# CURRENT RECOGNIZED LAWYERS

## Lewitt Hackman

*The Best Lawyers in America (2023 Edition)*

*Historical data presented can include recognition years for practice areas that are no longer active or have changed names. If you have questions about past recognitions, please contact our team.*

### Encino, CA

**Sue M. Bendavid - Recognized in Best Lawyers since 2019**

First year recognized in Employment Law - Management: 2019

First year recognized in Litigation - Labor and Employment: 2023

**Lynn Soodik - Recognized in Best Lawyers since 2018**

First year recognized in Family Law: 2018

**David C. Gurnick - Recognized in Best Lawyers since 2008**

First year recognized in Franchise Law: 2008

**Barry Kurtz - Recognized in Best Lawyers since 2023**

First year recognized in Franchise Law: 2023

**Jeffrey A. Kobulnick - Recognized in Best Lawyers since 2018**

First year recognized in Litigation - Intellectual Property: 2018

First year recognized in Trademark Law: 2019

**Andrew L. Shapiro - Recognized in Best Lawyers since 2018**

First year recognized in Personal Injury Litigation - Plaintiffs: 2018

**Michael Hackman - Recognized in Best Lawyers since 2019**

First year recognized in Tax Law: 2019

**Kira S. Masteller - Recognized in Best Lawyers since 2018**

First year recognized in Trusts and Estates: 2018

# CURRENT RECOGNIZED LAWYERS

## Lewitt Hackman

*The Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch (2023 Edition)*

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### Encino, CA

**Jessica Rosen - Recognized in Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch since 2023**

First year recognized in Labor and Employment Law - Management: 2023

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# Best Lawyers
# Methodology

Recognition by Best Lawyers is based entirely on peer review. Our methodology is designed to capture, as accurately as possible, the consensus opinion of leading lawyers about the professional abilities of their colleagues within the same geographical region and legal practice area. Best Lawyers employs a sophisticated, conscientious, rational and transparent survey process designed to elicit meaningful and substantive evaluations of the quality of legal services. Our belief has always been that the quality of a peer-review survey is directly related to the quality of its voting pool.

## 1 Nomination

Nominations are open to anyone. Our primary sources for nominations are clients, other lawyers and marketing teams.

## 2 Peer-Review Voting

Ballots are generated and distributed to listed lawyers. They are designed based on the voter's practice area(s) and geographic region.

## 3 Analysis of Feedback

Best Lawyers asks voters the question: "If you were unable to take a case yourself, how likely would you be to refer it to this nominee?" Nominees are given a 1-5 rating, with room to leave additional comments.

## 4 Eligibility Check

The Best Lawyers research staff reviews the votes and comments. Selected lawyers are checked against state bar association sanction lists to make sure they are in good standing with the ethics committee of their state bar.

## 5 Announcement

Recognized lawyers are notified of inclusion and the list is released to the public.

To submit nominations, please visit www.bestlawyers.com/nominate or email nominations@bestlawyers.com. For additional information concerning nominations, please contact us at info@bestlawyers.com.

# Best Lawyers

# Expanded Methodology

## Nomination Process:

- Best Lawyers does not accept nominations for in-house lawyers. All candidates must be in private practice.

- Please note that the nominator, or number of nominations received, has no effect on a lawyer's recognition.

- All lawyers in the previous edition of Best Lawyers are automatically nominated into their recognized practice areas for the next peer-review process and must garner enough positive feedback to be highlighted in the next edition.

- While there is no limit to the number of lawyers a firm may nominate, we suggest that nominees be in practice for at least 10 years in order to give them time to build a legal presence in their community and practice areas.

- Anyone can submit a nomination, but we ask that a lawyer not nominate himself or herself.

## Balloting Process

- Because Best Lawyers voters provide peer review within their own geographic region and practice areas lawyers are not allowed to select which nominees (from the entire pool) they want to vote on.

- Ballots are customized by the Best Lawyers research team based on a particular voter's geographic region and practice area(s).

## Voting Process

- "5" is the highest score and indicates that the voter would certainly refer a case to the nominee. "1" is the lowest score and indicates that the voter would definitely not refer a case to the nominee.

- The option to choose "Do Not Know" is also available to voters, which signifies that the voter is not familiar with a particular candidate's work.

- Lawyers are not allowed to vote on themselves. In order to avoid this altogether, we remove a lawyer's name from their own ballot.

## Verification Process

- Contact information for all recognized lawyers is confirmed to ensure accurate information and that clients can reach them.

## Announcement Process

- Lawyers who are recognized in the new edition are alerted via email and hard-copy letter. Marketing departments at firms also receive a complete list of the lawyers from their firm who will be recognized by Best Lawyers.