

THE NEW YORK AREA'S BEST LAWYERS®

2009 EDITION

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO LEGAL
REPRESENTATION IN NEW YORK,
NEW JERSEY & CONNECTICUT

WHO ARE THE LAWYERS OF THE YEAR?

GAIR, GAIR, CONASON, STEIGMAN & MACKAUF



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 NEW YORK AREA'S
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Seymour
Boyers

Anthony
Gair

Jeffrey
Bloom

Howard
Hershenhorn

Ernest
Steigman

Ben
Rubinowitz

Robert L.
Conason

Stephen
Mackauf

"THE PRIVILEGE OF REPRESENTING SERIOUSLY INJURED CLAIMANTS AND HELPING THEM LEAD A LIFE OF DIGNITY AND FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE IS THE HIGHEST REWARD A TRIAL LAWYER CAN RECEIVE."

Dedication, sensitivity, and a commitment to personal service define the law firm of Gair, Gair, Conason, Steigman & Mackauf (GGCS&M). Founded in 1920, GGCS&M has long been the premier firm for serious personal injury, wrongful death, and medical malpractice cases. GGCS&M's decades of achievement are due to its selectivity, structure, and aggressive trial preparation. Eight of Gair, Gair, Conason, Steigman & Mackauf's partners have been selected by their peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*®: Robert L. Conason, Stephen Mackauf, Ben Rubinowitz, Jeffrey Bloom, Anthony Gair, Ernest Steigman, Howard Hershenhorn, and Seymour Boyers. Each of these eight has achieved multiple multimillion-dollar awards.

GGCS&M'S 20 ATTORNEYS TYPICALLY HANDLE no more than 80 cases per year, enabling the firm to focus on the most significant cases, from automobile accidents and medical malpractice cases to complex product liability matters and construction accidents. This selectivity allows the firm to devote the time and resources needed to win, whether through hiring the best experts or investing in sophisticated courtroom technology. "Our unique combination of legal and medical expertise and aggressive trial skills gives our clients unparalleled high-quality personal service and representation," says Mr. Rubinowitz. "No one fights for you like we do."

GGCS&M REALIZES THAT WHILE MONETARY SETTLEMENTS and verdicts cannot replace what has been lost by personal injury or death, they can provide the means for securing medical treatment and for rebuilding and easing the lives of its clients and their families. "The privilege of representing seriously injured claimants and helping them lead a life of dignity and financial independence is the highest reward a trial lawyer can receive," says Mr. Conason.

IN THE LAST 10 YEARS, THE FIRM HAS ACHIEVED compensation by verdict or settlement exceeding \$1 million in more than 300 cases. Some of the firm's most notable verdicts and settlements include \$103 million for a child with brain damage sustained at birth, \$26 million for a pedestrian struck by a truck, \$90 million for a child with cerebral palsy resulting from injuries sustained at birth, \$17 million to a young man disabled after a failed diagnosis of an anatomic anomaly, \$16 million for a construction worker that fell 23 feet from a scaffold, and \$14 million on behalf of tenants injured when a pipe exploded due to the negligence of Con Edison.

WIDELY RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR KNOWLEDGE and expertise, the firm's partners continue to counsel the profession and lecture on all aspects of tort and personal injury law. Many partners also write practical and scholarly books and articles for the legal community and are regularly asked to chair programs and participate in seminars, continuing legal education classes, and conferences held by bar associations.

BASED IN DOWNTOWN MANHATTAN, the firm handles cases throughout New York State and New Jersey.

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