

san diego county

# TOP ATTORNEYS



sddt.com/topattorneys

Wednesday, July 29, 2015 / Vol. 130, No. 150

## The Daily Transcript congratulates Top Attorneys 2015

Welcome to the 2015 edition of Top Attorneys. This program pays tribute to San Diego County's legal cream of the crop. It is the culmination of a lengthy peer voting process that began in February with the announcement of a call for nominations. San Diego County lawyers were asked who among their peers — with whom they had professional experience — were worthy of recognition.

To accomplish this, more than 6,000 email invitations were sent to attorneys listed in the *San Diego County Attorney Directory 2015*. From that initial email we received more than 1,200 nominations among the 15 pre-selected categories:

- **Academic**
- **Corporate**  
(Litigation and Transactional Law)

- **Criminal**
- **Estate Planning/Probate & Trust/Tax**
- **Family Law**
- **Immigration**
- **Insurance Law**
- **Intellectual Property**  
(Litigation and Transactional Law)
- **Labor/Employment**
- **Municipal & Government**
- **Personal Injury/Property Damage**
- **Real Estate/Construction**  
(Litigation and Transactional Law)

Though broad, these categories reflect the primary areas of practice in San Diego County.

Nominations that did not meet the criteria set out for participation were removed from further consideration. Nominations made by

non-lawyers or with inadequate information were disqualified. Attorneys could not nominate themselves.

The remaining nominations were assigned a value of one. Nominations made by an attorney practicing in the same firm as the nominee had a value of 0.5 subtracted from the original value of one. Nominations between firms had a value of 0.5 added to the original value. Once the preliminary values were finalized, multiple nominations were combined to determine a total score for the nominee. Nominees could be nominated in multiple categories and potentially be a finalist in more than one category.

The top 25 nominees were then selected in each category based on the total score.

In certain categories, there were more than 25 attorneys due to ties. These attorneys advanced to the semifinal round.

The semifinalists were notified that they had advanced to the next level and were asked to cast their votes for 10 winners in their categories. When the voting was closed, *The Daily Transcript* validated the votes cast.

The top 10 attorneys in each category were selected based on the number of peer votes they received. Some categories have more than 10 attorneys due to ties.

*The Daily Transcript* is privileged to present the following section highlighting the peer-selected best and brightest in San Diego's legal arena.

Source Code: 20150729crb

## Law firms help companies combat internal data breaches

By **LYLE MORAN**  
*The Daily Transcript*

Cyberattacks constantly generate headlines.

A hack of Sony Pictures last year severely damaged the company and, more recently, it was revealed that more than 21 million Social Security numbers were compromised by an external theft of data held by the federal Office of Personnel Management.

But while attacks from the outside can have devastating consequences for victims, including various legal implications, so too can internal breaches of confidential information.

Inside jobs are also more likely than external ones, which has prompted some local law firms to offer practices that help companies combat internal threats to sensitive data.

"The chances of an external hack where information is stolen or used for cyberblackmail, for example, is a lot less than having your own staff do something stupid, inadvertent or willful that causes you damage," said Madeline Cahill, a partner at **Cahill & Campitiello**.

Cahill's Carlsbad-based firm assists a variety of companies in preventing and responding to inside breaches by working with in-house employees and outside consultants.

She tells clients that a critical prevention strategy is respecting and understanding the power of technology in a workplace and knowing how it changes rapidly.

Cahill also emphasizes that closely monitoring employees' use of com-

pany technology can reduce the chances of a breach or other misuse of company property.

"Human beings by nature are very conflict averse and we like to believe that when we work with people we can trust them," Cahill said. "So employers like to focus on possible outsider threats because it's more comfortable than facing the potential of an insider threat."

In May, **Higgs Fletcher & Mack** in San Diego launched a privacy and information security practice group.

One feature of the group's work is helping clients develop proper internal privacy policies for data they collect and store.

Jim Eischen, a Higgs partner, said a very active area for the practice is helping clients make sure medical information is protected as required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, known as HIPAA.

If a business maintains HIPAA-protected data, it must complete an internal risk assessment outlining how it is going to keep the information confidential, such as by limiting the employees who have access.

Eischen, a founding member of the practice group, said his firm often assists clients with completing the risk reviews. He also recommends similar assessments be undertaken to ensure compliance with laws beyond HIPAA.

"We feel like it is very responsible on part of all businesses large and small to take data privacy seriously, to have an internal assessment done and to figure out the privacy laws

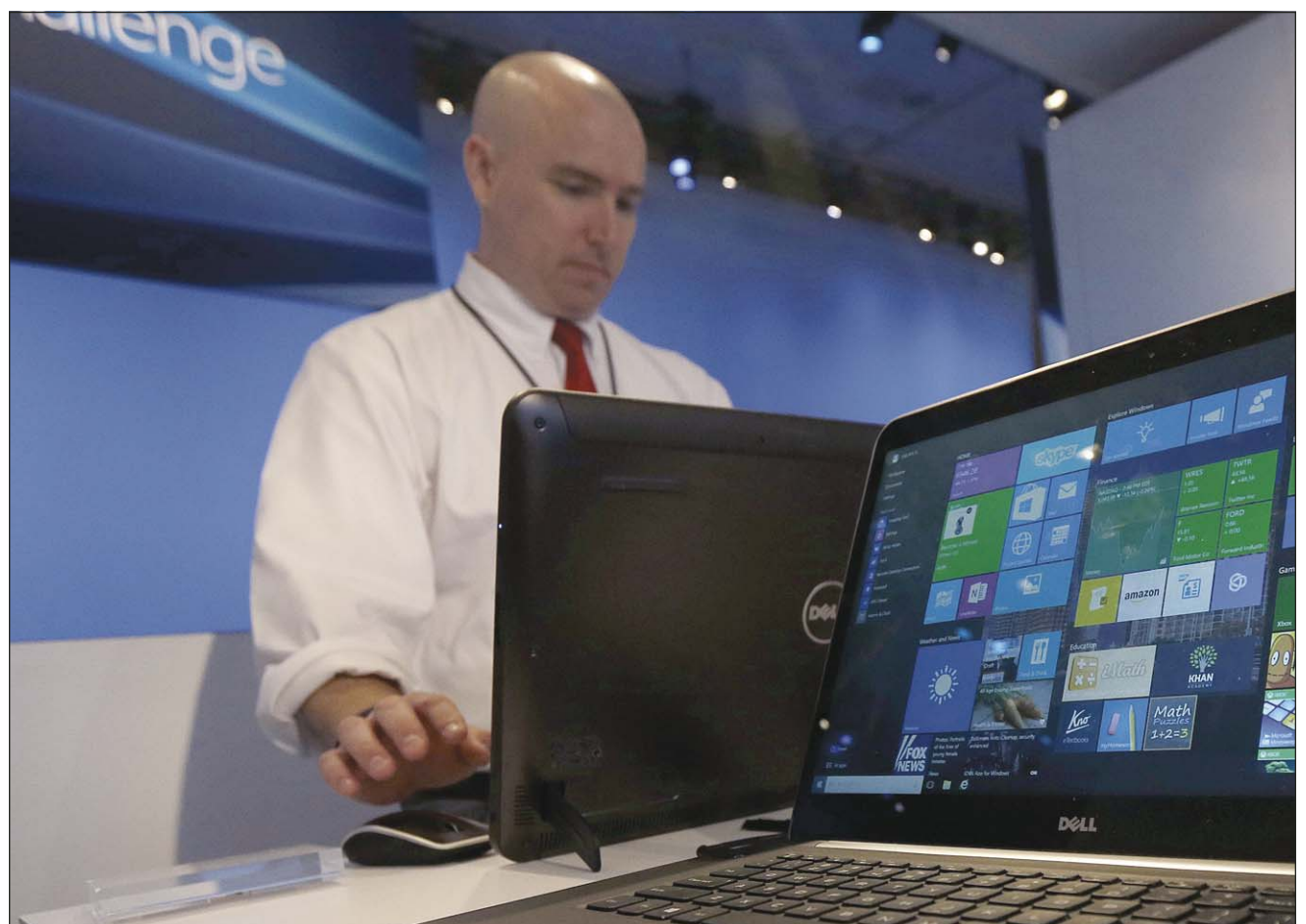


Photo by Jeff Chiu, Associated Press

Several local law firms are helping companies secure their technology and data.

and other laws that apply," he said.

The risk a company can face when internal information that was supposed to remain private is released was on display recently in a matter involving New York Giants defensive end Jason Pierre-Paul.

ESPN was able to obtain medical

records indicating he had his right index finger amputated after a fireworks accident July 4th.

The health care workers and the organization responsible for the leak of the information could face a variety of penalties, including substantial civil liability.

When internal information is improperly accessed, or illegally disseminated as in the case of the New York Giants player, organizations also must contemplate a variety of disciplinary actions against the

See **Data breach** on 2

## City Council seeks short-term vacation rental ordinance

By **LYLE MORAN**  
*The Daily Transcript*

San Diego is home to more than 12,000 properties being used as short-term vacation rentals, according to one estimate, but city councilors and some community members believe the city doesn't have clear land-use rules to regulate them.

In response, a City Council committee has tasked city staff with drafting an ordinance that would apply to the rooms and homes that locals are offering as rentals through companies such as **Airbnb** and **VRBO**.

Because city code does not define short-term vacation rentals as a term or land-use category, coun-

cil members want an ordinance that provides a clear definition and separate-use category.

Councilman Chris Cate has recommended short-term rentals be defined as the occupancy of a residence for a period of less than 30 days.

He would allow short-term rentals in all of or a portion of a prop-

erty if the owner met a number of criteria, including posting a 24/7 local contact person responsible for the conduct on the site and adhering to reasonable occupancy standards.

Repeat violators of city codes could face the revocation of their ability to host short-term visitors, according to Cate's proposal.

He has called his plan "a balanced proposal that supports economic growth while maintaining the quality of life in our neighborhoods."

Councilwoman Lorie Zapf, chairwoman of the Smart Growth and Land Use committee that is seeking more clarity in city regulations, wants to see owner-occupied single-family units and non-owner occupied dwellings treated differently.

She has proposed a three-week minimum stay be required for non-owner occupied units in single-family zones, unless the property owner obtains a discretionary permit.

Zapf, who represents beach communities that have been a hotspot for short-term rentals, also has suggested that there be no minimum stay required in owner-occupied single dwelling units or in any multifamily housing zones.

"I believe there is a way to allow short-term vacation rentals within our city, but it is imperative that we protect our single-family residential zones in particular," Zapf said at a committee hearing.

The Smart Growth and Land Use Committee voted May 29 to have city staff develop an ordinance based on feedback from council members and dozens of members of the public who addressed the panel during meetings on the topic earlier this year.

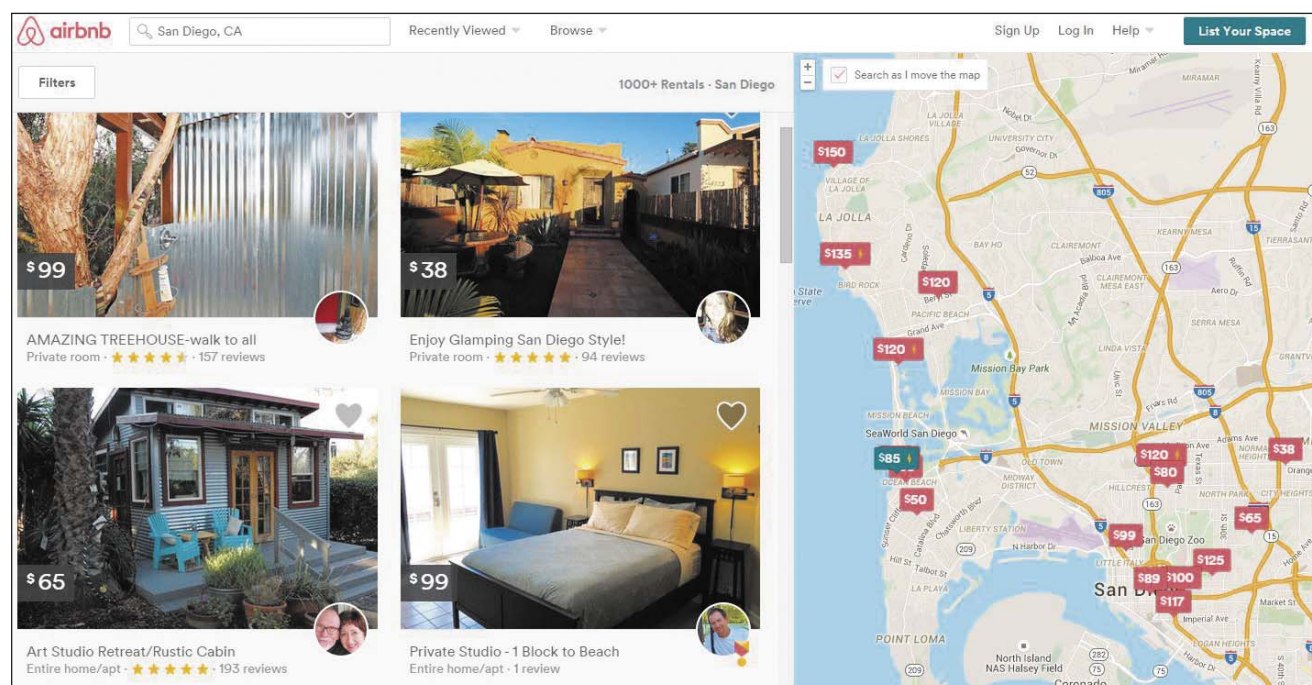
The process to craft an ordinance will be a lengthy one.

Once city officials produce a draft, it will receive mix of community input, including from the Technical Advisory Committee, Code Monitoring Team and Community Planners Committee, before it makes it back to the council committee and, ultimately, the full council.

In the near term, the Smart Growth committee requested that the city's enforcement efforts be stepped up to address trash, noise and other nuisance complaints stemming from short-term rentals.

Meanwhile, a group named Save San Diego Neighborhoods is calling on the city to enforce the rules already on the books, which they

See **Rentals** on 2



A screenshot of Airbnb's website, which shows several listings for vacation rentals in San Diego.

# Lawyers: Immigrant mothers coerced to wear ankle monitors

By **SETH ROBBINS**  
The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Lawyers representing immigrant mothers held in a South Texas detention center say the women have been denied counsel and coerced into accepting ankle-monitoring bracelets as a condition of release, even after judges made clear that paying their bonds would suffice.

In a letter Monday to Sarah Saldana, director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the leaders of a volunteer lawyers' project said they were "dismayed by the lack of transparency, and the coercion, disorganization, and confusion" surrounding recent releases. Among the irregularities cited were summons to courtrooms scrawled on yellow sticky notes, no counsel or judge present in court, and women being told that the prior word of immigration judges "has no value."

ICE spokeswoman Gillian Christensen said in a statement that the agency would review the claims and "respond directly" to the lawyers. "ICE takes very seriously the health, safety and welfare of those in our care," the statement added.

Between 70 and 100 women

were called into courtrooms at the 50-acre Dilley campus last week and told by ICE officials that they could be released with ankle monitors in lieu of bond, according to a motion filed by R. Andrew Free, a Nashville lawyer working with the CARA Family Detention Pro Bono Project.

ICE appears to want ankle monitors, which use global positioning technology, on the majority of women released, Free said in an interview. The agency's actions "are misleading people about their rights," he said.

Three women wearing ankle monitors waited Monday in a San Antonio home for the bus tickets that would get them to family members in other cities. One woman, who asked to be identified only by her first name of Eliud out of fear of reprisals, said that she left Honduras with her two teenage sons, who were being forced into a gang.

She said she would rather not be wearing the ankle monitor, which itches her skin and keeps her up at night, but wasn't given a choice.

"When people see me, the

first thing they see is this (ankle monitor) and they think I am a criminal," she said.

Laura Lichter, a Denver immigration attorney volunteering at Dilley, said that in her 20 years of practice she has never seen ICE add a monitoring device or impose other conditions after an immigration judge has set bond. She said the bracelet monitors were cumbersome, conspicuous, and required constant charging and were another tacit attempt at deterrence.

"There is a stigma," Lichter said. "Everyone is going to think that they are criminals."

Free said his client was among those called into a courtroom to sign the agreement, though a judge had recently reduced her bond from \$7,000 to \$1,500, which she'd planned on paying. A deportation officer said that even after her bond was paid, an ankle-monitoring device would also be placed on her, according to the motion. She asked to speak to her lawyer but was denied. Two similar situations were cited in affi-

davits, and Free added that he has heard of at least a dozen similar cases.

Free said he did not oppose women having the choice of a bracelet or bond but that "we want that choice free of coercion and duress." Pushing the monitors is an abuse of authority, he said, that "threatens the entire immigration court process."

After tens of thousands of migrant mothers and their children, mostly from Central America, crossed the Rio Grande last summer the administration opened two large detention centers, a 500-bed facility in Karnes City and the enormous 2,400-bed facility in Dilley, both south of San Antonio.

In recent weeks, in the face of mounting political pressure and a federal lawsuit challenging the detention of children, ICE began moving families through the centers faster, allowing many women to receive ankle monitors instead of paying bonds. Last Friday a federal judge in California ruled that detaining children in these centers did violate the terms of a 1997

settlement, and that families needed to be released rapidly.

The letter, signed by the American Immigration Lawyers Association and other immigrant rights groups, also says that the women are not receiving adequate information from ICE officers about their obligations in the immigration system and that the agency has not responded to the groups' request to have lawyers do pre-release orientations. They said this "sets up the women for failure." The lawyers say that similar tactics are happening in the facility in Karnes City. Until recently both Dilley and Karnes held about 2,000 people combined.

Last fall ICE privately acknowledged to a group of immigrant advocate organizations that about 70 percent of immigrant families released in the United States never showed up weeks later for follow-up appointments.

In an audio recording of a

confidential meeting obtained by The Associated Press, an unidentified ICE official acknowledged the no-show figure while explaining the administration's decision in June 2014 to open a temporary detention facility at the Border Patrol training facility in Artesia, New Mexico. Two family jails were later opened in Texas, and the Artesia facility was closed down. There is a third smaller facility in Berks County, Pennsylvania.

The ICE official said during that meeting that it was necessary to detain families to ensure they didn't vanish.

Part of the government's original rationale for opening the detention centers was to deter more women and children from coming to the United States. Many of the families are fleeing escalating gang violence, as well as domestic violence in their home countries, and are seeking asylum here.

Source Code: 20150728nj

## Data breach

Continued from Page 1

employees responsible. Cahill and Eischen agreed that is one reason why firms that practice in the area of internal data security must also possess employment law expertise.

Cahill has many years of experience as an employment lawyer, which she says also comes in handy when clients notice employees using company technology for inappropriate purposes besides accessing confidential information.

In addition to its privacy and information security group, Higgs has a deep bench of labor attorneys it can turn to aid clients responding to internal breaches, Eischen said.

"I do think it is very important to have multidisciplinary teams dealing with those types of (issues)," he said.

Firms with practice groups in the area said quick access to experienced litigators is also needed.

Cahill & Campitiello partner Larry Campitiello can step in to address the implications of an internal breach or other workplace matters.

"If a client has had data stolen or is experiencing disruptive behaviors in the workplace relating to data security, he goes into court to get the matter resolved," said Cahill.

She expects that in the next few years there will be an increase in litigation in the field, especially against law-

yers who failed to keep a client's information private due to missing or lax data security protocols and systems.

Cahill said attorneys in those situations will likely face malpractice claims for breach of client confidentiality and breach of their responsibility to keep certain information privileged.

Eischen said Higgs has a team of litigators ready to assist his practice group's clients.

He anticipates more whistleblower claims will be filed against employers by employees who believe adverse actions were taken against them for raising concerns with respect to data privacy.

lyle.moran@sddt.com  
Source Code: 20150729cre

## Rentals

Continued from Page 1

believe prohibit short-term rentals of entire homes, as opposed to room sharing, in residential zones.

The grassroots group asserts that under the current municipal code, home rentals should be considered "visitor accommodations" — uses that provide lodging or a combination of lodging, food and entertainment, primarily to visitors and tourists.

They are not allowed in almost all residential zones.

If the city maintains that the home rentals are visitor accommodations, the group highlights that uses not specifically listed in the code are not permitted in residential areas, either.

Save San Diego Neighborhoods has retained attorney John Thickstun and is considering suing the city if it doesn't crack down on the alleged illegal home rentals.

"The new ordinance is not necessary. This is an enforcement and policing issue," said Thickstun, a partner at **Patton Thickstun, APC**.

City Attorney Jan Goldsmith's office has pointed to a 2007 memo produced under Goldsmith's predecessor that concluded no past or present zoning regulations prohibited short-term vacation rentals.

"Here, current and prior ordinances have been consistently interpreted to allow short-term rentals," Gerry Braun, Goldsmith's spokesman, said in a prepared statement.

The city attorney's office will advise the City Council during the process to develop an ordinance related to short-term vacation rentals, as it does with updates to any ordinance, Braun said.

lyle.moran@sddt.com  
Source Code: 20150729erd

### The Daily Transcript®

Founded April 3, 1886  
www.sddt.com

ROBERT L. LOOMIS, Publisher

George Chamberlin, Executive Editor  
Tracye Grimes, Editor  
Doug Sherwin, Managing Editor  
Richard Spaulding, Real Estate Editor  
Marie Tutko, Special Sections Editor

Ellen C. Revelle, Publisher Emerita  
July 31, 1910 - May 6, 2009

San Diego Daily Transcript  
2131 Third Ave  
San Diego, CA 92101  
(619) 232-4381  
Web site: www.sddt.com

# There's a reason more than 3,000 law firms bank with City National

Clients tell us what they appreciate most about City National is that we deliver what legal firms want – highly responsive service, strong control over cash, and flexibility. Financial strategies for law firms and their professionals is our specialty. With City National, you gain not just expertise, but an active advisor as well.

## Experience the City National Difference.™

For more information, visit us at [cnb.com/law](http://cnb.com/law).

**Robert Pitois**  
SVP/ Sr. Private Banker  
(858) 642-4935  
[Robert.Pitois@cnb.com](mailto:Robert.Pitois@cnb.com)

**Theo Daniels**  
VP/Relationship Manager  
(858) 875-2090  
[Theotis.Daniels@cnb.com](mailto:Theotis.Daniels@cnb.com)

THE DAILY TRANSCRIPT® | SANDIEGOSOURCE

BUSINESS OF LAW SDDT.com/news/roundtables

## EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE

## Law firms reluctant to revamp office settings

By LYLE MORAN  
The Daily Transcript

The influx of millennials into the workforce has prompted companies in a variety of industries to shift to more open offices.

Cubicle walls have been lowered or taken down, and rooms and areas where multiple people can work have been created.

But leaders of some of the major law firms in the region recently said at a roundtable hosted by *The Daily Transcript* that they are hesitant to shift away from the traditional office for a variety of rationales.

Tom Turner, managing partner of **Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP**, said one reason he thinks law firms including his are reluctant to create more collaborative work spaces is because confidentiality is critical in the industry.

He begins his days reading documents and making phone calls that include discussion of confidential information.

"It is not really an option for me to be in an open space and share my conversations with everyone, and that's the way it is for all of our lawyers," said Turner.

**Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek** moved into its current location in downtown San Diego more than 20 years ago and designed it so the lawyers

would have very large private offices.

Bob Caplan, president and a shareholder at the firm, said besides needing privacy for confidentiality reasons, lawyers value a comfortable space they can make their own while putting in long hours.

"They usually have long careers and you want them to be happy even though the space is expensive," he said. "We by and large just do what they want."

Gerald Schneeweis, a litigator and partner at **Morris Polich & Purdy LLP** in San Diego, said he doesn't think open offices makes sense for lawyers because they need the opportunity for quiet reflection.

He said that is especially true in a day and age when communication with other attorneys involved in a case is constant.

"It is good for us mentally to have a place where you can collect your thoughts and not have to be in the hubbub of everything to actually do the legal analysis," he said.

Attorneys at **Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP** also enjoy and need private offices, partner Martin Togni said.

Lawyers at his firm, which has a strong focus on real estate, have to work quickly to analyze and produce documents without unnecessary distractions in a very com-



Staff photos by James Palen  
**Douglas Pettit** (left), vice president of **Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz**; **Mike Hoeck** (center), first vice president of **CBRE**; and **John Morrell**, chairman and managing partner of **Higgs Fletcher & Mack** discuss the changing face of law firm office space during a recent *Daily Transcript* roundtable.

petitive market.

"Brokers always say it, real estate lawyers say it, probably all lawyers say it: 'Time kills deals,'" Togni said.

**Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy LLP** is one law firm that is moving toward different styles of offices than the traditional law office.

The shift is a result of the international immigration law firm having many more paralegals than attorneys, with largely millennials being hired to fill the paralegal jobs, said Gary Perl, a San-Diego based **Fragomen** partner.

As the firm enters new offices in different parts of the country, it is making sure there are open workstation areas that allow for collaboration.

**Fragomen** is also offering employees desks that allow people to stand up rather than sit.

"It's really bringing the walls down and letting a lot more light in," said Perl.

Mike Hoeck, first vice president at **CBRE** (roundtable sponsor) in San Diego, said his company also has legal clients that are realizing some people work better in smaller groups where collaboration can occur.

One trend paving the way for law firms to create office spaces that can house multiple people is the reduction of interior functions like law libraries, he said.

"What's replacing those are more war rooms, more huddle rooms, more call rooms, more places where between two and four — and sometimes six — people can work," said Hoeck, whose company sponsored the roundtable discussion.

Douglas Pettit, vice president and a shareholder at **Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz PC**, said he believes more law firms will eventually transition to nontraditional uses of office space.

He thinks a desire among millennials and others for flexible schedules will be one



**Tom Turner** (left) is the managing partner of **Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch**, while **Bob Caplan** is the president of **Seltzer Caplan McMahon & Vitek**.

driver of the change.

"You can't have an individual office for everyone who wants to work 60 percent of the time," Pettit said. "You have to have some sharing of office space."

"I actually think we will get there," he said.

Some firms have been reducing the gap between the office sizes of higher-level attorneys and more junior associates, as well as splitting larger offices into two.

Other firms are also moving away from a past practice of maintaining a number of open offices for additional attorneys, said Hoeck.

"It is very expensive to carry real estate on a proactive basis in hopes that you are going to grow your practice," he said.

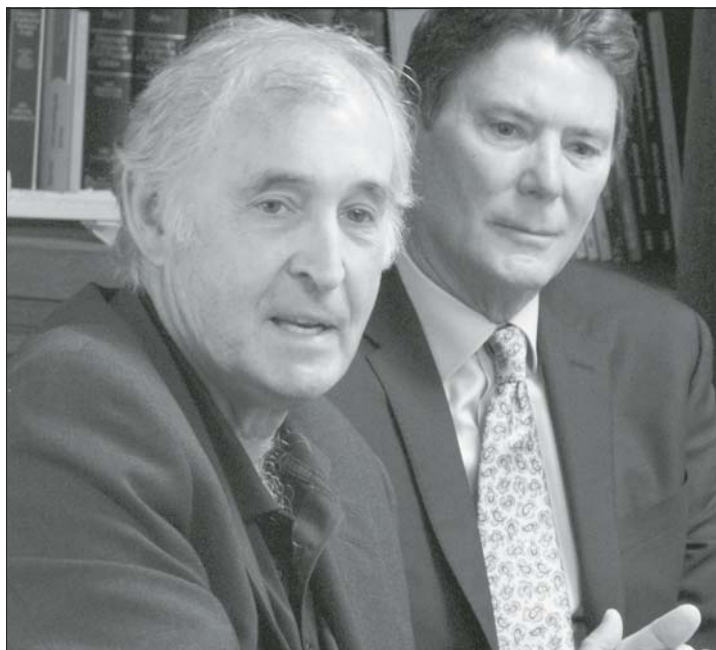
But even if they are not maintaining as much extra space for new hires as in the past, leaders of the local firms said they are bringing on additional attorneys

as the economic climate has improved.

John Morrell, chairman and managing partner at **Higgs Fletcher & Mack**, said his firm's litigation work has picked up steam.

"We have really seen it at Higgs Fletcher this year and the hiring has occurred in that regard, too," he said. "I don't know what it was. It was like a switch got flipped."

lyle.moran@sddt.com  
Source Code: 20150729cra



**Gary Perl** (left) is a partner with **Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy**, and **Gerald Schneeweis** is a partner with **Morris Polich & Purdy**.



**Martin Togni** is a partner with **Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis**.

## Roundtable Participants

**Bob Caplan**President  
Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek**Mike Hoeck**First Vice President  
CBRE (Sponsor)**John Morrell**Chairman & Managing Partner  
Higgs Fletcher & Mack**Gary Perl**Partner  
Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy LLP**Douglas Pettit**Vice President  
Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz PC**Gerald Schneeweis**Partner  
Morris Polich & Purdy LLP**Martin Togni**Partner  
Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP**Tom Turner**Managing Partner  
Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP

## The law firm office of the future

The times are changing in the legal industry — in large part due to increasing competition in a fluctuating global economy, putting pressure on law firms to cut costs. As occupancy expenses hit all-time highs, law firms are faced with the need to reduce and rethink their utilization of space.

Historically, law firms have maintained a relatively traditional approach to their use of office space, carrying more space than they needed. However, as firms move to digital storage and e-discovery, secretary-to-lawyer ratios are increasing and the need for space to store files and law libraries is decreasing. These changes are encouraging firms to seek smaller floorplates, or look into ways to repurpose existing space in order to avoid empty and lifeless core areas, as well as reduce costs.

**CBRE's** 2015 Legal Sector Report found that while not yet prevalent, more transformational changes are likely in the coming years, including:

- Universally sized offices in range of 150 to 180 square feet
- Increased number of interior offices or open workspaces
- Greater acceptance of alternative forms

of working, such as telecommuting (leading to less required space)

These changes are not unique to law firms. They are happening across all industries, from media and technology companies, to more traditional businesses like real estate companies and banks. **CBRE** is at the forefront of evolving trends in workplace strategy with unmatched insight into the changing needs of office occupiers. We've taken a "lead by example" approach when it comes to new ways of working through our own **Workplace360** initiative that allows us to provide a better workplace for our employees and better workplace insights to our clients.

This "lead by example" approach includes recently reimagined office space in Carlsbad and Downtown San Diego, designed to optimize the productivity of our employees. These **Workplace360** offices feature a balance of private and collaborative workspaces designed to support the way employees work through enhanced flexibility, mobility, technology and productivity.

If you are interested in taking a tour of our **Workplace360** offices, please contact Paul Komadina at (858) 646 4771.

Submitted by **CBRE**.

# Los Angeles developer files petition for Carlsbad retail project

By DEAN CALBREATH  
The Daily Transcript

CARLSBAD — A group spearheaded by Los Angeles retail developer Rick Caruso has gathered more than 20,000 signatures to put an initiative on next year's ballot to allow a Nordstrom-anchored retail mall on 26 acres of land surrounding

Carlsbad's Agua Hedionda Lagoon, while preserving 176 acres for open space.

The signatures — which must be verified by the San Diego County Registrar of Voters — are more than twice the 9,800 signatures needed to put the measure before the Carlsbad City Council.

If the registrar verifies

enough signatures, the City Council will have to decide to either put the measure before voters next June or adopt the measure on its own, after commissioning and reviewing an independent environmental, transportation and land use report.

In return for the 26-acre space, Caruso — founder and

CEO of Caruso Affiliated — has pledged to create hiking and biking trails, picnic areas and an education center at Agua Hedionda, a lagoon just north of the strawberry fields along Cannon Road and Interstate 5.

On its website, Caruso Affiliated pledges to create "a warm and inviting space ... that will connect seamlessly to the nearby strawberry fields, the Agua Hedionda Lagoon and the surrounding open space."

Although some residents have expressed concerns about the traffic and congestion that a new retail center could create in an area already saturated with outlet malls and auto showrooms, Caruso Affiliated pledges this development will be different.

"Caruso Affiliated does not build 'shopping malls,'" the company's website said. "We have torn up that old template and created something entirely new — open-air lifestyle destinations that attract people through great design, architecture, landscaping and a focus on working at a neighborhood scale."

The firm's completed projects include The Grove, a 600,000-square-foot, upper-end retail center surrounding Los Angeles' historic Farmers' Market; The Waterside at

Marina del Rey; The Promenade at Westlake; The Commons at Calabasas; and The Village at Moorpark.

The Sierra Club San Diego Chapter has not yet weighed in on the project.

"We're getting calls from people up there, but we'll wait to make any decisions until after the registrar reviews the signatures," said Richard Miller, who oversees communications and development for the group.

The nonprofit Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation strongly approves the project, saying it will "further enhance the preservation and restoration of the lagoon," according to Maureen Simons, who chairs the group.

The foundation has received strong financial support from Caruso Affiliated, which has sponsored a number of its community events. Caruso development manager Michael Gazzano sits on the foundation's board.

Caruso has been laying the groundwork for the Carlsbad development since at least 2012, when it bought a 48-acre parcel of land along the strawberry fields at Cannon Road from San Diego Gas & Electric.

SDG&E said it had considered a number of other competing bids, but decided that

Caruso would be the best fit. "SDG&E believes it is important that any use of the Cannon Road property reflects the interests, values and input of the Carlsbad community," Pam Fair, who oversees SDG&E's environmental and operations support, said at the time.

Over the past three years, Caruso said, the company has held meetings with "thousands of residents" in "hundreds of meetings" about its so-called 85/15 plan, which aims to preserve 85 percent of the open space around the lagoon while developing 15 percent.

The plan has won the strong support of Jimmy Ukegawa, president of the Carlsbad Strawberry Co., the family-owned farm that owns the neighboring strawberry fields.

Although the retail development will eat into some of the strawberry field's frontage land on Interstate 5, the plan will preserve the vast majority of the fields. And Caruso says it will encourage restaurants at the retail development to purchase fruit directly from the field.

"It will help keep my family's strawberry farm sustainable and economically viable for generations to come," Ukegawa said.

dean.calbreath@sddt.com  
Source Code: 20150708czn

## Keeping top legal performers on for the long haul

If you were the principal at an existing firm, how would you ensure top employees are in it for the long haul?

While finding jobs for law school graduates may have previously been difficult, a New York Times article shows an uptick in law school enrollments and job placement, indicating that competition for legal talent may be on the increase. Additionally, the American Bar Association reported that law schools saw a rise in the percentage of 2014 graduates that obtained entry-level jobs compared to 2013 grads — 71 percent of 2014 graduates were employed in long-term, full-time positions 10 months after graduation. And, it's not just lawyers that firm owners need to be concerned with, legal support staffers play a vital role in keeping law firms running smoothly and efficiently.

With people being your most important asset, how do you ensure that you can retain great employees in your legal practice?

Whitney Price, vice president and relationship manager at Torrey Pines Bank, has worked with hundreds of legal firms and draws on 18 years in the banking industry. John Morrell is chairman and managing partner of Higgs, Fletcher & Mack, one of the oldest legal firms in San Diego; and James S. Lagmin of Williams and Lagmin LLP and John Kyle of Kyle Harris LLP, recently shared their insights on how to ensure employee retention.

**Money matters, to a point:** While it seems that money would be the biggest element in retaining top talent, it appears that treating people fairly, making them feel valued and making a difference is what matters more than money.

**Possibility for growth:** According to a 2014 Towers Watson study, career growth is the third most frequent reason employees join a firm and the second most frequent reason for leaving. Also, mentoring new talent and being advocates of continued training and education are also very important.

**Flexibility can pay off:** Flexible arrangements may offer new parents and others the ability to accept an offer and stay with the firm longer, because they feel their needs can be accommodated through benefits and policies.

**Generational values can impact the workforce:** While experienced law firm owners look to retain good employees, the intrinsic values and entrepreneurial spirit of many millennials show they typically only retain jobs for about three to five years. Many business owners have streamlined onboarding and training processes in order to utilize their skills and increase productivity before they opt to move on to another firm or do something completely different.

**Mutual accountability:** Many employees cite having a poor relationship with their boss or supervisor is the No. 1 reason employees they quit, so it is important for upper level leaders to create a strong connection with the employees and have mutual accountability.

To read the full article please visit [www.sddt.com](http://www.sddt.com)

For more on Torrey Pines Bank's legal/professional banking services, please visit [www.torreybank.com](http://www.torreybank.com) or contact Whitney Price at [wprice@torreybank.com](mailto:wprice@torreybank.com). Torrey Pines Bank is a division of Western Alliance Bank. Member FDIC.

Submitted by Torrey Pines Bank.

## LAW FIRMS

FIND OUT WHO THE INDUSTRY LEADERS ARE AT [SDDT.COM/LAWFIRMS](http://SDDT.COM/LAWFIRMS)

Listed alphabetically; includes firms with 10 or more local attorneys

Name URL	# of Local Attorneys	Name URL	# of Local Attorneys	Name URL	# of Local Attorneys
Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP <a href="http://www.allenmatkins.com">www.allenmatkins.com</a>	25	Jones Day <a href="http://www.jonesday.com/sandiego">www.jonesday.com/sandiego</a>	52	Paul, Plevin, Sullivan & Connaughton LLP <a href="http://www.paulplevin.com">www.paulplevin.com</a>	27
Best Best & Krieger LLP <a href="http://bbkllaw.com">bbkllaw.com</a>	29	Kimball, Tiley & St. John LLP <a href="http://www.kts-law.com">www.kts-law.com</a>	31	Perkins Coie LLP <a href="http://www.perkinscoie.com">www.perkinscoie.com</a>	29
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney LLP <a href="http://www.bipc.com">www.bipc.com</a>	10	Klinedinst PC <a href="http://www.klinedinstlaw.com">www.klinedinstlaw.com</a>	32	Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz PC <a href="http://www.pettitkohn.com">www.pettitkohn.com</a>	24
Coast Law Group LLP <a href="http://www.coastlawgroup.com">www.coastlawgroup.com</a>	13	Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear LLP <a href="http://www.kmob.com">www.kmob.com</a>	62	Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP <a href="http://www.pillsburywinthrop.com">www.pillsburywinthrop.com</a>	34
Cooley LLP <a href="http://www.cooley.com">www.cooley.com</a>	97	Latham & Watkins LLP <a href="http://www.lw.com">www.lw.com</a>	85	Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP <a href="http://www.procopio.com">www.procopio.com</a>	142
Crosbie Gliner Schiffman Southard & Swanson LLP <a href="http://www.cgs3.com">www.cgs3.com</a>	13	Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP <a href="http://www.lbbslaw.com">www.lbbslaw.com</a>	41	Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP <a href="http://www.rgrdlaw.com">www.rgrdlaw.com</a>	119
DLA Piper <a href="http://www.dlapiper.com">www.dlapiper.com</a>	109	Littler <a href="http://www.littler.com">www.littler.com</a>	31	Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek <a href="http://www.scmv.com">www.scmv.com</a>	44
Duane Morris LLP <a href="http://www.duanemorris.com">www.duanemorris.com</a>	33	Lorber, Greenfield & Polito LLP <a href="http://www.lorberlaw.com">www.lorberlaw.com</a>	29	Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP <a href="http://www.sheppardmullin.com">www.sheppardmullin.com</a>	104
Epsten Grinnell & Howell APC <a href="http://www.epsten.com">www.epsten.com</a>	27	MarksFinch <a href="http://www.marksfinch.com">www.marksfinch.com</a>	23	Solomon Ward Seidenwurm and Smith LLP <a href="http://www.swsllaw.com">www.swsllaw.com</a>	32
Fish & Richardson PC <a href="http://www.fr.com">www.fr.com</a>	34	McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP <a href="http://www.mckennalong.com">www.mckennalong.com</a>	91	Stutz Artiano Shinoff & Holtz APC <a href="http://www.stutzartiano.com">www.stutzartiano.com</a>	26
Foley & Lardner LLP <a href="http://www.foley.com">www.foley.com</a>	34	Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC <a href="http://www.mintz.com">www.mintz.com</a>	42	Sullivan Hill Lewin Rez & Engel <a href="http://www.sullivanhill.com">www.sullivanhill.com</a>	27
Gomez Trial Attorneys <a href="http://thegomezfirm.com">thegomezfirm.com</a>	14	Morrison & Foerster LLP <a href="http://www.mofo.com">www.mofo.com</a>	55	Thorsnes Bartolotta McGuire LLP <a href="http://www.tbmlawyers.com">www.tbmlawyers.com</a>	11
Gordon & Rees LLP <a href="http://www.gordonrees.com">www.gordonrees.com</a>	126	Mulvaney Barry Beatty Linn & Mayers LLP <a href="http://www.mulvaneybarry.com">www.mulvaneybarry.com</a>	11	Troutman Sanders LLP <a href="http://www.troutmansanders.com">www.troutmansanders.com</a>	13
Grimm, Vranjes & Greer LLP <a href="http://www.gvqllp.com">www.gvqllp.com</a>	16	Neil, Dymott, Frank, McFall & Trexler APLC <a href="http://www.neildymott.com">www.neildymott.com</a>	24	Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati PC <a href="http://www.wsgr.com">www.wsgr.com</a>	45
Higgs Fletcher & Mack LLP <a href="http://www.higgslaw.com">www.higgslaw.com</a>	74	Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP <a href="http://www.paulhastings.com">www.paulhastings.com</a>	29	Wilson Turner Kosmo LLP <a href="http://www.wilsonturnerkosmo.com">www.wilsonturnerkosmo.com</a>	27

Data Source: The firms and their websites. Listed alphabetically; includes firms with 10 or more local attorneys. This is a partial list; a more complete listing can be found at [sddt.com/LawFirms](http://sddt.com/LawFirms). N/A: Not Applicable, n/a: not available, wnd: would not disclose. It is not the intent of this list to endorse its participants, nor to imply that a company's size or numerical rank indicates its quality or service. The following firms did not respond to our survey: McKenna Long & Aldridge; Paul Hastings; Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP; Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP. We reserve the right to edit listings or to exclude a listing due to insufficient information. For changes, contact Robin Scott at [robin.scott@sddt.com](mailto:robin.scott@sddt.com). Last updated 4/2015.

## Facebook's use of facial-recognition tool draws concerns about privacy

By RACHEL ADAMS-HEARD  
Bloomberg News

When you are identified in a picture on Facebook, biometric software remembers your face so it can be "tagged" in other photographs.

Facebook Inc. (Nasdaq: FB) says this enhances the user experience. But privacy advocates say the company's technology — which regulators in Europe and Canada have ordered shut off — should only be used with

explicit permission.

As commercial use of facial recognition technology grows to replace password log-ins, find people in photos and someday even customize displays for shoppers as they browse in stores, it's raised privacy questions. That's one reason the U.S. government is participating in a working group to develop rules for companies using facial recognition — even if those are voluntary.

"Face recognition data can be collected without a person's knowledge," said Jennifer Lynch, an attorney for the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a San Francisco-based privacy rights group. "It's very rare for a fingerprint to be collected without your knowledge."

Privacy groups such as Lynch's last month cited the business community's opposition to requiring prior consent as the reason they walked out on the government meetings. The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration, which sponsored the talks, plans to continue the process Tuesday without most of the privacy advocates.

"The process is the strongest when all interested parties participate and are willing to engage on all issues," said Juliana Gruenwald, an agency spokeswoman.

### Prior knowledge

Facebook defends its use of facial-recognition technology, a form of biometrics. It works by assigning numbers to physical characteristics such as distance between eyes, nose and ears in order to come up with a unique faceprint that can be used to identify someone when they've already been identified through tagging.

The technology powers a photo feature called "tag suggestions" that is automatically turned on when users sign up for a Facebook account. The suggestions are only made to a user's friends.

"Tag suggestions make it easy for friends to tag each other in photos," Facebook said in an e-mailed statement. "And when someone is alerted they've been tagged in a photo, it's easier to take action, whether it's commenting, contacting the person who shared it, or reporting it to Facebook."

Users can opt-out at any time, Facebook said. But that requires that they change their settings.

Source Code: 20150728fad

## Academic finalists

### William J. Aceves California Western School of Law

#### Law School USC Gould School of Law Major Cases

I have represented human rights and civil liberties organizations as amicus curiae counsel in numerous cases, including the following U.S. Supreme Court cases: *DeMore v. Kim*, *Sosa v. Alvarez-Machain*, *Sanchez-Llamas v. State of Oregon*, *Medellin v. Dretke*, *Republic of the Philippines v. Pimentel*, *Boumediene v. Bush*, *Acree v. Republic of Iraq*, *Mohamed v. Jeppesen Dataplan Inc.*, *Kiobel v. Royal Dutch Petroleum*, and *Al Maqaleh v. Hagel*. I have also appeared before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Migrants, and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

#### Professional Background

In 1998, I joined the faculty at California Western School of Law and received tenure in 2001. From 2007 through 2014, I served as the vice dean for academic affairs. My primary teaching and research interests are in international law and human rights. I have



Aceves

written numerous articles that have been published in legal journals at Berkeley, Chicago, Columbia, Fordham, Gonzaga, Harvard, Hastings, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Pepperdine, Vanderbilt and Virginia. I am the author of "The Anatomy of Torture," co-author of "The Law of Consular Access," and co-editor of "Lessons and Legacies of the War on Terror."

#### Professional Affiliations

I am a member of the American Law Institute. I serve on the Board of Directors for the American Civil Liberties Union and the Center for Justice & Accountability. I also serve on the Executive Committee of the American Branch of the International Law Association. I previously served on the Board Of Directors for Amnesty International USA and I currently serve as the AIUSA Ombudsperson.

• • •

### Thomas D. Barton California Western School of Law

#### Law School Cornell Law School, Ithaca, New York

**Professional Background**  
Thomas D. Barton has taught many different law school courses, including contracts, civil procedure, torts II, intellectual property and technology, problem solving and preventive law and ADR.

Prior to joining California Western, Barton taught at the West Virginia University College of Law; and prior to that

he practiced antitrust and taxation law at Harris, Beach & Wilcox in Rochester, NY. He is admitted to practice in both New York and California. He is an active scholar,



Barton

frequently in the U.S. and abroad about the rule of law and legal procedural reforms.

#### Personal Background

A native of Nebraska, Barton embraces all aspects of San Diego. He lives in North Park with his wife Sharon Foster.

• • •

### Justin Brooks California Western School of Law

**Law School**  
American University Washington College of Law

#### Major Cases

Over the course of his career, Justin Brooks has served as counsel on several high-profile criminal cases including the exonerations of San Diegan Kenneth Marsh (who served 20 years of wrongful incarceration) and Uriah Courtney (who served 8 years of wrongful incarceration). He is best known for his work exonerating NFL football player Brian Banks. For his legal work, he has been recognized several times by the *Los Angeles Daily Journal* as one of the Top 100 Lawyers in California and has twice been awarded a California Lawyer Magazine "Attorney of the Year" award.

#### Professional Background

Brooks is the director of the California Innocence Project



Brooks

at California Western School of Law where he supervises a team of lawyers and law students dedicated to the release of wrongfully convicted inmates. In conjunction with this work he teaches criminal law, criminal procedure, wrongful convictions law, and works on state and national policy reform to reduce the number of wrongful convictions. He also works internationally, training lawyers and law students throughout Latin America where he has also assisted in the founding several innocence projects. He has published the only legal casebook devoted to the topic of wrongful convictions and has published extensively on the death penalty, corrections law and other criminal law topics.

#### Professional Affiliations

Tenured law professor, California Western School of Law; Director, California Innocence Project; Executive

Director, Institute for Criminal Defense Advocacy; Director, LL.M. in Trial Advocacy; Director, RedInnocent.

• • •

### Margaret A. Dalton University of San Diego School of Law

**Law School**  
University of San Diego School of Law

#### Major Cases

In 2004, Margaret Dalton was appointed director of the USD Legal Clinics, a full service, on-campus law office. She has doubled the number of clinics (now in ten discrete areas of law), which provide intensive legal training for law students, while offering free legal services to lower income San Diegans and veterans.



Dalton

The program was recognized in 2009 with the Bernard E. Witkin Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Law. In 2013, she became the Faculty Director of Clinical and Placement Education at USD School of Law, with academic responsibility for internship programs as well as the clinics.

#### Professional Background

Dalton practices primarily in special education law. She developed a unique curriculum in special education law more than ten years ago, combining traditional course work with practice. Her education and disability clinic has assisted hundreds of families in San Diego. Many of her former interns are now working in the field, at law firms representing districts and in private practices supporting families. Dalton has received numerous awards, including 2007 Pro Bono Attorney of the Year from the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program. She has consulted for the Judicial Council and previously served on the Education Committee for San Diego Juvenile Court.

#### Professional Affiliations

Dalton is active state-wide as a committee member of the State Bar Trust Fund IOLTA Restructuring Task Force, and locally on the Law

Library's Legal Futures Summit Committee and the San Diego Center for Children's Clinical and Education Committee. She recently served on the Planning Committee for the state-wide Pathways to Justice Conference, which brought together legal services attorneys in all areas of law. Dalton served on the Office of Administrative Hearings Special Education Advisory Committee from 2010-12. She was a charter board member of the COMPASS Family Center, continuing in an advisory capacity. She received its STAR Award in 2010.

#### Personal Background

A Southern California native, Dalton is married with two grown children, and three grandchildren.

• • •

### Julia M. Dunlap University of California, San Diego Extension

**Law School**  
University of San Diego School of Law

#### Major Cases

Julia M. Dunlap, is the director of legal education for UC San Diego Extension. The legal education department at UCSD Extension includes the nationally recognized ABA Approved Paralegal Certificate and Intellectual Property Certificate programs, as well as the new Litigation Technology Management Certificate program. Dunlap has played an active role in the education of law students, paralegals and legal support staff for almost 20 years. As a strong proponent in the belief that students of the law learn best when they are taught the practical, day-to-day workings of the law in conjunction with legal theory, she has enlisted many active and prominent attorneys of the San Diego legal community as instructors for the UC San Diego Extension certificate programs.

#### Professional Background

Dunlap received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of California at Berkeley. She earned her Juris Doctor from the University of San Diego, School of Law, and became an active member of the California State Bar in 1993. Prior to joining UC San Diego Extension,

Dunlap was a family law practitioner representing clients in dissolution, custody, and support cases in San Diego and Orange counties. She currently specializes in estate planning preparing wills and trusts on a periodic basis. While overseeing the legal education department,



Dunlap

Dunlap also teaches legal communications and legal research and analysis, and a preparation and review course for the Certified Paralegal Exam administered by the National Association of Legal Assistants.

#### Professional Affiliations

I currently serve as the national Director of Certificate Programs for the American Association of Paralegal Education and I am the 2015 nominee for President of AAFPE. I present three to four times a year at legal education conferences, law firms, and professional associations, including the California State Bar Annual Convention, AAFPE national and regional conferences, California Alliance of Paralegal Associations, San Diego Paralegal Association, on legal education opportunities for students, career opportunities, professional ethics, and best practices for legal education professionals. At UC San Diego, I am a committee member for the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on gender identity and sexual orientation issues. The committee meets quarterly and is currently working on 10 initiatives to promote recognition of issues affecting the LGBT community at UC San Diego. I am currently assigned to the tax equalization of domestic partner employee benefits task force.

• • •

### Robert Charles Fellmeth University of San Diego School of Law

#### Law School

Harvard Law School

#### Major Cases

Litigated 40 appellate cases in consumer, regulatory, antitrust and child

rights subject areas, including *People v. National Association of Realtors*, *Gramkow v. CTTC* (antitrust); *Le Bup Thi Dao v. Board of Medical Quality Assurance*; *MWD v. Imperial Irrigation District*, et al. (regulatory); *Troxel v. Granville*, *Children's Advocacy Institute and Robert Fellmeth v. Orange County Social Services*

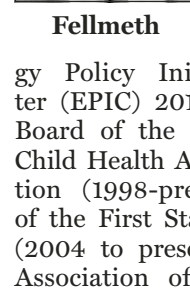
*Agency*; and *California State Foster Parent Association et al. v. John A. Wagner*, and now pending *Fraley v. Facebook* (child rights).

#### Professional Background

1968-1973 Associate with the Center for Study of Responsive Law, organizer of Ralph Nader projects; co-author of the Nader Report on the FTC, the Interstate Commerce Omission, Power and Land in California and other books, director of the Congress Project. 1973-1982 antitrust prosecutor in California, cross commissioned as Assistant U.S. Attorney in antitrust. Faculty of the National Judicial College, et al., 1977-present faculty of University of San Diego Law School, 1980 - present founder and director of the Center for Public Interest Law; 1989 - present founder and director of the Children's Advocacy Institute. Holder of the Price Chair in Public Interest Law.

#### Professional Affiliations

Former Board of Directors, Consumer's Union of the U.S., Board of California Common Cause; Chairman of the Board of the Public Citizen Foundation 1994-2014; Board of the Energy



Fellmeth

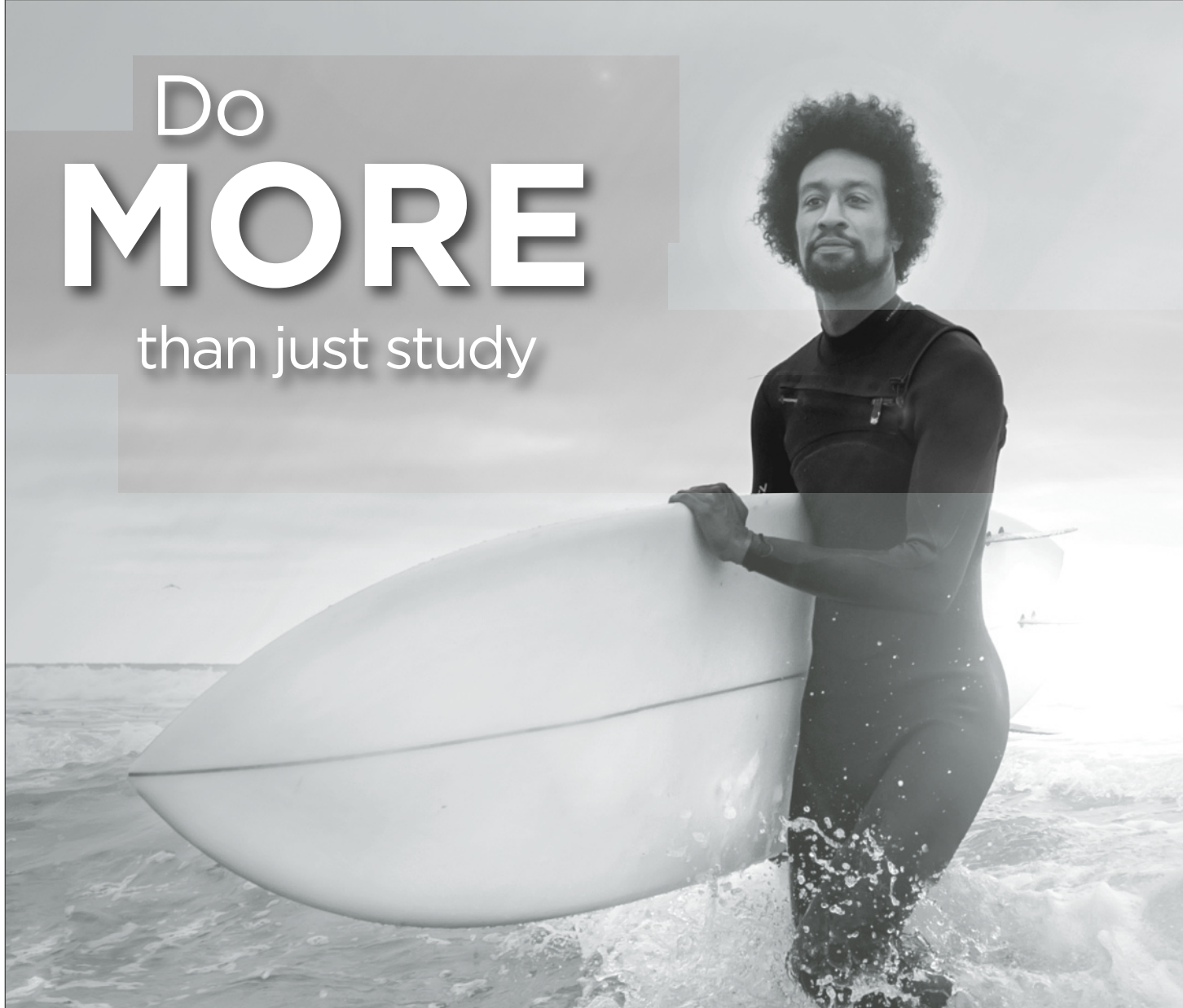
Policy Initiatives Center (EPIC) 2010 to present; Board of the Maternal and Child Health Access Foundation (1998-present); Board of the First Star Foundation (2004 to present); National Association of Counsel for Children 1998 - present (President of Board 2010-12); Counsel to Board of Voices for America's Children (1996-2013); Secretary-Treasurer of the Partnership for America's Children (2014 to present).

#### Personal Background

Kailua High School, class

Please turn to page 6

Do  
**MORE**  
than just study



**MORE** opportunities outside the classroom,  
and even more career opportunities beyond it.

**CALIFORNIA WESTERN**  
SCHOOL OF LAW | San Diego  
Learn MORE at [www.CaliforniaWestern.edu](http://www.CaliforniaWestern.edu)

**FOR  
ALL YOUR  
LEGAL  
ADVERTISING  
NEEDS**

**CALL  
(619) 232-4381  
OR VISIT SDDT.COM**

## Corporate Litigation finalists

### Guillermo "Gil" Cabrera The Cabrera Firm APC

#### Law School

Boston College Law School

#### Major Cases

Most recent: Lead Counsel on *Golden Hour Data Systems, Inc. v. emsCharts, Inc.* (Eastern District of Texas), Patent Infringement Case where Cabrera represented Golden Hour and secured a \$33.5 million judgment.

*The Raillery LLC v. Jeffrey Lubin, et al.* where Cabrera secured a \$2 million jury verdict in a breach of contract matter.

#### Professional Background

Cabrera has been an attorney in San Diego for more than 18 years. Prior to forming The Cabrera Firm, he was a senior associate with Cooley Godward Kronish LLP and an associate with Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps LLP, where he specialized in business litigation, securities litigation, intellectual property and employment law.

#### Professional Affiliations

Cabrera presently serves on the board of directors of San Diego Convention Center Corporation, The San Diego LGBT Community Center

and the San Diego County Taxpayers Association. From 2005 to 2010, Cabrera served on the San Diego Ethics Commission, which monitors and enforces the city's governmental campaign finance and ethics laws, and proposes

new governmental ethics law reforms. Cabrera was chair of the Ethics Commission from 2007 to 2009. Cabrera also has served as the chair of the San Diego Chief of Police's Use of Force Task Force, chair of the board of directors of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of San Diego, and member of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America National Board of Directors.



Cabrera

...

### James D. Crosby Henderson, Caverly, Pum & Charney LLP

**Law School**  
University of San Diego  
School of Law

#### Major Cases

Represented lender in New York action involving purchase/sale agreement for portfolios of premium finance notes and security agreements. Defeated summary judgment motion resulting in multi-million dollar settlement.

Represented beverage company in District Court action over ownership of formulas for production of alcoholic beverages. Favorable verdict after 2 week trial.

Defended San Diego attorneys in financial elder abuse, fraud and malpractice action. Favorable jury verdict on elder abuse and fraud claims after 4 week jury trial.

Represented Canadian corporation in 2 week arbitration of \$150 million against Mexico under NAFTA - Involved Mexico's unilateral closure of Mexico's border town gaming casinos.

#### Professional Background

For over 30 years as a San Diego business trial attorney, Crosby has successfully represented hundreds of entities and individuals, as plaintiffs and defendants, in general and complex business, commercial, contract, intellectual property, securities, business tort, and real

property litigation in state and federal courts. He has represented clients throughout California, and in New York, Nevada, New Jersey, District of Columbia, North Carolina and South Dakota. Crosby has tried numerous jury and non-jury cases, and handled numerous JAMS and AAA business arbitrations and mediations. Crosby is AV Preeminent Peer Review rated by Martindale-Hubbell. Crosby is an active blogger at trialcall.net

#### Professional Affiliations

Crosby currently serves on the Boards of the San Diego County Bar Association, the Casa Cornelia Law Center and the University of San Diego School of Law Alumni Association. Crosby served as President of the Bar Association of Northern San Diego County, President of the San Diego County Law Library Board of Trustees and a Director of the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program and the San Diego Law



Crosby

Library Foundation. Crosby is a Master at the Welsh and Lopardo Inns of Court and on faculty at San Diego Inn of Court. Member - SDCBA, BANSDC, and the Lawyers Club.

#### Personal Background

A native Southern Californian, Crosby was born in Los Angeles, grew up in Santa Barbara and has lived in San Diego since 1975. He attended San Diego State University, receiving a B.S. degree in Marine Biology in 1978. He attended the University of San Diego School of Law and received his law degree in 1983. Crosby and his wife, Jill, happily-married for 30 years, have three grown daughters. They reside in San Diego and enjoy sailing, water-skiing, the beach, music, concerts, dining out, cooking, books, and, most importantly, spending time when they can with their daughters.

...

### Deborah S. Dixon Gomez Trial Attorneys

**Law School**  
California Western School  
of Law

#### Major Cases

Deborah Dixon currently litigates cases involving data breaches, including against Sony and Anthem Blue Cross. She is actively litigating several misrepresentation cases against homeopathic companies for selling products that do not contain ingredients as advertised. Dixon was an integral part of a trial team for a seven-week legal malpractice trial involving significant claims and damages. The jury returned a defense verdict after only two hours of deliberations. Dixon has trial experience in business litigation disputes, personal injury and contract claims and legal malpractice lawsuits. Dixon has litigated hundreds of cases to resolution and completed several solo arbitrations.



Dixon

Dixon is a Senior Trial Attorney in the Complex Division of Gomez Trial

**Professional Background**  
Dixon is a Senior Trial Attorney in the Complex Division of Gomez Trial

Please turn to page 7

## Academic finalists (continued)

of 1963, Stanford University, class of 1967. Married to former Julianne D'Angelo Fellmeth. Two sons, Michael (45) - President of Broadway Play Publishers, and Aaron (44) - Professor of International Law at Arizona State University. Sister Dr. Enid Lynn Rayner in Honolulu, brother Dr. Brian David Fellmeth, Sacramento.

### Julie Greenberg Thomas Jefferson School of Law

#### Law School

University of Michigan

#### Professional Background

Julie Greenberg is an internationally recognized expert on the legal issues relating to gender, sex, sexual identity and sexual orientation. Her path-breaking work on gender iden-

tity has been cited by a number of state and federal courts, as well as courts in other countries. Her work has been quoted in hundreds of books and articles, and she has been invited to speak at dozens of national and international conferences on the subject.



Greenberg

Her book, "Intersexuality and the Law: Why Sex Matters," published by New York University Press, received the 2013 Bullough Book Award for the most distinguished book written for the professional sexological community published in a given year.

She joined the Thomas Jefferson faculty in 1990 and was the associate dean for faculty development from 2003 to

2005. She serves on a number of nonprofit organizations' boards of directors and has also been involved in a variety of community service projects relating to the rights of women and sexual minorities. In 2006, the Tom Homann Association recognized Greenberg's work on behalf of LGBTI rights and presented her with the "Friend of the Community" award. She also was voted by her peers as one of San Diego's Top Attorneys in academics for 2006, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014.

#### Professional Affiliations

Greenberg is a member of the San Diego County Bar Association, the American Bar Association, Lawyers Club and California Women Lawyers.

...

### Lilys D. McCoy Thomas Jefferson School of Law

#### Law School

University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law

#### Major Cases

In 2012, Lilys McCoy accepted a position at Thomas Jefferson School of Law as the director of the Lawyer Incubator Program and solo practice concentration. During her first year at TJSL, McCoy launched the Center for Solo



McCoy

Practitioners, a post-graduate program which helps alumni as they establish their own law firms. The program, which has received national recognition, also encourages new solo practitioners to become leaders in their community by developing ways to reach traditionally underserved populations. McCoy was also appointed as the TJSL Trial Team Supervisor and coached the trial team to the Texas Young Lawyers Association Region 14 Championship, and to National Trial Competition semifinalist honors.

#### Professional Background

Prior to joining Thomas Jefferson School of Law, McCoy was a civil litigator. She tried jury trials and bench trials and represented clients in judicial arbitrations, contractual arbitrations, and mediation hearings. From 1999 until 2012, McCoy dedicated her practice

to representing plaintiffs in consumer protection cases, including automobile fraud, Fair Debt Collection Practices Act cases and Fair Credit Reporting Act cases. She also represented consumers in class claims against large consumer finance companies and debt collectors. She periodically consults on consumer law cases in her capacity as of counsel to the Bravo Law Group APC.

#### Professional Affiliations

McCoy served as president of Lawyers Club of San Diego from 2002 to 2003 and as chair of the Lawyers Club Judicial Endorsements Committee from 2003 to 2005. In 2007, McCoy received the Belva Lockwood Award from Lawyers Club. McCoy served as co-president of the Tom Homann Law Association from 2005 to 2007 and received that organization's 2008 Co-President's Award. She served as chair of the Conference of California Bar Association from 2009 to 2010. McCoy was a workshop leader in the San Diego Inn of Court College of Trial Advocacy and currently serves as a board member on the San Diego Inn of Court board of directors. In 2014, she received the San Diego County Bar Association's Service to the Profession Award.

#### Personal Affiliations

McCoy was selected as a Top attorney by *The Daily Transcript* in 2006, 2013, 2014 and 2015, and was selected for *San Diego Super Lawyers* in 2007 and 2009. McCoy has spoken on consumer protection issues to community and legal organizations including Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego, the Camp Pendleton Legal Assistance Office, and the Southwest Navy Legal Service Office. In 2004 and 2005, McCoy helped coordinate the consumer law segment for the San Diego Superior Court, North County Division, Youth-Day-in-Court program. She currently volunteers with the United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of California, CARE Program, which exists to provide education on consumer issues to schools and other community organizations. From 2010 to 2012, McCoy served as an instructor of civil litigation, evidence law, and business law at the U.C. San Diego Extension Paralegal Program. McCoy has an AV Preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell.

#### Personal Background

A native San Diegan, McCoy is married with two children.

...

### David McGowan University of San Diego School of Law; Durie Tangri LLP

#### Law School

Boalt Hall, UC Berkeley

#### Major Cases

Part of the team successfully representing California State University in a class action jury trial in San Francisco; part of the team that obtained summary judgment for Google with respect to copyright infringement claims



McGowan

brought by the Authors' Guild (Google Books); obtained summary judgment in pro bono representation of the leader of the Java Model Railroad Interface open-source project (*Jacobson v. Katzer*); representation of several law firms with respect to professional liability and conflicts claims.

#### Professional Background

Law clerk to the Hon. A. Raymond Randolph, Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit; Associate, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom 1991-94; Associate and (briefly) director, Howard, Rice, Nemerovski, Canady, Falk & Rabkin 1994-98; Professor of Law, University of Minnesota 1998-2005; Lyle L. Jones Professor of Competition and Innovation Law, University of San Diego School of Law, 2005-present.

#### Professional Affiliations

Elected member of the American Law Institute; member of the Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers.

...

### Michael D. Ramsey University of San Diego School of Law

#### Law School

Stanford Law School

#### Major Cases

*Republic of Argentina v. NML Capital, Ltd.* (2014, U.S. Supreme Court), consultant on foreign sovereign immunity issues; *NLRB v. Noel Canning* (2014, U.S. Supreme Court), counsel of record for amicus brief in support of respondent on constitutionality of the President's recess appointments; *Kiobel v. Royal Dutch Petroleum Co.* (2013, U.S. Supreme Court), coun-

sel of record for amicus brief in support of respondents on international human rights liability; *Samanitar v. Yousuf* (2010, U.S. Supreme Court), counsel of record for amicus brief in support of plaintiff/respondent on foreign sovereign immunity issues; *Abel v. OTP Bank* (2012, U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit), co-counsel for defendant/appellant in international human rights litigation); *McKesson Corp. v. Islamic Republic of Iran* (U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit), co-counsel for defendant/appellant on issues of customary international law litigation.

#### Professional Background

I am currently Professor of Law and Director of International and Comparative Law Programs at the University of San Diego Law School. I previously served as a judicial clerk to Judge J. Clifford Wallace, U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, in San Diego, and as a judicial clerk for Justice Antonin Scalia of the U.S. Supreme Court. From 1992-95, I worked as an attorney for Latham & Watkins in San Diego, principally in international transactions. Since 1995 I have been a professor at the University of San Diego Law School, where I received tenure in 2000. I have participated as a consultant, co-counsel or expert in litigation involving international and constitutional issues in four federal circuits and the U.S. Supreme Court.



Ramsey

I am a member of the American Society of International Law and the U.S. Supreme Court Bar.

#### Personal Background

I grew up in Orange County and moved to San Diego right after law school. My principal activities include travel, hiking, skiing and tennis. I am the author of "The Constitution's Text in Foreign Affairs" (Harvard University Press, 2007) and the co-author of two casebooks: "Transnational Law and Practice" (Aspen 2015) (with Childress and Whytock), and "International Business Transactions" (12th ed., West, 2015) (with Folsom, Gordon and Van Alstine). I also co-edited "International Law in the U.S. Supreme Court" (Cambridge University Press 2011) (with Sloss and Dodge).



Walter F. Spath III

Charles B. Christensen



Municipal & Government • Civil Litigation  
Housing • Real Estate & Commercial Real Estate

550 W. C ST. #1660 | SAN DIEGO, CA 92101  
PH: 619-236-9343 | WWW.CANDSLAW.NET

## Corporate Litigation finalists (continued)

Attorneys. Dixon works in the firm's class action practice, specifically cases involving consumer claims, products liability or fraud. She is a trial attorney, who has had significant trial experience in jury and non-jury cases. Prior to joining Gomez Trial Attorneys, Dixon was a partner at a local firm, focusing on business litigation, employment and legal malpractice defense.

**Professional Affiliations**  
President, Lawyers Club of San Diego. Lawyers Club is one of the largest specialty bars in San Diego; its mission is to advance the status of women in the law and society. President, California Western School of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors. Barrister in Louis M. Welsh American Inn of Court and member of San Diego County Bar Association. Dixon is also an adjunct professor in the Trial Skills course at California Western School of Law.

**Thomas C. Frost**  
*The Frost Firm*

**Law School**  
University of Southern California Gould School of Law

**Major Cases**  
Frost recently recovered an award after trial of \$1.8 million against LPL Financial Corp. and its registered representative. Frost's clients were two orphans who, when they reached adulthood, discovered



Frost

their LPL broker and trustee of their family trust defrauded them out of their entire inheritance and life savings over a 20-year period. Frost also recovered an award after trial of nearly \$5.5 million against Hispanic Television Network Inc., et al., in a case arising out of a substantial investment made by Frost's client, a hedge fund, in the network in reliance on the false representations of the network's principals. Frost represented a hedge fund in a multi-million-dollar federal court litigation against a national broker-dealer arising out of the fund's investment in a health care receivables factoring enterprise. The case resolved after more than two years of heavy litigation in a structured settlement worth in excess of \$8 million.

**Professional Background**  
Frost is managing partner of The Frost Firm based in San Diego and focuses his practice on litigation, primarily in the areas of business and securities law.

Frost began his career working on several high-profile antitrust cases for two major international law firms. Frost was a named partner of a prominent law firm based in San Diego and New York before starting his own law firm in 2013. He has represented a broad range of clients, including publicly traded companies, manufacturing firms, retailers, real estate development companies, recording studios, hedge funds, mutual funds, registered representatives and investors, in federal and state courts and arbitration forums across the country. Frost's trial experience, on behalf of plaintiffs and defendants, includes breach of contract; real estate disputes; employment disputes; unfair competition, non-compete and restrictive covenant cases; violations of state and federal securities statutes; and intellectual property disputes including copyright and trademark infringement.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Frost is a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum, Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association,

California State Bar Association, San Diego County Bar Association, Association of Trial Lawyers of America, and the American Bar Association.

**Personal Background**

Frost resides in Encinitas with his wife and daughter. He travels extensively serving the firm's clients. He is an avid surfer, sailor and snowboarder and is active in a number of community organizations and various pro bono projects.

**Charles T. Hoge**  
*Kirby Noonan  
Lance & Hoge LLP*

**Law School**  
University of California, Hastings College of The Law

**Major Cases**  
Charles Hoge has tried and arbitrated cases in multiple practice areas involving many industries. These include employment cases representing national organizations, real estate cases representing developers and commercial landlords and tenants, representing individuals victimized by securities fraud, representing investment advisors accused of trade secret misappropriation, representing a pharmaceutical company in an intellectual property dispute, representing an accounting firm accused of defrauding its client, defending an inventor accused of unfair competition by a trade organization and representing partners in a commercial real estate development dispute with a national homebuilder.

**Professional Background**  
Hoge has worked at Kirby Noonan Lance & Hoge, a boutique business litigation firm of 15 lawyers, since 1988. He trained under Dave Noonan. Hoge's litigation practice includes partnership, real estate, employment, intellectual property, unfair competition and professional liability matters. He has been recognized annually by *Super Lawyers*, and has been recognized as a Top Attorney in Intellectual Property and in Real Estate and Construction Litigation and by *Best Lawyers* in America for commercial litigation. He has always been designated an A/V rating by Martindale-Hubbell, its highest peer rating for professional excellence. Hoge has served as the firm's managing partner since 2002.

**Professional Affiliations**  
• San Diego County Bar Association 2000 Labor and Employment Law Section Chairman; Litigation Section  
• San Diego Superior Court, Judge Pro Tem  
• San Diego Superior Court Mediator Panel  
• American Bar Association  
• CEB Panelist, Current Developments in Litigation (2004-07, 2009)  
• Association of Business Trial Lawyers of San Diego, Board of Governors (2002-04)  
• Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America, Trial Lawyer Honorary Society  
• Member, Diversity Law Institute

**Personal Background**  
Hoge is enthusiastic about snow skiing, fly fishing and hiking. He has been active in bar sports and has been a member of 10 teams that won the A League Championship in basketball. If he weren't a lawyer, he would be a basketball coach. Hoge has coached at basketball camps, and college and pro players in summer leagues, and was one of the owners of an ABA franchise. His wife, Martha Guy, is general counsel to a development company and his elder daughter is now a lawyer practicing in New

York. Hoge's younger daughter plans to be a Russian history professor. The family resides in La Jolla.

**Joseph S. Leventhal**  
*Leventhal Law*

**Law School**  
Georgetown University Law Center

**Major Cases**  
Leventhal achieved two significant victories against a patent troll in what the *Los Angeles Times* called "one of the most closely watched patent cases in the technology world" — an atypical early win and an important attorney fee victory. He achieved jury trial victory for Deep-Sea Power & Light validating our client's claims that the defendants illegally used the client's confidential and proprietary engineering designs. Leventhal also achieved a favorable ruling against UCSD, in which the court ruled that the university's machine shop documents are not trade secrets and should have been produced to our client in response to a California Public Records Act request.

**Professional Background**  
Leventhal has represented clients from Fortune 250 companies to individuals at the highest levels of corporate America and the U.S. government. He founded Leventhal Law in 2012 to achieve successful legal outcomes consistent with his clients' business goals.

Prior to Leventhal Law, he was an attorney at two *American Lawyer* 100 firms — Kirkland & Ellis LLP and Cooley LLP.

His practice spanned all areas of business litigation, including class action defense, patent litigation, complex contract

matters, and white collar defense.

Leventhal previously worked as an attorney in the White House, serving as Deputy Assistant to the Vice President.

**Professional Affiliations**  
President of the Federal Bar Association's San Diego Chapter

Vice President of the Ninth Circuit for the FBA

Co-Chairman of the Lawyer Representatives to the Southern District of California

Past member of the FBA's national Government Relations Committee, advocating for the appointment of Article III judges among other issues affecting federal courts.

Past member of the UC San Diego Alumni Association's Board of Directors.

Member of the American Bar Association, ABA's Forum Committee on Communications Law, and San Diego County Bar Association.

**Personal Background**  
Leventhal and his wife, Erin, have three small children: Grace (7), Laurel (6) and Jake (4).

**Jeffrey K. Miyamoto**  
*Pettit Kohn  
Ingrassia & Lutz*

**Law School**  
University of San Diego School of Law

**Professional Background**  
I have been practicing law in the San Diego area since 1999. The majority of my practice is devoted to representing individual and corporate clients in matters involving professional liability, business litigation, product liability and personal injury. I hold an AV Preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell. Before joining Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz in 2008, I worked at the firms

of Maas, Miyamoto & Bernstein and Thompson & Alessio.

**Professional Affiliations**

I am a member of the San Diego County Bar Association, Association of Business Trial Lawyers and Professional Liability Underwriters Society.

**Miyamoto**

**Personal Affiliations**  
Since 2011, I have served on the Board of Directors at Challenge Center, a local non-profit that provides skilled physical therapy services to adults and children with severe mobility disorders.

**Brian J. Robbins**  
*Robbins Arroyo LLP*

**Law School**  
Vanderbilt School of Law

**Major Cases**  
Robbins has secured hundreds of millions of dollars in monetary recoveries and comprehensive corporate governance enhancements for shareholders and the public corporations in which they have invested. Robbins recovered \$61.5 million for shareholders of Titan Inc., now L3 Communications, one of the largest securities class

action recoveries in San Diego's history. He represented shareholders in litigation involving Tenet Healthcare, securing \$51.5 million and corporate governance reforms aimed at bringing accountability to the company's board. In a derivative action involving OM Group, Robbins secured \$29 million for the company, the removal of the CEO, and other corporate governance reforms following a massive accounting fraud.

**Professional Background**  
Robbins is co-founder and managing partner of Robbins Arroyo LLP and has committed his career to representing shareholders, employees, consumers and businesses in complex litigation matters. He has served as lead counsel in complex, multiparty actions across the country on

behalf of U.S. and international clients. He also oversees the firm's investment monitoring service, called Stock Watch. Dedicated to shareholder causes, he has authored articles in several national publications and speaks to audiences as an authority on shareholder rights topics. Robbins has been named a San Diego Super Lawyer since 2007 and Best of the Bar in 2014 and 2015.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Robbins is an active member of the San Diego County Bar Association.

**Personal Background**  
Robbins lives with his wife and two sons. In addition to serving clients, growing the law firm, and spending time with his family, he enjoys a game of golf or basketball.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Robbins is an active member of the San Diego County Bar Association.

**Personal Background**  
Robbins lives with his wife and two sons. In addition to serving clients, growing the law firm, and spending time with his family, he enjoys a game of golf or basketball.

**William F. Small**  
*Small & Schena LLP*

**Law School**  
University of North Carolina School of Law

**Major Cases**  
I have represented plaintiffs and defendants in a variety of business litigation matters, including claims against officers and directors, multimillion dollar trade secrets litigation, consumer class actions involving thousands of class members, and commercial fraud claims. Some specific results include the following:

- Obtained dismissal of complaint for fraud against corporate officers and directors.
- Negotiated licensing agreement to avoid litigation regarding trademarks, copyrights, and breach of contract.
- Won summary judgment on behalf of officers and directors of real estate brokerage in defamation action seeking more than \$1 million in damages.
- Won summary judgment for car dealership in multimillion dollar product-liability case.

**Professional Background**  
I am a co-founding partner with Small & Schena LLP, which opened for business in the summer of 2014. We are litigators focusing on business, intellectual property, professional liability and employment matters.

I was previously senior counsel with the commercial litigation, professional liability and intellectual property practice groups of a national law firm and one of the largest

firms in San Diego County.

**Professional Affiliations**  
I am currently vice chairman of the civil litigation section of the San Diego County Bar Association. I am also a member of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers, the American Bar Association and Provisors.

**Personal Affiliations**  
As a proud graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I am a member of the UNC General Alumni Association and participate in the San Diego chapter of the UNC GAA.

**Personal Background**  
I was raised on the Outer Banks of North Carolina in Kitty Hawk. Before I went to law school, I graduated with degrees in journalism and political science and worked for a newspaper as a reporter. When I'm not working, I watch an unhealthy amount of UNC basketball and post an embarrassing number of pictures of my corgi on social media, but these activities are expected to decline as my wife and I are expecting our first child in September. (It's a girl!)

**Professional Affiliations**  
I was previously senior counsel with the commercial litigation, professional liability and intellectual property practice groups of a national law firm and one of the largest

firms in San Diego County.

**Professional Affiliations**  
I am currently vice chairman of the civil litigation section of the San Diego County Bar Association. I am also a member of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers, the American Bar Association and Provisors.

**Personal Affiliations**  
As a proud graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I am a member of the UNC General Alumni Association and participate in the San Diego chapter of the UNC GAA.

**Personal Background**  
I was raised on the Outer Banks of North Carolina in Kitty Hawk. Before I went to law school, I graduated with degrees in journalism and political science and worked for a newspaper as a reporter. When I'm not working, I watch an unhealthy amount of UNC basketball and post an embarrassing number of pictures of my corgi on social media, but these activities are expected to decline as my wife and I are expecting our first child in September. (It's a girl!)

**Professional Affiliations**  
I was previously senior counsel with the commercial litigation, professional liability and intellectual property practice groups of a national law firm and one of the largest

firms in San Diego County.

**Professional Affiliations**  
I am currently vice chairman of the civil litigation section of the San Diego County Bar Association. I am also a member of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers, the American Bar Association and Provisors.

**Personal Affiliations**  
As a proud graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I am a member of the UNC General Alumni Association and participate in the San Diego chapter of the UNC GAA.

**Personal Background**  
I was raised on the Outer Banks of North Carolina in Kitty Hawk. Before I went to law school, I graduated with degrees in journalism and political science and worked for a newspaper as a reporter. When I'm not working, I watch an unhealthy amount of UNC basketball and post an embarrassing number of pictures of my corgi on social media, but these activities are expected to decline as my wife and I are expecting our first child in September. (It's a girl!)

**Jonah Toleno**  
*Shustak & Partners PC*

**Law School**  
University of California, Hastings College of The Law

**Major Cases**  
I have helped recover millions of dollars on behalf of retail and institutional investors, businesses and financial professionals. Notable outcomes I have helped obtain: recovery of more than \$1 million on behalf of a Native American tribe against an international broker-dealer arising out of auction rate securities claims; a Financial Industry Regulatory Authority arbitration award of hundreds of thousands of dollars on behalf of an elderly investor against an alternative real estate investment broker and his firm; numerous six-figure settlements and arbitration awards for financial professionals; and recovery of more than \$1 million dollars on behalf of several Ponzi scheme victims.

**Professional Background**  
I am a co-founding partner with Small & Schena LLP, which opened for business in the summer of 2014. We are litigators focusing on business, intellectual property, professional liability and employment matters.

I was previously senior counsel with the commercial litigation, professional liability and intellectual property practice groups of a national law firm and one of the largest

firms in San Diego County.

**Professional Affiliations**  
I am currently vice chairman of the civil litigation section of the San Diego County Bar Association. I am also a member of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers, the American Bar Association and Provisors.

**Personal Affiliations**  
As a proud graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I am a member of the UNC General Alumni Association and participate in the San Diego chapter of the UNC GAA.

**Personal Background**  
I was raised on the Outer Banks of North Carolina in Kitty Hawk. Before I went to law school, I graduated with degrees in journalism and political science and worked for a newspaper as a reporter. When I'm not working, I watch an unhealthy amount of UNC basketball and post an embarrassing number of pictures of my corgi on social media, but these activities are expected to decline as my wife and I are expecting our first child in September. (It's a girl!)


Please turn to page 8

## LATHAM & WATKINS LLP


**LW.com**

- Abu Dhabi
- Barcelona
- Beijing
- Boston
- Brussels
- Century City
- Chicago
- Dubai
- Düsseldorf
- Frankfurt
- Hamburg
- Hong Kong
- Houston
- London
- Los Angeles
- Madrid
- Milan
- Moscow
- Munich
- New Jersey
- New York
- Orange County
- Paris
- Riyadh\*
- Rome
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- Shanghai
- Silicon Valley
- Singapore
- Tokyo
- Washington, D.C.

**Latham & Watkins congratulates**



**Robert Frances**  
Real Estate



**Brook Roberts**  
Insurance Coverage

on being named 2015 Top Attorneys

**About Latham & Watkins**  
For more than 35 years, lawyers in Latham's San Diego office have drawn on the firm's deep industry knowledge and internationally recognized expertise to provide innovative legal solutions and sound commercial advice to homegrown San Diego companies and multinational corporations.

\* In association with the Law Office of Salman M. Al-Sudani

## Corporate Transactional finalists

### Nicole Blakely Leventhal Law

**Law School**  
Tulane Law

**Professional Background**  
I head the business transactions group at Leventhal Law, offering complete legal



Blakely

services for the entire life cycle of companies from formation to day to day operational matters, including restructures, equity and debt

financing, licensing and monetization of IP, brand strategies, and contract structuring and management. Clients range from medical device companies, SaaS, software, internet marketing, beverage, and branded companies.

Further, my practice focuses on creative and practical strategies to accomplish business objectives and institute efficient legal processes for companies — offering an alternative approach for companies to outsource their in-house needs. Previously, general counsel for Avalon Capital Group, a private investment company with approximately \$1 billion in managed assets and related endowed nonprofits.

**Professional Affiliations**  
None. (No time!)

**Personal Affiliations**  
Surfrider

**Personal Background**

Avid surfer, snowboarder and runner. You are likely to find me in any outdoor activity.

• • •

### John P. Cleary Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP

**Law School**  
University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law

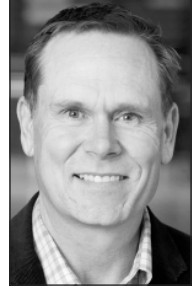
**Major Cases**

I have participated in early seed-stage financings for companies that have gone on to great success, both as operating business and as merger/acquisition targets. I've also had the pleasure of working on business acquisitions for both Fortune 500 companies and very small mom-and-pop operations. Each has its rewards. In representing public company clients, I have advised on public offerings and complex securities offerings.

**Professional Background**  
I started my career as a securities class action defense litigator, and transitioned to corporate and securities work in 1999. I spent three years as in-house securities counsel for a NASDAQ-listed company before I came back to private practice to represent public and private companies in capital raising, mergers and acquisitions, public offerings and SEC compliance.

**Personal Affiliations**  
In my current role as leader of Procopio's Business and Transactional Team, I oversee 25 lawyers in addition to paralegals and staff covering practice areas including corporate and securities, mergers and acquisitions, and emerging growth and technology transactions.

**Personal Affiliations**  
I previously served as chairman of the board for The McAlister Institute, which is a nonprofit providing substance abuse treatment to nearly 7,000 individuals in



Cleary

San Diego and Napa County. I am also active in the San Diego Chapter of the Betty Ford Center Alumni Association, and I work with new alumni throughout Southern California to help them in transitioning their lives and careers.

**Personal Background**

I was born and raised in Kansas City, Mo., and received a B.A. in English Literature from the University of Kansas. After graduating from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law in 1994, I came to San Diego and began my private practice. I have been married for 12 years, and have three daughters ages 10, 8 and 2. When not working I am either playing golf or taking my daughters to the beach, gymnastics practice or the Fleet Science Center.

• • •

### William Eigner Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP

**Law School**  
University of Virginia School of Law

**Major Cases**

William Eigner has been called "the go-to guy for M&A and emerging companies." Eigner first was recognized as a Top Attorney in 2008 and has been recognized many times and places since then. A partner in one of California's largest business law firms, Eigner's practice emphasizes venture capital, angel financing, seed capital and the financing,



Eigner

governing, operating, buying, selling and merging of growing and established technology and other businesses. His M&A, financing and contracts practice includes work in various sectors, including telecommunications, software, cybersecurity, electronic commerce/Internet, energy, clean technology, life sciences and medical device. Eigner also has significant experience in handling political and contractual issues involving telecommunications, online companies and independent power producers. Eigner is based in Procopio's San Diego offices, but also spends time in the firm's Menlo Park office.

**Professional Background**

In 1981, Eigner served as a U.S. Supreme Court Judicial Intern. In 2006, *The Daily Transcript* selected him as one of San Diego's 120 Top Influentials — "a person whose actions and opinions strongly influence the course of events in San Diego's business community." And, in 2004, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce selected him as Volunteer Advocate of the Year.

**Professional Affiliations**

Eigner serves as a director of EvoNexus and San Diego Venture Group, where he serves as board secretary. Eigner is a director of FHOOSH, Inc., an award winning cybersecurity company that protects and powers data for business, government and consumers. He also serves on the board of advisers of Encore Semi, NewBlue Inc., Aquai Technologies and other companies. Eigner is a trustee emeritus of San Diego Police Foundation and a former trustee and land use chairman of the La Jolla Town Council.

**Personal Affiliations**

Eigner is the co-author of "Five Rules of Thumb for Issuing Stock Options to Directors and Advisors of Emerging Growth Companies," and is co-author of "Lobbying Guidelines and Rules for Ex Parte Contact," which was published in *California Real Property Journal*. He is also co-author of "Committees of the Board of Directors: An Overview," which was presented to the International Forum for Corporate Directors, and "Why Your Business Will Need to Comply with California's Transparency in Supply Chains Act." He is a leading authority on how to establish and get results from boards of advisers and directors and on other legal and business topics.

**Personal Background**

Eigner was born in Dover, Ohio, in 1959.

• • •

### L. Sue Loftin The Loftin Firm PC

**Law School**  
Thomas Jefferson School of Law

**Professional Background**  
From Carlsbad, Sue Loftin, The Loftin Firm PC, serves the legal needs of all Cali-

fornians by taking a strategic, creative approach toward legal planning and legal solutions for business and real estate clients. As a small boutique firm, clients are provided cost-effective personal service dedicated to providing the client peace of mind in the legal process. With Loftin's background in litigation and transaction matters, the firm can provide a unique perspective when preparing for either type of legal service.

Best known for her work in the manufactured housing sector providing services to those communities from ground-up development, acquisition, financing, subdivision, land use, zoning, residency issues and related litigation, Loftin has equal legal experience in those areas related to all types of commercial and residential real estate matters. In business, nonprofit entities that provide



Loftin

unique services to the public is a passion of hers.

**Professional Affiliations**

Loftin has numerous reported appellate cases and over the last 30 years has received numerous awards, such as: the California Assembly and the County of San Diego have awarded proclamations in recognition for her work in the area of housing, in 2013 and 2014, the U.S. Commerce and Trade Research Institute awarded her the 2015 California Excellence Award, and in 2014, she was named in the Los Angeles' Women Leaders in the Law. She regularly speaks for CLE providers on issues related to real estate, business and nonprofits.

• • •

### Kimberly Simms Law Office of Kimberly R. Simms

**Law School**  
Thomas Jefferson School of Law

**Major Cases**

As a transactional attorney for the cannabis industry, my entire purpose to help my clients run professional and ethical businesses that stay out of the courts. I have assisted in the formation of more than 100 medical cannabis and cannabis related ancillary businesses. The businesses I work with are creating an entire industry from the ground up, so we approach every business structure and transaction with the utmost caution. As the industry continues to evolve and mature, we will no doubt see many transactional disputes begin to play them-



Simms

selfs out in court.

selves out in court.

**Professional Background**

Kimberly Simms formed her own law practice immediately after law school. The Law Office of Kimberly R. Simms is a boutique law firm specializing in corporate business counseling and formation for California's burgeoning cannabis industry. Simms helps her clients navigate the legal complexities and challenges unique to this industry. She has advised and formed hundreds of businesses in the cannabis space. Her clients include dispensaries, manufacturers, cultivators and ancillary businesses serving the industry. Simms has worked closely with government officials to craft reasonable regulations that allow for the recognition and existence of cannabis businesses. Simms is a recognized expert in this emerging area of law. She has taught courses and lead seminars on how to form and operate a compliant "cannabusiness."

**Professional Affiliations**

Simms is a founding Board Member of the Alliance for Responsible Medicinal Access, San Diego's leading cannabis chamber of commerce and political advocacy organization. Simms is also proud to serve as co-founder for the San Diego Chapter of Women Grow. Women Grow was created to connect, educate and empower the next generation of cannabis industry leaders by creating programs and events for aspiring and current business executives. Simms also maintains the following memberships: San Diego County Bar Association, Lawyers Club of San Diego, NORML, SD Americans For Safe Access and the National Cannabis Industry Association.

**Personal Affiliations**

Simms served on the Board of Directors for the San Diego County Young Democrats from 2014-2016. She was a 2013 fellow and a current board member for the San Diego Leadership Alliance, an organization that develops the next generation of progressive leaders in the San Diego region.

**Personal Background**

Simms was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, and attended college at Florida State University. She moved to San Diego in 2005 for law school and has never looked back. She considers San Diego home and loves everything this fine city has to offer.

• • •


### Bryn C. Spradling Duckor Spradling Metzger & Wynne, A Law Corporation

**Law School**  
University of San Diego School of Law


**Major Cases**

As a partner in one of the oldest San Diego law firms, I represent clients involved in

Please turn to page 9



**THE FROST FIRM**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



THE FROST FIRM  
TIRELESSLY ADVOCATES  
FOR RETIREES AND  
OTHER VICTIMS OF  
FINANCIAL AND  
FUDICIARY FRAUD.

**Tenacity. Diligence. Results.**  
(619) 822-1740 WWW.THEFROSTFIRM.COM

## Corporate Litigation finalists (continued)

**Professional Background**  
I am licensed to practice in California and Arizona.



Toleno

I am AV rated with Martindale-Hubbell, with a 5 out of 5 peer rating in securities law, general practice and business law. I have been a partner with Shustak & Partners P.C. for almost nine years. I act as lead trial counsel, supervise our associates' and paralegals' caseloads, and am actively involved in our firm's management, administration, and marketing affairs.

**Professional Affiliations**

I am the 2015 president of the Filipino-American Lawyers of San Diego. I am a member of the San Diego County Bar Association, San Diego Chamber of Commerce, and Lawyers Club of San Diego. I serve on the Lawyers Club Diverse Women's Committee. I previously served as secretary of the Filipino Bar Association of Northern California and as a national advisory board member of the American Bar Association.

**Personal Affiliations**

Over the years, I have acted as a volunteer panelist for the U.C. Berkeley Scholarship Committee and as a volunteer judge for the University of San Diego Moot Court Honors Competition.

I participate in community service activities through my professional affiliations including the SDCBA and FALSJ. I enjoy mentoring law students at our local law schools. I am also the 2015 team representative for my daughter's softball team at The Next Level travel ball organization.

**Personal Background**

I am married with two children. My husband and I enjoy devoting our time to our children's sports and extracurricular activities. I volunteer regularly at their schools and sports leagues. My other interests include reading, piano, cooking, travel, exercise, sewing and watching NFL football. I am fluent in Tagalog, the national language of the Philippines.



## Corporate Transactional finalists (continued)

almost any type of business-related transaction. I regularly represent startups and closely held family businesses, as well as mid-sized San Diego businesses in various industries.



**Spradling**

During my career, I have represented numerous clients in merger and acquisition transactions across diverse industries, including food and beverage companies, medical groups, clinical laboratories, work furough facilities, medical product manufacturers, internet related companies, mortgage companies and restaurants.

**Professional Background**  
Since March 2014, I have served as managing partner of Duckor Spradling Metzger & Wynne, A Law Corporation. My law practice includes general business and corporate transactions, with a focus on the formation of entities, mergers and acquisitions, securities transactions and transactions involving health-care professionals. My range of experience with general transactional matters reflects the diverse economy of San Diego, including intellectual property/technology strategy and licensing, documenting essential early relationships, noncompetition and nonsolicitation arrangements, ownership succession planning and real property acquisitions, sales and leasing.

**Professional Affiliations.**  
San Diego County Bar Association, State Bar of California, AV-Preeminent Rating.

**Personal Background**  
Born and raised in San Diego, I grew up in Mission Hills and attended Francis Parker High School. I received my undergraduate degree in biology from Vanderbilt University. After graduating from USD Law School in 2000, I joined my father, Gary Spradling, at the firm he founded in 1977 with Michael Duckor. I am honored to have learned from and practiced with my father and close friends over the last 15 years. In my free time I enjoy surfing, skiing, fly fishing and other outdoor activities. Married in December of last year, I also enjoy spending time with my new wife, Yvonne Spradling.

• • •

**Abigail Gurney Stephenson**  
*Blanchard, Krasner & French*

**Law School**  
University of San Diego School of Law

**Professional Background**  
Abbey Gurney Stephenson is an attorney at Blanchard, Krasner & French. She joined the firm after concluding a federal clerkship with U.S. District Court Judge Bruce S. Jenkins. She represents businesses in a variety of corporate and transactional matters ranging from entity formations and acquisitions to contract preparation, corporate governance, and lease negotiation and review. She also oversees trademark prosecutions at the firm and advises businesses on employment law issues.

Representative matters in the past 6 months include:

- Acquisition of IP assets and formation of technology company.
- Formation of financial advisory firm.
- Negotiation of leases on behalf of landlord with major international coffee chain.
- Ongoing prosecution of roughly 20 trademark applications.
- Major refinancing transaction involving multiple hotel properties and the creation of several new entities.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Stephenson is admitted to practice law in California and Nevada. She is a member of the San Diego County Bar Association, the La Jolla Bar Association, and the Lawyers Club of San Diego. She serves on the Advisory Board for and as the elected vice-chairwoman of the Business and Corporate Law Section for the SDCBA. She was also elected to and serves on the board of directors for the La Jolla Bar Association as treasurer, and serves on the Professional Advancement Committee of the Lawyers Club. Stephenson will be guest teaching at USD Law this fall as an adjunct faculty member for the Civil Practicum.

Stephenson is also actively involved with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Women

Give San Diego, and USD School of Law. In 2013, she raised more than \$50,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in 10 weeks through its Man & Woman of the Year competition.

**Personal Background**  
Stephenson enjoys getting outside with her husband and young son. They live an active lifestyle full of hiking, biking, and yoga. She loves to connect with family and friends near and far and cherishes those quiet moments on the airplane when she can catch up on a good book.

• • •

**Michael S. Umansky**  
*Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP*

**Law School**  
University of California, Berkeley

**Professional Background**  
Michael Umansky is a partner in the corporate practice group in the firm's Del Mar Heights office, and is the chair of the firm's emerging growth/venture capital team.

Umansky practices corporate law with a concentration on emerging growth and established technology, clean technology, life sciences companies, venture capital and private equity investors, and entrepreneurs. He has extensive experience in venture capital financings, strategic collaborations, commercial contracts, technology licensing, mergers and acquisitions, public securities offerings, and public company reporting and counseling.

Umansky also has significant business experience, having served for almost three years as vice president and general counsel for Linspire Inc., a developer of Linux-based operating system software and services (acquired by Xandros Inc.) and Gizmo5 Technologies Inc., a venture-backed Internet telephony company (acquired by Google Inc.).

**Honors/Professional Affiliations**

Legal 500 US, Venture Capital and Emerging Companies, 2011 to 2014; Top Attorney,

2011, 2013, 2014 and 2015, Corporate Transactional, *The Daily Transcript*; Southern California Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers*, 2013, 2014; American Bar Association; San Diego County Bar Association; Tech Coast Angels; Connect; Association of Corporate Counsel; TechAmerica, San Diego Council, Executive Committee, 2007 to 2012; TechAmerica, San Diego Council, Finance Roundtable, Co-Chairman, 2007 to 2009; TechAmerica, San Diego Council, Emerging Growth Task Force.

Umansky speaks regularly on topics of interest to emerging company executives and investors. Some recent representative speaking engagements include: "Sniffing Out Improper Dilution -- A close look at *Carsanaro, et al v. Bloodhound Technologies, Inc.* and its impact on investors and their board designees," San Diego Tech Coast Angels, September 10, 2013" and "Incorporation Process and Legal Issues," The Founder Institute, July 2013.

• • •

**Kandace Patton Watson**  
*Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton*

**Law School**  
University of Texas at Austin Law School

**Major Cases**  
Often nicknamed the "Closer," Watson has led the successful completion of many international transactions, including most recently chemical patent license, product development, manufacturing and distribution agreements adverse to Hitachi Chemical Company; an EOR cross patent license adverse to Chevron USA and consumer goods product supply, distribution, patent and software license agreements adverse to Reckitt Benckiser.

Watson represented YP, the largest local search, media and advertising company in North America, to sell its Earn Per Call business, advising on IP transactional issues and negotiating license agreements. She also represented a *Fortune 100* health care services company in multiple JVs and software licenses.

**Professional Background**  
Watson heads Kilpatrick Townsend's Mergers, Acquisition, Securities and Corporate Team in the Southwestern

U.S. She has extensive experience representing companies in numerous industries, with an emphasis on biotechnology, pharmaceutical, health care, chemicals, technology, and food and beverage companies.

Companies seek Watson's leadership to structure complex transactions, comply with securities regulations and expand operations globally. She advises boards and executives regarding corporate governance, strategic planning, and ongoing operations. Structuring JVs between majority and minority-owned businesses is among her specialties. Watson has successfully secured patent license and purchase agreements, as well as developed non-licensing strategies, against Non-Practicing Entities.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Watson is an Arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association and was selected as an AAA 2010 Higginbotham Fellow. She is a Leadership Council of Legal Diversity Fellow and a Lifetime Member of the National Bar Association.



**Watson**

Watson served as a Board of Director for San Diego and Arizona NBA Affiliate Chapters, and was an Ambassador of the American Bar Association's Business Law Section.

**Personal Affiliations**  
Watson is committed to Pro Bono efforts. She has provided hundreds of pro bono service hours, including Casa Cornelia and the Zahn Innovation Center, an incubator that supports San Diego State University entrepreneurs -- to name just a few.

Watson also serves as an Advisory Board Member of UC San Diego's Innovation Advisory Board.

**Personal Background**  
Fun facts:

- I cruised the Nile River and explored the pyramids, temples and tombs of pharaohs in Egypt.
- I swam with sharks in Tahiti.
- I was photographed with a stingray on my stomach.
- I stood atop Mayan temples and saw the blood stains left from their human sacrifices.
- I swam with sea turtles

and touched the tentacles of an octopus in Hawaii.

• I walked to the top of the Eiffel Tower in Paris with my mother, because it was her dream.

• • •

**Charles B. Witham**  
*Witham Mahoney & Abbott LLP*

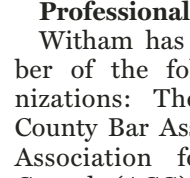
**Law School**  
University of San Diego School of Law

**Major Cases**  
As a corporate and transactional attorney, Witham handles a broad range of complex business and transactional issues, including mergers & acquisitions, entity governance, employment matters, reorganizations, and protection of trade secrets and other proprietary information. Major transactions have included the purchase and sale of businesses valued up to \$345 million.

**Professional Background**  
Prior to founding Witham Mahoney & Abbott LLP, Witham was a shareholder in Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek's Business Department. Witham frequently represents individual and corporate clients with business planning and implementation of strategic transactions, including exit strategies. Witham has presented educational seminars and lectures on various topics, including the San Diego County Bar Association's 2015 Annual Corporate and LLC Update.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Witham has been a member of the following organizations: The San Diego County Bar Association; The Association for Corporate Growth (ACG); Barristers of San Diego (past President); the California State Oriental Medical Association (Board of Directors); and the California Department of Real Estate (licensed Broker).

**Personal Background**  
A native of San Diego, Witham enjoys ocean sports and spending time in the local mountains with his wife, Cheri, and their two daughters.



**Witham**

## What universities can learn from UC San Diego sex assault case

On July 10, 2015, San Diego Superior Court Judge Joel M. Pressman ordered UC San Diego to set aside its panel findings and sanctions made against an undergraduate student accused of sexual misconduct in a campus disciplinary hearing. Judge Pressman, ruling on a petition for writ of administrative mandate filed by the accused male student, held that the hearing had violated the accused student's rights to due process and was unfair.

As is typical in college campus sexual assault cases, the accuser and the accused, both undergraduate students, were not strangers. They were both involved in the Greek system and had a sexual relationship prior to and following the alleged instances of sexual assault, and alcohol and excessive student drinking played a role. What began as a typical college hookup culminated in the female student accusing the male student of three separate instances of sexual assault.

In the months that followed, the university conducted a comprehensive Title IX investigation. The campus officer spearheading the investigation prepared a full report based on multiple interviews of the accuser, written offers of proof from the accused and his attorney, 14 witness interviews, as well as text messages between the students. There was insufficient evidence to move forward on two of the three alleged instances but sufficient evidence to move forward on one. In December 2014, the university disciplinary hearing panel found by a preponderance of the evidence that the accused male student had violated UC San Diego's student misconduct policy. The student was sanctioned with a suspension for one quarter. After the accused student appealed, the university significantly

increased his penalty without explanation.

In a detailed, six-page ruling, the court found that the accused student was not afforded a fair hearing for a number of reasons, including that 1) the investigating officer did not testify and the panel relied her written report and its conclusions (based in part on witness statements which were not made available to the accused prior to the hearing); 2) the accused submitted 32 questions for the panel to ask the accuser and the panel asked only nine (the panel did not limit the accuser's questions); 3) the accuser was behind a barrier during the proceedings which the court did not find necessary; and 4) the panel gave improper weight to the accused's invocation of his Fifth Amendment right of privilege against self-incrimination.

The court held that the increased penalties against the accused appeared to be punitive for filing an appeal. The court found that it must exclude the report from consideration, and therefore the panel's finding of non-consensual activity was not supported by the evidence.

This San Diego Superior Court case does not set any legal precedent. However, the takeaway is that a university's investigation and hearing process cannot be equitable unless it is impartial and affords both the accuser and the accused their due process rights. While the laws are primarily drafted to assist victims, campuses are open to liability if they fail to afford either party a fair hearing. Campuses have competing responsibilities in establishing policies, investigating victim complaints and administering disciplinary hearings. This case is a reminder that universities must be cognizant of the accused student's rights throughout the process, as well.

Submitted by Sarah Williams, an associate in the San Diego office of Ogletree Deakins.

## Is mediation right for you? Garwood Family Law & Mediation helps you decide

Many couples considering divorce are drawn to mediation as an alternative to traditional litigation. Julia Garwood, a 2015 Top Attorney in Family Law, believes that mediation is the way of the future for progressive divorcing couples.

Mediation allows you to work toward a mutually cooperative agreement; addressing all the same issues brought up in litigation including visitation, child and spousal support, custody, property division and debt. However, with an experienced family law mediator like Julia Garwood, issues are resolved in an environment that is supportive and constructive, rather than potentially destructive.

**Garwood Family Law & Mediation's** process avoids the conflict of "you vs. me" because the divorce agreement is worked out and mutually agreed upon by both spouses. Our mediation process works well for intelligent, solution-oriented individuals and takes the decision-making out of a judge's hands, and more directly into yours. The agreements reached by the parties are incorporated into the divorce judgment and become Orders of the Court.

Julia Garwood, a Certified Family Law Attorney and Mediator, has been working in the field of family law in San Diego for more than 30 years. Her focus on high-asset cases leverages her skilled knowledge and expertise in mediation and collaborative family law, as well as child custody, child support and spousal support.

As a Certified Family Law Specialist, Garwood has met the rigorous standards set by the California State Bar. She is also a former adjunct professor at a local law school, and an acting settlement judge and mediator.

Seeing the case through the eyes of a judge, she says, helps her plan cases to achieve the best possible results for her clients. She is also chairwoman of the Alternate Dispute Resolution Committee of the San Diego Family Law Bar Association. If the case cannot be mediated or settled, Garwood is known as being an excellent litigator and defender of her client's rights.

The Garwood Family Law & Mediation legal team also includes attorneys Janiffer Pearce and Casey Reeves. Pearce's 20 years of family law experience are leveraged through her extensive litigation expertise in the areas of divorce, child custody, support, paternity, domestic violence and division of community property. Pearce also provides valuable mediation services, having successfully assisted many families in reaching comprehensive resolutions. Throughout her years of practice, Pearce has served as a family court mandatory settlement panelist and been appointed by the court to act as a Settlement Master in high-conflict cases. Reeves brings extensive experience in civil business litigation, evidence and discovery to the firm. While Reeves' business litigation experience strengthens the firm's already solid prowess in this arena, he is also a shrewd negotiator when it comes to mediating a divorce case.

If you're thinking about mediation or litigation, call us to strategize and obtain assistance. Whether an agreeable, uncontested divorce or a difficult, contested divorce with child custody, we work to obtain a successful outcome for our clients. We proudly consider our firm as "Your Advocate For A New Life." GarwoodFamilyLaw.com or (619) 692-8100.

Submitted by Garwood Family Law & Mediation.

# Criminal Law finalists

## Jesse Adriance Adriance Law

### Law School Thomas Jefferson School of Law

**Major Cases**  
In my most recent felony DUI case, my client was facing ten years prison exposure for allegedly causing great bodily injury to multiple victims as the cause of an accident and was jailed in lieu of \$250,000 bail. Our investigation revealed glaring mistakes and omissions by the law enforcement officers assigned to the case. When it was all over, my client was released on his own recognition and placed on informal, summary, misdemeanor probation.



Adriance

### Professional Background

I began my legal career as an assistant to the legal director of a very prominent local nonprofit. Soon thereafter, I interned for a well-respected civil defense firm. Upon obtaining my license to practice law, I worked for arguably the top DUI defense firm in town. Working with individual clients immediately became my primary focus and it wasn't long before the founding of Adriance Law where I dedicate my life to assisting clients through the some of the most difficult times in their lives.

### Professional Affiliations

I am licensed to practice law in all the California State courts and the United States District Court, Southern District. I am active in the defense community and a member in good standing of the National College of DUI Defense, the California DUI Lawyers Association, the San Diego County Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

### Personal Affiliations

I possess a California Department of Insurance Producer's license, and as a Trusted Traveler, am a member of SENTRI, Global Entry, TSA Pre-Check, and a holder of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation ABTC, entitling me to Diplomatic Passage abroad.

### Personal Background

I am a San Diego native who has lived here my entire life. I attended St. Augustine High School in North Park and after earning my bachelor of business administration from the University of San Diego, I knew I would remain a San Diegan for life. My wife Kristin and I have a son, A.J., and spend our free time outdoors making the most of our lives in America's Finest City.

## Isaac Blumberg Law Office of Isaac Blumberg

### Law School Emory University School of Law

**Major Cases**  
I've personally handled thousands of cases covering all areas of criminal law. I passionately represent clients facing charges such as DUI, domestic violence, theft/embezzlement, vehicular manslaughter and drug possession. I've tried nearly 30 jury trials to verdict with several acquittals by jury for DUI, robbery and theft-related crimes. I resolve complex legal scenarios through negotiation and have attained numerous success stories for clients at motions and sen-



Blumberg

tencing. My clients include professional athletes, doctors, lawyers, law enforcement officers, professionals and loved ones.

**Professional Background**  
I was fortunate to start my legal career at the San Diego Public Defender's Office as a deputy public defender for nearly five years. I served on the Central Misdemeanor Unit for one year before being sent to the Vista branch where I went on to handle serious felony cases. I gained a tremendous amount from the experience in the form of trial skills and getting to know Deputy DA's and the Bench.

I started my own practice in 2008 and now have three full-time employees and two offices.

**Professional Affiliations**  
I am involved in many local organizations including the Criminal Defense Bar Association, Justicia Criminal Defense Attorneys, California DUI Lawyers Association, North County Bar Association, County of San Diego Office of Assigned Counsel and the California Public Defenders Association.

**Personal Affiliations**  
I am on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee for Home of Guiding Hands, a local 47-year-old nonprofit that provides services to more than 1,000 people with developmental disabilities such as autism, epilepsy and cerebral palsy. My wife and I have been involved with HGH for almost ten years.

**Personal Background**  
I was born and raised in Las Vegas and speak Spanish fluently. I attended the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Fla., where I earned a degree in political science and dual minors in business law and Spanish. After attending law school at Emory University in Atlanta, I followed my heart and a native San Diegan.

Marcy and I will soon celebrate our 10 year wedding anniversary. We are blessed with two kids and another on the way. I enjoy my time traveling, reading and collecting old cars.

## Alara T. Chilton Law Office of Alara T. Chilton

### Law School Northeastern University School of Law

**Major Cases**  
Chilton represents clients in criminal and consumer cases. To her clients, every case is considered a "major case." A case she is most proud of occurred in 2013, when her client, an Army veteran, faced 17 years in prison for shooting someone who attempted to break into a convenience store. The case garnered media attention. Chilton brought in her friend, Manuel Ramirez, as co-counsel. They vehemently argued their client shot his gun in self-defense. Thanks to their efforts, the Army veteran did not spend a single day behind bars. Equally significant, the Army veteran could petition the court to have only a misdemeanor on his record after one year of probation.

**Professional Background**  
Chilton opened her law firm in July 2012, after obtaining valuable jury trial experience as a city and state prosecutor in San Diego. Her firm is dedicated to criminal defense and consumer rights litigation. In addition to defending those accused of crimes, Chilton protects people from predatory debt collectors, unscrupulous car dealers and identity theft.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Chilton is an active member of the San Diego County Bar Association where she serves on the Legal Ethics Committee. She is also an active member of the San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association and San Diego Criminal Defense Bar Association and the National Association of Consumer Attorneys.

**Personal Affiliations**  
Chilton annually co-chairs two community service programs on behalf of the San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association: Since 2012, she has co-chaired Project L.E.A.D. (Legal Enrichment and Decision Making) a ten-week crime prevention and educational program for fifth graders. Also since 2012, Chilton has co-chaired "Neighborhood Law School", a three-month educational program that provides San Diego residents free informational lectures on various areas of the law.

In 2014, Chilton was awarded the San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association President's Award for her commitment to improving the lives of Latinos.

**Personal Background**  
Chilton was born in Bogota, Colombia, and is the daughter of Colombian immigrants. She has one brother who is a dedicated high school teacher in San Diego. Chilton also adores her grandmother who serves as inspiration of strength and resilience. Chilton is passionate about sharing Latino culture, serving her community and is an avid practitioner of Bikram yoga.

Please turn to page 11

Fragomen congratulates  
**Top Immigration Attorneys**  
Gary Perl, Karine Wenger,  
Marlene Stanger, Teodora Purcell  
and Monica Sherman  
for being named 5 of 10 top  
immigration attorneys  
for all of San Diego  
by the *Daily Transcript*

**FRAGOMEN**  
WORLDWIDE  
A world of difference in immigration  
www.fragomen.com/sandiego

# Stay Connected

News, data and information on ALL your devices.

**SANDIEGOSOURCE**  
The Daily Transcript®  
Subscribe now to get full site access and more.

Enter Keywords or SourceCode

Tue April 15, 2014

**DEFENSE**  
**USS Cowpens, USS Spruance return from deployment**  
The guided missile cruiser USS Cowpens (CG 63) and the guided missile destroyer USS Spruance (DDG 111) are scheduled to return to Naval Base San Diego April 17 following completion of separate deployments to the Western Pacific Ocean.

**TECHNOLOGY**  
**Awarepoint humidity-sensing tag now available**  
Awarepoint Corp., a company specializing in real-time location systems, announced on Tuesday the availability of a new humidity-sensing tag.

**U.S. MARKETS**  
DOW 16282.56 +89.32  
NYSE 10402.01 +42.57  
Nasdaq 4034.16 +11.47  
S&P 500 1842.98 +12.37  
Updated: 4/15/2014 1:15 PM

**Real Estate**  
Mortgage Applications in U.S. Rose 4.3% Last Week on Refinancing  
US home building up in March after rigid winter

## Criminal Law finalists (continued)

### William Mathew Concidine

East Village Law Group

#### Law School

California Western School of Law

#### Major Cases

I typically handle misdemeanor and traffic-related cases that many do not consider major cases. I did make



#### Concidine

international news for defending the first person to ever get a ticket driving with Google Glasses on. The story was featured on every news channel and luckily we got the charge dismissed.

#### Professional Background

I started my law career interning at the San Diego Public Defender and Alternate Public Defender while in law school. Following law school, I was fortunate enough to be an associate attorney at the Law Office of Brian J. White. Following a great two years there, I opened my own office for a few years before starting East Village Law Group with attorney Gabriel Moore.

#### Professional Affiliations

I am currently a member of the San Diego Criminal Defense Bar Association, the California DUI Lawyers Association and the Irish American Bar Association of San Diego.

#### Personal Background

When not at the office, I spend time with my fiancée (soon to be wife in September 2015), our adorable dog Lily (looks like a small golden retriever), working in the garage on a random project repurposing something into something else (like an old industrial fan into a coffee

table), sending time with good friends, or cruising in my 1965 Chevy Malibu or Toyota Tacoma pickup truck usually along the coast.

...

### Eric Paul Ganci

Galente Ganci APC

#### Law School

Thomas Jefferson School of Law

#### Professional Background

Eric Ganci is an award-winning DUI Trial Lawyer with Galente Ganci APC. He received his JD from Thomas Jefferson School of Law, and his B.A. in music education from Northern Illinois University.

Recent awards and recognition include: 2014, "Lawyer-Scientist" designation by the American Chemical Society, Chemistry and the Law division; 2014 "Best of the Bar" by the



#### Ganci

San Diego Business Journal; 2012 Best Lawyers in San Diego, DUI/DWI by SD Metro Magazine; 2012 Top Young Influential by The Daily Transcript; 2011 "Top 40 Under 40" by San Diego Metro Magazine; and 2011 Outstanding Service by a New Lawyer by the San Diego County Bar Association.

Ganci authored for the 2011 and 2013 updates for "California Drunk Driving Defense," and chapters for "Inside the Minds: Strategies for Defending DUI Cases in California" (a Thompson West publication) for the 2013 and 2014 editions. Several times a year, he teaches DUI courses to legal organizations regarding field sobriety tests, and alcohol and

drug pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics.

#### Professional Affiliations

Ganci is very involved in the legal community. He is a founding member of the DUI Defense Lawyers Association and a board member with Lawyers Club of San Diego. He graduated from the 3-week Gerry Spence Trial Lawyers College (Class of July 2013), and he is a past president of the Thomas Jefferson Alumni Association (2013).

#### Personal Background

On the side, Ganci is an active musician with his San Diego live band karaoke group, Rock Out Karaoke, and has earned several musical accomplishments, such as opening for Anthrax and having Ving Rhames say "I like your band's CD."

...

### Daniel Frederick Greene

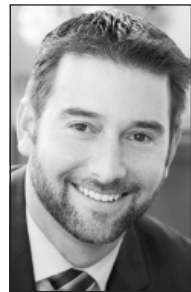
Law Offices of Kerry L. Armstrong APLC

#### Law School

California Western School of Law

#### Major Cases

Daniel Greene handles major felony cases, ranging from murder to sex crimes, robberies, domestic violence, gang, theft and drug offenses, and white collar-fraud. He has received not-guilty verdicts in every court-



#### Greene, D.

house in San Diego County, earning acquittals in multiple "life" cases for clients charged with child molestation, as well as in domestic violence, assaults/batteries, pre-meditated attempted murder, lewd

Please turn to page 12

we  
know  
work

GRUENBERG LAW



Year after year, Josh Gruenberg is a Top Attorney

Susan Swan is a 2014 and 2015 Top Attorney



619.230.1234 | gruenberglaw.com

# ELM

CALIFORNIA'S  
MOST EXCLUSIVE  
LUXURY LIFESTYLE  
MANAGEMENT  
+ CONCIERGE

AVAILABLE 24/7 365  
TO ASSIST YOU IN ANY SITUATION,  
NO MATTER HOW BIG OR SMALL



OUR TEAM OF LIFESTYLE CONNOISSEURS ASSISTS ELM MEMBERS WITH REQUESTS SUCH AS:

TRAVEL / DINING  
TICKETS / ENTERTAINMENT  
RETAIL / GIFTING / HOME  
FAMILY / BODY + MIND

PHONE: (619) 430 - 4470  
E-MAIL: MEMBERSHIP@CLUBELM.COM  
WEB: WWW.CLUBELM.COM

ELITE  
LIFESTYLE  
MANAGEMENT  
PERSONAL - CORPORATE - REAL ESTATE

## Criminal Law finalists (continued)

conduct, theft, and other case. He has also earned dismissals before, during or after trial where clients had been facing up to 200 years-to-life in prison. He has had "3-strikes" cases (25 years to life in prison) dismissed by the court at

the preliminary hearings.

In 2013, Greene earned not-guilty verdicts on all 22 counts of a case where his client faced 230 years to life and had spent a year and a half in jail awaiting trial. A successful defense, however,

does not necessarily mean going to trial. This past year, Greene convinced the District Attorney's Office to dismiss the entire case against a man accused of felony child abuse (based upon a theory of "shaken baby syndrome"),

where Greene was able to demonstrate through proffered expert testimony the injuries could have occurred in the course of a precipitous and partially unattended birth. This client's personal life and career in the U.S.

Navy remained on hold for a year and a half while the case was pending in the Superior Court. The client, who faced more than 10 years in prison and the prospect of losing his family, and family have been reunited.

### Professional Background

After college, Greene worked as a regional director for a test preparation and tutoring company owned by a *Washington Post* subsidiary company, leaving that position to attend law school. While in school, he clerked for the Federal Defenders of San Diego and the Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. Post-bar, Greene interned with the Office of the Primary Public Defender. Following his admission to the practice, he was hired as an associate attorney for Steigerwalt and Associates APLC. For the past six and a half years, he has held the position of senior associate for Law Offices of Kerry L. Armstrong APLC, a highly regarded criminal defense firm in San Diego County.

### Professional Affiliations

Greene is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the Southern and Central Districts of California and all state courts of California. He is also a member of the San Diego County Bar Association; San Diego Criminal Defense Bar Association; and California Public Defenders Association.

### Personal Background

I am a rare "native" San Diegan. Other than politics and acting, being a lawyer is the only career I ever wanted. One day, I hope to teach trial practice at California Western School of Law. The three lawyers I most admire are my friend and boss, Kerry Armstrong (an amazing trial lawyer), my friend and mentor, Gerald Blank, and my best friend and wife, Samantha. My favorite way to spend my free time is with my wife, my two beautiful children, and my English bulldog, the Fat-Mann.

• • •

### Samantha A. Greene *Sevens Legal APC*

**Law School**  
University of San Diego School of Law

**Major Cases**  
Samantha Greene handles criminal offenses ranging from misdemeanor drunk driving to murder and sex cases. She has tried cases in all state court houses, as well as in various federal courts across the country. Greene has earned acquittals in many of her cases including domestic violence, driving under the influence, battery and drug importation.

**Professional Background**  
After graduating from the University of California, Santa Barbara, Greene moved to San Diego to attend law school and worked throughout her law school career. After clerking at the Office of the Public Defender, Greene was convinced that criminal law was the only choice for her. After taking the bar, she was hired as an associate attorney for Steigerwalt and Associates APLC, where she remained for more than seven years. Greene then spent about three years working as a Deputy District Attorney before returning, part time, to the practice of criminal defense.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Greene is a member of the San Diego County Bar Association.

**Personal Background**  
I was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley and, after spending four years in Santa Barbara, I knew I didn't want to be far from the ocean. San Diego seemed like the

perfect place to tackle law school and I never wanted to leave. My father was a lawyer and, as I grew up, I didn't know there were any career options other than the practice of law. I guess I have to thank my dad for failing to mention other career options because I met my husband, Dan Greene, at Steigerwalt and Associates APLC. When I am not defending the accused, my favorite thing to do is spend time with my husband, two children and doggie.

• • •

### Dana Marie Grimes *Grimes & Warwick*

**Law School**  
University of San Diego School of Law

**Major Cases**  
Dana M. Grimes has tried jury trials in both state and federal court, with cases including conspiracy to import a controlled substance, conspiracy to commit foreign exchange fraud, murder, and contributing to the delinquency of a minor, among others. In addition, Grimes has made hundreds of additional court appearances on various felony and misdemeanor cases, in the San Diego Superior Court Central Division, North County, East County and South Bay divisions, and the U.S. Federal District Court for the Southern District of California.

### Professional Background

Grimes graduated from University of San Diego School of Law in 2007, and received her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2004. While at UCLA, she analyzed hate crimes at the Los Angeles Police Department as a research assistant. During law school, Grimes was an intern for the San Diego County District Attorney's office. She has been working at Grimes & Warwick since 2007.

From 2012 through 2014, Grimes was named to the Criminal Justice Act panel for felony appointments in Federal Court, and was recently reappointed to the panel for 2014 through 2016.

**Professional Affiliations**  
• San Diego County Bar Association

• *Trial Bar News*, editor-in-chief, criminal law editor  
• Consumer Attorneys of San Diego (Committees: Education, Long-Range Planning, Events, Membership), Board of Directors, Treasurer - 2010-15  
• Lawyers Club of San Diego  
• Criminal Defense Bar Association  
• Criminal Defense Lawyers Club  
• William B. Enright Chapter, American Inns of Court

• • •

### Wendy L. Patrick *San Diego Deputy District Attorney, Special Operations Division*

**Law School**  
California Western School of Law

**Major Cases**  
Patrick has prosecuted years worth of high-profile cases that have drawn a mount of media attention. These have included complex co-defendant violent assaultive crimes, several of which she tried to two jury panels simultaneously. She has prosecuted murder cases involving disturbing methods of execution and dueling psychiatric experts, cyber stalkers and child molesters who were previously respected as pillars of the community.

**Patrick**

**Patrick**

**Patrick**

**Patrick**

**Patrick**

**Patrick**

**Patrick**

**Patrick**

**Patrick**

**Patrick**

**Patrick**

**Patrick**

**Patrick**

**Patrick**

**Patrick**

**Patrick**

**Patrick**

**Patrick**

**Patrick**

**Patrick**



**BANK OF THE WEST**  
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

BNP PARIBAS GROUP

Let us help translate your entrepreneurial success into your personal wealth.

- Bank of the West Wealth Management is a part of the BNP Paribas Group, so you'll be working with a local bank backed by global resources.
- We help business owners unlock the wealth they've created through their entrepreneurial ventures.
- Our team will focus on personalizing a creative, holistic approach to help your business fit into your personal wealth plan.

Speak to Ronny Inniger at 858.245.1134 or visit [bankofthewest.com/wm](http://bankofthewest.com/wm)

Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.  
©2015 Bank of the West.

Securities and variable annuities are offered through BancWest Investment Services, a registered broker/dealer, Member FINRA/SIPC. Financial Advisors are Registered Representatives of BancWest Investment Services. Fixed annuities/insurance products are offered through BancWest Insurance Agency in California, (License #0C52321), through BancWest Insurance Agency in Utah and through BancWest Investment Services, Inc. in AZ, CO, IA, ID, KS, MN, MO, ND, NE, NM, NV, OK, OR, SD, WA, WI, WY, HI, GUAM and CNMI. Bank of the West and its various affiliates and subsidiaries are not tax or legal advisors.

BancWest Investment Services is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of the West and a part of the Wealth Management Group. BancWest Corporation is the holding company for Bank of the West. BancWest Corporation is a wholly owned subsidiary of BNP Paribas.

Investment and Insurance Products:

NOT FDIC INSURED NOT BANK GUARANTEED MAY LOSE VALUE NOT A DEPOSIT NOT INSURED BY ANY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY

Congratulations

**Julia M. Dunlap, Esq.**

San Diego Top Attorney 2015



Julia's dedication to legal education and the legal community is admirable and we are proud to have her as part of the UC San Diego Extension family.

UC San Diego Extension's Law department offers a variety of courses for people looking to enter, advance in, or maintain credentials in the legal field.

Explore certificate programs in:

- Paralegal Studies (ABA-Approved)
- Intellectual Property
- Litigation Technology Management

Training legal professionals since 1985.

[extension.ucsd.edu/law](http://extension.ucsd.edu/law)

UC San Diego | Extension

Please turn to page 13

## Estate Planning/Probate & Trust/Tax finalists

### Olga Álvarez

Heisner Álvarez APC

**Law School**  
University of San Diego School of Law

**Major Cases**  
I have represented trustees and beneficiaries in complex trust litigation cases, as well as personal representatives in a wide range of probate matters including ancillary administrations. At times, the complexity of a probate matter has little to do with the value of the assets, but instead, with the ability to manage the family



Alvarez

assisted families in planning for the succession of their businesses, for maximizing their retirement assets, as well as handling their foreign

dynamics. Although I enjoy the challenges of litigation, the focus of my practice is in estate planning and trust administration. I have assisted families in planning for the succession of their businesses, for maximizing their retirement assets, as well as handling their foreign

### Professional Background

Upon graduation from law school, I entered the field of business immigration. That knowledge has contributed greatly to my ability in addressing estate planning issues for foreign investors. Later, I joined a business litigation firm and became involved in a trust litigation matter which soon led me to the field of estate planning and probate administrations. In 2010, I joined a mid-sized downtown San Diego business and trial law firm in the estate planning and probate

practice group, and became of counsel before leaving to start my own firm. My business partner John Heisner and I opened Heisner Álvarez in 2013, a La Jolla-based business, trusts and estates law firm. I have conducted several

seminars on estate planning and charitable giving, and have been a speaker for the National Business Institute on the fundamentals of elder law, as well as its Probate Boot Camp. I have also published articles on will contests and

the importance of health care directives.

### Professional Affiliations

I am on the board of directors for Lawyers Club of San Diego and co-chair

Please turn to page 14

## Criminal Law finalists (continued)

### Professional Background

Patrick started her career as a criminal defense attorney before joining the District Attorney's Office. She has completed more than 150 trials, including roughly 100 jury trials ranging from hate crimes to domestic violence, to first-degree murder. In her current assignment in the Special Operations Division she handles cases involving sensitive issues, including threat assessment. She is also president of the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals San Diego Chapter. In her previous assignment in the Sex Crimes and Human Trafficking Division, Patrick prosecuted sex offenders, human traffickers and sexually violent predators.

### Professional Affiliations

Patrick is past chairwoman of the California State Bar Ethics Committee, past chairwoman of the San Diego County Bar Association's Legal Ethics Committee, sits on the Executive Committee of the California State Bar Criminal Law Section, and is a Master and team leader in the Louis M. Welsh American Inn of Court. She moonlights teaching upper-division business ethics at San Diego State University and regularly guest lectures at other educational institutions. She teaches ethics, as well as trial skills around the country on a regular basis to a variety of legal and business organizations.

### Personal Affiliations

Regarding her true passion in life, Patrick has a Ph.D. in theology from the University of Wales Trinity Saint David and a master of divinity degree

summa cum laude from Bethel Seminary San Diego, where she was awarded the Excellence in Preaching Award and the Zondervan Biblical Languages Award. Active in ministry, she is ordained through Converge Worldwide (Baptist General Conference).

Patrick has just released her third book, *Red Flags: How to Spot Frenemies, Underminers, and Other Toxic People in Every Area of Your Life* (St. Martin's Press). She is co-author of the revised version of the *New York Times* best-seller *Reading People* (Random House).

### Personal Background

One of Patrick's passions is exploring the world with her family. Some of their favorite escapades have included "summer vacations" in Antarctica, Iceland, Greenland and the North Pole. She is also passionate about Christianity and pursuing a better life. This is a commitment shared by her family, including her sister Jennifer Patrick, an attorney specializing in religious freedoms law, business and corporate law. In her spare time, Patrick holds a purple belt in Shorin-Ryu karate, is a concert violinist with the La Jolla Symphony and plays the electric violin professionally with a rock band.

• • •

### Charles Sevilla

Law Office of Charles Sevilla

**Law School**  
University of Santa Clara School of Law

### Major Cases

I have been fortunate to have had many interesting cases including defending the mayor of San Diego, a rock 'n' roll record producer and a famous film director. Most of my clients are not famous, but their cases are all interesting -- but most significant, they all are extremely important to them and deserve my best efforts in every case.



Sevilla

my clients are not famous, but their cases are all interesting -- but most significant, they all are extremely important to them and deserve my best efforts in every case.

### Professional Background

Lawyer first, focusing on appeals. I also have published two novels and two humor anthologies: "Wilkes on Trial" (Ballantine 1993); "Wilkes: His Life and Crimes" (Ballantine 1990); "Disorder in the Court" (W.W. Norton, 1992, 1999); "Disorderly Conduct," co-editor (W.W. Norton, 1987, 1999); "Law and Disorder" (W.W. Norton, 2014).

### Professional Affiliations

President of California Attorneys for Criminal Justice (1979 to 1980); San Diego Criminal Defense Lawyer's Club (president, 1988, and active member to present); San Diego Criminal Defense Bar Association (board of directors, presently); Member, board of directors, San Diego Defender Board, 1994-2009; Member, Ninth Circuit Advisory Committee on Rules of Court & Internal Procedures (1996 to 2002); National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, member.

# PROUD

## LEADING THE WAY

Congratulations to our attorneys Wendy Behan and Angela Jae Chun for their recognition by the *San Diego Daily Transcript* as "2015 Top Attorneys." We are proud of their knowledge, perseverance and ongoing dedication to obtaining justice for our clients.

## CaseyGerry

CASEY GERRY SCHENK FRANCAVILLA BLATT & PENFIELD LLP

- Automobile Collisions
- Premises Liability
- Aviation Injuries
- Defective Automobile Design
- Class Actions
- Product Liability

- Maritime Law
- Defective Medical Devices
- Pharmaceutical Injuries
- Dangerous Roadways
- Trucking Accidents
- Construction Accidents

619-238-1811

[www.caseygerry.com](http://www.caseygerry.com)

PERSONAL INJURY AND CIVIL LITIGATION SINCE 1947

San Diego Office: 110 Laurel Street, San Diego, CA 92101  
North County Office: 1901 Camino Vida Roble, Suite 121, Carlsbad, CA 92008

**NAUMANN LAW FIRM, PC**  
CONSTRUCTION DEFECT LITIGATION | WWW.NAUMANNLEGAL.COM

Over 35 Years of Excellence

The Naumann Law Firm Congratulates William H. Naumann for Being Selected as a San Diego Top Attorney for 2015

The Naumann Law Firm is a Construction Defect Litigation firm with over 25 years of experience representing thousands of homeowners and recovering millions of dollars for our homeowner association clients. Our firm has earned a reputation for its professionalism and success in construction defect matters.

Our firm is rated\* AV preeminent in the LexisNexis Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, which reflects the highest rating bestowed upon a firm by its peers in the legal community. Additionally, Mr. Naumann is a Super Lawyers® honoree.

The Naumann Law Firm, PC  
[www.naumannlegal.com](http://www.naumannlegal.com)

10731 Treena Street, Suite 101  
San Diego, CA 92131  
[P] 1.858.792.7474 | [F] 1.858.564.9380

## The Experience You Need, the Representation You Deserve

San Diego Real Estate Conflict Resolution | Business and Civil Litigation

The Experience You Need, the Representation You Deserve San Diego Real Estate Conflict Resolution | Business and Civil Litigation

When you are looking for a seasoned San Diego Real Estate attorney who combines expertise with personal attention, look no further than Elizabeth Smith Chavez.

In the cutthroat worlds of business, real estate, and civil litigation, she has found the delicate balance of combining tough legal representation with the human element of compassion. You'll be impressed immediately. Real Estate, Business and Civil Litigation, Oil and Gas Litigation and Contracts

Smith Chavez Law is a Certified Woman Owned Business.

Call today and experience the difference.

3777 Willow Glen Drive El Cajon, CA 92109 • 619-383-6652  
[liz@smithchavezlaw.com](mailto:liz@smithchavezlaw.com)

## Estate Planning/Probate & Trust/Tax finalists (continued)

the Membership Committee. I also serve on the Board of Directors and as chairwoman of the Professional Advancement Committee for San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association. I am a member of the San Diego County Bar Estate Planning, Trusts and Probate Section, the Elder Law Section, and have served on the Probate Rules Committee. I am also a member of the California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform and have served as a speaker for the State Bar of California's Speakers Bureau for Financial Elder Abuse: "Identification and Prevention Program."

### Personal Affiliations

I have served on the Board of Trustees for the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center and the History Center in Balboa Park.

• • •

### Judy S. Bae

Miller, Monson, Peshel, Polacek & Hoshaw

### Law School

University of San Diego School of Law

### Major Cases

Probate litigation involves family/sibling disputes, so each case is a major event in my clients' lives. The matters are a unique mix of facts and personalities — each family has its story and there are always at least two sides. I represent every side — from those suspecting that their evil sibling manipulated their parent(s); the "evil" siblings who lovingly cared for their parent and was "rewarded" with the entire estate; charitable organizations forced to sue trustees who mysteriously fail to account for all assets and have failed to distribute; and trustees that deal with

beneficiaries who complain every step of the way.

### Professional Background

I began with genius plans for a career in medicine. After attending medical school for two miserable years, I took a break to answer, "What do you want to do when

you grow up?" Eventually the light bulb went off and I was reading about peppercorns, Blackacre and *International Shoe*. At my first job with a local insurance defense firm, I litigated premises liability and bodily injury cases. In 2005, I joined Miller Monson and now litigate probate, business and real estate matters. Litigation is storytelling — but you start out not knowing the story and through the process you ultimately end with telling the story to a judge/jury, and in some instances, to your client who thought he/she knew it best!

### Professional Affiliations

I am a Board Member of the Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego and am an At-Large Member for the Estate Planning, Trust and Probate division of the San Diego County Bar Association. I belong to the following organizations: Lawyers Club; Probate Attorneys of San Diego; and San Diego Defense Lawyers. I have mentored new attorneys through the San Diego County Bar Association — New Lawyer Division's mentoring circle program. I also volunteer as a Mandatory Settlement Conference pro-tem with the Probate Court.

### Personal Background

I have the greatest parents who are thrilled that their daughter did not wind up a

med school dropout living on their couch. My childhood library trips to borrow yet another Nancy Drew/Hardy Boys book was the genesis of my love for a good mystery and unraveling what happened. My little brother is my biggest defender — he gets to insult me all he wants, but do not say anything bad about me to his face, that's his job. I rescued my dog, Toby, from my parents when she and her sister decided that they could no longer live together.

• • •

### Gregory J. Borawski

Brierton, Jones & Jones LLP

### Law School

St. John's University School of Law, New York

### Professional Background

My practice primarily involves representation of professional, institutional and non-professional fiduciaries in special needs trust conservatorship, trust and probate administration, litigation and estate planning.

### Professional Affiliations

I am the chairman of the Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law Section of the San Diego County Bar Association, a member of the State Bar of California, and a retired member of the State Bar of New York. I am an AV-rated attorney by Martindale Hubble and a member of the Bench Bar Committee to the Probate Dept. of the Superior Court of California (68).

• • •

### Danielle C. Humphries

Hahn, Loeser & Parkes LLP

### Law School

University of San Diego School of Law

### Major Cases

Since my practice includes both the transactional and litigation sides of trusts and estates, I have the unique opportunity to participate in a wide variety of cases, including tax and business succession planning, complex estate planning, probates, trust administrations, tax audits, and contested trusts and estates matters such as undue influence and breach of trust claims. The common thread in all of these cases is the emotion which drives them — the planning is typically driven by the love and concern for family members and the range of emotions arising from the death of a loved one sets the tone for the administration and, sometimes, fuels litigation.

I enjoy assisting clients in all phases and aspects of trusts and estates and find it rewarding to help them successfully navigate complicated and overwhelming issues.

### Professional Background

I received my J.D. and LL.M. in taxation from the University of San Diego School of Law and my B.A. in history from Southern Methodist University in Dallas. I joined Hahn, Loeser & Parks, LLP in 2014, to open the firm's trusts and estates practice for its San Diego office. My practice includes estate planning for estates of all sizes and representation of fiduciaries and beneficiaries in trust and estate administration and litigation.

### Professional Affiliations

I am a member of the State Bar of California, State Bar of Texas, and San Diego County

Bar Association — Trusts and Estate section. I have served on the Board of Directors for MAMAS (Mother Attorneys



Humphries

mentoring program, for other attorneys practicing in the trusts and estates field.

### Personal Background

I am married, have one daughter, and am the eldest of seven children. My father was an estate planning attorney and instilled in me the desire to practice in the trusts and estates field. Having had the fortune of receiving excellent mentoring from my father (in life and the law) and from other attorneys with whom I have worked, I am dedicated to creating and facilitating positive mentoring relationships. I am passionate about my trusts and estates practice, child safety (specifically, drowning prevention), and, of course, my family.

• • •

### Ariel A. Javier

Law Office of Ariel A. Javier

### Law School

Thomas Jefferson School of Law

### Major Cases

• Widow owed \$291,485 to IRS, obtained innocent spouse relief and zero owed to IRS.

• Widow owed \$113,679 to the IRS, settled for \$100; owed \$43,929 to California, settled for \$100; owed

\$19,119 to Arizona, obtained non-collectible status.

• Client was previously represented by another professional. Reopened audits, negotiated and resolved audits of corporation and employee shareholder taxes. Was able to reduce the combined corporate and personal federal and state tax liabilities by \$12,434.

### Professional Background

Ariel A. Javier is licensed in California both as an attorney and Certified Public Accountant. Practice areas include tax litigation, tax planning, tax compliance/preparation, entity formations, business planning, as well as traditional accounting and bookkeeping services.

Javier earned his bachelor's degree from San Diego State University and later attended

Thomas Jefferson School of Law, graduating *cum laude* in 2005. After graduation, Javier joined a San Diego-based tax law firm.

Then in 2009, Javier opened his private tax law practice on the principle of providing superior and comprehensive services to clients in the areas of tax law and accounting.


### Professional Affiliations

Javier is actively involved in the legal community. He is currently the treasurer of the Filipino-American Lawyers of San Diego. Javier is a regular volunteer with the Legal Aid Society of San Diego's Low-Income Tax Clinic and Domestic Violence Clinic. Javier was a regular volunteer at the Housing Opportunities Collaborative Home Owner's Mobile Education

Please turn to page 15

ALL WE DO IS WORK.

Jackson Lewis P.C. Congratulates  
**Amber Gardina-Quintanilla**  
On Being Named a 2015 Top Attorney



With 800 attorneys practicing in major locations throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico, Jackson Lewis provides creative and strategic solutions to employers in every aspect of workplace law. Recognized as a "Powerhouse" in both Complex and Routine Employment Litigation in the BTI Litigation Outlook 2015 and ranked in the First Tier nationally in Employment Law – Management; Labor Law – Management and Litigation – Labor and Employment in *U.S. News – Best Lawyers*® "Best Law Firms," our firm has one of the most active employment litigation practices in the world. To learn more about our services, please visit us online at [www.jacksonlewis.com](http://www.jacksonlewis.com).


All we do is work. Workplace law.

**Best Law Firms**

L&E GLOBAL

**jackson lewis**  
Preventive Strategies and Positive Solutions for the Workplace®

**JACKSON LEWIS P.C.**  
225 Broadway • Suite 2000  
San Diego, CA 92101 • 619.573.4900



**Duckor Spradling Metzger Wynne, A Law Corporation**  
Is proud to congratulate its Managing Partner



**Bryn C. Spradling**  
On being named a 2015 Top Attorney in the Corporate Transactional field

**About Duckor Spradling Metzger & Wynne**  
As one of San Diego's oldest and most respected law firms, DSMW's practice reflects the vitality and diversity of San Diego. Since 1978, the breadth, depth and quality of the firm's attorneys have served the legal needs of companies and individuals conducting business in the San Diego region.

**"From business, healthcare and employment to land use, intellectual property and securities, we're thrilled that the expertise of our attorneys in their respective practice areas is recognized as best in class."**

DSMW's areas of practice include:

Business & Securities Litigation | Business Formation & Transactions | Mergers & Acquisitions  
Healthcare | Employment | Real Estate | Land Use | Insurance Coverage  
Intellectual Property Prosecution & Litigation

**DSMW** DUCKOR SPRADLING METZGER WYNNE

3043 4th Avenue San Diego, California 92103 (619) 209-3000  
[dsmw.com](http://dsmw.com)

## Family Law finalists

**Edward M. Castro**  
Law Offices of  
Beatrice L. Snider APC



**Castro**  
Volunteer Lawyer Program

the State Bar of California in 1993, Castro focused his practice in domestic violence litigation and worked with the San Diego County

supervising the East County Courthouse clinic. During that time, Castro substantially increased the capacity of the clinic to assist litigants through the family court system. In association with SDVLP, Castro supervised and coordinated the courthouse-based Family Law Access Project, a high volume family law and mediation clinic providing legal advice

and assistance to unrepresented litigants. Under Castro's supervision of FLAP, the program's capacity to assist unrepresented litigants significantly increased.

**Professional Background**  
Castro subsequently joined the YWCA Legal Advocacy Program, representing clients in divorce and paternity actions, high-conflict child custody disputes, child and

spousal support applications, division of complex property issues, highly contested domestic violence orders and appellate review of family court decisions.

Castro obtained his Juris Doctor from University of San Diego School of Law in 1993 and a bachelor of arts from Yale University in 1982. He became a Certified Specialist in Family Law as recognized

by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization in 2005. Castro joined Law Offices of Beatrice L. Snider, APC in 2010 and became a partner in Beatrice L. Snider Family Law Group, LLP in 2014.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Castro is a member of State Bar of California, Family Law

Please turn to page 16

## Estate Planning/Probate & Trust/Tax finalists (continued)

clinics which assisted distressed homeowners.

Other notable items:

- Filipino American Lawyers of San Diego, President (2012), Treasurer (2011, 2015), Director (2010, 2014);
- Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego;
- 2014 FALSD/PALSD President's Award Recipient;
- San Diego Filipino-American Youth Foundation, Advisory Committee Member.

**Personal Background**

In his spare time, Javier likes to enjoy the outdoors either by running or mountain biking. Other hobbies include tinkering with his 1968 Volkswagen Karmann Ghia and replica 1957 Porsche Speedster and spending time with his lovely wife of 17 years, Cathy, his 13-year old twin daughters, Virginia and Rosanna, their dog, Freddie and their three aquatic turtles, Tall, Grande and Venti.

• • •

**Mark Krasner**  
Blanchard Krasner  
& French

**Law School**  
University of San Diego School of Law

**Major Cases**

The major cases in which I have participated are both in the area of transactions and litigation. The transaction cases include, but are not limited to, multimillion dollar industrial development bond financing, mergers and acquisitions, real estate transactions including tax-deferred exchanges as well as loan restructuring, structured bond financing, franchising and representing domestic and international business clients in connection with tax, transactions, and employee relations and benefits.

In the area of litigation, I have had the privilege of representing numerous clients (and some lawyers) on multimillion dollar real estate matters, tax controversies, fraud cases, high-end and complex family law and custody matters and corporate and partnership disputes, both foreign and domestic.

**Professional Background**

Mark is a founding partner of Blanchard, Krasner & French and has more than 33 years of experience as both a certified public accountant and attorney. His areas of practice include mergers and acquisitions, real estate, tax matters, high-end and complex family law, litigation, licensing franchising, corporate and partnership structuring and reorganizations, international trade, tax and estate planning.

Krasner has been rated preeminent with the highest legal ability and ethical standards for at least 16 consecutive years. He has been named one of the top lawyers in San Diego for several years in a row and has been named the best lawyer in La Jolla four out of the last five years. In March of 2013, Krasner was named one of the "Movers and Shakers" of San Diego.

**Professional Affiliations**

Krasner is a member in good standing of the California, New York and Washing-

ton, D.C., bar associations. He is also a member of the California State Board of Accountancy, where he serves on the California statewide committee for Estate Planning. Krasner is a member of the American Bar Association, San Diego Bar Association and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He serves as vice president and a member of the board of directors of the La Jolla Village Merchants Association. Krasner is also a member of the American Association of Attorneys-Certified Public Accountants.

**Personal Affiliations**

Krasner has been affiliated with numerous organizations. These include but are not limited to the San Diego Opera, Scripps Hospital where he serves on the Citizens Advisory Board, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of San Diego where he served for over a decade as a member of their board of directors, San Diego Jewish Academy where he served on the board of directors and as executive vice president. He and his law firm are significant supporters of the San Diego Zoo and the Concours d'Elegance of La Jolla.

**Personal Background**

Krasner is a second-generation native of San Diego. He graduated from Patrick Henry High School, summa cum laude and valedictorian. While at Patrick Henry High School, Krasner earned his varsity letters in gymnastics and tennis. Krasner's gymnastics career continued at San Diego State University. Krasner is married to his wife, Angela, who is the love and inspiration of his life. Krasner is the proud father of a daughter who is happily married and working in Los Angeles.

• • •

**Joshua Dean Maxwell**  
Hone Maxwell LLP

**Law School**  
University of San Diego School of Law

**Major Cases**

I have represented taxpayers owing more than \$600,000 in taxes, as well as taxpayers on the Franchise Tax Board's most wanted list. My audits have included international businesses and high-net worth individuals. Currently, I am representing many international businesses and high-net worth individuals, including foreign CEOs and businessmen, with various international tax issues such as the Offshore Voluntary Disclosure Program and FATCA.

I have been asked to give presentations on these topics to the Tijuana Law School, Singapore Management University Law School, Hong Kong American Club, CalCPA, Tijuana Bar Association, and many other businesses and organizations.

**Professional Background**

After graduating from Syracuse University with a double major in finance and accounting, I gained my master's of taxation at Arizona State University, then gained my CPA license while working at a local public account-

ing firm. During law school, I worked at several local businesses including Fortune 500 companies. After attending law school and obtaining my LLM, I returned to public accounting at a Big 4 firm. For the past three years I have ran my own tax law firm with my partner Aubrey Hone. Our accounting and Big 4 background allows us to provide more detailed and complete representations for tax clients.

**Professional Affiliations**

I am the vice chairman of the International Law Section of the San Diego County Bar, and for the two previous years was the co-chairman of the Taxation Section. I am part of CalCPA leadership and serve as the chairman of ABC Night. I am also a member of the Chinese Attorneys Association of San Diego, the ABA, and several other local professional organizations. I have also taught in the Tax LLM program at the University of San Diego School of Law as well as the UCSD Extension Program.

**Personal Affiliations**

My wife is Mexican, and as part of a bicultural household, it is very important to me to make sure Mexican and foreign clients receive quality service. Due to lack of professional options, this community is often underserved and victims of excessive fees. Additionally, I have made many foreign presentations to try to educate this community on U.S. tax responsibilities and options for compliance.

**Personal Background**

I was born and raised in Central New York, but have spent my entire professional career in San Diego. Currently, I live in Santee with my wife Lucy, who is an IT Auditor at Risk Opportunities Inc., my son Colton (7) and daughter Sophia (5).

• • •

**Jennifer McGibbons**  
Henderson, Caverly,  
Pum & Charney LLP

**Law School**  
University of San Diego School of Law

**Major Cases**

I represent individuals in the areas of estate planning, trust administration, and probate administration. While at Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps LLP, I was a member of the legal team for Petitioner in the Estate of Miramontes N a j e r a (2004) 118 Cal.App.4th 750, which was a case of first impression regarding the interpretation of California Probate Code Section 5021.

**Professional Background**

I am a partner in the Estate Planning Group of Henderson, Caverly, Pum & Charney LLP. Prior to joining my current law firm, I was an attorney in the Family Wealth and Exempt Organizations Practice Group at Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps LLP. I am certified as a Specialist in estate planning, trust, and probate law by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization. I have also presented CLE courses through CEB for attorneys in the area of estate planning and trust

administrations.

**Professional Affiliations**

I am a member of the California State Bar (Trusts & Estates Section), the San Diego County Bar Association, and the North County Estate Planning Council - San Diego. I am also a member of the Scripps Health Foundation Gift Planning Advisory Board.

**Personal Background**

I grew up in Pasadena, California and moved to San Diego in 1998 to attend law school. When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with my two daughters.

• • •

**Kris Mukherji**  
Law Office of  
Kris Mukherji APC

**Law School**  
Thomas Jefferson School of Law

**Professional Background**

Mukherji graduated from the University of California San Diego and after working for five years in the health and fitness industry, was admitted to Thomas Jefferson School of Law in 2008. During law school, Mukherji interned for private firms and the San Diego District Attorneys Office. Mukherji graduated from TJSL in 2012 and through the guidance of several mentors in the legal community, started the Law Office of Kris Mukherji. His practice focuses primarily on estate planning/probate and business law.

**Professional Affiliations**

San Diego County Bar Association; South Asian Bar Association of San Diego; Consumer Attorneys of San Diego; American Bar Association; North County Bar Association.

**Personal Background**

Mukherji grew up in the Bay Area and moved to San Diego in 2000 to attend UCSD. Mukherji enjoys living in San Diego with his wife, 9-month-old son, and their dog, Bailey.

• • •

**Ronson J. Shamoun**  
RJS Law

**Law School**  
University of San Diego School of Law

**Major Cases**

Ronson Shamoun has represented thousands of individuals and businesses before the IRS, FTB, SBOE, and EDD in a variety of civil and criminal matters, saving clients millions of dollars in liabilities.

A few of his cases include a client he represented in district court, contesting the assessment of an \$8 million trust fund recovery penalty. Shamoun has also resolved a Section 475 mark-to-market audit covering five tax years, saving the client over half a million dollars. Additionally, he represented a client facing 37 months in jail and \$225,000 in forfeiture for money laundering. The client received no jail time and had the restitution reduced by more than \$100,000. He has also successfully defended a tax preparer facing numerous counts of tax evasion and aiding and abetting after the government accused him of preparing faulty tax returns for himself and others, resulting in \$92,000 restitution and no jail time.

**Professional Background**

Shamoun received his bachelor's in accountancy at the University of San Diego and returned to USD to receive his Juris Doctor and his Master of Laws in taxation. After law school, he started RJS Law, San Diego's preeminent tax controversy law firm. His accounting background along with his experience as a small business-owner gives him an unrivaled perspective from which to understand both the position of the government and of the client. RJS Law has since grown into the largest tax controversy law firm in San Diego, with a team of nearly 25, comprised of nine attorneys, two CPAs, two accountants, law clerks and administrative staff.

**Professional Affiliations**

Aside from RJS Law, Shamoun owns an extensive and diverse portfolio of successful businesses. He is the owner of two restaurants in East County, as well as a convenience store, a Subway

franchise, a café and laundromat in Ocean Beach. He also has invested in various commercial real estate properties, highlighted by his purchase of the 32,500-square-foot Ronson J. Shamoun Building in downtown San Diego, across from the San Diego Civic Theatre, where RJS Law is currently located. He formerly served as general counsel for a regional supermarket conglomerate with 13 stores and more than 800 employees. Beginning in August 2015,

Shamoun will teach a tax practices and penalties class at the University of San Diego, School of Law. The class will be a required course in the Master of Laws in taxation degree.

**Personal Affiliations**

He continues to support USD as a prominent alumni, providing law clerk positions to USD Law students to enhance their educational opportunities and providing an annual \$5,000 scholarship for a USD Law student who plans on pursuing an LL.M. in taxation at the university. He is also involved with, and donates to, several charitable organizations, such as the Grossmont Hospital Foundation Gala, the Chaldean Middle Eastern Social Services Clinic, and the Rwandan Orphans Project, as well as being an ardent supporter of, and serving as landlord to, the USO.

**Personal Background**

Shamoun is a true San Diegan. He was born and raised in San Diego and attended Grossmont High School. He then went on to complete his bachelor of arts in accountancy, J.D., and LL.M. in taxation at USD. He is very active in East County where he currently lives with his wife, Melanie, and their daughters Mariella and Audriana. He credits the success of RJS LAW to the undying support and love he received from his parents, and thanks them for the work ethic and business principles they instilled in him.



**Shamoun**



**Krasner**



**Maxwell**



**McGibbons**

YELMAN & ASSOCIATES  
Divorce/Family Law Attorneys

**CONGRATULATES**

**TARA L. YELMAN & SARA R. NEUMANN\***

\*Certified Family Law Specialist  
State Bar of CA Board of Legal Specialization

on being named

**FAMILY LAW TOP ATTORNEYS**  
2014-2015

Since 1995, Yelman & Associates has represented hundreds of clients throughout San Diego in simple to complex, mid to high asset dissolution proceedings. We CAN make a difference. See how and why Tara Yelman and Sara Neumann are "Family Law Top Attorneys" at:

[www.yelman.com](http://www.yelman.com) (619) 282-1107

## Family Law finalists (continued)

section of the State Bar of California, San Diego County Bar Association, San Diego Family Law Bar Association, American Bar Association and Foothills Bar Association.

Awards, Accomplishments and Community Service:

- Member, Board of Directors of San Diego Domestic Violence Council, 1998 to 2001;

- Recognized as Pro Bono Attorney of the Year, 1996;

- Awarded the State Bar of California Wiley W. Manuel Award (1995, 1996 and 1997) for legal work with victims of domestic violence;

- Served as senior staff attorney and family law litigator, San Diego YWCA Legal Advocacy Program for the prevention of domestic violence, 2001 to 2006;

- Served as supervising attorney, Family Law Access Project, Family Courthouse, San Diego Superior Court, 1997 to 2001;

- Regular contributor to the San Diego Women's Resource Fair;

- Serves as temporary judge and judge pro tem, San Diego Superior Court, Family Law and Small Claims divisions, 2000 to present.

• • •

### Lesla Christenson ABC Family Law

**Law School**  
University of San Diego School of Law

**Major Cases**  
Lesla Christenson has handled numerous high-asset cases, including several with estates worth more than \$40 million. She also routinely handles high-conflict custody cases, including move-away trials.

**Professional Background**  
Christenson is a founding member of ABC Family Law, and has been practicing law since 1985. She provides a full range of family law services, from prenuptial



Christenson

agreements to post-judgment modifications of prior court orders. Prior to co-founding her current firm in 2000, Christenson started a family law department at the San Diego law firm of Hillyer & Irwin, where she was elected the firm's first woman partner.

Prior to focusing exclusively on family law, Christenson practiced commercial and business litigation and construction law for 15 years. She is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell and was named in the 2008 through 2012, and 2014 and 2015 editions of *Super Lawyers*. She also was named a Top Attorney in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2014.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Christenson is a former member of the executive committee of the San Diego County Bar Certified Family Law Specialists. She is a past board member of Lawyers Club of San Diego. She has been a speaker for California Women Lawyers, the San Diego County Bar Association and the La Jolla Bar Association. She speaks and writes on the topics of family law and business development. She also offers to local law firms a free MCLE presentation called, "What Every Lawyer Needs to Know About Family Law."

• • •

### Gordon D. Cruse Gordon D. Cruse APLC

**Law School**  
Thomas Jefferson School of Law

**Major Cases**  
Gordon Cruse served as a Special Master in more than 200 matters overseeing issues of asset division, valuation,

characterization, income determination, discovery and electronic discovery. Cruse serves as a mediator on family law and electronic discovery matters. (Cruse has completed the Harvard University Mediation program).

Cruse serves as a privately compensated temporary judge in Family Law matters hearing all aspects of the case through trial. He serves as an expert witness in Family Law matters and electronic discovery matters.

**Professional Background**  
Cruse has been engaged in the practice of law since December of 1983. He is a Certified Legal Specialist in Family Law. This certification was received from the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization in 1993.

Cruse is the CEO of E-Discovery Readiness & Response Inc., an e-discovery consulting firm assisting businesses and law firms with electronically stored information and electronic discovery matters. This includes the development of internal policies and controls related to



Cruse

electronically stored information in the workplace as well as developing electronic discovery demands, responding to electronic discovery demands and overseeing the collection of electronically stored information.

Cruse speaks all over the country on issues on electronic discovery and evidence. Presentations on e-discovery have been made to the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, CPA Society, The San Diego County Bar Association, The Bar Association of North San Diego County, The State Bar of California, The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, the Louisville Bar Association, the Beverly Hills Bar Association, the South Carolina State Bar Association, the Florida State Bar Association, in conjunction with the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, the Kansas State Bar Association, by invitation of the Supreme Court of West Virginia to the State's Judiciary, as well as various law firms and other organizations.

Cruse is a graduate of the Georgetown Law School's Electronic Discovery Academy and the Arkfeld E-Discovery Training Course. He is a lecturer at Arizona State University, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, and E-discovery Institute.

Cruse lectures on legal ethics related to law practice management and electronic discovery, client fee contracts, separate property asset tracing, evidence at trial, and on electronic data as evidence. He is one of the creators of and an instructor at the San Diego Family Law College of Trial Advocacy.

Cruse received the Norby Award from the San Diego Superior Court Judiciary in 1998 for his work with the court and his excellence in the practice of family law. In 1994, he received the Manuel Rios Award from the State Bar of California for his pro bono work.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Cruse is a Fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (2002), as well as the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (2005). He is listed in *Best Lawyers in America* in both family law litigation and family law mediation. Cruse has been selected as one of the Best Lawyers in San Diego each year since 2008. For 2015, he has been selected as the Family Law Lawyer of the Year for San Diego County, California, by *Best Lawyers in America*. Cruse is listed in *Super Lawyers*

and continues to be listed in the Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers (he was first listed in that registry 16 years ago). Cruse is chair of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers E-Discovery/ESI Committee and Secretary of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Council of Committee Chairs. His Martindale-Hubbell rating is AV.

**Personal Background**  
Cruse graduated from the University of California, San Diego, Revelle College in 1978, receiving a bachelor of arts degree in political science. He then attended Western State University College of Law, now renamed the Thomas Jefferson School of Law, receiving his Juris Doctors degree in 1982. He is married to his wife, Gala.

• • •

### Julia Garwood Garwood Family Law and Mediation

**Law School**  
California Western School of Law

**Major Cases**  
Julia Garwood's cases have included representing publicly traded corporations and several celebrity clients, as well as those wanting to complete their divorce using mediation.

**Professional Background**  
Garwood is a family law attorney and mediator. Her



Garwood

Certified Family Law Specialist designation means she has met the rigorous standards set by the California State Bar. She is also a former adjunct professor at a local law school, where she taught professional responsibility to future lawyers. She has worked in the family law field for more than 30 years. As an acting settlement judge and mediator, Garwood sees each case from many perspectives, including that of a judge. Seeing the case through the eyes of a judge helps her plan to achieve the best possible results for her clients.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Garwood's professional affiliations include California general contractor; California Western School of Law Alumni Association, 1981-present; Michigan State University Alumni Association, 1981-present; Judge Pro Tem, Acting Settlement Judge and Court Appointed Minors Counsel, Certified Specialist, Family Law, The State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization, 1995-present; San Diego County Bar Association, 1981-present; American Bar Association, 1981-present; state bar of California, 1981-present; Lawyer's Club of San Diego Inc., 1981-present; California Women Lawyers Association, 1981-present; National Academy of Family Law Attorneys.

**Personal Affiliations**  
Garwood's personal affiliations include Board President for the Save Our San Diego nonprofit, Board Member of the San Diego Family Law Bar Association and President of the San Diego Family Law Bar Association's Alternative Dispute Resolution Panel.

• • •

### Elisa D. Kisselburg Basie & Fritz

**Law School**  
Creighton University School of Law

**Major Cases**  
Elisa Kisselburg specializes in complex child custody cases, especially those related to families with high assets and complex business valuations, professional athletes, musicians and composers.

She is a divorce mediator and consults and represents clients in mediation and collaborative divorce. Kisselburg has a sub-specialty in international custody in which she has negotiated multiple citizenship custody cases (including those of children in Islamic marriage contracts). She is also trained in the Collaborative Divorce model and has extensive experience in handling domestic violence issues, domestic partnerships/same sex marriage and working with persons with physical and mental disabilities.



Kisselburg

**Professional Background**  
Kisselburg is a certified specialist in family and divorce mediator.

What differentiates her as a family law attorney is her approach to working with clients and helping them reach their goals through mediation or litigation, using her understanding of human behavior to counsel clients and mitigate the effects of litigation on children and families.

**Professional Background**  
She is a frequent public speaker and workshop presenter on topics related to family law, custody and navigating family court; provides continuing legal education seminars for attorneys and therapists; was a featured speaker at the California State Bar Association's Annual Conference on international custody issues and enforceability of international/intercultural marital agreements; and published in the *National Journal of Child Custody* on international custody.

**Professional Affiliations**  
• State Bar of California, member  
• Federal District Court, Southern District  
• San Diego County Bar Association, member  
• William H. Spire Inns of Court  
• Association of Family Conciliation Court, member  
• California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, associate member  
• Association of Certified Family Law Specialists, member  
• Holistic Moms Network, member

• • •

### Sara R. Neumann Yelman & Associates

**Law School**  
Southwestern University School of Law

**Major Cases**  
As a certified family law specialist, I routinely represent mid to high-net-worth individuals with simple to complex property issues including business valuations, tax issues, characterization of property and support. I also focus on children including high-conflict custody/visitation disputes, move-away actions, paternity, and stepparent adoptions, including contested termination of parental rights. I regularly handle post judgment matters, enforcement of judgments and prenuptials. I will settle a case when possible, but will litigate aggressively when necessary. I believe it is important for clients to be involved and informed so they may make knowledgeable decisions about their lives.



Neuman

**Professional Background**  
My dedication to family law started during law school, where I interned at Dependency Court Legal Services in Los Angeles. After passing the

bar, I was a sole practitioner focusing on family law and bankruptcy. In 1999, I joined Yelman & Associates as the supervising attorney for the firm's bankruptcy practice, primarily filing Chapter 7 and 13 cases, and practicing family law. In 2005, Yelman & Associates began our exclusive focus on family law. I became a Certified Family Law Specialist in 2008. Since 2005, I have sat as a Family Court settlement judge and as a pro tem since 2009.

**Professional Affiliations**  
As a vigorous advocate, I believe it is necessary to stay abreast of current changes in the law. I am a member of the Association of Certified Family Law Specialists, the San Diego County Bar Association, Family Law Section, the San Diego Family Law Bar Association, and the State Bar's Family Law Section (Flexcom). I am a past member of the American Bar Association, North County Bar Association, Consumer Attorneys of Los Angeles, and San Diego Bankruptcy Forum. I am committed to the practice of family law; guiding families through what can be an emotional and stressful time in their lives.

**Personal Background**  
I grew up in North San Diego County and still reside there with my husband of 21 years, our two children, and three dogs. We enjoy attending sporting events, traveling, DIY projects and gardening.

• • •

### Carmen E. Ramos Law Offices of Beatrice L. Snider APC

**Law School**  
California Western School of Law

**Major Cases**  
Carmen Ramos understands the complexities which can arise in family law matters. She often handles cases involving multifaceted custody issues and complex financial and property divisions. She is reasonable and effective in her handling of family law situations which, by the very nature of family law, can be unreasonable and ineffective due to the circumstances. Ramos is keenly aware of the changing fabric of family law and provides guidance and representation to registered domestic partners and the dissolution of same-sex marriages.



Ramos

**Professional Background**  
Ramos graduated from Marymount College and obtained her Juris Doctorate from California Western School of Law in 1993. Ramos joined the Law Offices of Beatrice L. Snider APC in 2002, and became a Certified Family Law Specialist in 2005. Ramos became a partner in Beatrice L. Snider Family Law Group LLP, in 2014. Prior to devoting her legal practice exclusively to family law, Ramos was a Deputy District Attorney where she gained invaluable court and trial experience.

Ramos has given presentations on domestic violence, restraining orders, paternity, and fundamentals of family law, registered domestic partnerships and elimination of bias in the legal profession. She is a frequent speaker at Second Saturday workshops which are designed to help women deal with the legal, financial, family and personal issues of divorce.

Her Hispanic heritage provides her with a unique understanding of the cultural dynamics involved in family law issues within the Spanish-speaking community.

Ramos is honored to receive this recognition as it reflects the respect and high regard in which she is held by her colleagues.

### Professional Affiliations

- State Bar of California
- San Diego County Bar Association
- San Diego Family Law Bar Association
- North County Bar Association
- Association of Certified Family Law Specialists

• • •

### Puja A. Sachdev Sachdev Legal Group APC

**Law School**  
Thomas Jefferson School of Law

**Professional Background**  
Puja Sachdev is a Certified Family Law Specialist who focuses on divorce, custody and visitation, child and spousal support, and property division. She received her law degree from Thomas Jefferson School of Law, graduating cum laude with her Juris Doctorate. She received her bachelor of science in business administration from the University of Nevada, Reno, in marketing and management with a minor in Japanese. Sachdev is noted for her extensive background in the finance and business field.

Prior to law school, Sachdev worked as a research analyst at Franklin Templeton Investments. After law school, she completed her masters of science in business administration in financial and tax planning at San Diego State University and obtained the certificate for Personal Financial Planning. She realized many people are not informed about how the decisions they make during their divorce may impact their independent financial future. Sachdev became the first family law attorney in San Diego with the designation of Certified Divorce Financial Analyst, a designation primarily held by financial professionals, and founded Sachdev Legal Group, APC to provide legal services with integrity and financial consciousness.

Sachdev is a trained family law mediator. She received her training from the renowned Forrest "Woody" Mosten of Mosten Mediation in Los Angeles, who focuses on cutting-edge approaches to skill building and creative resolutions. Sachdev uses her mediation skills to volunteer her time with the San Diego County Superior Courts to serve as a settlement judge for court-ordered Mandatory Settlement Conferences.

Sachdev is widely recognized as one of San Diego's top attorneys, receiving honors from *The Daily Transcript*, *SD Metro Magazine*, *San Diego Volunteer Lawyers Program* and *Super Lawyers*. She has been featured in the *Alumni Spotlight* by San Diego State University College of Business Administration, as a "Mover & Shaker" in *Mission Valley News* and quoted by *Divorce Magazine*. She has also been a panel speaker for the San Diego County Bar Association and Lawyers Club on work-life balance for new attorneys and solo practitioners, and has presented Continuing Legal Education courses to the San Diego Volunteer Lawyers Program, San Diego Law Library and the Institute of Divorce Financial Analysts.

• • •

### Janis Stocks Stocks & Colburn

**Law School**  
University of San Diego School of Law

**Major Cases**  
*In re Michael H.*, (1995) 10 Cal. 4th 1043

**Professional Background**  
Janis Stocks, a partner with

• • •



## Immigration finalists

### Fausta Maria Albi Larrabee Albi Coker LLP

**Law School**  
University of San Diego School of Law

**Professional Background**  
Fausta Albi is a co-managing partner of Larrabee Albi Coker LLP, an AV-rated, nationally-recognized leader in the field of employment-based immigration law. The firm has a 30-year legacy in immigration law, supporting the innovators, entrepreneurs, discoverers and educators committed to making great contributions in their field — and who seek to make these contributions from the United States.

With Partner Diana Velloso Coker, Albi shares responsibility for all aspects of firm management and direction. Albi also has significant direct client service responsibilities, providing legal counsel on immigration compliance and all nonimmigrant and immigrant visa matters to a diverse array of U.S. employers. Clients include start-up companies; large multinational corporations in all industries, many in the tech sector; universities; research institutes; nonprofit organizations and individuals.



Albi

Albi began her professional life as a social worker with a focus on at-risk youth. Her legal career began with political asylum matters and deportation defense. However, of Albi's 18 years in practice, 16 have been dedicated to employment-based immigration. Albi is AV-rated by Martindale Hubbell and ranked by *Chambers USA* and *Best Lawyers in America*. She currently serves as a Board Member for the American Bar Association's Immigration Justice Project; has served as the Chair of the San Diego Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA); Chair of the AILA liaison to U.S. Customs and Border Protection both locally and nationally; mentors AILA attorneys nationally; and is a frequent faculty member at AILA Conferences across the United States.

**Professional Affiliations**  
American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), American Bar Association, Lawyers Club of San Diego, Italian-American Lawyers Association.

**Personal Affiliations**  
Albi is a Court Appointed Special Advocate with the Voices for Children Program.

**Personal Background**  
A child of immigrants from the region of Calabria in Southern Italy, Albi values her first-hand knowledge of the challenges and benefits of growing up in the United States with the strong influence of another culture.

Born in Toronto, Canada,

Albi is a dual U.S. and Canadian citizen. Albi is proficient in Spanish and French, and conversational in Italian.

### Monica Idalia Sherman Ghiglia Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen and Loewy LLP

**Law School**  
California Western School of Law

**Major Cases**  
I represent a portfolio of multinational corporate clients in the management of employment based immigration matters. In this role, I partner with clients to establish and oversee comprehensive



Ghiglia

migrant and immigrant visa programs. These programs allow my clients to retain highly specialized workers and experts in a variety of fields. I also counsel clients on issues such as I-9 compliance, new immigration procedures and trends, and the immigration impact of complex mergers and acquisitions. I have spoken on advanced immigration issues for ILW.COM, the San Diego County Bar Association, and firm-wide professional practice meetings.

### Professional Background

Prior to joining Fragomen, I represented individuals in a variety of immigration matters including cancellation of removal, asylum, family based petitions and appeals to the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Ninth Circuit. I also interned for the in-house counsel of a Fortune 500 company. This experience has provided me with a unique understanding of my corporate clients' goals and allows me to develop comprehensive immigration solutions to help meet these goals. I am the recipient of the Wiley W. Manuel Award for Pro Bono Legal Services, Casa Cornelia Law Center's Special Recognition Award, and California Western School of Law Dean's Scholarship.

### Professional Affiliations

I am currently a member of the San Diego County Bar Foundation Board of Directors, the Lawyers Club, the San Diego Human Resources Forum, CONNECT San Diego and the American Immigration Lawyers Association. I remain committed to representing indigent clients through my pro bono work at Casa Cornelia Law Center. As a volunteer attorney, I participate in Casa Cornelia's legal screening clinics and assist the law center with the screening of victims of crimes, victims of domestic violence, and unaccompanied minor children to determine whether they may qualify for immigration relief.

**Personal Background**  
As the daughter of an immi-

grant, the practice of immigration law is especially meaningful to me. I love that my work allows me to help people come to the U.S. to pursue their dreams. I am passionate about traveling and exploring new cultures. During my personal time, I enjoy spending time with my husband and newborn daughter, practicing yoga, and spending time near the ocean.

### Ginger E. Jacobs Jacobs & Schlesinger LLP

**Law School**  
Harvard Law School

**Major Cases**  
I regularly defend a variety of cases for clients from throughout the world before the immigration court. I also represent individuals, families and businesses in bringing people to the United States on visas and helping people to stay in the country. I particularly enjoy working with vulnerable populations, including asylum-seekers, survivors of domestic violence and traditionally disadvantaged communities.

Among my most satisfying recent victories include helping a twice-deported pastor return to the United States from Mexico to reunite with his family, which was covered by the national media. I also enjoyed helping several LGBT couples with very challenging cases remain together in the United States, including a gay

Russian man who had suffered severe persecution and hate crimes in Russia. I also achieved significant victories for individuals fleeing persecution in Syria.

### Professional Background

After working as a "big firm" associate for three years in New York City, I decided to pursue an area of the law about which I was truly passionate. Having been interested in human rights from an early age, I was drawn to immigration law and asylum cases in particular. I worked for a small immigration firm in San Diego for two years, before launching my own firm with a partner in 2004. I am the partner for immigration and nationality law at Jacobs & Schlesinger LLP, a boutique firm specializing in immigration law and appellate litigation.



Jacobs

**Professional Affiliations**  
I am extremely active in the community and am very proud of my pro bono work with Alliance San Diego, a local human and civil rights organization. That work includes serving as a partner in the DREAMer Assistance Network and as a member of the Advisory Board for

Please turn to page 18

## Family Law finalists (continued)

Stocks and Colburn, Family Law Attorneys and Mediators and owner of San Diego Divorce Mediation, became



Stocks

a Certified Specialist in Family Law in 1980, and was admitted to a fellow to the prestigious American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers in 1993 and the International Academy of Matrimonial Attorneys in 2000. She is a fellow of the Academy of California Adoption Lawyers and the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys. Stocks has spe-

cialized in family law matters and adoption law since 1976. She is a 1993 recipient of the Judge Norbert Ehrenfreund Family Law Award (Norby) for dedicated and meritorious service to Family Law Bench and Bar, awarded by Family Law Judicial Officers.

**Professional Affiliations**  
San Diego County Bar, member: Family Law Section, Executive Committee, Certified Family Law Specialists Committee, 1990-1993, 1998-1999; chair, 1993; American Bar Association, member, sections on Family Law, Alternative Dispute Resolution; State Bar of California, board member, Executive Committee, Family Law Section (FLEXCOM), 1990-1993; advisor, 1994-2000; Lawyers Club, member;

President Southern California Chapter of American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers 2005; Counsel for the Chapter 2015. Member San Diego County Family Law Bar Association.

### Tara L. Yelman Yelman & Associates

**Law School**  
California Western School of Law

**Major Cases**  
Tara Yelman has litigated and settled hundreds of mid to high net worth dissolution, nullity, post-judgment cases involving simple to complex legal issues. Subject areas include but are not limited

to: (1) high-conflict custody/visitation cases, both fathers and mothers; (2) move-away



Yelman

requests; (3) complex child and spousal support cases, or modifications of support; (4) jurisdictional issues including UCCJEA and UIFSA

(5) nullities (6) characterization, valuation and division

of community assets, retirement accounts, stock accounts (Options, RSU's, ESPP's) and business entities.

**Professional Background**  
Yelman has been a family law attorney since the firm was founded in 1995. The firm represents parties in premarital agreements, dissolutions, nullities and paternity actions from inception to completion, as well as post judgment modifications. Yelman & Associates represents mid-to-high net worth clients appearing in the San Diego Superior Court, with private

judges and/or in private mediation. Our philosophy is simple. Family law is about *your* life. You need to know your rights to make informed decisions for yourself, your children, your property and your future. We will settle your case if at all possible and if not possible, be ready to litigate on your behalf.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Member of the San Diego County Bar Association's Family Law Section, the San Diego Family Law Bar Association and the State Bar's Family Law Section.

## City National makes legal services banking its business

In the business of banking, the most important component of any client relationship is the trust developed between the client and the banker. That's especially true when it comes to serving the legal community.

While many institutions "sell" banking services to the legal industry, few have developed and nurtured an expertise in serving both law firms and their members. **City National Bank** is different.

City National has created a customized program of banking products and services specifically for the legal community. Its Legal Services Banking team understands and knows how to meet the special financial needs and requirements of law firms and their partners, associates and staff. We serve as trusted advisors when it comes to helping a firm through its various cycles — from startup and growth to relocations and restructuring.

One way City National has been able to develop this expertise is through its ongoing involvement with the Association of Legal Administrators. The bank has been active with the organization and many of its local chapters for more than a decade — participating in national and regional conferences, sponsoring educational seminars and events, and serving as a resource for its members.

Our long-standing relationship with the ALA has enabled us to develop a deep understanding of law firms and attorneys.

We concentrate on their requirements and deliver custom financial solutions designed exclusively for them. Each private client relationship manager is focused on developing a relationship with the firm and with its members — offering personalized service while respecting time constraints and confidentiality.

Banking at City National means having access to investment professionals who understand the financial markets. It means having a relationship manager who serves as the primary point of contact for both the firm and its members and coordinates the seamless delivery of all the bank's resources and capabilities. It means having access to the senior management of the bank.

City National is big enough to provide all the products and services of a large financial institution, while still being small enough to know our clients and help them achieve and maintain success and financial security. We understand the financial needs of the legal profession, and ensure that whether it is at our offices, your location, on the telephone, or through the Internet, you know that your bank is just seconds away.

City National Bank provides banking, investment and trust services through 75 offices, including 16 full-service regional centers, in Southern California, the San Francisco Bay Area, Nevada, New York City, Nashville, Tenn., and Atlanta. For more information about City National, visit [cnb.com](http://cnb.com).

Submitted by Robert Pitois, senior vice president and team leader with City National's San Diego Private Client Services office in La Jolla. He can be reached at (858) 642-4935 or [Robert.pitois@cnb.com](mailto:Robert.pitois@cnb.com).

## California Western's Top Attorneys' work has tangible impact in the legal world

**California Western School of Law** professors William Aceves, Thomas Barton and Justin Brooks are not only Top Attorneys, but top advocates in their fields of law practice and scholarship — with tangible impact in the world outside of academia.

Aceves has been a legal activist for global human rights for many years. In 2015, he has written supporting briefs in cases such as a lawsuit by Haitian citizens against the United Nations for causing a deadly cholera outbreak there through its peacekeepers. He also wrote a brief for a lawsuit against U.S. corporations that financially benefitted during the apartheid era in South Africa. His work was cited recently by a judge in a lawsuit against some U.S. corporations doing business in Indonesia for allegedly violating international criminal law. He also wrote a recent law review article in the form of a criminal indictment against former CIA Director George Tenet holding him accountable for authorizing torture of prisoners that may have happened during his tenure.

Barton's research focuses on how social problems affect the creation and operation of legal procedures. Since the law is primarily a set of tools for addressing human problems, Barton believes that the law should change to meet the new challenges that arise as social problems change shape. These challenges have dramatically increased with the arrival of information age technology, and with globalization of problems and how information is generated, packaged and distributed. He also believes legal procedures must become more agile, open and inclusive to reinvo-

rate the rule of law globally.

Barton recently co-authored a report for the United States Patent and Trademark Office that surveyed the ways in which alternative dispute resolution techniques are being used to address legal problems surrounding patent, trademark and copyright matters.

As the director of the California Innocence Project, Brooks gets a first-hand look at problems in the justice system; he and his colleagues have been at the vanguard of fixing those problems by working for new state laws to help free the innocent. The California Innocence Project spearheaded the push for SB 980, a new law enacted in 2014 to better preserve DNA samples in criminal cases and streamline the post-conviction DNA analysis process. According to Brooks, more innocent people will be freed from prison and more guilty people will be identified, prosecuted and convicted for their crimes.

Brooks and his team also advocated for SB 618, a new law that helps wrongfully convicted inmates get compensation from the state for their time served in prison. Since Brooks co-founded the California Innocence Project in 1999, he and his team of lawyers and students have exonerated 15 wrongfully convicted prisoners.

The three California Western professors who have been named as Top Attorneys are all agents of change. Their work is not just a purely abstract or academic exercise, but helps bring about positive change in the world, whether through involvement in litigation or via research and scholarship.

Submitted by California Western School of Law.

## Immigration finalists (continued)

the San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium. Through these groups, I have helped thousands of young people apply for their work permits in pro bono workshops. For the past five years, I chaired the Advisory Board of the Immigration Justice Project of the American Bar Association, an invaluable legal services organization that serves San Diego's most vulnerable immigrant populations.

### Personal Background

My most treasured role is that of mother to my seven-year-old daughter, Julia. I am also thrilled that my law partner, David Schlesinger, is my husband of more than 13 years.

• • •

**Johanna M. Keamy**  
Keamy Tavares  
& Associates APLC

**Law School**  
Thomas Jefferson School of Law

### Major Cases

Lawsuit filed requesting the Federal District Court to address USCIS abuse of discretion in denying a L-1A visa petition for an Intra-company



Keamy

Transferee coming to the U.S. as an Executive of an Information Technology Services Company in New York City. Petition Approved.

Participated with Pro Hac Vice Counsel in overturning an Adam Walsh Denial for a United States Citizen. Petition Approved.

### Professional Background

Johanna Keamy is a California Licensed Attorney and is admitted to the United States District Court Southern District of California. Keamy is experienced in all aspects of Business Immigration law with a focus on entrepreneurs and corporate matters for small and large businesses. She is also a California licensed Broker. Her professional immigration law and real estate experience provides foreign investors a unique source of expertise. In addition, she has experience in skilled worker petitions from health care to high tech as well as assisting athletes, musicians and entrepreneurs. Keamy enjoys helping the entrepreneur client, which in turn empowers the U.S. economy.

### Professional Affiliations

Keamy is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, a national bar association of attorneys and law professors who practice and teach immigration law. She is also affiliated with the Department of State, Children's Unit.

### Personal Affiliations

An active volunteer, Keamy

has volunteered for AILA sponsored creative writing contests open to fifth grade students, the California Music Institute and is a supporter of Little League Baseball and local arts including Ballet and the San Diego Youth Symphony.

### Personal Background

Growing up as the only girl in a family with six brothers and a father who was an attorney and Judge, I had to learn to stand up for myself. Now I get to stand up for my clients.

My Greatest joy is my son (13) and daughter (11) and the ability to practice law with my best friend and husband, Carlos Tavares, a Certified Family Law Specialist. We started our law firm 14 years ago. We are committed to remaining sharp on law and finding winning solutions for clients.

**Tammy Lin**  
Jewish Family Service  
of San Diego

### Law School

University of San Diego School of Law

### Major Cases

In 2012, Tammy Lin obtained a humanitarian parole for a stateless Armenian stuck in American Samoa working alongside the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and American University's law clinic in D.C. It was a real life version of the Tom Hank's movie, The Terminal. He lived in the U.S. since 1995 and lost his asylum case but was unable to be deported since the U.S.S.R. no longer existed. But he found a way to fuel his love of traveling by visiting American territories without activating the deportation order. Until he visited Samoa, not realizing this caused him to deport himself.

With no immigration system in American Samoa, he was stuck. U N H C R approached Jewish Family Service to help bring him back into the U.S. so that he could reopen his past asylum case and bring up the fact that he is gay. His case was featured on NPR, Christiane Amanpour's CNN show and was the talk of the South Pacific News. After a year-long struggle, he was granted humanitarian parole by the U.S. government. He later reopened his case and was granted asylum.

**Professional Background**  
Prior to joining Jewish Family Service, Lin worked for a small business immigration firm in San Diego that represented companies such as Samsung and LG as well as local restaurants and startups. She handled cases involv-



Lin

ing applicants seeking visa based on extraordinary abilities and high level researchers qualifying for national interest waivers. She has prior experience drafting bills and analyses with the California Senate Public Safety Committee. Currently, she is a frequent speaker at immigration conferences on asylum and family law.

### Professional Affiliations

- State Bar of California, member
- AILA (American Immigration Lawyers Association), member, National USCIS Field Operations Committee (2014-present), National Media and Advocacy Committee (2014-present), National Membership Committee (2015-present), National Election Judge (2015), Chapter chairwoman (2013-2014), Treasurer (2012-13), Secretary (2011-12), CA Conference committee member (2012), Chapter Pro Bono Committee chairwoman (2009-11), Chapter USCIS Liaison co-chairwoman (2014-2015);
- YNPN (Young Nonprofit Professionals Network), treasurer (2014) and advisory board member (2012-14)
- SDLA (San Diego Leadership Alliance), board member (2014-present).

**Personal Affiliations**

- Notre Dame Alumni Club of San Diego, secretary (2004-05), board member (2002-present), Young Alumni Coordinator (2002-05)
- New Leaders Council Fellow, 2012
- 2014 co-winner of AILA National's Advocacy Award
- OurCitySD.com's "Who's Next" Leaders Award Winner, 2015

### Personal Background

I'm a proud native Texan born to immigrant parents from Taiwan and Hong Kong. I spent my youth in our family's restaurants. I received a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in peace studies from the University of Notre Dame. Moving to San Diego after graduation, I took a year off before law school working at the Del Mar Fair selling Hawaiian flowers (No. 3 in sales) and later waitressing at a patio café near the beach.

I can often be found watching shows at the Casbah, North Park Theatre, Soda Bar and other intimate venues. I enjoy cycling and swimming in my free time. I love dogs and memorized all the breeds as a young child but my favorites are Jack Russell Terriers. Recently, my dog Homer (a Jack Russell) passed away at 17 years old. I hope to get a new Jack Russell and name him Milhouse.

• • •

**Tina Nicole Malek**  
Rudolph Baker  
& Associates

**Law School**  
Seattle University School of Law

### Professional Background

• Represents individual in removal proceedings and deportation defense.

• Represents individuals in affirmative asylum application before United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.



Malek

• Provides legal assistance to employers in defending work site cases, business type visas and employment based petitions.

• Represents individuals throughout the United States with a primary focus in Southern California.

• • •

**Gary Perl**  
Fragomen, Del Rey,  
Bernsen & Loewy LLP

**Law School**  
University of Witwatersrand, South Africa

### Major Cases

• Represents world-leaders in the global telecommunications industry, manages their nonimmigrant and PERM programs, and provides guidance and counseling relating to immigration policy decisions.

• Assists top scientific research institution in obtaining permanent residence for its scientists on the basis of Extraordinary Ability and/or Outstanding Research.

• Represents companies in the hospitality and entertainment industries.

• Assists startup and small international businesses -- through L-1, establishing E-1 and E-2 registration at U.S. consulates around the world.

• Advise and assist investors and entrepreneurs in investment visa options including EB-5.

• Manages immigration programs in the energy and motor vehicle design industries.

### Professional Background

Gary Perl is the managing partner of the San Diego office of Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy LLP. He has practiced exclusively in the field of corporate immigration and nationality law for more than 21 years. Perl has been involved in international law since the mid-1980s and has handled a variety of matters pertaining to various aspects of law across the borders. He has lectured in corporate law abroad and has testified as an expert on foreign law in the United States District Court. Perl manages immigration programs on behalf of multinational corporations and counsels them on all matters of U.S. immigration law and nationality law, regulation, policy and compliance.

Perl has written and published articles on immigration law and lectured on immigration law to lawyers, private organizations, bar associations, and educational institutions, including presentations at International Bar Association conferences in Berlin, Germany, and New Delhi, India.

### Professional Affiliations

- Member of: American Immigration Lawyers Association, San Diego Bar Association, California Bar Association, Texas Bar Association (inactive), Lawyers Club of San Diego, San Diego Society for Human Resource Management, San Diego HR Forum, Biocom, Connect, San Diego World Trade Center.
- Former chairman, San Diego County Bar Association International Law Section, 1998 to 1999.
- Former chairman of the board of the British American Chamber of Commerce, San Diego Chapter, 1999, and

president, 1998.

• Former vice-chairman, American Immigration Lawyers Association - San Diego (AILA), 1997 to 1998.

• Former co-chairman, Program Planning Committee for the San Diego County Bar Association International Law Section, 1997.

• • •

### Teodora Purcell

Fragomen, Del Rey,  
Bernsen & Loewy LLP

### Law School

University of San Diego School of Law

### Major Cases

• Assisted foreign entrepreneurs with complex U.S. investor visas and green cards.

• Successfully presented an oral argument on a complex asylum case before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

• Successfully handled numerous EB-1 immigrant petitions in the highly scrutinized outstanding researcher and multinational manager/executive categories.

• Advised a global telecommunication company on the immigration consequences of complex corporate reorganization to its employees.

• Assisted individuals with derivative citizenship and naturalization applications.

• Successfully represented individuals in their requests for humanitarian parole or immigrant visa waivers, as well as in complex naturalization and derivative citizenship cases.

• Represented *pro bono* indigent asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors in Immigration Court.

### Professional Background

I am a specialist in immigration and nationality law, certified by the California State Bar and have extensive experience in all facets of immigration law, including administrative and federal appeals and immigration compliance. I specialize in employment and family-based immigration for individual and corporate clients, and am frequently invited to present on immigration topics. I obtained my LLM degree from University of San Diego and my JD and LLM degree from Sofia University in Bulgaria, where I am also licensed to practice law. I am a multiple recipient of the California State Bar Willey Manual and Casa Cornelia Pro Bono Publico awards.

### Professional Affiliations

I am a chairwoman of the Immigration Law section of the San Diego County Bar Association, a past executive committee member of the San Diego Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and an active member of AILA Liaison Committees. I am also a member of the Lawyers Club Professional Advancement Committee and the BIOC International and Capital Development Committees. I teach immigration law at the University of California San Diego Extended Studies ABA-approved Paralegal Program, serve on the Inn of Court Benchers' Committee for Casa Cornelia Law Center and on the Board of Directors for Vasil Levski Education and Cultural Foundation.

### Personal Background

Originally from Bulgaria, the immigration practice is near and dear to my heart. I feel fortunate that my work has a direct impact on people's lives and that I had the opportunity to immigrate to the United States 16 years ago. Outside the law, I enjoy spending my free time with my family and friends, as well as biking, tennis, CrossFit, practicing yoga, Zumba, reading, and traveling.

• • •

**Marlene Z. Stanger**  
Fragomen, Del Rey,  
Bernsen & Loewy LLP

### Law School

Thomas Jefferson School of Law

### Major Cases

I specialize in complex employment-based cases and have successfully prepared and filed high level petitions for world-renowned scientists whose work is seminal in leading the way for breakthroughs in finding cures for diseases afflicting millions of people in the U.S. and throughout the world. I have also effectively assisted both large and small businesses in the U.S. in bringing in qualified people to play key and managerial roles in these organizations which are providing U.S. jobs. In addition, my pro bono work in filing VAWA, U and T visa applications have brought hope to many victims of crime and abuse.

### Professional Background

I graduated from the University of Cape Town with a bachelor's degree in social anthropology then worked for *The Cape Argus* following journalism training within the national newspaper group. I also worked for other major South African publications including the *Financial Mail*. After immigrating to the U.S., I ghost wrote various books for immigration attorneys, which peaked my interest in studying law. I graduated cum laude from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in 1996 and joined my current firm in September 1999, following a freelance appellate writing career. I have been practicing and been stimulated by immigration law since then.

**Professional Affiliations**  
I am a member of the San Diego County Bar Association, the American Immigration Lawyers' Association and Lawyer's Club of San Diego, where I served as a Board Member.



Stanger

• • •

**Karine Wenger**  
Fragomen, Del Rey,  
Bernsen & Loewy LLP

**Law School**  
Golden Gate University School of Law

### Professional Background

I serve as corporate immigration counsel to a wide range of clients, from startup industry leaders to Fortune 500 corporations in varying industries, counseling them on all aspects of employment-based U.S. immigration, regulation, policy changes and compliance. I advise clients on due diligence and immigration impact in the event of corporate restructuring, M&A transactions, or reduction in force situations. I partner with our clients in managing their contingent workforce with respect to immigration compliance and brand protection. To that end, I manage a team of attorneys and paralegal professionals which provides cutting-edge immigration solutions to corporate clients, creating and implementing customized immigration programs to meet their specific needs in a streamlined and cost-effective manner.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Member, Lawyers Club of San Diego; Connect; San Diego Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association; Advisor Emeriti and past executive committee member, international law section of the State Bar of California. Past AILA chairwoman and executive committee member, San Diego Chapter



Wenger

force with respect to immigration compliance and brand protection. To that end, I manage a team of attorneys and paralegal professionals which provides cutting-edge immigration solutions to corporate clients, creating and implementing customized immigration programs to meet their specific needs in a streamlined and cost-effective manner.

*Please turn to page 19*

The attorneys and staff at  
Law Offices of Beatrice L. Snider, APC  
Congratulate  
**Edward Castro, CLS-F &  
Carmen E. Ramos, CLS-F**  
Top Attorney Finalist 2015



**BEATRICE L. SNIDER APC**  
FAMILY LAW FIRM

9663 Tierra Grande, Suite 301 • San Diego • CA 92126  
858.566.6650 • www.blsapc.com

## Insurance finalists

**Timothy C. Earl**  
Sullivan Hill Lewin  
Rez & Engel APLC

**Law School**  
University of San Diego  
School of Law

**Major Cases**  
Timothy Earl recently secured insurance coverage on behalf of a residential developer client under numerous additional insured endorsements after insurance carriers had denied coverage to said client in a multimillion dollar construction defect case. Earl compelled an umbrella insurance carrier to drop down over an insolvent primary insurer and afford first dollar insurance to a residential developer in a construction defect case. Earl also enforced a contractual indemnity provision on behalf of a general contractor against a subcontractor without a finding of fault by the subcontractor in *Centex Golden Const. Co. v. Dale Tile Company*, 78 Cal. App. 4th 992 (2000).



Earl

**Professional Background**  
Earl is the chairman of Sullivan Hill's Insurance Coverage Practice Group. His insurance coverage practice involves representation of policyholders and insurance companies in a variety of insurance coverage disputes primarily involving property damage or bodily injury arising out of construction defect and asbestos claims. He represents policyholders in declaratory relief, bad faith and Ins. Code Section 11580 actions against insurers.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Earl was admitted to the California State Bar in 1994, and is a member of the American Bar Association, San Diego County Bar Association, and Association of Business Trial Lawyers.

**Personal Background**  
Earl is a native of Northern California, but a San Diego resident for more than half of his life. He enjoys practicing Taekwondo, playing soccer and spending time with his wife Kim, daughter Brianna, and son Tyler.

**John J. McLeod**  
McLeod Law Group APC

**Law School**  
Loyola Law School

**Major Cases**  
John McLeod specializes in the representation of policyholders in insurance coverage matters throughout the western United States. He has handled claims involving numerous types of policies and alternative insurance arrangements. He was coverage counsel for the primary subcontractor defendant in the CityCenter (Las Vegas) construction defect case (one of the largest in the country before it settled in early 2015), a general contractor in a San Diego downtown high-rise construction defect case (damages sought in excess of \$60 million), another gen-

eral contractor in a San Diego commercial construction defect case (damages sought in excess of \$10 million) and one of the primary subcontractor defendants in a San Diego commercial construction defect case (damages sought in excess of \$40 million).

**Professional Background**  
McLeod is a founding shareholder of McLeod Law Group APC, a boutique litigation and insurance law firm, which formed in 2003. Since its founding, the firm has represented a wide variety of businesses, associations and individuals, including national home builders, real estate developers throughout the western states, both national and San Diego-based general contractors, some of the largest specialty contractors in the country, homeowners associations across California and a



McLeod

variety of non-construction business, such as biotechnology companies. This representation has extended the gamut of first- and third-party policies, including primary, excess and umbrella liability, directors and officers, errors and omissions, contractor's pollution, employment (EPLI), property and builder's risk policies.

**Professional Affiliations**  
McLeod is a member of the San Diego County Bar Association. He is a co-author of Chapter 7 Insurance Considerations in *Handling Construction Defect Claims: Western States, Fourth Edition*, eds. Miller, et al. and has authored several articles and spoken at a number of conferences, including West Coast Casualty and MC Consultants construction seminars.

**Personal Background**  
McLeod and his wife of 23 years, Lorene, who is also his law partner, are proud parents of Katie, Grace and Connor (aka "The Highlander"). He enjoys day hiking, tough mudder events and snow skiing.

**Brook B. Roberts**  
Latham & Watkins

**Law School**  
University of Arizona  
School of Law

**Major Cases**  
During the past year, Brook Roberts was lead trial lawyer in several matters that should greatly benefit policyholders seeking coverage for asbestos and similar toxic tort liabilities under policies with "completed operations" aggregate limits and "retrospective premium" features.

Roberts and his team petitioned and recently argued in front of the California Supreme Court to revisit its decision in *Henkel Corp v. Hartford Accident & Indemnity Co.*, a notorious California Supreme Court case that favored insurance companies' right to enforce anti-assignment provisions, even after the loss has occurred. This case could balance the scales for policyholders' to transfer

coverage rights following a corporate sale or acquisition.

**Professional Background**  
After graduating from law school, Roberts clerked for Judge Barry Silverman on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Thereafter, he joined Latham & Watkins in 2001. Throughout his tenure at Latham, he has worked on high-stakes commercial litiga-



Roberts

tions, with an emphasis on representing corporate policyholders in large insurance disputes. Roberts was promoted to partner in 2009, and appointed as the global co-chairman of the firm's insurance practice in 2010 (the youngest chair in the firm).

**Professional Affiliations**  
Roberts is a member of the California Bar, the American Bar Association, and RIMS (Risk, Insurance, and Management Society). He has frequently spoken and written articles concerning cutting-edge insurance issues for these organizations.

**Personal Affiliations**  
Roberts is involved in various charity and civic organizations, both locally and nationally.

**Personal Background**  
Roberts was raised in a small town with modest means, and was very fortunate to attend college and law school on academic scholarships. Without that assistance, he would not be where he is today. Thus, he is committed to raising money to assist public schools, which he does through various ventures.

**Greg Ryan**  
Law Offices of  
Greg J. Ryan

**Law School**  
California Western School of Law

**Major Cases**  
Represented 26 investors in Lloyd's of London (American names) in an action by Lloyd's to enforce English judgments in U.S. Federal Court; Represented family of minor for catastrophic injury suffered in accident resulting in settlements exceeding \$6 million; Represented home-builder in litigation against insurance carriers arising out of construction defect litigation (*McMillin Construction Services, L.P. v. Arch Specialty Ins. Co.* 2012 WL 243321).



Ryan

**Professional Background**  
Rhoades, Hollywood & Neil, partner, 1980 to 1988

Sparber, Ferguson, Ponder & Ryan, partner, 1988 to 2001  
Law Offices of Greg J. Ryan APLC, owner, 2001 to present

**Professional Affiliations**  
American Bar Association, member  
San Diego County Bar, member  
Consumer Attorneys of San Diego, member

Consumer Attorneys of California, member

**Personal Affiliations**  
"AV Prominent" Rating by Martindale Hubbell, 1988 to present

Best's Directory of Recommended Insurance Attorneys  
U.S. Marine Corps., Infantry Captain, 1972 to 1977

• • •

**Amy L. Simonson**  
Wingert Grebing  
Brubaker & Juskie LLP

**Law School**  
California Western School of Law

**Major Cases**  
As a litigator, Amy Simonson has obtained more than half a million dollars in attorney fees in an insurance bad faith cases; certified and settled a WARN (Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification) class action on behalf of 111 employees; certified multiple classes against local



Simonson

gyms based on claims of unfair business practices and obtained a defense verdict on behalf of five of six defendants sued for misappropriation of trade secrets and related causes of action by a former employer with a resulting verdict against the 6th defendant constituting less than 10 percent of plaintiff's request to the jury.

**Professional Background**  
Simonson practices primarily in the area of general business litigation with an emphasis on disputes involving land use, business torts/contracts and insurance coverage.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Simonson has been a member of the following organizations: Lawyers' Club of San Diego, Louis M. Welsh American Inn of Court, San Diego County Bar Association and San Diego Defense Lawyers.

• • •

**Scott Sonne**  
Law Office of  
Scott W. Sonne

• • •

**Dan L. Stanford**  
Stanford And Associates

**Law School**  
USC School of Law

**Major Cases**  
Dan Stanford is the senior member of Stanford And Associates, with more than 40 years of jury trial experience. Stanford is a nationally-recognized expert in the prosecution of legal malpractice and malicious prosecution claims, and his practice is strictly limited to the representation of clients (plaintiffs) in such

cases. He is a California Certified Specialist in legal malpractice law.

Stanford has consistently been profiled in *Southern California Super Lawyers*, selected as one of the Best Lawyers in America, named by *California Lawyer* as one of the leading plaintiff's legal malpractice attorneys in California, recognized in *San Diego Magazine* as the top legal malpractice firm in San Diego, and honored as one of the Top 25 Lawyers in San Diego.

**Professional Background**  
Although Stanford is the only lawyer in Southern California who limits his practice to representing clients in cases against lawyers and law firms, he has the unique ability to analyze any case from both sides. He was trained during the first 16 years of his career on the defense side, first as a partner at Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps, and then as a partner at Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro. Stanford graduated from law school in 1975 and prior to joining Luce Forward, served for two years as the law clerk to the Honorable Malcolm M. Lucas (retired chief justice of the California Supreme Court).

**Professional Affiliations**  
Stanford is an active member of the San Diego County Bar Association, the Consumer Attorneys Association and the San Diego Inn of Court. He regularly lectures and publishes on the subject of legal malpractice, has appeared on radio and television programs and has been profiled or quoted in numerous newspapers and magazines, including *Newsweek*, *Readers Digest*, *USA Today*, *San Diego Magazine* and *California Lawyer*.

**Personal Affiliations**  
Throughout his 40-year career, Stanford has been active in the community, serving on the boards of numerous charitable organizations. In 1982, he was selected as the Outstanding Young Citizen of San Diego



Stanford

County and one of Five Outstanding Young Californians for 1982. He was selected as one of America's Outstanding Young Men of 1983 and was honored by the San Diego Legal Secretary's Association as the 1982 Boss of the Year.

**Personal Background**  
Stanford was the oldest son of a chef and waitress, raised in Arizona, attended school on the Yavapai Indian Reservation and was the first member of his extended family to ever graduate from college. He has worked continuously since age 11.

• • •

**John Hayward Walsh**  
Walsh McKean  
Furcolo LLP

**Law School**  
Loyola Law School

**Major Cases**  
John Walsh has been counsel for hundreds of defendants throughout his career primarily handling six, seven- and eight-figure cases ranging from wrongful death, catastrophic injury and construction defect suits to insurance coverage and bad faith litigation. Appellate decisions include *Stonewall Ins. Co. v. City of Palos Verdes Estates* and *Pruyn v. Agricultural Ins. Co.*, seminal California insurance law opinions.



Walsh

**Professional Background**  
Walsh, a founding member of his firm, is AV-rated by his peers and an A. M. Best's recommended attorney with extensive experience over his career in the litigation and trial of insurance coverage, construction defect, professional liability, medical malpractice, employer's liability, personal injury and product liability cases. Since graduating from Loyola Law School in 1983, Walsh has been in high demand, including selection as regional counsel for environmental coverage litigation, national counsel in latex glove and fen-phen coverage litigation and lead counsel for developers in catastrophic landslide litigation.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Walsh is admitted in all California courts, all U. S. District Courts in California, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal and the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. He is a member of the Defense Research Institute, San Diego Defense Lawyers, Association of Southern California Defense Counsel and the San Diego County Bar Association.

**Randall Lawrence Winet**  
Winet Patrick Gayer  
Creighton & Hanes

**Law School**  
University of San Diego  
School of Law

**Major Cases**  
Have tried numerous brain injury, spinal injury, wrongful death and employment cases. This includes trials involving automobile accidents, shootings, and injuries occurring on



Winet

Please turn to page 20

## Immigration finalists (continued)

of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. Former board of directors for the San Diego French-American Chamber of Commerce.

Frequent presenter, lecturer and content contributor for the following professional organizations: Connect newsletter; WINGs, May 2013; Association of Corporate Counsel, San Diego Chapter; SoCal Global H.R.; 20th Annual AILA California Chapters Conference; AILA 2007 Spring Fundamentals of Immigration Law Conference; AILA's

Conference, "The Essentials of Immigration Law for Paralegals, Legal Assistants, and Law Office Staff"; State Bar of California, international law section; San Diego County Bar Association; Sterling Education Services.

**Personal Affiliations**  
I continue to provide pro bono services for Casa Cornelia Law Center in support of their Violence Against Women Act and U Visa programs, and in the past year I have assisted the nonprofit organization, in conjunction with other

attorneys from our San Diego office, with DACA cases and the legal screening and analysis for their unaccompanied minor children program.

**Personal Background**  
I was born in France and immigrated to the United States with my family in the 1980s. I am a dual United States and French citizen, and am fluent in French and Spanish. I enjoy spending time with my family, cheering and supporting my three active boys in their numerous sporting events.

## Kennedy & Souza APC

**Kennedy & Souza APC** (K&S) is a full-service civil litigation law firm whose attorneys have decades of experience in a broad spectrum of practice areas, including construction, product liability, general civil litigation (contracts and torts), business transactions, business litigation, real estate, workers' compensation, corporate counseling, professional liability, employment, family law matters, and estate planning (trusts, wills and estates). Thus, while K&S originated as an insurance defense firm, it has grown far beyond its origins, although it is proud to have maintained a strong commitment to insurance carriers and their insureds with offices in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Orange County and San Diego.

Our commitment to insurance carriers and their insureds has been recognized and applauded by some of the nation's largest insurance companies. Following a recent periodic audit conducted by one of the largest insurance carriers involved in construction defect litigation, the audit team concluded, "The local knowledge of [K&S] and its familiarity with the issues allow [K&S] to go

right after what is needed without becoming bogged down in pointless discovery." K&S was praised by another insurance carrier as "setting the bar for other panel counsel by consistently getting right to the heart of the matter without engaging in activities either not calculated or poorly calculated to lead to the optimal result."

Obtaining optimal results is the ultimate goal of K&S that applies across all of our practice areas. Determining what the "optimal result" is comes about as a result of working closely with our clients to identify their goals, their priorities, their budgets, and their tolerance for risk. We work closely with our clients to understand what is appropriate and to formulate a strategy to achieve that goal. Once we have identified a "game plan," we work zealously to execute the identified strategy, remembering to keep our clients involved so the strategy can be modified if circumstances require a change of course. This approach and our enthusiasm for achieving our client's goals have provided us and our clients with an unparalleled track record for excellent results.

Submitted by Kennedy & Souza APC.

## Intellectual Property Litigation finalists

### Justin Barnes

*Fish & Richardson PC*

#### Law School UCLA School of Law Major Cases

Justin Barnes was one of the lead authors on briefing for the largest JMOL victory ever, fully reversing a \$1,538,000,000 verdict against Microsoft in the



Barnes

He was counsel for Micro-

Southern District of California. He also wrote the appeal brief, where the Federal Circuit affirmed the JMOL ruling.

soft in a case involving MPEG-2 video technology in the Southern District, where the jury found the plaintiff's patent not infringed, invalid, and unenforceable.

He was counsel for LG and Apple in a complete trial victory against Multimedia Patent Trust — again in the Southern District — and argued the appeal for LG at the Federal Circuit in 2014

(which summarily affirmed). He successfully argued for summary judgment of non-infringement for LG in a follow-on suit, and drafted the appeal briefing as well (which was also summarily affirmed).

#### Professional Background

Barnes is a trial and appellate attorney focusing on high-stakes patent litigation. He has served as trial counsel

at over half a dozen trials, has authored numerous briefs as well as argued before the Federal Circuit, and has also been counsel for multiple briefs to the Supreme Court, both in certiorari petitions and in amicus briefing. He has been recognized in the National Law Journal's "Appellate Hot List" multiple times.

Barnes has experience spanning a wide range of technolo-

gies, including MPEG audio and video compression standards, digital and analog circuitry, digital signal processing, e-commerce, enterprise software, and other complex technologies.

Barnes is also one of the leading attorneys in the country regarding patent damages. He has extensive case

*Please turn to page 21*

## Insurance finalists (continued)

school district campuses.

#### Professional Background

Have represented major insurance companies, school districts and businesses involving personal injury and

employment cases. Often brought into trial involving major injury, death cases.

#### Professional Affiliations

Member of ABOTA for more than 20 years. I am a master

in the Fiorenzo Lopardo Inns of Court; member of San Diego Defense Lawyers; North County Bar Association; named North County Bar Association Attorney of the Year for 2014.

#### Personal Affiliations

Support Humane Society, Father Wasson's Haitian Orphanage, Presbyterian Church.

#### Personal Background

Graduated summa cum laude on a full golf scholarship from college. Enjoy golf, the beach, family and the law (not necessarily in that order).

• • •

### Jack B. Winters, Jr.

*Winters & Associates*

#### Law School University of San Diego School of Law

#### Major Cases

Each case is major when your clients find themselves in a dispute with a multibillion-dollar insurance company. Over the last 36 years, I have handled more than

1,000 cases and tried to verdict more than 75 jury trials involving virtually every kind of civil dispute. In the field of insurance, my major

cases include a \$12 million bad-faith verdict, a \$6 million bad-faith verdict, and multiple other seven-figure results. Representing the interests of consumers, I have been involved in resolution by way of settlement and judgment, amounts collectively exceeding \$100 million in recoveries.

#### Professional Background

My career began as counsel for dozens of major insurance companies. Between 1978 and 1984, as an associate and then a partner in one of San Diego's premier defense firms, I gained invaluable experience in all forms of civil disputes, as well as a unique insight as to how and why insurance companies do what they do. In 1984, I was instrumental in creating the San Diego Defense Lawyers. The same year, I formed my own firm. My practice soon shifted to representing the interests of policyholders, both individuals and businesses. Since the 1990s, I have litigated insurance disputes in state and federal court, including extensive appellate work in California courts of appeals and in the federal Ninth Circuit. Our representation does not end until the dispute is truly finally resolved.

Today, Winters & Associates continues to specialize in representing policyholders in disputes involving all forms of insurance, including homeowners, business, life, long-term disability and professional liability. The firm also represents clients in disputes with insurance agents and brokers. Finally, the firm provides behind-the-scenes guidance for other professionals on how best to maximize recoveries and deal with the insurance industry in all situations.

#### Professional Affiliations

San Diego County Bar; Consumers Attorney of San Diego.

#### Personal Affiliations

Member, SGI-USA.

#### Personal Background

My father was a Marine aviator trained on North Island in 1941. As a child, I lived throughout the United States. Arriving in San Diego in 1975 to attend law school, I quickly appreciated the wonderment that is San Diego. Now residing part-time in the East Village and the rest of the time in the hills of Jamul, the world's greatest little community, I enjoy the best of San Diego. I am the proud parent of two great children, appreciate a loving wife, and relish the benefits of living in the world's greatest city. What a country!



Winters

# IT'S YOUR TURN.

Your determination and drive enables you to create more opportunities for your clients and firm.

TORREY PINES BANK CONGRATULATES  
2015 TOP ATTORNEYS



TORREY PINES BANK

A division of Western Alliance Bank. Member FDIC.

858.523.4600 | TORREYPINESBANK.COM | JURIS BANKING

## Intellectual Property Litigation finalists (continued)

experience on damages topics, including multiple successful Daubert motions and multiple successful JMOL motions overturning substantial jury verdicts. He has also spoken at numerous conferences and CLEs regarding changes in patent damages, and is co-author of one of the leading blogs covering developments in damages law.

### Professional Affiliations.

National Institute for Trial Advocacy – faculty member.

### Personal Background

Barnes and his wife, Crystal, have been married 15 years and traveled extensively, visiting more 30 countries across all seven continents. He has climbed Krakatoa and Mount Kilimanjaro, been charged by a Komodo dragon and a hippopotamus (not at the same time), dived with dozens of sharks, dodged tree branches thrown at him by an orangutan, hang-glided over Rio de Janeiro and been assaulted by a mountain gorilla. When not traveling, he and Crystal live in Vista with their four bulldogs.

• • •

### Matthew Cook Bernstein Perkins Coie LLP

#### Law School

George Washington University

#### Major Cases

I am a patent litigator, trial attorney, and an IP counselor who represents technology companies throughout the country. My clients are in a variety of industries, including computer software and hardware, mobile devices, e-commerce, electronics, online media, medical devices, and automotive systems. I have represented some of the largest companies in the world, but also represent several small startups and medium-size companies.

Major litigation victories include successfully defending a software company in the second largest patent infringement case in history, successfully defending a handset manufacturer in its first trial at the International Trade Commission, and two cases where I obtained jury verdicts of infringement, validity, willful infringement and damages (and subsequently obtained attorneys' fees and permanent injunctions). Recently, I also obtained a stipulated judgment of noninfringement for my two streaming media clients in the District of Delaware, the result of successfully arguing at a claim construction hearing. I also recently obtained a dismissal with prejudice of all patent claims asserted against my golf club manufacturer client in the Eastern District of Texas, without my client paying anything to the plaintiff. I also litigate trademark, trade dress, trade secret and copyright cases, and advise technology companies on non-litigation intellectual property matters. I counsel clients on patent monetization issues, assisting those companies in determining the best strategy for getting the most from their intellectual property.

### Professional Background

I am office managing partner of Perkins Coie, San Diego.

### Professional Affiliations

I am a member of the San Diego County Bar Association and American Bar Association.

• • •

### Juanita Brooks Fish & Richardson PC

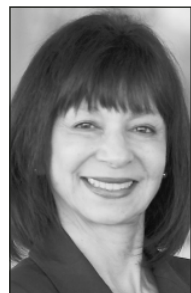
#### Law School

Yale

#### Major Cases

2014 — *Allergan Inc. v. Sandoz Inc. et al*

Juanita Brooks maintained patent protection for Allergan over its glaucoma drug Combigan, which has \$200 million in annual sales. The District Court for the



Brooks

Eastern District of Texas found Allergan's claims in four patents valid and infringed by copies of Combigan that four generic drug makers, Sandoz, Alcon, Apotex and Watson, sought to market under the Hatch-Waxman Act. The Federal Circuit agreed in a precedential opinion that one key patent was valid and infringed. That patent will prevent the generics companies from selling their own version of the drug until 2022.

2014 — *Allergan, Inc. v. Sandoz Inc., Lupin Ltd., et al*

Brooks won this important Hatch-Waxman case for Allergan that blocks competitors from selling a generic version of Lumigan 0.01 percent glaucoma treatment until 2027. As part of the ruling, the court permanently enjoined the defendants from the commercial manufacture, use, offer to sell and/or sale of their proposed generic products in, as well as the import of those products into the U.S. or its territories. In May of 2015, Brooks argued before the Federal Circuit on behalf of Allergan opposing the defendants' appeal.

2013 — *Fresenius USA, Inc. et al v. Baxter International et al*

This appellate decision was heralded for clarifying the long-standing question of whether an Article III court — the Federal Circuit — will give effect to an invalidity determination initiated by an administrative agency — the Patent Office. After 10 years, two trials, three Federal Circuit appeals and a re-examination at the USPTO, Brooks' client Fresenius was freed of \$120 million in liability.

### Professional Background

Brooks is a principal in Fish & Richardson's Southern California office. She has a nationwide trial practice, specializing in complex patent and intellectual property litigation. Brooks assisted in drafting and subsequently updating the local patent rules for the Southern District of California.

Brooks' litigation experience includes numerous cases involving intellectual property, product liability and qui tam litigation. She was a trial attorney with the Federal Defenders of San Diego Inc. from 1977 to 1980 and then became the first Hispanic woman in private practice in San Diego.

In 2014 she was named a "Litigator of the Year" by American Lawyer. She was also recognized by clients and peers as one of Benchmark's 2014 "Top 250 Women in Litigation," named "Star Attorney" in the IP section of the 2014 LMG Life Sciences North America and named to the 2014 BTI Client Service All-Star list for being "a step ahead of the competition" and providing exceptional client service. In 2009, she was named to the Minority Corporate Counsel Association's national list of "Leading Law Firm Rainmakers." MCCA chose just 14 attorneys for this honor, and Brooks is one of four women on the list. She has been listed in Best Lawyers in America since 1987.

### Professional Affiliations

Founding member, Wallace Inn of Court (2005 to present); board member and pro bono counsel, Western Center on Law & Poverty (2005 to 2013).

### Personal Background

Brooks grew up in Sunnymead, California, a small farming community, where she lived with her single mother and sister. To make ends meet, Brooks' fam-

ily took in laundry and ran a home-based daycare center. She entered Yale Law School at age 20. She is the mother of two grown children and lives in La Jolla.

• • •

### William J. Caldarelli Caldarelli Hejmanowski Page & Leer LLP

#### Law School

Boalt Hall School of Law

#### Major Cases

- Successfully represented software development company in breach of licensing agreement/ trade secret misappropriation prosecution against an international hotel company.

- Successfully represented patent holder in various patent enforcement actions.

- Successfully represented elderly widow in a pro bono matter regarding control and possession of her sole income-producing asset.

- Successfully represented developers in multiple specific performance disputes to enforce real estate purchase agreements.

- Successfully represented developer of a \$200 million hotel construction project in dispute over project financing procurement.

- Successfully represented pension plan in breach of fiduciary duty action against former trustees.

- Successfully represented intellectual property licensor against licensee in dispute over royalty agreement rights.

### Professional Background

Attended college at UC Irvine with one year at University of Sussex in Falmer, England, on an education abroad program. Attended Law School at Boalt Hall, spending third year at Harvard Law School. Law clerk for the late Hon. Edward J. Schwartz in the



Caldarelli

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. Practiced business and real estate litigation in San Diego since 1990.

### Professional Affiliations

- Past president of the San Diego Chapter of the Federal Bar Association; past chairman of the Executive Committee of the Litigation Section of the California State Bar; served as the chairman of the Litigation Section's annual Trial Symposium; served as a director on the Board of Governors of the San Diego Chapter of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers; master, Louis Welsh and Wallace Chapters of the American Inns of

Court; NITA faculty member.

### Personal Background

Born in Flushing, N.Y. Grew up in Northern California outside of San Francisco. Enjoys tennis, skiing, mountain bike riding and camping. Active in a number of professional organizations and community groups.

• • •

### Roger Alen Denning Fish & Richardson PC

#### Law School

University of Chicago

#### Professional Background

Roger Denning is a trial lawyer specializing in patent



Denning

infringement cases across a broad range of technologies. As lead counsel, Denning has successfully represented some of the world's best-known companies in their most important patent cases, both as patent holders and accused infringers. In addition to trying over a dozen cases to jury verdict throughout the country — particularly in the

Please turn to page 22

HAHN LOESER & PARKS LLP



Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP  
congratulates partner

**Danielle C.  
Humphries**

on her recognition as a  
Top Attorney in  
Estate Planning/Probate  
& Trust/Tax.

HAHN  LOESER  
attorneys at law

[hahnlaw.com](http://hahnlaw.com)

One America Plaza 600 West Broadway, Suite 1500 San Diego, CA 619.810.4300  
San Diego Cleveland Columbus Akron Naples Fort Myers Indianapolis Chicago



# Congratulations Vince

on your induction into the  
INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY  
OF TRIAL LAWYERS™

Your partners  
John F. McGuire, Jr.  
Kevin F. Quinn  
Karen R. Frostrom  
Ian Fusselman  
Brett J. Schreiber

Thorsnes  
Bartolotta  
McGuire

2550 5th Avenue  
11th Floor  
San Diego, CA 92103  
Voice 619/236-9363  
Fax 619/236-9653  
Toll-free 800/577-2922  
[www.tbmlawyers.com](http://www.tbmlawyers.com)

Over a billion dollars in  
verdicts and settlements

© Copyright TBM 2015



Vincent J. Bartolotta, Jr.

## Intellectual Property Litigation finalists (continued)

patent-heavy dockets in California, Texas, and Delaware — he also has tried many cases to the bench, including Hatch-Waxman cases and Section 337 cases before the International Trade Commission.

Denning also has advised clients in *inter partes* review proceedings in the Patent and Trademark Office. An engineer by training, he has experience in a wide variety of technologies, including medical devices, pharmaceuticals, computer software, semiconductors, network interfaces, encryption and security, satellite communications, and golf ball design. In addition, Denning has tried to verdict a number of general commercial cases, including in the areas of unfair competition, product liability and False Claims Act.

Denning joined Fish & Richardson in 2003, after beginning his career with Brown & Bain in Phoenix. He has been the Managing Principal of Fish & Richardson's Southern California office since 2009, he served as the firm's nationwide hiring principal from 2008 to 2014, and he was elected to the firm's seven-member management committee in 2013, a position in which he still serves.

#### Professional Affiliations

Denning frequently lectures on topics relating to intellectual property law and trial practice. He is a Master in the Clifford Wallace Inn of Court and a member of the San Diego Intellectual Property Association.

#### Personal Background

Denning was born and raised in rural Kansas, where he met his wife, Michele. They have been married for 20 years and have three children.

**Bruce Greenhaus**  
*Greenhaus*  
& *Pendergrass LLP*

• • •

**Stephen Korniczky**  
*Sheppard Mullin*  
*Richter & Hampton LLP*

**Law School**  
State University of New York at Buffalo - School of Law

#### Major Cases

Stephen Korniczky was lead counsel for Defendants HTC Corporation and HTC America Inc. in a two-patent infringement action brought by Intellect Wireless in the Northern District of Illinois. At trial, the Honorable William T. Hart ruled that Intellect Wireless had engaged in

**Korniczky**

inequitable conduct before the Patent Office rendering the patents unenforceable. The decision was upheld on appeal to the Federal Circuit and, subsequently, the case was found to be exceptional. Intellect Wireless and its litigation counsel were held jointly and severally liable for HTC's attorney fees and costs. The patents covered wireless portable communication devices that receive and display caller ID information, non-facsimile pictures, video messages and/or Multimedia Messaging Service.

Korniczky was also lead counsel for Defendants HTC Corporation, HTC America and Exede Inc. (collectively "HTC") in a patent infringement action brought by Wi-LAN Inc. in the Eastern District of Texas. Wi-LAN alleged

that HTC infringed its standard essential patent (SEP) covering the 3GPP HSDPA mobile phone standard. After a six day trial, the jury awarded a complete defense victory finding that HTC did not infringe the asserted patent, and that the patent claims are invalid based on anticipation and/or obviousness.

In addition, Korniczky was lead counsel for Defendants, Samsung SDI Co. Ltd. and Samsung SDI America Inc., in a patent infringement action brought by Honeywell International Inc. in the District of Delaware. On the eve of trial, he successfully invalidated the patent-in-suit which related to LCD backlighting technology when the Honorable Joseph J. Farnan granted the motion for summary judgment of invalidity filed by Korniczky on behalf of his clients. The decision was subsequently upheld on appeal to the Federal Circuit.

#### Professional Background

Korniczky is a partner in the firm's intellectual property practice, with more than 100 IP attorneys worldwide. Korniczky has been litigating patent and other IP cases for 28 years, except for a two-year term when he served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Giles Sutherland Rich at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington, D.C. In January of this year, *AmLaw Daily* named him Litigator of the Week for his victory against Intellect Wireless, and in June the *Daily Journal* named him one of the Top IP Litigators in California.

#### Professional Affiliations

Korniczky is a Fellow in the Litigation Counsel of America and is a former president and board member for the San Diego Intellectual Property Law Association. He is listed in Chambers and has been honored as one of the "Best Lawyers in America," "Top

30 IP Attorneys in California" and "Southern California Super Lawyers."

#### Personal Background

Korniczky comes from a family of patent lawyers and martial artists. He holds black belt degrees in judo and vee jitsu. Korniczky was also inducted into his alma matter, Polytechnic University's Athletic Hall of Fame, where he captained the university's judo and wrestling teams.

• • •

**Michael Thomas Lane**  
*Lewis Kohn*  
& *Walker LLP*

**Law School**  
University of San Diego School of Law

#### Major Cases

At Lewis Kohn, I have been incredibly fortunate to assist a wide variety of clients with their intellectual property and business litigation needs. Alongside my partners who come from diverse technical back-



**Lane**

grounds, I have prosecuted simple infringement claims for large companies and defended small companies against complex misappropriation claims across multiple venues.

#### Professional Background

After graduating from USD, I started my legal career working for a real estate developer headquartered in Southern California. When I moved to private practice, my focus on real property shifted to intellectual property. In that process, I found that my background in real property served me well when litigating intellectual property matters as

both disciplines share many of the same core concepts.

#### Personal Background

I went to college and law school in San Diego where my wife and I met waiting tables at the Chart House in Downtown. My wife teaches nutritional science at SDSU now in the same classrooms where we studied together 20 years ago. We have three young sons and live in Mission Hills.

• • •

**Jonathan Muenkel**  
*Torrey Pines Law Group*

**Law School**  
University of Richmond School of Law

#### Major Cases

While working at large law firms in London and New York, Jonathan Muenkel was involved in a number of complex patent litigations, including one that resulted in a successful summary judgment ruling upheld on appeal, and that further developed U.S. patent law. One of Muenkel's most meaningful cases did not involve intellectual property law at all, but rather was a matter brought under the Hague Convention Treaty on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, in which he obtained a favorable Federal Court judgment reuniting his British client with her two young boys wrongfully held in the United States.

#### Professional Background

Muenkel has been practicing Intellectual Property Law for more than 15 years, with an initial focus on IP litigation. In 2013, he moved to San Diego to work in-house with Life Technologies as IP counsel, prior to their acquisition by Thermo Fisher Scientific. In 2014, Muenkel co-founded Torrey Pines Law Group, a firm focused on providing legal services in all areas of intellectual prop-

erty, including IP strategy and development, IP transactions and licensing, and IP litigation and dispute resolution. Muenkel has built up his practice, and now represents multiple clients in a variety of industries on IP and non-IP matters.

#### Professional Affiliations

Muenkel has been active in the American Bar Association IP Section's leadership for many years. In August 2015, he will act as chairman of the Section's Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution Division. He is also an active member of the North County Bar Association, the Southern District of California Pro Bono Panel, and a volunteer attorney for the Casa Cornelia Law Center, which deals with asylum and immigration matters.

#### Personal Affiliations

Muenkel has a love for dogs and has spent time volunteering with local animal shelters, and for six years with a program in New York City called Puppies Behind Bars that raises service dogs for wounded war veterans.

#### Personal Background

When not practicing law, Muenkel enjoys traveling, staying healthy and active, and is particularly interested in triathlons. Upon starting Torrey Pines Law Group, he sought to merge this passion with his profession, and routinely assists clients who operate in San Diego's sports and active lifestyle and action sports industries.

• • •

Please turn to page 23

SAN DIEGO



focused on

## LABOR and EMPLOYMENT LAW

Ogletree Deakins is a premier labor and employment law firm representing management in a wide range of employment-related legal matters, including discrimination, harassment, wage and hour issues, noncompetition agreements, class actions, employee benefits, workplace safety, and immigration. The firm has more than 700 lawyers located in 47 offices across the United States, in Europe, and in Mexico.

San Diego Office  
4370 La Jolla Village Drive  
Suite 990  
San Diego, CA 92122  
(858) 652-3100

Ogletree  
Deakins



www.ogletreedeakins.com

## Intellectual Property Transactional finalists

### Bing Ai

Perkins Coie LLP

#### Law School

University of San Diego School of Law

#### Professional Background

Dr. Bing Ai is a partner at Perkins Coie LLP, a full-service law firm operating for more than 100 years with more than 1,000 lawyers in its 19 offices. He has been practicing patent law in San Diego for 19 years and was one of the founding members of Perkins Coie's San Diego Office. Ai is listed as "The World's Leading Patent Practitioners" in 2015 by *Intellectual Asset Management*, and "Top Attorneys in the PTAB" in the U.S. patent litigation report of "Year In Review 2014" by *Docket Navigator*. Ai was also a Top Attorney (Intellectual Property Transactional) by *The Daily Transcript*, 2009-13, and San Diego Top Attorney Emeritus in 2014.

A physicist by training, Ai conducted research in laser physics, nonlinear optics and atomic spectroscopy before entering patent practice and published research articles in various scientific journals such as *Nature*, *Optics Letters* and *Applied Physics Letters*. Ai's

practice in patent law emphasizes patent prosecution and counseling in U.S. and foreign jurisdictions, patent strategy, patent portfolio management, freedom to operate analyses, patent validity and infringement issues, patent litigation, and patent due diligence for corporate financing, investments, mergers and acquisitions.

One particular area of Ai's patent practice is patent post-grant trial proceedings before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office under 2011 Leahy-Smith America Invents Act. His PTAB trial practice covers *inter partes* review (IPR), post-grant review (PGR) and covered business method (CBM) patent review. Ai is the named lead counsel or backup counsel in more than 45 IPR and CBM trial proceedings. He also handles patent re-examination, reissue and supplemental examination proceedings.

Ai has extensive experience in advising technology com-

panies ranging from multinational corporations to startups, and has an active practice in representing universities and research institutes. Ai advises clients on global patent protection. Well versed in technology laws and regulations in China, Ai assists clients on patent issues and other technology-related legal issues in China, including patent litigations in China. Ai is a frequent speaker at seminars and lectures on U.S. and international patent issues.

Ai advises technology companies in a wide range of technology fields: analog and digital electronics, semiconductors, wireless devices and technologies, telecommunications, optical communication technologies including optical fiber networks and free-space optical communications, digital TV systems, microprocessor designs, computer hardware, data storage and memory materials and devices including spin torque transfer MRAM chip designs, software, Internet-based technologies, optics (including optical interferometers, adaptive optics, lens designs and optical holography), light sources (including LED lighting devices, solid-state lasers, semiconductor lasers and gas

lasers), optic fiber devices, integrated photonic devices including silicon photonics chips and devices, imaging sensors such as CMOS and CCD sensors, energy-related technologies (including wind power generators, solar panels, fuel cells, batteries and nuclear power systems), navigation and positioning technologies including GPS devices and GPS data processing, radars, RF antenna designs including metamaterial antennas, display technologies (including touch sensing screens and panels, LCD panels, large format displays and projectors), medical imaging technologies (including X-ray imaging, optical coherent tomography, magnetic resonance imaging and ultrasound imaging), surgical instrumentation including ophthalmic laser surgery systems and automated surgical tools, radiation therapeutic devices based on X-ray, microwave and optical radiation including imaging-guided radiation therapeutic devices and techniques, medical diagnostic technologies, biochemical sensors, micromachines such as MEMS devices, nanotechnology, robotics, metal alloys and composite materials.

matters. Branfman & Associates became Branfman Law Group PC in 2008.

#### Professional Affiliations

Branfman was chairman of the board of the San Diego Film Commission from 1998-2000 and was a member of the board of directors from 1998-2007. He was legal chair of the Pacific Southwest Chapter of the National Television Academy for approximately two decades and is a member of the State Bar of California's Intellectual Property Section. He has lectured on entertainment, intellectual property and Internet Law at Thomas Jefferson School of Law and on intellectual property and business law at Mira Costa College and The San Diego Career Center.

• • •

### James F. Herkenhoff

Knobbe Martens  
Olson & Bear LLP

#### Law School

Loyola Law School

#### Major Cases

James Herkenhoff represents clients in diverse technology areas and in varied stages, from startup companies to Fortune 500 companies. Herkenhoff has developed patent portfolios and completed related due diligence and agreement work that has helped several clients achieve significant business goals. Herkenhoff has completed due diligence projects in such fields as endovascular products including catheter securement, atherectomy devices, and balloon catheters, intraosseous vascular access devices, biopsy devices, medical temperature management systems, sporting goods, and product dispenser machines. Patents drafted by Herkenhoff have been licensed for more than \$100 million.

#### Professional Background

James Herkenhoff is a registered patent attorney and partner in Knobbe Martens' San Diego office. Herkenhoff has more than 10 years of engineering experience at Rockwell International and The Boeing Company. At Rockwell International, he performed design and structural analysis, and fabrication support for complex rocket engine systems. Herkenhoff built upon this experience as a senior engineer at The Boeing Company, per-

forming engine failure analysis for the Space Shuttle's rocket engine program.



Herkenhoff

received the distinguished Space Flight Awareness Honoree Award from NASA. This award is one of the highest presented by NASA in the industry.

#### Professional Affiliations

Herkenhoff is a member of the American Intellectual Property Law Association, the San Diego Intellectual Property Law Association, the San Diego County Bar Association, and St. Thomas More Law Honor Society.

#### Personal Background

Herkenhoff was born and raised in California. While in undergraduate school, he was part of a team that built a human-powered submarine which competed in the 1st International Submarine Race held in Florida. He enjoys tennis, soccer and camping. He lives with his wife and two children in Carmel Valley.

• • •

### John Kim

IP Legal Advisors PC

#### Law School

Santa Clara University School of Law

#### Major Cases

*Salon Supply v. Revlon/CND* - representing plaintiff in a case where the seminal issue is the genericness of the word "shellac" for nail polish which could decimate Revlon's rights in one of its most important brands.

Currently handling the worldwide trademark portfolio for Airbnb, the world's largest temporary accommodations company.

Also handling trademark prosecution and enforcement for the Internet's largest social gaming company, Zynga. Handling the world-



Kim

est social gaming company, Zynga. Handling the world-

Please turn to page 25

## Intellectual Property Litigation finalists (continued)

### Anthony Stiegler

Cooley LLP

#### Law School

Tulane University Law School

#### Major Cases

Represent a biotech drug development company in multibillion-dollar oncology drug dispute in arbitration against a global pharmaceutical company. Represented Websense Inc. as lead trial counsel in patent litigation in the U.S. District Court for Delaware brought by Finjan Inc. against McAfee, Symantec, Sophos and Websense. Represented Memjet Inc. in multihundred-million-dollar multinational contract and fraud disputes against Silverbrook Research Pty., in London; Dublin; Tulsa, Okla.; and Sydney. Represented the ACLU in pro bono cases challenging the constitutionality of immigration practices and the provision of medical care and housing conditions at detention facilities.

#### Professional Affiliations

Anthony Stiegler is a partner in the Cooley LLP litigation department, specializing in complex technology, life science and intellectual property matters, including patents, copyrights, trademarks and trade secrets.

He has tried cases across many subjects, for plaintiffs and defendants, including life sciences, communications, computer software, firmware and hardware, retail consumer products, insurance, property and others. He is a veteran first chair trial lawyer, in jury and non-jury cases, and in arbitration matters. His verdicts, awards and settlements include many multimillion-dollar results and he has defense cases where

claimed damages exceeded hundreds of millions of dollars.

#### Personal Affiliations

Stiegler served as the president of the Legal Aid Society of San Diego and has been on its Board of Directors since 2004. He is also a former two time member of the Board of Governors of the San Diego chapter of the American Business Trial Association Lawyers. Stiegler is also a former board member of the Federal Bar Association (1993-96), and has further served in various children's oriented community service and charitable organizations and projects through the YMCA and Francis Parker School. Stiegler co-chaired Cooley's national Pro Bono Committee for eight years and was chairman of Cooley's San Diego Pro Bono practice. He has served in various other roles at Cooley, including five years on the firm's Risk Management Committee.



Stiegler

### David Branfman

Branfman Law Group PC

#### Law School

University of San Diego

#### Professional Background

David Branfman has been practicing law in San Diego County for more than 30 years. His practice focuses on intellectual property and entertainment law, including trademarks, copyrights, e-commerce, trade secrets, computer law, licensing, motion pictures and music.

After a five-year association with the intellectual property law firm of Charmasson & Holz, Branfman joined Gary Martin to form Martin & Branfman and in early 1994 formed Branfman & Associates to focus on intellectual property and entertainment



Branfman

## Standard of review in Inter Partes Review proceedings

This month, the Federal Circuit denied a petition for rehearing *en banc* of its decisions in *In re Cuozzo Speed Technologies LLC*. In *In re Cuozzo*, the Federal Circuit addressed issues arising in inter parties review (IPR) proceedings, which were established by the America Invents Act.

An IPR is a proceeding in which the validity of patent claims are adjudicated at the U.S. Patent Office by the Patent Trial and Appeal Board. One of the issues decided in *In re Cuozzo* was the proper standard for claim construction in an IPR. At issue was whether the broadest reasonable interpretation (BRI) standard for claim construction applied during prosecution of a patent application should be applied in IPRs, rather than the adjudicatory standard applied in district courts in which claims in a patent are construed based rules of claim construction.

Under the BRI standard, claim terms are given their broadest reasonable interpretation; they are not constrained by ordinary meaning, the specification of the patent nor the prosecution history of the patent. During prosecution, when the patent examiner has no record on which to rely, the BRI is a reasonable starting point to ensure that as prosecution proceeds the claims and their meaning are honed. During prosecution the applicant is free to amend claims and provide arguments for patentability. The specification of the application, the amendments of the claims and arguments, the comments of the Examiner and withdrawal of rejections create

the record upon which claims in a patent are construed.

It is in light of the record and the accepted rules of claim construction that claims are construed in adjudicatory proceedings in district court. In such proceeding, it would not be logical to give the claims the broadest reasonable interpretation; the claims issue in light of the record. The meaning ultimately given to the claims by the applicant and the patent examiner should not be ignored. An IPR, while a proceeding in the Patent Office, is an adjudicatory proceeding. If claims are given their BRI, prosecution essentially begin *de novo*. But during an IPR, the opportunity to amend claims is very limited and rare. The patentee does not have an opportunity to address by amendment prior art that would not be encompassed by the claims or relevant if they were interpreted as in a district court proceeding.

Since an IPR considers validity of issued claims, it would be logical to construe the claims consistent with the record. The majority of the panel in the *In re Cuozzo* decisions, and in the denial of rehearing *en banc*, however, did not agree. They held that the standard for review in IPR proceedings is BRI. Under such standard, claims, which would be valid based on the vetting that occurs during often years of prosecution, are invalidated. Thus, many members of the patent bar as well as the dissent, consider this not to be the appropriate standard. It is now up to the Congress in pending legislation to define the appropriate standard of review in IPRs.

Submitted by Stephanie Seidman, Dentons US LLP.

## David S. Casey Jr., Robert J. Francavilla only San Diego Attorneys Featured on Top 25 Plaintiff Lawyer List

CaseyGerry attorneys continue to rack up the accolades, with partners David S. Casey Jr. and Robert J. Francavilla recognized as among "California's Top 25 Plaintiff Lawyers" by the *Los Angeles Daily Journal* and *San Francisco Daily Journal* — leading California legal publications.

In this inaugural list of the state's top plaintiff lawyers, the *Daily Journal* honored top lawyers bringing single cases and multiparty actions in antitrust, labor and employment, environment, personal injury, privacy and data security, product defect and securities and financial fraud.

"We could have honored more, but in our opinion, these are the ones who consistently force broad change in the law, industry and society. As you read about these men and women, there is a common thread — and it doesn't have dollar signs; they truly care about having an impact," the *Daily Journal* editorial staff said when introducing the honorees, adding that the work these lawyers are doing to hold governments and industry accountable will stand the test of time.

CaseyGerry is one of a handful of the California firms on the list to have two lawyers honored — and Casey Jr. and Francavilla are the only San Diego attorneys featured.

Both Casey and Francavilla are known for taking on high-profile, complex cases — concentrating their practices on serious personal injury and wrongful death cases.

A past president of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, Casey Jr. has spent more than 35 years practicing law in San Diego and has received more than 60 awards throughout his career, including the

"Pursuit of Justice" award from the American Bar Association and a Lifetime Achievement Award from Consumer Watchdog. Additionally, the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego created The David S. Casey Jr. Award — a perpetual award given each year to honor civility, professionalism and integrity in the legal profession. Over the last few years, Casey Jr. has helped obtain dozens of multimillion dollar results for clients in a complex range of cases that relate to aviation, maritime, premises liability, faulty equipment, government tort claims, complex motorcycle accidents, trucking and automobile crashes.

A tenacious litigator, Francavilla has also been involved in numerous high profile cases — including a recent \$5.4 million verdict against the U.S. Government, a case which involved a motorcyclist who was seriously injured in a collision caused by a border patrol agent. Honored by Consumer Attorneys of San Diego with the "Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award" on five occasions, Francavilla has also received numerous professional accolades throughout his career.

Both Casey Jr. and Francavilla have been recognized by the *San Diego Daily Transcript* as Top Attorneys and Top Influentials.

CaseyGerry was established in 1947, and is the oldest plaintiffs' law firm in San Diego. The firm's 15 attorneys practice in numerous areas, including serious personal injury, product liability, pharmaceutical, mass tort and class action litigation. Headquartered at 110 Laurel St. in the Banker's Hill neighborhood of San Diego, the firm also has an office in Carlsbad. For more information, visit [www.caseygerry.com](http://www.caseygerry.com).

Submitted by CaseyGerry.

**ACADEMIC**

William Aceves, *California Western School of Law*  
 Thomas Barton, *California Western School of Law*  
 Justin Brooks, *California Western School of Law*  
 Margaret Dalton, *University of San Diego School of Law*  
 Julia Dunlap, *UCSD Extension*  
 Robert Fellmeth, *University of San Diego School of Law*  
 Julie Greenberg, *Thomas Jefferson School of Law*  
 Lilys McCoy, *Thomas Jefferson School of Law*  
 David McGowan, *University of San Diego School of Law*  
 Michael Ramsey, *University of San Diego School of Law*

**CORPORATE LITIGATION**

Gil Cabrera, *The Cabrera Firm*  
 James Crosby, *Henderson, Caverly, Pum & Charney LLP*  
 Deborah Dixon, *Gomez Trial Attorneys*  
 Thomas Frost, *The Frost Firm*  
 Charles Hoge, *Kirby Noonan Lance & Hoge LLP*  
 Joe Leventhal, *Leventhal Law*  
 Jeff Miyamoto, *Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz*  
 Brian Robbins, *Robbins Arroyo LLP*  
 Will Small, *Small & Schena LLP*  
 Jonah Toleno, *Shustak & Partners PC*

**CORPORATE TRANSACTIONAL**

Nicole Blakely, *Leventhal Law*  
 John Cleary, *Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP*  
 William Eigner, *Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP*  
 Sue Loftin, *The Loftin Firm*  
 Kimberly Simms, *Law Office of Kimberly R. Simms*  
 Bryn Spradling, *Duckor Spradling Metzger & Wynne*  
 Abigail Stephenson, *Blanchard Krasner & French*  
 Michael Umansky, *Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP*  
 Kandace Watson, *Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton*  
 Charles Witham, *Witham, Mahoney & Abbott LLP*

**CRIMINAL**

Jesse Adriance, *Law Office of Jesse Adriance*  
 Isaac Blumberg, *Law Office of Isaac Blumberg*  
 Alara Chilton, *Law Office of Alara T. Chilton*  
 Will Concidine, *Law Offices of Will Concidine*  
 Eric Ganci, *Galente Ganci APC*  
 Daniel Greene, *Law Offices of Kerry L. Armstrong APLC*  
 Samantha Greene, *Sevens Legal*  
 Dana Grimes, *Grimes & Warwick*  
 Wendy Patrick, *San Diego District Attorney*  
 Charles Sevilla, *Law Office of Charles Sevilla*

**ESTATE PLANNING/  
PROBATE & TRUST/TAX**

Olga Alvarez, *Heisner Alvarez APC*  
 Judy Bae, *Miller Monson Peshel Polacek & Hoshaw*  
 Gregory Borawski, *Brierton, Jones & Jones LLP*  
 Danielle Humphries, *Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP*  
 Ariel Javier, *Law Office of Ariel A. Javier APC*  
 Mark Krasner, *Blanchard Krasner & French*  
 Josh Maxwell, *Hone Maxwell LLP*  
 Jennifer McGibbons, *Henderson, Caverly, Pum & Charney LLP*  
 Kris Mukherji, *The Law Office of Kris Mukherji APC*  
 Ronson Shamoun, *RJS Law*

**FAMILY**

Edward Castro, *Law Offices of Beatrice L. Snider*  
 Lesa Christenson, *ABC Family Law*  
 Gordon Cruse, *Gordon D. Cruse APLC*  
 Julia Garwood, *Garwood Family Law & Mediation*  
 Elisa Kisselburg, *Basie & Fritz*  
 Sara Neumann, *Yelman & Associates*  
 Carmen Ramos, *Law Offices of Beatrice L. Snider*  
 Puja Sachdev, *Sachdev Legal Group APC*  
 Janis Stocks, *Stocks & Colburn*  
 Tara Yelman, *Yelman & Associates*

**IMMIGRATION**

Fausta Albi, *Larrabee Albi Coker LLP*  
 Ginger Jacobs, *Jacobs & Schlesinger LLP*  
 Johanna Keamy, *Keamy Tavares & Associates APLC*  
 Tammy Lin, *Jewish Family Service - Prins Asylum Program*  
 Tina Malek, *Rudolph Baker & Associates*  
 Gary Perl, *Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy LLP*  
 Teodora Purcell, *Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy LLP*  
 Monica Sherman Ghiglia, *Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy LLP*  
 Marlene Stanger, *Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy LLP*  
 Karine Wenger, *Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy LLP*

**INSURANCE**

Timothy Earl, *Sullivan Hill Lewin Rez & Engel*  
 John McLeod, *McLeod Law Group*  
 Brook Roberts, *Latham & Watkins LLP*  
 Greg Ryan, *Law Offices of Greg J. Ryan*  
 Amy Simonson, *Wingert Grebing Brubaker & Juskie*  
 Scott Sonne, *Law Offices of Scott Sonne*  
 Dan Stanford, *Stanford & Associates*  
 John Walsh, *Walsh McKean Furcolo LLP*  
 Randall Winet, *Winet, Patrick, Gayer, Creighton & Hanes*  
 Jack Winters, *Winters & Associates*

**INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY LITIGATION**

Justin Barnes, *Fish & Richardson*  
 Matthew Bernstein, *Perkins Coie LLP*  
 Juanita Brooks, *Fish & Richardson*  
 William Caldarelli, *Caldarelli Hejmanowski Page Leer LLP*  
 Roger Denning, *Fish & Richardson*  
 Bruce Greenhaus, *Greenhaus & Pendergrass LLP*  
 Stephen Korniczky, *Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP*  
 Michael Lane, *Lewis Kohn & Walker LLP*  
 Jonathan Muenkel, *Torrey Pines Law Group*  
 Anthony Stiegler, *Cooley LLP*

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY  
TRANSACTIONAL**

Bing Ai, *Perkins Coie LLP*  
 David Branfman, *The Law Offices of David Branfman*  
 James Herkenhoff, *Knobbe Martens Olson & Bear LLP*  
 John Kim, *IP Legal Advisors PC*  
 Carl Kukkonen III, *Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC*  
 Lisa Martens, *Fish & Richardson*  
 James Mullen III, *Morrison & Foerster*  
 Andrew Newton, *Qualcomm Inc.*  
 Beni Surpin, *Paul Hastings LLP*  
 Steve Tietsworth, *Greenhaus & Pendergrass*

**LABOR/EMPLOYMENT**

Harvey Berger, *Pope, Berger, Williams & Reynolds LLP*  
 Dave Carothers, *Carothers DiSante & Freudenberger LLP*  
 Cindy Freeland, *Schor & Freeland LLP*  
 Amber Gardina-Quintanilla, *Jackson Lewis PC*  
 Joshua Gruenberg, *Gruenberg Law*  
 Thomas Ingrassia, *Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz*  
 Regina Petty, *Fisher & Phillips LLP*  
 Spencer Skeen, *Ogletree Deakins*  
 Susan Swan, *Gruenberg Law*  
 Claudette Wilson, *Wilson Turner Kosmo LLP*

**MUNICIPAL & GOVERNMENT**

Anne Beaumont, *Perkins Coie LLP*  
 Stephanie Chow, *California Attorney General's Office*  
 Charles Christensen, *Christensen & Spath LLP*  
 Deborah Cumba, *CA Department of Transportation*  
 Mark Cumba, *Office of the Attorney General*  
 Lee Jurewitz, *Jurewitz Law Group*  
 Linh Lam, *San Diego County District Attorney's Office*  
 Kevin Murphy, *Murphy Jones LLP*  
 Amy Roebuck, *California Attorney General's Office*  
 Walter Spath, *Christensen & Spath LLP*

**PERSONAL INJURY/  
PROPERTY DAMAGE**

Vincent Bartolotta, *Thorsnes Bartolotta McGuire*  
 Wendy Behan, *Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield, LLP*  
 Angela Chun, *Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield, LLP*  
 John Gomez, *Gomez Trial Attorneys*  
 Robert Hamparyan, *Law Offices of Robert Hamparyan*  
 Sarah Havens, *Gnau & Tamez Law Group LLP*  
 William Lemkul, *Morris Sullivan & Lemkul LLP*  
 Amy Martel, *Cynthia Chihak & Associates*  
 Jessica Klarer Pride, *The Pride Law Firm*  
 Jayme Simpson, *Simpson Law Group*

**REAL ESTATE &  
CONSTRUCTION LITIGATION**

Sandra Brower, *Higgs Fletcher & Mack LLP*  
 Kurt Campbell, *Klinedinst PC*  
 Kevin Cauley, *Schwartz Semerdjian Cauley & Moot*  
 P. Randolph Finch, *Finch, Thornton & Baird LLP*  
 Jeff Hood, *Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP*  
 Arthur Moreau III, *Klinedinst PC*  
 Bill Naumann, *The Naumann Law Firm*  
 Scott Scheper, *Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek*  
 Elizabeth Smith Chavez, *Smith Chavez Law*  
 James Souza, *Kennedy & Souza*

**REAL ESTATE & CONSTRUCTION  
TRANSACTIONAL**

Amanda Allen, *Aguirre Allen Law*  
 Ariel Bedell, *The Loftin Firm*  
 Robert Bell, *Denton US LLP*  
 Karolina Ericsson, *Gresham Savage Nolan & Tildon*  
 Robert Frances, *Latham & Watkins LLP*  
 Fernando Landa, *Crosbie Gliner Schiffman Southard & Swanson LLP*  
 Michael Maher, *Hecht Solberg Robinson Goldberg & Bagley LLP*  
 Keith R. Solar, *Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney*  
 Martin Togni, *Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP*  
 Eric Young, *Gordon & Rees*

SPONSORED BY





## Intellectual Property Transactional finalists (continued)

wide counterfeiting enforcement for Native Shoes, one of the most popular brands of EVA rubber shoes, and the worldwide prosecution for JDA Software, the largest supply chain management software company.

### Professional Background

Kim is the managing principal of IP Legal Advisors, a law firm that he started 11 years ago with only a handful of clients. Kim now represents clients across a wide variety of industries, including accommodations, computer gaming, clothing and footwear, pharmaceutical, biotechnology, software, hardware, action sports, entertainment, Internet, restaurant, food and beverage, and medical devices.

### Professional Affiliations

Kim is a member of the International Trademark Association and San Diego County Bar Association.

• • •

**Carl A. Kukkonen III**  
*Mintz, Levin,  
Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky  
and Popeo PC*

### Law School

George Washington University

### Professional Background

Carl Kukkonen is a founding partner of Mintz Levin's San Diego office. He is recognized as a leading intellectual property portfolio manager and provides strategic intellectual property counseling, including advice on patent infringement and prosecution of patent applications, U.S. and international trademark counseling and prosecution, branding strategies, trademark and copyright infringement, domain name disputes and licensing. Kukkonen has drafted and prosecuted patents on behalf of entities ranging from individual inventors to large multinationals in diverse technical areas including:



**Kukkonen**

Software/high-technology: enterprise software, Web 2.0 and business methods, cloud computing, big data, mobile phone software and hardware, semiconductors, telecommunications, nanotechnology, optical devices, computer and microchip architecture, signal and image processing;

Medical devices: medication delivery devices, wireless health care, patient monitoring systems, physiological sensors, ophthalmic technologies, bone fixation plates and systems;

Clean technology: process and atmospheric sensors, solar technologies, water and wind turbines, fuel cells, water purification, energy efficiency technologies;

Miscellaneous: aerospace, automotive/transportation, food processing.

While in law school, he served as a legal extern for the Hon. Randall R. Rader, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, as well as for Joseph Biden in connection with the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary. Kukkonen has been recognized on multiple occasions as a Top Attorney in San Diego by his peers. In addition, he serves the local technology community in his capacity as a board member for Connect and CleanTECH San Diego. Kukkonen was named on *San Diego Metropolitan's* 2009 "40 Under 40" list, which honors the region's exceptional business and civic leaders.

• • •

**Lisa Martens**  
*Fish & Richardson PC*

### Law School

DePaul University College of Law

### Major Cases

• *Evolution Fast Foods, LLC et al. v. Evolution Fresh, Inc. and Starbucks Corporation* (2012) — Defended Starbucks in a trademark infringement action involving its use of Evolution Fresh for juice bars brought by Evolution Fast Foods, a San Diego vegan fast food restaurant. Case settled favorably.

• *Cricket Communications Inc. v. ABC Wireless Choice* (2010) — Obtained preliminary injunction for client Cricket in this trademark and false advertising case in the Northern District of Illinois involving the Cricket



**Martens**

trademark in connection with Defendant's cellular stores. Subsequently obtained a permanent injunction and an award of attorneys' fees.

• *Cricket Communications Inc. v. Abid Nazir dba GSM Cellular* (2008-2010) — Obtained preliminary injunction for client Cricket, enjoining defendant's use of the marks Cricket and Krickit in connection with his cellular stores. Subsequently obtained victory on the merits on summary judgment as well as an award of all attorneys' fees expended in the litigation.

• *BBU, Inc. et al. v. Sara Lee Corp., et al.* (2009) — Successfully represented BBU in a trademark infringement and unfair competition action relating to its Sandwich Thins trademark. Obtained a preliminary injunction enjoining Sara Lee's sale of a competing bread product under the Thins mark. Decision affirmed on appeal by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

### Professional Background

Lisa Martens is a principal in the Southern California office of Fish & Richardson PC. Her practice focuses on the protection and enforcement of brands for clients ranging from startups and emerging companies to Fortune 500 corporations. She has particular expertise in the food service, health care, e-commerce, semiconductors, sporting goods and retail clothing industries. Martens counsels clients on a variety of trademark issues, including the development of U.S. and foreign trademark portfolios, global brand strategy, and licensing. She has also successfully handled numerous domain name disputes in the U.S. and worldwide. In addition, Martens regularly provides advice on advertising substantiation and rights of publicity and has successfully litigated false advertising and right of publicity cases in federal court. Martens has substantial experience bringing and defending enforcement and litigation matters before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, the National Advertising Division of the Council of Better Business Bureaus, and in state and federal district courts related to trademarks, copyrights, unfair competition, anti-counterfeiting, and false advertising.

### Professional Affiliations

Member: International Trademark Association (Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee), American Bar Association, California Bar Association, San Diego Intellectual Property Law Association, Athena San Diego (chairwoman, board of directors).

• • •

**James Mullen III**  
*Morrison & Foerster LLP*

### Law School

University of California, Hastings College of Law

### Major Cases

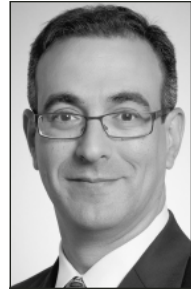
I work for a number of extremely interesting biotech clients, including Agensys Inc. in Santa Monica (oncology),

Derma Sciences in Princeton, N.J., (wound care) and AmpliPhi Biosciences (therapeutic bacteriophage), as well as several San Diego startups.

### Professional Background

I am a partner in the San Diego office of Morrison & Foerster LLP, and a member of the Intellectual Property Practice Group, and office managing partner. I joined the firm in 2003. My practice is centered on getting my clients strong patent protection that will provide a competitive advantage in their markets. I do this by providing strategic patent procurement advice, general counseling on infringement issues and guidance on the intersection of intellectual property law and corporate practice, such as due diligence studies from both the buyer and seller positions. I also provide counseling on interference issues and re-examination proceedings.

Currently, I am privileged to represent clients pursuing inventions in a variety of biotechnology-related areas, including cancer therapeutics and diagnostics, infectious disease therapeutics, small molecule



**Mullen**

screening protocols, and novel nucleic acid and amino acid sequence protection.

Prior to coming to the law, I conducted original research in biochemistry, molecular biology, cell biology and immunology, and I have an abiding interest in virology, especially as it relates to gene therapy and vaccine applications.

### Professional Affiliations

Association of Women in Science, San Diego Intellectual Property Lawyers Association, American Intellectual Property Lawyers Association, American Constitution Society for Law and Policy.

• • •

**Andrew M. Newton**  
*Qualcomm*

### Law School

University of Kansas School of Law

### Professional Background

Newton is patent counsel at Qualcomm Inc., and is responsible for building and managing the domestic and international intellectual property portfolios of Pixtronix Inc. (Andover, Mass.; Japan) and Qualcomm MEMS Technologies (San Jose; Taiwan), two microelectromechanical systems (MEMS)-based display subsidiaries.

Newton's practice includes counseling clients on strategies related to patentability, validity, infringement, detectability and trade secrets. Before joining Qualcomm, Newton practiced intellectual property law at Fish & Richardson (San Diego) as a patent prosecutor and IP litigator. Before law school, Newton was a researcher for the National Science Foundation, specializing in nanotechnology research and its applicability to medical devices.

### Professional Affiliations

Newton serves as the American Intellectual Property Lawyers Association Trade Secret Committee in-house practice chairman. He is also Qualcomm's voting representative for the Intellectual Property Owners Association's Trade Secret Committee. Newton is a member of the Association of Corporate Counsel and the San Diego Intellectual Property Lawyers Association. He is a member of the State Bar of Califor-

nia, and is registered to practice before the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office.

### Personal Affiliations

Newton remains active with the Alpha Tau Omega National Fraternity.

### Personal Background

Newton was born and raised in Kansas City, Kan., is the proud older brother of Jesse and Tyler, and son of Roger and Maureen Newton. An avid sports fan, Newton roots for Kansas City and San Diego-based sports teams. He and his wife, Lorena, are expecting their first child, a boy, in early August.

• • •

**Beni Surpin**  
*Paul Hastings LLP*

### Law School

Cambridge University (Jesus College), U.K.

### Major Cases

Some of Surpin's representative clients have included: AerCap, Amgen, Aviation Corp. of China, Avoya Travel, BBG Communications, Beckman Coulter, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Broadcom, CB Fleet, Clean Energy Fuels, Conexant Systems, Counsel RB Capital, Cybercom, Dart NeuroScience, Edge BioSystems, Entropic Communications, Equus Realty, Flat Fitty, Genomics Institute of the Novartis Research Foundation, Gen-Probe, Helicon Therapeutics, Huawei, Infonics, InfoVista, International Rectifier, Jenny Craig, Life Technologies, Merck, Northrop Grumman Corp., O.N.E. Natural Experience, Organovo, Overload, Plansee, Real Asset Energy Fund, Reef, Rusty International, SAIC, SecurityPoint Media, Snapchat, Sorteio Games, Springs Global, State Compensation Insurance Fund, Taylor Made Golf, Tectoy, Therapeutics Inc., Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians and VF Corporation.

### Professional Background

As a partner at Paul Hastings' San Diego office, where he manages a global technology and commercial transactions practice, Surpin focuses on counseling international and domestic companies in the wireless, telecom, health care, medical devices, life sciences, food and beverage, fashion and apparel, aviation, automotive and high-tech industries on legal and business issues relating to corporate, intellectual property, technology and commercial transactions. Surpin's experience covers a broad spectrum of deals

and structures from licenses, manufacturing, supply, distribution, services, clinical, collaboration, and research and development, to technology acquisitions, formation of joint ventures, and creation of strategic partnerships and alliances.

### Professional Affiliations

Surpin is a member of the American Bar Association, San Diego County Bar Association, Law Society of England and Wales (Member of the Roll), San Diego BIOCUM, CommNexus San Diego, San Diego Venture Group, San Diego World Trade Center, Connect, California-Israel Chamber



**Surpin**

of Commerce, Brazil-California Chamber of Commerce, British-American Business Council and Lawyers Club of San Diego. Surpin has won many recognitions both nationally and internationally for his professional excellence.

### Personal Background

Surpin previously resided in Brazil, Israel and the U.K. As a result, by way of foreign languages, he is fluent in Portuguese, Hebrew and French, and has an excellent understanding of Italian and Spanish.

• • •

**Steven C. Tietsworth**  
*Greenhaus  
& Pendergrass LLP*

### Law School

University of San Diego School of Law

### Major Cases

I am primarily involved in patent prosecution and counseling work, which does not involve litigation.

### Practice Areas

Tietsworth's practice involves intellectual property counseling and prosecution. He works with technology companies to develop IP strategies, analyze inventions, draft and prosecute patent and trademark applications, and enforce IP rights. His work also includes IP diligence reviews for M&A transactions, freedom to operate analysis, cease and desist actions, and working with litigation counsel to assert clients' IP against infringers.

Tietsworth has drafted and prosecuted hundreds of patent applications in the elec-

trical, electronics, software, biomedical, and mechanical arts, and has also filed and prosecuted numerous trademark applications, as well as design patent applications and copyright registrations. In addition to his practice before the USPTO, he works closely with foreign counsel in Europe and Asia to assist clients in obtaining patent and trademark protection abroad.

### Professional Background

Tietsworth has been working in the IP law field since 2003, however, he's been in the tech world since the mid-1980s. Prior to becoming an attorney, he worked as an electronics engineer, and later became an engineering manager and director of product development. He spent more than 10 years working for a U.S. Government R&D lab in San Diego, and then for five years at tech startups, where he worked closely with outside counsel to protect the companies' IP, resulting in several patents as inventor.

After graduating cum laude from the University of San Diego School of Law, he worked on patent and trademark prosecution and IP litigation for the global law firms of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw



**Tietsworth**

Pittman and Cooley Godward Kronish before starting his current IP boutique firm with a former colleague. In addition to

private practice, Tietsworth serves as acting general counsel for DeepSea Power & Light Inc. and SeeScan, Inc.

### Professional Affiliations

Tietsworth is a member of the American Bar Association and the California State Bar intellectual property and business law sections. He is admitted to practice law in California and federal courts, as well as before the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

### Personal Background

Tietsworth is originally from Pennsylvania but moved to California to attend graduate school at UCSD and start a career in the San Diego technology sector, where he's remained ever since. In addition to practicing law, he enjoys photography, and has had his outdoor images published in newspapers, magazines and other publications, as well as boating and water sports. He lives in Point Loma with his wife and two teenage daughters.

## Empowering law's next generation

How San Francisco Law School is making legal education accessible

During the depths of our economic recession, at a time when the legal sector, like so many others, experienced turbulent upheaval, many questions were asked about the value of a legal education. While much of the legal community focused upon the lack of jobs available for law school graduates at many of the sector's largest firms, often overlooked was the enormous number of students whose goals were not necessarily to become board room power brokers, but rather to affect real and positive change right in their own local communities.

Enter the San Diego campus extension of **San Francisco Law School**, the oldest evening law school in California. What has made San Francisco Law School, with now both its San Diego and San Francisco locations, so unique is its deep roots in public service, which has served as a guiding principal for its graduates since its founding. Its alumni include such luminaries such as former Gov. Pat Brown and former California State Assembly Speaker Leo McCarthy.

The San Diego campus of San Francisco Law School continues this tradition by seeking to provide legal education to communities often overlooked and undervalued by larger law schools. For the residents of these communities, the lack of access to affordable legal advice and advocacy can often act as obstacles to starting a small business, purchasing a first home, or finding the justice

they deserve.

"We have always understood that our programs do not just empower students. Equally, we are empowering communities that are in desperate need of professional legal skill," said San Francisco Law School Dean Jane Gamp. "With our decision to expand our presence to our Alliant campus in San Diego, we are advancing our vision for the legal community by addressing the need for qualified lawyers interested in serving historically underserved communities."

Although relatively new to the region, the San Diego campus of San Francisco Law School is attracting students through its doors and is optimistic that the school and its unique focus is beginning to get serious traction.

"As we expected, it has been challenging to attract students to what they perceive as a new law school, but we have used that as an opportunity to build strong personal relationships with prospects and really outline our unique vision," said George Dezes, director of the school's San Diego campus. "This grassroots approach has attracted a core group of students that are committed to growing as part of our program and bringing their legal skills back to their communities to help families and make lasting positive change."

With such a high level of need in the region, the school sees huge potential growth opportunity. Over the next several years, the school aims to further strengthen its relationship within the region as a whole and, in particular, the underserved communities in and around San Diego where affordable legal advice is most needed.

Submitted by Jane Gamp, dean of San Francisco Law School.

## Labor & Employment finalists

### Harvey C. Berger

Pope, Berger, Williams  
& Reynolds LLP

#### Law School

University of San Diego School of Law

#### Major Cases

The cases I am most proud of are multimillion dollar class actions and small single plaintiff claims for minimum wage violations. Defending employers, big and small, from frivolous cases is almost as rewarding.

#### Professional Background

For 30 years I have represented individuals, insurance companies, small businesses and billion-dollar corporations in all aspects of civil litigation. My specialty is employment law, both representing employees, and defending employers, in lawsuits, class actions, mediations, arbitrations and labor commissioner hearings. I have lectured to statewide attorney organizations, as well as to businesses throughout the Southern California area on wage and hour issues, sexual harassment and management issues. I privately arbitrate and mediate cases upon request.

**Professional Affiliations**  
• Formerly on the wage and hour committee of California Employment Lawyers Association (CELA) and chair of its Bench-Bar Committee.  
• I have been on the board of directors of the Lawyer Referral & Information Service (LRIS) from 2009 to 2011, and am its chair.  
• Member of the following: State Bar of California, American Bar Association, San Diego County Bar Association, CELA, National Employment Lawyers Association, Association of Trial Lawyers of America, Society for Human Resource Management, San Diego Defense Lawyers Association, Consumer Attorneys of San Diego and Lawyers Club of San Diego.

• Arbitrator: American Arbitration Association  
• Board of directors, San Diego Food Bank

I am a volunteer for the San Diego County Bar Association Servicemember's Civil Relief Act committee, appearing pro bono for active duty military service members who are sued in court.

**Personal Affiliations**  
The closest personal affiliation would be to my wife, Attorney Janice F. Mulligan, who practices medical malpractice.

### Dave Carothers

Carothers DiSante  
& Freudenberg LLP

#### Law School

University of Southern California Law Center

#### Major Cases

Dave Carothers is currently defending a national quick-service chain in two trials on cases alleging race discrimination.

#### Professional Background

Carothers brings his untiring passion and focus to the courtroom when defending labor- and employment-related claims brought against his clients. Carothers is an experienced trial attorney having tried more than 75 cases to verdict in jurisdictions throughout California. He has successfully defended employers against claims of wrongful termination, sexual harassment, breach of contract, ADA, wage and hour violations, and discrimination. Carothers has defended clients as lead trial counsel in large complex actions involving representative actions, class actions and coordinated

actions involving hundreds of claimants.

#### Professional Affiliations

Carothers is affiliated with well-regarded professional organizations, spanning governmental agencies to local bar diversity initiatives. In 2008, Carothers was appointed by former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger as the commissioner to the Fair Employment and Housing Commission. He has also been a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates since 2005 and the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel since 1999.

Carothers has received accolades from Martindale-Hubbell AV-Pre-eminent rated; *Best Lawyers*, Litigation - Labor and Employment, 2013 to 2015 and *San Diego Super Lawyers*, 2012 to 2015. He is a founding participant of Diversity Fellowship Program through the San Diego County Bar Association.

#### Personal Affiliations

Carothers has been of service to his community in San Diego for decades. His service includes past board memberships with Mercy Hospital's Finance Committee, Inner-City Games Foundation, Neighborhood House Association, and San Diego Police Review Board. Carothers also provided pro bono counsel to Inner-City Games Foundation, which was created in response to a growing number of young people nationwide who live in poverty, and face monumental, often negative obstacles in their everyday lives.

Carothers is also chairperson for CDF's commitment to support the Wounded Warrior Project. WWP is a national organization dedicated to raising awareness for and providing assistance to wounded service members and their families. As chairperson, Carothers leads CDF in continuing its support of WWP throughout the year with the main goal being to raise awareness of and funds for WWP both within the firm and in the local communities where CDF has office locations.

#### Personal Background

Carothers served in the U.S. Navy, 1975 to '79; awarded the Navy/Marine Corp Expeditionary Medal for services related to Iran.

As a college student, Carothers worked with veterans rights groups and was certified to represent veterans dishonorably discharged during the Vietnam War due to drug addiction acquired during service. He successfully represented a number of veterans, many of whom were homeless and penniless and argued to have their dishonorable discharges upgraded to general and honorable discharges after Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird issued a directive that the discharges should be reviewed by a military tribunal. As a result, many of these service members were able to go back to school, receive medical care and participate in the VA Home Loan program, dramatically changing their lives.

### Cynthia Freeland

Schor & Freeland LLP

#### Law School

University of San Diego School of Law

#### Professional Background

Cynthia Freeland has been practicing since 1995, helping her clients create clear expectations for employee performance and to advocating for her clients in defense of those expectations. She believes that a company's best strategy in litigation is created long before any complaint is filed.

Freeland represents employers in state and federal court, in arbitration and mediation, and in matters before administrative agencies including the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Employment Development Department.

Her practice includes providing counsel to her clients in creating and enforcing policies and establishing human resource systems that are legally compliant and that make business sense for the employer's unique workplace. She assists employers in conducting investigations of employee misconduct, including sexual harassment, and she conducts in-house training on various employment law issues.

Freeland was a partner in the employment practices group at Baker & McKenzie LLP from 1996 to 2007. She served a judicial clerkship for the Honorable A. Andrew Hauk, District Court Judge, Central District from 1995 to 1996.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Association of Business Trial Lawyers, former board member; Federal Bar Association, member and former board member; State Bar of California; San Diego County Bar Association, member; San Diego Lawyers Club, member, board member, co-chairwoman of Programs Committee.

**Amber Gardina-Quintanilla**  
*Jackson Lewis PC*

**Law School**  
University of San Diego School of Law

**Major Cases**  
Amber Gardina-Quintanilla represents employers in a variety of employment cases including claims for wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment and retaliation.

Recently, she had a high-value case dismissed entirely upon a motion for summary judgment and negotiated several settlements favorable to her clients prior to trial. Gardina-Quintanilla also provides advice and counsel to her clients by drafting policies, providing training and consulting in employment decisions.

**Professional Background**  
Gardina-Quintanilla is an associate attorney in Jackson Lewis PC's San Diego office. Founded in 1958, Jackson Lewis is dedicated to representing management exclusively in workplace law. Jackson Lewis has one of the most active employment litigation practices in the world, with a current caseload of more than 6,500 litigations and approximately 650 class actions. Previously, Gardina-Quintanilla was an associate attorney at Daley & Heft in Solana Beach.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Gardina-Quintanilla is a member of the San Diego County Bar Association and Lawyer's Club.

**Personal Background**  
Gardina-Quintanilla is married to local attorney Gabriel Quintanilla. Together, they enjoy running races, traveling, and spoiling their dog, Poppy.

### Joshua David Gruenberg

Gruenberg Law

#### Law School

Thomas Jefferson School of Law

#### Major Cases

Joshua Gruenberg has amassed millions in verdicts and settlements in the past year. Among these cases was a gender discrimination claim

against an international corporation that settled for just under \$1 million. Gruenberg also obtained an arbitration award, in a race discrimination/retaliation case, before Judge Hoffmann, of \$400,000, including attorneys' fees. In another case, Gruenberg's client sued a multinational corporation for gender and age discrimination and won more than \$600,000, after the employee was replaced by a younger worker.

**Professional Background**  
Gruenberg opened his own office right out of law school. Gruenberg Law has grown to be the preeminent plaintiff's employment firm in Southern California, with seven attorneys. Gruenberg has been selected as a Super Lawyer the past seven years. He has twice been awarded the Consumer Attorneys of California's President's Award for his dedication to the fight for employees' rights. He has received the Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award from the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego. Gruenberg Law is known as a relentless and fierce advocate for the rights of working people.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Gruenberg has served on the boards of the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego and Consumer Attorneys of California. He is an instructor in the San Diego Inn of Court, and for the Thomas Jefferson School of Law Trial Team. Gruenberg is a member of Consumer Attorneys of San Diego, Consumer Attorneys of California, California Employment Lawyers Association, National Employment Lawyers Association, San Diego County Bar Association and Lawyers Club of San Diego. He has served as a panelist for SDCBA and Lawyers Club, on topics as varied as workplace investigations and work-life balance.

**Personal Affiliations**  
Gruenberg is an avid cyclist, and races nearly every weekend for an Elite Masters Cycling Team. He is a winner of multiple U.S. National Rowing Championships.

**Personal Background**  
Gruenberg was born in Los Angeles and was raised in Laurel Canyon. His father was a high school English teacher for 40 years. Gruenberg learned at a young age the importance of finding a career that he would love and that contributes to the betterment of society. Gruenberg has three children, and spends much of his free time at soccer and volleyball games. He lives in Point Loma, where he grows fruit trees and vegetables.

### Thomas S. Ingrassia

Pettit Kohn

Ingrassia & Lutz

#### Law School

Boston University School of Law

**Professional Background**  
Thomas S. Ingrassia is a founding member of Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz, and serves as the firm's chief financial officer. As co-chairman of the firm's Employment and Labor Department, Ingrassia assists his clients in developing and enforcing appropriate employment practices and policies, investigating claims of employee harassment/misconduct, and defending all

forms of employment litigation before state and federal courts and administrative agencies.

Ingrassia has achieved Martindale-Hubbell's highest rating for his legal ability and ethical standards. He has been selected for inclusion in *San Diego Super Lawyers* each year from 2008 through 2015 and was selected as one of *The Daily Transcript's* "Top Attorneys" for labor/employment law in 2011, 2014 and 2015. He has also been selected by his peers for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America* in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Ingrassia is a widely-acclaimed speaker who is frequently invited to provide employment practices and employee management training for private firms, other attorneys, and professional organizations throughout California.

#### Professional Affiliations

Association of Southern California Defense Counsel, Employment Practices; Substantive Law Committee Member; Board of Directors

Member, 2004, 2005; California Restaurant Association; San Diego County Bar Association (Labor and Employment Law

Section and Litigation Sections); San Diego Society for Human Resource Management; President, 2002; Board of Directors, 1997-2003; State Bar of California.

### Regina A. Petty

Fisher & Phillips LLP

#### Law School

Stanford Law School

#### Major Cases

• Successfully argued *Jones v. The Lodge at Torrey Pines Partnership* (2008) 42 Cal.4th 1158 before the California Supreme Court, a case noted on Bender's *California Labor & Employment Bulletin's* top 10 list of most significant cases and trends for the Fair Employment and Housing Act's 50th anniversary;

• *Morson v. Superior Court*, 90 Cal.App.4th 775 (2001);

• *Clark v. Baxter Healthcare*, 83 Cal.App.4th 1048 (2000);

• *Artiglio v. Superior Court*, 22 Cal.App.4th 1388 (1994).

• *Bradford v. Lux Bus*, San Francisco County (2015)

• *Caldwell v. Eastern Municipal Water District*, Riverside County (2014)

• *Critical Care Diagnostics v. American Association for Clinical Chemistry Inc.* U.S.D.C. SDCal (2014)

• *Flashberg v. South Coast Air Quality Management District*, Los Angeles County (2013)

• *Peddycord v. Digital Networks*, Orange County (2010)

#### Professional Background

Regina Petty is a partner in the San Diego and Los Angeles offices. She practices in state and federal courts at the trial and appellate levels, and before state and federal agencies. She is experienced in multi-district, class action and collective litigation. Petty advises employers and public agencies on federal and state labor and employment laws and conducts workplace investigations. She handles litigation and administrative proceedings for private and public employers.

#### Professional Affiliations

Past president of San Diego County Bar Association. Past board member Minority Corporate Counsel Association

and California Minority Counsel Program. Frequent speaker for, and member of, the Defense Research Institute, the Association of Business Trial Lawyers, the International Association of Defense Counsel and the litigation and labor and employment law sections of the State Bar of California and of the American Bar Association. Past faculty member for the American Bar Association TIPS Trial Academy and for the IADC Trial Academy. Member of the National Bar Association, the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association and the Lawyers Club of San Diego. Master in the Louis Welsh American Inn of Court.

#### Personal Affiliations

Past member and secretary of the board of directors of Sharp Healthcare. Member of the Redcoat Committee of the San Diego Bowl Game Association (Holiday Bowl and Poinsettia Bowl). Past chair of the city of San Diego's Qualcomm Stadium Advisory Board and previously served on the Greater San Diego Chamber of Commerce's board of directors and executive committee. Chaired the chamber's 1998 Insights World Conference. Member of Delta Sigma Theta.

### Spencer Skeen

Ogletree Deakins

#### Law School

University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law

#### Major Cases

Spencer Skeen tries high exposure cases. He recently prevailed in a 3 1/2 week, multi-plaintiff, jury trial concerning overtime exemptions. Skeen has defended hundreds of wage and hour class actions, including cases with exposure in excess of \$100 million. Mr. Skeen's clients include Fortune 500 and publicly traded companies (such as Sterling Jewelers, Standard Parking, Manpower, Gucci and Brink's), as well as local companies. In

the last 12 months, Skeen obtained dismissal of class allegations in wage and hour class actions against supermarket chains, trucking companies, towing company, hotel conglomerate, restaurant chain, telecommunications company, and a staffing agency. In March of this year, Skeen defeated class certification for Manpower in a meal and rest period class action styled *Pena v. Manpower Inc.*, United States District Court, Eastern District of California, Case No. 2:13-cv-01282.

**Professional Background**  
Skeen is the managing shareholder of the San Diego office of Ogletree Deakins. He devotes his practice exclusively to the representation of management in labor and employment disputes, including class actions, wage and hour, discrimination, retaliation, harassment, wrongful discharge, unfair competition and trade secret disputes. Skeen represents employers in state and federal court as well as before state and federal agencies. He has an AV-Preeminent rating from Martindale Hubbell, for having the highest legal and ethical standards. He was selected as a Top Attorney by *The Daily Transcript* in 2007 and 2008, and from 2011 to 2015. Skeen has been selected for inclusion in *San Diego Super Lawyers* every year since 2008.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Skeen is the former co-chairman of the San Diego County Bar Association, Labor and Employment section, a member of the Labor and Employment Section of the California State Bar.

• • •

## Municipal & Government finalists

### Anne Beaumont Perkins Coie LLP

**Law School**  
Duke University School of Law

**Major Cases**  
Anne Beaumont represents clients in environmental regulatory and litigation matters, including the siting and defense of large-scale infrastructure and energy



Beaumont

projects. She advises clients on compliance with federal and state environmental statutes, including the National Environmental Policy Act, the

California Environmental Quality Act and the federal and California Endangered Species Acts. Beaumont also maintains an active pro bono practice, representing clients in immigration matters.

**Professional Background**  
Prior to joining Perkins Coie, Beaumont was an associate at Latham & Watkins in San Diego. She previously clerked for the Honorable Anthony J.

Battaglia in the Southern District of California.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Beaumont has been a member of the Lawyers Club of San Diego and the San Diego Zoo RITZ Committee. She is also a recipient of the Casa Cornelia Law Center's *Pro Bono Publico* Award.

### Stephanie H. Chow California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General

**Law School**  
Cornell Law School

**Major Cases**  
*People v. Olguin* (2008) 45 Cal.4th 375 — addressing the scope of authority in issuing conditions to probationers. *Peo-*

*ple v. Skiles* (2011) 51 Cal.4th 1178 — addressing the application of the Secondary Evidence Rule to facsimiles of certified photocopies of official writings.

**Professional Background**  
As a deputy attorney in the criminal division of the Office of the Attorney General, I represent the People of the

Please turn to page 28

## Labor & Employment finalists (continued)

### Susan Swan Gruenberg Law

**Law School**  
University of California, Hastings College of the Law

**Major Cases**  
Susan Swan represents victims of discrimination, harassment and wage theft, and whistleblowers. She has prosecuted and negotiated multiple six- and seven-figure cases, including pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment, retaliation and wage theft. She recently settled a wage theft class action. Her guiding philosophy is that as a plaintiff's lawyer, she has to be both tenacious and agile to counter the unlimited resources defendants often have to contest just claims.



Swan

**Professional Background**  
Swan started her legal career representing grocery store workers, bus drivers, teachers, and their unions at Schwartz Steinsapir Dohrmann & Sommers. She represented the victims of Ralphs' criminal conduct during the 2003 to 2004 strike and lockout. Ralphs pleaded guilty to five felonies and agreed to pay \$50 million in restitution and \$20 million in fines. Swan argued before the National Labor Relations Board in Washington, D.C. As a Deputy District Attorney in Ventura County, she tried 19 jury trials and many, many motions to suppress, restitution hearings, and other hearings and motions.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Swan was elected to the

Board of Directors of Lawyers Club of San Diego. She co-chairs Lawyers Club's 2015 Annual Dinner Committee. She has served as transportation co-chairwoman for the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program's Women's Resource Fair since 2012. On the Mentor Committee for California Employment Lawyers Association, she matches new attorneys with veteran attorneys. Swan is a Consumer Attorneys of California Women's Caucus Liaison to Consumer Attorneys of San Diego. Swan was recently quoted in the *San Diego Union-Tribune* regarding the gender pay gap, and in *Fast Company* magazine regarding workplace pregnancy discrimination.

**Personal Affiliations**  
Swan served as a voter protection attorney for Obama for America, ensuring that local and state election laws were followed. She is a devotee of Iyengar yoga, and a season subscriber to the Old Globe.

**Personal Background**  
Swan is a sixth-generation California native, and a proud graduate of Napa and Encinitas public schools, including San Dieguito High School. She has lived in Wisconsin; Barcelona, Spain; Detroit and Washington, D.C., but is thrilled to be home San Diego. She is a recipient of the Girl Scout Gold Award, the equivalent of Eagle Scout, for creating and organizing a library of children's books for Encinitas Head Start. Swan camps at Lake Tahoe every summer, and rides her bike around the West Shore. She loves to swim in the ocean, in Lake Tahoe and in pools.

### Claudette G. Wilson Wilson Turner Kosmo LLP

**Law School**  
University of California, Davis School of Law

**Major Cases**  
Wilson has significant trial



Wilson

experience in state and federal courts in a wide range of employment matters, including disability and age discrimination, wrongful termination, failure to hire, defamation, breach of contract and trade secret theft. She has sought and defended claims for injunctive relief involving trade secrets and non-compete agreements, has handled government agency hearings and trials, and argued employment issues before the California Court of Appeal and the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Most recently, Wilson has been involved in defending a putative class-action pending in the Southern District of California, where plaintiffs

allege that they are entitled to penalties under the Labor Code Private Attorney Generals Act for failure to provide suitable seats. The putative class is estimated to be in the tens of thousands.

**Professional Background**  
Wilson has been a partner with the firm since its founding in 1991 and leads the Employment Law Practice Group. Wilson has been representing companies in employment litigation for more than 30 years. Her litigation practice includes both wage and hour class-actions and single-plaintiff claims of discrimination, harassment, wrongful termination and other employment-related matters. She regularly counsels employers on employment-related issues, including avoiding claims, reductions in force, disciplinary actions and terminations.


Wilson represents businesses of all sizes and in a wide variety of industry sectors. Wilson was named one of San Diego's Best Attorneys in 2014 by *San Diego Metropolitan* magazine. Wilson was selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* (2007 to 2015), labor and employment law specialties and honored to be selected 2012 San Diego Employment

Law - Management Lawyer of the Year. Wilson was also named one of San Diego's Top Employment Lawyers by *The Daily Transcript* in 2005 to 2010 and 2012. Wilson was designated as a *Super Lawyer* from 2007 through 2015 (Top 10 and Top 25 lists), chosen as one of the *Top 10 Super Lawyers* overall in San Diego County in 2008 and 2009, and selected as one of the *Top*

25 *Women Super Lawyers* in San Diego from 2007 to 2014.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Wilson is a past president of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers San Diego Chapter and is on the Executive Committee, and a Master in the Louis M. Welsh American Inn of Court. In addition, Wilson is member of the Lawyers Club of San Diego and California Women Lawyers Association.

**PETTIT KOHN**  
PETTIT KOHN INGRASSIA & LUTZ  
*Top Attorneys 2015*



Jeff Miyamoto  
Corporate Litigation

Thomas Ingrassia  
Labor/Employment

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
to Jeff Miyamoto and Thomas Ingrassia  
on being selected as 2015 Top Attorneys.

Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz is an AV-rated civil litigation firm, with offices in San Diego, Los Angeles, and Phoenix. Our attorneys focus on appellate, business litigation, professional liability, employment & labor, personal injury, product liability, restaurant & hospitality, retail litigation, transactional & business services, and transportation matters.

San Diego (858) 755-8500 | Los Angeles (310) 649-5772 | Phoenix (602) 510-5304  
www.pettitkohn.com

Congratulations to our Partner  
**Regina A. Petty**  
on being named by  
The Daily Transcript  
as one of the Top Attorneys  
in the San Diego Area



Regina A. Petty, Partner  
rpetty@laborlawyers.com

Regina is a labor and employment attorney dedicated to providing excellent legal counsel and trial representation to her clients. The attorneys and staff at Fisher & Phillips LLP are proud of our colleague for earning this well-deserved honor.

**FISHER & PHILLIPS** LLP  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Solutions at Work®

4747 Executive Drive • Suite 1000  
San Diego, CA 92121

Phone: (858) 597-9600

www.laborlawyers.com | 31 Locations Nationwide



Garwood Family Law & Mediation

(619) 692-8100



### Your Advocate for a New Life.

At Garwood Family Law and Mediation, our goal is to create outcomes that will allow you to move on — both financially *and* emotionally — to a new, empowered life.

Unlike most divorce attorneys whose skills are primarily in *either* litigation or mediation, our expertise spans both, and we will work with you to select the best option for your case.

**Take the first step towards moving forward to your new, empowered life and contact us today!**



Julia M. Garwood, CFLS

Certified Family Law Specialist  
& 2015 San Diego Top Attorney

Winner of the San Diego County Top Attorney award two years in a row!

Over 30 years experience providing comprehensive mediation and litigation assistance for all types of family law matters.

1450 Frazee Road | Suite 501 | San Diego, CA 92108 | GarwoodFamilyLaw.com

## Municipal & Government finalists (continued)

State of California as a prosecutor. Our section handles



**Chow**

felony cases in which a convicted defendant appeals, including capital litigation and federal habeas corpus proceedings. As a member of the trial team, I also handle criminal cases at the trial level where the defendant seeks recusal of a District Attorney's Office, or where a conflict with a District Attorney's Office exists.

### Professional Affiliations

Member of the State Bar of California and the State Bar of New York. I am also member to many local bar organizations. I am a past president of the Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego, and currently serve as chair of the Ethnic Relations and Diversity Committee of the San Diego County Bar Association.

• • •

### Charles B. Christensen *Christensen & Spath LLP*

#### Law School

University of San Diego School of Law

#### Major Cases

*San Diego Housing Commission v. Industrial Indemnity*, 68 Cal. App. 4th 526 (1998); *San Diego Housing Commission v. Industrial Indemnity*, 95 Cal. App. 669,116 CR2d 103 (2002). Recently represented a public agency in obtaining a summary judgment in favor of that public agency interpreting the MMBA on a matter of first impression in San Diego Superior Court. It is currently on appeal.

The firm was recently

involved in representing the San Diego Housing Commission in connection with its nationally recognized conversion from federally subsidized public housing; thereafter, the firm acted as borrower's counsel for the San Diego Housing Commission in obtaining FNMA and FHA multifamily housing insured loans in excess of \$95 million through national lenders Greystone and PNC; involved in assisting in the amendment of the inclusionary housing ordinance in the city of San Diego to deal with issues raised by the *Palmer and Patterson* cases; represented the



**Christensen**

San Diego Housing Commission in foreclosure litigation involving the SRO Churchill Hotel was successfully resolved in the San Diego Superior Court; and the Churchill Hotel is now being renovated and made ready for reoccupation.

### Professional Background

After graduating from USD School of Law and passing the bar, went to work for the law firm of Biafora and Weiner in the San Fernando Valley in 1974, becoming a partner of the firm of Biafora, Weiner & Christensen in 1976. In 1978, moved back to San Diego and became vice president and general counsel of the civil engineering and surveying firm of Charles W. Christensen & Associates. In 1983, became a partner in the firm of Detisch & Christensen and remained with that firm until 2002, when the firm that is now called Christensen & Spath LLP was formed.

Practicing law in the state of California for almost 42 years.

Attained the AV-Preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell and maintained that rating for more than 25 years. Christensen & Spath LLP, a downtown San Diego law firm, is rated AV and is also listed in the prestigious Martindale-Hubbell National Bar Register of Preeminent Law Firms in the United States, in the areas of municipal law, civil trial practice and general practice.

Named one of the top public agency lawyers by *The Daily Transcript* in 2005, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013 and now in 2014. Have been named a *Super Lawyer* in the San Diego area in the municipal law arena from 2007 through 2014. In March of 2013, 2014 and 2015, named a Top Lawyer in San Diego by *San Diego Magazine*.

For the last 34 years a major portion of the practice has been devoted to representing public entities. This includes the San Diego Housing Commission in all types of legal matters for the last 24 years. The firm has also represented the city of San Diego, and the city of National City in complex civil litigation matters, as special counsel. The firm has also represented the CDC of National City, the Redevelopment Agency of the city of San Marcos, SANDAG, the city of Poway and the city of Chula Vista as special counsel for various issues including real estate and affordable housing matters.

Litigation has included numerous bench trials and jury trials to judgment and verdict, representing both public and private clients in state and federal trial courts and in the Courts of Appeal, including appeals in the California Court of Appeal, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal,

the State Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court. Our firm has represented the city of San Diego and the Housing Authority of the city of San Diego in civil litigation involving matters affecting affordable housing, including litigation involving SRO Hotels and inclusionary zoning matters. Have been chief trial counsel in civil litigation on behalf of the public entities where these entities have collected settlements and judgments valued in excess of \$14 million over the last several years.

### Professional Affiliations

Member of the San Diego County Bar Association and the American Bar Association. Past arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association and a past member of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. Active member of the State Bar of California.

### Personal Background

Resided in San Diego County since the age of 2, except for the four years while practicing law in Los Angeles County in the 1970s. Live in Point Loma with my wife of almost 44 years, Susan. Have four children and seven grandchildren. All of our children and all of our grandchildren live in California, with most of them residing in San Diego County.

• • •

### Deborah A. Cumba *State of California, Department of Transportation*

#### Law School

University of Southern California School of Law

#### Major Cases

As a deputy attorney, Cumba represents the state of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in dangerous condition of public property, tort, eminent

domain and construction arbitration matters. Cumba recently obtained a defense verdict in an inverse condemnation trial. Cumba also serves on the legal division's tort committee. She practices in San Diego, Orange, Riverside and Imperial counties.

### Professional Background

Prior to joining Caltrans, Cumba specialized in product liability litigation at Wilson Elser LLP, where she represented manufacturers of motor-



**Cumba, D.**

cycles, personal watercraft, recreational vehicles, industrial machines, and bicycle component parts. She also provided advisory

opinions to corporate clients regarding product warranties, warnings and guarding against potential recall issues.

### Professional Affiliations

Cumba has been a member of the following organizations: Defense Research Institute, Lawyers' Club of San Diego, Louis M. Welsh American Inn of Court, San Diego County Bar Association and San Diego Defense Lawyers.

### Personal Background

A Southern California native, Cumba enjoys San Diego living with her husband, Mark, and their two daughters.

• • •

### Mark Caesar T. Cumba *California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General*

#### Law School

Chicago-Kent College of Law

### Major Cases

As a deputy attorney general in the Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse, I represent the people of the state of California in investigating and prosecuting companies and individuals for illegally abusing the Medicare/Medi-Cal programs as well as skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, caregivers and other individuals for abusing or neglecting California's elderly and dependent adult citizens. The types of criminal cases I handle range from simple batteries and petty theft, to large and complex multi-defendant fraud cases and serious death cases. Additionally, I handle civil matters bringing suit against providers and companies alleging false claims and violations of Business & Professions Code §17200.

### Professional Background

I began my legal career as a Cook County state's attorney in Chicago (the equivalent of a Deputy DA). As a criminal prosecutor in Chicago, I handled cases in the Public Interest Bureau; Narcotics Prosecutions



**Cumba, M.**

Bureau, Juvenile Justice Bureau; and Criminal Justice Bureau. I then joined various AV-rated law firms in Chicago and San Diego as a civil litigator where I handled product liability claims defending automobile, motorcycle, pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers; professional liability matters defending attorneys in legal malpractice claims; and personal injury matters ranging

Please turn to page 29



**Creative Solutions. Dedication. Guidance.  
Leading You Down the Path to Successful Legal Solutions**



**Sue L. Loftin**  
Top Attorney  
Corporate Transactional



**Ariel R. Bedell**  
Top Attorney  
Real Estate and Construction  
Transactional

## The Loftin Firm congratulates Top Attorneys for 2015.

At The Loftin Firm, P.C., we understand that legal matters can be stressful, overwhelming, and downright frustrating. With unparalleled customer service, our experienced and dedicated attorneys will employ creative and effective strategies to help guide our clients to a successful legal solution.

Since 1980, we have successfully represented clients in the areas of Commercial Real Estate, Land Use, Administrative and Regulatory, Estate Planning, Corporate, Non-Profit Organizations, Mobilehome/Manufactured Communities, HOA Law, Civil Litigation, and Writs & Appeals.

### The Loftin Firm, P.C.

5760 Fleet Street, Suite 110 Carlsbad, California 92008-4713  
www.loftinfirm.com Tel: 760.431.2111 Fax: 760.431.2003

The Loftin Firm, P.C.



## Municipal & Government finalists (continued)

from slip-and-falls to automobile accidents.

Some favorable results obtained while in private practice include winning an Anti-SLAPP motion resulting in judgment for a national law firm in a malicious prosecution matter; winning summary judgment in favor of a nonprofit organization in a wrongful termination matter; winning summary judgment in favor of a national tire retailer in a product liability matter; and winning summary adjudication in favor of a medical device manufacturer in a wrongful death product liability matter.

After several years litigating civil cases, I had the strong desire to return to public service, and to be a prosecutor, in particular. This desire led me to join the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General.

Currently, I am an appointed member of the Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation where I investigate, evaluate, and rate all potential appointees to the state trial and appellate courts, including the California Supreme Court, and provide reports to the governor to assist in the judicial selection process. I am also a member of the adjunct faculty at Thomas Jefferson School of Law where I coach competitive mock trial teams.

### Personal Background

I was born in urban Brooklyn, N.Y., and raised in the cornfields of Morris, Ill. After graduating from college, attending law school and working in Chicago, I moved to San Diego in 2003 and a few years later met my wife, Debbie, who is a deputy attorney with the California Department of Transportation. We have two daughters, ages six and five.

• • •

### Lee Ippolito Jurewitz Jurewitz Law Group

#### Law School

Washington College of Law, American University

#### Major Cases

Lee Jurewitz defended Caltrans against construction site injury claims and construction defect lawsuits and also defended the construction of Petco Park from several lawsuits.

#### Professional Background

In 1999, Jurewitz began defending construction companies and public entities.



Jurewitz

In 2002, she joined the insurance defense team at K o l o d , W a g e r & N o l a n , where she defended

large construction companies and public entities against numerous multimillion dollar personal injury claims. In 2008, she added medical malpractice defense to her areas of expertise when she joined Farmer, Case & Fedor, representing hospitals and an ambulance company. After 10 years of working for insurance companies, Jurewitz brought her extensive civil litigation experience to the Jurewitz Law Group, concentrating exclusively on helping disabled people receive benefits due to them from the Social Security Administration.

#### Professional Affiliations

Jurewitz is an active member of the San Diego County Bar Association and the National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives. She is a sustaining member of the Junior League of San Diego, after serving as an active member for more than 10 years, including two years as a member of the Board of Directors. She is also a member of the Kappa Alpha Theta Alumnae Chapter of San Diego, and their former President and Social Chair. She also served

as the Finance Advisor to the Kappa Alpha Theta at SDSU for nine years. She is also a member of the Lawyer's Club of San Diego.

#### Personal Background

Jurewitz likes to spend her spare time with her 4-year-old daughter, Ryan, and her husband, Ross. The family enjoys engaging in numerous outdoor activities near their coastal North County home, including swimming at the beach and the local pool, and traveling all over the world. When she's not busy shuttling Ryan to her various activities, Jurewitz likes to relax with a good book, attend a spin class or go for a run, plan the family's next international adventure or cheer on the University of Texas Longhorns (particularly during football season).

• • •

### Linh Lam San Diego County District Attorney's Office

#### Law School

University of San Diego School of Law

#### Major Cases

Most recently, Linh Lam co-drafted amicus briefing on behalf of the California District Attorney's Association in the recently decided California Supreme Court case of *People v. Superior Court (Johnson)* (July 6, 2015, S221296) — Cal.4th \_\_\_, which considered the issues of discovery and confidential peace officer personnel files. Lam also handled the published cases of *L.A. v. Superior Court* (2012) 209 Cal.App.4th 976, dealing with juvenile contempt findings, *People v. Barba* (2012) 211 Cal.App.4th 214, dealing with identity theft, and *People v. Superior Court (Flores)* (2014) 223 Cal.App.4th 1535 (depublished due to grant of review), dealing with juvenile sentencing.

#### Professional Background

Lam began working at the San Diego County District Attorney's Office in 2006 at the South Bay branch. Since then, she has worked in the Pre-Trial, Juvenile and Superior Court divisions. Currently, she works in the Appellate division, where she participated in a six-month exchange program with the Attorney General's Office.

#### Professional Affiliations

Lam has been a long-time member of Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego and has served on the organization's board of directors for six years. She is the current president-elect, and will be the 2016 president of Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego. Her additional community involvement includes the San Diego County Bar Association and the National Asian Pacific Islander Prosecutors Association.

• • •

### Kevin C. Murphy Murphy Jones LLP

#### Law School

California Western School of Law

#### Major Cases

I have defended droves of licensed professionals in disciplinary proceedings, including the pharmacist that sold the Propofol to Dr. Conrad Murray that killed Michael Jackson (a.k.a. The King of Pop). I also represent a small volume of plaintiffs in civil litigation, and most recently achieved a confidential settlement in a high-profile case against Sunrise Hospital in Las Vegas which involved allegations of nurses intentionally killing premature babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

#### Professional Background

UCSD B.A. in political science with a concentration in public law. California Western J.D. 2006. Judicial internship in San Diego Superior Court 2005. Previously practiced construction defect and personal injury prior to forming Murphy Jones.

#### Professional Affiliations

• American Bar Association, member, 2003-present. Litigation Section Young Lawyers Division, co-chairman, 2005-06.

San Diego County Bar Association, member, 2003-present. Law Practice Management & Marketing Section, co-chairman, 2010-13; Law & Medicine Section liaison 2011-12; New Lawyers Division



Murphy

Board of Directors 2011-13, Continuing Legal Education Committee, co-chairman, 2011-12, Board Secretary 2012-13.

• St. Thomas More Society of San Diego, member, 2005-present. Board of Directors 2009-12; President 2011-12.

• American Inns of Court, San Diego Honorable William B. Enright Chapter, Associate Barrister 2007-present.

• Clark County Bar Association, member, 2008-present.

• American Health Lawyers Association, member, 2008-present.

• Irish American Bar Association, member, 2008-present; Board of Directors 2014-present.

• The American Association of Nurse Attorneys, affiliate-member, 2009-present.

• Consumer Attorneys of San Diego, member, 2009-present; Board of

Directors 2012-present.

• *Journal of Nursing Law*, disciplinary editor, 2011-12.

• California Society for Healthcare Attorneys, member, 2012-present.

• San Diego Defense Lawyers, member, 2012-present.

#### Personal Affiliations

• Knights of Columbus, member, 2006-present; Council Advocate 2007-08 and 2014-present; Deputy Grand Knight 2008-09, Grand Knight 2010-11, Trustee 2011-14.

• Irish Congress of Southern California, member, 2014-present.

• St. Vincent de Paul San Diego Young Professionals, member, 2014-present.

• • •

### Amy Roebuck California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General

#### Law School

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law

#### Professional Background

Amy Roebuck is a Deputy Attorney General with the California Department of Justice. She represents the Governor's Office and several state agencies before state and federal trial, as well as appellate courts, regarding issues of constitutional, statutory and regulatory compliance. Before joining the Attorney General's Office in 2009, she worked in the private sector focusing

primarily on securities and complex business litigation, as well as trade secret and labor and employment matters.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Roebuck's published works include:

• Co-author, "You (Might Not) Have The Right To Remain Silent," *Sec. Litig., Enforcement, And White-Collar Crim. Def. Newsletter* (Morrison & Foerster LLP Newsletter, San Francisco, CA), July 11, 2008.

• Co-author, "Recent Second Circuit Decision Reignites Debate Regarding Shareholder Proxy Access," *The Corp. Compliance & Reg. Newsletter*, Nov. 2006.

• Co-author, "Pens in the Boardroom: Practical Suggestions Regarding Director Note-Taking," *Corp. Couns.*, Feb. 2004.

• • •

### Walter F. Spath III Christensen & Spath LLP

#### Law School

University of San Diego School of Law

#### Major Cases

Walter Spath practices in all areas of real estate, representing numerous government, as well as private clients. In

addition, to representing landlords and tenants with respect to retail, office and commercial leases. Over the past two years, Spath has represented purchasers and borrowers with more than \$200 million of property acquisitions and borrowing and has represented lenders making more than \$100 million of secured loans.

#### Professional Background

After graduating from law school, Spath went to work as an associate in the San Francisco office of Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell structuring foreign investments in U.S. high-tech companies. In 2002, he and Charles B. Christensen formed the firm



Spath

that is now called Christensen & Spath LLP, a boutique law firm specializing in real estate, leasing, municipal and government,

affordable housing, tax, low-income housing tax credits, secured lending and construction and litigation in the same areas.

#### Personal Background

Spath is originally from New York, but has resided in California since 1988. He has been married to his wonderful wife Tammy for 12 years. They have two children, Sophia and Kai (Walter IV), and live in Point Loma.



## SAN FRANCISCO LAW SCHOOL ALLIANT INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

### Part-time & Evening JD Program in San Diego

## San Diego Campus Enrolling Legal Career Opportunities Begin Here

- ▶ California Accredited Law School
- ▶ Bar Pass Program with proven skills courses and strategies to help you succeed
- ▶ 80% Bar pass rate\* for our most recent cohort
- ▶ No Baby Bar— No First-Year Law Students' Exam
- ▶ Affordable Tuition | Financial Aid available
- ▶ Transferring or Restarting Law School? Apply with us for a fresh start
- ▶ Have a Grad Degree? Ask about an LSAT waiver

### Preparing Legal Professionals for Over 100 Years

\*California Bar exam pass rate based upon 2014 graduating class.



#### Learn more

866.525.5426 | admin@sfls.edu  
Visit [www.alliant.edu/JDdegree](http://www.alliant.edu/JDdegree)

#### Locations

San Francisco  
San Diego

## Personal Injury/Property Damage finalists

### Vincent J. Bartolotta Jr. Thorsnes Bartolotta McGuire

#### Law School Pittsburgh School of Law Major Cases

Some major cases I've been involved in: *Arendsee v. SDGE*, \$3.1 million result for a 15-year-old boy electrocuted by SDG&E power lines equipment whose left arm was traumatically amputated; *Passante v. Upper Deck*, received a \$33 million judgment for an attorney against the Upper Deck Co. for breaching an oral contract promising him a percentage ownership of the company; *RVDM vs. County of San Diego*, \$45 million verdict for business man relating to a property dispute with County of San Diego; *Border Business Park v. City of San Diego*, received \$94.5 million plus attorney fees and costs, resulting in approximately \$150 million verdict against the city for breach of a development agreement; *Mesdaq v. CCDC*, \$7.8 million verdict against CCDC for condemning Mesdaq's thriving cigar shop/pastry business and giving the property to another developer; *Doe v. Doe Company* for personal injuries received by an explosion caused by non-odorized gas; *Romero v. California Department of Transportation*, received a \$23.5 million verdict against CalTrans for personal Injuries/wrongful death for creation of a dangerous



Bartolotta

condition of a roadway. **Professional Background** After graduating from law school, I went on active duty with the U.S. Marine Corps. After starting as an infantry rifleman, an opportunity presented itself to change my military occupational specialty from rifleman to JAG officer. After volunteering for Vietnam and serving there as a JAG officer and part of a Marine Fighter Squadron, I came to San Diego and joined Higgs, Fletcher & Mack (an insurance defense firm). After four years there and an opportunity for partnership, I decided to start my own firm representing the injured victims of tragedy, i.e., plaintiffs. I started Thorsnes Bartolotta McGuire in 1978. **Professional Affiliations** Over the years I have been involved in several law-related professional organizations. Specifically, I have been the past president of the San Diego Trial Lawyers Association (now called Consumer Attorneys of San Diego). I also served as the president (and all offices) of the American Board of Trial Advocates, San Diego Chapter and have been recognized as the Trial Lawyer of the Year for California's ABOTA Organization. I'm a master of the American Inns of Court. I have been recognized in Woodward White's Best Lawyers in America since its inception in 1987 in the categories of Commercial, Eminent Domain and Personal Injury litigation. Most recently, I have been inducted into the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. **Personal Affiliations** I was raised with the idea that "giving back" is an important part of life. I have

served as chairman of the board of St. Vincent de Paul, co-chairman of St. Vincent's 100 Million Dollar Fund Raising Campaign, board member of Nice Guys of San Diego, past president of the American Trauma Society, member of the board of advocates for UCSD Regional Burn Center, coordinator and sponsor of the Mercy Hospital Surgical Programs for more than 1,000 Mexican children, coordinator and project manager of building two Mexican orphanages, board of governors member and past president of Rancho Santa Fe Youth/Community Center, advisory board member of the San Diego Soccer's Professional Soccer Team, former member of Torrey Pines High School Athletic Booster Board and project coordinator for the Year Round Medical Clinic run for orphans in Mexico.

**Personal Background** I was born and raised in Monongahela, a small coalmining town in western Pennsylvania. My father was a coal miner and my mother became a nurse. I have two older sisters and have worked at serious jobs since the age of 10, including paperboy, grocery clerk, stock boy, tractor/trailer unloader, laborer in the blast furnaces at a steel mill and ironworker. I was also a professional scuba diver and received a full athletic scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh, where I played soccer and was a first alternate on the U.S. Olympic team in 1968. I attribute much of my success as a trial lawyer representing plaintiffs as the result of these various jobs. It is easy for me to relate to clients and understand their pain.

• • •

### Wendy M. Behan Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield LLP

#### Law School California Western School of Law Major Cases

Wendy Behan practices in the areas of personal injury and pharmaceutical products liability. She has secured seven-figure settlements for her clients seriously injured in motor vehicle accidents and by defective products. She has represented plaintiffs for product liability claims against the manufacturers of Hydroxycut, Yaz, Baycol, Propulsid, DePuy and Biomet, among others. Recently, Behan was part of a trial team in a several-week trial in federal court representing a permanently injured man against the United States government. This case took seven years to get to trial and ended with the judge finding 100 percent liability on the United States.

**Professional Background/Affiliations**

Behan joined Lawyers Club of San Diego over 10 years ago, the only women's bar association in San Diego. She initially became involved with Lawyers Club as the chairwoman of the membership committee and was soon thereafter elected to the Board of Governors in 2007. She served as secretary during her first year on the board. Behan was then elected as president in 2010. During her tenure as president, Lawyers Club hosted Sen. Dianne Feinstein

and California State Attorney General Kamala Harris. Behan continues to serve on the Lawyers Club's Advisory Board.

After ending her tenure with Lawyers Club's Board of Directors in 2011, Behan was appointed to the Board of Governors for California Women Lawyers, the only statewide women's bar association. Soon after joining the CWL board, she was selected as first vice president, then president elect, and finally being sworn in as president in September 2014 at CWL's 40th anniversary dinner in San Diego. As president elect, Behan was the annual dinner chairwoman for the 40th Anniversary dinner last year, which set records for both attendance and sponsors and featured retiring California State Supreme Court Justice Joyce Kennard as keynote speaker.

As president, Behan is again raising the bar and setting records with membership and implemented a new annual sponsorship program for supporters of CWL. In October 2015, as she ends her role as CWL president, she will serve a one year term as president of the CWL Foundation. As CWL president, Behan has the opportunity to travel around the state and nation, representing CWL and protecting the interests of women in law and society. In addition to her work in the women's bar associations, Behan remains committed to serving the community. She has served as a mentor to Cal Western students over the years and has remained in close contact with some of her mentees. She also served as a mentor to young attorneys and students through Lawyers Club's mentorship program. Last year, she, along with another seasoned attorney, led a small Lawyers Club mentoring circle, meeting with young attorneys throughout the year for ongoing advice and encouragement. In 2011-12, she served as a mentor to an 11th grade student at Clairemont High School through their Academy of Business and Technology program helping at-risk students become the first in their families to attend college.

• • •

worked with partner Robert Francavilla to achieve a \$5.4 million verdict against the United States government for their client, whose severe injuries due to a serious collision with an on-duty U.S. Border Patrol agent resulted in a leg amputation. She also helped to recover a \$1 million policy limits settlement for a 5-year-old girl who was seriously injured after a shelf fell on top of her at a convenience store.

#### Professional Background

Prior to joining CaseyGerry, Chun was a senior associate in the litigation department of a prominent plaintiff's personal injury and labor & employment firm. She also gained valuable legal experience as a law clerk at the Equal Opportunity Commission in Washington, D.C., in the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office and as a legal assistant at Endres and Estle.

#### Professional Affiliations

Chun is the current president of the Korean American Bar Association of San Diego,



Chun

an organization established to help advance Korean American attorneys and law students in the legal profession. Additionally, she is a member of the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego, Consumer Attorneys of California, American Association for Justice, Lawyers Club San Diego, California Women Lawyers, Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego and the San Diego County Bar Association.

#### Personal Background

In her spare time, Chun enjoys yoga, hiking, kickboxing and spending quality time with her husband, Philip Chun, their newborn girl and their dog, Margo.

• • •

### John H. Gomez Gomez Trial Attorneys

#### Law School Yale Law School Major Cases

Since 2000, I have obtained more than \$300 million in verdicts and settlements for my clients with more than 60 awards exceeding \$1 million each. I



Gomez

obtained a \$106 million verdict in the civil component of the so-called American Beauty Murder, involving San Diego toxicologist Kristin Rossum. I have obtained verdicts of \$10.8 million, \$8.3 million \$7.5 million against Pizza Hut, Johnson & Johnson and Starbucks, respectively. I represent hundreds of plaintiffs injured by defective drugs and medical devices in various coordinated actions, thousands of consumers in class-action litigation and public entities, including the city of San Diego, in ecological litigation against Monsanto.

#### Professional Background

After graduating from Yale Law School in 1993, I spent a year clerking for the Hon. Marilyn L. Huff of the U.S. District Court, Southern District of California. I then spent close to four years as a litigator at Latham and Watkins' Los Angeles Office. In 1997, I accepted a position as an Assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of California, where I tried human trafficking, narcotics and corruption cases on behalf of the United States. I returned to private practice in 2000, and have since represented exclu-

Please turn to page 31

## LAW OFFICES OF GREG J. RYAN

A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

Providing legal advice and representation to individuals, businesses and families in civil and business litigation.



## Experienced Lawyer Serving San Diego, California

Since 1980, the Law Offices of Greg J. Ryan have focused on insurance coverage, construction law, business litigation, personal injury and employment law issues.

San Diego trial lawyer Greg Ryan got his start as an insurance attorney. His inside perspective about insurance coverage decisions gives clients a competitive edge. If you need advice about your rights under an insurance policy or if you need help with a business or personal claim, contact the Law Offices of Greg J. Ryan in San Diego.

Clients count on our law firm for sound advice and energetic representation in dealing with difficult insurance and litigation problems. Attorney Greg Ryan's experience and ability to present complicated evidence in the courtroom helps him obtain favorable results.

### Law Offices of Greg J. Ryan

1010 Second Avenue Suite 2500 San Diego, CA 92101  
tel: 619-894-8549 | toll free: 1-866-933-8910 | fax: 619-239-8858

### Angela Jae Chun Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield LLP

#### Law School California Western School of Law Major Cases

Chun is an experienced attorney and member of CaseyGerry's trial team, specializing in serious personal injury, products and premises liability and maritime litigation. She has helped settle, mediate and litigate a full gamut of cases — from catastrophic head injury and personal injury/wrongful death to premises and products liability and maritime cases. Most recently, Chun

## Personal Injury/Property Damage finalists (continued)

sively plaintiffs in civil litigation. In September 2005, I founded Gomez Trial Attorneys, a plaintiffs trial firm. The firm now features 17 attorneys and close to 40 legal professionals.

### Professional Affiliations

I am a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and the Summit Council, a group of the nation's top consumer trial lawyers: Members must have obtained at least one \$10 million verdict, and at least three \$1 million verdicts, as well as demonstrated leadership in the field.

### Personal Affiliations

I am heavily involved with a variety of local charitable endeavors and coach youth soccer for the Rancho Santa Fe Attack recreational league.

### Personal Background

I am the proud father of "JD" and twins Michael and Analise. I enjoy yoga, boxing and jiu-jitsu.

• • •

### Robert Hamparyan

Law Offices of  
Robert Hamparyan

### Law School

Western State University School of Law

### Professional Background

Robert Hamparyan is one of California's most active and successful trial lawyers. Hamparyan began his legal career working on behalf of



Hamparyan

insurance companies. He now uses that knowledge and experience to represent ordinary people that have suffered harm because of the wrongful conduct of others.

Hamparyan has particular expertise in cases involving catastrophic orthopedic, spinal, brain wrongful death and other injuries. He also has an active trial practice involving insurance bad faith and other wrongful insurance practices. He also represents victims of sexual harassment and other employment misconduct.

The Consumer Attorneys of San Diego have named Hamparyan the 2008 Trial Lawyer of the Year. That is the highest award a San Diego trial lawyer can receive. He received the award for his work in 2008, including five highly successful jury trial verdicts and several settlements in excess of \$1 million.

Hamparyan has also been selected as a San Diego County Top Attorney from 2009 to 2015. He was also selected as a Super Lawyer for the years 2009, 2010, 2012 and 2013.

Since 2009, Hamparyan has tried and obtained nine verdicts in excess of \$1 million, including two verdicts for more than \$13 million each.

• • •

### Sarah Allison Havens

Gnau & Tamez  
Law Group

### Law School

University of San Diego School of Law

### Major Cases

As a trial lawyer at the Gnau & Tamez Law Group, LLP's personal injury division, Traffic Accident Law Center, Havens represents injured accident victims against insurance companies, large corporations and negligent defendants. In 2015, her hard work, dedication and passionate advocacy produced hundreds of favorable settlements on behalf of her clients. Havens consistently manages a high case load, from conception to resolution that includes numerous jury trials. In May 2014, the statewide publication, the *FORUM* magazine, published her arti-

cle, "Tips for CCP 998 Offers." In April, 2015, Havens was a panelist for the Enright Inn of Court's presentation on "Post-Trial Motions."

### Professional Background

Prior to joining to Gnau & Tamez Law Group she worked at the Plaintiff's Trial Firm, Simpson Moore, where her trial preparation assisted in multiple settlements on the "courthouse steps." Prior to Simpson Moore, she represented plaintiffs in an array of class actions and assisted in the multimillion settlements against large corporate entities.

As a law student, she clerked for the Honorable Steven R. Denton where she became increasingly engaged in San Diego's vibrant legal community. Havens also clerked for John Gomez, Jim Iagmin and Robert Hamparyan of The Gomez Law Group, where she actively engaged in trial preparation.

### Professional Affiliations

Havens currently serves on the Consumer Attorneys of California New Lawyers Division Board and the SDCBA Forum for Emerging Lawyers Executive Committee. Havens' commitment is evidenced through her leadership roles in the Enright Inn of Court, as well as through the seminars she presented as the co-chairwoman of the Educational Committee as a Board of Director of the New Lawyers Division of the SDCBA and through Consumer Attorneys of San Diego. Over the past two years, Havens has organized, presented or moderated more than ten MCLE seminars or panels on topics related to personal injury.

### Personal Background

Prior to law school, Havens (whose birth name is Sarah Mose) competed as a professional slopestyle snowboarder and trained year round on terrain park features. She was photographed in magazines and promotional materials and featured in multiple snowboard videos. She also coached freestyle snowboarding at a variety of snowboard camps. During this time that she met her now-husband and then pro-freeskier Scott Havens. In her spare time she enjoys surfing, biking, yoga, running and taking advantage of San Diego's many outdoor activities.

• • •

### Will Lemkul

Morris, Sullivan  
& Lemkul LLP

### Law School

California Western School of Law

### Major Cases

Since 1998, I have practiced in the area of multidistrict litigation and have represented hundreds of plaintiffs in pharmaceutical drug injury cases ranging from Fen-Phen to Avandia, securing

more than \$100 million for my clients.

I have handled numerous construction defect claims, trying many to verdict. In 2007, I obtained approximately \$2 million after four weeks of trial in a case styled *Kearney v. Ferguson*, Case #SCVSS112299. I recently settled a case styled *Rancho Owner's Association v. Outdoor Resorts of America, Inc.*, Case # RIC469533 after five weeks of trial. The case involved a litigated amount in excess of \$6 million.

I have a widely diverse practice ranging from professional athletes to For-

tune 500 companies. I even tried a case in Las Vegas for professional basketball star Dennis Rodman. Since 2003, I have handled Trademark Infringement claims involving litigated amounts in excess of \$200 million. In 2007, I obtained a \$3.3 million verdict together with my partner, Shawn D. Morris, Esq., in a case styled *Earthlite v. Earthgear*, Case # 05 CV 0667 DMS (PJB).

### Professional Background

I earned my bachelor's in 1994 at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and obtained my Juris Doctorate from California Western School of Law in 1998. While at California Western, I was a member of the school's *Law Review* and *International Law Journal*. In 1997, I was awarded the American Jurisprudence award for trial practice. I am a frequent lecturer on litigation related topics such as insurance claims and construction defect law in both Nevada and California. Since 2008, I have been a volunteer youth basketball coach.

### Professional Affiliations

I am an active member of the State Bar of California; State Bar of Nevada; American Bar Association; San Diego and Clark County Bar Association(s); Nevada Trial Lawyers Association; American Trial Lawyers Association; and the Consumer Attorneys of California. I was rated as an AV-Preeminent lawyer by Martindale-Hubbell, the highest rating a lawyer may achieve.

I was named a San Diego "Top Attorney" by *The Daily Transcript* in 2013, 2014 and 2015. In 2013, I was invited to join the Litigation Counsel of America as Fellow. The Litigation Counsel of America is a trial lawyer honorary society composed of less than one-half of 1 percent of American lawyers. I am also a member of the million dollar advocate's forum and was selected for membership with Claims Litigation Management Alliance in 2012.

• • •

### Amy Rose Martel

Cynthia Chihak  
& Associates

### Law School

University of San Diego

### School of Law

### Major Cases

Amy Martel has devoted her legal career to the representation of victims of medical malpractice, catastrophic injuries and wrongful death. The Fourth Appellate District affirmed judgment in *Uriell v. The Regents*, and in a published opinion held that the trial court properly instructed the jury on the issue of causation in this medical malpractice case. In *Dominny v. Alleyne* she success-



Martel

fully second chaired an arbitration wherein the plaintiff was awarded \$628,497, for permanent neurological injury after the surgeon injured his vertebral artery during surgery. Recently she has helped resolve a brain injury case for \$1.1 million and injury to baby caused by feeding tube for \$1.7 million and several other six and seven-figure medical malpractice cases.

### Professional Background

Martel earned a B.A. in political science and history from the University of Washington, where she was on both the cross country and track team. She went on to graduate from USD School of Law in 2003. After graduation, she was an associate at Lincoln Gustafson & Cercos for six years. In 2008, she joined Cynthia Chihak & Associates. She is also licensed in Nevada.

### Professional Affiliations

Consumer Attorneys of San Diego, member 2008-present, Board of Directors 2014-present. Consumer Attorneys of California, 2008-present. Wallace Inn Of Court - Associate 2009-11, Barrister 2014-present. San Diego County Bar Association 2008-present.

### Personal Affiliations

Martel's commitment to helping others goes beyond her clients. Since 2003 she has been on the Board of Directors of Traveler's Aid Society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing the transportation component to social aid. Traveler's Aid provides transport to veterans, victims of

domestic violence and the homeless.

### Personal Background

Martel and her husband, Jason, are proud parents of two active young boys, Waylon and Charlie. In their spare time they enjoy cycling, mountain biking and going to the beach with their boys and their black lab, Stella.

• • •

### Jessica Klarer Pride

The Pride Law Firm

### Law School

University of San Diego School of Law

### Major Cases

*Doe Plaintiffs v. Doe Defendant*

Female Plaintiffs were sexually assaulted at a co-ed psychiatric institution by male patients in the middle of the night. The facility failed to supervise their patients and allowed mentally ill sexual predators to enter into other



Pride

rooms to prey upon medicated and sleeping patients. When the Plaintiffs reported the incidents, the facility declined to provide assistance or to report the instances to the police. Pride obtained a confidential settlement for the Plaintiffs.

*Ana Baumgarten v. Mohammad Sad Erfani M.D., dba Spirit Lift Plastic Surgery*

Baumgarten worked as a sales associate for Spirit Lift Plastic Surgery. Erfani made offensive sexual remarks and called her a slut. Baumgarten asked him to stop and he refused. Erfani made no offers. Pride tried the case and the jury returned a verdict for Baumgarten for \$49,400.

Pride is proud of this case because it went back to the jury with zero evidence. It was a classic he said, she said. The odds of success were against them. However, Pride believed in her client and had faith that the jury would see the truth in her story — they did.

### Professional Background

Pride has devoted her legal

career to the representation of victims of sexual assault, catastrophic injuries and wrongful death. With a B.A. in English from UC Irvine, Pride went on to graduate from USD School of Law. Prior to graduation, she garnered a position as a legal clerk at Girardi Keese in Los Angeles. She then was an associate for six years at Casey, Gerry, Schenk, Francavilla, Blatt & Penfield, where she honed her legal advocacy skills. In 2013, Pride decided to venture out on her own and to join her husband at the Pride Law Firm.

### Professional Affiliations

Pride is the immediate past chairwoman of the New Lawyers Division for the national trial lawyers' association, the American Association for Justice. She also sits on their Executive Committee and travels around the country promoting consumer rights. Pride is also on the Board of the local trial lawyers' association, Consumer Attorneys of San Diego, which she has done for the past five years.

### Personal Affiliations

Pride is dedicated to the Center for Community Solutions, an organization committed to the healing and prevention of sexual assault violence. Pride took a 60-hour sexual assault training course. With this knowledge and her legal skills, she assists victims in obtaining justice through civil litigation.


Pride is also supportive of the International Violence Against Women organization. She just spoke at their annual conference about civil remedies available to sexual assault victims. Pride also appears on local television stations and speaks on KPBS talk radio regarding preventing sexual violence and recent news cases.

Pride attended Gerry Spence Trial Lawyer College in September 2012. Pride is also dedicated to Big Brothers Big Sisters and Habitat for Humanity.

### Personal Background

Pride is the first college graduate in her family and the first attorney. She is half Mexican and half Swiss, and a first-generation Klarer in the United States. She grew up in Orange County, and speaks English and Spanish.

Please turn to page 32



**SUMMIT  
SETTLEMENT  
SERVICES, INC.**

Serving San Diego  
Since 1981

---

**We Will, Free of Charge:**

Evaluate structured settlement offers	Provide release language that satisfies IRC Sec. 104(a)(1&2) and Sec. 130
Meet with plaintiff to design settlement plan	Advise on Special Needs Trusts and 468B QSF Trusts
Attend settlement conferences	Advise how to transform a jury award into a tax-free structured settlement
Perform medical underwriting	Provide Worker's Compensation quotes and assignments
Quote with the top rated life insurance companies (Moody's, S&P, A.M. Best)	Provide structured attorney fee quotes

*Structured Settlement Consultant*  
**Dorothy Scanlan Stevens, CSSC**

P.O. Box 4280  
Oceanside, CA 92052-4280

Toll-Free: (888) 673-8853	Fax: (760) 944-2950	
Phone: (760) 944-0022	Email: dorothy@summitsandiego.com	
Mobile: (619) 994-8853	CA License #0795283	

*Gain control of the structured settlement process for maximum advantage to your client.*

## Real Estate & Construction Litigation finalists

### Sandra Jean Brower

Higgs Fletcher  
& Mack LLP

#### Law School

University of San Diego  
School of Law

#### Major Cases

Sandra Brower is a nationally recognized attorney in real estate litigation, environmental law and eminent domain for public entities and private owners. She has represented the San Diego Unified School District and the San Diego Community College District in eminent domain actions to acquire property for 20 new schools and expand four college campuses. She represented numerous property and business owners in eminent domain actions to acquire the property for Petco Park, including the largest property owner in the ballpark footprint. She defended several property owners in eminent domain actions brought by SDG&E for the Sunrise Powerlink Project. She has brought actions to enjoin destruction of historic properties and continue the operations of the historic roller coaster in Belmont Park.



Brower

**Professional Background**  
Brower began her career as a government attorney at the San Diego Office of County Counsel representing the county in its real estate litigation matters, including eminent domain, land use, environmental issues, title and boundary disputes, and real property taxation. She left her government position to work with a law firm in the private sector, and joined Higgs Fletcher & Mack in 2013 as a partner, where she continues her real estate litigation practice representing clients in all aspects of real estate litigation.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Brower has been an active member of the San Diego County Bar Association her entire career. She is a former chairwoman and current member of the Eminent Domain Section and the Land Use and Environmental Section, and is a member of the

Real Property and Civil Litigation Sections. She has also been an active member of Lawyers Club of San Diego her entire career, and a former board member on its Fund for Justice.

#### Personal Affiliations

Brower has been a member of various boards within the San Diego Unified School District, including the School Site Council, foundation boards and Parent/Teacher Association boards. She is also a member of the Rotary Club of Coronado, Coronado Chamber of Commerce, and volunteers her time in a variety of fundraising and philanthropic initiatives.

#### Personal Background

Brower is married with a son. She enjoys skiing, hiking, swimming and ocean sports.

• • •

### Kurt U. Campbell

Klinedinst Attorneys

#### Law School

University of San Diego  
School of Law

#### Major Cases

Kurt Campbell's diverse practice includes construction, complex real estate transactions, professional liability, product liability, drug liability and business litigation.



Campbell

Campbell was lead defense counsel in the *Acqua Vista* case, a twin-tower luxury condominium construction lawsuit where he represented the general contractor. He has handled numerous commercial and residential WRAP and E.I.F.S. cases on both high-rise and conventional construction. In addition, Campbell's practice includes insurance, transportation, catastrophic loss, and personal injury.

#### Professional Background

Campbell is the head of Klinedinst's Real Estate, Construction and Land Use Department and serves as the firm's Chief Real Estate Officer. He has achieved Martindale-Hubbell's highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards, and has also been named to the prestigious *San Diego Super Lawyers* list since

its inception (2007) to the present. Campbell offers a unique perspective to clients because he is also an active Real Estate Broker, Realtor and investor in both commercial and residential properties. This allows Campbell to counsel his clients on all aspects of real estate, construction and business transactions.

#### Professional Affiliations

Campbell is active in both the construction and real estate industries as a member of the Building Industry Association of San Diego County, Associated General Contractors, San Diego Association of Realtors, San Diego County Bar Association and San Diego Defense Lawyers. Additionally, he has authored several articles and is a frequent speaker on construction, WRAP insurance, real estate, business litigation, insurance, and green building issues.

#### Personal Background

Campbell was born in Montana, but spent much of his youth in Germany and Spain. He is fluent in German and studied law and political science at Heidelberg University in Germany before earning his law degree at the University of San Diego. He achieved his black belt after four years of practicing Taekwondo, which he taught for an additional five years. Campbell is assistant scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts of America. Campbell has been an avid traveler for his entire life. His interests include deep-sea fishing, diving, white-water rafting, camping, and traveling with his beautiful wife, Nika, and children, Chloe and Kurt Jr.

• • •

### Kevin Cauley

Schwartz Semerdjian  
Cauley & Moot LLP

#### Law School

University of the Pacific,  
McGeorge School of Law

#### Major Cases

For 30 years as a trial attorney in San Diego, I have had incredible experiences with a number of major cases with dedicated judges and talented attorneys on the other side. Most recently I represented a plumbing contractor in a Miller Act claim. Our client was one of many seeking to recover, but was the only party who actually recovered a substantial amount.



Cauley

**Professional Background**  
I came to San Diego 30 years ago to go to work for Jan Goldsmith, the current City Attorney, doing business liti-

gation. Subsequently, I went to work with Tom Gade and began representing a variety of clients from all segments of the construction industry including owners, architects, prime contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and sureties.

In 2003, Tom Gade and I merged our firm with our great friends, Ross Schwartz and Dick Semerdjian, to form what is now Schwartz Semerdjian Cauley & Moot LLP. We have striven to develop a law firm of incredibly talented attorneys and staff. We take great pride in the people and companies we represent, applying our legal skills to achieve success and excellence for our clients.

#### Professional Affiliations

I am currently the chapter counsel to the Associated Subcontractors Alliance in San Diego. I am the past chairman of the San Diego County Bar Association Construction Law Section and a member of the American Bar Association Construction Law Section. Our firm has been honored twice with the Associated Subcontractors Alliance Affiliate of the Year Award in 2010 and 2014. I have been recognized in the 2010-14 editions of *Super Lawyers* in the construction litigation category. I am a member of the Associated Builders & Contractors and Associated General Contractors of America.

• • •

### P. Randolph "Randy" Finch Jr.

Finch, Thornton  
& Baird LLP

#### Law School

University of San Diego  
School of Law

#### Major Cases

Randy Finch's significant recent achievements include resolution of more than \$40 million in claims on the Denver VA Hospital, resolution of more than \$30 million in claims on a large San Francisco infrastructure project, resolution of \$20 million in claims on the Las Vegas City Center project, and judgment of dismissal for two San Diego-based contractors accused of violating the California False Claims Act.

#### Professional Background

Finch is the managing partner of Finch, Thornton & Baird LLP. He joined the firm under its predecessor name as a law clerk in 1995, and became an equity partner in 2000. His law practice includes representation of construction industry and other business clients. Finch's litigation practice includes public and private works construction cases involving mechanic's liens, stop notices, payment and performance bond claims; contract defaults; profession-

al liability of architects and engineers; latent and patent defects in construction and design; extra work claims; changed conditions claims; delay, disruption and acceleration claims; federal, state and local agency bid protests; construction related casualty and property damage claims; contract interpretation and enforcement, unfair business practices, trade secret violations, and false claims litigation. Finch provides business transaction and pre-construction services, including insurance, licensing and bonding matters; joint venture agreements; construction management agreements; takeover agreements; development issues; and general corporate counseling.



Finch

**Professional Affiliations**  
He is a member of the State Bar of California, San Diego County Bar Association (Construction Law section) and American Bar Association (Construction Industry Forum). He serves on the Government Relations Committee, Political Action Committee, Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the Associated General Contractors of America, San Diego Chapter. Finch serves as a Trustee of the Gillispie School, and as a Director for Voice for Children.

#### Personal Background

Finch is married and has three children.

• • •

### Jeff Hood

Procopio, Cory,  
Hargreaves  
& Savitch LLP

#### Law School

University of San Diego  
School of Law

#### Major Cases

I have represented general contractors, subcontractors and sureties in small to multimillion dollar disputes on a range of public and private construction projects throughout California, including mixed-use, universities, reservoirs, roads, historic hotels and other projects. I have successfully represented my clients in all phases of disputes, including pre-litigation, mediation, arbitration and trial.



Hood

**Professional Background**  
Prior to joining Procopio in

2006, I practiced general litigation for five years at Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP, where I handled product liability, construction, personal injury, transportation and professional liability matters. My current construction practice includes the representation of public and private owners, general contractors, subcontractors and sureties in a wide variety of matters involving breach of contract, delay, collection, mechanic's lien foreclosures and extra work claims. I have experience representing clients at jury and bench trials, binding arbitrations and mediations.

#### Professional Affiliations

San Diego County Bar Association, Construction Law; Association Bar Association, Forum on the Construction Industry.

• • •

### Arthur S. Moreau III

Klinedinst Attorneys

#### Law School

Pepperdine University  
School of Law

#### Major Cases

Arthur Moreau has litigated a number of matters through trial and appeal and successfully resolved those matters on behalf of his clients. Klinedinst's construction litigation team has recently represented developers or general contractors on a number of high rise construction defect litigation matters in San



Moreau

Diego County and San Francisco County. All of these matters have resolved to our clients' benefit and satisfaction. We have also litigated a number of construction delay and construction accounting claims between developers and general contractors on project construction close-out. These project close-out claims generally also include ancillary mechanics lien claims and allegations of improper construction.

#### Professional Background

Moreau has extensive experience advising developers, builders and other clients, negotiating and litigating business related issues, with an emphasis in real estate, land use, and construction. Moreau counsels and assists his business clients on a variety of legal issues and risk management, from entity formation to deal analysis, contract development and insurance coverage.

Drawing on his years as executive vice president for a Newport Beach based devel-

Please turn to page 33

## Personal Injury/Property Damage finalists (continued)

In her spare time, Pride enjoys spending time with her husband, Dante Pride, and their 4-year old daughter, Nyah, and 2-year old son, Daxton. They enjoy traveling, watching movies in their backyard, dancing in the living room and making silly faces.

• • •

### Jayne Elizabeth Simpson

Simpson Law Group

#### Law School

Arizona Summit School of Law (formerly known as Phoenix School of Law)

#### Major Cases

*Brain Injury*  
While volunteering to ride in the lead truck at the San Diego Rock n' Roll Marathon, Plaintiff was in severely injured when the large 23-pound

metal time clock fell out of its rack and struck Plaintiff in the head. Plaintiff sustained a head injury and suffered from life altering symptoms that made her normal day-to-day routines a struggle. Plaintiff received a confidential settlement.



Simpson

*Premise Liability Trial*  
Plaintiff was injured at an apartment complex when a section of a four-story ficus tree gave way and landed on the plaintiff knocking her to the ground. Plaintiff suffered from a major fracture to her ankle which had to be put back together with a metal plate and screws. The property owner denied liability.

The disputed case went to trial and the Plaintiff was awarded \$340,000 by the jury.

#### Professional Background

For Jayme Simpson, being a personal injury attorney is not really a profession, but rather, it is her passion. After graduating with a bachelor's in business management from SDSU, Simpson decided to go straight into law school because she knew from watching her father practice law that she wanted to help hurt individuals the same way he did. When an individual has been injured it can be difficult or overwhelming; Simpson likes to be able to relieve her clients of their worries related to the legal side of the situation and tells her clients that their main focus needs to be getting better.

#### Professional Affiliations

Simpson is the San Diego

regional chairwoman of the Consumer Attorneys of California New Lawyers Division. In her role, Simpson organizes monthly educational meetings where senior attorneys come speak to newer attorneys and provide them with insight on how to advance their skills. Simpson is also the community service chair for The Forum of the San Diego County Bar Association. In this role, Simpson organizes volunteer opportunities for all attorneys of San Diego. Simpson is also an active member of the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego and the American Association for Justice.

#### Personal Background

Simpson is an outgoing and charismatic individual. Outside of the office, she loves playing soccer, running long distance, hiking and dancing. Spending time laughing with family and friends is her favorite pastime.



### CONGRATULATIONS

KNL&H congratulates Charlie Hoge on being named and recognized as a San Diego Top Attorney

**KNL&H**  
Kirby Noonan Lance & Hoge LLP

Quality. Expertise. Solutions.

www.knlh.com

350 10th Ave., Suite 1300, San Diego  
619-231-8666



## Real Estate & Construction Litigation finalists (continued)

oper, Moreau has the business acumen and experience to act as outside general counsel for a number of his business clients.

He has been licensed to practice law in California since 1993, in Washington, D.C. since 1996, and with the U.S. Supreme Court since 1999. He has been a shareholder in the firm since 1998.

### Professional Affiliations

Moreau is involved with a number of professional associations in California including the Building Industry Association, the Associated General Contractors, Associated Builders and Contractors, Navy League, San Diego Military Advisory Council and San Diego Bar Association. Moreau speaks at a variety of industry programs and events.

### Personal Affiliations

Following the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Moreau spent a week working on an orphanage that was virtually destroyed by the earthquake. The orphanage, run by Children's Heritage Fund, is home to about 60 children. Moreau spent his holiday season digging foundations for three dormitories, building a new shower facility, and rehabilitating and painting existing structures. The Moreau family presently sponsors a Children's Heritage Fund Orphan.

Moreau is also active in a number of veterans associations.

### Personal Background

A California native born in Coronado, Moreau was a Naval officer and carrier pilot prior to becoming a lawyer.

• • •

### William H. Naumann

*The Naumann Law Firm PC*

### Law School

University of San Diego School of Law

### Major Cases

*Palm Springs Community v. National Homebuilder*

The Naumann Law Firm and JCL Law Firm represented the owners of 186 single-family homes located in Palm Springs, Riverside County, California, against a National Homebuilder, several subcontractors and a flooring-product-manufacturer. The plaintiff homeowners contended that their newly constructed homes were damaged, in part, because of the installation of a defectively designed flooring product. The defective flooring product caused floor tiles to crack and break. As a result, plaintiffs' homes lost value and otherwise required the plaintiff homeowners to incur costs to repair and

replace their defective tile floors.

William Naumann and Jean-Claude Lapuyade argued that the defendant manufacturer defectively designed the flooring product. As a result, Naumann and Lapuyade asserted that the manufacturer, supplier and the installer, were all liable to the plaintiff homeowners under the theory of strict product liability. Shortly before the start of trial, and following multiple mediations and depositions, Naumann and Lapuyade successfully obtained a settlement for their clients in the amount of \$3.92 million.



Naumann

Naumann is the founder of The Naumann Law Firm PC and concentrates his efforts in construction defect litigation. He represents homeowners, homeowner associations and builders, and has more than 30 years of litigation experience. Naumann's experience allows him to handle significant construction and conversion cases with complex insurance issues, including bankruptcy of the builder and exhaustion of insurance.

### Professional Background

Naumann is the founder of The Naumann Law Firm PC and concentrates his efforts in construction defect litigation. He represents homeowners, homeowner associations and builders, and has more than 30 years of litigation experience. Naumann's experience allows him to handle significant construction and conversion cases with complex insurance issues, including bankruptcy of the builder and exhaustion of insurance.

Naumann also authored more than 100 articles and monthly columns for the *Trial Bar News* as its tort law editor from 1989 to 1998.

### Professional Affiliations

He is a member of the State Bar of California; Consumer Attorneys of California; and the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego (president 1999, member of board of directors, 1989-1998).

### Personal Affiliations

He has served on the board of directors for the San Diego Habitat for Humanity and the Interfaith Shelter Network. Naumann graduated from North Central College with honors, and from University of San Diego School of Law, where he was an associate editor of the *San Diego Law Review*. Naumann is AV-rated Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell and is a *Super Lawyer* honoree.

### Personal Background

Naumann is married to Cheryl Naumann and has three daughters and three son-in laws, and two grandchildren. Naumann enjoys skiing, traveling, San Diego Padres baseball, San Diego Chargers football playing guitar and spending time with his family.

• • •

### J. Scott Scheper

*Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek*

### Law School

Harvard Law School

### Major Cases

I represent owners, developers, contractors, and subcontractors in myriad real estate and construction disputes. Each case presents unique challenges, from litigating multimillion-dollar construction claims on a high-profile public project, to managing construction defect claims on numerous mid- and high-rise buildings in downtown San Diego, to navigating the turbulent waters of defaulted loans and failed insurers, to solving landlord-tenant disputes. Last year, the Ninth Circuit decided *Technica v. Carolina Casualty*, 749 F.3d 1149 (9th Cir.2014), in favor of my client, holding the lack of a state contractor's license could not defeat recovery rights under the federal Miller Act. (40 U.S.C. § 3133 et seq.)



Scheper

I joined Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek directly out of law school. I liked the firm's home-grown roots, its commitment to excellence and the professionalism and active community leadership of its attorneys. I have been able to develop a flourishing, high-energy, client-centric practice without sacrificing family or enjoyment of the region's myriad attributes which attracted me to San Diego. I am fortunate to practice with talented professionals of the highest integrity, firmly committed to serving the best interests of my clients, whom I find appreciate the ability to blend big picture business perspectives with distilled legal guidance as circumstances warrant.

### Professional Affiliations

I have enjoyed many opportunities over the years to give back to the legal community and support the continued development of our profession. I have greatly enjoyed and been actively engaged for over 20 years in contributing to the growth of young attorneys at our firm through training and mentoring. For nearly as long I have been honored and fortunate to present at numerous MCLE seminars on a wide variety of topics to lawyers and groups of non-lawyer professionals (such as expert witness associations) as part of my personal

### Professional Affiliations

I have enjoyed many opportunities over the years to give back to the legal community and support the continued development of our profession. I have greatly enjoyed and been actively engaged for over 20 years in contributing to the growth of young attorneys at our firm through training and mentoring. For nearly as long I have been honored and fortunate to present at numerous MCLE seminars on a wide variety of topics to lawyers and groups of non-lawyer professionals (such as expert witness associations) as part of my personal

contribution to enhancing the practice and experiences with our profession.

### Personal Affiliations

My most important role is husband and father to my two children. I am committed to and most rewarded by quality, interactive time with them. Through dozens of Y Guides campouts, supporting my daughter's numerous theatrical roles, and coaching my son's youth football teams, I have enjoyed a dream fatherhood. I'm pleased to be a member of the Red Coats, a committee of dedicated volunteers with the San Diego Bowl Game Association, and to contribute to its community-based mission of support for the Holiday and Poinsettia Bowls and year-round civic and charitable activities that benefit the San Diego community.

### Personal Background

Growing up, I thrived on competition — from board games to sports to grades. But the parallels between sports and litigation particularly resonated and drew me into the profession. I played football through college and, when that was done, took up boxing in law school, even competing in the Golden Gloves. Litigation channels the greatest attributes of sports: preparation, teamwork, pursuit of excellence, competition, good sportsmanship. Through ever-diligent training and practice, alone or with teammates, one prepares; through maximal effort within the framework of the rules, one competes; and regardless of outcome, the participants at the conclusion shake hands and say "good game" knowing fair play and the integrity of the sport stand above individual outcomes.

• • •

### Elizabeth Smith Chavez

*Smith Chavez Law*

### Law School

University of San Diego School of Law

### Major Cases

I have handled a number of lawsuits and trials involving oil and gas contracts and development in California, Utah and Alaska. In San Diego most of my cases involved business and real property disputes, including fights over appropriate investments by a national securities firm, defending insurance companies sued for bad faith, lease, boundary and title

disputes, and similar cases.

I represented Hong Kong citizens who had invested in San Diego real property. Probate litigation has included disputes between siblings who inherited a number of businesses, as well as "pre-probate" litigation where the family starts fighting before the parent has passed.

### Professional Background

I began working at Seltzer Caplan during law school and stayed there for 35 years, becoming a member of the firm after only four years. I was also a member of the Executive Committee and was chairwoman of the Real Property Practice Group. After leaving Seltzer Caplan in early 2013, I formed my own firm Smith Chavez Law, a boutique firm taking advantage of my extensive background in litigation, real property and probate litigation, as well as both litigation and transactional work in the area of oil and gas law, throughout the Western United States and Alaska.

### Professional Affiliations

- Executive Committee of the SDCBA Real Property Section, and past chairwoman of the section
- Member, Board of Directors of the Foothills Bar Association
- Member, Advisory Panel of the Federal Bar Association
- Master in the American Inns of Court
- Member, Association of Business Trial Lawyers
- Lead author, *California Real Property Litigation* (3 volumes)
- Member, Thomas More Society
- Certified as woman-owned business.
- Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America

### Personal Affiliations

- Member, California Association of Surveyors
- Immediate past president of National Association of Women Business Owners — San Diego
- Lady Commander, Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem
- Member of San Diego Realtors Association
- Member, Pacific Southwest Realtors Association
- Former member, Board of Directors Mercy Hospital

Auxiliary and Foundation

- Former member, Board of Directors YWCA of San Diego and Imperial
- Former member, Board of Directors San Diego City College Foundation

### Personal Background

I was raised in the San Fernando Valley, long before "Valley Girls" became popular. I went to Santa Clara University, earning a history degree, after a detour to study in Vienna, Austria, and a short stint in Lebanon. After a few years of minimal employment and travel, I went to USD Law School. My two daughters are grown (one is a paralegal, the other is a therapist), and I have three very tall grown stepsons. When I have time, I head to remote deserts in the Far East and dig up dinosaur bones far away from email and telephones.

• • •

### James Souza

*Kennedy & Souza APC*

### Law School

California Western School of Law

### Major Cases

James Souza recently completed a three-and-a-half month trial to verdict winning three non-suits, obtaining a defense verdict, and more than \$105,000 in costs. The lawsuit was tried before the Honorable Victor Chavez in Department 96 (Long Cause) of Los Angeles Superior Court and was styled *Samatas, Carlyle, et al v. Niami, Nile, et al.*

Souza has been involved in numerous cases defending clients with multimillion dollar exposure with outstanding results, including defense verdicts in state and federal court in both Northern and Southern California. Examples:

- *Manhattan Construction Company v. Degussa Corporation* (Defense Verdict for the only defendant, a product manufacturer, after multimillion dollar demand)
- *Regency Wilshire HOA v. Angelus Waterproofing, et al.* (CCP Sections 998 accepted after agreeing to take all



Souza

Please turn to page 34

## What retirement-planning options will keep my family-owned business secure but still provide assets for a comfortable retirement?

For many business owners, retirement planning is tied to succession planning and it can be a challenge to determine what takes priority: retirement security or a successful succession strategy. Here are some considerations:

Start with a comprehensive financial plan. Fundamentally, business owners should approach retirement planning as others would, starting with a comprehensive financial plan. In executing the plan, however, owners have access to a wider range of strategies and solutions.

At **Bank of the West**, we begin with a dynamic discovery process, guiding the business owner to define financial and nonfinancial goals while identifying obstacles. Next, we create a baseline financial picture that includes a detailed net worth and cash flow statement, in addition to an in-depth analysis of investment asset allocation and location. Then, we develop a strategy that meets the owner's goals and time frame. We recommend planning for retirement as early as possible and, for business succession, at least five to seven years prior to the liquidity event.

Think about how to meet your goals in a

way that considers both family and employees. When developing retirement strategies, many business owners want to consider the needs of their employees at a level almost equal to the needs of their family. Strategies may include establishing defined benefit plans and/or nonqualified deferred compensation plans, which can defer a larger share of earnings to the owner while providing additional retirement vehicles for key employees. Additionally, certain corporate entities may allow for the purchase of long-term care coverage, a key component of tax advantaged retirement planning, for both the owner and employees.

Leverage your business assets to create cash flow. Often, business assets can be structured to create an income stream to the owners or to other designated parties. A business property, such as a commercial building, may be held in a separate limited liability company (LLC) and produce rental income in retirement, if it is not included as part of the sale.

<https://www.bankofthewest.com/wealth-management/help/locator.html>

Submitted by Ronny Inniger, vice president and market leader at Bank of the West Wealth Management.

## Q&A with San Diego's premier concierge firm

We sat down with Membership Director Andrea Lopez-Velarde to talk about how **Elite Lifestyle Management** — San Diego's premier members-only lifestyle management and concierge firm — offers unique packages catered to law firms whose focus is on providing impeccable service to the clients they represent. From daily tasks to recurring challenges, ELM's experienced and focused team provides seamless, comfortable and pleasurable experiences to its members.

### Q: How do law firms benefit from ELM's services?

A: The important thing to remember is that people will always associate a brand — be it a restaurant, a hotel or a law firm — with an emotion they felt when interacting with that brand. We deliver positive emotions: satisfaction, relaxation, contentment, delight. We help cultivate and strengthen long-term relationships, increase retention and build brand integrity. We help to create and promote that positive lasting impression upon clients and executives.

### Q: What are some of the services you provide?

A: It's a pretty broad range — we offer benefits like reservations, errands, personal shopping, on-site assistance, travel planning, and meeting and event planning. The list is extensive, but what we specialize in are those detail-oriented tasks that free up our clients' time — the time that they deserve.

### Q: Are the service packages customizable?

A: Absolutely. Each package we put together for our clients is specially tailored to their needs. We want to exceed expectations in all situations, and we give nothing but personal

white-glove attention to those we serve with packages that accommodate various lifestyles and corporate requirements.

### Q: What sets ELM apart from its competitors?

A: Our No. 1 goal is to help our clients reclaim their most valuable asset—their time. Our motivation to help them in any way possible will always set us apart from other concierge and management companies. We don't just pick up your dry cleaning. We enhance the quality of your life.

### Q: What types of clients do you typically cater to?

A: From the busy traveler to the high-profile celebrity or the stay-at-home mom, we are experienced in assisting clients with a wide array of needs.

### Q: Is there a limit to your capabilities?

A: No — as long as it falls under our broad guidelines, ELM ensures personalization to the highest degree. Our team of lifestyle managers handle daily needs, travel arrangements or any other requests. We operate 24/7.

### Q: What are some examples of requests you've received?

A: Well, let's just say that we've never let our clients down. We can charter a last-minute jet for you or dispute a charge on your phone bill. We get exclusive restaurant tables and event tickets, buy gifts for clients' wives and moms, and plan everything from lunch events to exotic Middle East vacations. We get exciting and challenging requests every day and our clients love the results.

Submitted by Sarah C. Truckey. Submitted by Elite Lifestyle Management.

## Real Estate & Construction Transactional finalists

### Amanda Aguirre Allen Aguirre Allen Law APC

#### Law School UCLA School of Law Major Cases

I represent RAD Lab, the designers behind The Quartyard, a temporary urban real estate project designed entirely out of shipping containers. The 28,000 square feet of community space includes a beer garden, a coffee shop, and a sausage eatery, where people can bring their dogs to the park and attend live concerts. The project required both real estate expertise and creativity. The highlight of the innovative concept is that when the lease with the city expires, the shipping containers are simply picked up and removed from the site, leaving an empty lot ready for permanent affordable housing development.

Allen

Allen serves on the Lawyers Club of San Diego, Board of Directors (2014-17). She was the co-chairwoman of the 2015 Lawyers Club Annual Dinner featuring keynote speaker Sen. Olympia Snow. Allen is currently co-chairwoman of the Lawyers Club Equality and Action Committee. Allen served on the board of directors of the San Diego Building Industry Association, YGEN (2011-14). Allen is also a member of the, UCLA Alumni Association, the California Craft Beer Association, the San Diego Brewers Guild and the Vista Writers Guild.

#### Professional Affiliations

Allen is currently co-chairwoman of the Lawyers Club Equality and Action Committee. Allen served on the board of directors of the San Diego Building Industry Association, YGEN (2011-14). Allen is also a member of the, UCLA Alumni Association, the California Craft Beer Association, the San Diego Brewers Guild and the Vista Writers Guild.

#### Personal Background

Allen is a native San Diegan and enjoys spending as much time as possible outdoors with her husband and daughter. She also participates in local CrossFit competitions to keep her competitive edge sharp in and out of the courtroom.

• • •

### Ariel Bedell The Loftin Firm PC

#### Law School University of San Diego School of Law Major Cases

Represented clients in purchases and sales of complex commercial real estate transactions, including resolution of title and ownership issues. Represented landlords and tenants in successfully negotiated leases, amendments and termination agreements. Representing owners and developers of residential and commercial developments, including enti-



Bedell

amendments and termination agreements. Representing owners and developers of residential and commercial developments, including enti-

tlement and BRE processing. Representing owners/operators of mobile/manufactured home communities in compliance, operational and landlord/tenant matters.

#### Professional Background

I represent developers, owners and tenants of commercial real estate properties (office, retail, industrial) in purchase or sale transactions, due diligence, leasing, entitlement and general transactional matters. I represent developers, owners and homeowners associations in the development, conversion and management of residential communities (including development, BRE processing, and land use matters). I have represented clients throughout the United States and ranging from individuals to Fortune 500 companies, and provide general counsel on matters from real estate and corporate matters to succession and estate planning matters.

#### Professional Affiliations

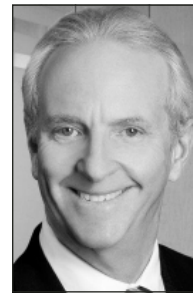
I am member of Commercial Real Estate Women and participate on the membership committee. As a member of NAIOP Commercial Real Estate Development Association, I participate at local and national events including serving on a national forum for six years. Additionally, I am a member of the San Diego North County Bar Association, Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce and the Western Manufactured Housing Communities Association.

• • •

### Robert Bell Dentons US LLP

Robert Bell specializes in real estate development, leasing, workouts and brokerage

matters. His practice covers a wide range of transactions focused primarily on real estate development and workouts in commercial, industrial, office and residential projects. He has extensive experience in urban in-fill and redevelopment transactions, commercial leasing, build-to-suit transactions, construction contracts, real estate debt restructuring, workouts and real estate brokerage issues.



Bell

with respect to the acquisition, development, and sale of projects including complex joint development agreements and joint ventures. He has served on numerous occasions as an expert witness with respect to complex real estate litigation and is a licensed California real estate broker.

• • •

### Karolina "Lina" A. Ericsson Gresham Savage Nolan & Tilden PC

Karolina Ericsson is a shareholder in the real estate practice group. She has been practicing for over 15 years and was formerly a partner in the San Diego office of Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps LLP (now McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP). Ericsson has handled multimillion dollar acquisitions and dispositions for both Fortune 500 companies and smaller investors.

She is adept at managing the many issues that arise in the acquisition of large portfolio properties including shopping centers and office parks and has developed stream-lined processes for vetting due diligence issues arising under leases, CC&Rs, Phase Is, and other survey issues. She is also creative about mitigating risk and resolving due diligence issues through the use of escrow holdback agreements.

#### Professional Background

Ericsson's practice focuses on a wide array of real estate matters, ranging from managing all facets of large real estate transactions involving shopping centers, office parks, apartment complexes and hotels to negotiating easements and resolving complicated title issues. She particularly enjoys working as a partner to new businesses as they expand and grow by negotiating leases, handling acquisitions and developing solid internal infrastructure for the organizations.

Ericsson has extensive experience negotiating leases on behalf of both tenants and landlords with respect to office, retail and industrial properties. From long-term ground leases of out-parcels in shopping centers to large industrial leases of entire buildings, Ericsson is committed to protecting the interests of her clients while taking commercially reasonable positions that facilitate a more streamlined negotiation. Ericsson has represented restaurants, coffee shops, manufacturers, laboratories, and high-tech businesses and appreciates the special lease issues and considerations innate to each business type.

Ericsson's practice also includes representing developers in connection with both new commercial and residential developments, to include negotiating purchase and sale agreements, conducting the due diligence on title and land use issues, and negotiating joint development agreements and profit participation agreements. Ericsson also has significant experience in affordable housing (with a background in community development), as well as unique expertise in tenant-in-common syndications of large investment properties. She is well-versed in complicated restructurings for both affordable housing partnerships and tenant-in-common properties, including loan workouts.

Ericsson received her J.D. from Stanford Law School where she was president of the *Stanford Law & Policy Review* and a recipient of the Foundation of the State Bar of California scholarship. She received her B.S. in management science, *summa cum*

*laude*, from the University of California, San Diego. Ericsson was privileged to serve as a law clerk to the (late) Honorable Napoleon A. Jones, Jr. of the United States District Court, Southern District. While in law school, Ericsson was also privileged to serve as a legal intern in the White House Office of Counsel under President Bill Clinton's general counsel, Charles Ruff.

• • •

### Robert J. Frances Latham & Watkins LLP

#### Law School Duke University School of Law

Robert Frances has represented clients in a variety of high-profile transactions in the hospitality, multifamily housing and energy sectors. Representative transactions include:

The refinancing of the Lodge at Torrey Pines;

Greystar Real Estate Partners in its acquisition of portfolios of multifamily and student housing projects in the U.S. and U.K.;

Developers and lenders on a number of energy projects, including: Competitive Power Ventures in the development and financing of more than \$2 billion in power plant projects; Sempra Energy in the financing of several solar energy projects; and Energy Capital Partners in multiple strategic M&A transactions involving energy generation facilities.

Frances is the local chairman of the Finance Department in Latham's San Diego office. He has extensive experience in a broad range of trans-



Frances

actional real estate and finance projects, including property acquisitions and dispositions, secured lending, construction financing, mergers and acquisitions, and the development and financing of hospitality, gaming, multifamily housing, health care and power plant projects.

Frances is a member of the State Bar of California and the New York State Bar, Urban Land Institute, and past member of the Board of Directors of the San Diego International Sports Council.

Frances was born and raised in Larchmont, New York. After graduating from Duke University School of Law, he worked in New York City for five years before relocating to San Diego. He has worked with Latham for the past 15 years and lives in Coronado with his five children.

• • •

Please turn to page 35

### TRUSTED ADVISER

## Protect the Plaintiff from Dissipation of his Settlement Recovery



### Dorothy Scanlan Stevens Summit Settlement Services, Inc.

After the long hard fight of proving the merits of a bodily injury case, the plaintiff is often left with a big pile of cash and little idea of how to invest it. The plaintiff often does not have the insight to manage this money that is intended to take care of his medical needs over his full life span. Nobody wants the plaintiff to run out of money before he runs out of life. The optimal solution to the risky proposition is to structure his settlement to provide tax-free payments to meet his financial needs forever.

Don't let your injured victim become another statistic.

Studies made by the insurance industry show that accident victims receiving large lump-sum payments frequently have nothing left in a very short period of time:

- Within 2 months of settlement, 25% have nothing left;
- Within 1 year of settlement, 50% have nothing left;
- Within 2 years, 70% have nothing left; and,
- Within 5 years, 90% have nothing left.

This year, Prudential Insurance Company of America surveyed 400 plaintiffs who accepted settlements in excess of \$100,000 over the past 10

years and reported the following key findings:

1. **Tax advantages and guaranteed rate of return** were the most-cited reasons for selecting a structure over cash settlement.
2. Plaintiff Attorneys are the **primary information source** regarding settlement options and are the most influential in the plaintiff's decision to structure.
3. Plaintiffs who cited "financial independence" and/or "having to pay off a large debt" were the most likely to have remorse over their decision, and later regretted not having taken at least some of their money in a structure.
4. Primary reasons for taking a structure: more tax advantageous over a lump sum; and, has a guaranteed rate of return.
5. More than one-third of plaintiffs that accepted an all-cash settlement stated that they had less money remaining than expected 5-10 years post-settlement.
6. Some plaintiffs view lump sum cash settlements as the default option because they are not made aware of other payment choices.

While the plaintiff is busy transitioning from his old life to his new one, which includes living with a disability, the last thing that he needs is to deal with the stress of money management. He cannot lose money from catastrophic financial events like the dot.com busts of 2000, the effects of a post 9/11 world, the 2008-09 financial crisis, Ponzi

schemes by the likes of Allen Stanford and Bernie Madoff. He's got enough to deal with as he copes with his own injuries and losses, recent settlement, and adjusts to his "new normal." Protect the injury victim from becoming a victim of friends, family and predators who want to separate him from his newfound settlement recovery.

The structured settlement industry continues to thrive, even in this low interest rate environment. Over six billion dollars (\$6,000,000,000) are invested into structured annuities each year. Plaintiffs are seeking the safety and security of receiving tax-free annuity payments from the largest, highest rated insurers in our nation.

#### About the Author:

Dorothy Scanlan Stevens is a structured settlement broker and President of Summit Settlement Services, Inc., a California corporation.

For more than 32 years, Dorothy has worked with California attorneys to design and implement structured settlement annuities for individuals who have suffered personal physical injuries. Dorothy meets clients, attends mediations, performs medical underwriting, assesses life care plans and creates a periodic payment schedule to meet their future financial needs. Annuity payments can be made to a Special Needs Trust to separate the plaintiff from his settlement in a way to protect his eligibility to entitlement programs such as Social Security and MediCal. Dorothy is committed to providing trustworthy, well informed, professional services to your client ensuring that he receives the well-earned financial justice he deserves.

Dorothy Scanlan Stevens

Summit Settlement Services, Inc. (888) 673-8853 tel (619) 994-8853 mobile [Dorothy@SummitSanDiego.com](mailto:Dorothy@SummitSanDiego.com)

## Real Estate & Construction Litigation finalists (continued)

money offered by other defendants and hold them harmless through trial)

• *Beran v. Horizon Christian Fellowship* (prevailed on dispositive motion following policy limit demand from paraplegic plaintiff involved in a construction accident.)

Souza has concentrated his efforts on cases involving personal injury, products liability, premises liability and representing manufacturers, developers, general contractors and subcontractors in construction defect cases.

Souza has written articles and lectured regarding risk

management and litigation strategy and provides consulting services to companies with gross revenues ranging from \$5 million to \$500 million.

Souza has donated time and provided services to many not for profit organizations, including the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, providing appellate services for the physically and mentally disabled. Souza is an active member of CALPASC working with lobbyists in Sacramento, as well as an active member of CLM (Claims and Litigation Management Alliance).

## Real Estate & Construction Transactional finalists (continued)

**Fernando Landa**  
*Crosbie, Gliner,  
Schiffman, Southard &  
Swanson LLP*

**Law School**  
University of San Diego  
School of Law

**Major Cases**  
• Represented a publicly-traded REIT in the leasing of a multimillion square foot retail portfolio.

• Represented an office landlord in the leasing and management of a premiere office portfolio located throughout Southern California.

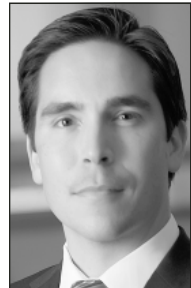
• Represented a receiver in a \$100 million distressed hotel portfolio sale owned by a family trust and closed the sale after litigating the legal objections to the sale by several trust beneficiaries.

• Represented an office landlord in the leasing of a multimillion square foot office portfolio located throughout the country.

• Represented a developer in entitling a mixed-use high-rise in San Diego.

• Represented a hotel company in acquiring various hotels across the country.

**Professional Background**  
Fernando Landa specializes in the acquisition, development, financing, leasing and disposition of hospital-



**Landa**

ity, office, industrial, retail, apartment and mixed-use properties. He counsels investors, developers and lenders throughout the commercial real estate life cycle from acquisitions, entitlements and construction to leasing, management and disposition.

In 2013, Landa joined CGS3 as its seventh partner where he is helping build a lean, client-centric, commercial real estate boutique law firm. Prior to joining CGS3, Landa practiced at Allen Matkins and was the General Counsel of Trigild, a real estate services firm with offices nationwide. Landa started his legal career at Hecht Solberg.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Landa is actively involved in many professional and civic organizations. He is currently a Board Member of the San Diego Building Industry Association BuildSD Political Action Committee, the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP) Developing Leaders Board and the San Diego Receiver's Forum. He also has served on the boards of the Voices for Children Young Professionals Group, the Building Industry Association Political Action Committee, the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate Young Executives Council, and the Centre City Advisory Committee. In addition, he regularly mentors students at the University of San Diego and raises funds for the Ocean Preservation Society.

• • •

**Michael "Mickey"  
J. Maher**  
*Hecht Solberg Robinson  
Goldberg & Bagley LLP*

**Law School**  
Syracuse University College  
of Law

**Major Cases**  
One memorable transaction was the sale of one of the nation's largest residential real estate brokerages to Warren Buffet's organization in 2002. Helping those same principals team up a few years ago with another local broker to build a new brokerage company under a different banner has also been rewarding. I am fortunate to have worked on some of the most significant and challenging apartment purchases, sales and financing

arrangements in San Diego over the past several years. But — each client's transaction is major to that client, and I appreciate that they rely on our firm to represent them.

**Professional Background**  
After graduating from law school, I clerked in federal court in my hometown of Cleveland. After apprenticing in the real estate practice of a mid-size Cleveland firm, we relocated to San Diego in 1986. Following a short stint with a small litigation practice, I answered a classified in *The Daily Transcript* for a position with McDonald, Hecht & Solberg. I have been with the



**Maher**

firm since February 1988, grateful to have been mentored by the best. I am very fortunate to be sharing the journey of practicing law with my partners and our terrific associates, staff and administration.

**Professional Affiliations**  
Currently, my most rewarding professional affiliation is an informal group of managing partners from relatively smaller firms in San Diego. We meet a few times a year to exchange ideas and experiences about firm management practices — sharing what we have discovered works well, and perhaps more importantly, what we have found hasn't worked so well.

**Personal Affiliations**  
I am honored to be serving on the recently formed Real Estate Committee of the Foundation for San Diego Zoo Global. The Committee's role is to help the Foundation staff evaluate and facilitate gifts of real estate to the Foundation and the Zoo. San Diego Zoo Global is a tremendous asset to our community, and I appreciate the opportunity to help the Foundation support the Zoo's worldwide conservation and education efforts.

**Personal Background**  
Two guiding principles: (1) The only place you'll find success before work is in the dictionary; and (2) When asked a question, it's better not to know something than to know something that isn't so (and be sure to follow-up to find the answer you didn't know). Also on the personal side, I am fortunate to have married and spent my home and family life with the most wonderful and patient woman on the planet; Karen's contribution cannot be understated.

• • •

**Keith Solar**  
*Buchanan Ingersoll &  
Rooney PC*

**Law School**  
University of the Pacific,  
McGeorge School of Law

**Professional Background**  
Keith Solar represents both public and private clients primarily in connection with water rights and water-related issues. He has a sub-specialty in desalination.

Solar has served as special counsel to the city of Carlsbad since 2002 to assist the city and the Carlsbad Municipal Water District in negotiating land use and water purchase agreements, respectively, for the Carlsbad Seawater Desalination Project. When built, that project will produce 50 million gallons per day of desalinated seawater and will be the largest desalination plant in the Western Hemisphere. With respect to desalination projects generally, Solar has significant experience with the negotiation and documentation of: agreements for the manufacture and sale of membranes and spiral wound elements for use in desalination facilities; agreements regarding desalination facilities, including without limitation agree-

ments regarding the purchase of desalinated seawater, development agreements regarding conveyance facilities for desalinated seawater; water delivery agreements; and design-build-operate agreements.



**Solar**

In addition to his work in desalination, Solar currently is a member of the State of California, Direct Potable Reuse Technical Advisory Board. During 2014, he also represented San Diego Council District 1 as a member of the City of San Diego Pure Water Working Group. From 2012-13, Solar served as a member of the City of San Diego Water Policy Implementation Task Force. He has authored several published commentaries on water issues, generally.

**Professional Affiliations**  
San Diego County Bar Association; former member of Legal Affairs Committee (2002-04), Association of California Water Agencies.

• • •

**Martin L. Togni**  
*Allen Matkins*

**Law School**  
University of Notre Dame  
Law School

**Major Cases**  
I have completed major leasing transactions totaling more than 30 million square feet in the Western states over the past 25 years, representing some of the nation's leading real estate companies. I also represent a wide variety of cli-

*Please turn to page 36*

## KENNEDY & SOUZA, APC



### Congratulations James Souza

For being named as a  
San Diego Top Attorney



Kennedy and Souza APC is a full service law firm dedicated to working with our clients to obtain optimum results. We work with our clients to identify their goals, priorities, budgets, and tolerance for risk. Once we have identified a "game plan", we work zealously to execute the identified strategy keeping our clients closely involved so the strategy can be modified if circumstances require a change of course. Our approach and enthusiasm for achieving our clients' goals have provided us and our clients with an unparalleled track record for excellent results.

**San Diego**  
1230 Columbia Street Suite 600  
San Diego, CA 92131  
Tel (619) 233-8591  
Fax (619) 233-8593

**Los Angeles**  
355 S. Grand Ave. Suite 2450  
Los Angeles, CA 90071  
Tel (213) 892-6377  
Fax (213) 892-2206

**Orange County**  
2102 Business Center Dr. Ste. 130  
Irvine, CA 92612  
Tel (949) 253-5830  
Fax (949) 752-9316

**San Francisco**  
101 California St. Suite 2450  
San Francisco, California 94111  
Tel (415) 946-8965  
Fax (415) 946-8801

[www.kenlawfirm.com](http://www.kenlawfirm.com)

## Blanchard, Krasner & French congratulates

### Mark Krasner and Abigail Stephenson on being selected as Top Attorneys for 2015

We look forward to continuing  
to assist our clients  
with their legal needs.

Effective.  
Timely. Thorough.

## BLANCHARD KRASNER & FRENCH



San Diego's Business Lawyers

[www.facebook.com/BKFAttorneys](https://www.facebook.com/BKFAttorneys)

858.551.2440 • 800 Silverado St., 2nd Floor La Jolla, Ca. 92037

[twitter.com/BKFAttorneys](https://twitter.com/BKFAttorneys) • [www.BKFAttorneys.com](http://www.BKFAttorneys.com)

Your job just got **easier!**



Trusted.  
Committed.  
Innovative.  
Peterson.



For more than 25 years, Peterson Reporting has partnered with law firms the world over to bring their transcripts to life with a combination of technology and talent. Cutting-edge digitized transcripts and exhibits coupled with our online depository allow us—and you—to work in a more environmentally-friendly way. From video conferencing to complete trial presentation support, turn to Peterson for all of your litigation needs.



**Peterson Reporting**

Truth and Technology, Transcribed.

530 B Street, Suite 350  
San Diego, CA 92101

619 260 1069  
800 649 6353

Since 1986  
[petersonreporting.com](http://petersonreporting.com)

Call to request green delivery of your transcripts.

Reporting  
Videography  
Trial Presentation  
Free Conference Rooms  
Live Streaming  
Video Conferencing  
Global Reach  
Complex Cases  
Accurate, Fast

## Real Estate & Construction Transactional finalists (continued)

ents in the acquisition, disposition, development and financing of shopping centers, industrial and biotech projects, office buildings and other commercial and mixed-use projects. Major recent lease transactions include 750,000-square-foot and 530,000-square-foot biotech campus transactions for a leading genomics company. I have also recently completed major development ground lease transactions in the Midwest and East Coast and biotech project



**Togni**

acquisitions in San Diego and San Francisco.

### Professional Background

I have been at Allen Matkins since 1996. Prior to that, I was with Arter & Hadden and with Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro, both in Los Angeles.

### Professional Affiliations

Allen Matkins is a sponsor of Bisnow, SIOR, NAIOP, ULI and ICSC, to name a few, and I regularly attend and participate in their events.

### Personal Background

I am recently remarried and my wife Shannon and I live in sunny Mission Hills.

• • •

### Eric Young

*Gordon & Rees Scully  
Mansukhani*

### Law School

Northwestern University  
School of Law

### Major Cases

I assisted with the acquisition

and repositioning of the iconic Mr. As Building in San Diego which had been held by a single family for several generations. Equally gratifying was representing a nonprofit entity in establishing a community health care facility in an underserved area of San Diego.

### Professional Background

I have been practicing real estate law in downtown San Diego for 28 years (same building — five different owners) and can honestly say that I look forward to coming to work every day. The core of my practice is in the areas of commercial real estate acquisitions and dispositions, office leasing and real estate



**Young**

finance. I have negotiated leases for all types of facilities, ranging from corporate headquarters to offices in landmark office towers across the country.

### Professional Affiliations

I routinely participate as a panelist in real estate seminars hosted by the Urban Land Institute and the California State Bar.

### Personal Affiliations

I am an active member of the WindanSea Surf Club, which sponsors youth surf contests and events at the beach for disadvantaged and special-needs kids.

### Personal Background

My wife and I are kept busy by our two children who both surf and play ice hockey. When I can find the time, I play guitar or go fishing and hiking in the Sierra Nevada.

## Challenging the status quo in Strategic Patent Counseling.

Dentons combines legal, political, governmental, scientific and business experience to help you achieve your business objectives. We assist in patent prosecution and strategy for emerging and early stage companies. Our Intellectual Property and Technology team has considerable and broad experience in chemistry, pharmaceuticals, enzymology, biotechnology, immunology and other industry sectors.

Dentons. The Global Elite Law Firm challenging the status quo.\*

### Stephanie L. Seidman, Ph.D.

Admitted in the District of Columbia only

Partner, San Diego  
D +1 619 595 8010  
[stephanie.seidman@dentons.com](mailto:stephanie.seidman@dentons.com)

**DENTONS**

Know the way

[dentons.com](http://dentons.com)

© 2015 Dentons. Dentons is a global legal practice providing client services worldwide through its member firms and affiliates. Please see [dentons.com](http://dentons.com) for Legal Notices.

\*Acritas Global Elite Law Firm Brand Index 2013 and 2014.

