

Simon Greenstone Earns 2016 Top Verdict Recognition in California, Arizona

TopVerdict.com has recognized Dallas trial law firm [Simon Greenstone Panatier Bartlett, P.C.](#) for securing the largest jury verdict in Arizona, and the largest asbestos case verdict in California, in 2016.

In Arizona, a federal jury awarded \$17 million to the family of a retired civilian employee of the U.S. Navy who died from mesothelioma after working for years in the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Virginia. The case was *Coulbourn v. Crane* in the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona.

In a news release, the firm said attorneys David C. Greenstone, Jordan Blumenfield-James and Samuel Iola represented George Coulbourn's family. Coulbourn, a shipyard machinist, repaired and maintained equipment including the removal of asbestos-containing gaskets and packing from valves. He died at age 73, less than a year after being diagnosed. After a three-week trial, jurors found Crane Co. and William Powell Co. liable for Coulbourn's death and assessed punitive damages against both defendants.

In California, a Los Angeles jury awarded \$18 million, a record verdict in a mesothelioma case tied to cosmetic talc. The case involved Philip Depoian, a prominent political figure and longtime aide to Mayor Tom Bradley, who was diagnosed with mesothelioma in May 2015.

Evidence showed Depoian was exposed to asbestos in talc products at a barber shop and through personal use of products such as Old Spice, Clubman, Kings Men and Mennen Shave Talc. Jurors found talc supplier Whittaker Clark & Daniels liable for supplying asbestos-containing talc to the

manufacturers. Attorneys Jay Stuemke and Stuart Purdy represented Depoian in the case, *Depoian v. American International Industries, Inc.*, in Los Angeles Superior Court.

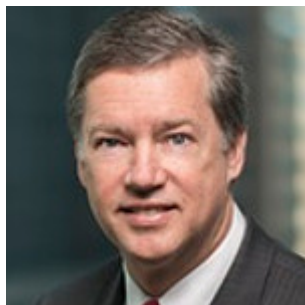
“We are pleased that our verdicts have been recognized as landmarks in jurisdictions across the country. But more than that, we are very proud of the work we are doing to help all of our clients, wherever their cases may be,” said Greenstone, co-founder and shareholder of Simon Greenstone Panatier Bartlett, P.C.

Co-founder and shareholder Jeffrey Simon said, “We work hard to make sure that those who have been injured by dangerous products or workplaces get the justice they deserve.”

TopVerdict.com recognizes law firms and attorneys who have obtained the highest jury verdicts in individual states and nationwide in specific practice areas.

[Join Our LinkedIn Group](#)

**Bradley Partner Paul Compton
to be Nominated to Serve as
U.S. HUD General Counsel**



President Donald J. Trump has nominated [Paul Compton](#), a partner in [Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP](#)'s Birmingham office, to serve as General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The appointment is subject to Senate confirmation.

Compton currently serves as leader of the firm's Affordable Housing and Community Development practice.

"The firm congratulates Paul Compton on his expected nomination by the President to serve as the chief legal officer of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and counsel to its Secretary, Dr. Ben Carson," said Bradley Chairman of the Board and Managing Partner Beau Grenier. "We are tremendously proud of Paul, whose knowledge and experience in the areas of affordable housing, community development, and banking and financial services have earned him an outstanding reputation among his peers and clients."

The Office of General Counsel (OGC) of HUD provides legal opinions, advice and services with respect to all departmental programs and activities. The General Counsel also leads the department's efforts to enforce the Fair Housing Act and other civil rights and programmatic requirements. The OGC plays a vital role in helping HUD accomplish its mission of assuring decent and affordable housing, enabling all Americans to achieve homeownership, providing resources for communities to build strong neighborhoods, preventing homelessness, and enforcing fair housing laws.

In addition to his various Bradley practice leadership roles, Compton is a member of the firm's Banking & Financial Services group and is Chair of the firm's Finance Committee. He has experience in innovative commercial financing transactions, particularly those involving tax credits (federal and state Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, historic, state industrial incentive, new markets, and work opportunity) and structured

finance, and in the formation and sale of regulated financial institutions (banks, insurance companies and agencies, consumer finance companies, broker/dealers and community development entities).

Compton serves as counsel for the Alabama Bankers Association, Inc., counsel of record for the Alabama Consumer Finance Association, and as general counsel for the Alabama Affordable Housing Association. He earned his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law and his Bachelor of Science (summa cum laude) from the University of Alabama. He also attended the London School of Economics and Political Science. He is a Truman Scholar.

[Join Our LinkedIn Group](#)

[**Houston Attorney Mark Lanier Inducted into Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame**](#)

Trial attorney Mark Lanier, founder of [**The Lanier Law Firm**](#), has been selected to the National Trial Lawyers Association's Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame, which recognizes exceptional litigators.

In a news release, the organization honors outstanding attorneys who leave an indelible mark on the American legal tradition through a lifetime of service to the public, the Constitution, and the trial bar. Although attorneys previously

had to be 60 or older, that requirement was waived for the 56-year-old Lanier.

The release continues:

Lanier was one of five lawyers recognized during the April 27 Hall of Fame induction ceremony at the 17th annual Mass Torts Made Perfect conference in Las Vegas. Also inducted into the class of 2017 were U.S. District Judge David Herndon of Illinois, American Association for Justice President Linda Lipsen, and trial lawyers Peter Perlman of Kentucky and Harvey Weitz of New York. The Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame is located at the Beasley School of Law at Temple University in Philadelphia.

Lanier's selection was lauded on social media by his colleagues, whose comments included: "Mark Lanier is not only an exceptional trial lawyer, but also a superb, kind and good person;" "Overdue. The man is truly a legend;" and, "Truly one of the finest trial lawyers in America."

As an advocate for those who suffer life-altering injuries from dangerous consumer products or catastrophic transportation and worksite injuries, Lanier has secured more than \$12 billion for clients throughout his storied career. The Lanier Law Firm recorded two high-profile verdicts in medical device litigation in 2016, with awards totaling more than \$1.5 billion. The Lanier Law Firm was named one of the nation's 25 Most Influential Law Firms for 2017 by the National Trial Lawyers Association.

Recognized as one of the Most Influential Attorneys of the Decade by the National Law Journal and as one of the 25 Greatest Lawyers of the Past Quarter Century by Texas Lawyer, Mr. Lanier was named the 2016 Trial Lawyer of the Year by The National Trial Lawyers. In 2015, he received the American Association of Justice's Lifetime Achievement Award. He is the founder of the Christian Trial Lawyers

Association and the Lanier Theological Library.

[Join Our LinkedIn Group](#)

[Dallas Attorney Julie Pettit Earns DAYL Outstanding Young Lawyer Award](#)

Julie Pettit, founder and managing partner of the [Pettit Law Firm](#), is the recipient of the 2017 Outstanding Young Lawyer Award from the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers (DAYL).

The award is presented annually to an individual who exhibits exemplary service to the legal profession as well as to the community, and who has a reputation for the advancement of legal ethics and professional responsibility.

A civil trial lawyer focusing on real estate and litigation within the financial services industry, Pettit represents consumers and private real estate investors, as well as clients ranging from nonprofit organizations to large corporations, the firm said in a news release.

The release continues:

Ms. Pettit is a frequent speaker and author on issues surrounding the Dodd Frank Act, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), injunctive relief in federal and state courts, and foreclosure law. During the last two

legislative sessions, she has spent time in Austin drafting bills and testifying on behalf of mortgage-related legislation.

In addition to DAYL, Ms. Pettit is active in several professional organizations including the Dallas Women Lawyer's Association, where she has served on the board for two years, and the William "Mac" Taylor Inn of Court, where she is a Barrister. She is also a mentor with the West Dallas outreach and restoration organization, Mercy Street.

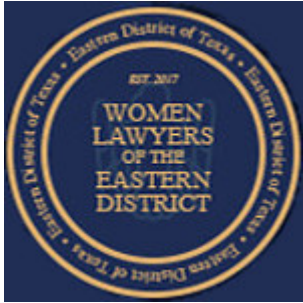
Ms. Pettit's Outstanding Young Lawyer Award nomination was supported by noted Dallas attorneys and members of the judiciary, including the Hon. Martin Hoffman, Lisa Blue, Michael Hurst, Dennis Siaw-Lattey, Chad Ruback, Dena Stroh, Aaron Burke, Ayesha Rafi, Courtney Sauer and Chalon Clark.

"Julie is a lawyer who has initiative, persistence, and follows through to the end," said Ms. Blue of Baron & Blue, in her letter of nomination. "Not only is she a good lawyer and an asset to the Dallas legal community, she is an entrepreneur. I look forward to continuing to watch her career flourish."

Ms. Pettit was honored during the Dallas Bar Association's annual Law Day Luncheon held May 5 at the Belo Mansion.

Association of Women Lawyers

of the Eastern District of Texas Set to Debut



The new Association of Women Lawyers of the Eastern District of Texas (WLED) was established with the first general order of 2017 issued by Eastern District Chief Judge Ron Clark in recognition of “the large number of outstanding female lawyers who practice in the Eastern District and the contribution they have made and continue to make to the district.”

WLED, an affiliate of the Eastern District of Texas Bar Association, will provide mentoring and networking opportunities for women lawyers practicing in the Eastern District.

Judge Clark appointed Elizabeth “Beth” Forrest from the Plano, Texas, office of Siebman, Burg, Phillips & Smith, LLP, as Chairperson for the WLED Organizational Committee. Amanda Abraham of The Roth Law Firm in Marshall, Texas, has been named Secretary/Treasurer, and Evelyn Chen, in-house counsel at Ericsson in Plano, has been named Vice Chairperson.

Eastern District Judge Marcia Crone of Beaumont, Texas; Eastern District Chief Bankruptcy Judge Brenda Rhoades of Plano; and Eastern District Magistrate Judges Caroline Craven of Texarkana, Texas; Nicole Mitchell of Tyler, Texas; Christine Nowak of Sherman, Texas; and Kimberly Priest Johnson of Plano will serve as the inaugural judicial liaisons to WLED.

“WLED’s goal is to provide a continuing forum where the many experienced women attorneys and judges in the Eastern District can provide advice and moral support to all our members, especially younger trial attorneys,” says Ms. Forrest. “Their

insights and our shared experiences will help us develop our careers and assume the mantle of lead trial counsel in an increasingly competitive legal market.”

Membership in WLED is open to anyone who is committed to the group’s ethics and goals and who works toward the success of women trial attorneys, including fostering a deep bench of talented women lawyers as lead counsel in the Eastern District of Texas.

For more information on WLED and to learn how to become a member, contact Ms. Forrest at elizabethforrest@siebman.com.

[17th Annual Women’s Advocacy Awards May 10 in Dallas](#)



Legal Aid of Northwest Texas will present the 17th Annual Women’s Advocacy Awards on Wednesday, May 10, 2017, at Arlington Hall at Lee Park, 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd. in Dallas.

The 6-9 p.m. event will include a cocktail reception, a raffle and a silent auction.

Honorees will include AT&T with the Business Leadership Award; Girls Embracing Mothers with the Nonprofit Leadership Award and Barry F. McNeil Louise Raggio Women’s Legal Advocate Award; and Jones Day with the Champion of Justice Award.

Tickets can be reserved on the [LANWT's website](#).

Dallas-Based Bailey Brauer Earns Spot Among BTI's 'Best Branded' Law Firms



Dallas-based litigation boutique [Bailey Brauer PLLC](#) has been recognized by BTI Consulting Group as one of the law firms with the “best brand standing” in the country, based on a survey of corporate counsel and executives at the world’s largest organizations.

In a [news release](#), the firm said Bailey Brauer is among the smallest and youngest firms to earn this prestigious recognition, which is an indicator of how likely it is a firm will be considered for new work. The three-lawyer firm has enjoyed noteworthy successes in complex commercial litigation and appellate matters since its opening in 2013.

Selection to the BTI Brand Elite 2017 list is based on in-depth interviews with more than 600 corporate counsel and executives at the world’s largest and most influential companies. Respondents are asked about the law firms they hire and why. Final selection is based on intangibles that

differentiate the law firms.

[Read the release.](#)

[UT Dallas Honors Former Texas Supreme Court Justice Deborah Hankinson](#)

Former Texas Supreme Court justice [Deborah Hankinson](#) will be honored March 30 with the Distinguished Alumni Award during the University of Texas Dallas Awards Gala.

The UT Dallas Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor the school can bestow on its alumni and is presented to individuals who are outstanding in their chosen profession or life's work.

She earned a master's degree in special education in 1977 from UT Dallas. With that degree, she became the lead teacher of a groundbreaking Plano ISD program for elementary students with developmental disabilities.

"I have been blessed with a very fulfilling legal career, but my work as a teacher was rewarding in a way that is difficult to express, and it was made possible by the education I received at UT Dallas. Not only did my education help make me a better teacher, it helped lay the foundation for my decision to attend law school," said Hankinson.

Following her tenure on Texas' highest court, Hankinson returned to private practice, founding the Dallas-based appellate law firm [Hankinson LLP](#) and becoming one of the most widely respected arbitrators, mediators and appellate lawyers and strategists in the state, her firm said in a news release.

Her professional honors include a Lifetime Achievement Award from *Texas Lawyer* and recognition as a Local Litigation Star from Benchmark Litigation. She has been selected five times among the Top 10 attorneys in the state by Texas Super Lawyers. In 2016 she was selected to *The National Law Journal's* inaugural ADR Champions listing, recognizing alternative dispute resolution trailblazers from across the nation.

Hankinson is one of four UT Dallas graduates to be honored as Distinguished Alumni during the 15th annual Awards Gala. For more information, visit www.utdallas.edu/gala.

[Join Our LinkedIn Group](#)

[Dallas-Based Bailey Brauer Earns Spot Among BTI's 'Best Branded' Law Firms](#)

Dallas-based litigation boutique [Bailey Brauer PLLC](#) has been recognized by BTI Consulting Group as one of the law firms with the "best brand standing" in the country, based on a survey of corporate counsel and executives at the world's

largest organizations.

Bailey Brauer is among the smallest and youngest firms to earn this prestigious recognition, which is an indicator of how likely it is a firm will be considered for new work, according to a news release from the firm. The three-lawyer firm has scored successes in complex commercial litigation and appellate matters since its opening in 2013.

“We started our careers at big firms. So when we launched Bailey Brauer, we maintained that same sophisticated, aggressive form of client representation you expect from a large firm. But as a small firm, we have the added benefit of being able to provide much more individualized service,” said firm co-founder Clayton Bailey.

Selection to the BTI Brand Elite 2017 list is based on in-depth interviews with more than 600 corporate counsel and executives at the world’s largest and most influential companies. Respondents are asked about the law firms they hire and why. Final selection is based on intangibles that differentiate the law firms.

“In the BTI interviews, the GCs are not asked directly about any firm and instead are encouraged to talk about who they turn to for legal help,” said co-founder Alex Brauer. “We built this firm on relationships, and this recognition demonstrates that we have the trust of our clients.”

[Join Our LinkedIn Group](#)

Farrell Fritz Partner Katy Cole to Receive a 2017 “Outstanding Woman in Law” Award

Hofstra Law has selected [Katy Cole](#) to receive an “Outstanding Woman in Law” award, announced [Farrell Fritz](#). She will be honored at a reception on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at Carlyle on the Green in Farmingdale.

Cole, a Garden City, NY resident, is a partner in the firm’s commercial litigation practice group. In addition to a broad commercial practice, she has a niche focus on e-discovery matters, the firm said in a news release. She writes for the firm’s All About eDiscovery blog.

She earned her Juris Doctor degree, magna cum laude, from St. John’s University School of Law and her Bachelor of Arts degree from Colgate University.

This event celebrates women who have made a meaningful and inspiring contribution to the legal community.

29th Presentation of the Leon

Jaworski Award

Donna Petrone, counsel with ExxonMobile Corp., will be presented the 2017 Leon Jaworski Award by the [Houston Bar Association Auxiliary](#).

The presentation will be at an event Wednesday, March 8, 7-9 a.m. CST at Junior League of Houston, 1811 Briar Oaks Lane, Houston, TX 77027. Tickets may be [purchased here](#).

Petrone was nominated by Catholic Charities for her work. She has been involved in ExxonMobil's pro bono program for years, earning the Pro Bono Volunteer of the Year Award for her work 2014. She has participated in and sponsored numerous pro bono activities including Citizenship and DACA clinics, Pro Se Divorce Clinics, Saturday Morning Clinics, and Veterans clinics. She has also handled Kids in Need of Defense cases (KIND).

In a release, the auxiliary reported:

In 1983, the Houston Bar Association Auxiliary appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to develop an award program to honor lawyers for long-time community service. The first award was made in 1988. The award is named for Leon Jaworski (1905-1982) whose life and achievements reflected a deep commitment to public service.

Through the award program, the Houston Bar Association Auxiliary seeks to inform and educate the public about the dedication of lawyers to the laws that govern us all and about the commitment of members of the bar to the improvement of the community as a whole.

Houston has been fortunate in having countless lawyers who have contributed unselfishly to civic and charitable endeavors. In recognizing the efforts of an outstanding lawyer each year, the Auxiliary honors all lawyers who help

make the legal profession an abiding source of community good.

This award is to be given to a member in good standing of the Houston Bar Association who is civically minded, professionally capable, socially and culturally concerned, family oriented, morally and spiritually aware and who has demonstrated these qualities over a significant number of years.

Past award recipients include Lynne Liberato, Carol S. Vance, Kelly Frels, Charles C. Foster, Charles C. Foster, Rufus P. Cormier, Jr. and Bill Kroger.

[Join Our LinkedIn Group](#)

[Four Gardere Attorneys Named Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation](#)

Gardere labor and employment attorneys Cristina Portela Solomon and Rachel Powitzky Steely, and litigation attorneys Mary Elizondo Frazier and Mike Seely, have been elected to membership in the Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation. Fellows of the Foundation are selected for their professional achievements and demonstrated commitment to the justice system throughout the state of Texas.

Selection as a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation is restricted to members of the State Bar of Texas. Each year, only one-third of 1 percent of State Bar members are invited

to become Fellows. Once nominees are selected, they must be approved by the Texas Bar Foundation Board of Trustees. Membership has grown from an initial 255 charter members in 1965 to more than 9,000 Fellows throughout Texas today.

Founded in 1965 by lawyers determined to assist the public and improve the profession of law, the Texas Bar Foundation has maintained its mission of using the financial contributions of its membership to build a strong justice system for all Texans. To date, the Texas Bar Foundation has distributed more than \$17 million throughout Texas to assist nonprofit organizations with a wide range of justice-related programs and services. More information about the Texas Bar Foundation can be accessed at www.txbf.org.

[Join Our LinkedIn Group](#)

[Four Gardere Attorneys Named Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation](#)

[Gardere](#) labor and employment attorneys Cristina Portela Solomon and Rachel Powitzky Steely, and litigation attorneys Mary Elizondo Frazier and Mike Seely, have been elected to membership in the Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation. Fellows of the Foundation are selected for their professional achievements and demonstrated commitment to the justice system throughout the state of Texas.

Selection as a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation is restricted to members of the State Bar of Texas. Each year, only one-third of 1 percent of State Bar members are invited to become Fellows. Once nominees are selected, they must be approved by the Texas Bar Foundation Board of Trustees. Membership has grown from an initial 255 charter members in 1965 to more than 9,000 Fellows throughout Texas today.

Founded in 1965 by lawyers determined to assist the public and improve the profession of law, the Texas Bar Foundation has maintained its mission of using the financial contributions of its membership to build a strong justice system for all Texans. To date, the Texas Bar Foundation has distributed more than \$17 million throughout Texas to assist nonprofit organizations with a wide range of justice-related programs and services. More information about the Texas Bar Foundation can be accessed [here](#).

[Join Our LinkedIn Group](#)

[Farrell Fritz Partner Jed Albert Named a 2017 'Top Legal Eagle' by Pulse Magazine](#)

[Farrell Fritz](#) announces that [Jed Albert](#) has been named a 2017 "Top Legal Eagle" in Estates & Trusts by Long Island Pulse

Magazine. He will be honored at a reception on Thursday, April 6, 2017 at The Ritz-Carlton Residences in North Hills.

Albert, a Melville, NY resident, represents individuals and fiduciaries with respect to complex estate planning, charitable giving, business succession planning and trust and estate administration. He earned his J.D. degree from Rutgers School of Law and his B.A. degree from Queens College.

Pulse Magazine's "Legal Eagles" has been recognizing Long Island's top attorneys for 10 years.

[Join Our LinkedIn Group](#)

[DLA Piper Partner Joins American Law Institute Restatement of Copyright Law Project](#)

[Hugh Marbury](#), a partner in [DLA Piper](#)'s Baltimore Litigation practice, has joined the Members Consultative Group for the American Law Institute's Restatement of Copyright law project. The Restatement strives for clear formulations of common law and its statutory elements and reflects the law as it presently stands or might appropriately be stated by a court. Marbury joins approximately 60 top intellectual property practitioners, professors and judges from around the country to contribute to this important scholarly work.

Founded in 1923, ALI is the nation's leading independent organization that produces citable clarification and modernization of the law. The Copyright project is expected to include 11 chapters, including: General Principles; Subject Matter and Standards; Scope of Protection; Ownership; Duration; Formalities; Rights and Limitations; Infringement; Secondary Liability; Remedies; and Copyright Protection and Management Systems.

Marbury's business litigation practice focuses on complex financial transactions and commercial disputes. His intellectual property litigation practice includes patent, trademark, copyright and trade secret litigation. He was first elected to be a member of ALI in 2009.

[Join Our LinkedIn Group](#)

[Mark Lanier Named Trial Lawyer of the Year by National Trial Lawyers Group](#)



Members of an invitation-only organization of top trial lawyers have singled out attorney Mark Lanier as its Trial Lawyer of the Year, while recognizing [The Lanier Law Firm](#) among the Top 25 most influential litigation firms in the United States.

Lanier accepted the awards at The National Trial Lawyers' February 2017 Trial Lawyers Summit in South Beach, Florida. In addition, members elected Lanier to the position of president-elect of The National Trial Lawyers; he will serve as president in 2018.

"Lawyers have an awesome charge in our society today and an obligation to use our courts to provide individuals with a level playing field," Lanier said. "I'm proud of the justice that our firm has been able to attain for our clients, and I'm honored that our efforts have been recognized by our peers in this way."

In a release, the firm said:

The national honors for Lanier individually and the firm as a whole follow a string of large, high-profile jury verdicts on behalf of individuals and business interests. Most recently, the firm secured a second significant jury verdict in multidistrict litigation (MDL) against Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiary DePuy Orthopedics for injuries caused by defective metal-on-metal hip implants. Jurors returned a verdict of more than \$1 billion for six patients who were injured by the defective DePuy implant in December 2016. A fourth MDL bellwether trial, which will involve 10 patients, has been scheduled by U.S. District Judge Ed Kinkeade in Dallas for September 2017.

The National Trial Lawyers summit included guest speakers addressing legal and business trends and a keynote address by NFL legend Joe Montana.

Berkeley Research Group Appoints Legal Veteran Eric Miller as General Counsel

Global strategic advisory and expert consulting firm [Berkeley Research Group](#) announced that Eric Miller has been appointed Senior Vice President and General Counsel, effective Jan. 1, 2017.

“Eric is a valuable component of BRG’s leadership team,” said BRG Chairman and Principal Executive Officer David J. Teece. “His exceptional experience, insight and judgment are a great benefit to the firm as our business continues to grow rapidly throughout the world.”

Miller joined BRG in August 2015 as Senior Vice President–Strategic Initiatives and Risk Management. In that role, he supervised the legal and risk management aspects of international expansion activities, and coordinated BRG’s insurance programs and internal restructure, among other responsibilities. He has spent his entire career working at professional services firms, serving as FTI Consulting’s general counsel and chief risk officer from 2006 to 2015, at which time he returned briefly to DLA Piper (where he had spent his career until joining FTI) before joining BRG.

“A firm run by and for its professionals is an operating principle that resonates deeply with me,” said Miller. “My goal as BRG’s general counsel is to build on the solid foundation we have in place, address legal and risk management matters in a principled but pragmatic way and serve as a trusted advisor to our key stakeholders.”

Miller succeeds BRG’s founding general counsel, Marvin Tenenbaum, who is now Senior Vice President and Special Advisor to the Chairman.

[Join Our LinkedIn Group](#)

[Newspaper Names Best PR Firm for the Legal Community in 2016](#)

For the fifth consecutive year, *Texas Lawyer* has named [Androvett Legal Media and Marketing](#) the [best public relations firm](#) for the legal community in 2016.

The company has offices in Dallas and Houston.

On its website, the company says it works exclusively with law firms and the media.

“We help law firms better market their services through public relations and advertising while supporting their attorneys and clients in their interactions with the media. We also assist reporters and editors by providing important background information and arranging timely interviews with legal experts on a wide range of subjects,” it says.

[Read about the award.](#)

[Join Our LinkedIn Group](#)

Rusty Hardin & Associates Adds Two Lawyers and Earns Top Accolades



[Rusty Hardin & Associates, LLP](#), has added two lawyers to its team at the same time it is being recognized for both civil and criminal legal expertise and accomplishments among the nation's Best Law Firms by *U.S. News & World Report* and *The Best Lawyers in America*, the firm said in a [news release](#).

"This is a great time for the hard-working team at our firm. We've added two terrific lawyers and we've been acknowledged by a national group for both our criminal and civil work," said founding partner Rusty Hardin.

Attorney [Chelsea Dal Corso](#) joins Rusty Hardin & Associates from Bracewell, LLP, where she worked in the financial restructuring group, representing debtors and creditors in complex Chapter 11 proceedings. She clerked for Judge Marvin Isgur, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Texas. She earned her law degree from the University of Southern California Gould School of Law.

Lawyer [Naomi Howard](#) joins the firm from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, where she served as briefing attorney. She received her law degree at St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio. Ms. Howard also spent time in Japan where she taught English and is one of few women to have trained as a sushi chef.

The firm is listed in the 2017 top tier of Houston

metropolitan law firms for white-collar criminal defense and in the second tier for commercial litigation. It is extraordinary for a firm of only 14 lawyers to be honored in two such different categories. The Best Law Firms selection is based on a rigorous process that includes client and lawyer evaluations and peer review from other attorneys in the same practice areas.

[Read more.](#)

[DLA Piper's Brown Named to 2016 list of Litigation Trailblazers](#)

[Loren Brown](#), co-chair of [DLA Piper](#)'s global and U.S. Litigation practices, has been named to *The National Law Journal*'s 2016 list of Litigation Trailblazers. This annual list recognizes the top 50 legal professionals who have changed the way litigation is practiced.

In a news release, the firm said Brown was selected for his novel use of scientific (Daubert) and preemption defenses to dismiss all or very large parts of multiple pharmaceutical mass tort litigations involving many thousands of claims, which resulted in an avoidance of jury trials and ensured important therapies remain on the market for millions of patients.

The release continues:

His business litigation practice includes a range of commercial tort and contract, trade secret, intellectual property and securities class action matters. Brown also has significant experience in a range of internal investigation and compliance matters, particularly within the biopharmaceutical and life sciences sectors.

In addition, he regularly counsels clients on regulatory, risk management, due-diligence, product labeling, product recall, public disclosure, policy and crisis-management issues.