



The following section features attorneys who have demonstrated leadership qualities and have achieved the AV Preeminent rating by Martindale-Hubbell®.

Martindale-Hubbell®, the company that has long set the standard for lawyer ratings, has supplied ALM with a list of Top Rated Lawyers who have achieved an AV® Preeminent® Peer Review Rating, the highest rating in legal ability and ethical standards. To create this section, Martindale-Hubbell® tapped its comprehensive database of Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Ratings™ to identify lawyers who have been rated by their peers to be AV® Preeminent™.

Martindale Hubbell Peer Review Ratings are driven by the confidential opinions of lawyers and members of the judiciary who receive invitations from Martindale-Hubbell®, via an online survey or by mail, to provide reviews of lawyers of whom they have professional knowledge.

A complete directory of all AV® Preeminent™ lawyers can be found online at Lawyers.com® and Martindale.com, in the Martindale-Hubbell® Law Directory in print and CD-ROM formats, and online through the LexisNexis® services and at lexis.com. Attorneys shown do not constitute the full list of "Top Rated Lawyers"



NEW YORK

TOP RATED LAWYERS

## CARL M. BORNSTEIN

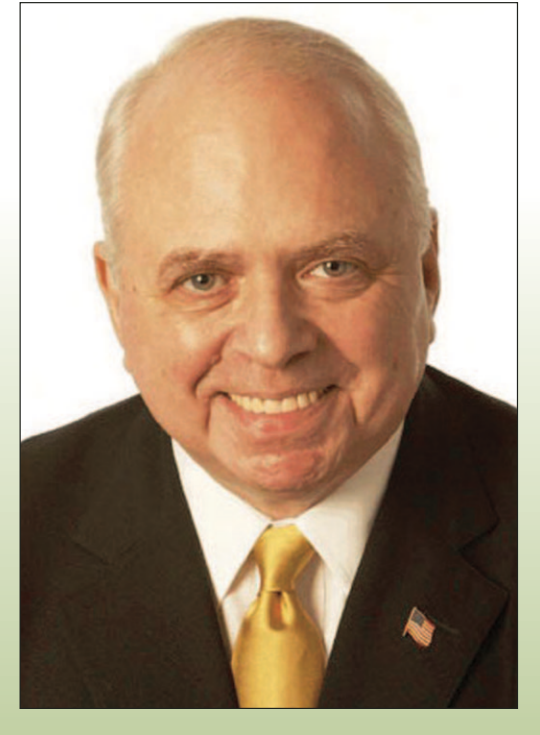
Carl Bornstein has conducted complex civil and criminal litigation and investigations throughout his career in the private sector and in government service. He has litigated cases as trial counsel involving criminal tax, securities and insurance fraud, copyright violations, and professional disciplinary matters for both physicians and lawyers, among other matters. He has tried significant criminal cases to verdict as both a prosecutor and a defense lawyer. He also has expertise in establishing and assessing compliance functions for both private and government organizations.

He was a co-founder and the chief operating officer of the joint venture that was appointed as the integrity monitor for the \$3+ billion construction of 1 World Trade Center reporting to the Inspector General of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Previously, he had been the Inspector General for the NYC School Construction Authority for four years. In 2013, he was appointed to a Mayoral Special Independent Advisory Commission to evaluate Philadelphia's Department of Licenses & Inspections after a building wall collapsed during demolition onto an adjoining building killing six and injuring 13 people.

Mr. Bornstein was a member of the independent federal monitoring team for GM related to its compliance with a deferred prosecution agreement which addressed GM's ignition switch recall. His other compliance work has included serving on monitorship teams for: a major bank's compliance with the Global Research Settlement Agreement; Hewlett Packard's investigative practices, with a report to the California Superior Court; a self-assessment of the NYS Metropolitan Transportation Authority's compliance and procurement integrity controls; and of a major NYC residential real estate company's compliance with a discontinuance order of the NYS Attorney General. Currently, he is a member of the federal monitoring team for NYCHA.

His early public service entailed 12 years prosecuting major organized crime and public corruption cases as a Special Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Offices of the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York and in executive positions as an Assistant District Attorney respectively in The Bronx and Queens District Attorneys' Offices, and as the Executive Special Assistant Attorney General in the NYS Special Prosecutor's Office for the NYC Criminal Justice System.

He has taught trial advocacy for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, Northeast Region, and for Hofstra Law School for over 30 years. As an Adjunct Assistant Professor at John Jay College for Criminal Justice he has taught courses in investigative techniques and ethics in the MPA Oversight & Inspection (IG) program for over a decade.



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NEW YORK

## ROBERT G. KOEN

"Good at understanding both sides of the equation and picking the right spot to focus on and not give in." Chambers USA

Robert Koen is The Chair of Mintz Levin's Real Estate Finance Practice. He focuses on commercial real estate, with a concentration in real estate acquisitions, finance and complex restructurings for both lender and borrower entities. His extensive experience includes the negotiation, structuring and documentation of acquisitions, dispositions and co-investment transactions; the structuring of real estate joint ventures and partnerships; commercial lending, including conventional loan transactions; construction lending; preferred equity investments mezzanine financings; REIT-related transactions (including formation merger and acquisition transactions); hotel acquisition and development; commercial project development (including land and negotiation of construction and development agreements); and real estate loan and investment workouts, as well as restructurings.

Robert has substantial experience handling securitized capital markets and institutional real estate financings as well as all aspects of international investment in domestic real estate transactions, including significant number of Korean, HK/PRC and Singapore transactions.

He is ranked in *Chambers USA 2012* in the New York Real Estate category, is listed as one of the world's leading lawyers in the *Guide to the World's Leading Real Estate Lawyers* and is included in the 2010 listing of *Avenue Magazine's Legal Elite*. He also is editor of the **Real Estate Finance Journal**, a Thompson Reuters publication.

### Education:

- Georgetown University Law Center, JD
- University of Wisconsin-Madison, BA, with honors

### Admissions

- New York

### News & Publications

- "Korean Investors Are Hot On US Commercial Real Estate," *GlobeSt.com*, 8 March 2018
- "Conditions in the Institutional Real Estate Market," *Real Estate Finance Journal*, 2001

### Events

- MBAofNY Educational Breakfast: Korean Capital Investment into US Real Estate, 5 April 2018
- "Manhattan Commercial Market Report – The Real Story Behind the Inflection Point," YJP's Real Estate
- Deal Makers' Conference, 1 June 2016
- Understanding Distressed Asset and Real Estate: The New Paradigm, 13 October 2010



VINOO VARGHESE

The son of a nurse and cab driver, Vינוו Varghese got into a lot of fights growing up in Queens, so he learned martial arts to successfully defend himself and others from bullies. Things haven't changed much for Varghese as he's still beating bullies and protecting others. As an adult, instead of using his fists, he uses his knowledge, expertise, and connections he has accumulated as a former prosecutor and as a renowned criminal defense attorney to help his clients resume their lives.

CBS News, Fox News, HLN, and MSNBC all call on Varghese for his legal opinions. The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, the New York Law Journal, and Law360 have quoted him multiple times.

Martindale-Hubbell has rated Varghese as AV Preeminent for the past three years and Super Lawyers has rated him for the past five years. Earlier in his career, the New York Law Journal recognized him as a Rising Star.

In 2000, Varghese began his career as a prosecutor. In 2006, he founded Varghese & Associates, P.C., a criminal defense and white-collar defense firm dedicated to helping clients resume their lives. Having won numerous trials and appeals, Varghese takes particular pride in the fact that throughout his defense career, he has convinced many prosecutors to end cases against his clients.

Varghese has taught trial advocacy at Harvard Law School, Cardozo Law School, and for the New York City Law Department. Varghese graduated from Brooklyn Law School, New York University, and Chaminade High School.



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# Schwartzapfel Lawyers

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Schwartzapfel Lawyers P.C. is a prestigious boutique personal injury and wrongful death firm. The attorneys at Schwartzapfel Lawyers have dedicated their careers to representing those who have been seriously injured, maimed, disabled, or killed as well as their families.

Schwartzapfel Lawyers provides a superior level of client services. Results matter. They are elite. They have won among the highest verdicts and settlements in the state as reported by *New York Law Journal*.

Schwartzapfel attorneys' credentials and qualifications are exceptional. They have been regularly featured in *Forbes*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Newsday*, *New York Magazine*, and *Newsweek* and recognized as a Top Rated Lawyer in Legal Leaders and American Legal Marketing. They have also been recognized as a Top 100 Trial Lawyers by both The National Trial Lawyers and The American Trial Lawyers Association. They are proud that a number of their lawyers are members of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum.

However, what Schwartzapfel Lawyers is most proud of is not the firm's many awards and accolades, nor the millions of dollars collected for clients, but rather the many hundreds of five-star Google reviews attesting to how their clients are treated like family and no longer worry about their financial future.

★★★★★ **GOOGLE REVIEWS:**

**JOHN STRIKA, Local 806 Bridge Painters:**

Thanks to the efforts of Steve, Chris and everyone at Schwartzapfel Lawyers, my family is set for life. Their slogan is "fighting for you" and I can say without a shadow of a doubt, they truly mean it.

**MICHAEL MEGNA, Local One Elevator**

**Constructors:** Your entire staff, everyone, was great. You guys did everything for me. My workers comp, social security disability and personal injury case, all in one place. You treated me like family. I couldn't work, had no income. Thanks for taking care of me for life.

**CRAIG McKEE, Local 157 Carpenters:**

Steven Schwartzapfel and his team took care of my case and they saved my life for all intent purposes. I am forever in Schwartzapfel Lawyers' debt.

**GEORGE PRATT, Local 28 Sheet Metal**

**Workers:** Schwartzapfel Lawyers hit it out of the park! I was hurt on a construction site that changed my life forever. My worries are no longer about my finances, but only to get better.

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**TOP RATED LAWYERS****NEW YORK** GARDEN CITY

## STEVEN R. SCHLESINGER

For 74 years, Jaspan Schlesinger LLP has been one of the New York metropolitan area's leading full-service law firms, providing exceptional legal services in the areas of commercial litigation, banking and financial services, education law, municipal law, real estate, land use and zoning, tax certiorari and condemnation, and estates & trusts. With approximately sixty attorneys and offices on Long Island and in Westchester County, Jaspan Schlesinger is equipped to handle highly complex matters while delivering individualized advice and counsel to its local, national and global clients.

Steven R. Schlesinger is the Managing Partner of Jaspan Schlesinger LLP and heads the firm's Litigation Practice Group and Appellate Practice Group. He concentrates his practice on complex commercial litigation, commercial and real estate matters, bankruptcy and New York State election law.

Mr. Schlesinger is a principal author of Commercial Litigation in New York State Courts (4<sup>th</sup> Edition) and a contributing author of Goldfeder on Modern Election Law (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition). He has represented many elected officials in litigation pertaining to their public office and has acted as counsel on numerous political campaigns.

For more than forty years, Mr. Schlesinger has acted as counsel to many of New York's largest residential and commercial real estate developers and corporate entities, and has achieved significant victories on their behalves in both federal and state court. He has served as lead counsel in many federal and state trials, and in numerous appeals before the Appellate Divisions of the New York State Supreme Court and the New York State Court of Appeals. He is admitted to practice in New York, the federal district courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and the United States Supreme Court.



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**NEW YORK**

## JUAN E. MONTEVERDE

Juan E. Monteverde is the founder and managing partner of Monteverde & Associates PC. Mr. Monteverde regularly litigates high profile shareholder cases across the country, in which he has obtained landmark decisions and recovered millions of dollars for shareholders. In 2019, Mr. Monteverde's firm secured six common funds in Merger and Acquisition cases for the shareholders of Hansen Medical, Clubcorp, Miramar Labs, West Marine, MRV Communications and Transgenomic. Mr. Monteverde also achieved a significant victory for shareholders in *Varjabedian v. Emulex Corp.*, 888 F.3d 399 (9th Cir. 2018), creating a 5 to 1 circuit split that lowered the standard of liability under Section 14(e) of the Exchange Act in the Ninth Circuit. Monteverde's firm then successfully preserved this victory by obtaining dismissal of a writ of certiorari as improvidently granted at the United States Supreme Court. *Emulex Corp. v. Varjabedian*, 139 S. Ct. 1407 (2019). Mr. Monteverde has also been recognized by Super Lawyers as a Rising Star in Securities Litigation in 2013 and 2017-2019, an award given to less than 2.5% of attorneys in a particular field.



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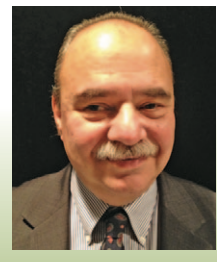
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**NEW YORK**

## BARRY S. SCHWARTZ

### REAL ESTATE, LANDLORD-TENANT

Barry S. Schwartz is an AV Preeminent® attorney since 1997 and a veteran practitioner specializing in all aspects of landlord-tenant and real estate litigation, including the prosecution and defense of both commercial and residential nonpayment and holdover proceedings, the defense of 7A proceedings, arbitration and administrative proceedings, litigation against state and city agencies including the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal and the New York City Department of Housing, Preservation and Development, condominium and cooperative housing litigation, and appeals to all state appellate courts. Mr. Schwartz also specializes in the purchase and sale of apartment buildings, houses, co-ops and condos, has lectured on real estate litigation and landlord tenant trial techniques before the New York County Lawyers Association, and has written extensive continuing legal education material. His biography has appeared in *Who's Who in American Law* since 1990.



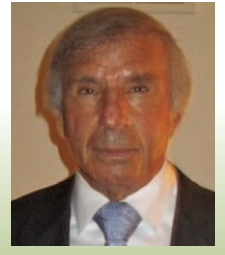
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**NEW YORK** ALBANY

## HOWARD M. KOFF

The Koff Law Firm, PLLC was founded by attorney Howard M. Koff, J.D., LL.M. (Tax) after he left the Tax Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. He then decided to dedicate his time guiding clients and their businesses through IRS law in the Albany, NY area. As a former appellate attorney, Koff brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our practice. Reach out to attorney Koff today to learn more about The Koff Law Firm. We'll do everything we can to help you find the right solution to your tax problem.



### Concerning Howard Koff's qualifications, some highlights:

- Former Appellate Attorney, Tax Division, United States Department of Justice (Attorney-General's Honors Program)
- Former Chairman, Public Advisory Council, New York State Ethics Commission
- Marquis, Who's Who in American Law\*
- Martindale-Hubbell- AV Preeminent rating (the highest peer rating for Legal Ability and -Ethical Standards)\*
- AVVO Rating-10 (the highest attorney rating)
- Former Chief Tax Counsel - Connecticut General Life Insurance Company (now Cigna)
- Author of the book "IRS Problems? The Anatomy of a Non-Filer"

\*Prior Results Do Not Guarantee A Similar Outcome.

### Our well-qualified attorney can be there for you

- Attorney Koff will work hard to help you through your tax legalities. You can view his educational qualifications below:
- B.S. from New York University in accounting and finance
  - Recipient of the New York University Founders Day Award, the highest university-wide award for academic excellence
  - J.D. from Brooklyn Law School
  - Editor-in-Chief of the Brooklyn Law School Law Review
  - LL.M. in Taxation from Georgetown University Law Center

Schedule a consultation with attorney Koff in Albany, NY today to get help with your tax issues.



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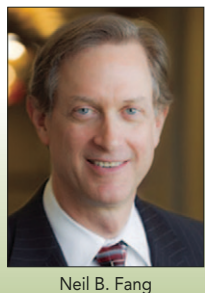
**NEW YORK** WOODBURY

Schwartz, Fang & Keating, P.C. is a premier New York and New Jersey Law firm with over 30 years of experience, dedicated to protecting clients' rights in complex areas of law.

Neil B. Fang, Esq. CPA is partner at the firm and a recognized authority in estate and income tax planning, estate administration, family-owned business succession planning, charitable planning, elder law and real estate. He also successfully represents clients in contested estate and trust proceedings in addition to federal and state tax audits, saving them millions of dollars in estate and income tax by implementing various well-proven tax planning techniques.

Stephanie M. Keating, Esq. CPA is partner at the firm vigorously representing clients in her specialty areas, which include estate planning, estate administration, elder law including Medicaid applications, corporate and real estate law.

Both are awarded Martindale Hubbell's highest AV Preeminent rating by their peers and Platinum level Client Champion by their clients.



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**NEW YORK** GREAT NECK

## ESTHER SCHWARTZ ZELMANOVITZ, ESQ.

When seeking estate planning, coping with the loss of a loved one, or dealing with long term care, Esther Schwartz Zelmanovitz and her firm are dedicated to providing compassionate and knowledgeable legal representation in a simple and clear manner. Ms. Zelmanovitz's team develops personalized solutions for each client's unique situation in the areas of estate planning, elder law (special needs and Medicaid planning), probate and estate administration.

Ms. Zelmanovitz earned her law degree from Fordham University School of Law in 2001 and is currently a member of the New York State Bar Association, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, American Bar Association and the Nassau County Bar Association.

In addition to receiving the distinguished Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Attorney Award "Peer Rated for Highest Level of Professional Excellence," Ms. Zelmanovitz was featured in the 2018 Legal Eagle issue of Long Island Pulse magazine celebrating Long Island's top attorneys. Her highest compliments though, come directly from her clients throughout Long Island and New York City, grateful for her patient understanding and excellent representation.



## ESTHER SCHWARTZ ZELMANOVITZ, PLLC

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