TOP LAWYERS
2013

LEGAL EAGLES

The Ultimate **WHO'S WHO** of the Best Legal Talent in Fairfield County

We've always known that finding an attorney who is not only tenacious and street-smart, but has a proven track record and a stellar reputation is not easy. So once again we turned to the peer-review experts at Martindale-Hubbell to compile a list for you of the best legal minds in our area. ■ To create this list, the Martindale-Hubbell Legal Network tapped into its database of more than one million lawyers in more than 160 countries to identify peers in the legal profession who have been rated AV Preeminent, indicating the highest levels of ethical standards and professional excellence. This rating, the highest available, is based on confidential surveys of lawyers and members of the judiciary who are asked to provide reviews of their peers. For more information about the ratings, visit *martindale.com/ratings*. **We introduce to you 549 lawyers—in 87 specialties—in a list everyone should keep at the ready.**

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Bankruptcy Law

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Years in practice?
Eighteen years. I focus my practice on consumer and small business bankruptcies, foreclosure matters and real estate transactions. I have used Connecticut's Foreclosure Mediation Program to save hundreds of clients' homes since the program's inception in 2008.

What sets you apart from the competition?
I view each client's problem as unique, even though I help hundreds of clients file bankruptcy every year. I find that when a client explains how they ended up meeting with a bankruptcy attorney, the healing process begins. Every client has direct access to me. I don't mind answering questions after hours if it helps my clients sleep at night.

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What advice would you give to people considering law school?

Seek clientele and areas of interest that you would best serve given your personal background, with the understanding that the passion we bring to our work is essential.

– Linda L. Eliovson
Elder, Estate Planning, Health Care • Eliovson & Tenore, Westport

Consider the career satisfaction of practicing law against the cost of a legal education, the difficult job market and the personal sacrifices required for professional success.

– Stewart I. Edelstein
Commercial Litigation, Appellate • Cohen & Wolf PC, Westport

Do it. It's a wonderful profession!

– Ernest N. Abate
Business and Commercial, Trusts and Estates, Wills and Probate • Abate & Abate LLC, Stamford

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Who's your favorite TV lawyer?

Julianna Margulies in The Good Wife. *She always looks like a million bucks, even when she first gets up in the morning or is working all night.*

– Sarah S. Oldham
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Rutkin, Oldham & Griffin LLC, Westport

I am not much of a television person but I love Judge Judy.

– Julie Daniel
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