



..... *Savannah's* .....

# LEADING LAWYERS

.....

We've come a long way since General Oglethorpe famously outlawed attorneys. The Savannah Bar boasts more than 400 members—and many of them are truly outstanding. The attorneys on this list were handpicked by a jury of their peers and vetted with the Georgia Bar Association. Keep this local resource for when you need it most.



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## METHODOLOGY FOR BEST LAWYERS®

This list is excerpted from the 2015 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*, the pre-eminent referral guide to the legal profession in the United States. Published since 1983, *Best Lawyers* lists attorneys in 137 specialties, representing all 50 states, who have been chosen through an exhaustive survey in which thousands of the nation's top lawyers confidentially evaluate their professional peers. The 2015 edition of *Best Lawyers* is based on more than 5.5 million evaluations of lawyers by other lawyers.

The method used to compile *Best Lawyers* remains unchanged since the first edition was compiled more than 30 years ago. Lawyers are chosen for inclusion based solely on the 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 2015 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 best lawyers in the United States available anywhere. *Best Lawyers* lists are available at [www.bestlawyers.com](http://www.bestlawyers.com). "Best Lawyers" and "The Best Lawyers in America" are registered trademarks of Woodward/White Inc.

\* **Lawyers of the Year:** Members of the Best Lawyers list who received the highest votes in their practice area.



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\* **Lawyers of the Year:** Members of the Best Lawyers list who received the highest votes in their practice area.