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Venable Employee Benefits Lawyers Selected as "Best Lawyers in America"

Fifty-nine Venable LLP lawyers have been selected by their peers for inclusion in the 2009 edition of **Best Lawyers in America**. Among these are four of our partners who practice in the areas of employee benefits and executive compensation. They are:

[Kenneth R. Hoffman](#) Ken's extensive experience includes executive compensation and employment agreements, qualified and non-qualified retirement plans, tax-sheltered annuities, negotiating compensation and benefits for represented employees, advice regarding multiple and multiemployer plans, fiduciary advice regarding retirement plans, worker classification issues with respect to benefit plans, ERISA and benefit issues in acquisitions and mergers, and representation before Congress with respect to legislative changes in single and multiemployer retirement plans.

[Barbara E. Schlaff](#) Barbara focuses her practice on qualified and nonqualified deferred compensation retirement plans, executive compensation, welfare plans and other benefit programs. She designs and drafts employee benefits plans; advises clients on administrative, tax and ERISA issues, including fiduciary rules pertaining to the plans; interfaces on behalf of the clients with various governmental agencies; works with Venable's corporate group in acquisitions and mergers; and partners with our litigators in ERISA lawsuits.

[Serena G. Simons](#) Working with single-employer, multi-employer, multiple-employer and governmental plans, Serena advises on issues arising out of the Internal Revenue Code and ERISA related to plan design, drafting, compliance, and corrections for traditional and hybrid defined benefit plans, 401(k) plans, 403(b) programs, 457 plans and executive compensation plans and agreements. She also works with health and welfare plans, including the new "consumer-driven" health plans (e.g., HRAs and HSAs).

[Martha Jo Wagner](#) Marty focuses her practice on benefit and fiduciary claims resolution and litigation, process review and redesign, and welfare plan compliance. She has litigated retirement and health and welfare benefit and fiduciary breach claims nationwide for more than 25 years, and has been involved in successful litigation in many federal courts. She recently provided expert testimony before a House Subcommittee regarding disability benefits paid to former NFL players.

Considered one of the nation's leading lawyer-rating publications, **Best Lawyers** gleans its annual rankings from interviews with more than 12,000 attorneys who candidly evaluate the legal abilities of peers in their field of practice.

Additional information about Venable's Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation Group is available [here](#).

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