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HOW SUPER LAWYERS ARE SELECTED

SURVEY OF LAWYERS

Each year Law & Politics sends a ballot to the approximately 46,000 active lawyers in Northern California who have been in practice five years or more. The ballot asks lawyers to nominate the best attorneys they've *personally observed in action*. The intent is to discourage votes based purely on reputation. Lawyers may nominate others in their firm, but only if they nominate an equal or greater number of attorneys from other firms.

Each vote a candidate receives carries a point total, with votes from lawyers outside the nominee's firm weighted greater than votes from within the firm.

Law & Politics monitors balloting for indications of manipulation, and eliminates such ballots from consideration.

THE BLUE RIBBON PANEL REVIEW

The nominees are grouped into 60 practice areas. Those nominees with the highest point totals from each practice area are invited to serve on the blue ribbon panel. Each blue ribbon panelist reviews and scores a list of nominees from their primary practice area.

THE RESEARCH PROCESS

Interviews and contacts: Throughout the selection process, Law & Politics meets and corresponds with law firms in Northern California to identify the top lawyers in those firms.

Independent research: The Law & Politics attorney-led research team actively searches for outstanding attorneys to complement the statewide survey of lawyers. The research team evaluates prospective candidates on indicators of peer recognition and professional achievement as a supplement to the balloting and blue ribbon panel review. Civic service and pro bono activities are also considered.

Data verification: Each candidate is contacted to verify the lawyer's professional information, including primary area of practice. Even if selected, a Super Lawyer candidate's name will not be published unless all information is verified prior to publication.

Good standing review: Law & Politics reviews the discipline record of each candidate and verifies that the lawyer is active and in good standing with the State Bar of California.

THE FINAL SELECTION PROCESS

Candidates are divided according to firm size and geographic location. Top candidates from each group are selected as Super Lawyers.


In addition to attorneys in private practice, Super Lawyers include prosecutors, in-house counsel, and public service lawyers.

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