

THE BEST OF THE BAR

Judging the Lawyers

Peers pick the best of the bar

CLOSE to 48,000 lawyers practice in Los Angeles County. That's about 30 percent of California's entire legal workforce and an amount equal to the population of Beverly Hills and Malibu combined. But in that legal army, how can you determine which individuals are the standouts, the ones regarded as the best in their business? The Business Journal sought to do just that in compiling this year's Who's Who in Law list. The staff of the newspaper sought nominations for outstanding lawyers in 10 practice areas. An informal committee comprised of knowledgeable figures in the local legal community select-

ed from the nominees those attorneys whose career achievements merit special designation. Some lawyers were favored because they are great business generators, for example, while others are known as having a legal acumen that is unmatched and a select few excel in both areas. Some lawyers were picked because they produce work that's consistently great and others were selected for their leadership abilities. Regardless of why they were chosen, what follows is a compilation of what the Business Journal considers the lawyers who stand out in L.A.'s crowded legal field – the best of the bar in Los Angeles.

REAL ESTATE



LEWIS FELDMAN

Firm: Goodwin Procter LLP

Clients: Anschutz Entertainment Group, AEW Capital Management LP and Westfield Group.

Reason I'm a Lawyer: I view attorneys as progressive change-makers and thought leaders, with an opportunity and obligation to do both.

Most Challenging Matter: Serving as public/private development counsel for Anschutz Entertainment Group on the LA Live project. We developed a new financing tool – the Community Taxing District – to legally authorize the city to return taxes produced by new development to its source. This new financing vehicle not only helped to bridge the financial gap on LA Live, but is now available to be deployed for other transformative urban projects such as the Grand Avenue renaissance and the resurgence of Hollywood.

My Colleagues Don't Know: I played in a rock group that came in third behind Linda Ronstadt and the Stone Ponies in a Battle of the Bands.