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Letter from the Publisher



The Los Angeles Business Journal was proud to host our third annual Top 100 Lawyers event on the evening of Thursday, April 18th. This exciting event shone the spotlight on the region's outstanding legal community by recognizing Los Angeles' top 100 lawyers for their legal achievements, community involvement and impacts on the profession. In addition, we also presented several specialty awards to those who continue to excel in profession in unique and impactful ways.

Considering the fact that the Los Angeles region has long been known for its status as a hub for legal thought leaders and record-setting attorneys, being a standout in that field is particularly impressive.

The 100 lawyers listed throughout this section have demonstrated exceptional legal skill and achievements across the full spectrum of responsibility, exemplary leadership and contributions to the Los Angeles community at large.

On the surface, some of the particular abilities and traits that help to make a lawyer stand out include responsiveness, analytical skills, good research skills, speaking skills and listening skills. Beyond that there are many strategic intangibles that take quality attorneys to the next

level. Each of the professionals listed in these pages are experts and thought leaders in their respective areas of specialty and each have had a hand in helping the legal system function and thrive here in Southern California.

In the following pages we share biographical information on these legal stand outs and shed some additional light on some of the specialty award winners from the night who represent premier examples of business law practitioners among us today.

Many thanks to the sponsors who made this event possible, including our Platinum Sponsor, **Irvine Company**, and Gold Sponsors: **Alston & Bird**; **Baker McKenzie**; **Barnes & Thornburg LLP**; **Clark Hill PLC**; **Glaser Weill**; **Greenberg Traurig LLP**; **Lagerlof LLP**; **Latham & Watkins LLP**; **Meyer Olson Lowy Meyers**; **Milbank**; **Munck Wilson Mandala**; **Nixon Peabody**; **Polsinelli LLP**; **Robins Kaplan LLP** and **Shook, Hardy & Bacon**.

We hope you enjoy this special section, which contains some unique insights on what exactly it means to be a leading attorney in today's business climate.

Best regards,

Josh Schimmels
Publisher & CEO

Baker McKenzie.

Baker McKenzie congratulates
Perrie Weiner on his inclusion into
the **Los Angeles Business Journal's**
2024 List of Top 100 Lawyers.

Over the past two years, our Los Angeles
office has grown from 4 to over 54 lawyers
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Partner-in-Charge of Baker McKenzie's
Los Angeles office, and Chair of the Firm's
North America Securities Litigation Group



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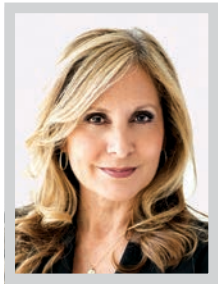
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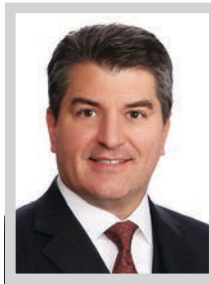


ANGELA AGRUSA

Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office; Co-Chair, Mass Torts & Class Actions Litigation Group; Co-Chair, Food and Beverage Subsector; Member, DLA Piper Executive Board
DLA Piper

DLA Piper partner Angela Agrusa handles high-stake matters that command headlines and shape legal precedent. From Chipotle to T-Mobile, Agrusa has successfully defended her clients in more than 50 putative class actions with combined potential exposure of over \$100 billion in just the last five years alone, including Danone in first-of-its-kind impact litigation, and her track record has resulted in long-term partnerships with iconic brands Danone, Hilton, Chipotle and Motel 6.

Within DLA Piper, Agrusa serves as the managing partner of DLA Piper's Los Angeles offices, growing the DLA Piper LA office to over 120 attorneys and tripling its revenue in the last four years. She is an active, successful recruiter and has brought in several high-profile lateral partners in recent months. Agrusa also serves as co-chair of the firm's Class Action and Mass Action Litigation Group and its Food and Beverage sector.

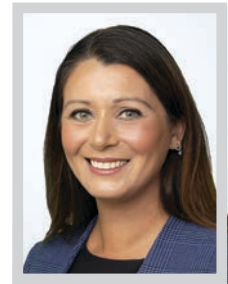


JOE AKROTIRIANAKIS

Partner
King & Spalding

Joe Akrotirianakis is an accomplished trial lawyer who has built a practice litigating cases that are unusually complex and that involve novel applications of the law, prosecuting and defending matters involving cutting-edge legal theories in high-profile matters brought, for example, pursuant to the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, the California Comprehensive Computer Data Access and Fraud Act, the Lanham Act, the California Unfair Competition Law and similar state unfair trade practices laws.

Akrotirianakis' successes in these matters have been repeatedly recognized in the legal press and mainstream media. Most recently, he has successfully challenged a California law that would have made it more challenging for his client American Kidney Fund to provide financial assistance to dialysis patients, brought groundbreaking unfair competition and false advertising suits related to blockbuster drug Mounjaro, and successfully defended cybersecurity company NSO Group in a CFAA case related to the assassination of Jamal Khashoggi.

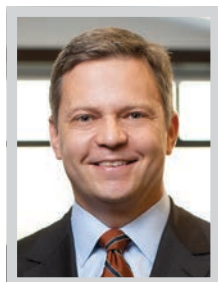


ALEXIS ALONZO

Partner
Holland & Knight

Amid economic turmoil, Alexis Alonzo has become a trailblazer in the niche area of real estate law that comprises much of her practice: an alternative land finance vehicle called land banking. She is one of the only attorneys in the country who handles this type of matter and has exceptional experience in this space.

Alonzo represents the country's preeminent land bankers in acquiring, financing and selling residential housing lots throughout the United States. To date, she has handled more than two billion dollars worth of these transactions. She also represents top homebuilders and residential lot developers in the acquisition and sale of neighborhoods and lots located within residential communities throughout the United States. In the last couple of years, Alonzo has spearheaded some of the most monumental transactions in her career, showcasing her prowess and strategic acumen in the realm of real estate law.

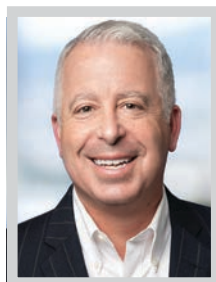


JEAN-CLAUDE (J.C.) ANDRÉ

Partner
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP

J.C. André has demonstrated his commitment to the local Los Angeles community in his legal and civic work throughout his career. As the co-chair of BCLP's Appellate and Supreme Court practice, André has raised the practice's visibility with a steady stream of articles featuring his prominent cases and is often quoted in legal publications for his expertise, invigorated the practice by hiring a dozen appellate specialists over the past two years, and thereby created a national appellate hub for the firm and from which the whole firm benefits.

Between private practice and government, André has personally briefed and/or argued hundreds of distinct appeals before the US Supreme Court, various US Circuit Courts of Appeals, the California Supreme Court and the California Court of Appeal, including dozens of briefs and three arguments before the US Supreme Court, and over 100 briefs and 45 arguments before the Ninth Circuit.

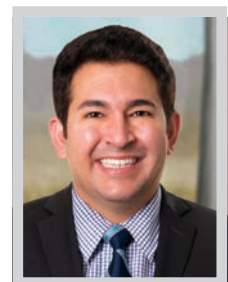


ANDREW APFELBERG

Partner
Greenberg Glusker LLP

Regularly recognized for his unique blend of corporate and finance experience, Andrew Apfelberg represents a who's who of middle-market companies throughout the United States. Based on the results he achieves for them, his clients describe him as a brilliant, empathetic practitioner in the corporate and finance spaces.

Apfelberg has a considerable depth of experience in the branded consumer products and manufacturing & distribution industries as well as representing high-net-worth individuals and their family offices. His expertise and integrity allow him to often act as an outside general counsel to his clients, providing advice on a business' significant transactions whether it's a merger or acquisition, private equity or other financing, joint venture or licensing deal. Apfelberg's strong business and finance background emanates from his education at USC's Marshall School of Business and from working in investment banking before attending law school.



JAMES AZADIAN

Member; Co-Leader, Appellate and Critical Motions Practice; West Coast Appellate Chair
Dykema

Regarding as one of the nation's leading appellate advocates, Jimmy Azadian co-leads Dykema's nationwide Appellate and Critical Motions Practice and serves as the firm's West Coast appellate chair. He specializes in complex federal and state court commercial litigation raising cutting-edge and core business issues, the First Amendment to the Constitution, Article I of the California Constitution and the application of California's anti-SLAPP statute in federal court. He has been responsible for arguing cases that have had immense impact on the law, some with hundreds of millions of dollars at stake.

Azadian has served as counsel in more than 270 appeals and writ proceedings covering a wide variety of industries and subjects throughout the country. He often serves as special counsel to other law firms in preparing advocates for oral argument and in assisting with the preparation of appellate briefs as well as critical motions at the trial court level.



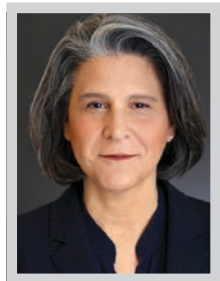
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Top 100 Lawyers in Los Angeles honored by Los Angeles Business Journal for a third consecutive year.

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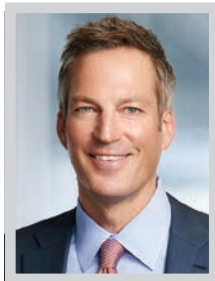


ELENA BACA

Partner; Global Chair, Employment Law Department
Paul Hastings LLP

Elena Baca is a nationally recognized employment trial lawyer with a stellar reputation both in and out of the courtroom. As global chair of Paul Hastings' leading Employment Law Department, based out of the downtown Los Angeles office, she has influenced a team of more than 80 labor and employment lawyers in ten offices worldwide. Under Baca's visionary leadership, the department has flourished into a powerhouse and remains at the forefront of the most pressing issues confronting employers and is consistently engaged to defend clients in the most high-stakes, headline-grabbing matters.

With a career spanning over 30 years, Baca dominates adversaries in courtrooms and her experience ranges from defending an array of class actions, to advising on employment issues impacting the C-Suite, to high-profile litigation asserted against some of the most recognized companies.



RYAN BAKER

Co-Founding Partner
Waymaker LLP

One of California's elite trial and appellate lawyers, Waymaker LLP founding partner Ryan Baker regularly wins trial verdicts and appeals in high-stakes cases. A skilled litigator and trial lawyer who often deals with cases involving intellectual property and innovative or disruptive technology, Baker has built Waymaker into one of the nation's premiere trial and litigation boutiques. The firm regularly handles litigation at the intersection of innovative technology and complex legal issues. Baker himself has a stellar record of achievement at both trials and appeals in intellectual property cases and is known for presenting arguments in a clear, elegant, persuasive manner in his representation of industry innovators.

Baker has tried cases and argued motions in state and federal courts across the country and has appeared in the courtrooms of no fewer than 15 states. Baker also successfully guided Waymaker through the turmoil of the pandemic.

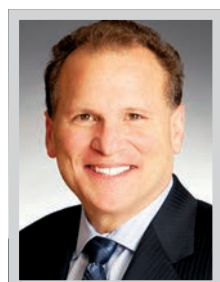


RYAN BARNCASTLE

Partner
Barnes & Thornburg LLP

Ryan Barncastle, a partner in Barnes & Thornburg's Corporate Department, is a business transactional attorney with significant experience in several legal disciplines, including corporate, real estate, securities and private equity. With nearly two decades of experience, he has established an international practice representing private equity firms, venture capital funds and institutional family offices in a wide array of corporate, finance, securities and real estate transactions with a focus on substantial, complex and cross-border transactions. Put another way, Barncastle represents sophisticated clients all over the world with their most complex matters.

Given his skill and strength as a dealmaker, Barncastle's public and private clients appreciate that they can rely on him as a trusted adviser in connection with their most complicated transactions. In addition, Barncastle offers invaluable insight and recommendations on corporate strategy and legal structuring of deals that are consistent with the business goals of his dynamic client base.

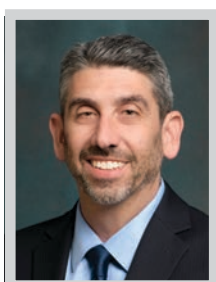


ROD BERMAN

Partner; Chair, Intellectual Property Group
Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP

Rod Berman has been on the cutting edge of intellectual property law for over 40 years. He has represented a who's who of clients in connection with patent, trade secret, trademark, internet and copyright issues, including the Smurf properties, Allergan, Shimoano, U-Haul, Therabody, Paige and Cherokee. He represents several wine brands including the iconic Screaming Eagle. He has also represented well-known directors, a cinematographer, a symphony conductor, actors and an NBA team. He represented the musician Alan Parsons in defending his rights through litigation in Spain and the UK, as well as the US, and has represented Paige in actions in Australia, Sizzler in actions in Mexico and U-Haul in actions in Costa Rica.

Berman is multi-directional; he has handled numerous intellectual property litigations, including successful appeals before the Federal Circuit and 9th Circuit. He also lobbied before the California Legislature regarding an amendment to unfair competition laws.

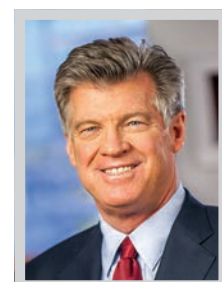


DAVID BOBROSKY

Shareholder
Lewitt Hackman

David B. Bobrosky is a Los Angeles personal injury lawyer and shareholder who initially joined Lewitt Hackman in 1998. Bobrosky represents individuals with accident injury claims caused by defective products or the negligence of others. Throughout his career, Bobrosky has obtained multi-million dollar settlements and awards for people who incurred medical expenses, lost income and suffered debilitating physical and emotional pain. Whether he is assisting people who have been injured themselves, or family members of wrongful death victims, Bobrosky pursues claims aggressively during trial, or obtains fair settlements when it makes the most sense for the client.

Bobrosky and his colleagues in the Personal Injury Practice Group pride themselves on not only the aggressiveness and thoroughness with which they handle each case, but also on the professional and caring nature in which they help their clients.



BRAD BRIAN

Firm Chair; Partner
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

Brad D. Brian, the first elected chair of Munger, Tolles & Olson, is recognized by both Chambers USA and Chambers Global as one of the top trial lawyers globally. A fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, Brian represents large companies in their most important matters.

Brian's practice spans a wide range of industries and includes a who's who roster of clients, such as PG&E, MGM Resorts, Southern California Edison, Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc., Activision, Jacobs Engineering, Bechtel, Transocean, Sotera Health, Fortress Investment Group, the Kobe Bryant Estate and some of the largest law firms in the country. Brian is also regularly called upon to handle the most important public interest cases in California. Most recently, he successfully led the effort challenging the constitutionality of the pre-arraignment cash bail system in Los Angeles County.

2024 TOP 100 LAWYERS OF LOS ANGELES

Congratulations

**David
Martinez**

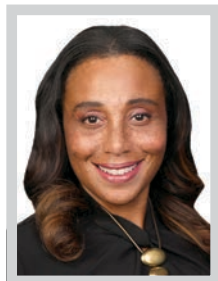
PARTNER
MEMBER OF THE
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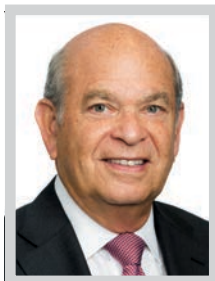


MELANIE CHANEY

Los Angeles Office Managing Partner
Liebert Cassidy Whitmore

Melanie Chaney, the managing partner of LCW's Los Angeles office, stands as an exemplary leader in the legal field, distinguished by her expertise as a negotiator and litigator, and her unwavering commitment to collaboration and inclusivity.

Chaney's extensive experience in negotiation and litigation has been marked by significant achievements. She excels in providing practical advice on labor and employment issues, demonstrating a nuanced understanding of complex legal matters. Her success in guiding clients through bargaining processes, including impasse, mediation and factfinding, showcases her strategic acumen and ability to secure favorable outcomes in interest-based bargaining and strike preparations. Handling collective bargaining agreements, interpreting memoranda of understanding, resolving labor disputes and addressing unfair labor practice charges are all within her scope of expertise. Her prowess as a skilled litigator is evident in securing favorable verdicts in harassment, discrimination, retaliation and wage cases.



MICHAEL COHEN

Partner, Corporate
Blank Rome LLP

Michael Cohen has had a stellar, 50-year legal career in corporate and real estate law, negotiating and executing significant transactions nationally. Cohen's corporate practice includes the representation of sellers and buyers in public and private merger and acquisition transactions, as well as general representation of well-established companies as outside general counsel, including privately held companies and emerging growth companies. In addition, he represents companies, including foundations, in equity financing and investment transactions, venture capital and private equity transactions, and executive compensation and employment-related matters.

Cohen's real estate practice includes substantial experience in complex acquisition and disposition transactions, real estate development partnerships and joint ventures, construction projects, leasing arrangements, and sale-leaseback transactions. Throughout his years of practice, Cohen has focused on providing his clients with highly personal and prompt attention. He is always available and his clients appreciate that kind of dedication to their projects.

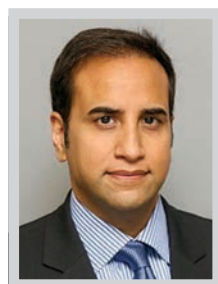


THERESA CONDUAH

Partner
Alston & Bird

Theresa Conduah is a partner in the Intellectual Property Litigation Group at Alston & Bird. She focuses on trademark and copyright portfolio management, licensing and enforcement strategies, and IP litigation. Conduah has experience in the technology, consumer products, entertainment and sports industries. She counsels clients in developing and scaling global IP portfolios, design patents, global brand protection and anti-counterfeit programs. She has prosecuted of dozens of uniform domain name dispute resolution policy cases before the National Arbitration Forum and the World Intellectual Property Organization.

Adversity is a powerful motivator for Conduah, who has met and tackled hard problems time and again throughout her career. Born in Ghana in West Africa, Conduah faced adversity merely by her place of birth. Growing up in primarily rural environments, Conduah's family would eventually make their way to New York, but her passion for innovation and rising to every occasion was already present.



JON DARYANANI

Labor & Employment Partner
Perkins Coie LLP

Jon Daryanani is a partner in the Los Angeles office for Perkins Coie, LLP, and a partner with the firm's Labor & Employment practice and served as the Los Angeles managing partner for several years. Daryanani focuses his practice on all aspects of employment and labor litigation and client counseling, including trade secrets and employee mobility litigation. Drawing on his extensive experience, Daryanani represents clients in civil litigation, including class actions and administrative proceedings, involving wage and hour, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wrongful termination and misappropriation of trade secrets claims.

Daryanani routinely partners with his clients to serve a resource and general counsel for all aspects of his clients' business operations. In his advice to employers, which include high-profile celebrity clients in business and media, he provides strategic planning on various employment and operational business matters. As a former CPA, Daryanani brings unique insights and advice to his practice.

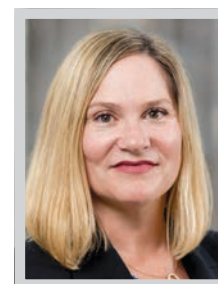


JOSHUA DRISKELL

Managing Partner
Lagerlof, LLP

Joshua Driskell is Lagerlof, LPP's managing partner. He brings a background representing businesses and individuals and a keen attention to detail to leading the firm. In a short time, Lagerlof, LLP has experienced tremendous growth and has had a remarkable impact on their community. As an attorney, Driskell's practice focuses on business, tax, estate, fiduciary and related matters.

Driskell is an active member in his community and has been a supporter and board member of multiple nonprofit organizations. He is a member of the Pasadena Bar Association, the Los Angeles County Bar Association and the California Bar Association. Prior to forming Primuth, Driskell & Terzian, LLP, with partner Jonathan Primuth in 2014, Driskell worked at a multi-state law firm, handling a wide variety of matters for individuals, and small and medium-sized businesses.



LORRAINE ECHAVARRIA

Vice Chair, Securities and Financial Services Department;
Partner-in-Charge, Los Angeles Office
WilmerHale

Lori Echavarría is a Los Angeles-based partner for WilmerHale who represents and advises public companies, corporate officers, financial institutions, hedge funds and other financial market participants facing government investigations and potential enforcement actions. With more than 25 years of experience in private practice and in the federal government, Echavarría is routinely engaged by recognized household names across a wide swath of industries to represent them in high-stakes securities, white-collar and regulatory matters. Echavarría also provides crisis management and compliance counseling, conducts internal investigations, and advises on compliance programs for her diverse group of clients. She represents clients in the following industries, among others, asset management, private equity, health care, financial institutions, defense contracting, entertainment and insurance.

Echavarría was named partner-in-charge of the firm's Los Angeles office in January 2024, and in that role, plays an important part driving the firm's LA-based initiatives.

CONGRATULATIONS!



FRANCES O'MEARA

PARTNER



STEPHEN HENNING

FOUNDING PARTNER

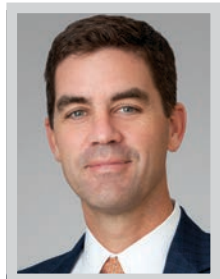
2024 Top Lawyers in Los Angeles

- *Los Angeles Business Journal*

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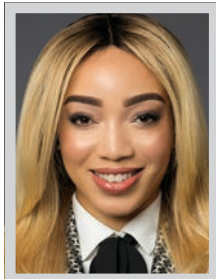


KEVIN EHRHART

Partner
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Kevin Ehrhart is the founding partner of Kirkland & Ellis' California real estate practice and considered one of the most dynamic attorneys in the industry. In response to increased demand on the West Coast, Ehrhart joined Kirkland in early 2017 to help grow the firm's Real Estate platform, both globally and in California, and has led several high-profile matters.

Notably, Ehrhart led the largest-ever private real estate transaction globally for longtime client, Los Angeles-based GLP Capital Partners in the \$18.7 billion sale of its logistics business to Blackstone, which included logistics properties across three separate GLP US funds and 179 million square feet of urban logistics assets located throughout the US. Ehrhart represents private equity funds, investment advisors, privately held and publicly traded real estate companies, offshore investors and others in matters relating to their real estate investments and strategies.

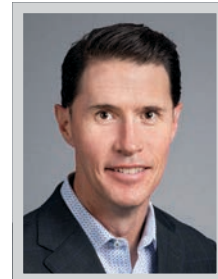


SIERRA ELIZABETH

Partner
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Sierra Elizabeth is an experienced trial lawyer who has demonstrated an unmatched dedication to her clients and passion for the law. These qualities, alongside her outstanding track record of wins in high-stakes trials, bear out her reputation as a dominant force in the courtroom and the greater legal community in Los Angeles and beyond.

In her career, Elizabeth has obtained significant trial victories for a diverse array of clients in wide-ranging industries including pharmaceuticals, consumer goods, healthcare, food and beverage, energy, retail, health and wellness, automotive, and oil and gas, among others. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, Elizabeth has tried and won four bet-the-company jury trials, serving as lead counsel in some of the country's biggest civil litigations. In 2023, Elizabeth was a key member of a jury trial team that prevailed for a major client in a high-stakes trademark infringement and breach of contract case related to consumer products.

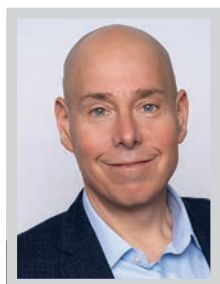


MATTHEW ERTMAN

Partner
Allen Matkins

Matthew J. Ertman is a seasoned advisor in structuring and executing investment vehicles and the successful acquisition and disposition of assets across numerous industries. As chair of the firm's Corporate and Finance Practice and co-chair of the Investment Management Practice, Ertman has advised clients in the formation and capitalization of billions of dollars in investment funds, and the acquisition, investment in, and disposition of assets and companies, including professional sports franchises, films and television shows, television channels, entertainment companies and studios, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, restaurant companies and portfolios, and hotels and other hospitality companies.

Ertman's ability to identify and mitigate risks while providing certainty and efficiency to transactions is evident in his track record. His leadership and business acumen directly influence the success of his clients' ventures, driving growth and expansion across diverse sectors.

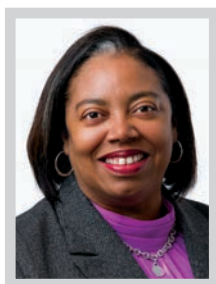


MILES FELDMAN

Founding Partner
Raines Feldman Littrell LLP

Miles Feldman is a founding partner of Raines Feldman Littrell LLP. With more than 80 lawyers, Raines Feldman Littrell LLP is one of the preeminent business law firms in Los Angeles. Feldman runs the Trials, Litigation and Dispute Resolution department of the firm with more than 15 litigators.

A seasoned trial lawyer, Feldman has nearly three decades of experience handling hard fought and often high-profile cases through trial and appeal, as well as in numerous arbitration forums. Prior to launching Raines Feldman Littrell LLP more than 14 years ago, Feldman was a partner with two of Los Angeles' most prominent business litigation firms. Feldman regularly gets results in cutting-edge litigation disputes for some of LA's most forward-thinking and vanguard businesses in technology, media and finance. These include Belkin International, United Talent Agency, Julien's Auctions, Haymaker Content, TikTok, Fear of God and FilmTools.

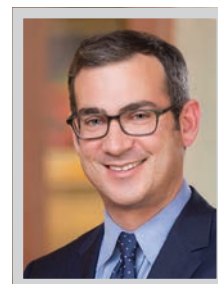


AMBER FINCH

Partner
Reed Smith LLP

Amber Finch is the global chair of Reed Smith's Insurance Recovery Group and former managing partner of the firm's Los Angeles office. Finch was also the previous partner chair for the firm's African American Business Inclusion Group, STAARS (Sustaining and Training African Americans at Reed Smith) which works to support the growth of Black lawyers and administrative staff at the firm across all ranks.

Finch has quickly become a go-to lawyer for creating effective risk management solutions. With her litigation background, she has helped her commercial policyholder clients recover hundreds of millions of dollars in insurance proceeds. Finch's legal practice focuses on insurance recovery matters, and she represents a litany of clients from start-up businesses to middle market and Fortune 500. She helps companies manage risk. She has significant experience in standard first party and third-party insurance policies, as well as specialty policies, emerging industries and disruptive technologies.



ADAM FOX

Partner
Squire Patton Boggs LLP

With more than 25 years of legal experience, Adam Fox is a skilled litigator who has handled some of the nation's most high-profile class action and competitor suits. Fox represents public officials, celebrities, sports figures, foreign governments and a range of business enterprises in their most challenging and complex controversies. His trial experience spans the nation and extends to the field of international arbitration in both Europe and Asia.

Fox has spent his entire career at Squire Patton Boggs after serving as a judicial clerk for the late Honorable Robert B. Krupansky of the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. After rising through the ranks from associate to become a partner, Fox eventually became the managing partner of the firm's Los Angeles office, and later, a member of the firm's 12-person Global Board, which oversees the strategic direction of the firm's international practice spanning over 40 offices.



TERRENCE FRANKLIN

Partner
Sacks, Glazier, Franklin & Lodise LLP

Terrence Franklin has over three decades of experience handling some of the most significant and complex trusts and estates litigation. His breadth of expertise and reputation in the trusts and estates community underscore the reason clients turn to him for the resolution of high-profile multimillion-dollar disputes. Franklin is responsible for several published appeals and the landmark “Moeller v. Superior Court” case, which was brought before the California Supreme Court and established a fiduciary exception to the attorney-client privilege for successor trustees.

Franklin has successfully represented beneficiaries, trustees, individuals and institutional clients in matters involving substantial assets, including recently representing one of the nation’s largest banks in its capacity as trustee in a complex array of accounting and related disputes, resulting in no liability and a recovery of trustee’s fees and attorney’s fees. Franklin resisted an appeal by the beneficiary and the case was successfully settled with the plaintiff.

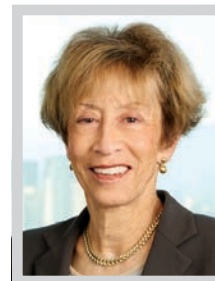


BOBBY GHAJAR

Partner
Cooley

Cooley partner Bobby Ghajar is a trial attorney whose practice is at the forefront of artificial intelligence (AI) copyright litigation. Over 25 years, his cases have created precedent in copyright, trademark and right of publicity law. Ghajar is among a select group of attorneys in California who have successfully taken trademark and copyright claims to trial by jury, argued trademark cases to appellate courts and the USPTO, and managed global trademark portfolios for some of the world’s most famous brands. As a thought leader and expert in the field, he publishes and speaks extensively on trademark, copyright, counterfeit and right of publicity issues, and over the past year, cutting-edge AI issues.

Ghajar’s cases have put Cooley at the forefront of generative AI copyright law. He leads a team representing Meta Platforms in a closely-watched class action lawsuit in which various authors sued Meta for AI-related copyright infringement.



PATRICIA GLASER

Partner; Chair, Litigation Department
Glaser Weil

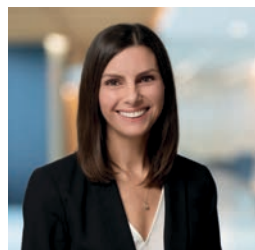
Patricia Glaser is head of Glaser Weil’s Litigation Department and tops the short list of trial attorneys in the nation sought after for high-stakes litigation. Respected as a business trial lawyer, she also provides general legal counsel to publicly and privately held companies across a range of industries, including entertainment, intellectual property, real estate, banking and securities. Her clients include Fortune 500 companies, major studios, real estate investors and developers, financial institutions, and high-profile entertainers and public figures.

Glaser’s impact on Glaser Weil is indisputable. Her tenacious style of litigating, level of personal attention to clients and effectiveness in managing and training her teams has distinguished and defined Glaser Weil’s litigators and built the firm into what it is today. Glaser Weil’s Litigation Department includes 40+ attorneys, making up nearly half of the firm. Under her leadership, the firm’s attorneys have cemented a premier market reputation.

Recognizing Success

Foley is proud to congratulate our colleagues, **Kimberly Klinsport** and **Diane Ung** on being named a Top 100 Lawyer by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*.

For more information about Foley, please contact:



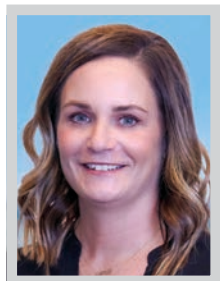
Kimberly Klinsport
Partner
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Diane Ung
Partner
diane.ung@foley.com

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FOLEY
FOLEY & LARDNER LLP



JAMIE GONZALEZ

Partner
Lagerlof, LLP

Jamie Gonzalez is a partner at Lagerlof, LLP focusing on litigation concerning probate estates, trusts, guardianships and conservatorships. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in History at the University of California, Berkeley, and a Juris Doctor from the University of San Francisco School of Law. While in law school Gonzalez was awarded the Dean's Merit Scholarship, Honors, American Jurisprudence Award (Labor Law), and the Best Brief (Moot Court Oral Advocacy Workshop).

Gonzalez has served on the Executive Committee of the Trusts and Estates Section of LACBA for the last three years. She is a member of the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Bar Association and the San Fernando Valley Bar Association. She also served as a member of the board of directors of the Campbell Center in Glendale.



VALERIE GOO

Office Managing Partner
Crowell & Moring LLP

For over two decades, Valerie Goo, managing partner of Crowell & Moring's Los Angeles office, has represented some of the world's leading companies in complex litigation involving trademark infringement, unfair competition, trade secrets, false advertising and consumer class actions. She has tried numerous cases in federal and state courts across the country and holds a successful record in representing clients in commercial litigation and intellectual property matters, including eight- and nine-figure disputes.

She currently represents several large companies in fiercely fought intellectual property, commercial disputes and trade secrets cases between competitors. For example, Goo led a team of Crowell attorneys in a commercial and trade secrets litigation matter pending in Los Angeles Superior Court and secured a significant victory on behalf of a leading aeronautics company, obtaining a trio of summary judgment rulings for the company and two co-defendants on all causes of action.

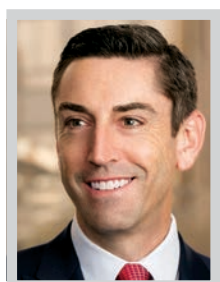


SAMANTHA GRANT

Partner
Reed Smith LLP

Samantha Grant is a partner in Reed Smith's Century City office and is an effective advocate for employers and management in administrative, arbitration and trial proceedings. She leverages her analytical and strategic skills to deliver superior results in litigation of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wage and hour, breach of contract, fraud, defamation, trade secret and unfair competition cases, among others. She advises clients on litigation avoidance strategies and local, state, and federal compliance matters. She also conducts workplace investigations and management and workforce training.

Grant has extensive experience in many different industries, including the entertainment, aerospace/defense contractor, hospitality, health care, and retail industries. Her deep industry knowledge coupled with her awareness of her clients' businesses make her particularly adept at proactively advising her clients on creating harmonious workplaces, managing a diverse workforce and litigation avoidance strategies, as well as making her an effective litigator.



JOSHUA HAMILTON

Partner; Local Co-Chair, Los Angeles and Century City
Litigation & Trial Department
Latham & Watkins LLP

Joshua Hamilton leverages invaluable experience as a first-chair trial lawyer to represent clients – ranging from emerging growth-stage startups through Fortune 500 companies, as well as financial institutions, investment firms, and partnerships – in their highest-stakes securities and corporate governance-related litigation and investigations; class action defense; entertainment, sports, and media disputes; and other complex commercial litigation. Well-respected among his colleagues, Hamilton serves as co-chair of Latham's Los Angeles and Century City Litigation & Trial Department. He also served for many years in leadership roles in the Los Angeles County and Federal Bar Associations, including as the chair of the Executive Committee of the Litigation Section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association.

Hamilton has established an extensive track record of delivering client-focused results in market-defining litigation, trials and arbitrations in both California and across the country, repeatedly garnering recognition from industry authorities for his work.

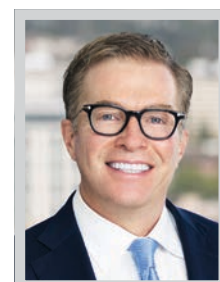


GARY HECKER

Co-Managing Partner
Munck Wilson Mandala

Gary Hecker has more than 43 years of legal experience in technology, intellectual property and entertainment law in the Los Angeles market. He began his professional career as a mechanical engineer, designing power systems for a multinational architectural engineering firm before he attended law school at the University of San Diego School of Law. His engineering and science background, combined with his longstanding involvement in the Los Angeles entertainment community positioned Hecker for a dynamic and high-profile Los Angeles-based legal career.

Hecker has had the privilege of representing many of the world's leading technology companies as well as celebrities and entertainment clients in patent, trademark and copyright law litigation and transactional matters in the Southern California region. Throughout his legal career, Hecker has been known as the tech-savvy, go-to lawyer for the businesses of well-known technology and entertainment leaders.



STEPHEN HENNING

Founding Partner
Wood Smith Henning & Berman, LLP

As the co-founder of Wood Smith Henning & Berman, one of the largest law firms in the nation, Stephen Henning's impact on the field of law and the greater Los Angeles community cannot be overstated. The firm's exceptional track record in handling commercial litigation throughout the United States is a testament to Henning's visionary leadership.

A versatile lawyer, Henning is regularly retained to handle all facets of construction, real estate, employment and business litigation. His clients include Fortune 500 companies and prominent figures in the business community, some of the largest residential and commercial public and private owners, homebuilders, developers, investors, contractors and lenders. His track record of success has solidified his reputation as a trusted legal resource for businesses and high-profile clients. Henning is widely regarded as a national thought leader in the legal community and is frequently sought out as a speaker on emerging issues.



ROBERT HERTZBERG

Former Speaker of the California Assembly
Robert Hertzberg, Attorney at Law

Former Senate Majority Leader Emeritus Robert Hertzberg was first elected to the California State Assembly in 1996. He then served as the 64th Speaker of the California State Assembly, unanimously elected by both parties in 2000 and 2001. After his tenure as Speaker, Hertzberg set out to the private sector as a clean energy entrepreneur and, in 2014, he returned to state government when he was again elected to represent nearly one million people in the San Fernando Valley in the California State Senate. He was re-elected in 2014 and termed out in 2022.

Robert Hertzberg was the acknowledged leader of the California Senate and California Assembly. He was responsible for providing millions of dollars for civic and charitable purposes throughout California. Hertzberg is known for taking on the biggest and most challenging issues facing California, and for brokering some of the toughest negotiations.

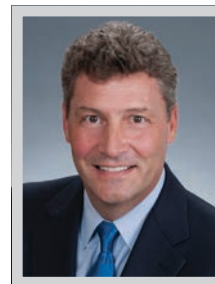


BRADFORD HUGHES

Member; Leader of Transportation Practice Group
Clark Hill PLC

Bradford Hughes has been a dynamic leader at Clark Hill. He leads the firm's Transportation Practice Group and is member-in-charge of the San Diego office, shuttling between his LA home base to oversee growth and management at the firm's southern outpost. In addition to managing an impressive number of litigation matters that are business-critical for his clients, he serves as vice chair of the Trucking Law Committee of the Defense Research Institute.

A well-known industry leader, Hughes educates and presents to motor carriers and logistics companies across Canada and the United States regarding litigated, transactional and regulatory compliance. He is a faculty member at the Transportation Claims College based in Baltimore, Maryland, and routinely provides updated and cutting-edge instruction to motor carriers and their insurers around the country regarding litigation in California. An exemplary leader and litigator, he has successfully represented clients in a range of high-stakes litigation matters.



CHAD HUMMEL

Partner; Co-Leader, National Trial Practice
Sidley Austin LLP

Chad Hummel is a highly accomplished trial lawyer with a long history of success at Sidley Austin LLP. In the past year alone, he has served as lead trial counsel in seven separate arbitrations and trials, all of which he has won. These victories have resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in value for Sidley's clients.

Hummel's achievements have not gone unnoticed. His verdicts have also been listed among the top defense and plaintiff-side matters in California. His success has helped to make Sidley Austin one of the premier litigation firms in the country. Among some of his most notable recent achievements has been his work securing a unanimous multi-million dollar arbitration award for Cardinal Financial against a former senior officer of the company. The case set important industry precedent and helped to protect Cardinal Financial's confidential data.



Barnes & Thornburg is proud to congratulate Ryan J. Barncastle of the Los Angeles office for being named to the Los Angeles Business Journal's 2024 Top 100 Lawyers list.

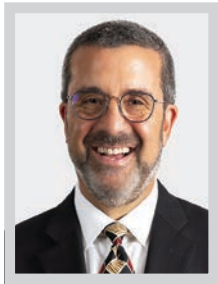


Ryan J. Barncastle



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DELAWARE INDIANA MICHIGAN MINNEAPOLIS
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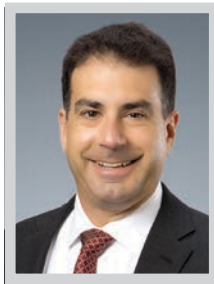
LAWRENCE ISER

Managing Partner

Kinsella Holley Iser Kump Steinsapir LLP

Lawrence Iser is co-founder and managing partner of premier entertainment law boutique Kinsella Holley Iser Kump Steinsapir. He handles complex litigation matters for extremely high-profile entertainment industry and corporate clients, including Mattel, Inc., SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, and Kinetic Content, among others.

Iser, who brought groundbreaking lawsuits by Jackson Browne and David Byrne arising from the unauthorized use of their songs in political advertising, continues to consult with recording artists and music publishers regarding infringements by the Trump and other political campaigns, including resolving claims against the campaign of Senator Rand Paul for the unauthorized use of the composition “Where in the World is Carmen San Diego.” Outside the political arena, Iser currently represents the Grammy-nominated musical duo Sofi Tukker and their music publisher Third Side Music (TSM) pursuing a number of claims for copyright infringement.



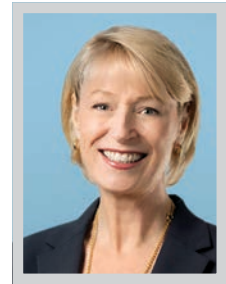
JONATHAN KAGAN

Partner

Irell & Manella LLP

Jonathan Kagan regularly advises clients in high-stakes, complex litigation. Among his victories, as co-lead counsel, Kagan recently scored a string of major defense wins for Juniper Networks in hard-fought cybersecurity patent litigation against Finjan. He persuaded the Federal Circuit to affirm a trial victory he obtained for Juniper, and then convinced the trial court that the case was exceptional, resulting in Finjan being ordered to foot \$5.9 million of Juniper’s attorneys’ fees. The Federal Circuit affirmed the fees ruling.

The victory, including the fees award, was particularly rewarding for Juniper because Finjan has been dubbed by Bloomberg as “Cybersecurity’s Top Patent Litigator,” and its success has caused many of its other targets to capitulate to its financial demands rather than present a full-scale defense. Kagan’s other recent wins include securing a favorable confidential settlement for Juniper in an infringement suit.



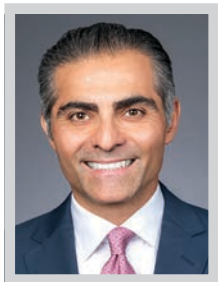
CHRISTIANNE KERNS

Managing Partner

Hahn & Hahn LLP

Christianne Kerns is the first female managing partner of Hahn & Hahn LLP, a law firm in Pasadena which has been serving the Southern California area since 1899. Under her leadership, the firm has transitioned from being one of Southern California’s elite, white shoe boutique firms to most recently earning the prestigious Women’s Business Enterprise National Council’s national certification as a majority Women Owned Business with more than 85% of the firm’s personnel identifying as women and/or members of traditionally marginalized groups.

As managing partner, Kerns is responsible for strategy and leading the firm; developing, implementing and driving organizational goals, procedures and policies; managing all aspects of the firm’s operations as well as firm lawyers and the firm’s executive director; collaborating with other partners; and business development and positive client relationships. In addition, Kerns still maintains her practice as a member of the firm’s business law department.



MOE KESHAVARZI

Partner

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton

Moe Keshavarzi is an immigrant success story. He grew up in Iran during the Iran-Iraq war and moved to the United States at the age of 14. He arrived in the United States not speaking a word of English but went on to graduate with an Honors Degree in English Literature from San Diego State University and cum laude from the University of California Hastings College of the Law.

Keshavarzi has been practicing at Sheppard Mullin since 2004. He is a trial and appellate litigator and represents healthcare entities and insurers in complex civil disputes. He also represents and counsels clients in connection with governmental investigations and regulatory enforcement actions, in litigation involving challenges to statutes and regulations on constitutional grounds, and in compliance with state and federal laws applicable to health plans and insurers such as the Knox-Keene Act and the Affordable Care Act.



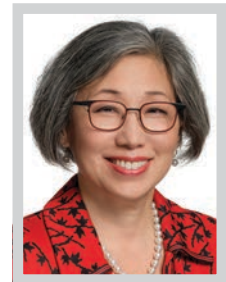
ARASH KHALILI

Firmwide Co-Chair;

*Co-Chair, Corporate & Capital Markets Department
Loeb & Loeb*

Recently named co-chair of Loeb & Loeb, Arash Khalili is an active dealmaker handling complex corporate, mergers and acquisitions, and commercial transactions. His experience extends across a wide range of industries including media, entertainment, sports, technology, fashion, food and beverage, and health and wellness.

Also serving as co-chair of Loeb & Loeb’s Capital Markets and Corporate Department, one of the largest groups at the firm, Khalili’s is a trusted business and legal advisor, structuring and negotiating complex deals in the US and abroad for his clients. He advises some of the most recognized companies, individuals and brands. In the last year, Khalili has worked on a number of high-profile transactions, including on behalf of Vin Di Bona Productions, the production company behind “America’s Funniest Home Videos” and its entertainment studio, FishBowl WorldWide Media, in their majority stake sale to an investor group led by Clarion Capital Partners.



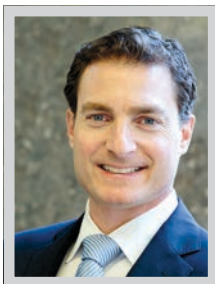
HELEN B. KIM

Partner

Norton Rose Fulbright

Helen B. Kim is a trial lawyer with more than 30 years of experience representing clients in securities and other complex commercial litigation. She represents public and private companies, as well as their directors, officers and principal shareholders before the courts and in arbitration proceedings.

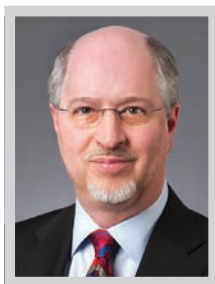
Kim brings her three decades of bi-coastal winning experience in complicated business controversies to the table, with strong business judgment gained as a result of rigorous training and development of her business litigation practice in large law firms. She has successfully defended clients in multiple shareholder derivative suits, nationwide securities class actions and securities and commodities enforcement proceedings. She also guides companies and their officers through regulatory investigations. As a litigator, Kim identifies with her clients’ interests and is always mindful of the need to understand all aspects of their business as well as their objectives.



ANDREW KIRSH
Founding Partner
Sklar Kirsh

Andrew T. Kirsh is a co-chairman of Sklar Kirsh LLP, the chair of the firm’s Real Estate Practice Group, and a member of the Management Committee. Kirsh is an experienced commercial real estate transactional attorney, whose clientele includes a broad spectrum of national, regional and local investors, funds, developers, operators, syndicators, private equity providers and lenders. Kirsh’s practice involves all aspects of the real estate industry, including acquisitions, dispositions, equity investments, syndications, fund formation, development, leasing, financing, note purchases and foreclosures.

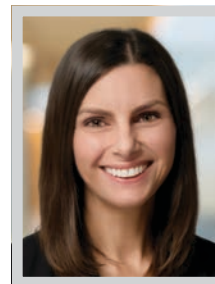
Kirsh began his career as a real estate attorney in the Los Angeles office of Latham & Watkins, where he practiced from 2000-2006. He then assisted with the opening of the Century City office of Goodwin Procter, where he practiced from 2006-to 2009. Kirsh was a partner of the Beverly Hills firm Raines Feldman until 2013 when he opened Sklar Kirsh LLP with co-founding partner, Jeff Sklar.



ERIC KLEIN
Partner; Leader, Healthcare Industry Team
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton

Eric Klein is one of the nation’s most active physician organization, hospital and post-acute M&A and joint venture lawyers, and he regularly leads some of the largest and most innovative transactions in the healthcare services industry. Over the past 15 years, Klein has created the fastest growing multi-sector healthcare law practice in the US. The firm’s Healthcare Team had just two healthcare partners in 2008 and now has over 250 attorneys.

Klein helps healthcare companies launch and operate value-based and global risk initiatives, representing clients such as agilon health, Aledade, Alpine Physician Partners, AltaMed, ChenMed, DaVita, Duo Health, Hartford HealthCare, Heritage Provider Network, InnovaCare, Millennium, Perfect Health, P3 Health Partners, Strive Health, VillageMD and many others. He also helps innovate for healthcare private equity funds like Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe, Clayton Dubilier & Rice, General Atlantic, Rubicon Founders, Oak HC/FT and Chicago Pacific Founders.



KIMBERLY KLINSPORT
Office Managing Partner
Foley & Lardner LLP

Through her leadership roles as the Los Angeles office managing partner, litigation chair for the Los Angeles and San Diego offices, and co-chair of the Cybersecurity and Privacy area of focus within Foley & Lardner LLP’s nationwide Innovative Technology sector, Kimberly Klinsport is passionate about staying ahead of the curve on emerging legal trends. Whether representing Fortune 100 companies in commercial disputes through trial or arbitration, advising on cybersecurity and data privacy concerns, or providing counsel on insurance coverage issues, Klinsport is equally comfortable proving client cases before juries and settling matters amicably out of court.

From early in her career, Klinsport learned the importance of taking initiative while maintaining humility to ask questions and pull from experts around her. By approaching work this way, Klinsport has garnered more trust with her clients, ensuring they know she is listening to them and creating bespoke solutions for their matters.

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Congratulations

Greenberg Traurig congratulates the **Los Angeles Business Journal Top 100 Lawyers 2024**, including our own Los Angeles Shareholders **Mathew S. Rosengart** and **Lisa C. McCurdy**.

Thank you for your leadership, vision, passion and advocacy.



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WORLDWIDE LOCATIONS
United States, Europe,
and the Middle East,
Asia, Latin America

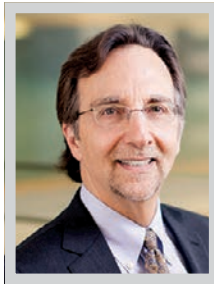


DANA KRAVETZ

Firm Managing Partner
Michelman & Robinson, LLP

Dana Kravetz is one of the most sought-after employment lawyers in Los Angeles. He is also the managing partner of LA-based Michelman & Robinson, LLP, where he represents some of the most admired companies in the city – Riot Games (developer of the hugely popular League of Legends), The Gersh Agency (among the largest talent agencies in the US), Accor North America (a leading hotel group), Fairmont Hotels & Resorts (the luxury hotel brand), Sunset Tower Hotel (the iconic West Hollywood landmark) and San Vicente Bungalows (a private members club also in West Hollywood), among them.

It is Kravetz's breadth of practice area knowledge and his solutions-based approach to employment law that makes him as effective as he is. On top of this, Kravetz is a hospitality industry authority, which explains why so many companies in that space look to him for advice and counsel.

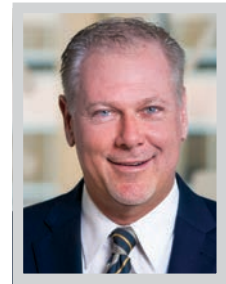


DAVID LASH

Managing Counsel, Pro Bono
O'Melveny & Myers LLP

David A. Lash has been a leading advocate, spokesperson, expert and public face for supporting access to justice for those who are the most vulnerable. He has devoted his career to using the law and his legal training to ensure that our democracy's most life-affirming benefits are guaranteed to those who need them the most, those who are low-income, voiceless and come from marginalized communities. He currently serves as the managing counsel for Pro Bono and Public Interest Services at O'Melveny & Myers.

Lash has served as the chair of the State Bar's Legal Services Trust Fund Commission, overseeing the allocation of millions of dollars of funding for legal services for the poor, he was an original member of the Association of Pro Bono Counsel and served as president of the organization that coordinates pro bono volunteer legal programs across the country.



BRYAN LEROY

Partner
Nixon Peabody LLP

Bryan C. LeRoy has built a thriving California legal practice thanks to a rare and impactful combination of attributes: an ability to assess the landscape from a variety of perspectives, an unflinching commitment to the people he serves, and a personal and professional investment in his community. Each of these characteristics is evident in LeRoy's work as an Affordable Housing and Real Estate partner in Nixon Peabody's Los Angeles office and in his life outside of work. LeRoy represents private and public entities in zoning, land use, environmental compliance, energy and infrastructure and other property development matters.

The law is LeRoy's second career, but his community focus was clear from the start. After graduating college, LeRoy worked in a variety of consulting and public policy roles, focusing on building consensus for positive change. He soon realized he could contribute even more effectively as a lawyer.

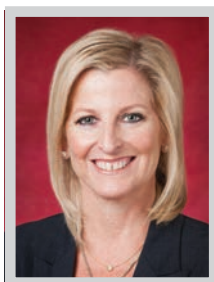


ADAM LEVIN

Partner
Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP

Over the course of three decades, Adam Levin has championed a legal defense rooted in First Amendment principles for media companies in certain discrimination and wrongful termination cases, and has firmly established himself as the unquestioned counsel of choice for virtually every major entertainment-industry defendant.

Studio general counsels has Levin's name at the top of the call sheet. Among his major accomplishments over the last year include his work on behalf of Warner Bros. in an employment discrimination case brought by a former camera operator on The Big Bang Theory. The plaintiff claimed "reverse discrimination," based upon the fact that he is a white male. This case is very significant given the motion picture industry's efforts to diversify. After the initial federal court action was dismissed, the plaintiff filed a state court action, which was ultimately dismissed.

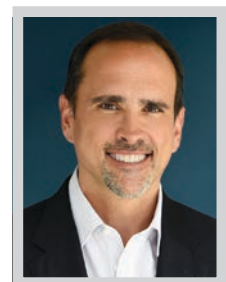


DANA LOWY

Co-Founder; Senior Partner
Meyer, Olson, Lowy & Meyers

Meyer, Olson, Lowy & Meyers founding partner Dana Lowy represents high net worth men and women divorce cases in all types of family law matters, from prenuptial and postnuptial agreements to marital dissolution actions, protecting her clients' financial interests while also considering the emotional aspects that often arise.

Prenuptial and postnuptial agreements are a practice focus for Lowy. She has guided multiple generations of dynastic families, high-profile entertainers, athletes, executives and remarried baby boomers in successful agreements to protect assets and honor their wishes in successfully negotiated agreements while focusing on the client's individual goals and needs. The allure of Lowy is that she is known as the "vault." She prioritizes confidentiality and building trust and accomplishes this by reducing courtroom battles as much as possible. Not surprisingly, her work has earned her praise from her colleagues and several law organizations and publications.



DAVID MARTINEZ

Member, Executive Board; Member, Diversity Committee;
Pro Bono Chair, Los Angeles Office
Robins Kaplan LLP

David Martinez is an equity partner and prominent leader at the national trial law firm, Robins Kaplan LLP. A member of Robins Kaplan's Executive Board, Martinez weighs in on major policy decisions of the 200+ attorney firm. Along with his fellow board members, he steers, shapes and advises the implementation of the firm's diversity and inclusion initiatives and other policies governing talent recruitment, retention, compensation and career development. Martinez is also pro bono chair of the firm's California offices and member of the Diversity Committee. Concurrently, he has litigated commercial disputes that have improved business practices and has parlayed his professional capital to expand access to justice to underserved rural Californians.

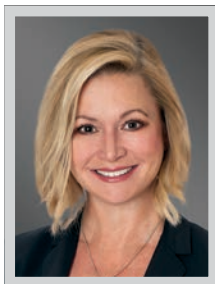
Resolving the most complex business disputes, Martinez represents US and international clients in conflict resolution and business counseling. Martinez is recently guided one major national law firm through its own high-stakes partnership dispute.



HEMAL MASTER
Managing Shareholder
Frandzel

Hemal Master serves as the Frandzel Robins Bloom & Csato’s managing shareholder. He maintains a robust practice focusing on all aspects of lender representation, including representation of commercial banks, private equity funds, commercial finance companies, hedge funds and other lenders in real estate and commercial loan transactions, commercial and real estate loan workouts, lender liability defense, and exercise and enforcement of all types of lender remedies.

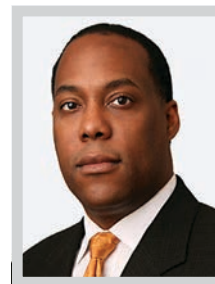
In addition to his experience with the firm, Master completed a three year long secondment to a major regional bank in which he advised on hundreds of matters involving distressed debt and supervised litigation on matters in 45 different states. He recently represented an international bank as lead lender in the structuring, documentation, negotiation and closing of a \$125 million syndicated construction loan for the development of a 236 room full service hotel.



LISA MCCURDY
Shareholder
Greenberg Traurig

Lisa C. McCurdy focuses on Trusts and Estates litigation as a shareholder at law firm Greenberg Traurig, LLP. She has particularly deep experience with trusts and estates that encompass significant real estate and business holdings.

Since 2010, McCurdy has been unraveling a contentious trust matter regarding the \$400 million estate of Mark Hughes, the founder of Herbalife. Hughes’ son is the beneficiary of one of the largest pieces of undeveloped prime real estate in Los Angeles, a 157-acre parcel. Hughes passed away in 2000 while his son was a minor, and a court found that the appointed trustees abused their position as guardians of the trust. In addition, McCurdy is part of the team at Greenberg Traurig who obtained the court ordered suspension of Britney Spears’ father from a 13-year conservatorship leading to its termination, a niche area of law that dovetails with trusts and estates practice.



ARTHEL MCDANIEL III
Office Managing Partner
Polsinelli

Arthel McDaniel is the co-managing partner of Polsinelli’s Los Angeles office and a principal in the firm’s Capital Markets | Commercial Lending and Tax Credit Finance Practice Groups. He is a creative strategist and problem-solver and works closely with clients to help them navigate the complex issues inherent in capital markets, commercial lending, securitization, tax-exempt bond and other structured finance transactions. McDaniel’s clients rely on his legal acumen and industry knowledge and experience to achieve their business objectives.

McDaniel also works with clients to resolve complicated issues inherent in affordable housing transactions. Whether representing lenders, investors or state and local governments, McDaniel uses his broad experience to structure innovative solutions to client problems. He is committed to creating opportunities to add value to client businesses. Uniquely, McDaniel has significant experience representing documentary film producers, advertising agencies and professional sports teams with respect to creative rights management issues and clearances.

Glaser
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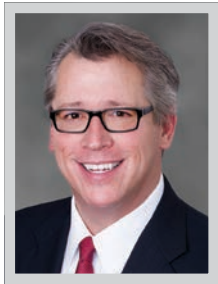
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LARRY MCFARLAND

Partner; Los Angeles Office Managing Partner
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton

Larry McFarland, who is managing partner of Kilpatrick's growing Los Angeles office, focuses his practice on litigation and counseling in all areas of intellectual property law, including copyright, trademark, rights of publicity and privacy, and unfair competition.

McFarland is a recognized leader in his field. He has extensive experience counseling global clients with respect to the maintenance and protection of their intellectual property assets. This includes advice regarding trademark registration programs, anti-counterfeiting programs, work for hire agreements, license agreements and e-commerce. McFarland has successfully represented start-up to Fortune 500 companies across a broad spectrum of industries. He specializes in litigating cases, both on behalf of plaintiffs and defendants, involving reverse confusion, idea submission, cybersquatting, licensing disputes, commercial disputes, trade libel, business torts, trade secrets, work for hire agreements and product piracy.

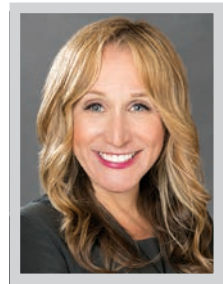


RICHARD MENDELSON

Partner
Seyfarth Shaw LLP

Known for his exceptional professional expertise, Rich Mendelson is a deal lawyer who prides himself on fostering long-standing client partnerships while adding value in complex commercial real estate transactions.

Mendelson has a keen perspective of both sides of a deal and provides clients with sophisticated deal structuring advice that is grounded by his constant presence in the marketplace on behalf of his clients. His practice operates across Seyfarth's national platform, giving Mendelson a true pulse on deal trends throughout the country. He is quick to identify key issues and manages unexpected deal challenges with practical and focused advice. Mendelson has knowledge in the areas of acquisitions, joint ventures and financing transactions, as well as in workouts and restructurings. He has extensive experience in representing both domestic and international insurance companies and banks, public pension funds, private equity funds, and family-owned real estate companies in matters relating to commercial property.



DEBRA MEPPEN

Partner; National Chair, Employment Practice Group; Chair, Women's Initiative
Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP

Debra Meppen is regarded as one of Hollywood's best-kept secrets. Hollywood producers, directors, movie and television studio executives, talent, and the agents who manage them have her on speed dial when they need someone to handle sticky and explosive cases that could threaten a movie release or a concert tour. Meppen not only brings decades of experience in entertainment law, litigation and negotiation skills to her practice but also approaches each matter with the utmost discretion. The majority, if not all, of her successful outcomes never make headlines.

Meppen's approach distinguishes her from many of her outside-the-firm colleagues. As an emotionally intelligent and compassionate professional, she actively pursues practical solutions not only for her clients but also for all stakeholders involved in every claim and every piece of litigation. Meppen adeptly navigates volatile situations with a soothing demeanor rooted in empathy and a pragmatic understanding of reality.



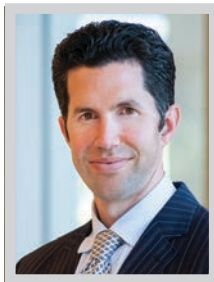
SANFORD MICHELMAN

Co-Founding Partner; Chairman
Michelman & Robinson, LLP

Among the most prolific rainmakers in the country, Michelman continues to be the attorney C-Suite executives and business leaders turn to when faced with "bet the company" litigation matters considered the most challenging. He is also a dynamo in boardrooms nationwide, representing insurers, broker/agents, underwriters, private equity groups, banks and advertising and media companies.

At his namesake law firm, Michelman & Robinson, LLP, Michelman oversees a business that has thrived despite past economic headwinds. Where other law firms have treaded water or scaled back, Michelman has engineered measured growth throughout M&R's seven offices spanning California, Texas, Illinois and New York. The firm now boasts a roster of approximately 80 lawyers, a number that is slated to meaningfully increase this calendar year.

Michelman's macro views on the economy are sought after within the legal sector and by clients across industries.

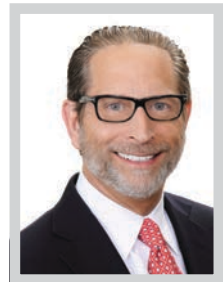


DAN MILLER

Partner
Miller Barondess, LLP

Dan Miller is one of the founding partners of Miller Barondess, LLP, a Los Angeles-based law firm specializing in litigation, including trials, appeals, arbitrations and mediations in California and around the country. Miller is an accomplished trial lawyer with a record of success in state and federal courts and in arbitrations in California and across the country.

As Miller's firm continues to grow, having added four new partners and 12 new associates within the last year, he remains committed to mentoring the firm's young lawyers to help them become top trial lawyers. Miller is involved in all aspects of managing the firm, including business development, training, recruiting and strategic planning for growth of the business. He formed an Associates Committee which meets regularly with partners and provides an avenue for associates to play a role in shaping the firm's future. Miller has extensive experience in the real estate sector.



ROBERT "BOB" MILLMAN

Shareholder
Littler Mendelson P.C.

Bob Millman joined Littler in 1974 as the firm's 18th attorney and has been an integral part of its growth, development and success for the past 50 years. In addition to founding Littler's two Los Angeles offices, he also served as chair of Littler's Board of Directors. Thanks to his contributions and tireless work, Millman has helped the firm expand its presence throughout California and nationally. Today, Littler is a global powerhouse with over 1,800 attorneys in over 100 offices in 28 countries spanning North America, South America, Asia and Europe.

At the age of 30, Millman faced the biggest challenge of his career – opening the firm's first Los Angeles office without a client base or name recognition in the area. With his business acumen, optimism, boundless energy and a determination to succeed, Millman went on to open two offices in Los Angeles that are still thriving today.

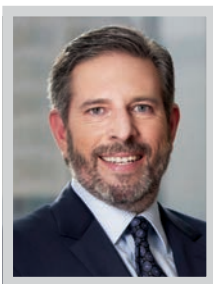


SANDRA MONTGOMERY

Partner
Proskauer Rose LLP

A well-known and respected leader in the private capital sphere, Sandra Lee Montgomery is a recognized force in the predominantly male industry of banking & finance, having closed over \$5.5 billion in transactions for first and second lien senior lenders, mezzanine investors and equity sponsors across the country in 2023 alone. In particular, Montgomery has great depth of experience in complicated finance structures for alternative lenders. Her work includes numerous cross border transactions involving Australia, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, the Cayman Islands, England, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Puerto Rico, Scotland and Singapore.

Montgomery's marketplace reputation and the quality of her work continues to be recognized by industry publications and organizations. A constant fixture in the private credit thought leadership space, Montgomery authors an annual chapter (along with co-author Michelle Iodice) for The International Comparative Legal Guide to Lending & Secured Finance.

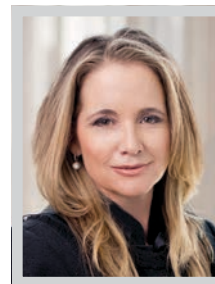


PETER MORRISON

Partner
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Peter Morrison has earned an enviable reputation as one of the foremost, go-to securities litigators in California for high-profile, blue-chip clients in a wide range of industries. In fact, his prolific practice supports why Skadden has served as defense counsel in more federal securities cases in the US than any other firm.

As head of Skadden's Los Angeles Litigation Group and co-head of Skadden's West Coast litigation practice, Morrison has had a stellar run of achievements over his career. He has a broad litigation practice with a particular emphasis on securities, M&A and tax litigation. Morrison recently won a Top Defense Verdict of the Year award from the Daily Journal for securing the dismissal of a putative class action filed in the US District Court for the Northern District of California in connection with claims regarding the MakerDAO stablecoin platform.



ANN MARIE MORTIMER

*Managing Partner, Los Angeles;
Head, Commercial Litigation Practice*
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

As companies are now facing increasingly complex legal and regulatory changes and challenges, Ann Marie Mortimer's role as a leading litigator continues to make an impact for her clients, many of whom are name brand companies making their own impact in the marketplace. Her cross-disciplinary practice encompasses complex commercial transactions including novel cybersecurity litigation and high profile toxic tort/environmental claims. She also heads Hunton Andrew Kurth's commercial litigation practice, is the founder and managing partner of the firm's Los Angeles office and serves on her 900+ lawyer firm's executive committee.

At the forefront of complex litigation in data privacy, Mortimer was recognized as leading one of 2022's top verdicts in California stemming from her precedent-setting California Consumer Privacy Act victory for Walmart. She also served as first chair defending Yahoo! in class actions stemming from reportedly the largest data breach in history with over three billion accounts impacted.

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DANA LOWY

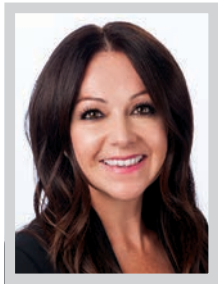
on being named to the
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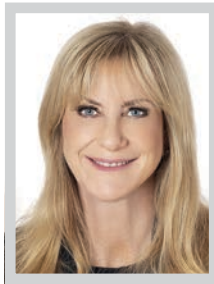


TANIA MOYRON

Partner; Chair, US Restructuring, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Group; US Region Co-Chair, Global Restructuring, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Group
Dentons

Los Angeles-based partner Tania Moyron is well-known for her skill and finesse in both out-of-court and in-court restructurings spanning a variety of industries including health care, retail, entertainment, trucking and real estate. In addition, she leads Dentons' Practice Group Diversity Partners initiative for RIB.

Despite having begun the third grade in Sacramento, California, speaking virtually no English after moving there from La Paz, Mexico, Moyron prospered in public schools and assumed adult responsibilities at an early age that required her to be resourceful and mature. Through college and law school, Moyron balanced the demands of employment and academics during her self-financed education, while being a pillar of strength for her family, members of whom battled cancer, addiction and Alzheimer's. Having surmounted such obstacles, Moyron has sought to help young women and diverse lawyers navigate similar terrain.

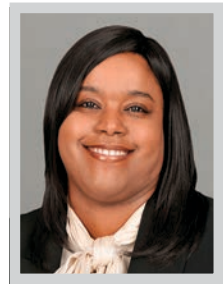


MICHELE MULROONEY

Partner; Chair, Private Wealth Group, Los Angeles
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Michele Mulrooney is a partner and chair of Willkie's Private Clients Group in Los Angeles. With over 30 years of experience representing high-net-worth families and individuals, Michele focuses her practice on estate planning for high-net-worth individuals, including actors, directors, writers, producers, artists, sports figures, business owners and executives, and real estate investors. She has substantial experience in all aspects of sophisticated estate planning, including the preservation and protection of wealth for generations of families, establishing and advising private foundations, post-death administration of estates and trusts, establishing and advising conservatorships and guardianships, cross-border planning for multinational clients, and insurance issues.

While Mulrooney is known to provide market-leading, cutting-edge client service, her approach is very traditional – discreet, private and confidential. Over the past year, she served as general counsel to A-list talent and high net worth individuals (including family offices), providing advice regarding investment advisors, employees, and business investments.

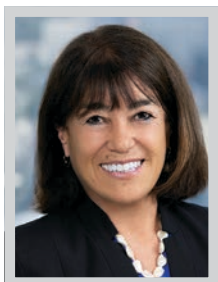


KRISTEN NESBIT

Co-Regional Managing Partner
Fisher Phillips

A powerhouse lawyer with a record for successfully handling high-stakes matters, Kristen Nesbit is a trusted partner to her clients, including Fortune 500 companies, billion-dollar corporations and public entities. Nesbit has handled numerous single-plaintiff and class action lawsuits, seeing them through to verdict. Her triumphs in the labor and employment arena, combined with her active community involvement, prestigious award recognitions and commitment to championing diversity and equality make Nesbit a legal industry leader and one of the most influential lawyers in Los Angeles.

Committed to helping diverse business owners succeed, Nesbit regularly assists disability-owned business enterprise, minority business enterprise, women business enterprise and Veteran business enterprise employers. She has received numerous accolades throughout her career, most recently named a leading practitioner for Labor and Employment Disputes: Defense by The Legal 500.



FRANCES O'MEARA

Equity Partner
Wood, Smith, Henning & Berman

Frances O'Meara's storied career has shattered glass ceilings, delivered countless defense verdicts for her clients, all while being giving of her time and energy to mentor and give back. She is widely sought out for her expertise by clients and the industry.

O'Meara, an equity partner in Wood, Smith, Henning, & Berman's Los Angeles office, stands as an exemplary professional malpractice attorney, nationally recognized for her exceptional contributions in errors and omissions defense. A legal malpractice specialist, O'Meara navigates a diverse legal landscape, providing counsel to attorneys, accountants, architects, insurance agents, real estate brokers, appraisers, doctors and nurses. Also, directly collaborating with major insurance carriers across the United States, non-insured attorneys, large corporations, healthcare providers and financial institutions, O'Meara has become a strategic partner in navigating the intricacies of D&O financial lines, commercial litigation, and fidelity, fiduciary, and surety claims investigation and litigation.

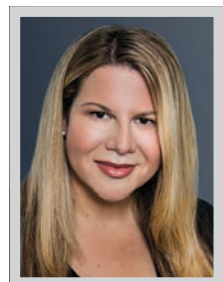


PURVI G. PATEL

Partner, Class Action + Mass Torts, Litigation,
Privacy + Data Security Groups
Morrison Foerster

Purvi Patel has a defined niche that cuts across Morrison Foerster's Class Actions + Mass Torts and Privacy + Data Security Groups, operating effectively at the intersection of privacy, consumer products and services, and emerging technology. Patel is a skilled and experienced class action and privacy litigator, as demonstrated by her vast experience handling class action litigation across industry sectors and the country and the significant victories she has secured for clients.

Patel represents retail, e-commerce and other consumer-oriented businesses in significant privacy, advertising, unfair competition, and consumer fraud matters. She has built a robust practice advising household names on various compliance issues and defending them in complex and class action litigation in federal and state courts across the country, winning motions to dismiss, defeating class certification, and securing summary disposition in several multi-million dollar lawsuits. A strategic and practical thinker, she is in tune with her clients' priorities.

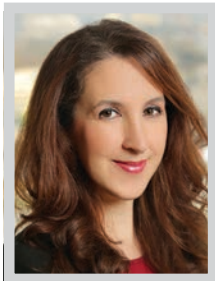


BRONWYN POLLOCK

Partner; Co-Leader, Global Litigation & Dispute Resolution Practice;
Co-Leader, Global Insurance Industry Group
Mayer Brown

Bronwyn Pollock is co-leader of Mayer Brown's Global Litigation & Dispute Resolution practice and its Global Insurance Industry Group. An experienced litigator who has appeared before numerous federal and state courts and arbitrators, she regularly handles complex and challenging multi-jurisdictional disputes for clients, particularly involving the insurance, telecommunications, banking, finance, real estate and entertainment industries.

Pollock has achieved victories in many high-profile cases. In her real estate litigation practice, she advises and represents lenders, investors, property owners, asset managers, and developers in real property matters, including partnership, leasing, foreclosure, construction and receivership matters. She also handles civil rights matters involving the Fair Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, both in litigation and administrative investigations. Pollock represents financial institutions in complex commercial disputes and investigations, as well as in civil enforcement actions.

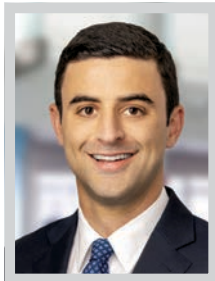


CHRISTINE REILLY

Leader; Partner
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

As leader of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips’ Consumer Protection and Advertising and Telephone Consumer Protection Act Compliance and Class Action practices, Christine Reilly is one of the industry’s most prominent attorneys for consumer protection issues, such as false advertising law and unfair competition law as well as federal and state automatic renewal laws. She boasts an impressive record defending companies against class action lawsuits with the distinction of never having a class certified against a client (with the exception of voluntary class settlements), solidifying her reputation as a trusted advisor. Reilly holds a reputation for resolving cases at early stages, but she is also sought after for her uncanny ability to resolve and/or litigate particularly tough cases that have evaded resolution.

Reilly is also known for handling complex government investigations, including those initiated by the FTC, DOJ and California regulators, including the California Auto Renewal Task Force.

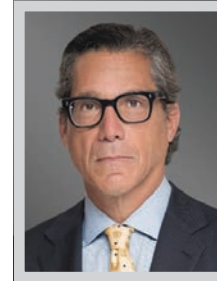


MICHAEL ROSENBLUM

Partner
Thompson Coburn LLP

Few attorneys can match Michael Rosenblum’s caliber of experience in corporate law, particularly in the cannabis space. Since 2014, Rosenblum has handled over \$2 billion in M&A, private equity and emerging company representation, including an in-house role at Goldman Sachs’ global headquarters in New York where he negotiated complex transactions on behalf of its trading desks.

Having represented cannabis companies since 2017, Rosenblum most recently served as general counsel of STIIIZY Inc., the largest cannabis company in California and the top-selling cannabis brand in the country. Rosenblum played a leading role negotiating and successfully closing transactions valued at over \$500 million and expanded the company’s. Now a partner in Thompson Coburn’s Corporate and Securities Practice and co-chair of its Cannabis industry group, Rosenblum advises investors, cultivators, distributors, manufacturers, retailers and ancillary businesses on complex legal issues while navigating one of the most highly-regulated and challenging industries.



MATHEW ROSENGART

Partner; Shareholder
Greenberg Traurig

A former federal prosecutor, Mathew Rosengart is one of the nation’s preeminent litigators who has successfully represented iconic clients in both Hollywood and corporate America including Britney Spears, Steven Spielberg, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Ben Affleck, Keanu Reeves, Verizon and Facebook (Meta).

In one of the most challenging and high-profile cases of the past several years, Rosengart led the historic fight to remove Britney Spears’ father as her conservator, leading to her freedom from an abusive conservatorship, which made front-page headlines around the world and led to Congressional hearings and California legislation reforming the system to ensure conservatees now have the right to their chosen counsel (a right Britney Spears had been denied before hiring Rosengart). Britney Spears described Rosengart in her memoir as “amazing,” stating that “Once Mathew was in my corner, I felt that I was getting closer to the end.”

LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

Defining Leadership

Congratulations to all the local attorneys named Top 100 Lawyers of Los Angeles for 2024, particularly our partners Joshua Hamilton and Tana Ryan.

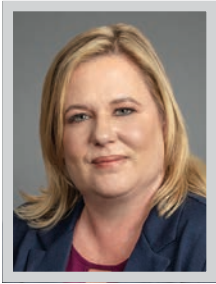
Both have been recognized for their dedication to excellence, commitment to client service, and contributions to our firm, the legal profession, and the Los Angeles community. They embody the talent and culture of Latham & Watkins, and we commend them for the many accomplishments that have earned this recognition.



Joshua Hamilton
Partner and Co-Chair of the Los Angeles and Century City Litigation & Trial Department
Securities Litigation & Professional Liability



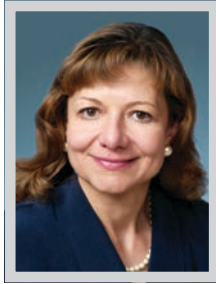
Tana Ryan
Partner, Corporate Department
Mergers & Acquisitions and Private Equity



TANA RYAN
Partner
Latham & Watkins

Latham & Watkins Los Angeles partner Tana Ryan deftly guides private equity funds and their portfolio companies in their most significant transactions, demonstrating particular mastery when deals entail stringent regulatory overlays, distressed dynamics, or complicated cross-border elements. The transactions she leads regularly garner coverage by leading media outlets. Clients seek her counsel on deals at the forefront of multiple industries, including software, media, and technology; energy, infrastructure, and transportation; financial and business services; healthcare; industrials and manufacturing; and consumer and retail products.

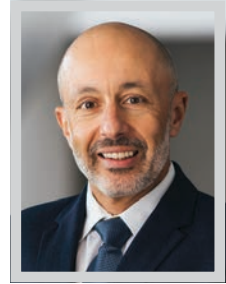
Ryan has spent more than 20 years rising to the top of her field in private equity-focused M&A, a practice area where women partners have been historically and dramatically underrepresented. She credits her success to focusing on the importance of making meaningful, authentic connections with her clients that allow her to earn their trust and support in negotiating their most challenging transactions.



KELLI SAGER
Partner
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

Kelli Sager has spent more than 38 years representing media and entertainment companies, including broadcasters, film producers and distributors, newspapers and magazines, and web publishers, as well as individual journalists and authors. She joined DWT as a partner in 1994 to develop the firm's media and entertainment practice in California, which has grown to include more than 30 lawyers statewide (and more than 60 nationally), who handle litigation, production work and transactional matters. She has argued in federal and state appellate courts, including many times in the California Supreme Court and 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, achieving results for clients that include precedent-setting rulings protecting their rights to gather and disseminate content to the public.

Sager's work as a litigator defending her clients in tort lawsuits – defamation, invasion of privacy, misappropriation and related claims – has resulted in important legal precedents with widespread application to the media and entertainment industry.



MICHAEL SANDONATO
Partner; Co-Chair, IP Litigation, Technology Group
Venable LLP

A seasoned first-chair trial lawyer, Michael Sandonato is a co-chair of Venable's IP Litigation Practice Group. Sandonato has proved himself to be adept in representing clients across a broad range of forums that include US district courts across the country, the International Trade Commission, the PTAB, domestic and international arbitrations, and US Customs and Border Protection. His clients include Canon, Dentsply Sirona, Philips and Prudential Financial, and he has litigated a broad range of technologies, including digital cameras, laser toner cartridges, smartphones, dental technologies, graphical user interfaces, financial products and test equipment.

Among Sandonato's recent wins was representing Candid Care in a years-long lawsuit involving orthodontic technology. Also in 2023, Sandonato led the team that prevailed on an appeal in the Sixth Circuit on behalf of Prudential. He has also prevailed this year for Canon in several Amazon take-down matters, prompting the removal of counterfeit products from the marketplace.

Making an Impact

Nixon Peabody congratulates our real estate partner **Bryan C. LeRoy** for being recognized among the "Top 100 Lawyers" by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*. We thank you for making a positive impact in the California legal community.



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Los Angeles, CA
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@NixonPeabodyLLP

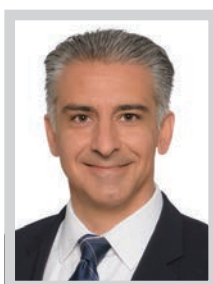




CHRISTIAN SCALI
Founder; Managing Shareholder
Scali Rasmussen

Christian Scali has a diverse practice that includes advice and counsel and complex and high stakes litigation. His clients are in a variety of industries, including restaurant and hospitality, property management, entertainment, clothing manufacturing and e-commerce, with the majority of clients in the retail automotive industry. Scali is known throughout California for his work on behalf of the retail automotive industry in a series of advertising lawsuits brought against it under California's Unfair Competition Law resulting, among other things, in the disbarment of consumer advocates, Trevor Law Group, and for his work on the Defense Steering Committee in the massive automobile consumer leasing lawsuit against the entire California retail automotive leasing industry.

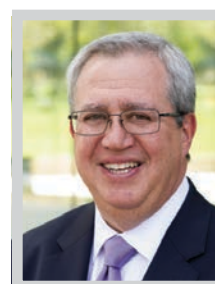
Scali also regularly assists clients with their mergers and acquisitions. While he is always a fierce advocate for his clients, when he is engaged on a buy/sell, his focus is on making the deal.



ARTIN SHAVERDIAN
Partner, Eminent Domain & Valuation Group;
Office Administrative Partner, Los Angeles
Nossaman

Artin Shaverdian is widely recognized as an expert in real estate, eminent domain and inverse condemnation matters. He represents public agencies, business entities and individuals in commercial and real estate related disputes, including valuation-related litigation.

Shaverdian represents public agencies as lead counsel on the acquisition of thousands of parcels of real property. He works on some of the largest public works projects shaping the nation's infrastructure, including roads, highways, utilities, grade separations, rail projects, schools, flood basins and redevelopment projects. Agencies regularly invite him to host seminars for their in-house counsel and real estate staff on legal issues. It is this experience and understanding of government agencies which has also resulted in unparalleled success representing property and business owners in eminent domain/inverse condemnation litigation. He has pursued claims against multiple governmental agencies across California and other states recovering millions of dollars.



MARK SHINDERMAN
Partner
Milbank LLP

Mark Shinderman is a partner in Milbank's Los Angeles office and has over 35 years of experience restructuring companies inside and outside of bankruptcy in numerous industries, directing bankruptcy-related litigation and handling the purchase of assets out of bankruptcy. He often represents ad hoc committees of lenders and bondholders and creditors' committees, as well as debtors, purchasers of assets from troubled companies, key vendors, equity sponsors and other constituents in insolvency situations. He also has represented numerous clients involved in litigation and transactions in which the counterparty may be in financial distress, helping the clients mitigate potential insolvency risk.

Shinderman's engagements have involved companies in a diverse group of industries such as apparel, consumer products and services, e-commerce, energy, finance, healthcare, media and entertainment, real estate, retail, technology, and transportation. He has played a significant role in numerous high profile insolvency cases and out-of-court restructurings.

Congratulations
to our new colleague for
being named among the
Top 100 Lawyers in
Los Angeles.

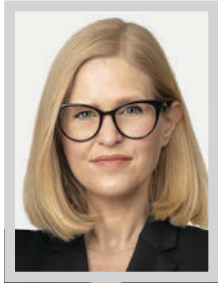


Steven B. Weisburd
Partner | Los Angeles

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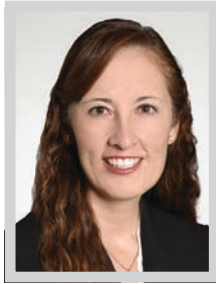


KATHERINE SMITH

Partner; Co-Chair, Labor and Employment Practice Group
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

A co-chair of Gibson Dunn's Labor and Employment Practice Group, Katherine Smith has extensive experience representing employers in individual, representative and class action litigation at both the trial court and appellate level. In addition to her busy litigation practice, Smith is in demand by clients needing guidance with respect to nearly all aspects of employment law, including government investigations, enforcement of non-solicitation and non-competition covenants, and independent contractor/common law employee status.

Among Smith's recent achievements has been her work securing final approval of an \$100 million putative class and government action settlement for Riot Games. She also secured victories for Lowe's in PAGA claims and successfully defended Cognizant in a two-week certified class action trial alleging discrimination. She secured a dismissal of claims against a Netflix VP on demurrer, without leave to amend and secured a recent significant class certification victory for Amazon.

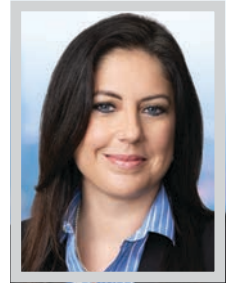


ROSE SORENSEN

Partner
Snell & Wilmer

Rose Sorensen is a corporate and securities partner in the Los Angeles office of Snell & Wilmer, a full-service business law firm with more than 500 attorneys practicing in 16 locations, including three offices in California. Her practice includes mergers and acquisitions, divestitures, reorganizations, commercial finance, private placements, venture capital, corporate governance, telecommunications services, joint ventures, licensing and entity structure and formation. She has experience handling a range of large-scale mergers and acquisitions, project and corporate financings, and restructurings in a variety of industries including the technology, healthcare, food and beverage, manufacturing, retail consumer brand, business services, construction and building materials.

Sorensen's background includes serving as general counsel of a private cable operator and internet service provider with operations throughout California, Arizona and Texas, which helped shape her unique and balanced pragmatic approach in advising businesses on the complexities and functional considerations of their operations.



KATY SPILLERS

Partner
Locke Lord LLP

Katy Spillers has firmly established herself as a corporate powerhouse, marked by her exceptional legal acumen and steadfast dedication to serving prominent global brands. Her trailblazing approach has carved out a distinguished path in the field of corporate law. Focused on representing CEOs and founders, Spillers' work spans mergers and acquisitions, financings and joint ventures across diverse industries.

Spillers has navigated complex legal landscapes with precision and agility, steering her clients through intricate transactions with finesse. Her representation of renowned global brands like Barstool Sports Inc., Good American and SKIMS underscores her capacity to orchestrate transformative deals. In 2020, she represented Barstool in its exclusive sports betting and gaming partnership with Penn National Gaming, Inc., a publicly traded gaming company. The \$163 million deal was significant because it involved the first major transaction between a media company and a gaming company since the Supreme Court essentially legalized sports betting.

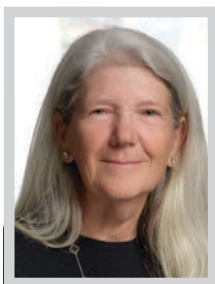


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JULIA STRICKLAND
Partner
Steptoe LLP

For more than four decades, Julia Strickland has been at the forefront of counseling, advocating and dispute resolution within the financial services sector. Strickland has formidable experience in this area and fluency in both long-standing and emerging causes of action.

Recognized as one of the best litigators in the country, Strickland leads a broad national practice that focuses on the defense of class actions and other complex actions. She is regularly called by world-renowned financial services companies and others when they are confronted with issues that put them at substantial economic and reputational risk. In addition to her experience successfully representing clients through dispositive motion practice, trial and/or appeal, Strickland has a reputation for negotiating and structuring settlements of complex and class actions. She is versatile and creative in addressing settlement considerations, both legal and business, and in developing settlement structure options tailored to the client's unique needs.



BRYAN SULLIVAN
Partner
Early Sullivan Wright Gizer & McRae LLP

Bryan Sullivan has a trusted reputation with celebrities and is involved in cutting-edge deals and crisis situations. Since the story broke about entertainment lawyer Kevin Morris' relationship with Hunter Biden, Sullivan has been representing both individuals in the various issues that arose from that situation, including repping Morris and Biden in legal action against Garrett Ziegler and MarcoPoloUSA alleging illegal doxing/civil harassment and computer related civil actions, as well as representing Biden against former NYC Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Robert Costello alleging computer related civil actions. He also currently represents Olivia Munn in an action to take down deepfake AI generated nude images.

Sullivan has continued his involvement in cutting-edge Web3.0 legal issues, which includes his representation of Enderby Entertainment as it produces two sequels of ZERO CONTACT (starring Anthony Hopkins), reportedly the first full-length feature film to be distributed as an NFT.



PAUL W. SWEENEY, JR.
Partner
K&L Gates LLP

Paul Sweeney has practiced law for over 30 years, focusing on complex business disputes, both individual and class action lawsuits, involving unfair business practices, false advertising, consumer fraud, trade regulation, privacy violations, breach of contract and violations of various federal and state statutes and regulations. He is both a litigator and a trial attorney, having handled a number of bench and jury trials. He is also a "rainmaker" and represents Fortune 1000 clients in the manufacturing, retail, technology, financial services, food and beverage, medical device, and entertainment industries.

Sweeney has also served on K&L Gates' Management and Executive committees, and has served as the firmwide chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee. He also currently serves on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of Public Counsel (as well as former chairperson), the Hollywood YMCA (as well as former chairperson) and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund.

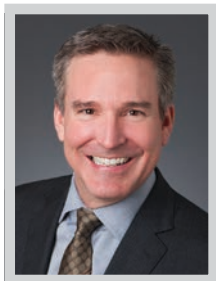
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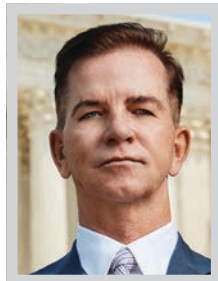


MATTHEW THOMPSON

Co-Leader, Entertainment, Sports and Media Group
Sidley Austin LLP

Matt Thompson is the co-leader of Sidley's Entertainment, Sports and Media group firmwide. He represents entertainment companies and sources of capital in complex M&A and financing transactions, as well as general corporate matters. He also represents entertainment companies and other similar parties in a wide variety of industry-focused commercial transactions. The high-profile eight-, nine-, and ten-figure transactions he leads often have industry-wide impact.

The reasons for Thompson's success in building one of the nation's most respected entertainment, sports and media practices are captured in feedback his clients provided to Chambers USA, which gives him its top rating, Band 1, in the category of California Media & Entertainment: Transactional. Clients have commented that he "...has a vast understanding of the entertainment industry. On top of that, he is good to work with. He is realistic, efficient and drives great results."



R. BRIAN TIMMONS

Partner
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

R. Brian Timmons is the global head of complex litigation for Quinn Emanuel. A highly-regarded trial lawyer with a national litigation practice, he has tried many cases to verdict in multiple locations throughout the United States. He has also represented clients in legal proceedings and arbitrations around the world, including in Hong Kong, Singapore, South America, the United Kingdom, Europe and the Cayman Islands.

Timmons has represented clients from nearly every industry and in nearly every setting. He specializes, however, in complex disputes involving finance, accounting, or corporate governance. His practice includes commercial litigation, partnership disputes, M&A litigation, accounting firm liability cases, securities and commodities litigation, creditors' rights, avoidance and other bankruptcy-related litigation, market manipulation, SEC enforcement actions, structured financial product litigation, including ISDA disputes, battles for corporate control, boardroom and breach of fiduciary duty disputes, and trade secret and employee mobility litigation.



DIANE UNG

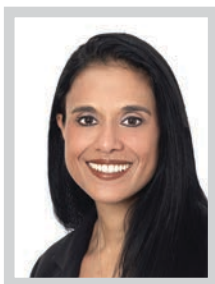
Partner
Foley & Lardner LLP

Diane Ung is a corporate partner and health care lawyer at Foley & Lardner LLP in the firm's Los Angeles office. Her work has made substantial contributions to health care law. Ung's practice is marked by her dedication to navigating the complex landscape of health care regulations, legislative matters and business issues for public agency clients and non-profit hospitals and clinics. As a senior member of the firm's Health Care Practice Group, Ung brings a wealth of experience and expertise to her role.

One of Ung's significant areas of focus is structuring Medicaid financing for safety net providers, particularly in the context of disproportionate share hospital payment programs, federal Medicaid demonstrations authorized under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act, and Medicaid managed care. Her keen understanding of these intricate matters has proven invaluable to her clients, positioning her as a go-to expert in the field.

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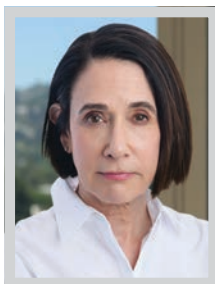


ALICIA VAZ

Partner; Chief DEI Officer
Cox, Castle & Nicholson

Alicia Vaz is an experienced trial and appellate attorney, who specializes in real estate and high-stakes business litigation and dispute resolution and is co-chair of Cox Castle’s litigation team. Vaz has been hailed by clients for her effective, efficient and creative approach to resolving disputes with solutions that align with her clients’ goals and business needs either to avoid a lawsuit where feasible or to achieve a favorable result through litigation in a cost-effective manner.

Vaz has significant trial and arbitration experience in venues throughout California and she has appeared and argued before the California appellate courts. She has extensive knowledge of all facets of the real estate business and has represented property owners, market rate and affordable housing developers, contractors, investors, high-net worth individuals, landlords, property managers, lenders, and large institutions and REITs in matters involving all asset classes.



JOAN VELAZQUEZ

Partner; Chair, Real Estate Department
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP

Joan Velazquez is a partner and chair of Ervin Cohen & Jessup’s Real Estate Department. Velazquez is a creative problem solver and proven deal maker who never loses sight of her clients’ business goals. She mitigates her clients’ legal risks while letting them realize the business opportunity in every deal.

Velazquez represents real estate owners, developers, investors, lenders, contractors and asset managers in connection with a wide range of projects, including the acquisition, financing, development, leasing, management and sale of office buildings, industrial parks, shopping centers, low-income projects, mixed-use projects, industrial developments and hotel/resort projects. Velazquez is experienced in the formation of partnerships, joint ventures, limited liability companies and arranging complex capital structures, including highly leveraged mezzanine financing, subordinated lending arrangements and other creative solutions. She has structured, documented and closed more than one billion dollars of financing transactions.



ANNE WANG

Partner
Frost Brown Todd

Anne Wang brings over 30 years of invaluable experience to the forefront. Having previously led as the managing partner of the Los Angeles office, Wang is a trusted advisor for clients seeking her expertise in patent prosecution and trademark matters. Her proficiency extends across diverse sectors, including mechanical, electromechanical and electrical systems, encompassing computer graphics, optical lasers, musical instruments, apparel, cosmetics and toys.

Wang’s physics background enhances her appeal to medical device clients, while her adeptness in areas such as interferometers, gas sensors, amusement park rides and electro-mechanical devices further solidifies her standing. Notably, she has successfully curated trademark portfolios for clients spanning fashion, cosmetics, solar panels, roofing, food, restaurants and office products. Conversant in Mandarin, Wang also conducts comprehensive studies of patents and trademarks, supporting infringement actions, enforcement and licensing programs, and due diligence analysis.

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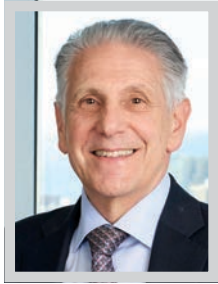
Joshua Driskell
Managing Partner

Jamie Gonzalez
Partner



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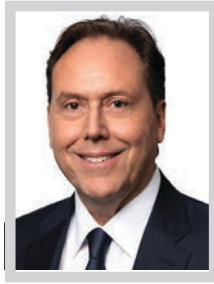




PETER WEIL
Managing Partner
 Glaser Weil

Peter Weil is the managing partner of Glaser Weil. He is recognized for driving large-scale and innovative real estate and corporate transactions and for his leadership in the firm and community. Weil’s experience encompasses matters ranging from the acquisition and disposition of businesses to real estate development, construction, leasing, financing and restructuring.

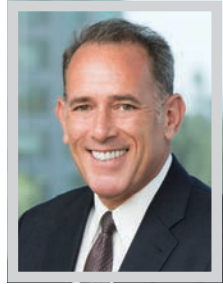
Weil’s clients include Fortune 500 companies, significant real estate investors and developers, major studios and successful entrepreneurs – including MGM Mirage, Kirk Kerkorian, Majestic Realty, GPI, Blatteis & Schnur, Arden Realty, Hudson Pacific Properties, Douglas Emmett, American Broadcasting Company and Columbia Pictures. Weil served as lead outside counsel for MGM Mirage in connection with all legal aspects of the largest privately funded construction project in US history, CityCenter, a \$9 billion, 20-million-square-foot mixed-use project in Las Vegas. He also represented real estate and corporate clients in restructuring billions of dollars in loans during the Great Recession.



PERRIE WEINER
Partner
 Baker McKenzie

Perrie Weiner is the partner in charge of Baker McKenzie’s Los Angeles office, and chair of the firm’s North America Securities Litigation Group. While under Weiner’s leadership, the Los Angeles office has seen tremendous growth, becoming one of Baker McKenzie’s fastest-growing office locations.

With more than 35 years of experience, Weiner’s practice focuses on securities litigation and enforcement matters and complex business litigation. He is acknowledged as the go-to advocate for hedge funds facing complex suits and CEOs squaring off against the US Securities and Exchange Commission. His practice also includes “high stakes” complex business litigation. He advises private equity funds, including hedge funds, broker-dealers, underwriters, placement agents and issuers (including their officers and directors) in SEC and FINRA enforcement proceedings and in white collar criminal proceedings. He also defends both underwriters and issuers in securities class actions, shareholder derivative actions, and takeover defense litigation.



STEVEN WEISBURD
Partner
 Shook, Hardy & Bacon

Over the past several decades, Steven B. Weisburd has developed his “case killer” reputation by securing defense verdicts, judgments, dismissals, or favorable settlements, in complex civil disputes, mass tort cases and class actions for major corporate clients and product manufacturers, including high-profile cases of national and international significance with billions of dollars in potential exposure. Weisburd has developed a reputation for winning the unwinnable and has become a go-to lawyer for clients seeking to derail bet-the-company litigation through tactically executed legal arguments and vigorous advocacy.

Mattel and Fisher-Price turned to Weisburd in 2021 to lead their defense in the coordinated California and other state court proceedings arising from alleged infant fatalities and other injuries related to the Rock ‘n Play Sleeper, an inclined sleeper product that was voluntarily recalled in April 2019.

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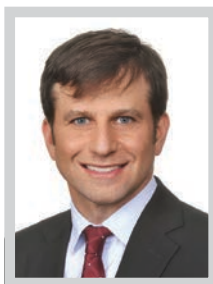
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MICHAEL WEISS
Office Managing Partner
Akerman LLP

As managing partner of the Los Angeles office of Akerman, Michael Weiss is responsible for guiding the strategic direction of the office. In addition to leading the Los Angeles office of nearly 70 employees, Weiss is a partner within the firm's litigation practice group, having practiced law for 28 years.

Weiss is a trusted counselor and a true partner in achieving clients' legal and business goals. He guides them through complex disputes, including large-dollar breach of contract and fraudulent inducement litigation, real estate litigation, commercial and business disputes, and complex insurance insolvency matters. His litigation experience includes multimillion-dollar breach of contract, commercial fraud, easement, entitlement and contract disputes on behalf of national and international billion-dollar companies, Fortune 500 REIT companies, commercial lease and purchase disputes and transactions, and real estate partnership disputes and workouts. Weiss also handles conservation, rehabilitation, and liquidation of insurance companies.



JEREMY WEITZ
Shareholder
Buchalter, PC

Jeremy Weitz is chair of Buchalter's Corporate Practice Group and co-chair of the firm's Mergers & Acquisitions Practice. Weitz's expertise covers mergers and acquisitions, private equity, publicly and privately traded securities, venture capital, corporate maintenance and formation, corporate finance, and licensing. He represents clients in a variety of industries, including apparel, retail, beauty, food, fitness, technology, software, e-commerce, aerospace and defense, manufacturing, and entertainment that range in size from small start-ups to multi-billion dollar publicly traded corporations. Weitz routinely serves as outside general counsel for his corporate clients.

Weitz represents both buyers and sellers in merger and acquisition transactions. His mergers and acquisitions practice is focused on the middle market with transaction values ranging between \$10 million up to \$3 billion. Weitz routinely lectures on mergers and acquisitions and the apparel industry. He has also served as a faculty lecturer for the Practising Law Institute.



NIMALKA WICKRAMASEKERA
Partner; Co-Chair, Intellectual Property Practice
Winston & Strawn LLP

Nimalka Wickramasekera is co-chair of Winston & Strawn's Intellectual Property Practice and an IP litigator with over 15 years of trial and counseling experience. She began her career in the health care industry with a focus on biology and has a thriving medical device and technology practice, representing clients in connection with patent and licensing disputes. Wickramasekera also serves as co-chair of Winston's Patent Trial and Appeals Board Practice and is a member of the firm's Technology, Media, and Telecommunications and Health Care industry groups.

Wickramasekera has appeared in trials before district courts, the International Trade Commission and the PTAB. She represents or has represented Medtronic, Sientra, Alphatec, Teva Pharmaceuticals, Cisco, T-Mobile and Microsoft in patent and commercial litigation matters. She delivered client Teva Pharmaceuticals their first patent jury trial victory, clearing Teva of a \$41 million patent infringement suit involving two generic drugs.

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SANFORD L. MICHELMAN
Co-Founder | smichelman@mrlip.com

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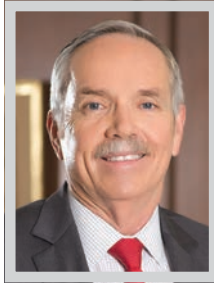


BART H. WILLIAMS

Partner; Los Angeles Office Head;
Global Chair, Litigation Department
Proskauer Rose LLP

When the stakes are high and reputations are on the line, the world's leading organizations rely on Bart Williams to deliver a win. A renowned trial lawyer, Williams is chair of Proskauer's Litigation Department and head of its Los Angeles office. He is a strategic, diligent and persuasive litigator with a wealth of experience across commercial litigation, white collar criminal defense and internal corporate investigations.

Williams' legal prowess has made him the trusted trial counsel for numerous Fortune 500 companies in high stakes, high-profile matters, and is frequently called upon months or even weeks before a trial to deliver a win. Williams' most recent success on behalf of Gilead was highly publicized after he jumped into the \$3.6 billion antitrust trial when Gilead's lead counsel retired just three months prior to trial. Williams led the team to a total defense verdict.

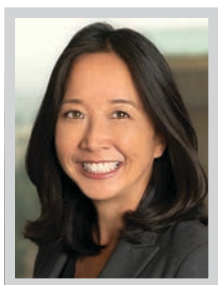


DANIEL WOODS

Partner
Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP

Partner in Musick, Peeler & Garrett's Los Angeles office, Daniel J. Woods is one of the most accomplished and decorated litigators in Los Angeles. Recently, Woods defeated patent infringement claims against client MacSports, Inc. before the International Trade Commission. He also recently defeated a \$300 million antitrust claim brought by a prominent litigation firm. The case involved an Indian yarn spinner filing a \$300 million Sherman Act Section 1 antitrust lawsuit against his client.

Woods also represented Wells Fargo in a commercial lease dispute. Dexter sought approximately \$8 million in this long-running case. Woods secured a unanimous jury verdict for Wells Fargo on three of Dexter's four specific claims and while it found in favor of Dexter on the fourth claim, awarded it only \$1 in nominal damages, based on the suggestion to do so in Woods' closing argument.

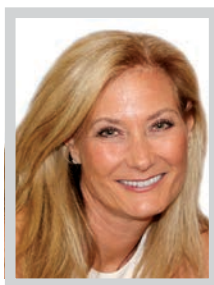


STEPHANIE YONEKURA

Global Head of Investigations, White Collar and Fraud
Hogan Lovells US LLP

Stephanie Yonekura is the global head of Hogan Lovells' Investigations, White Collar and Fraud practice, which is comprised of more than 150 lawyers across 20 jurisdictions globally. Yonekura was previously Acting US Attorney in the US Attorney's Office for the Central District of California, the largest US Attorney's office outside Washington DC. Under her leadership, the office investigated the hacking of one of the world's largest entertainment companies, reportedly by a foreign government. Having served as a federal prosecutor for over 14 years, Yonekura knows the hot-button issues that are considered in every stage of any government investigation.

In private practice, Yonekura uses her substantial experience in the trenches, in the courtroom, and as the chief law enforcement officer in Los Angeles to help clients understand the key issues, investigate matters strategically and surgically, and negotiate with and defend clients before law enforcement agencies around the world.



DEBORAH BIRNDORF ZEILER

Partner
Norton Rose Fulbright

After over 20 successful years as founder and managing partner of Birndorf Law Offices, an employment counselling and litigation boutique representing California employers and executives, Debbie Birndorf Zeiler reinvented her career path to join Norton Rose Fulbright's Los Angeles office, bringing her over 30 years of experience to help build a talented team at the firm.

Zeiler currently represents employers in all aspects of employment law, including defense of harassment and discrimination claims, wage claims, wage and hour class actions, Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) claims, disability claims and misappropriation of trade secrets. She also drafts and reviews employment contracts, severance agreements, employee handbooks and personnel policies and advises employers on day-to-day employee relations matters, including hirings, firings, layoffs and compliance with federal and California Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification acts.

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GARY HECKER

Co-Managing Partner
Munck Wilson Mandala

Gary Hecker began his professional career as a mechanical engineer, designing power systems for a multinational architectural engineering firm before he attended law school at the University of San Diego School of Law where he was a member of the San Diego Law Review. His engineering and science background, combined with his longstanding involvement in the Los Angeles entertainment community positioned Hecker for a dynamic and high-profile Los Angeles-based legal career.

Hecker has represented many of the world's leading technology companies as well as celebrities and entertainment clients in patent, trademark, and copyright law litigation and transactional matters in the Southern California region.

A natural-born leader, Hecker began his legal career working at a renowned, private IP boutique law firm. He quickly developed a substantial client base and soon branched out to establish his own boutique Los Angeles IP firm, The Hecker Law Group, which he ran successfully for more than three decades.

Throughout his legal career, Hecker has been known as the tech-savvy, go-to lawyer for the businesses of well-known technology and entertainment leaders, including luminaries such as Steve Jobs, Steven Spielberg, Mark Burnett and Maria Shriver. He also testified twice on behalf of Apple Computer, Inc. before the US House of Representatives Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations for the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

In addition to representing many of the nation's leading technology companies in patent, trademark and copyright matters, Hecker has also represented celebrities such as Kim Kardashian, Sharon Stone and the late Ray Liotta in lawsuits related to the unlawful use of their likenesses and trademark protection.



Top 100 Lawyers

David B. Bobrosky, Esq.

Shareholder, Personal Injury Practice Group

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LEGAL EXCELLENCE AWARD HONOREE

KELLI SAGER

Partner
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

Kelli Sager has spent more than 38 years representing media and entertainment companies, including broadcasters, film producers and distributors, newspapers and magazines, and Web publishers, as well as individual journalists and authors. She joined DWT as a partner in 1994 to develop the firm’s media and entertainment practice in California, which has grown to include more than 30 lawyers statewide (and more than 60 nationally), who handle litigation, production work and transactional matters in the media/entertainment industry.

She has argued dozens of times in federal and state appellate courts, including many times in the California Supreme Court and 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, achieving results for her clients that include precedent-setting rulings protecting their rights to gather and disseminate content to the public.

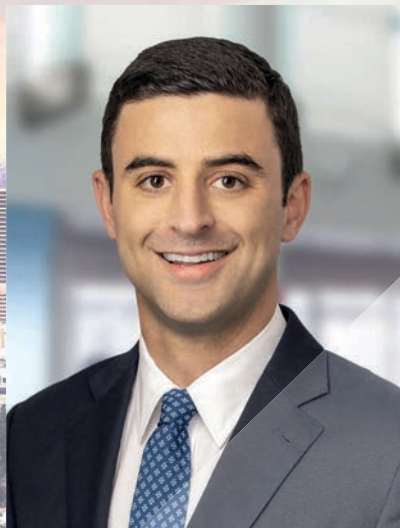
Sager’s work as a litigator defending her clients in tort lawsuits – defamation, invasion of privacy, misappropriation and related claims – has resulted in important legal precedents with widespread application to the media and entertainment industry. Examples include *ALADS v. Los Angeles Times* (prior restraint); *Rall v. Tribune 365 LLC* and *Thomas v. Los Angeles Times* (defamation); *Maloney v. T3 Media and Brown v. Electronic Arts* (misappropriation); and *Shulman v. CBS* (privacy), among dozens of reported decisions.

Sager’s work also has resulted in cases establishing the public’s and press’ rights of access to court proceedings and government documents. Sager routinely is enlisted to represent the media’s access rights in high-profile trials, including the trials of O.J. Simpson, Eric Holder, Jr. (sentenced in 2023 for of the murder of Nipsey Hussle), Phil Spector, Winona Ryder and Anthony Pellicano, among many others.



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ATTORNEY TO WATCH HONOREE

JOSHUA DRISKELL

Managing Partner
Lagerlof, LLP

Lagerlof, LPP’s managing partner Joshua Driskell brings a background representing businesses and individuals and a keen attention to detail to leading the firm. In a short time, Lagerlof, LLP has experienced tremendous growth under Driskell’s stewardship and has had a remarkable impact on their community. This includes the creation of Lagerlof’s philanthropic entity, Lagerlof Cares, that has given away over \$45,000 to local nonprofits in Pasadena over the last three years.

As an attorney, Driskell’s practice focuses on business, tax, estate, fiduciary and related matters. He is a member of the Pasadena Bar Association, the Los Angeles County Bar Association and the California Bar Association. Prior to forming Primuth, Driskell & Terzian, LLP, with partner Jonathan Primuth in 2014, Driskell worked at a multi-state law firm, handling a wide variety of matters for individuals, and small and medium-sized businesses.

Driskell is an active member in his community and has been a supporter and board member of multiple nonprofit organizations. He is a board member for the Pasadena Museum of History, Leadership Pasadena, Pasadena Fire Foundation and Pasadena’s Playhouse Village Foundation.

In addition to Driskell’s achievements as an attorney and involvement in the community, he is also an avid speaker regarding his expertise in probate, tax, estate planning and firm leadership for a variety of organizations including the Managing Partner Forum, California Lawyers Association, and Thomson Reuters.

Driskell earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Toledo College of Law, where he was president of the American Bar Association-Law School Division and was a member, officer and coach for the University of Toledo’s Moot Court Team.

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Polsinelli congratulates **Arthel McDaniel III** for being selected as **one of the Los Angeles Business Journal’s Top 100 Lawyers.**



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Arthel McDaniel III
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ALICIA VAZ

Partner; Chief DEI Officer
Cox, Castle & Nicholson

Alicia Vaz, who specializes in real estate and high-stakes business litigation and dispute resolution and is co-chair of Cox Castle’s litigation team, also serves the community at large as a true champion of diversity. In addition to being a member of Cox Castle’s Management Committee, she is also the firm’s chief DEI officer and chair of the DEI Committee. For years, Vaz has played a key role in championing Cox Castle’s efforts to increase diversity within the firm and in the legal community at large.

Under Vaz’s guidance, Cox Castle has increased overall awareness of DEI issues within the firm to create a positive work environment that encourages awareness and understanding of diverse voices and why they are important. This includes providing training and tools to build awareness and understanding within the firm such as a DEI speaker series and DEI Challenges.

Vaz was influential in Cox Castle’s decision to participate in Diversity Lab’s Midsize Mansfield Rule certification process, the goal of which is to increase the representation of diverse lawyers in law firms and their leadership. DEI is a top priority for Cox Castle and under Vaz’s tutelage, Cox Castle achieved Midsize Mansfield Certification Plus status, which signifies that in addition to successfully meeting the consideration and transparency requirements, Cox Castle has met the goal of at least 30% representation of historically underrepresented lawyers in current leadership roles.

Vaz also helped Cox Castle establish an endowment at UCLA to award tuition and aid to incoming students who demonstrate significant financial need and have confronted considerable obstacles in life such as socio-economic disadvantage, disability, being the first in their family to attend college, attending under-resourced schools, or other extensive hardships or challenges.

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STEVEN WEISBURD

Partner
Shook, Hardy & Bacon

Steven B. Weisburd is a go-to lawyer for clients seeking to derail bet-the-company litigation through tactically executed legal arguments and vigorous advocacy. He is deeply committed to mentoring younger lawyers, with a dedicated focus on lawyers from under-represented groups such as people of color and women.

Weisburd’s tenacity, strategic sophistication, exceptional oral and written advocacy, fearlessness in attacking complex scientific and analytical issues, and commitment to the highest caliber of legal work and professionalism, are most often cited by his colleagues and clients as his core characteristics.

As he mentors younger lawyers, Weisburd teaches them that the best arguments and winning strategies in hard cases do not merely present themselves; they must be forged through an iterative process that involves a deep dive into the factual and legal aspects of a problem, careful assessment, creative thinking, idea generation, challenge and refinement, revision, and further refinement. While Weisburd challenges his colleagues to push their ideas and analysis “to the next level” to achieve greater force and persuasiveness, he also stresses the importance of stress management and achieving a healthy work-life balance.

After suffering a heart attack resulting in his decision to take several years off, Weisburd returned in 2018 with renewed vigor accompanied by developed tools focused on mindfulness and centeredness, which he applies to his mentorship teachings.

Congratulations to our Co-Chair **Arash Khalili** and all of our friends recognized on the *Los Angeles Business Journal’s 2024 Top 100 Lawyers* list.

We commend your outstanding professional accomplishments, dedication to your clients and the firm, and commitment to serving your community and beyond.



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PAUL W. SWEENEY, JR.

Partner
K&L Gates LLP

Paul Sweeney has practiced law for over 30 years, focusing on complex business disputes, both individual and class action lawsuits, involving unfair business practices, false advertising, consumer fraud, trade regulation, privacy violations, breach of contract and violations of various federal and state statutes and regulations. He is both a litigator and a trial attorney, having handled a number of bench and jury trials. He has also served on his firm’s Management and Executive committees, and has served as the firmwide chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

Passionate about his community, Sweeney grew up in Los Angeles, and is a product of its public school system, having attended Cienega Elementary School, Audubon Middle School and Dorsey and Hamilton High Schools. He is also an honors graduate of USC (Business/Finance).

Sweeney also leads by example in his community impact efforts. He currently serves on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of Public Counsel (former chairperson), the Hollywood YMCA (former chairperson), and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. He was also appointed by the Los Angeles Mayor to serve as a commissioner of the City of Los Angeles on its Civil Service Commission, on the Board of the Getty House Foundation and he has served as a volunteer prosecutor in the Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office, Criminal Branch and worked on the White House staff in Washington, DC as a White House Fellow. He speaks frequently before such organizations as the National Bar Association and Association of Corporate Counsel Southern California Chapter, and recently coauthored a K&L Gates Legal Insight on the California Consumer Privacy Act.

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State Bar Diversity Report Card Highlights Record Diversity Gains

The State Bar’s Annual Diversity Report Card released last month highlights the demographic composition of California’s 2023 attorney population and, for the first time, analyzes changing trends in demographic representation since 2019. The report also explores racial/ethnic and gender patterns in recent cohorts of attorneys admitted to the State Bar.

The report highlights record gains for people of color, driven largely by women of color, as newly admitted attorneys over the last five years. The report also notes that white attorneys still constitute nearly two-thirds of the overall attorney population, in contrast to California’s highly diverse population.

“While there have been encouraging advancements in the diversity of new attorneys, notably among women and people of color, these changes are gradual,” said Leah Wilson, State Bar executive director. “It’s important to recognize that such progress might not automatically sustain itself to create a lasting impact. Our commitment to actively fostering and championing diversity, equity, and inclusion within the legal profession is

integral to both fulfilling our statutory mission and the goal of long-term, sustainable, change in the make-up of California’s attorney population. This approach is not about diversity for its own sake, but about understanding the essential role of representation in fostering an inclusive legal community and providing meaningful access to justice.”

Another new feature in this year’s report is an analysis of Latino and Asian subgroups among active attorneys, and detailed reporting on the intersection of race/ethnicity and gender identity.

Also included is a summary of a recently published study that examined how the share of licensees in inactive status among all licensees has changed over the last 10 years, the diversity of that group, and the reasons driving decisions to leave the practice of law. The State Bar’s groundbreaking DEI Leadership Seal Program, which recognizes legal organizations that demonstrate a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal field, is also highlighted in the report. The State Bar earned a Gold DEI Leadership Seal in January 2024 for its own efforts.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT’S FINDINGS INCLUDE:

- At a third of the total of new admittees, women of color were the largest group of newly admitted attorneys in 2023, a trend that began in 2021.
- Latino representation among newly admitted attorneys has nearly tripled, increasing from 4 percent in 1990 to 11 percent in 2023. And the percentage of newly licensed Black attorneys has nearly doubled over the same period, rising from 3 percent to 5 percent.
- The proportion of newly admitted attorneys who identify as Asian has more than tripled since 1990, while the percentage of those identifying as multiracial has more than quadrupled.
- Several demographic groups have seen a significant increase in their representation among California’s licensed attorneys over the last five years, including both men and women of color, Asian, multiracial, Asian women, LGBTQIA+, veterans, and attorneys with disabilities. In contrast, the share of attorneys who identify as white has decreased.
- However, as it currently stands, white

attorneys still constitute nearly two-thirds of California attorneys, in contrast to California’s highly diverse population. Latinos, in particular, continue to be severely underrepresented within the legal profession, constituting 37 percent of the state’s population but only 6 percent of all California’s licensed attorneys.

INACTIVE STUDY FINDINGS

- The inactive attorney survey was the first in-depth look at when and why attorneys choose to go on inactive status. Among its findings:
- Each year, about 4,600 attorneys choose to transfer to inactive status.
 - The number of inactive status licensees increased by 38 percent over the last 10 years, reaching an all-time high of over 71,000 in 2023. The growth in inactive attorneys was primarily driven by those age 70 and older, who accounted for 12 percent of all licensees in 2023 compared with just 5 percent in 2013.
 - The analyses suggest that retirement is a significant reason for transitioning to inactive status, cited by over half of those making the switch.

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California State Bar of California Outlines Fee Increase Needs

As required by the Legislature, the State Bar has published three reports detailing its funding needs to support its public protection mission in 2025 and beyond. The three interdependent reports provide lawmakers, who approve the fee bill every year, with recommendations and options to ensure that the State Bar's funding adequately supports its mission.

The State Bar has had just one fee increase in 25 years, and had the base mandatory licensing fee, currently \$404, been adjusted for inflation in that time, it would now be over \$700. While California is the most expensive state in the continental United States, the attorney licensing fee ranks 18th below states like Nevada, Arizona and Connecticut.

"Coupled with rising costs, stagnant fees have put the State Bar in a very real fiscal bind, posing a risk to public protection," said Board chair Brandon Stallings. "We are looking forward to the productive dialog these reports will spark—with our licensees and other stakeholders as well as with our partners in the Legislature—on what funding is needed to meet the public's expectations of performance and accountability."

"Justification for a Fee Increase" details the need for a 2025 fee increase of \$125 per active licensee and \$31 per inactive licensee, to both maintain and increase public protection.

The report recommends that to stabilize funding for the State Bar and increase predictability for California attorneys, the Legislature approve an annual adjustment to account for inflation in future years. It also proposes a new progressive structure to assess fees scaled according to practice sectors. Under this structure, solo practitioners, nonprofit attorneys and actively licensed retirees would see little to no change next year, while the largest increases would go to attorneys in large firms and corporations. A funding request for IT infrastructure will be finalized at a later date.

"Recommendations for Codifying a Formal Disciplinary Diversion Program" describes a proactive, three-pronged program that would enable the State Bar to handle low-level matters more efficiently and fairly so that the Office of Chief Trial Counsel (OCTC) can focus on matters posing the greatest risks to public protection. Fully funding diversion is expected to reduce disciplinary case volume by up to 20 percent, so the program would pay for

'We are looking forward to the productive dialog these reports will spark — with our licensees and other stakeholders as well as with our partners in the Legislature — on what funding is needed to meet the public's expectations of performance and accountability.'

itself by 2026.

"Progress Report on Discipline System Case Processing Standards and Analysis of Office of Chief Trial Counsel Staffing Needs" highlights the dozens of changes OCTC has made in recent years intended to improve its effectiveness and streamline case processing times. While these changes are showing an impact, there is insufficient staffing to process cases as quickly as they come in, and the backlog remains an intractable issue. To meet its recommended case processing standards and reduce the backlog, OCTC

needs additional staff. The fee increase request includes an element for OCTC staffing that if funded would add a total of 57 positions—hired in equal increments of 19 positions per year over three years—to OCTC's current headcount of approximately 300 full-time employees.

The reports are interdependent. For example, if the Diversion Program is not funded, the OCTC case processing need would increase substantially.

Learn more at calbar.ca.gov.

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New Survey Provides Insight into Law School Preparedness to Practice

Bloomberg Law recently released the results of its Law School Preparedness survey and announced its newly added resources for law students, including an “In Focus: Law Student Development” page.

The new In Focus page provides resources that help students develop critical lawyering skills and aid in their early career choices by identifying what type of work is commonly performed by a given type of attorney, information on how to get started in those positions, and how to make lateral moves to other positions.

The page also provides Bloomberg Law tools to help law students with coursework and research, including law review and law library resources and information on circuit splits. It provides guides to well-being to help navigate the stress of school while seeking post-graduation employment.

Also available on the new In Focus page are the results of Bloomberg Law’s biannual Law School Preparedness survey, which measures perspectives on readiness to enter the profession. Bloomberg Law surveyed more than 2,700 individuals in the fall of 2023, including practicing attorneys, law students and others in the



legal profession. Each group was asked about their law school experiences and opinions throughout their professional career.

Among the survey’s key findings:

- Knowledge of legal tech saw the largest

rise in importance for attorneys, with 62% suggesting new lawyers should study legal technology, up from 39% just months ago.

- More than 70% of those surveyed support the idea of students learning to use gener-

ative AI (artificial intelligence) as part of their legal education. Only 6% of those surveyed are “strongly opposed” to teaching law students to use the technology in their practice.

• About half of practicing attorneys think law students should learn to use AI for legal research, but most students and teachers don’t know whether their school teaches any AI use at all or are sure that it doesn’t.

• Attorneys rate the junior associates they supervise as most skilled at digital literacy and tech savviness, and least skilled at negotiations and business development.

• Teachers, including anyone who teaches law students, including some practicing attorneys, rated new attorneys as highly skilled at spotting and analyzing issues by the time they graduate.

• Nearly half of current students describe their overall well-being as having gotten worse since starting law school, with most relating law school to increased anxiety and trouble sleeping.

To download a copy of the Law School Preparedness survey, visit aboutblaw.com/bcPH or for more information, visit Bloomberg Law.

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Public Trust Liaison Urges Consumers to Check California Attorney Profiles Before Hiring

The State Bar of California’s Public Trust Liaison (PTL) Enrique Zuniga has advised consumers to take one simple step to avoid becoming a victim of fraud: use the State Bar’s “Look Up a Lawyer” search feature before signing agreements with anyone offering legal services.

“With legal scams and frauds becoming more sophisticated with AI, deepfakes, and advanced technology, the first step California consumers seeking legal assistance should always take before hiring anyone remains the same: do a simple attorney search on the State Bar’s website,” said Zuniga.

The PTL office was launched in 2023. Its duties include ensuring that members of the public, legal consumers, and applicants for admission can meaningfully voice their complaints about State Bar action or inaction and receive assistance in having those concerns addressed.

Zuniga and the Public Trust Representatives in his office also assist the public by sharing information about steps they can take to avoid legal fraud and scams.

Beyond scammers engaged in the unauthorized practice of law—such as “notarios”

‘The first step California consumers seeking legal assistance should always take before hiring anyone remains the same: do a simple attorney search on the State Bar’s website.’

who prey on Spanish-speakers—thieves can use social media and editing technology to set up fake accounts and websites, utilizing licensed attorneys’ names and bar numbers. Thieves can easily create videos or edit legitimate attorney content and change the contact information to entice victims to send them money in advance before cutting off contact. Consumers should also be wary of attorneys

who approach them in person, by telephone, or by direct messages on social media to offer legal services, as direct solicitation is generally prohibited.

Consumers can use the search feature to check that the contact information they may have for an attorney matches what is on the State Bar profile. Consumers can also use the attorney search feature to check that a California attorney is in good standing, active, and not suspended or disbarred. No record of a person as an attorney, or a different State Bar number, phone, email, website, or address, are all red flags for possible fraud.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM FRAUDULENT ACTORS POSING AS ATTORNEYS?

- Ask for the attorney’s State Bar number.
- Look them up on the State Bar website to see if their license is active and whether they have any history of discipline.
- Check that the address, phone number, email and website listed in correspondence matches what appears on the attorney’s profile on the State Bar website.
- Call the phone number listed on the

attorney’s State Bar profile to make sure you are dealing with the correct attorney.

- Make sure to get your agreement in writing, as well as receipts for payments you make.
- Be wary if someone requires cash payments.
- Keep a paper trail. If you don’t have a bank account, use another monetary option, like a money order or cashier’s check, but be aware that you cannot stop payment on a cashier’s check or money order.
- If you have already made a payment, a California attorney must provide you with an accounting of your bills. Anyone who refuses or neglects to do this is suspect.
- If you believe you have been defrauded by someone posing as an attorney, you may also want to file a complaint with local law enforcement authorities, or with federal authorities.

The State Bar website provides free information for consumers on finding legal help and working with attorneys. Legal help pamphlets are available in seven languages.

Learn more at calbar.ca.gov.

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Reimagined Remote Deposition Platform Enables Secure Remote Legal Proceedings

U.S. Legal Support, a leading provider of litigation support services, recently announced the general availability of its reimagined remote proceeding platform, RemoteDepo Pro, which is designed specifically for legal proceedings and leverages new technology to provide the tools legal professionals need for secure, seamless and flexible remote depositions, hearings, and other matters.

Modeled after in-person proceedings, RemoteDepo Pro simplifies and streamlines exhibit sharing, annotation and stamping with elevated functionality and controls. Participants can share documents with a single click, upload and annotate exhibits before or during the proceeding, and view introduced exhibits from past proceedings within the platform. High-fidelity audio from each participant is captured on individual channels, helping ensure a clean record, while Automated Speech Recognition (ASR) technology provides a live speech-to-text feed and the ability to instantly play back audio during the proceeding.

“I am thrilled to unveil RemoteDepo Pro, our latest innovative solution to further

accelerate the evolution of remote legal proceedings,” said Jimmie Bridwell, U.S. Legal Support’s CEO. “Over the last few years, fueled in large part by the pandemic, we saw an explosion in the adoption of remote depositions and other legal proceedings. We set out to reimagine the remote deposition experience for attorneys, their clients, witnesses, and court reporters to provide a more complete and effective solution. The platform provides a seamless experience with advanced tools and functionality, making it easy and flexible to

keep your discovery on track.”

RemoteDepo Pro is built to leverage cutting-edge technology, providing the agility legal professionals need to improve efficiency, contain costs, and increase speed-to-delivery. The platform includes ViewScript, a live speech-to-text feed of participant audio powered by the Stenograph Phoenix ASR engine. ViewScript captures high-fidelity audio from each participant on individual channels, instantly translating it from speech into summary text for immediate review. You can also

playback any portion of audio during the proceeding without crosstalk or interferences.

In 2022, U.S. Legal Support announced a multi-year technology partnership with Stenograph to provide additional technology solutions to enhance the exceptional client and reporter experience throughout its legal services offering.

“As the leading technology provider in the legal transcription market, we are excited to expand our partnership with U.S. Legal Support to provide solutions across all methods of reporting and transcript production,” said Anir Dutta, president, Stenograph, LLC. “The platform is powered through best-in-class technology from Stenograph to aid with the capture, creation, and production of verbatim records. With ViewScript within RemoteDepo Pro, participants benefit from unparalleled and convenient access to synced audio, video and text immediately following the deposition. Stenograph is committed to making court reporters and agencies more efficient and productive while preserving the accuracy and sanctity of the spoken word.”

Learn more at uslegalsupport.com.

‘We set out to reimagine the remote deposition experience for attorneys, their clients, witnesses, and court reporters to provide a more complete and effective solution. The platform provides a seamless experience with advanced tools and functionality, making it easy and flexible to keep your discovery on track.’



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