

## LEXISNEXIS MARTINDALE-HUBBELL PEER REVIEW RATINGS

The first Martindale books were published in 1868, the principal one being *Martindale's United States Law Directory* and later *Martindale's American Law Directory*.

In 1930, the publishing rights to *Hubbell's Legal Directory* were purchased by the Martindale Company and ever since has been known as the **Martindale-Hubbell® Law Directory**.

Legal Ability and General Ethical Standards Ratings have appeared in the Directory for over 100 years. Martindale-Hubbell strives to publish fair and accurate Peer Review Ratings for as many lawyers as possible, subscribers and non-subscribers alike. While the vast majority of rating reviews are initiated by the Company, an inquiry will be undertaken upon request. When forwarding legal matters, lawyers in private practice and in corporate law departments rely with confidence on the accuracy of the Peer Review Ratings published.

**Legal Ability Ratings are:** "C" (from Good to High), "B" (from High to Very High), "A" (from Very High to Preeminent).

**General Ethical Standards Rating is:** "V" (Very High).

Unless a Peer Review Rating is established in both categories, no rating will be published.

Over 115,000 rating reviews are undertaken each year. Of those, approximately 80% are done at our own initiative. An additional 20% are conducted by request and through the efforts of our Field Staff. Upon completion of each rating file, the resulting rating is published online at [www.martindale.com](http://www.martindale.com) within one or two business days. The rating is then published in the next annual printed edition of the Martindale-Hubbell® Law Directory.

Martindale-Hubbell develops its Peer Review Ratings for individual lawyers by soliciting confidential opinions from members of the Bar, including those who themselves have ratings and those who do not. In addition, members of the U.S. Judiciary are queried. We encourage all lawyers to participate in the process. Greater participation assures the continued accuracy of the system. Respondents to written questionnaires and personal interviews are asked to base their opinions on the following:

### LEGAL ABILITY RATING

Based on the standard of ability for the area where the lawyer practices, it takes into consideration experience, nature of practice and qualifications relevant to the profession. Where a lawyer's practice is limited or specialized, rating opinions are made on the basis of performance in those Fields of Law.

Lawyers admitted to the Bar three to four years are eligible for the CV rating, lawyers admitted five to nine years are eligible for the BV or CV rating and lawyers who have been admitted ten years or more are eligible for the CV, BV or AV rating.

### GENERAL ETHICAL STANDARDS RATING

Embraces faithful adherence to professional standards of conduct and ethics of the legal profession, professional reliability and diligence, and standards relevant to the attorney's discharge of his or her professional responsibilities.

Legal Ability and General Ethical Standards Ratings appearing in the Directory reflect strictly confidential opinions and responses to professionally developed surveys and adhere to meticulously monitored research principles and practices. Martindale-Hubbell does not make any independent evaluation of lawyers. Rather, it depends exclusively upon the opinions of its confidential sources.

### FIRM RATING

Generally, a law firm will be accorded the rating of its highest-rated principal.

In some instances, lawyers may be asked to submit names of lawyers and judges with whom they have had professional experience. Inquiries are then directed to those sources in addition to sources developed by Martindale-Hubbell.

Field Representatives of Martindale-Hubbell visit tens of thousands of law offices on an annual basis. They make oral rating inquiries during these calls and submit written reports. However, a formal rating review must occur before any Peer Review Rating is established, advanced, lowered or withdrawn.

*Martindale-Hubbell does not undertake developing ratings for every listed lawyer. The absence of a rating should not be construed as unfavorable since some lawyers have requested their Peer Review Ratings not be published while in other instances definitive information has not yet been completely developed.*