

BEST LAW FIRMS

& WORLD REPORT
U.S. News

**EXCLUSIVE
RANKINGS**

50 SMART MONEY MOVES



FOR 2012

**New Rules for
Retirement**

**Strategies for
Successful Investing**

**Protecting Your Money
in the Digital Age**

Behind the Ranking Methodology

The *U.S. News*-Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms" rankings are based on a rigorous process that includes the collection of client and lawyer evaluations, peer reviews from leading attorneys in their relevant practice areas, and a review of additional information provided by law firms as part of the formal submission process. An unprecedented amount of data were collected in the project's second year, and these combined data resulted in the 2011-2012 "Best Law Firms" rankings. To be eligible for a ranking, a law firm must have at least one lawyer who is included in Best Lawyers as part of the annual peer review assessment. Of the 10,968 firms that were eligible to submit information for the ranking process, 9,633 firms, including a large number of one-person firms, received rankings, and 6,983 of these firms received first-tier national and/or metropolitan rankings.

Clients were asked to provide feedback, using a scale of 1 (weakest) to 5 (strongest), on a firm's performance, addressing expertise, responsiveness, and understanding of a business.

views over the course of several years. We asked this group to vote on law firms that have a preeminent national presence within specified legal practice areas they know well. In addition to information from these surveys, the rankings incorporate the 3.7 million evaluations of 41,284 individual leading lawyers collected by Best Lawyers in its most recent annual survey.

In addition, law firms were asked to provide supplemental data on this year's Marketing Office Survey. General

so on. The number of tiers included in each practice area or metropolitan area ranking varies. The nationally ranked Tier One firms appear in the following pages; complete rankings can be found at www.usnews.com/law.

Metropolitan areas are defined by assessing the population of eligible law firms geographically to guarantee enough comparative data to produce accurate results. There are seven states where a high percentage of eligible law firms are located in one large metropolitan area. Because there are also eligible law firms outside of those metropolitan areas, but not enough to create accurate results for a separate entity, a ranking was produced for the entire state. The states that fall into this category are Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Rhode Island, and Utah.

Practice area rankings were produced both nationally and within 177 metropolitan areas across the United States. Because some practice areas have minimal presence in particular legal markets, or because there were not enough data gathered for proper



The *U.S. News* - Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms" rankings are based on a rigorous process that includes the collection of client and lawyer evaluations, peer reviews from leading attorneys in their relevant practice areas, and a review of additional information provided by law firms as part of the formal submission process. An unprecedented amount of data was collected in the project's second year, and these combined data resulted in the 2011-2012 "Best Law Firms" rankings.

to compile the national rankings included a national ballot to supplement the metropolitan ballots. The national ballot was sent to a distinct, geographically diverse group of Best Lawyers who have received consistently high peer re-

ing law firms sequentially. The first tier includes those firms that scored within a certain percentage of the highest-scoring firm(s); the second tier, those firms that scored within a certain percentage of the next highest scoring firm(s), and

Best Law Firms Online

Search among thousands of law firms by location or practice area at www.usnews.com/law.

PRIVATE EQUITY LAW

Bingham McCutchen
Cooley
Davis Polk & Wardwell
Debevoise & Plimpton
Dechert
DLA Piper
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher
Goodwin Procter
Kirkland & Ellis
Latham & Watkins
Mayer Brown
Ropes & Gray
Sidley Austin
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
Weil, Gotshal & Manges
White & Case
Willkie Farr & Gallagher
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

PRIVATE FUNDS / HEDGE FUNDS LAW

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld
Ballard Spahr
Bingham McCutchen
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton
Cooley
Davis Polk & Wardwell
Debevoise & Plimpton
Dechert
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher
Goodwin Procter
K&L Gates
Katten Muchin Rosenman
Kirkland & Ellis
Lowenstein Sandler
Mayer Brown
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison
Proskauer Rose
Ropes & Gray
Schulte Roth & Zabel
Sidley Austin
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
Weil, Gotshal & Manges
White & Case
Willkie Farr & Gallagher
WilmerHale

PRODUCT LIABILITY LITIGATION - PLAINTIFFS

Blume Goldfaden Berkowitz Donnelly Fried & Forte
Bostwick, Peterson & Mitchell
Caroselli, Beachler, McTiernan & Conboy
Clifford Law Offices
Colson Hicks Eidson
Dankner & Milstein
Fisher, Boyd, Brown & Huguenard
Gair, Gair, Conason, Steigman, Mackauf, Bloom & Rubinstein
Grassini & Wrinkle
Greene Broillet & Wheeler
Hare, Wynn, Newell & Newton
Hermann, Cahn & Schneider
Hillyard, Wahlberg, Kudla & Sloane
Hunegs, LeNeave & Kvas
Kline & Specter
Law Offices of Lembhard G. Howell
Lowe Eklund Wakefield & Mulvihill
Malone Law
Messina Bulzomi Christensen

Palumbo Wolfe & Palumbo
Purvis Gray
Raynes McCarty
Scherffius, Ballard Still & Feagle
Stritmatter Kessler Whelan Coluccio
Taylor English Duma
Walkup, Melodia, Kelly & Schoenberger

PROJECT FINANCE LAW

Andrews Kurth
Baker & McKenzie
Baker Botts
Bingham McCutchen
Bracewell & Giuliani
Chadbourne & Parke
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton
Davis Polk & Wardwell
Dewey & LeBoeuf
Haynes and Boone
Hogan Lovells US
Holland & Hart
King & Spalding
Latham & Watkins
Mayer Brown
McDermott Will & Emery
Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy
Morrison & Foerster
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
Sullivan & Cromwell
Vinson & Elkins
White & Case

RAILROAD LAW

Atkinson, Thal & Baker
Baker, O'Kane, Atkins & Thompson
Boyle Brasher
Bradley Murchison Kelly & Shea
Brown, Dean, Wiseman, Proctor, Hart & Howell
Burns White
Cabaniss, Johnston, Gardner, Dumas

DLA Piper
Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson
Greenberg Traurig
Holland & Knight
Jones Day
K&L Gates
Katten Muchin Rosenman
Kirkland & Ellis
Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel
Latham & Watkins
Mayer Brown
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
Nixon Peabody
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison
Proskauer Rose
Ropes & Gray
Shearman & Sterling
Sidley Austin
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
Sullivan & Cromwell
Weil, Gotshal & Manges

SECURITIES / CAPITAL MARKETS LAW

Alston + Bird
Baker Botts
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton
Cooley
Cravath, Swaine & Moore
Davis Polk & Wardwell
Debevoise & Plimpton
Dechert
DLA Piper
Foley & Lardner
Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson
Fulbright & Jaworski
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher
Greenberg Traurig
Jones Day
K&L Gates
Kirkland & Ellis
Latham & Watkins
Mayer Brown
McDermott Will & Emery

Grassini & Wrinkle

Donna Law Firm
Fennemore Craig
Gallagher Sharp
Greenberg Traurig
Harkins
Hudson & Bolen
Hunt & Gage
McLeod, Alexander, Powell & Apfel
Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly
Ricke & Sweeney
Sidley Austin
Slover & Loftus
Spain Hastings Ward Carey & Chambers
Steptoe & Johnson
Thompson Coburn
Yaeger, Jungbauer & Barczak

REAL ESTATE LAW

Alston + Bird
Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton
Debevoise & Plimpton
Dechert

Shearman & Sterling
Sidley Austin
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
Sullivan & Cromwell
Vinson & Elkins
Weil, Gotshal & Manges
Willkie Farr & Gallagher
WilmerHale
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

SECURITIES REGULATION

Arnold & Porter
Baker Botts
Bingham McCutchen
Covington & Burling
Cravath, Swaine & Moore
Davis Polk & Wardwell
Debevoise & Plimpton
Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher
Hogan Lovells US
K&L Gates