

THE NEW YORK AREA'S BEST LAWYERS®



THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO LEGAL REPRESENTATION
IN NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY & CONNECTICUT

2006 EDITION

METHODOLOGY

This list is excerpted from the 2007 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*, the preeminent referral guide to the legal profession in the United States. Published since 1983, *Best Lawyers* lists attorneys in 77 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 2007 edition of *Best Lawyers*, which will be published in September 2006, is based on more than 1.7 million evaluations of lawyers by other lawyers.

The method used to compile *Best Lawyers* remains unchanged since the first edition was compiled more than 20 years ago. Lawyers are chosen for inclusion **based solely on a 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 2007 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

Bonina & Bonina P.C.



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.

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NEW YORK
SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

BONINA & BONINA P.C.

As a medical malpractice attorney who has spent his career in the courtroom standing up for clients who have suffered harm at the hands of those charged with their care, John Bonina, Jr. is well aware that many cases — especially those involving a delayed diagnosis of cancer — are a race against time. “Oftentimes, unfortunately, patients don’t have a lot of time, and we have to get everything in order quickly,” says Mr. Bonina, a partner at Bonina & Bonina with his sister Andrea. “Winning the race against time on behalf of a seriously ill client — those are the cases that I’m most proud of.”

CERTAINLY, FOR MR. BONINA, the idea that law can have a positive impact on someone’s life or their loved ones’ lives — even though that impact is often born of tragedy — was what drove him into the profession some 15 years ago. Over the years, he’s been able to hone a well-defined balance of passion and empathy, a combination that he says helps him immeasurably in the courtroom.

THOSE IDEALISTIC QUALITIES aside, Mr. Bonina and the six attorneys in his firm — which also handles a variety of construction and auto-accident cases, in addition to birth injury and other medical negligence claims — are acutely aware that old-fashioned legwork is what can make the difference between success and failure in the courtroom. “I will never allow myself to be at an information or preparation disadvantage,” Mr. Bonina says. And Mr. Bonina, who has lectured extensively on the subject of medical malpractice, has the track record to prove that he’s not all talk: he’s won countless million-dollar-plus verdicts and settlements for his clients, starting with his very first trial as a newly minted attorney just out of school at age 25.

BUT PERHAPS WHAT’S MOST IMPORTANT — and reassuring — about the firm? In the 40-plus years since its founding by Mr. Bonina’s father, John Anthony, Bonina &

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John Bonina

Bonina has remained steadfastly true to its vision of advocating for those who otherwise wouldn’t have a voice. “We employ tireless preparation, passion and empathy to get results for our clients,” Mr. Bonina says.

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