BARRISTER'S BEST

Barrister's Choice: Denise Hoffman. Hoffman Crews Nies Waggener & Foster

Denise Hoffman isn't just a trusted tax attorney in the nonprofit community she's a member of it. Her CHOICE Education Foundation provides scholarships to community-minded students. Take notes, kids: This 2014 Richard Marden Davis Award recipient showed that you can forge a successful legal practice on your own terms and have a major community impact before you even turn 40.

People's Choice: Jeremy Cohen, Burns Figa & Will

Over the past 20-plus years, Nebraska native Jeremy Cohen has built up a robust tax and estate-planning career with a niche in high-value farm and ranch succession planning. His peer recognition is proof that if you're good enough at what you do, Coloradans are willing to overlook the fact you're from the Cornhusker State.

BEST SECURITIES LAWYER

Barrister's Choice: Gary Ceriani, Davis & Ceriani

The firm Gary Ceriani cofounded in 1978 is the perfect example of "small but mighty." Designed to work as a small team, the firm handles a range of business matters, and Ceriani himself has a national practice in commercial litigation, trying more than 100 cases over the course of his career.

People's Choice: David Roos, Moye White



Who better to handle securities matters than someone with experience working for the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission? David Roos has a 30-year career at the SEC, working as in-house counsel and in private practice. He now puts all that knowledge to work advising public companies on SEC reporting matters and providing counsel on state and federal securities law.

BEST ANTITRUST LAWYER

Barrister's Choice: Bobbee Musgrave,

Bryan Cave

Known as being both a valuable ally and a fierce opponent for other lawyers, Bobbee Musgrave has proven to be a top antitrust attorney. She's no stranger to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals judges, whom she's argued several cases in front of, and she has a solid resume of antitrust, intellectual property, class action and multidistrict litigation cases.

People's Choice: Rich Benenson, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

In an interview for this year's Top Lawyers coverage, Rich Benenson identified himself as having been a competitive kid. Now as a lawyer, he feeds that competitive nature in the courtroom. Last year, he served as lead defense counsel in a handful of antitrust, consumer protection and class-action cases. We feel a little bad for the opposing counsel.

BEST MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS LAWYER