

Sheppard Mullin Ranks Highly In National Survey

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Chambers & Partners' second annual guide to America's leading business lawyers ranked Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton as one of the top law firms in California. The guide, *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, which reviews law firms by practice area in each state, lists Sheppard Mullin as one of California's top firms in the areas of Banking & Finance; Bankruptcy; Corporate/M&A; Employment; Media & Entertainment; and Real Estate law.

In addition to ranking firms, the guide also identifies individual lawyers who were lauded by their peers and clients. These Sheppard Mullin lawyers were recognized as one of the state's top attorney's for achievements in their respective practice group:

- Michael Ahrens (Bankruptcy)
- John Berchild (Banking & Finance)
- Larry Braun (Corporate/M&A)
- Tom Leo (Media & Entertainment)
- Prentice O'Leary (Bankruptcy)
- Bill Scott (Banking & Finance)
- Richard Simmons (Employment)
- Bob Thompson (Real Estate)

Chambers & Partners is a highly regarded UK firm that publishes guides ranking law firms worldwide. Rankings are based solely on in-depth interviews with clients and lawyers, who are asked to rate lawyers on technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial awareness/astuteness, diligence, commitment, and other qualities most valued by the client. For the 2004 edition of *Chambers USA*, a team of 30 full-time researchers spent a year conducting more than 4,500 telephone interviews and collecting and analyzing tens of thousands of comments.