



Best Lawyers International SM Selection Criteria

Best Lawyers® is expanding its widely-respected lawyer survey to include legal communities around the globe. Starting with Canada, which was added in 2006, at least 20 other countries will be included in our listings of outstanding lawyers by the end of 2008. Wherever we go, we bring the same rigorous peer-review methodology and the same absolute integrity that have made Best Lawyers the premier lawyer-referral service in the United States for over a quarter century.

When lawyers from a new country are added to the Best Lawyers database, the selection process is divided into two parts: nomination and polling. We begin the nomination process by asking lawyers listed in The Best Lawyers in America® to nominate lawyers in the country whose work they know and respect. We then contact those nominees and ask for additional nominations in their country and in their specialty. We also solicit nominations from the chairmen and marketing officers of major law firms in the country.

We then conduct a rigorous survey of the lawyers in that country using what we call a “cascading poll” – that is, a poll that adds additional nominees and solicits votes on them as it progresses. In the first round of voting, the ballot lists only the names of lawyers who have been identified through the nomination process.

All voters are asked to submit additional nominations. These new names become the basis for a second round of voting. The voting pool for the second round includes all new nominees who have been nominated from outside their firm and those lawyers previously nominated from within their own firm who received consistently high marks on the first ballot.

Because ballots always request additional nominees, each round of voting creates a new list of nominees and a new voting pool. The number of rounds required to reach a general consensus (i.e., an agreement that the list contains all the appropriate names) depends on the size of the legal community involved. In general, polling ends when no new high-scoring names emerge from additional ballots. At that point, we evaluate all of the votes that have been entered, giving particular weight to votes from those lawyers who have themselves received the highest votes, to determine which names should be included in the Best Lawyers listings for that country.

Once a list is established, a new poll is conducted each year following the methodology for new editions of The Best Lawyers in America.