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# Worth

## THE 100 TOP ATTORNEYS

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JEFFREY R. MATSEN  
SELECTED AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 100 ATTORNEYS  
FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

DECEMBER 2006

Jeffrey R. Matsen is one of the leading business and estate planning attorneys in Southern California and in the entire United States. Matsen heads up the Estate Planning and Business Transaction Department of the Southern California law firm of Bohm, Matsen, Kegel & Aguilera, LLP.



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For the second consecutive year, Matsen has been designated as one of the nation's "Top 100 Attorneys" by *Worth* magazine and one of Southern California's "Super Lawyers" by *Los Angeles* magazine. Matsen also has the "AV" highest rating for competency and ethics as published by the prestigious international attorney directory Martindale Hubbell. These distinctions are a result of more than 30 years of dedication, service and professionalism.

Matsen and his staff perform a wide range of business transactions for their clients. This includes formation of corporations, limited liability companies, and partnerships of all types. They provide ongoing tax and legal support for their clients to maintain these business entities, including reviewing contracts and buy/sell agreements and handling all matters relating to corporate shareholders. Matsen also has extensive experience in real estate law. He represents investors in the acquisition, management, and sale of properties both domestically and internationally.

Matsen has particular expertise in the new and important field of Asset Protection. He provides asset protection planning for his clients through both Domestic and Foreign Asset Protection Trusts. Matsen has built a

network of offshore contacts which enables him to construct and maintain sophisticated asset protection structures in foreign jurisdictions. An asset protection plan that involves utilization of offshore trusts and other business entities is often an appropriate solution for clients who are seeking maximum comfort and piece of mind.

In the area of conventional Estate Planning, Matsen's services range from setting up Wills, Trusts, and Healthcare Powers of Attorney to employing more sophisticated tax saving devices for long-term wealth conservation. In some circumstances, a Family Limited Partnership (FLP) can be an integral component of an estate and asset protection plan. Through an FLP, parents can give substantial wealth to their children while greatly reducing gift and estate tax ramifications. Beyond the area of Estate Planning, Matsen has a strong background in probate and trust administration. For more information on these services, visit Matsen's website at [www.877probate.com](http://www.877probate.com).

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Poring over nominees for *WORTH's* annual Top 100 Attorneys list is a bit like taking the bar exam. The information seems infinite, the choices difficult. But there is also a clear logic to it all.

*WORTH's* editors start by soliciting our readers for recommendations of outstanding lawyers they have used for their personal needs, from trusts and estates work, to philanthropy advice, to tax concerns. We also reach out to those in a professional position to know legal excellence: financial advisors, family office executives, accountants and consultants. Thus we compile our list of nominees. Each nominated attorney then completes a detailed questionnaire that discerns both straightforward, factual information (Where is he or she admitted to the bar? How long has the lawyer been practicing?) and more nuanced qualities.

The facts help our first cull. We eliminate those lawyers—distinguished as they may be—who work primarily in corporate, rather than personal, law. We seek attorneys who serve clients with sufficient net worth,

who have deep experience in their fields and who have the professional affiliations and publishing history to indicate they could provide extraordinary expertise to a *WORTH* reader.

Our more probing questions determine the final cut. We ask nominees for their opinions on important legal trends: We want to know what specific counsel they have given their clients. We also examine their thinking concerning the best and worst qualities for a lawyer in their field. We purge attorneys whose replies are rote, pedestrian or vague; those with the most thoughtful, thorough, intelligent answers move on.

Finally, *WORTH's* editorial staff performs 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. Nearly all of our nominees are outstanding. In the end, however, we choose those who truly stand apart.

—Emily DeNitto