

Ben Buchwalter
GJEL Accident Attorneys
925-253-5800
benb@gjel.com
<http://www.gjel.com/blog>

Reviewing the Legal Reviewers

Thanks to the rise of internet prominence, consumers have changed the way they look for attorneys. While they used to turn to attorneys they already know and look in the Yellow Pages, consumers are now going to Google and other online resources when they need legal representation. We're fortunate to have a number of quality online resources that rate and review lawyers and provide quality legal information. But it can be difficult to parse which websites are best for which purposes. Here's a quick guide on four major legal reviewers: Lawyers.com, Best Lawyers, Super Lawyers, and Avvo.

Lawyers.com. As a trusted resource for more than 140 years, Lawyers.com is the oldest of these reviewers, and had the first commitment to an offline product. Lawyers.com also boasts the largest profile database, with more than 1 million profiles and 70% of US lawyers peer rated. Though its databases and information are great, the website is probably best known as the online home of Martindale-Hubbell, a leading legal directory that created the prestigious "AV" rating for great peer-rated lawyers.

Best Lawyers. In operation for more than 25 years, Best Lawyers has developed an outstanding record of quality and partnered with a large set of high-profile publications nationwide. Best Lawyers boasts 3.1 million peer reviews, and the newest print edition included more than 41,000 attorneys in 130 practice areas. Best Lawyers has also teamed up with US News and World Report to rank the country's best law firms, in which the best law firms in each practice area and geographical area were designated "Tier 1."

Super Lawyers. This resource selects the statistical cream of the crop, by accepting the top 5% of attorneys in each state after judging them on 12 factors, including verdicts and settlements, awards, and experience. Super Lawyers also stands out for its "Rising Stars" honor, which highlights the country's best lawyers who are under 40 and have been practicing for fewer than 10 years. This enables consumers to find great (and often inexpensive) lawyers who usually aren't reviewed simply because they are young and relatively inexperienced.

Avvo. The newcomer, and probably the most controversial of the bunch, started in 2006 as a web-only ratings and information service designed to give consumers even more flexibility when it comes to finding an attorney. Avvo ranks attorneys on a scale of 1 to 10 based on their reputation, education, experience, and a number of other factors. Avvo also offers a great Q&A service, and writes quality legal information through its news database and blogs, including the Avvo Blog and NakedLaw, which "exposes everyday law in a way non-lawyers can understand." Avvo's primary commitment is to the web.

More Information: <http://www.gjel.com/blog/lawyer-review-services.html>