

THE NEW YORK AREA'S BEST LAWYERS®

2010 EDITION

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO LEGAL
REPRESENTATION IN NEW YORK,
NEW JERSEY & CONNECTICUT

WHO ARE THE LAWYERS OF THE YEAR?



METHODOLOGY

This list is excerpted from the 2010 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 79 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 2010 edition of *Best Lawyers*, which was published in November 2009, is based on more than 2.8 million evaluations of lawyers by other lawyers.

The method used to compile Best Lawyers remains unchanged since the first edition was compiled more than 26 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 2010 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.

Voting lawyers were provided this general guideline for determining if a nominee should be listed: "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.

Best Lawyers lists are available at www.bestlawyers.com. "Best Lawyers" and "The Best Lawyers in America" are registered trademarks of Woodward/White, Inc.



From Left: Charlotte Betts, Joshua Gruner, Rosalia Baiamonte, Neil Cohen, Stephen Gassman, Richard Tannenbaum, Cheryl Mallis, Steven Kommor.

Selected For
Inclusion In
*The Best Lawyers
in America*[®]
Stephen Gassman

Stacia Grossman

GASSMAN, BAIAMONTE, BETTS & TANNENBAUM, PC

One of the most respected and sought-after matrimonial law firms servicing Long Island and the greater New York Metropolitan area, Gassman, Baiamonte, Betts & Tannenbaum is a boutique law firm in Garden City specializing in complex litigation issues pertaining to family and matrimonial law, particularly matters of divorce property distribution, maintenance (alimony) and child support, custody and visitation, and pre-nuptial, post-nuptial, and separation agreements. The firm's longtime team of consummate attorneys includes Stephen Gassman, Rosalia Baiamonte, Charlotte Betts, Richard N. Tannenbaum, Neil S. Cohen, Steven D. Kommor, Joshua B. Gruner, and Cheryl Y. Mallis, each of which contributes his or her own expertise to the greater good of each case. As always, discretion and sensitivity are integral parts of the firm's representation.

Even as the valuation and dispersion of assets grows more and more complex by the day, the firm remains at the forefront of innovations and trends in their areas of practice. In the

past year, Gassman, Baiamonte, Betts & Tannenbaum prevailed in the leading appellate case of *Krifitcher v. Krifitcher* involving the distribution of an enhanced earnings capacity resulting from the attainment of a law degree.

The firm is steered by decorated attorney Stephen Gassman, who has received annual recognition in *The Best Lawyers in America*[®] since its inception, and has been referred to as "the top divorce lawyer in Nassau County" by *The New York Post*. Among his accolades and accomplishments, he is a past-President of the Bar Association of Nassau County, former Chair of the Family Law Section of the New York State Bar Association, a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, and one of only 100 matrimonial lawyers across the country invited to be a Diplomate of the American College of Family Trial Lawyers. Mr. Gassman is a prolific author in the area of matrimonial law and lectures extensively to Bar groups and the Judiciary. Mr. Gassman is the founder of WE CARE, a charitable foundation of the Nassau County Bar Association.

FIRM FACTS:

Mr. Gassman acted as lead counsel in the case of *DeMille v. DeMille*, which appears to have been the impetus for New York State to recently amend its statute of limitations laws with regard to the survivability of claims which seek to challenge the validity of pre-nuptial agreements.

The firm prevailed in the seminal appeal of *Brim v. Combs*, concerning awards of child support in high-income cases.

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