

# RUS, MILIBAND & SMITH

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION



Randall A. Smith

Ronald Rus

Joel S. Miliband

It's almost redundant to use the term "elite" when describing the members of Rus, Miliband & Smith, a highly regarded boutique litigation firm with a reputation for handling complex commercial, business, and real estate litigation and trials that would cause even the largest firms to take pause. The firm has thrived in the high-stakes world of Orange County since its inception over thirty years ago, and attorneys at the firm have a storied history of trials under their belts, from the 1980s Lincoln Savings & Loan scandal and the historic Orange County Bankruptcy, to the representation of the Chairman of First Alliance Mortgage, the first of the major, publicly-traded subprime lenders to fall, and to a recent \$17 million jury verdict against U.S. Bancorp.

All ten attorneys, including name partner Ronald Rus (who has been selected by his peers for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America*®), are active members of the legal

community, and have cultivated long-standing relationships with regional courts and corporate leaders, a factor that has no doubt contributed to their successful trial record. The pooling of such a complimentary group of powerful minds provides all of the intellectual resources typically found at firms ten times the size of Rus, Miliband & Smith. Members of the firm have earned the respect of their peers through positions as presidents of the Orange County Bar Association and Orange County Bankruptcy Forum, representatives to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, a Commissioner of the California Judicial Nominations and Evaluation Commission, and a member of the State Bar Board of Governors and the Judicial Council of California.

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THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO LEGAL REPRESENTATION  
IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

An incisivemedia publication

Best Lawyers®  
THE WORLD'S PREMIER GUIDE

A SUPPLEMENT TO

LA  
Los Angeles Times Magazine

## METHODOLOGY

This list is excerpted from the 2009 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*®, the preeminent referral guide to the legal profession in the United States. Published for more than a quarter of a century, Best Lawyers® lists attorneys in 78 specialties, representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia, who have been chosen through an exhaustive survey in which thousands of the nation's top lawyers confidentially evaluate their professional peers. The 2009 edition of Best Lawyers, which was published in November 2008, is based on more than 2.4 million evaluations of lawyers by other lawyers.

The method used to compile Best Lawyers remains unchanged since the first edition was compiled more than 25 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 2009 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 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 legal profession in the United States.

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