profession, and Incisive Media have teamed up to provide this invaluable resource for readers, whatever your legal needs might be.

Lawyers in this guide are arranged by their legal specialty—from Administrative Law to Workers' Compensation Law—which makes this guide a user-friendly resource to find the professional advice you need. Whether you're starting a business or selling one; getting married or getting divorced; patenting your invention; litigating a contract; or buying a home—you can find a talented and highly competent attorney in here who can help.

Make sure to keep this important guide around for reference. The lawyers inside *The New York Area's Best Lawyers®* are always eager to help.

METHODOLOGY

This list is excerpted from the 2009 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America®*, the preeminent referral guide to the legal profession in the United States. Published for more than a quarter of a century, *Best Lawyers®* lists attorneys in 78 specialties, representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia, who have been chosen through an exhaustive survey in which thousands of the nation's top lawyers confidentially evaluate their professional peers. The 2009 edition of *Best Lawyers*, which was published in November 2008, is based on more than 2.4 million evaluations of lawyers by other lawyers.

The method used to compile *Best Lawyers* remains unchanged since the first edition was compiled more than 25 years ago. Lawyers are chosen for inclusion based solely on a vote of their peers. Listings cannot be bought, and no purchase is required to be included. In this regard, *Best Lawyers* remains the gold standard of reliability and integrity in lawyer ratings.

The nomination pool for the 2009 edition consisted of all lawyers whose names appeared in the previous edition of *Best Lawyers*, lawyers who were nominated since the previous survey, and new nominees solicited from listed attorneys. In general, lawyers were asked to vote only on nominees in their own specialty in their own jurisdiction. Lawyers in closely related specialties were asked to vote across specialties, as were lawyers in smaller jurisdictions. Where specialties are national or international in nature, lawyers were asked to vote nationally as well as locally. Voting lawyers were also given an opportunity to offer more detailed comments on nominees. Each year, half of the voting pool receives fax or email ballots; the other half is polled by phone.

Voting lawyers were provided this general guideline for determining if a nominee should be listed among "the best": "If you had a close friend or relative who needed a real estate lawyer (for example), and you could not handle the case yourself, to whom would you refer them?" All votes and comments were solicited with a guarantee of confidentiality—a critical factor in the viability and validity of *Best Lawyers* surveys. To ensure the rigor of the selection process, lawyers were urged to use only their highest standards when voting, and to evaluate each nominee based only on his or her individual merits. The additional comments were used to make more accurate comparisons between voting patterns and weight votes accordingly. *Best Lawyers* uses various methodological tools to identify and correct for anomalies in both the nomination and voting process.

Ultimately, of course, a lawyer's inclusion is based on the subjective judgments of his or her fellow attorneys. While it is true that the lists may at times disproportionately reward visibility or popularity, the breadth of the survey, the candor of the respondents, and the sophistication of the polling methodology largely correct for any biases.

For all these reasons, *Best Lawyers* lists continue to represent the most reliable, accurate and useful guide to the legal profession in the United States.

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"THE RELIEF
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Jeff Korek

G E R S O W I T Z L I B O & K O R E K

Having grown up surrounded by the very industries he now works to protect individuals from, Jeff Korek, a partner in the personal injury/medical malpractice firm Gersowitz, Libo & Korek, P.C., takes special pride in making sure that reckless companies are held accountable for their negligence. Such was the case in his most recent representation of the estate of a construction worker who was killed while working on a construction job leaving behind eight children. "You go full circle. You start off as a kid from Brooklyn in the construction business, and then 25 years later, you're representing people who are getting hurt on construction sites," Mr. Korek says.

AFTER SPENDING SEVERAL YEARS working at a defense firm representing hospitals, physicians and construction firms, Mr. Korek began to realize the greater good that could be brought about by using his courtroom abilities. He rechanneled his skills into helping people in need of a passionate lawyer who cared about their situation. He hasn't looked back since.

NOW, YEARS LATER, MR. KOREK has helped countless victims, including the son of a prominent judge who developed a complicated medical course following his bout with leukemia. Mr. Korek was able to obtain a multi-million dollar settlement for the young gentleman during trial despite daunting odds. Mr. Korek was also instrumental in the \$7.7 million dollar settlement of another medical malpractice case, the highest pre-verdict settlement ever awarded in Morris County, New Jersey. Mr. Korek's confidence in his courtroom skills and ability to deliver results, combined with his adversaries' recognition of such, was a driving force behind the award.

OUTSIDE THE WALLS OF THE COURTROOM, Mr. Korek recently finished his term as the youngest President of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association. During his term, he successfully guided the organization through a challenging year that saw both the downfall of Governor Spitzer, and the changing of the guard between Senator Joe Bruno and Senate Majority Leader Skelos. Looking

behind the curtain of the laws that guide his successful practice, Mr. Korek now intends to focus his attention on his concerns about tort reform, and its potential to strip away the already limited rights of so many patients and victims.

"**WHILE THE EFFECTS** of what can be done in the legislature are frustratingly slow, the relief that you can give someone in the courtroom is more than satisfying," he says.

FIRM FACT:

Mr. Korek was involved in the recent obtainment of a \$14 million settlement for a young woman injured in a motor vehicle bus accident, who later became the subject of the HBO special *Coma*.

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