



## Best of the Bar 2016

*“The good lawyer is not the man who has an eye to every side and angle of contingency, and qualifies all his qualifications, but who throws himself on your part so heartily, that he can get you out of a scrape.”*

— *Ralph Waldo Emerson (American Essayist, Lecturer and Poet)*

Ralph Waldo Emerson’s snapshot of a good lawyer is as true today as it was in his 19th century world. Following in that tradition San Diego’s legal community comprises a diverse and distinct group of professionals who are committed to representing clients that vary from global corporations to struggling families; but are all in need of an experienced advocate. In our third annual Best of the Bar issue, we honor 293 local attorneys who were chosen by their peers as the most outstanding in their field.

The final list of attorneys represents an extensive range of specialties from intellectual property, mergers and acquisitions, to immigration and criminal defense. Many of these professionals bring a wide array of backgrounds that complement their legal training. Former teachers, engineers, military veterans, and stock brokers are utilizing their past expertise to focus in practice areas that demand a unique perspective.

An impressive 2,023 votes were cast in a field of 813 attorneys affiliated with 578 firms and solo practices throughout the area. Legal professionals throughout the metro area cast votes and were urged to consider colleagues inside and outside of their respective firms. No one made the list based solely on votes from others at the same firm.

Not only is this section a showcase for the area’s top attorneys, but it is a comprehensive resource for anyone needing legal services.

Congratulations to all the worthy honorees.



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**James Lance**

**Firm:** Kirby Noonan  
Lance & Hoge

**Website:** [www.knlh.com](http://www.knlh.com)

**Areas of Practice:**

Commercial Litigation, Real Estate,  
Personal Injury

**Best Phrase:** "Pray as though  
everything depended on God. Work as  
though everything depended on you,"  
St. Augustine.

**Little Known Fact:** I have coached  
youth baseball and football for more  
than 15 years.

*I worked for FOX  
Sports at the Sydney  
Olympic Games.*



**Andrea Russell**

**Firm:** Kirby Noonan Lance  
& Hoge, LLP

**Website:** [www.knlh.com](http://www.knlh.com)

**Areas of Practice:**

General Civil, Business & Commercial  
Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "In summing up, it's the  
constitution, it's Mabo, it's justice, it's  
law, it's the vibe, and...no that's it...it's  
the vibe. I rest my case," Dennis Denuto,  
"The Castle."

**Little Known Fact:** I worked for FOX  
Sports at the Sydney Olympic Games.