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## Martindale-Hubbell Ratings Transformation Continues

LexisNexis (New York) this month announced more detailed information and numerical scores for its Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Ratings.

“Changes in our Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Ratings directly reflect extensive research and feedback from the legal community regarding the methodologies and formats considered most useful to evaluate lawyers and to those who use our ratings to inform their selection of legal counsel,” said Alfredo Sciascia, vice president and leader of ratings business transformation for LexisNexis Martindale-Hubbell.

Legal Ability Rating will be area-of-practice-specific and rated on a scale of one to five, with one being the

lowest and five being the highest, across five key criteria: Legal Knowledge, Analytical Capabilities, Judgment, Communication Ability and Legal Experience. In addition, basic demographic data on reviewers will now be aggregated and displayed along with any narrative feedback reviewers wish to offer.

A combination of the General Ethical Standards Rating and the revised Legal Ability Rating determines the Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Ratings, which includes a certification mark, a rating term, and the newly introduced numeric rating as follows:

- AV Preeminent (4.5 – 5.0);
- BV Distinguished (3.0 – 4.4); and
- Rated (1.0 – 2.9).

Lawyers currently rated AV or BV under the existing Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Ratings program will retain their existing certification mark, and will be given the highest equivalent numeric rating and rating term in the changed program. As lawyers are re-rated under the new system, their Peer Review Rating will be updated to reflect new peer assessments.

Another change for the Ratings is the phased out support of the CV certification mark. Previously used to recognize newly admitted lawyers who had been acknowledged by their peers for achieving the Very High Criteria of General Ethical Standing, the change is being made to simplify the ratings system. Martindale-Hubbell has also relaxed the tenure restriction on achievement of the higher ratings so younger lawyers are now eligible to achieve an AV Preeminent or BV Distinguished Peer Review Rating.

LexisNexis Martindale-Hubbell has begun to communicate these changes to lawyers and law firms and will work with lawyers to facilitate re-reviews and first time reviews using the changed methodology. A series of webinars have taken place and others are in the works to provide more detailed information about how these changes will impact lawyers and law firms.

“So far lawyers are interested in knowing more about the changes and have reacted favorably,” Sciascia said. “There hasn’t been any discourse to this point.” ☒