

# THE NEW YORK AREA'S BEST LAWYERS<sup>®</sup>

2007 EDITION

THE BEST  
LAWYERS  
IN  
AMERICA

ALM

Law Business

## METHODOLOGY

This list is excerpted from the 2007 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*, the preeminent referral guide to the legal profession in the United States. Published since 1983, Best Lawyers lists attorneys in 77 specialties, representing all 50 states, who have been chosen through an exhaustive survey in which thousands of the nation's top lawyers confidentially evaluate their professional peers. The 2007 edition of *Best Lawyers*, which was published in September 2006, is based on more than 2 million evaluations of lawyers by other lawyers.

The method used to compile *Best Lawyers* remains unchanged since the first edition was compiled more than 20 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 2007 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.



Weitz &amp; Luxenberg P.C.

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<sup>®</sup> 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](http://www.bestlawyers.com). "Best Lawyers," and "The Best Lawyers in America" are registered trademarks of Woodward/White, Inc.



Perry Weitz

## WEITZ &amp; LUXENBERG PC

**W**hen attorneys Perry Weitz and Arthur Luxenberg founded the personal injury firm of Weitz & Luxenberg PC in 1986, asbestos litigation was just starting to heat up. A few years later, the firm started its road to preeminence in asbestos litigation. In 1989, Robert Gordon, Jerry Kristal, and Mr. Weitz were at different firms when they were put together on a trial. "We worked together to win a \$75 million verdict. Rob came to the firm, then Jerry came two years later—two of the best trial lawyers in the country—and we had the core of our asbestos practice. Since then, we've been pioneers in the field." The firm has since represented thousands of victims of asbestos disease, obtaining billions of dollars in verdicts and settlements for their clients. This year, the firm won a \$25 million verdict against Daimler Chrysler and \$37 million against another asbestos company. In the wave of bankruptcies that followed many of these verdicts, Mr. Weitz has been responsible for negotiating many settlements, building trusts for victims to the tune of \$20 billion.

**THESE STUNNING ASBESTOS LITIGATIONS AREN'T THE WHOLE STORY** at Weitz & Luxenberg PC. Mr. Weitz handles individual catastrophic injury cases like Vitas Gerulitis, the tennis star who died of carbon monoxide poisoning. "We've also led the bar in pharmaceutical litigation," says Mr. Weitz, "from silicone breast implants to Vioxx, Bextra, and Celebrex." He calls Paul Pennock, who heads the firm's pharmaceutical litigation department, "a bulldog and an excellent litigator." That assessment is borne out by the massive \$13 million verdict the firm won against Merck in the company's own territory, New Jersey. The firm also is a leader in toxic tort litigation. Weitz & Luxenberg PC is forcing oil companies to pay for their contamination of local water supplies with a fuel additive called MTBE, an insoluble compound that is leaking into reservoirs around the country. The first case, scheduled to be heard in Suffolk County, comes to trial in January.



Jerry Kristal

Robert Gordon

Paul Pennock

**MR. WEITZ IS PROUD OF THE ROLE HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES PLAY** in keeping corporations honest. "When you do what I do for as long as I've done it," Mr. Weitz says, "you see the system really working. You're able to take an individual who couldn't afford to litigate against the corporate behemoths, and level the playing field for that person. It's very rewarding to be able to represent these people, many who do not have the resources to be heard."

**WEITZ & LUXENBERG PC RECENTLY OPENED AN OFFICE IN DALLAS,** and now has more than 60 attorneys nationally. Mr. Weitz says that he plans to further expand his firm's national presence. The continuing growth of the firm means it can be even stronger in its fight for victims involved in mass torts. Says Mr. Weitz, "We have been successful enough that we have the resources and the ability to fight for the victims. If we don't do our job, and do it well, these people get away with murder."

**"IT'S VERY REWARDING TO BE ABLE TO REPRESENT THESE PEOPLE, MANY WHO DO NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES TO BE HEARD."**



180 MAIDEN LANE, 17TH FLOOR  
 NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10038  
 PH: 212-558-5500 FAX: 212.344.5461  
 WWW.WEITZLUX.COM

Reprinted from the July 2-9, 2007 edition of NEW YORK MAGAZINE. © 2007 New York Magazine Holdings, LLC/ALM Properties Inc. and Best Lawyers in America. All rights reserved. Further duplication without permission is prohibited. For information, contact 212-545-6111 or visit [www.almreprints.com](http://www.almreprints.com). #0061-07-07-0001

## A History of Success - Making a Difference Since 1986

When you are a Weitz & Luxenberg client, you benefit from decades of experience and a proven track record of success with thousands of lawsuits. Learn about our groundbreaking verdicts and settlements and testimonials from satisfied clients and dedicated employees. If you would like to join our over 85,000 clients, please contact the Weitz & Luxenberg client relations department. You can visit our website [www.weitzlux.com](http://www.weitzlux.com), call us at 1 (800) 476-6070, or email us at [clientrelations@weitzlux.com](mailto:clientrelations@weitzlux.com).

### A Nationally Recognized Practice

The law firm of Weitz & Luxenberg plays leading roles in state and national litigations involving asbestos, breast implants, numerous drug recalls such as Vioxx, Baycol, and Arava, as well as numerous personal injury and medical malpractice cases. The law firm is active in many civic groups, and philanthropic organizations. The law firm of Weitz & Luxenberg is pleased to participate in several charitable causes.

### Your Best Defense is a Great Offense

Weitz & Luxenberg's attorneys have decades of experience defending victims' rights in accident, injury, drug & medical devices and pollutant lawsuits. If you've been hurt and need a great lawyer on your team, visit our website, fill out a form and get your free case evaluation. Your information will be reviewed within 24 hours.

### PRACTICE AREAS:

#### Drugs & Medical Devices

Accutane  
Baycol  
Bextra  
Celebrex  
Crestor  
Cytotec  
Defibrillator  
DES  
Infusion Pumps  
Ortho Evra  
Vioxx

#### Pollutants

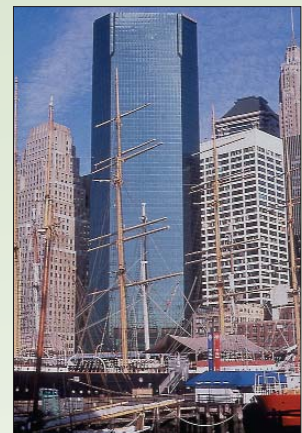
Asbestos  
Arsenic  
Benzene  
Chromium  
Dioxin  
Mercury  
Mesothelioma  
MTBE  
PAH  
PCB  
PCE/TCE  
Perchlorate  
Pesticide/Herbicide  
PVC Plastic  
Radiation  
Soil Gas Vapor  
Teflon  
Toluene  
Welding Rods

#### Accidents

Aviation  
Car/Auto  
Construction  
Escalator/Elevator  
Marine  
Municipal  
Sidewalk  
Slip & Fall  
Workplace

#### Personal Injury

Birth Defects  
Brain Injury  
Dangerous Product  
Death Cases  
False Arrest  
Lead Paint  
Medical Malpractice  
Nursing Homes  
On Property



### Weitz & Luxenberg, P.C.

Law Offices  
180 Maiden Lane  
New York, NY 10038  
1(800)476-6070  
[www.weitzlux.com](http://www.weitzlux.com)