

High-priced book names the best high-priced lawyers

By Katie Long
STAFF WRITER

Looking for a good lawyer?

Don't consult a publication called "The Best Lawyers in America," which includes a chapter on Georgians, unless you're truly seeking the cream of the crop. And legal fees to match.

The hard-bound, 884-page listing of the 11,501 most ad-

mired lawyers in the country is well-regarded and well-researched, but even its authors admit it is not particularly useful for the average consumer. Nor, at \$95 and available only by special order, is it very accessible.

The volume's two authors even acknowledge it is elitist.

"If you're looking for someone to write a simple will, you wouldn't go to this book," said

Steven Naifeh, one of two 1977 Harvard Law School graduates who wrote the book. "The attorneys in the trust and estates section of this book handle pretty substantial estates."

The authors and the publisher, Woodward/White Inc. of Aiken, S.C., says the book is aimed at businessmen, libraries and other lawyers and is designed to act as a referral for people look-

ing for lawyers "at the upper edge of the legal profession."

They claim that even criminal defense lawyer F. Lee Bailey considers the survey the best way to find a first-rate attorney.

The Georgia chapter of the 1991-92 edition singles out about 200 lawyers from among the more than 17,000 actively practicing in the state. They are categorized under 17 specialties,

from business litigation to family law.

Some local lawyers listed said they only recently learned of the publication. While the lawyers said they didn't know how widely the book is used, they consider it an honor to be included.

"I was totally unaware that I was in the book," said Jerome Froelich, an Atlanta defense lawyer who has been named in the

two most recent editions. never used it but discovered it was listed when a client came to him said he had been referred by a California lawyer "who looked me up."

Like Mr. Froelich, local lawyers Paul Cadenhead and Zacks have not used the book though they are among those listed.

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