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Welcome to *Arizona's Top Rated Lawyers*, a publication featuring legal talent from the Grand Canyon State.

The attorneys featured here and in the accompanying online edition have all achieved the peer reviewed rating of AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell®, the company that has long set the standard for lawyer ratings. The AV Preeminent® rating is a significant accomplishment and demonstrates that a lawyer's peers have ranked him or her at the highest level of professional excellence.

Our online edition of *Arizona's Top Rated Lawyers*, accessible at at.law.com/arizonatoprated, includes the complete directory of all of the Arizona areas AV Peeminent® rated attorneys, listed by their practice areas.

In addition to insightful profiles of many Top Rated attorneys, this publication features articles covering trends in the law, and is a valuable resource for finding top legal talent and making more informed decisions.

Sincerely,

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A comprehensive list of Arizona's Top Rated Lawyers of 2014.



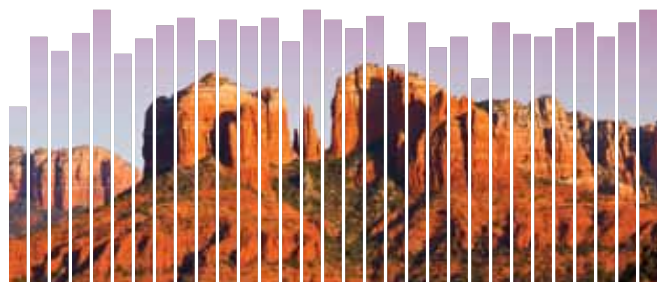
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Lawmakers and practitioners in the Grand Canyon State passed bills and examined cases that touched on transgender rights and the funding of the state's public schools, while a tragedy at a shooting range prompted questions about Arizona's laws pertaining to firearms and minors.

ARIZONA'S CIVIL LITIGATION LEADERS

Wilenchik & Bartness uses its practical approach to prepare for mediation and the courtroom

Fighting for their clients and never giving up. That's what Wilenchik & Bartness, highly experienced civil and criminal attorneys in Phoenix, Scottsdale, Houston and New York, are known for. And now, Becky Bartness is handling mediation and arbitration as well as complex transactions.

Founded by Dennis I. Wilenchik in 1991, formerly a senior partner in civil litigation at the international law firm of Squire, Sanders and Dempsey, he was soon joined by his wife, Becky Bartness, who was formerly General Counsel of Chase Bank, and District Court Law Clerk and associate at the then-oldest firm in Arizona, Evans, Kitchel & Jenckes. The firm provides high-level civil litigation services to a select group of clients in the real estate, business, and construction sectors, as well as transactional work. The attorneys also provide commercial arbitration/mediation and tax litigation services in a mid-size firm.

Wilenchik was born in Brooklyn, New York, where he got his fighting spirit from his grandfather, a professional boxer. He studied acting in college, and later worked for CBS as a page through school. These days, he still gets to act, but in a courtroom reading his own script, rather than on stage.

"I see elements of acting in trial work. Of course sincerity is the key to good acting or good trial advocacy. I also enjoy the challenge of presenting complex facts into simple and compelling themes, that turn negatives into positives," he says.

Dennis recently served out a term on the Arizona Department of Real Estate Advisory Board and has been a nationally certified civil trial advocate for many years with the National Board of Trial Advocacy. He is a former chair of the State Bar Trial Practice Section, a member of the ABA Foundation Fellows and President of the County Young Lawyers. Dennis is also recognized in 2014 *Super Lawyers* and *Top Rated Lawyers*, and was voted Best Trial Lawyer in 2012 by *AZ Foothills Magazine*.

Bartness is a trained mediator, with a concentration in real estate, commercial, banking and environmental law, and commercial mediation. She is a member of the Real Estate and Alternative Dispute Resolution Sections of the ABA and State Bar. She enjoys problem solving in complex business and real estate disputes and was a certified real estate specialist for many years.

Jack Wilenchik, their son, is also a lawyer in the firm. He takes on many pro bono cases, and also handles labor law. This commitment is a big source of pride for his dad.

"We have been fortunate to grow as a law firm, to serve our clients and to make sure they have the support needed for complex civil litigation," says Bartness.

Recently, the attorneys have brainstormed approaches for speedy resolutions of cases, Bartness' specialty.

"Mediation is really a form of negotiation that facilitates the parties," she explains. "We sit down and search for a solution



From left: Becky Bartness, Dennis I. Wilenchik

in a calm, logical way. Litigation often results in a win-lose proposition, and no one comes away happy. Mediation can offer a much quicker, more cost-effective option, especially in cases involving complex matters."

"While mediation is more common in the areas of family law and labor law, commercial law has yet to use mediation on a large scale," Becky says, adding that she hopes the firm can help lead the way.

Wilenchik & Bartness' aggressive and experienced attorneys have worked with impressive cases during the firm's 23 years in existence, and the firm is well known and regarded for its practical approach.

"We are competitive with big firms, and we use technology to compete and cut to the chase sooner to achieve the client's goals. We don't milk cases," Dennis Wilenchik says. "We try to be creative and don't follow the paint-by-numbers way

of doing business. We believe in prosecuting all cases and not just defending them. We hope to provide value in doing so. And nobody is going to intimidate us in court. I have felt at home in court since I was a bailiff 37 years ago. We will go to war, if that's what is required. But, we also believe strongly that the best deterrent to any battle is being prepared, while seeking peace.

"But, you must open up the lines of communication at the same time to resolve disputes, because in the end that is really what is in the best interests of all litigants," Mr. Wilenchik says. "It is a tough balancing act but that is why people hire us. We strive to creatively resolve disputes."

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- DENNIS I. WILENCHIK