

{ The Oscars: Who Should Win }

by Steve Erickson

Los Angeles

20
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On Leo, Sex
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TOO OLD
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by Anne Taylor Fleming

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A LOVE COACH
(SERIOUSLY)

FEBRUARY 2009 • \$4.95





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PRACTICE AREAS

- Personal Injury Plaintiff: General
- Personal Injury Plaintiff: Products
- Insurance Coverage

Ronald B. Schwartz is once again recognized in the *California Super Lawyers* list. He also is in the *Best Lawyers in America* and is AV-rated. With primary offices in Newport Beach, he handles a variety of consumer verdicts including victims of drunk drivers. Schwartz is arguing a novel theory of civil conspiracy: arguing that teenagers conspired to party and then drive. The warning label found on infant botulism stating, "Do not feed one year of age" is one of Mr. Schwartz's recent cases. Recently, Schwartz has recovered millions in bad faith actions throughout the state.



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PRACTICE AREAS

- Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Rights
- Real Estate
- Business Litigation

Ethically, lawfully, aggressively, and unsecured and secured commercial debts for 30 years in California are the focal point of Ronald P. Slates' firm in Martindale-Hubbell for 25 years. UCLA (undergraduate and law), and the University of London, in 1975, law practice which utilizes superior technology and techniques to locate and seize debtors' hidden assets in commercial business and real estate (of Attachment and Possession, and where appropriate), and collect judgments.



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PRACTICE AREAS

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Bennett L. Spiegel focuses his practice on the representation of debtors, creditors, creditors' committees, and asset purchasers in corporate restructurings and bankruptcies. AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell, his debtor clients have included a leading Internet network and web-hosting company, a multistate leather-goods retail chain, and a renowned entertainment industry personality. Non-debtor representations have included high-profile performing artists, motion picture production and other media-related companies, and financial institutions. Mr. Spiegel is a graduate of Rutgers College (B.A.), Yale School of Management (MBA), and Yale Law School (J.D.), and is admitted to practice in California, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Washington, D.C.



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PRACTICE AREAS:

- Real Estate Transactions
- Hospitality

Gulwinder (Gullu) Singh is the founder of Landmark Law Group, Inc., a boutique firm specializing in commercial real estate transactions for institutional and entrepreneurial owners of real estate. Landmark Law Group is dedicated to providing the superior quality of legal advice expected from top-tier law firms, with greater client service, efficiency, and value. Gullu has expertise in real estate transactions including acquisitions and dispositions; retail, office, and industrial leasing for landlords and tenants; finance transactions representing both borrowers and lenders; and hotel management agreements. Gullu's clients describe him as pragmatic, deal-oriented, and a creative problem-solver. Prior to founding Landmark Law Group, Gullu worked at two different prestigious national law firms.

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- Business/Corporate
- Business Litigation

Hal Stanton, UCLA Law School Juris Doctorate (1965), Senior Editor of the Law Review. Former California Deputy Attorney General and civil litigator with Loeb & Loeb. Member of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers since 1979, President of the Southern California Chapter (2006) and Dean of its Institute for Trial Advocacy (2005). Hal uses his business law background and negotiating skills to avoid unnecessary litigation and, when necessary, uses his experience and talent to prevail in the courtroom. Hal practices law with his wife and partner, Marian L. Stanton, Esq. Hal has written, produced, and directed *Marriage of Mardel* (a film used at legal seminars) and recently completed his documentary film *The Legend of Bodhidharma* (www.tbfoa.org).

Joe has been handling family law cases for 26 years and is a founding member of McLaughly & Spirito in Torrance, CA. He has continuously maintained an AV rating in Martindale-Hubbell and is listed in the *Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers*, as well as *Who's Who in Executives and Professionals*. Joe has chaired the Family Law Section of the South Bay Bar Association, is currently a Board Member and president-elect of the SBBA, and is Past President of the Palos Verdes CC. He is also one of the founding members and President of A Better Divorce, a collaborative divorce group. Joe has served as Judge Pro Tem and Mediator in the Los Angeles Superior Court and is currently serving on the Executive Committee of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, Family Law Section.

Super Lawyers

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Finding and selecting an attorney can be disquieting to the most sophisticated of consumers. In simpler times, communities were smaller and more close-knit. Community members knew one another well, and the selection of an attorney was based upon personal knowledge and reputation. In today's more complex world of Internet connectivity and vast stores of online data, the consumer is faced with an overwhelming array of information.

In selecting an attorney, gathering and evaluating information relevant to one's circumstances and needs is a daunting task. If you are a consumer in need of an attorney, we believe you will find **Southern California Super Lawyers** a good place to begin your search. But don't base your decision solely on this, or any other source. There are many fine lawyers who may not be included. You need to do your homework. And most importantly, you need to feel comfortable with the person you choose to represent you.

Southern California Super Lawyers
2009

A resource designed to empower and inform consumers of legal services

Pictured on the *Super Lawyers* cover:

Steve Mindel, managing partner of Feinberg, Mindel, Brandt & Klein, first began his family law work in 1991. It was then that he decided to redefine his technique, applying a transactional approach to his cases instead of litigation. The result is a more businesslike, less emotional and less expensive experience for his clients. He is one of the many exceptional lawyers showcased in this *Super Lawyers* special advertising section. PHOTO BY LARRY MARCUS

Law & Politics strictly adheres to a rigorous selection process directed at casting as wide a net as possible, evaluating quality in the most objective possible terms and verifying and validating all data. The only way a lawyer can be listed in *Super Lawyers* magazine is through this selection process. The determination of whether a lawyer will be placed on the *Super Lawyers* list is independent of advertising or any other payments.

No other legal publisher identifies qualified candidates by using a multi-step evaluation process that incorporates peer recognition and professional achievement. Law & Politics uses a system of nominations, peer evaluation and internal research, which acts as a system of checks and balances. The resulting product is a diverse and comprehensive listing of outstanding lawyers.

STEP ONE: CREATION OF THE CANDIDATE POOL SURVEY OF LAWYERS

- ▶ Law & Politics invited Southern California lawyers to participate in the nomination process.
- ▶ Lawyers were asked to nominate the best attorneys they've personally observed in action.
- ▶ Nominees need not be in private practice. Lawyers were able to nominate legal aid attorneys, prosecutors and in-house counsel.
- ▶ Lawyers were able to nominate attorneys in their own firm, but those nominations counted only if each in-firm nomination was matched by at least one out-of-firm nomination.
- ▶ Each nomination carried a point value. An out-of-firm vote had substantially greater point value than an in-firm vote.
- ▶ Lawyers were not allowed to vote for themselves.
- ▶ Utilizing our database, researchers kept track of who voted for whom, a process that helped detect attempts to manipulate the nomination process.

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE SEARCH

- ▶ Law & Politics' research department also searched for outstanding Southern California lawyers by:
 - Reviewing national and local periodicals as well as legal trade journals
 - Searching professional databases and online sources
 - Conducting in-person and telephonic meetings with law firms
- ▶ This step was designed to identify practitioners who may have been missed in the nomination process, particularly highly talented lawyers in specialty areas or those with low-visibility, yet high-quality, practices.

STEP TWO: EVALUATION OF CANDIDATES

- ▶ Law & Politics' research department examined the background and experience of candidates, evaluating indicators of peer recognition and professional achievement.
- ▶ Factors considered in evaluating candidates were:

- Verdicts and settlements	- Position within law firm
- Transactions	- Bar and/or other professional activity
- Representative clients	- Pro bono and community service
- Experience	- Scholarly lectures and writings
- Honors and awards	- Education and employment background
- Special licenses and certifications	- Other outstanding achievements

STEP THREE: PEER EVALUATION BY PRACTICE AREA

- ▶ Those candidates with high point totals from the nomination and qualitative evaluation steps were asked to be on a blue ribbon panel for their practice area.
- ▶ Panelists reviewed and evaluated candidates from their practice area.
- ▶ Panelists added candidates who were then passed along to research for evaluation.

FINAL SELECTION

- ▶ Law & Politics divided candidates according to their firm size: large, medium and small (size categories vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction), and selected those with the highest point totals from each category. Only 5 percent of the total lawyers in Southern California are listed in *Super Lawyers*.

BEFORE PUBLISHING

- ▶ Law & Politics' research staff checked each candidate's standing with the local licensing authority.
- ▶ Candidates were asked to aver that they have not been subject to disciplinary or criminal proceedings, and to confirm the accuracy of contact and practice area information.
- ▶ Final Internet searches were performed on each candidate to ensure there were no outstanding matters that would reflect adversely on the lawyer.

Disclaimer: The information presented in *Super Lawyers* magazine is not legal advice, nor is *Super Lawyers* a legal referral service. We strive to maintain a high degree of accuracy in the information provided, but make no claim, promise or guarantee about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained in this magazine or linked to superlawyers.com and its associated sites. The hiring of an attorney is an important decision that should not be solely based upon advertising or the listings in this magazine. No representation is made that the quality of the legal services performed by the attorneys listed in this magazine will be greater than that of other licensed attorneys. *Super Lawyers* is an independent magazine publisher that has developed its own selection methodology. *Super Lawyers* is not affiliated with any state or regulatory body, and its listings do not certify or designate an attorney as a specialist. State required disclaimers can be found on the respective state pages on superlawyers.com.