

As Featured In...

Worth

WEALTH IN PERSPECTIVE

TOP 100

OUR
ANNUAL
RATING

ATTORNEYS

LAWYERS WHO COUNSEL their clients on personal matters are involved in some of the most critical decisions of their clients' lives, from bequeathing assets and values to future generations to protecting wealth should hardships such as divorce fall upon the family. Each year, WORTH combs the country to find those lawyers who have the rare combination of skill, experience and listening ability that such work requires. Our annual list of the Top 100 Attorneys follows, along with an explanation of the methodology we use when choosing those we honor.



	FIRM, CITY	PHONE	AREAS OF FOCUS	CURRENT CLIENTS' MEDIAN NET WORTH	LARGEST CLIENT'S NET WORTH
New York					
Nancy Chemtob	Chemtob Moss Forman & Talbert, New York	212.317.1717	Matrimonial; divorce; family	\$30 million	\$1 billion
John D. Dadakis	Schiff Hardin, New York	212.745.0860	Tax; trusts, estates; philanthropy	\$75 million	\$1 billion
Ralph M. Engel	Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal, New York	212.768.6919	Trusts, estates	\$5 million	\$1 billion
Michael D. Grohman	Duane Morris, New York	212.692.1040	Trusts, estates; tax	\$10 million	\$500 million
Arlene Harris	Kaye Scholer, New York	212.836.8816	Trusts, estates; tax; pre-, postnuptial agreements	\$20 million	\$2 billion
Linda B. Hirschson	Greenberg Traurig, New York	212.801.9342	Trusts, estates; tax	\$30 million	\$1 billion
James Kosakow	McLaughlin & Stern, New York	212.448.6212	Trusts, estates	\$8 million	\$200 million
Caroline Krauss-Browne	Blank Rome, New York	212.885.5426	Matrimonial	\$50 million	\$130 million
Herbert E. Nass	Herbert E. Nass & Associates, New York	212.370.0777	Trusts, estates; probate; artist, art collector representation	\$7.5 million	\$4 billion
Jonathan J. Rikoon	Debevoise & Plimpton, New York	212.909.7217	Trusts, estates; customized estates; closely held businesses	\$150 million	\$2.6 billion

WORTH's Top 100 Attorneys Methodology

DOES YOUR PERSONAL LAWYER know the latest hands-on approaches to philanthropy? Is that person up on current tax-reform ideas, or familiar with the most sophisticated estate planning tools? If you are about to get married—or considering divorce—does your attorney know about the special challenges faced by affluent clients?

Our Top 100 do. WORTH's editors thoroughly vet nominees for our annual list through a detailed process designed to ensure that those we honor really are the leaders in their respective fields. We begin by asking our readers to nominate attorneys with whom they have had successful working experiences. We then solicit nominations from professionals who regularly interact with leading lawyers: financial advisors, accountants, family office executives and others.

WORTH asks each nominated attorney to complete a detailed questionnaire. Based on their answers, we cull those individuals who are focused more on corporate law than personal concerns. We target those nominees whose

experience is deep enough, who serve clients with sufficient net worth, and who have the professional affiliations and publishing history to indicate that they could provide extraordinary expertise to a WORTH reader.

We also ask more nuanced, probing questions in an effort to discern both the intellectual heft and personal touch of the nominees. We want to know, for example, how they counsel their clients, what qualities they think make a good—or bad—lawyer, and what they think about current trends in their fields. Those with knee-jerk, vague or rote answers are cut; those with the most thoughtful, interesting responses move on.

Finally, we perform background checks. We once again consider client recommendations and work with the American Bar Association's regulatory service to probe actions that may have been taken against any of the candidates. With this step completed, we compile our list, certain that we are, in fact, honoring the top 100 attorneys in the nation.

—Emily DeNitto

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