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# ATTORNEY AT LAW

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MAGAZINE®

A portrait of Brian Kabateck, a middle-aged man with short, graying hair, smiling slightly. He is wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a white dress shirt, and a red tie with a colorful paisley pattern. The background is a blurred view of a modern building with large glass windows.

## BRIAN KABATECK

ATTORNEY OF THE MONTH

DAN  
KRAMER

TRIAL LAWYER  
OF THE MONTH

# Out on the Town

BEVERLY HILLS  
BAR ASSOCIATION  
INSTALLATION  
AND AWARDS  
DINNER  
@ THE FOUR  
SEASONS



COX CASTLE  
NICHOLSON 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION  
@ THE PORSCHE  
EXPERIENCE  
CENTER

IRANIAN  
AMERICAN  
LAWYERS  
ASSOCIATION  
HAPPY HOUR  
MIXER @ ST.  
MARK



MEXICAN  
AMERICAN  
BAR  
ASSOCIATION  
2018 FALL  
MIXER @ THE  
BONAVENTURE  
BREWING CO.

# TALK *of the* TOWN



Daniel Rygorsky

► **Buchalter** has added litigation shareholder **Daniel Rygorsky** to its Los Angeles office. Rygorsky has extensive experience advising leading e-commerce and technology companies across the nation. He is well versed in matters relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act, ERISA, the Credit Repair Organizations Act, and federal, state, and local tax statutes.



M. Reed Mercado

► Bank and finance senior counsel **M. Reed Mercado** has joined **Buchalter**. Mercado represents a wide range of traditional and non-traditional lenders in complex financing transactions. He has structured, negotiated and documented a wide variety of financing arrangements, including working capital financing, real estate secured financing, debtor-in-possession financing and bridge financing.



Richard P. Steelman Jr.

► **Buchalter** has added litigation special counsel **Richard P. Steelman Jr.** Steelman's practice focuses on complex commercial litigation disputes, with a particular emphasis on health care clients including, urgent care centers, emergency physician groups, billing companies, hospitals and financial services clients.



Roma B. Patel

► **Buchalter** has added a new member of its health care group, attorney **Roma B. Patel**. Patel focuses her practice on regulatory health care matters and health business transactions.

► **Panish Shea & Boyle LLP** proudly congratulates founding partner **Brian Panish**, who was honored by the Irish American Bar Association of Los Angeles at its 36th annual Daniel



Brian Panish

O'Connell Award Dinner. The award—named in honor of Daniel O'Connell, a lawyer who became the first great 19th-century Irish nationalist leader—recognizes an individual who is a promoter of justice and a diligent advocate, and who displays a passion and commitment to the legal profession.

► **The Mexican American Bar Association** honored four distinguished jurists at its Annual Judges' Night & Awards Dinner: **Hon. André Birotte Jr.** and **Hon. A. Ashley Tabaddor** received the Benjamin Aranda III Judge of the Year Award; **Hon. Victoria M. Chavez** received the Carlos R. Moreno Judicial Excellence Award; and **Hon. Sergio C. Tapia II** received the Judicial Community Service Award.



Nick Rowley

► Trial Lawyer **Nick Rowley**, partner at **Carpenter, Zuckerman, & Rowley** and founder of Trial Lawyers for Justice, has been named the 2018 Trial Lawyer of the Year by the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles. The CAALA Trial Lawyer of the Year Award is one of the most significant honors bestowed upon a civil trial lawyer and highlights those who have shown exceptional trial skills and achieved unmatched victories on behalf of injury victims and families. It is also an award that recognizes a lawyer's contribution to the profession and long-time dedication to the jury trial method of achieving civil justice. This was the sixth time that Rowley was one of the five finalists for the award.

► **Mayer Brown** has promoted **Evan M. Wooten** to counsel, effective Jan. 1, 2019. Wooten, a litigation and dispute resolution counsel in Los Angeles, is an experienced civil litigator who focuses on privacy, consumer class action defense and actions by

public officials and public enforcement bodies. He assists clients in drafting agreements, policies, and terms of use to minimize litigation and government investigations. A member of Mayer Brown's consumer litigation and class action and commercial litigation groups, Wooten has represented clients in telecommunications, false claims, false advertising, unfair competition, foreign commerce and consumer protection matters.

► Responding to a sweeping program created by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Am Law 100 firm **Polsinelli** has established its newest practice, the opportunity zones practice group. The firm's new practice will work with clients to structure investments compliant with the law in opportunity zones across the country.



S. Desmond Jui

► **S. Desmond Jui** joins **Lathrop Gage** as of counsel in the firm's intellectual property practice. Jui brings experience litigating patent infringement and invalidity matters before U.S. district courts, the Federal Court and the U.S. Patent and Trademark office. He also possesses unique insight from the other side of the bench, as a former judicial clerk for the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California, and the Los Angeles Superior Court.



Guy M. Rodgers

► **Guy M. Rodgers** joins **Lathrop Gage** as an associate in its intellectual property practice. Rodgers' has a multifaceted background including science, technology and the law. He has focused the whole of his legal career working out of the Los Angeles area and in the field of intellectual property, primarily handling litigation matters of all types.

► More than 500 influential commercial real estate executives united at the Porsche Experience Center to cel-

celebrate real estate-focused law firm **Cox, Castle & Nicholson's** 50th anniversary. Guests enjoyed an adrenaline-filled evening with professional driver ride-along experiences in the latest Porsche models and participated in state-of-the-art driving simulators. The program included a cocktail reception in front of an iconic backdrop featuring both classic and new Porsches, remarks by Senior Partner **Mario Camara**, and a presentation showcasing key milestones in the firm's 50-year history.

## BHBA ANNUAL INSTALLATION AND AWARDS DINNER

PHOTOS BY LEE SALEM

The Beverly Hills Bar Association hosted its annual Installation and Awards Dinner. Tax attorney **LaVonne D. Lawson**, of the Law Office of LaVonne Lawson, was installed as president. Lawson was sworn in by Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge **Rupert A. Byrdsong**. In addition to Lawson, other officers sworn in were President-Elect **Michael R. Sohigian**; **Adam Siegler**; **Second Vice-President Anthony Ross**; **Secretary/Treasurer Malcolm McNeil**; and **Immediate Past President Richard D. Kaplan**. The BHBA Barristers officers installed were **President Jack McMorro**; **President-Elect Nadira Imam**; **Treasurer Daniel Rubin**; **Secretary David Wagmeister**; and Im-

mediate Past President **Elizabeth Hall Peterson**. Beverly Hills Bar Foundation leaders invested included **President Linda E. Spiegel**; **Vice President Scholarships Alan Forsley**; **Treasurer Feris M. Greenberger**; **Secretary Marc A. Lieberman**; **Vice President of Development Hany Haddad**; and **Immediate Past President Jim Jahant**.

Outstanding service awards bestowed included the **President's Award to Jeffrey A. Shane**; **Board of Governors Award to the BHBA Committee on Empowering Women Founding Members**; **Chief Executive Officer's Award to William Wenzel**; **Barristers Lawrence J. Blake Award to Lauren Rebecca Gabbai**; and the **Louis B. Fox Award to Lawrence H. Jacobson**.



BHBA CEO **MARC STAENBERG**, **BRIAN S. KABATECK** AND BHBA IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT **RICHARD KAPLAN**  
BHBA 4: **JACK MCMORROW**, **NADIRA IMAM** AND **DAVID WAGMEISTER**



**RUPERT A. BYRDSONG** AND **LAVONNE LAWSON**



SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE **RUPERT A. BYRDSONG** PRESIDED OVER THE EVENING, INSTALLING BHBA PRESIDENT **LAVONNE LAWSON**, BEVERLY HILLS BAR FOUNDATION PRESIDENT **LINDA SPIEGEL**, AND BHBA BARRISTERS PRESIDENT **JACK MCMORROW**



OUTSTANDING AWARD RECIPIENTS **WILLIAM WENZEL**, **JEFFREY A. SHANE**, **LAUREN REBECCA GABBAIAN** AND **LAWRENCE H. JACOBSON**



FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERING WOMEN **MITRA TORABI**, **JENNIFER OSTERTAG**, **EVE WAGNER**, **LOURDES DEARMAS** AND **NADIRA IMAM**