

# THE NEW YORK AREA'S BEST LAWYERS®



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

2006 EDITION

## 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 will be published in September 2006, is based on more than 1.7 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.

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



Weitz & Luxenberg P.C.

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 best lawyers in the United States available anywhere.

*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.

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## WEITZ &amp; LUXENBERG P.C.

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or attorney Perry Weitz, one of the most significant aspects of the landmark Vioxx case he recently won against Merck was the fact that he and the team at his personal injury firm were able to fight against the massive company and win in Merck's very own backyard: New Jersey. "Merck actually picked the case to try where it did because they thought they'd have an advantage," says Mr. Weitz. Whatever advantage the company had was dismantled by the time he and his firm, Weitz & Luxenberg, was through. No doubt about it: the firm won

\$9 million in punitive and \$4.5 million in compensatory damages.

**WEITZ & LUXENBERG IS ABOUT A LOT MORE** than just Vioxx cases, however. The firm is a formidable presence in Bextra and Celebrex litigation against Pfizer, and is a leader nationwide in asbestos cases, currently representing 35,000 clients. And it's strengthening its foothold in toxic tort litigation as well, says Mr. Weitz. It represents cities and utilities whose water supplies have been contaminated by a fuel additive known as MTBE, an insoluble compound that is leaking into reservoirs – and is forcing oil companies to pay for the cleanup. "It's a national problem," says Mr. Weitz, named as one of the New York area's Best Lawyers® along with Robert Gordon, Paul Pennock and Jerry Kristal. "We also handle cases related to toxic spills and landfills."

**WHAT THIS ADDS UP TO** is a firm on the leading edge of mass tort litigation, but it didn't get there by accident. Mr. Weitz has spent the last two decades, along with Arthur Luxenberg, shaping a firm that places a high priority on due diligence and old-fashioned hard work. "Unless we can prove that the product caused our clients' injury, then we won't proceed with the case," says Mr. Weitz. "But if we do, we get to work." Preparation invariably includes a mock jury trial, just one tool the firm uses to make sure it's ready to face its opponent in the courtroom.

**AND MORE OFTEN** than not, Mr. Weitz and the attorneys in his firm face powerful corporate giants. "If we don't make these corporations face accountability, then who will?" he says. "Who would stop cigarette makers from selling to kids? Asbestos companies from poisoning us? The FDA isn't going to." Make no mistake, however, Weitz & Luxenberg is a powerful law firm, with the ability and resources to take on some of the biggest companies in the world. "We take them head on," says Mr. Weitz.



Perry Weitz



Robert Gordon

Jerry Kristal

Paul Pennock

**"If we don't make these corporations face accountability, then who will?"**

WITH 60 ATTORNEYS firm-wide and an office in Dallas recently opened, Mr. Weitz says he has his eye on continuing to expand the firm's national reach and can often be found behind the scenes, sitting on tort-claimant committees for

bankrupt companies and negotiating global resolutions for varying litigation. And though the firm continues to evolve and change, Mr. Weitz is still most at home in the courtroom, helping secure financial — and emotional — victories for people who needed someone to help them. "We're passionate," he says. "Our successes are our clients' successes."

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## 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

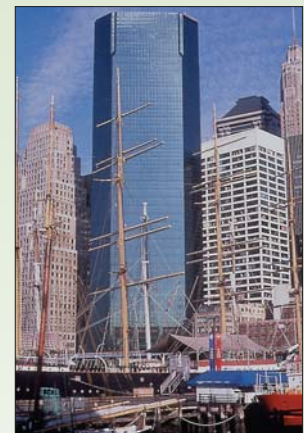
Asbestos  
Arsenic  
Benzene  
Chromium  
Dioxin  
Mercury  
Mesothelioma  
MTBE  
PAH  
PCB  
PCE/TCE  
Perchlorate  
Pesticide/Herbicide  
PVC Plastic  
Radiation  
Soil Gas Vapor  
Teflon  
Toluene  
Welding Rods

#### 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



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