



2011 LAWYERS OF THE YEAR

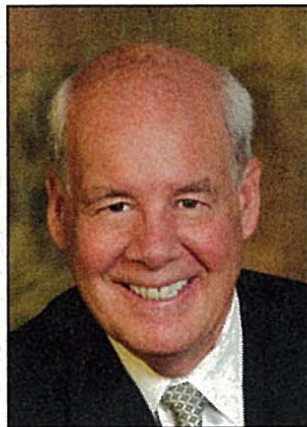
BEST LAWYERS HAS NAMED INDIVIDUALS AS LAWYERS OF THE YEAR IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, BASED ON THEIR PARTICULARLY HIGH LEVEL OF PEER RECOGNITION.

Lawrence P. Grassini

Grassini & Wrinkle

PERSONAL INJURY LITIGATION

The first time Lawrence Grassini was even in a courtroom was as a young lawyer, on the job for just over a week; he was sent by his boss to pick his first jury. Grassini has since gone on to secure a number of landmark, multimillion-dollar punitive damages awards for his clients over the course of his more than 40-year career. All this success, and Grassini never thought personal injury cases would end up being his life's work.



"My first boss literally said to me, 'Come on, let's go out for lunch, and I'll tell you how to pick a jury,'" Grassini, who was born in 1945 in Flushing, Queens, recalls, "So I tried it for a week, and won, very surprisingly." He called Grassini into the office after his win, and greeted Grassini back at the office with a cupcake, stuck in the middle with a lit candle.

After finishing his clerkship and getting some trial experience under his belt, the St. Bonaventure University graduate, who earned his JD from the Columbus School of Law at Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, joined forces with Roland Winkle in 1976 to launch his own practice. Today, Grassini's daughter Katie, one of his five children with his wife Sharon, works side-by-side with him.

"The joy that I get out of trying cases is really seeing the change that it can make in the clients that I represent," says Grassini, named by a magazine for defense attorneys, "The Lawyer We Hate to Love."

—Chris Harris