WOMEN OF INFLUENCE: ATTORNEYS

WELCOME TO THE 2021 EDITION OF OUR ANNUAL SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT HONORING LA'S MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN attorneys. According to the American Bar Association, 37% of practicing attorneys today are women – and that number will continue to move toward balance when you consider that law school enrollment is currently 54% female.

Los Angeles is truly a national leader when it comes to influential women – and the field of law is no exception. There are some particularly stellar attorneys in the LA region who happen to be women and we've alphabetically listed some of the very best of them here, along with details about their careers, practices and relevant recent successes they've achieved.

The women covered in these pages have been recognized for exceptional legal skill and achievement across the full spectrum of responsibility, exemplary leadership as evidenced by the highest professional and ethical standards, and for contributions to the Los Angeles community at large.

Congratulations to the extraordinary women included this year and thank you for your contributions to the people and businesses of our region.

Shegerian Conniff

Congratulations

TO ALL THE MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN IN LOS ANGELES & BEYOND!

2019 & 2021 Most Influential Women Attorneys

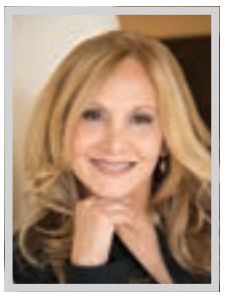
Heather Conniff | Cortney Shegerian

Employment Attorneys Fighting for Women & Those Wronged in the Workplace

LOCATION
2041 Rosecrans Avenue
Suite 355
El Segundo, CA 90245

CALL
310-322-7500

EMAIL
info@shegerianconniff.com



ANGELA AGRUSA

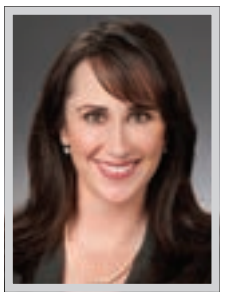
Partner
DLA Piper

DLA Piper partner Angela Agrusa is of the country's top litigation attorneys, handling high-stake matters that command headlines and shape legal precedent. In the last five years alone, Agrusa has successfully defended her clients in more than 50 putative class actions with combined potential exposure of over $100 billion. Her track record has resulted in long-term partnerships with such iconic brands as Danone, Hilton, Chipotle and Motel 6. Agrusa is the managing partner of DLA Piper's Los Angeles offices, helping grow the firm's presence in the market. She is an active, successful recruiter and has brought in several high-profile lateral partners in recent months. She is also on the firm's Executive Board (its first Latinx board member) and co-chair of the firm's Business and Commercial Litigation sub-practice, and its Food and Beverage sub-sector. She is also the executive sponsor of the firm's Hispanic Latino Resource Group.

KALLEY AMAN

Shareholder
Buchalter

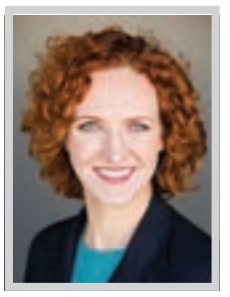
Kalley R. Aman is a shareholder and serves as one of Buchalter's officers of the corporation as the senior vice president, chief legal officer, and assistant secretary. She is also a member of the firm's Labor and Employment, Litigation, and Hospitality, Restaurant, Food and Beverage Practice Groups. Aman specializes in employment litigation and counseling, commercial litigation, and complex and class actions. She represents employers in litigation involving claims of employment discrimination, wrongful termination, sexual harassment, retaliation, wage and hour violations, unfair competition, defamation and misappropriation of trade secrets. Aman regularly counsels employers on wage and hour compliance, terminations, disciplinary matters, harassment and discrimination complaints, and compliance with federal, state and local laws and regulations. Aman represents clients across a wide variety of industries, including banking, restaurants, retail, apparel, beauty, manufacturing, artificial turf and real estate.



JESSICA BABRICK

Shareholder/Director
Weinstock Manion

Weinstock Manion is the nation's leading estate planning firm, and Jessica Babrick, shareholder and director, is a member of several important teams that resolve disputes involving trusts, estates, probate and conservatorships for Los Angeles' most wealthy constituents. She is known for being a fervent advocate for her clients, and works closely with them to efficiently and effectively handle claims that often never make it into the public purview. Babrick has represented clients in complex estate planning matters, including a matter worth over $100 million for Tom Petty's first wife, Jane Benyo, who was under a conservatorship. When Petty died, the publicity rights, intellectual property rights and personal property rights were being fought over by the children, Benyo, and Petty's second wife. Babrick successfully petitioned to remove the conservatorship on Benyo, which is rare. She now continues to represent Benyo over some of the intellectual property of the estate.



MONICA BAUMANN

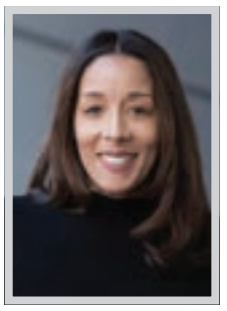
Partner
Scali Rasmussen, PC

Monica Baumann is litigator and adviser with extensive experience in the automotive industry and in consumer environmental litigation, including Proposition 65 issues. She advises dealer clients and litigates all aspects of dealership legal and regulatory compliance. She previously served as director of legal and regulatory affairs with the California New Car Dealers Association, where she developed cutting edge compliance programs for dealerships and focused on emerging legal and regulatory issues impacting the sales, finance and service of vehicles. Baumann has extensive experience working with dealers and their staff to find practical business solutions to tough legal issues. As a member of Scali Rasmussen's Data Protection, Privacy, and Cybersecurity team, she received certification as an information privacy professional through the International Association of Privacy Professionals, the world's preeminent organization for credentialing privacy professionals.

KOREN BELL

Partner
Larson LLP

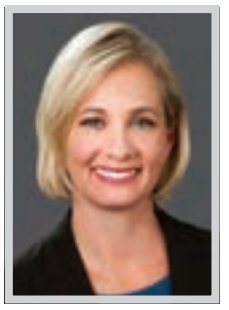
Koren L. Bell is an experienced, bilingual trial and appellate lawyer and former supervising federal public defender who has litigated high-stakes cases in courtrooms around the country. At every stage of litigation, Bell delivers results for her clients through aggressive, creative, and focused advocacy. She has handled complex white collar criminal matters – including as counsel of record in a case she advanced to, and argued before, the U.S. Supreme Court which invalidated the Ninth Circuit's model fraud jury instruction – and civil matters – including as trial counsel in widely publicized complex commercial and civil rights cases for prominent clients around the world. In the past year, Bell and her co-counsel, Stephen G. Larson and Jonathan E. Phillips, secured a $65 million settlement in the civil rights lawsuit filed on behalf of developer Colonies Partners and its co-managing partner, businessman and philanthropist Jeff Burum.



GINA BIBBY

Partner and Global Head of the Fashion Tech Practice
Withersworldwide

Former software engineer and current global fashion-tech practice lead, Gina Bibby is a trailblazer for fashion-tech entrepreneurs and women in male-dominated spaces. From "Big Law" in Silicon Valley to forming her own firm to leading at Withers, Bibby's innovative legal practice is opening paths for innovators, women and women of color. Bibby is a partner in Withers' corporate team focusing on technology, fashion, and fashion technology, helping clients protect their innovation through commercial agreements, and patent, trademark and copyright procurement and litigation. She leads a global practice focused on advising fashion-tech clients on matters involving corporate formation, venture capital, corporate transactions, real estate, privacy, e-commerce, IP, and more. Bibby routinely handles matters involving data privacy, IP and technology licensing, and IP counseling. She has significant trial experience handling complex IP, unfair competition, and trade secret disputes. Bibby is also a registered patent attorney.



KERI BORDERS

Partner; Co-Leader, Food & Beverage Group; Co-Leader, Food False Advertising Group, Los Angeles Office
Mayer Brown LLP

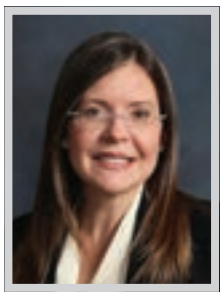
Keri Borders is a Mayer Brown partner, a co-leader of the Food False Advertising Group in the Los Angeles office and a co-leader of the firm's Food & Beverage Group. For more than a decade, she has tackled legal issues where there isn't a lot of precedent in class action suits, continuing to push the envelope with innovative arguments, making case law – and winning cases. Some of the nation's biggest brands have turned to Borders to lead their defense. She has responded with a multipronged strategy and a goal of not only defeating the case at hand, but also developing creative strategies to establish legal precedent through published opinions that will guide and corral these types of cases for years to come. In the process, Borders has distinguished herself as the country's go-to defense lawyer for defending food companies in consumer class actions alleging that products have misleading labels.

SARAH BROOKS

Partner
Venable LLP

A partner in Venable's Intellectual Property Litigation Practice, Sarah Brooks focuses her practice on intellectual property disputes, including patent, trademark, trade secret, and copyright litigation. The proactive and creative counsel she provides in these complex areas has been recognized in many legal publications. She has prevailed in numerous cases in federal court, and in 2014 she obtained a willful patent infringement jury verdict for a client in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. Among her recent high stakes matters was her work successfully defending Target Corporation against a patent infringement lawsuit filed by competitor Funrise in the Central District of California. The Plaintiff also filed a TRO against Target, which was denied. The Plaintiff then filed three additional lawsuits against additional competitors Vons, Albertsons, and Big Lots. The patent and product at issue covered a bubble machine. Brooks obtained a successful settlement for all three retailers.

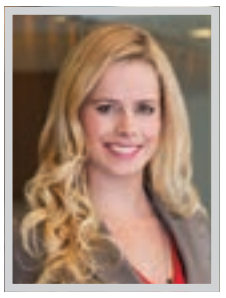
WOMEN OF INFLUENCE: ATTORNEYS



DIANE CAFFERATA

Partner
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan

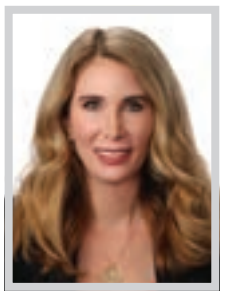
For 18 years, Diane Cafferata has been a partner at Quinn Emanuel, the world's largest all-business-litigation firm. She litigates complex commercial matters in federal and state courts nationally. Her clients include many Los Angeles-based companies such as Mattel, Northrup Grumman, and Grauman's Chinese Theatre. Cafferata has represented the Rose Bowl's Legacy Foundation pro bono for the last six years. Cafferata's teams have brought in more than $3 billion through trials and settlements. She enjoys a general litigation practice, and has expertise in intellectual property and financial matters, and probate litigation. Cafferata co-chairs the firm's Sexual Harassment and Employment Discrimination practice group. She also fits in smaller litigation and counseling matters. In recent years, Cafferata expanded her financial litigation practice. She represented the Lehman Brothers Estate in financial derivatives matters against JP Morgan, Citibank and Credit Suisse. Those settlements recovered billions for the Estate.



ALYSSA CARIDIS

Partner
Orrick

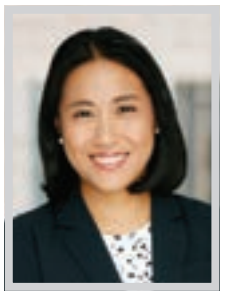
Alyssa Caridis has quickly emerged as a go-to lawyer in many of the high-profile IP litigation battles unfolding in courts across the country. She is one of the lead attorneys for Sonos in global patent litigation against Google in a multi-billion dollar IP fight over wireless speaker technology. She has been on IP trial teams representing Oracle, Netflix and other major companies. She was also first-chair at trial in fending off a bet-the-company patent infringement challenge against Donghee America, a judgment upheld last year by the Federal Circuit. The Sonos patent litigation against Google defines what top IP lawyers strive to develop – building a case that fundamentally seeks to protect the innovation at the heart of a company's existence. With the Sonos litigation, Caridis is essentially coordinating an expanding universe of patent cases between the two companies, ensuring the arguments are aligned and crafting many of the key legal arguments.



GINA CAVALIER

Partner
Cooley LLP

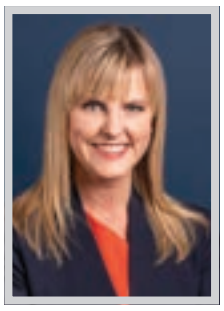
Gina Cavalier is among the first generation of attorneys who has dedicated the entirety of her career – nearly 25 years – exclusively to representing health care and life sciences entities. Her practice focuses on helping clients navigate complex fraud and abuse and compliance issues, as well as cutting-edge data privacy and security challenges. Her practice includes regulatory counseling as well as internal investigations, government investigations, diligence and policy advocacy; this substantive expertise is unparalleled in the California marketplace. Cavalier has led many recent significant matters, including counseling on pandemic related issues/OWS. She has assisted numerous entities in the health care supply chain – including pharmaceutical manufacturers, pharmacies, and group purchasing organizations – on myriad issues arising during the global pandemic. This includes assisting manufacturers in connection with making charitable donations of PPE and safety equipment to health care providers.



VICKI CHOU

Partner
Hueston Hennigan

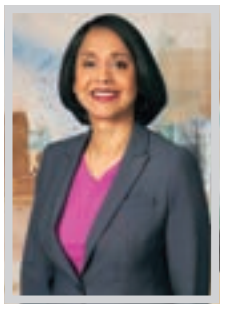
Vicki Chou is a partner and a key member of the White Collar and Investigations team at Hueston Hennigan. She is a seasoned trial and appellate attorney and recently served as a deputy chief in the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Central District of California. As an AUSA in the Central District of California, she represented the United States in hundreds of criminal cases, including computer and internet fraud, intellectual property, money laundering, bank fraud, tax fraud, and racketeering offenses. Many of her matters involved high level, international coordination, including a case in which she successfully negotiated a first of its kind joint investigative agreement with a European country. She has successfully tried over 10 cases as lead counsel and won every one of her appeals before the Ninth Circuit. She was awarded the National Intelligence Meritorious Unit Citation for her work involving China.



AMY CHURAN

Partner
Robins Kaplan LLP

In her complex insurance and business litigation practice, Amy Churan deals daily with earth-shattering events – literally. Her current and recent caseload includes high-stakes matters stemming from a range of catastrophic events, including COVID-19 claims, wildfires, mudslides, floods, volcanoes, hurricanes, building collapses, explosions, tsunamis, and earthquakes. She also handles a broad spectrum of builder's risk, supply chain disruption, and business interruption claims. Churan has built her practice around her ability to resolve novel coverage questions in complex cases on behalf of international insurers. Her clients are sophisticated and knowledgeable insurance industry leaders, but when they have a truly unique and intractable problem, they call Churan. She has achieved numerous favorable results on behalf of her clients throughout her career, often in cases with claims totaling nine or ten figures. In addition to her legal practice, Churan has long devoted her time and experience to the Boys & Girls Club of Venice.



MONISHA COELHO

Shareholder
AlvaradoSmith, APC

Monisha Coelho moved to the U.S. after practicing law in India. Being dually-licensed in India and California, Coelho has successfully guided clients through US-India cross-border legal matters, including setting up business operations and market entry in both countries, negotiating commercial contracts, resolving US-based litigation and arbitration, and handling India-related real estate matters. She has a growing tech practice covering data privacy, cyber law, and a wide range of disputes that can arise in a business context, including breach of contract cases, trade secret theft, and partnership disputes. Her recent work includes defending a technology company against a competitor's claims of trade secret theft and price-fixing, litigating claims between majority and minority shareholders, resolving partnership disputes between hotel owners and managers, and representing companies in various breach of contract and non-performance lawsuits.

MICHELLE COOKE

Partner; Leader, Intellectual Property Protection and Enforcement Practice
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

Michelle Cooke is a nationally recognized attorney and the go-to advisor for companies navigating global market expansion, brand development and entrance into the digital landscape, as well as for those facing complex, multijurisdictional trademark disputes. As leader of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP's intellectual property protection and enforcement practice, Cooke is known for the breadth and depth of her knowledge of the intellectual property landscape both in the United States and abroad. Her clients benefit from her unparalleled understanding of the full gamut of intellectual property issues and also from her truly global approach to preplanning, management and vigilance, as well as her masterful guidance through delicate brand rehabilitation issues. She counts well-known entertainment, multimedia, software, apparel and consumer products companies among her clients. She is a member of Manatt's board of directors and a member of the firm's Strategic Growth and Recruiting Committee.

ELIZABETH COUSINS

Partner-Infrastructure Group
Nossaman

Elizabeth Cousins joined Nossaman in early 2014 after a highly regarded legal career in Melbourne, Australia. She has extensive experience on complex and cutting-edge transactions in an array of infrastructure sectors including road, rail, health, justice, and particularly water – where she currently serves as lead on a number of cutting edge infrastructure projects throughout California. In 2020, she reached a significant milestone as the lead on the East County Advanced Water Purification (ECAWP) project which will develop four progressive-design-build/transitional operations packages to provide East San Diego County with a new, safe, sustainable and drought-proof water supply. In October of 2020, the ECAWP Joint Powers Authority Board awarded the first phase of two progressive design-build agreements. The roughly $700 million project will implement a potable reuse program to create a new drinking water supply for East San Diego County, and is a closely watched project in the water industry.

Lewis Brisbois congratulates Jana I. Lubert and Alexis G. Crump on being selected as Women of Influence by the Los Angeles Business Journal

Jana I. Lubert

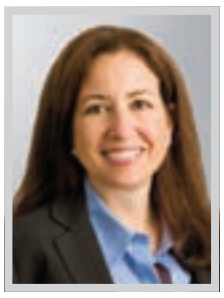
Alexis G. Crump

We are pleased that Los Angeles Partners Jana I. Lubert, Los Angeles Office Co-Managing Partner, Firm General Counsel, and National Chair D&O Practice, and Alexis G. Crump, National Co-Chair Commercial Lending and National Vice-Chair Corporate Practice have been listed as Women of Influence by the Los Angeles Business Journal! Jana and Alexis consistently show their commitment to the firm, its clients, and its people by excellence in their practices, and respectively, as co-chair of Lewis Brisbois' Women's Initiative and co-chair of Diversity & Inclusion. We thank them for their hard work and congratulate them on this recognition.

LEWIS BRISBOIS®

LewisBrisbois.com

WOMEN OF INFLUENCE: ATTORNEYS



SANDRA CRAWSHAW-SPARKS

Partner; Chair, Entertainment, Copyright and Media Practice Group
Proskauer Rose LLP

A recognized litigator in LA and beyond, Sandra (Sandy) Crawshaw-Sparks represents the most iconic names in the music business in matters involving recording, publishing, licensing and management contracts, copyrights, trademark rights, unfair competition claims, and the rights of privacy and publicity. In addition to advising Billboard top recording artists, she serves as deputy national legal counsel to the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, Inc. (the GRAMMY Award organization). She has focused her legal practice in the music sector since approximately 1988 and is one of few senior level women litigators in the business. Among other high profile clients, Crawshaw-Sparks represented Live Nation and Madonna in successfully defending against a motion to remand a putative class action to Florida state court. She also represented the Recording Academy in a dispute regarding defendants' registration and use of "Christian Grammy Awards" word and design mark.

ROBYN CROWTHER

Co-Managing Partner of Steptoe's LA office
Steptoe & Johnson LLP

Robyn Crowther, who serves as co-managing partner of Steptoe's Los Angeles office, has considerable first-chair trial and arbitration experience across a variety of litigation fields. Her arrival to Steptoe in January 2019 has strengthened the firm's presence on the West Coast and added depth to the litigation capabilities the firm has in the Los Angeles office. In the past two years, Crowther once again led all-women teams in arbitration and trial. Since 2018, she first-chaired five different arbitration and trial proceedings. In each proceeding, she led a team of all women, with all team members gaining stand-up experience with direct and cross examinations, arguing motions and making the opening statement. Moreover, Crowther was the only repeat attorney on each team, meaning that she assembled five different teams of women to handle substantive civil litigation.

ALEXIS CRUMP

Partner
Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP

Alexis Crump is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Lewis Brisbois and serves as co-chair of the firm's Commercial Lending Practice, as well as vice chair of its Corporate and Italy Practices. Crump handles debt and equity financing, real estate, municipal finance, and mergers and acquisitions for private equity, institutional lenders, developers, and public entities throughout the United States. She handles both buy-side and sell-side business acquisitions for small to mid-market companies, and has assisted in the growth of the firm's Italian cross-border practice. She has led over $1 billion in transactions during her career. As co-chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Crump works with the firm's chief diversity partner and director of diversity to strengthen Lewis Brisbois through diverse associate and lateral hiring, support, mentoring, promotion, and retention. In addition, she has remained a presence in the Los Angeles legal community, despite the ongoing pandemic.

MARA CURTIS

Partner
Reed Smith LLP

Mara Curtis is a partner in the Labor & Employment Group of Reed Smith. Curtis' practice focuses on counseling and litigating wage and hour matters. Curtis has handled more than 100 class/representative actions over her young career, and she is currently lead counsel on more than 15 class/representative action lawsuits in California. She has extensive experience representing employers both in state and federal court, and has handled numerous putative and/or certified class actions alleging overtime, minimum wage, meal and rest period, waiting time penalty and wage statement claims. Curtis also has experience in single employment cases including suits alleging claims of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, defamation, wrongful termination, and misappropriation of trade secrets. Curtis and her team successfully defended Ralphs Grocery Company in a PAGA trial that was originally filed as a class action.

MARISSA DENNIS

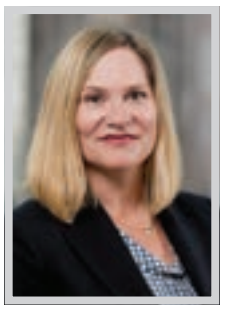
Partner; Operating Partner of Los Angeles Office
Allen Matkins

Marissa M. Dennis is a highly acclaimed litigation partner in the Los Angeles office of Allen Matkins where she was recently appointed office operating Partner. She also serves as the co-chair of the firm's Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Her litigation practice is focused on commercial, real estate, and financial services litigation. Dennis commonly represents commercial landlords, tenants and developers in a variety of breach of contract and tort actions, as well as national lenders and servicers in complex consumer finance litigation. She also has extensive experience representing technology companies in unfair competition and false advertising claims, including in multiple class actions. Dennis has chaired numerous jury trials, bench trials, and arbitrations, and has argued before the California Court of Appeal and federal and state courts throughout California. A large portion of her practice of late has been representing landlords and tenants in fair market rent disputes.

RITA DIAZ

Partner
Hahn & Hahn

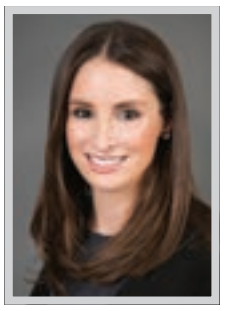
Rita Diaz is a member of Hahn & Hahn's litigation, employment, and trust and estates practice groups. She has significant experience handling contentious trust and estates litigation, as well as advising trustees and beneficiaries through trust administration issues. She is also skilled at advising companies on employment matters, including discrimination, leaves of absence, and wage and hour issues, and reviewing and drafting employee handbooks. Recent matters have included trust administrations (including a complex trust administration involving oil and gas interests and various pieces of real property); preparing estate plans (both new and updated) for numerous families; assisting trustees with administration of trusts, including trusts with difficult beneficiaries and complex assets such as business interests, valuable artwork, firearms, and high-end vehicles; assisting executors with probate administrations; preparing and successfully prosecuted objections to an overreaching trustee's accounting; and many other challenging processes on behalf of clients.



LORRAINE (LORI) ECHAVARRIA

Partner
WilmerHale

Lori Echavarria represents public companies, including many household names, corporate officers, financial institutions, hedge funds and other financial market participants facing serious government investigations and potential enforcement actions. She brings a deep understanding to this work, having previously spent more than 15 years at the US Securities and Exchange Commission, where she most recently served as Associate Regional Director and head of the enforcement program for the Los Angeles Regional Office and oversaw all the office's attorneys and accountants in the investigation and litigation of federal securities law violations in Southern California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii and Guam. Echavarria is a thought leader in the broader legal community and frequently speaks at highly regarded securities and corporate law conferences across the country, including the Securities Regulation Institute, Securities Enforcement Forum West, Los Angeles County Bar Association's Annual Securities Regulation Seminar and more.



ALLISON ETKIN

Partner
Wood Smith Henning & Berman LLP

Allison Etkin is a civil litigator who works a broad range of complex cases in the areas of transportation, construction defect, subrogation, products liability, real estate and habitability. During the past year, she worked with several national companies to provide an aggressive defense when necessary. She also assists our clients in developing an overall strategic approach to minimize exposure and risk. With respect to community service, following the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Etkin coordinated two donation based charity events, titled "Dance for Democracy," raising nearly $6,500.00 that was donated to Justice Ginsberg's favorite charities in her honor. This past year, Etkin also volunteered for We The Action to provide pro bono legal services to nonprofit organizations on the front lines of social change. Her most notable experience has been with Homeless Children's Playtime Project, a non-profit with a mission to provide transformative play experiences to children experiencing family homelessness.

HUESTON HENNIGAN LLP

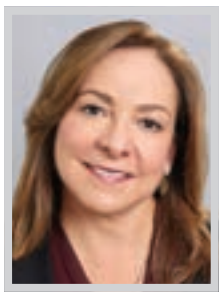
Congratulations

ALISON PLESSMAN
VICKI CHOU

Women of Influence — Attorneys
—Los Angeles Business Journal

HUESTON.COM

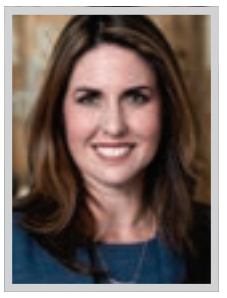
WOMEN OF INFLUENCE: ATTORNEYS



MARTA FERNANDEZ

Partner
Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP

Marta Fernandez has a traditional labor law practice with 35 years of experience in the representation of employers in union/labor collective bargaining in both the private and public sectors. She has negotiated well over 100 labor contracts for her clients with every major labor union in California, primarily in the healthcare and hospitality industries. The labor contracts she negotiates represent multiple millions of dollars to employers in labor costs covering wages, benefits such as health care and pension plan contributions, and work rules. Fernandez is the chair of the Labor & Employment Law Department at Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP and is a member of the firm's Management Committee. Recently, as the chief negotiator, Fernandez successfully negotiated a three-year labor contract on behalf of a major healthcare system covering seven separate healthcare facilities and approximately 5,000 registered nurses with the United Nurses Association of California/Union of Health Care Professionals.



RACHEL FISET

Partner
Zweiback, Fiset & Coleman LLP

Rachel L. Fiset is a co-founder and partner of Zweiback, Fiset & Coleman LLP. Her practice includes state and federal civil and white-collar criminal matters, including government and internal investigations. In 2018, Fiset left a large international firm with a clear mission – to build a powerhouse woman owned law firm focused on diversity, leadership and efficiency. Since forming Zweiback, Fiset & Coleman, Fiset has been involved in several of the highest profile investigations and cases in the Central District of California. She currently defends an unindicted co-conspirator in the indictment of various entities relating to allegations of a fraudulent $2 billion-dollar scheme to avoid paying U.S. tariffs. Recently, Fiset defended and achieved a declination from the Department of Justice on behalf of a chain of long-term care pharmacies relating to False Claims Act allegations amounting to over $100 million dollars. Villamizar v. Senior Care Pharmacy Services, Inc. et al.

TANYA FORSHEIT

Partner; Chair of the Privacy & Data Security Group
Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz, PC

In a world where privacy and data security are among the most urgent issues facing government, business and individuals, nobody knows more about how to navigate the fast-changing regulatory landscape than Frankfurt Kurnit Privacy & Data Security chair Tanya Forsheit. A lifelong Southern California native and current supervising partner of Frankfurt Kurnit's LA office, Forsheit is widely considered one of the country's top privacy and data security lawyers. Forsheit has advised on high-profile matters involving confidential data and other sensitive information for over 20 years. Widely recognized as one of the leading advisors on the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), Forsheit has advised hundreds of organizations on compliance with the law. And she testified before the California legislature during its consideration of CCPA amendments. Forsheit is currently advising clients on the new California Privacy Rights Act, Proposition 24, which will take effect in 2023.

DEBORAH FOX

Principal; Chair of First Amendment Practice and Trial & Litigation Practice
Mayers Nave

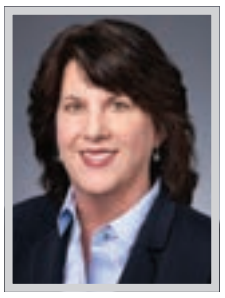
Deborah Fox is a principal in the Los Angeles office of Meyers Nave, a member of the firm's three-person Executive Committee, and the founder and leader of the firm's Trial & Litigation Practice and First Amendment Practice. The cases Fox handles confirm her reputation as a go-to attorney for high impact complex litigation and crisis management involving controversial matters that are already front-page news or likely to become headlines in the greater Los Angeles region and across the U.S. She is particularly well known for handling cases in new areas of law that define pivotal eras in history that will leave powerful legacies, such as her pioneering COVID-19 litigation that lies at the intersection of law and highly charged considerations for society. She is currently defending counties, cities and public officials in 10 lawsuits throughout California in cases filed by businesses challenging COVID-related restrictions.

Davis Wright Tremaine congratulates our friend and colleague, Beatrice Nuñez-Bellamy, for being honored among the Los Angeles Business Journal's 2021 Women of Influence - Attorneys List!

DWT.COM/DIVERSITY

Anchorage | Bellevue | Los Angeles | New York
Portland | San Francisco | Seattle | Washington, D.C.

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

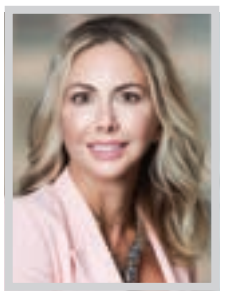


BARBARA GADBOIS

Partner

Gibbs Giden Locher Turner Senet & Wittbrodt

Barbara R. Gadbois, is a senior partner at the Gibbs Giden law firm in Los Angeles, with over 35 years of experience in public and private construction law. She concentrates her practice in the development and management of construction projects, including drafting and negotiation of bid and contract documents, procurement issues, public works, competitive bidding requirements, bid protest issues, pre-qualification, project delivery methods, design-build projects, risk allocation in contracts, claims avoidance, and project closeout. She represents municipal clients, private developers, and general contractors in all aspects of major multi-million dollar projects. Gadbois' clients value her experience, insight, and practical advice, in design and construction contract negotiation, administration, and dispute resolution. Over the past year, her practice focused on transactional and project administration matters for residential development, hospitals, and school construction as well as dispute resolution in the hospitality sector.



MICHELLE GASAWAY

Partner

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

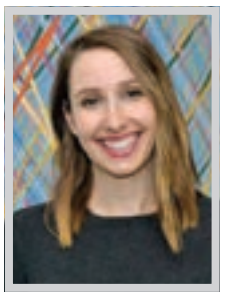
Michelle Gasaway is regularly sought after for her unique, broad experience with an extensive range of complex capital markets transactions that leverage her in-depth knowledge and allow her to provide customized, comprehensive service to her clients. Gasaway, together with her team, offers among the most comprehensive variety of capital markets services within the legal marketplace. For Gasaway, the last two years have been the busiest in her career, continuing to an even greater degree in 2021. She is a leader in the explosion of Special Purpose Acquisition Companies (SPACs), both on front-end IPOs and back-end "de-SPAC" mergers and PIPE financings, having been involved in well over 50 SPAC-related transactions just since summer 2020. Most recently, Gasaway represented PWP Forward Acquisition Corp. I, a first of its mission SPAC focused on improving access to public financing for companies that are founded by, led by or enrich the lives of women.

ABIRAMI (ABI) GNANADESIGAN

Member

Dykema Gossett PLLC

Abi Gnanadesigan joined Dykema as an associate and quickly rose to member with invaluable contributions to help clients reach success. Along with those contributions, she has been actively involved in mentoring associates, serving as a member of the firm's associate's committee, and acting as a member of a committee tasked with the retention of minority lawyers. Outside of her practice, Gnanadesigan contributes to the legal industry through membership in professional organizations, such as the South Asian Bar Association and the Los Angeles County Bar Association. She is committed to giving back to the community and dedicates part of her practice each year to pro bono work. She served as a law clerk for the HIV & AIDS Legal Services Alliance helping clients to obtain crucial medical benefits. She has volunteered for Bet Tzedek and the Los Angeles County Bar Association Domestic Violence Project, at which she helped clients obtain restraining orders against their abusers.



GALI GRANT

Partner

Glaser Weil LLP

Gali Grant, a partner in Glaser Weil's Litigation Department, handles various matters on behalf of a diverse range of clients, including large and small businesses, financial institutions, municipalities and individuals. Grant's practice has included cases involving complex contract disputes, intellectual property, the False Claims Act, civil rights and employment disputes. Grant is also a valuable original member of the firm's Diversity & Inclusion Committee. She's the first female litigator to start at the firm as a first-year associate and become a partner. She is part of the external initiatives team to promote outward diversity on behalf of the firm. Additionally, she has been involved with planning events, including last year's 100 year anniversary of the women's right to vote panel. Grant is committed to serving her community and works with other attorneys in Los Angeles to organize drives for food and other necessities to help those in need.

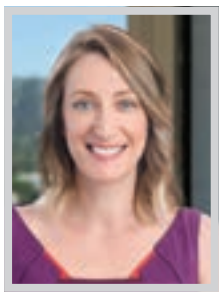
HAHN & HAHN LLP
LAWYERS

OUR FOUNDATION
YOUR FUTURE

We congratulate
Rita Diaz & **Christianne Kerns**
on their *Los Angeles Business Journal*
Women of Influence recognition.

hahnlawyers.com

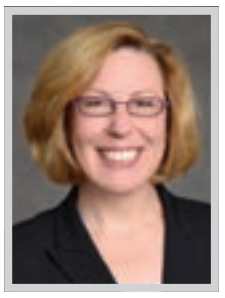
WOMEN OF INFLUENCE: ATTORNEYS



VANJA HABEKOVIC

Partner
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP

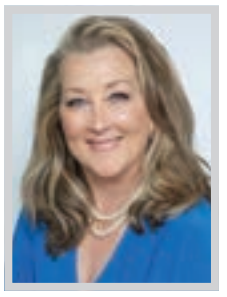
Vanja Habekovic is a partner in Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP's Business & Corporate and Tax Departments. Her clients rely on her dynamic counsel to establish, grow, maintain and sell their businesses and to navigate the important tax consequences that arise when making deals. Habekovic has a reputation of not only working closely and collaborating with her clients on existing matters, but looks long term to further develop strategies to advance a company's future endeavors. She digs deep to understand the business concerns to ensure business and tax counseling is seamless and comprehensive. Addressing taxation issues as part of a greater business plan helps clients maintain the tax efficiency of organizations and transactional decision. Habekovic advises clients in a variety of industries, including real estate, technology, fashion and restaurant. She thrives on representing women founders, women executives and women-run businesses, advising and empowering them to not sell themselves short.



LINDA HATCHER

Senior Attorney (Partner)
Theodora Oringher PC

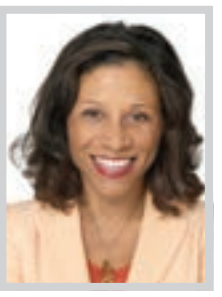
Linda Hatcher is a corporate, transactional and health care lawyer. She has represented clients across diverse industries and has extensive experience in the health care industry. Hatcher's earlier career was in business management. Prior to becoming a lawyer, she was a business manager with American Hospital Supply Corporation (now Baxter). That experience enables her to appreciate the needs of her clients when assisting them with legal matters. Since 1994 she has practiced with Theodora Oringher PC, a firm celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year. Hatcher is a senior attorney (partner) with the firm. Her areas of expertise include business formations, mergers and acquisitions, contracts, licensing and regulatory (business and professional), health care regulatory, governance, corporate maintenance, employment, dissociations and dissolutions. She often serves as outside general counsel to clients. She is also well-known as a health care business lawyer, representing primarily those in the business of providing care.



TERRI HILLIARD

Principal
Terri Hilliard, PC

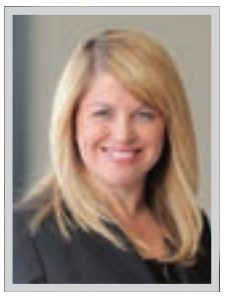
Terri E. Hilliard is the principal of Terri Hilliard, P.C. in Westlake Village. Her practice centers on advanced estate and business succession planning, asset protection, special needs trusts, and family protection planning for seniors. Hilliard and her team are trusted advisors to individuals and their families, partnering with them to develop a roadmap that includes all of the elements necessary to ensure long-term financial security. They also help manage care when there is a life altering event such as a hospitalization. Many of Hilliard's clients have children who live out of state, which can make management of care very challenging. She provides critical assistance by creating asset, business and estate protection plans as well as probate and trust administration. Hilliard also helps with financial and long-term care planning for individuals with special needs and assembles and works collaboratively with a specialized team of advisors.



SHAWN HOLLEY

Partner
Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump LLP

Shawn Holley, a partner at Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump LLP routinely represents top entertainment talent in highly publicized cases with the main goal of keeping very personal matters out of the public eye. She has represented or currently represents Kanye West, Justin Bieber, Lindsay Lohan, Nicole Richie, Paris Hilton, Michelle Rodriquez, the Kardashian/Jenner family, Katt Williams, Shemar Moore, accused Symbionese Liberation Army bomber Sara Jane Olson, celebrated Black Panther leader Geronimo Pratt, Michael Jackson, Tupac Shakur, Snoop Dogg, The Game, Axl Rose, Mike Tyson, "Sugar" Ray Leonard, Lamar Odom and Reggie Bush. Current matters include representing actor Shia LaBeouf in an ongoing civil case filed by FKA Twigs; representing rap artist Tony Lanez who has been accused of shooting Megan Thee Stallion; and representing songwriters Justin Raisen, Jeremiah Raisen, and Justin "Yves" Rothman in a massive countersuit against singer Lizzo over her breakout song "Truth Hurts."



NANCY INESTA

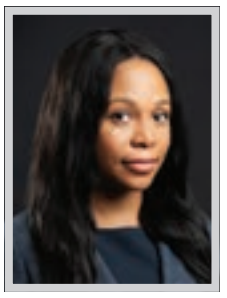
Partner, Labor and Employment
BakerHostetler

Nancy Inesta, partner in BakerHostetler's Los Angeles office, advises and represents clients on employment and labor law. In addition to her traditional labor and employment practice, her focus in the last year has been guiding employers on responding to COVID-19. Inesta quickly developed new approaches to employment issues in the confusing days of March 2020. Taking a leadership role at BakerHostetler, she provided daily updates to the firm's chairman and chief operations partner on protecting firm personnel. Inesta used this experience to assist in developing internal policies for BakerHostetler and also advise her clients. She kept clients informed with webinars and email alerts – sharing best practices for employers. Her work remains focused on California, and through COVID-19 she strengthened relationships with LA hospitality clients and become an expert in the area for entertainment industry clients. Nancy continues to advise companies on COVID-19 regulations including CAL-OSHA, federal, state and local guidelines.

ROBBIN ITKIN

Partner
Sklar Kirsh LLP

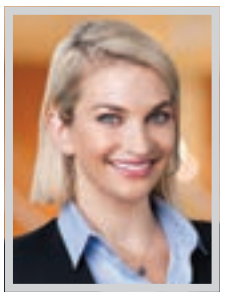
Robbin Itkin is a partner in Sklar Kirsh's Bankruptcy practice group. Her experience restructuring billions of dollars of debt includes insolvency resolutions in chapter 11 cases and numerous restructurings outside the courtroom. As a mediator, Itkin uses her problem-solving strength to advise both healthy companies and those in distress, leading them to negotiate effectively with their own creditors and counterparties who are in fragile economic straits. Experienced at representing a range of parties in the bankruptcy process, Itkin has protected the claims and interests of debtors, creditors' equity and bondholders' committees, purchasers, and trustees in corporate restructurings and bankruptcies. Her industry experience spans real estate, entertainment, sports, retail, transportation, manufacturing, and hospitality. Many of her clients are high-profile individuals in entertainment, sports, and business. She discreetly guides them through out-of-court workouts and financial transactions, often advising at all stages of business growth and on early signs of distress.



KIRSTEN JACKSON

Partner
Kasowitz Benson Torres LLP

Kirsten Jackson is a Partner at Kasowitz Benson Torres LLP, where she handles complex business litigation and insurance recovery matters. Her accomplishments in her insurance recovery practice establish her nationally as one of the top go-to lawyers for policy holders. She was part of a team that obtained a non-confidential, eight-figure settlement on behalf of the Hawaii Department of Transportation in a dispute with Ciber Inc. and its insurer, XL. Jackson successfully helped resolve another large insurance coverage claim by Cottage Health against insurers CNA and Beazley involving the application of a cyber liability policy's minimum security requirements, a matter of first impression in California. Kirsten is currently litigating a variety of cutting-edge business interruption claims stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic around the country. In addition to her insurance recovery practice, Jackson represents major clients like Chevron and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in high-stakes civil litigation.



SALLY JAMES

Partner
Greenberg Glusker Fields Claman & Machtinger LLP

Sally James of Greenberg Glusker has a breadth of practice unparalleled in the entertainment industry, handling high level corporate financing transactions alongside deals for A-list talent. Recently, James represented Ubisoft Entertainment in connection with its high-level, unique content deals with Netflix to develop live-action, animated, and anime series based on the video game "Assassin's Creed," and a feature adaptation of the popular video game franchise "The Division." In addition, she handled financing work with Neon's Super Ltd for "You Cannot Kill David Arquette" on behalf of the filmmakers, represented lead talent for a new series being developed and produced by Netflix, and handled numerous endorsement deals (including with corporate equity components) for A-list talent. She represents XR Studios, a producer of extended reality content, including in connection with Billie Eilish's live streaming concert "Where Do We Go?" and the 2020 VMAs.

Most Influential Women Lawyers In Los Angeles

Principal and Executive Committee Member
Chair, Trial and Litigation Practice
Chair, First Amendment Practice

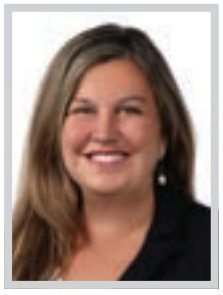
Meyers Nave congratulates

DEBORAH J. FOX

and her team of Trial, Litigation and First Amendment attorneys for their outstanding results, exemplary client service and highly ranked legal expertise.

meyers | nave
Offices Throughout California
meyersnave.com | 800.464.3559

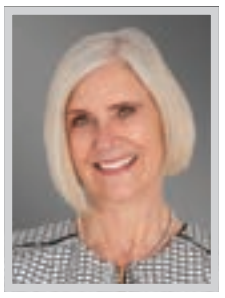
WOMEN OF INFLUENCE: ATTORNEYS



ARWEN JOHNSON

Partner
King & Spalding LLP

Arwen Johnson is a consummate trial lawyer and litigator. She has achieved significant victories for a range of clients involving some of the most contentious and significant business and societal issues. These include representing entertainment companies such as Netflix, Warner Bros., and New Line in intellectual property disputes; successfully defending employment and consumer class action cases; and tackling private and public litigation relating to COVID-19. Johnson was co-lead strategy counsel for Postmates in a putative class action in which the plaintiff alleged improper mass texting in violation of the TCPA. The plaintiff asserted that Postmates was vicariously liable for downstream marketing vendors who allegedly sent thousands of text messages to promote Postmates' platform and attract delivery drivers. The team litigated several dispositive motions, resulting in early victory. Among her work, Johnson is currently representing entertainment companies Netflix, Warner Bros., and New Line productions in various copyright infringement and idea theft cases.



BARBARA A. JONES

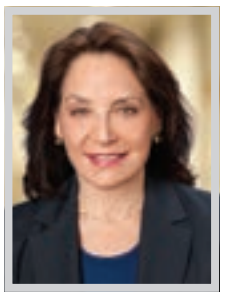
Co-Managing Shareholder, Los Angeles
Greenberg Traurig, LLP

Barbara A. Jones constantly seeks opportunities to drive positive change in her profession, the firm and the community. She achieved a major career milestone in January 2021 being named co-managing shareholder of Greenberg Traurig's Los Angeles Office, and has demonstrated significant achievements on behalf of her global capital markets, blockchain, and fintech clients. A highly accomplished securities transactional attorney, Jones serves as co-chair of the firm's global Blockchain and Digital Assets group and coordinates the firmwide COVID-19 Economic Stimulus Task Force. Considered a pioneer as legal counsel in the blockchain and fintech industry, Barbara collaborates with regulators and government agencies on issues involving this rapidly evolving and complex financial technology. She also represents many of the businesses creating groundbreaking blockchain technology, including Spring Labs, Inc., Global Smart Commodity Group, Ultra Infinity LLC, ORU Market, VeriBlock, RUON Trading Ltd. and Veritable Data Solutions.

ASHLEY JORDAN

Partner
Reed Smith LLP

Ashley B. Jordan is a partner in Reed Smith's Los Angeles office and a member of the firm's Insurance Recovery Group. Jordan has a proven track record of maximizing insurance recoveries for policyholders, through negotiation, litigation, or alternative dispute resolution. Her practice focuses on claims for financial services clients; natural disaster claims for property owners; and claims for construction and manufacturer clients. Jordan has helped recover tens of millions in insurance proceeds for Fortune and Global 500 companies, as well as individuals and start-up businesses. Throughout 2020, Jordan helped lead the Insurance Recovery Group's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, running the group's weekly COVID-19 Task Force meetings and ensuring clients stayed at the forefront of rapidly evolving judicial and legislative developments. Jordan routinely writes and presents on topics concerning insurance coverage, risk management, and bad faith liability.



BETH KASE

Partner
Fenton Law Group

Beth Kase of leading healthcare law firm Fenton Law Group is widely considered to be one of the preeminent healthcare attorneys in the state for her representation of a wide range of industry players. Her business and regulatory experience encompasses handling complex matters on behalf of ASCs, hospitals, community clinics and affiliated mobile clinics, dialysis centers, skilled nursing facilities, hospices, laboratories, and others. Recent matters include representing a physician in sale of medical practice to a hospital system, representing a physician in the sale of a medical practice to a private equity affiliated group, establishing a California LLC to manage an ambulatory surgical center and an office based surgery center, negotiating a contract dispute between a physician group and an independent practice association, and representing a pharmacy in responding to HIPAA breach. She also currently serves as the vice chair of the American Bar Association Healthcare Policy Task Force.

GT GreenbergTraurig

GTLAW.COM

Congratulations

Greenberg Traurig congratulates the *Los Angeles Business Journal* Women of Influence honorees, including our Los Angeles Co-Managing Shareholder, **Barbara A. Jones**.

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

Barbara A. Jones
Co-Managing Shareholder, Los Angeles Office; Co-Chair, Blockchain & Digital Assets Practice

GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP | ATTORNEYS AT LAW | 2200 ATTORNEYS | 40 LOCATIONS WORLDWIDE*

1840 Century Park East | Suite 1900
Los Angeles, CA 90067 | 310.586.7700

GreenbergTraurigLLP | Greenberg Traurig, LLP | GT_Law | GT_Law

Greenberg Traurig is a service mark and trade name of Greenberg Traurig, LLP and Greenberg Traurig, P.A. ©2021 Greenberg Traurig, LLP. Attorneys at Law. All rights reserved. Attorney Advertising. Contact: Barbara A. Jones in Los Angeles at 310.586.7700. *These numbers are subject to fluctuation. 35196

WORLDWIDE LOCATIONS

United States, Europe, Middle East, Asia, Latin America

CHRISTIANNE KERNS

Managing Partner
Hahn & Hahn

Chris Kerns is the first female managing partner of the prestigious 121-year-old Pasadena-based law firm – which has transitioned from an historic "old-line firm" into a majority women and minority owned firm. As managing partner, Kerns is responsible for managing day to day business operations, developing, implementing and driving organizational goals, procedures and policies, managing firm lawyers and the director of administration, collaborating with other partners, and maintaining positive client relationships. She and her team handle sophisticated financing transactions and restructures; manage complex commercial business relationships and contracts; and lead multifaceted real estate deals and projects. Kerns is a trusted board member and advisor to boards of directors, equity holders, and C-suite executives with a track record of identifying and effectively addressing risks and legal issues as well as strategic and operational challenges with the overarching goal of optimizing results, value, and ROI.

LIZ KLEBANER

Partner, Environment and Land Use
Nossaman

Liz Klebaner is a partner in Nossaman's Environment & Land Use Practice Group, where she advises public agency and corporate clients on a variety of complex land use and environmental matters, and litigates in both state and federal court. Over the past several years, Klebaner has worked on a number of high profile matters, including leading the Land Use Law team for the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) on projects that would revitalize downtown San Diego and enhance transportation to and from the San Diego International Airport. On the former projects (Navy Old Town Campus Revitalization and SANDAG Central Mobility Hub and Airport Connector Projects), one of her primary roles over the past year was helping craft legislation (AB2731) intended to support the potential redevelopment of the 70-acre Navy Old Town Campus SITE. This legislation was signed into law by California Governor Gavin Newsom on August 29, 2020.

LINDA KORNFELD

Partner and Vice Chair of Insurance Recovery Practice
Blank Rome LLP

Lawdragon calls Linda Kornfeld, Blank Rome partner and vice chair of its nationally recognized Insurance Recovery Practice, "a card-carrying member of the ultra-elite club of insurance recovery specialists." She is at the top of the highly competitive, male-dominated insurance policyholder bar – one of only three women ranked nationally by the prestigious Chambers USA. Kornfeld has more than 25 years of experience representing corporate policyholders in high-stakes litigation, recovering hundreds of millions of dollars for her clients. While some attorneys fight every fight, she cuts through disputes, building consensus, and solving intricate problems to find favorable resolutions for her clients. She is well-known for her innovative approach, having, on multiple occasions, set precedents in court which created new law. Kornfeld handles coverage matters that are frequently in the news, including data breaches, child sex abuse cases, wildfires, and other natural disaster events.

LORI KOZAK

Partner; Co-Chair of Trademarks Practice Group
Fox Rothschild LLP

Co-chair of Fox Rothschild's Trademarks Practice Group and member of a tight-knit group of current and former U.S. Patent and Trademark Office examiners, Lori Kozak combines inside knowledge of the trademark examination process with a sophisticated understanding of global intellectual property systems and industry-specific goals and challenges. This multifaceted experience, and a solid track record of success, make Kozak a go-to attorney and strategist for U.S. and multinational corporations, award-winning artists and emerging technology companies seeking to protect and monetize their most valuable assets: their intellectual property. Kozak's recent engagements include managing global trademark clearance and registration for multiple international musicians and provide legal support on intellectual property matters related to licensing, sponsorship agreements and brand enforcement. Among her other work, Kozak manages the trademark portfolio of a major international filmmaker and brand owner.

FENTON
LAW GROUP | LLP

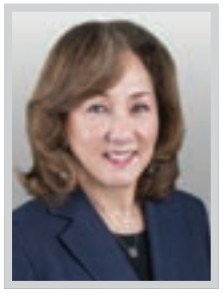
fentonlawgroup.com

We salute **Beth Kase**,
chair of Fenton Law Group's regulatory and transactional practices, for being one of a few healthcare lawyers to be named to the *Los Angeles Business Journal*'s "Women of Influence: Attorneys."

HEALTHCARE

LITIGATION | COMPLIANCE | TRANSACTIONS | REGULATORY DEFENSE

WOMEN OF INFLUENCE: ATTORNEYS



CAROLYN KUBOTA

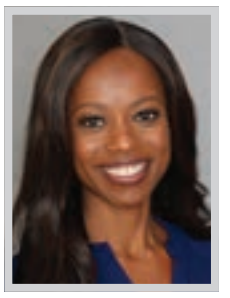
Partner
Covington & Burling LLP

Carolyn Kubota is a nationally acclaimed litigator with extensive first-chair trial experience and a near undefeated record in over 20 trials in state and federal courts. Kubota draws upon her twelve years of experience as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Los Angeles U.S. Attorney's Office when representing major domestic and international companies in their most high-stakes investigations and litigation matters, including National litigation counsel for the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) in hundreds of cases pending in five states in which athletes, including former Olympic gymnasts, contend that the USOC should be held liable for abuse by former USA Gymnastics physician, Dr. Larry Nassar. She also served as counsel for Johnson & Johnson in consumer fraud litigation arising out of the sale and marketing of the company's mesh implant products.

IRENE LEE

Partner
Russ August & Kabat

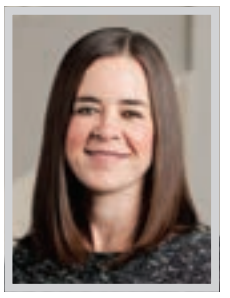
Irene Lee is a partner at Russ August & Kabat, where she focuses her practice on all aspects of intellectual property, including patent, trademark, trade secret, copyright, and IP licensing. Lee has extensive experience in trademark and copyright prosecution, litigation, and licensing with an emphasis on global brand expansion and content management. As a registered patent attorney, she also counsels clients concerning patent protection and monetization with an eye toward building value to their overall business focus. Clients from varying industries seek and heed Lee's advice and her peers respect her opinion because of her considered legal analysis balanced against her pragmatic approach to legal problems with real-life solutions. Lee has managed over 5,000 brands as part of her role in managing IP portfolio for high profile clients such as The Honest Company, Inc., Carroll Hall Shelby Trust, Scantron Corporation, Britney Spears, Cardi B, and many others.



DOMINIQUE SHELTON LEIPZIG

Partner
Perkins Coie LLP

Dominique Shelton Leipzig has made an impressive mark as global co-chair of Perkins Coie's Ad Tech Privacy & Data Management practice, and she is well-recognized among clients and colleagues for her experience providing counsel and defense related to global privacy and cyber preparedness compliance and data breach response, and guidance on privacy implications related to healthtech, fintech, AI, and IoT solutions. She was elected to the Executive Committee of the International Association of Privacy Professionals, an organization that has over 65,000 members. In her role at Perkins Coie, she guides global organizations through the fourth industrial revolution. This requires involvement in all key aspects of a business including product development, future planning, compliance, M&A, and partnerships. Over the past 18 months, besides advising clients such as Microsoft Commercial Business, Discovery Inc., and Verily, Leipzig represented the California Chamber of Commerce in a six-week negotiation.

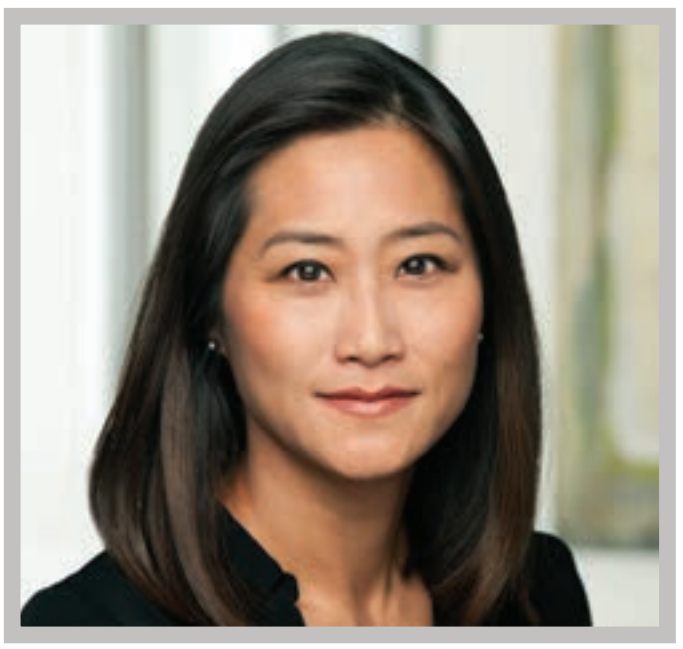


MOLLY LENS

Partner
O'Melveny & Myers LLP

Co-chair of O'Melveny's Entertainment, Sports and Media Group, Molly Lens has earned a reputation as one of Hollywood's top litigators – with her achievements for her clients regularly making front-page headlines. In one of the most high-stakes and highly-publicized entertainment litigations in recent memory, Lens is co-lead counsel of the O'Melveny team that secured a key win in 2019 for Twentieth Century Fox against Netflix – with industry-wide ramifications – arising from Netflix's efforts to poach Fox executives. Lens and her team won a motion for summary judgment and a permanent injunction stopping Netflix's interference with Fox's employment contracts. The victory importantly reaffirms the use and importance of fixed-term contracts. The case is now on appeal. Following her success in the Fox/Netflix case, Lens is facing off against Netflix again in another headline-making showdown as co-lead counsel of the team representing videogame heavyweight Activision Blizzard in a dispute over Netflix's alleged executive poaching of Activision's CFO.

RUSS AUGUST & KABAT



CONGRATULATIONS

Russ August & Kabat proudly congratulates our partner and colleague,

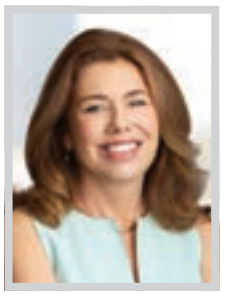
IRENE Y. LEE

on being named among the

2021 WOMEN OF INFLUENCE: ATTORNEYS

Russ August & Kabat provides sophisticated, creative, and business-focused intellectual property, mergers & acquisitions, real property transaction and litigation counsel to our clients.

www.RAKLaw.com | 310.826.7474



L. RACHEL LERMAN

Partner
Barnes & Thornburg LLP

Rachel Lerman – co-chair of Barnes & Thornburg's Appeals and Critical Motions group – advises clients on trial, mediation, and appellate strategy in complex civil cases, and handles writs and appeals in state and federal courts nationwide. Beyond drafting policy arguments in cases involving issues of first impression, Lerman openly shares that what she enjoys most about her work is putting difficult problems and thorny questions of law into language that a generalist judge and her clerks appreciate. Widely known for her outstanding writing and communication abilities, Lerman identifies and articulates the issues and merits in a way that will interest and appeal to appellate and Supreme Court judges. She has played a lead role in bet-the-company cases in a wide variety of industries and practice areas, including complex commercial disputes, labor and employment, insurance recovery, bankruptcy, trademark, tribal, and utilities litigation.

RACHEL LOWE

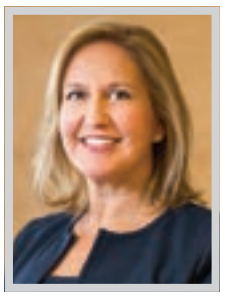
Partner
Alston & Bird

Rachel Lowe is a partner in Alston & Bird's Litigation & Trial Practice Group. She represents clients in a variety of industries, including food and beverage, telecom, and retail; in false advertising and privacy class actions; and in other complex commercial disputes. Lowe is a member of Alston & Bird's Chambers-rated Food, Beverage & Agribusiness Team and works hand in hand with regulatory counsel to advise industry-leading food producers, distributors, and retailers facing litigation and investigations. She helps multinationals navigate sustainability issues, labeling requirements, supply chain disputes, and other issues. She is also a member of the firm's Privacy & Cybersecurity Litigation Team. She advises retail industry and other clients on data breaches and CCPA, CIPA, and other state-law privacy claims. Lowe recently secured a complete judgment in favor of a major alcohol distributor in a putative class action pending in Orange County Superior Court's Complex Division.

JANA LUBERT

General Counsel
Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP

Jana Lubert serves many leadership roles at Lewis Brisbois, the 7th largest law firm in the United States. As general counsel, Lubert provides legal advice to more than 1,500 lawyers nationwide, and serves as a resource available to firm attorneys to discuss ethical and practical problems that arise in the everyday practice of law, as well as a resource to the firm's administrative staff when employment and policy issues arise. Lubert has been co-managing partner of the firm's Los Angeles office, the firm's first and largest office, since 2018, and has served since 2017 as a voting partner on Lewis Brisbois' 11-person national Management Committee – the first woman to hold this position at the firm. During 2020, Lubert was a member of the firm's internal response team to the COVID-19 pandemic, which remains active as the country continues to deal with and respond to the pandemic.



BETHANY LUKITSCH

Partner
McGuireWoods LLP

McGuireWoods partner and class action co-chair Bethany Lukitsch shaped the landscape of class action and complex litigation in 2020 as national retailers, financial institutions and global product manufacturer clients turned to Lukitsch to defend novel class actions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and high-stakes litigation. She also cemented her reputation as a go-to adviser for companies needing guidance navigating the California Consumer Privacy Act in the first year of its implementation and interpreting the California Privacy Rights Act, which passed last November and becomes effective Jan. 1, 2023. Clients requested her assistance in defending against claims and to comply with laws that arose out of the COVID-19 pandemic. She spearheaded significant thought leadership in a multi-part blog series on coronavirus and class actions for the firm's Class Action Countermeasures blog and co-authored the chapter on class actions in the timely 2021 American Bar Association publication, "Infectious Disease Litigation: Science, Law & Procedure."

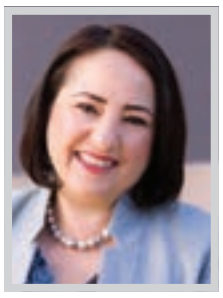
Congratulations to
Jessica Babrick
for being selected to the
Los Angeles Business Journal's
"Women of Influence: Attorneys."

ESTATE PLANNING | WEALTH TRANSFER PLANNING
ESTATE & TRUST ADMINISTRATION | ESTATE & TRUST LITIGATION
BUSINESS SUCCESSION PLANNING | CHARITABLE PLANNING

Weinstock Manion

weinstocklaw.com

WOMEN OF INFLUENCE: ATTORNEYS



MARINA MANOUKIAN

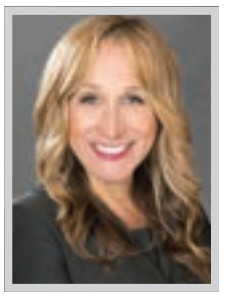
Head of Family Law
ADLI Law Group

Marina Manoukian is the head of the Family Law department at ADLI Law Group. Her practice focuses on family law and civil litigation and includes business, real estate, and construction litigation. Manoukian is a Certified Family Law Specialist with the California Bar, which demonstrates her skills and knowledge in the area of family law. One of her recent accomplishments came in May 2020, when Manoukian successfully represented a victim of domestic violence in trial court and on appeal. The Court of Appeal certified the opinion for publication based on issues of first impression. The Family Violence Appellate Project celebrated the victory by saying, "We believe this case will help other survivors like Nicole G who are seeking move-out orders and property control orders, particularly in cases where survivors have moved to another residence, a DV shelter, or other place while the abuser remains living in the parties' shared dwelling."

NATALIE MARTIROSSIAN

Partner
Goodwin

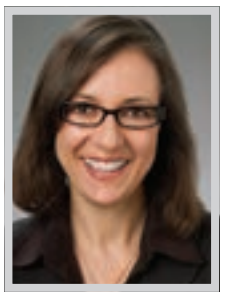
Natalie Martirossian is a rising star in Goodwin's Technology group, where she's played a pivotal role in several of the firm's recent market-altering M+A deals, venture financings and capital markets transactions. Martirossian has represented many clients for several years, and her philosophy is emblematic of the firm's focus on building long-term relationships and providing guidance throughout the corporate life-cycle. Her varied practice includes pre-incorporation planning, general corporate representation and counseling, venture capital financings, mergers and acquisitions, public offerings, corporate governance, SEC compliance, and public company representation. She also works with venture capitalists in private stock offerings as well as investment banks in public stock offerings. Martirossian has served as a key figure on numerous recent matters, including advising Powered Brands on its upsized $240.0 million IPO; and advising MyoKardia, Inc. in its acquisition by Bristol Myers Squibb for $13.1 billion.



DEBRA MEPPEN

Partner & Chair of the Gordon & Rees National Labor and Employment Law Practice Group
Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP

Debra Ellwood Meppen is a litigation partner and the chair of the Gordon & Rees National Labor and Employment Law Practice Group, one of the firm's largest practices nationwide. She has an active employment litigation and counseling practice defending celebrities, and both private and public entities against claims of discrimination, retaliation, FMLA, wrongful termination, defamation and harassment claims. In addition, she handles large-scale class action litigation throughout California and nationally. She regularly counsels employers on hiring practices, terminations, workplace investigations, reductions in work force issues, and litigation avoidance practices. Meppen has been lead counsel in numerous hotly litigated matters including one in which she defeated class certification in a wage and hour class action with nearly 10,000 putative class members. She is a highly sought-after attorney for her expertise, negotiation abilities, and for the discretion that she offers to celebrity, corporate, and other clientele.



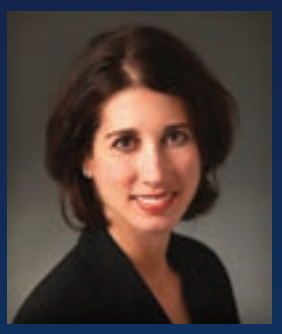
LINDA MICHAELSON

Partner
Sheppard Mullin

Linda Michaelson is practice group leader of Sheppard Mullin's Corporate and Securities Practice Group and is based in the firm's Century City office. Michaelson's practice focuses on the representation of companies involved in corporate transactions, with a particular emphasis on the entertainment, digital media and technology industries. She represents major motion picture studios, television networks, independent production companies, digital media companies, investors and other institutional entertainment, media and convergence clients in strategic transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, strategic alliances and other corporate finance transactions around the world. Recent transactions include representing Sony Pictures Entertainment, Lakeshore Entertainment and Lions Gate Entertainment, Inc. in connection with their M&A and other corporate transactions. She is also a member of the board of directors and Executive Committee of Bet Tzedek, a pro bono legal services organization (2011-present).

GORDON REES SCULLY MANSUKHANI CONGRATULATES
2021 Women of Influence

Debra Ellwood Meppen
Partner & Chair of Women's Initiative



Brenda Radmacher
Partner

Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani—Your 50 State Partner®

As the only law firm with offices and attorneys in all 50 states, Gordon & Rees delivers maximum value to our clients by combining the resources of a full-service national firm with the local knowledge of a regional firm. With 1,000+ attorneys, Gordon & Rees is recognized among the fastest growing and largest law firms in the country.

TOP 40 Best Law Firms for Female Attorneys
for firms with 600+ attorneys · *Law360*

TOP 25 Top Law Firms for Women
in the AmLaw100 · *National Law Journal*

GORDON&REES
SCULLY MANSUKHANI

YOUR 50 STATE PARTNER®
www.grsm.com

Larson LLP congratulates our partners

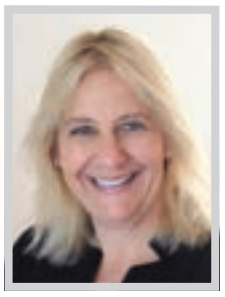
KOREN L. BELL
HILARY POTASHNER

Women of Influence — Attorneys
Los Angeles Business Journal

LARSON LLP

Unrivaled Experience. Unrelenting Advocacy. Unparalleled Results.

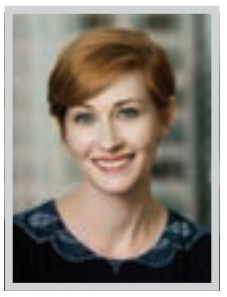
Los Angeles | Orange County | Washington, D.C. | larsonllp.com | 213.436.4888



JANICE MILLER

Managing Partner
Miller Haga Law Group, LLP

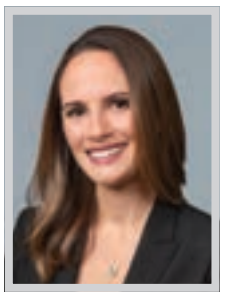
Janice Miller is the managing partner of Miller Haga Law Group, LLP. and is a highly recognized legal expert with over 25 years of experience as an innovative general counsel. She serves as a strategic legal partner and business advisor, providing the firm's clients with pragmatic, cost–effective legal and business solutions that minimize risk and maximize profits. Miller represents clients in business transactions, real estate leasing, entertainment, intellectual property, licensing, hospitality and the emerging legal field of unmanned aerial systems (drones). Over the past 18 months she is proud to have assisted numerous companies and entertainment-related businesses with a wide range of legal transactions and disputes. These include negotiating celebrity endorsement for an alcohol brand, serving as general counsel for a major entertainment venture and a large Southern California theme park, negotiating the sale of an eight-figure grossing manufacturing company, and brokering more than 80 leases for a casual dining restaurant chain.



VIRGINIA MILSTEAD

Partner
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Megher & Flom LLP

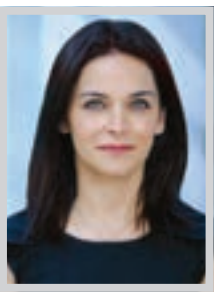
Virginia Milstead is the newest partner in Skadden's Los Angeles litigation group, having been promoted in April 2020. She has a broad commercial litigation practice, with a particular emphasis on securities class actions and shareholder and M&A litigation. She represents clients in both federal and state courts, and is known for developing shrewd, innovative arguments based on her encyclopedic knowledge of the law and thorough and precise analysis of the matters in which she is involved. Milstead is also especially noted for her ability to secure early, pleading-stage victories for her clients through meticulously researched and written briefs and persuasive oral arguments, thus avoiding protracted litigation and a trial. Over the past several years, Milstead has had a remarkable track record in securing early dismissals of her matters, but particularly in her frequent cross-border work on behalf of Asia-based clients in litigation.



CONSUELO (BEATRICE) NUÑEZ-BELLAMY

Senior Associate
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

Beatrice Nuñez-Bellamy is an experienced litigator who bridges her creativity and analytical skills to advocate passionately and persuasively on behalf of her clients. She focuses her practice on labor and employment law, representing employers facing a broad range of issues including discrimination, retaliation, and harassment claims; government investigations; and alleged violations of federal and California wage and hour laws. A creative and strategic trial attorney, Nuñez-Bellamy enjoys collaborating with clients to ensure compliance with complicated California and federal employment laws, helping them to establish safe, inclusive, and effective work environments while avoiding unintended future litigation. Her background in public policy has also led her to become one of the firm's go-to subject matter experts on public accommodation laws under the ADA and California's Unruh Civil Rights Act.

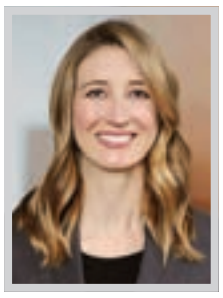


ARAMEH O'BOYLE

Member
Mintz

Arameh Zargham O'Boyle, member at Mintz, is a trailblazer and is the first female partner in the firm's growing Los Angeles office. In her 16 years of practice, O'Boyle has become one of the most sought after attorneys that product innovators and manufacturers in the pharmaceutical, medical device, personal care and cosmetic sectors rely on when faced with potential or actual litigation. She concentrates her practice on defending companies in product liability litigation. She counsels manufacturers and distributors on various issues arising throughout a product's life cycle, including product development, market launch, regulatory compliance, and document retention/management issues. She represents life sciences companies in complex mass tort litigation. Currently she represents an international medical device manufacturer in product liability and other general litigation throughout California and other jurisdictions relating to products ranging from EMS supplies, surgical instruments and power tools, to orthopedic implants and bone morphogenetic proteins.

WOMEN OF INFLUENCE: ATTORNEYS



ABIGAIL (ABBY) O'BRIENT

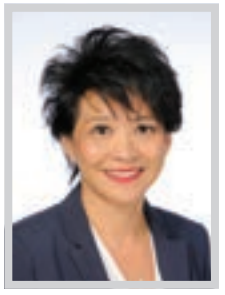
Member
Mintz

Starting as an associate in Mintz's Bankruptcy and Restructuring group in 2009 and elevated to partner in 2019, Abby O'Brient has risen to the top in the high-demand male-dominated commercial bankruptcy practice due to her ability to lead successful trial teams and guide buyers in distressed transactions. She maintains a wide-ranging insolvency and litigation practice, representing secured and unsecured creditors in bankruptcy cases and other insolvency proceedings, purchasers and sellers of distressed assets, bankruptcy trustees and receivers. O'Brient led the Mintz team defending six real estate investment companies in the Stillwater Liquidating LLC litigation. In the past year, she represented several creditors in high-profile bankruptcy cases, including a member of a creditors' committee in In re RGN-Group Holdings; a landlord in In re 24-Hour Fitness Worldwide where client's lease was assumed applicable debtor; and Marin Clean Energy, a community choice aggregator, in Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) bankruptcy cases.

KELLEY OLAH

Partner
Barnes & Thornburg LLP

Co-chair of Barnes & Thornburg's nationally recognized Drug and Medical Device practice group, Kelley Olah serves as a trusted adviser to the world's leading manufacturers and retailers in the area of product liability and mass torts. She is regarded as an extremely effective and efficient litigator, regularly obtaining excellent results in high profile litigations, with minimal business interruption to these companies – which are currently assisting and employing frontline responders in the global pandemic. One example of her expertise in action was her recent work successfully flipping the tentative ruling on summary judgment in a major talcum powder litigation after two days of oral argument, earning her two national retailer clients rare summary judgment wins on the eve of a preference trial against a formidable opponent. This hard-fought victory is notable as a first of its kind win for retailers being sued in mass tort litigations that historically have included only manufacturer defendants.



ANN PARK

Partner
Foley & Mansfield

Ann I. Park is a partner in Los Angeles office of Foley & Mansfield PLLP. She has extensive experience in toxic tort defense, commercial business disputes, insurance coverage, and environmental law matters. Park concentrates her practice in defending complex, high-risk toxic tort, asbestos products liability, and premises liability actions. She is skilled in the complex medical and scientific aspects of defending the firm's clients in toxic tort lawsuits. Ann has briefed and argued successful published appeals in the California Court of Appeals. In 2020-2021, she served as senior vice president of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, helping to lead one of the largest metropolitan bar organizations in the United States, with 16,000 members. She currently serves as vice chair of the LACBA Task Force on Racial and Social Justice, where she is helping to organize events to increase awareness and support for equity under the law and racial justice.

ELISA PASTER

Partner and Co-Chair of the Government & Regulatory Department
Glaser Weil LLP

Elisa Paster is a committed advocate to the development of housing in Los Angeles, through her work as a land use attorney, her volunteer work with affordable housing organizations, and as a planning commissioner in the City of Santa Monica. She believes that safe and secure housing should be provided to those at every income level throughout our community. She represents a mix of developers, family offices, institutions, affordable housing developers, and individuals with obtaining land use entitlements and approvals, compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, and, public policy and housing issues. Paster currently serves as the vice-chair of the Santa Monica Planning Commission. She has also been an active board member of Menorah Housing for over ten years and is currently Secretary of the Board. She is also a volunteer with the Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing.

MILLER HAGA LAW GROUP, LLP
Proudly Congratulates
Janice L. Miller, Esq.
Managing Partner
and all honorees on being named
Los Angeles' Women of Influence – Attorneys

MILLER | HAGA
LAW GROUP, LLP
Innovative General Counsel Services®
www.millerhaga.com

Congratulations to
Robbin L. Itkin
on being named as one of
Los Angeles Business Journal's
Women of Influence - Attorneys

SKLAR KIRSH

STACY D. PHILLIPS

Partner, Matrimonial & Family Law
Blank Rome LLP

Stacy Phillips is one of the country's most well-known and respected family law practitioners, handling primarily high net worth and high profile divorce, custody, and domestic violence cases. She has guided clients through critical transitions in their lives for more than 36 years. She is known for her skilled persuasion, adept negotiation, aggressive advocacy, and compassion in representing her clients, whether in litigation, mediation, or Collaborative Divorce. In a recent case, Phillips was retained by an internationally famous music star in a complex child custody and child support matter worth tens of millions of dollars. Her role is central to the negotiations, which are ongoing and could erupt into litigation, and likely will continue for years. She is managing attorneys and custody and support laws in three countries. Phillips is also an author, philanthropist, mentor, and sought-after speaker and commentator on family law issues.

ALISON PLESSMAN

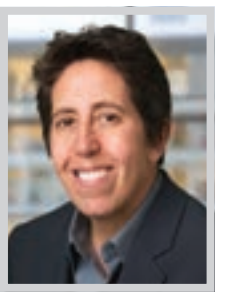
Partner
Hueston Hennigan LLP

Alison Plessman has established herself as a top litigator, representing clients in high-stakes matters, including trade secret theft, mass torts, breach of contract and professional negligence matters, and white collar defense. She recently secured a preliminary injunction against SweeGen, Inc. in favor of its minority shareholders in an action alleging breaches of fiduciary duties, self-dealing, and securities fraud, and in February 2021, she further defeated SweeGen's demurrer on all grounds. Plessman also recently won a motion to dismiss in favor of Broadcom Corporation against TomTom International, B.V. in a breach of warranty action, and is currently defending Broadcom in a copyright infringement matter in the Eastern District of Tennessee. Plessman is also representing PacifiCorp in multiple lawsuits, including a class action. Plessman serves on the Western Center on Law & Poverty Board of Directors. She has also served on the Board of Governors of the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles.

ROBYN POLASHUK

Partner, Co-Chair of Communications and Media Industry Group, Managing Partner of Los Angeles Office
Covington & Burling LLP

Robyn Polashuk has more than 20 years of experience in network distribution and content licensing, both as a lawyer for Lifetime Television as well as in private practice, currently as co-chair of Covington's Communications and Media Industry Group. Her practice encompasses some of the most precedential deals in the television industry, having a significant impact on how content providers make their programming available to viewers. She is called upon by an extensive number of networks and content owners, such as The Walt Disney Company, Fox Corporation, NFL Network, Ovation, Pac-12 Networks, PBS, Pluto TV, TV One, Univision Communications, and ViacomCBS to advise on high profile distribution agreements and transactions. Polashuk also provides counsel on media rights strategies, regulatory issues, due diligence in connection with corporate transactions, and support for media and copyright related litigation.

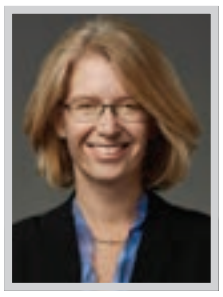


JENNIFER POST

Managing Partner
Thompson Coburn LLP

Jennifer Post is a skilled attorney, client relationship partner, leader and active member of the community. As an attorney, she leads corporate clients in sophisticated transactional work. She serves as primary outside counsel to a variety of individuals, institutions and companies, including entrepreneurs, venture capital firms and emerging companies, as well as domestic and international public companies. Post's practice encompasses all areas of general corporate and securities law, including private placements of equity and debt securities, mergers and acquisitions and venture capital fund formation. Post advises her company clients in many aspects of their businesses: capital raising, acquisitions, licensing and distribution, equity compensation, joint ventures and strategic partnerships. She also represents investment entities including venture capital firms in their formation, fundraising efforts, governance and maintenance, as well as their transactions with emerging companies, including complex investment structures, exit transactions and restructurings.

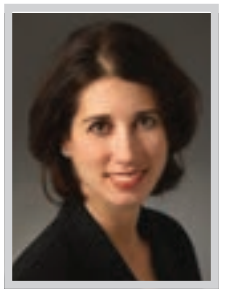
WOMEN OF INFLUENCE: ATTORNEYS



HILARY POTASHNER

Partner
Larson LLP

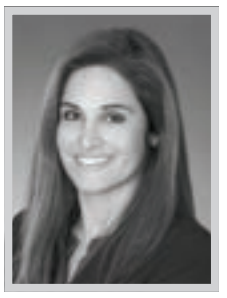
The twice-selected former Federal Public Defender for the Central District of California, Hilary Potashner has been continually recognized throughout her over 25-year career as being among the top trial lawyers in California and the nation. Recognized by judges and peers for her "unwavering commitment to high-quality, client-centered representation," Potashner is highly regarded by the bench and bar alike. Since joining Larson LLP in 2019 after serving as the federal public defender, Potashner has taken on many of the firm's top white collar defense matters, investigations, and complex civil cases, as well as achieving appellate victories. She successfully defends individuals facing charges in both state and federal court in matters involving conspiracy, wire fraud, bank fraud, healthcare fraud, and bankruptcy fraud. In her civil practice, she represents both plaintiffs and defendants in intellectual property and contract disputes, civil forfeiture, misrepresentation, negligence, civil theft, and garnishment cases.



BRENDA RADMACHER

Partner
Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani

Brenda Radmacher is a noted expert in construction law and is called on as a counselor, litigator, and speaker on issues involving land owners, general contractors, developers, and builders. She has a multi-faceted practice handling litigation and providing advice and counsel/transactional support to her construction-industry clients. Radmacher has significant experience advising her clients on risk management best practices, drafting critical documents and procedures, and effectively resolving disputes. Radmacher's practice emphasizes resolving complex construction disputes through negotiation, mediation, and, when necessary, arbitration and litigation, on projects in California, nationwide, and internationally. Construction companies and design professionals call on her legal and negotiation expertise for issues including course of construction disputes, claims of construction defects, lien claims, and insurance issues. Many of the nation's largest contractors, developers, and homebuilders have found her to be their go-to trusted legal counsel.



ELSA RAMO

Managing Partner
Ramo Law PC

Elsa Ramo is an established entertainment attorney representing producers, financiers, and production entities in film, television, and digital content. Named to Variety's 2020 Legal Impact Report and 2020 Dealmakers List, Ramo has become a lead commentator for the industry, and has been interviewed by Fox 11 News, KNX 1070, Variety, Indiewire, and TheWrap. She frequently participates on panels and webinars, is a committee member for the UCLA Entertainment Law Symposium, the founder of PEFA (a professional organization for female entertainment attorneys), and she regularly supports charities advocating for women in the industry such as Women In Media, Women Creating Change, Film Fatales, and Film Independent. As the founder and managing partner of Ramo Law PC, Ramo oversees a staff of fifteen full-time attorneys and a Packaging and Sales department who provide production, distribution and finance legal services in feature films, documentaries, scripted and unscripted television and digital content.

ANGELA REDDOCK-WRIGHT

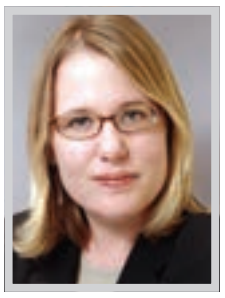
Employment Mediator, Arbitrator, Investigator
Reddock Law/Judicate West

A practicing attorney for nearly 25 years, Angela Reddock-Wright is the founding & managing partner of the Reddock Law Group, a boutique, minority, and woman-owned dispute resolution and investigations law firm based in downtown Los Angeles, focused on the resolution of employment, Title IX sexual assault, hazing, and bullying legal claims. She also is a member of the panel of mediators and arbitrators at Judicate West, a leading dispute resolution firm. Reddock-Wright is a past president of the Southern California Mediation Association; a panel mediator with the USDC, Central District of California; a member of the LA County Equity Oversight Commission; and an Adjunct Professor in the Negotiations, Conflict Resolution and Peace program at CSU Dominguez Hills, and an instructor in the HR program at UCLA Extension. She has served in leadership roles on numerous government and non-profit sector boards.

Congratulations to our partner **Jade Turner-Bond** and all of the *Women of Influence* honorees for their outstanding leadership in the legal community.

NIXON PEABODY

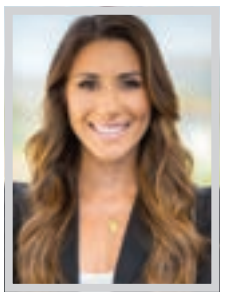
300 SOUTH GRAND AVE
LOS ANGELES, CA
NIXONPEABODY.COM
@NIXONPEABODYLLP



TANA RYAN

Partner
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

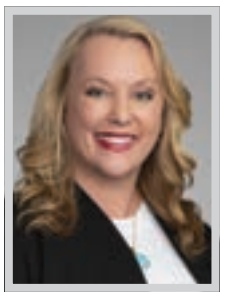
Tana Ryan is a mergers & acquisitions partner in Kirkland's Los Angeles office. Her practice focuses on highly structured and complex transactions, including mergers & acquisitions, restructurings, recapitalizations and financings. Demonstrating the breadth of her practice, Ryan has served as the lead M&A attorney in the complex carveout sale of J.C. Penney's operating business to Simon Property Group and Brookfield Asset Management as part of J.C. Penney's restructuring, which was one of the largest restructurings of 2020, and also counseled Oaktree Capital and Array Technologies in the largest renewable IPO in history. Ryan's clients not only look to her for legal advice, but as a key business and strategic advisor as well. Ryan also applies her strategic vision to the recruiting and professional development of Kirkland's attorneys. She serves as co-chair of the LGBT Subcommittee of the Firmwide Diversity Committee and a member of the Firmwide Pro Bono Management Committee.



CORTNEY SHEGERIAN

Partner
Shegerian Conniff LLP

Cortney Shegerian is a founding member of Shegerian Conniff LLP and lead trial lawyer. Her practice focuses on employment law and includes all aspects of case management from inception through trial, with particular emphasis in jury trials and case resolution. Shegerian has extensive experience and success in mediation, all aspects of litigation, trial preparation and jury trials. Throughout her career as an attorney, she has tried numerous cases in both State and Federal Court. Shegerian has argued in the California Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of California. Shegerian places her focus on discovering each client's personal experience in order obtain the best possible outcome for their case. In February 2017, she became one of the youngest attorneys in California to argue a case before the California Supreme Court. Shegerian is an active Board Member for the Peggy Albrecht Friendly House and a volunteer at the Sojourn Battered Women's Shelter.



MONICA SHILLING

Partner
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Monica Shilling has been at the forefront of creative financing structures her whole career. Her experience helping clients navigate regulatory changes and innovations in the marketplace has placed her among a handful of senior female attorneys leading the current special purpose acquisition companies (SPAC) boom. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began in the U.S., Shilling has worked with clients to raise over $10 billion in a variety of transactions, including the recent $1 billion SPAC for longtime client, Ares Acquisition Corporation. She brings her vast experience and sophisticated skillset to assist clients – including asset managers and private equity funds and their portfolio companies, as well as public companies, financial advisors, investment banks and issuers – in complex mergers & acquisitions and capital markets transactions, including IPOs, SPAC-backed mergers & acquisitions and business combinations. Her practice also has a particular focus involving specialty finance enterprises, distinguishing her from many other transactional lawyers.

STACEY J. SHIN

Attorney
Kaufman Legal Group

Stacey Shin is an attorney at political law firm Kaufman Legal Group. Shin advises candidates, officeholders, labor unions, ballot measure committees, major donors, independent expenditure committees and other political organizations on compliance with federal, state and local campaign finance, election and governmental ethics laws. She also counsels lobbying organizations and lobbying firms on compliance with lobbying laws. Prior to joining Kaufman Legal Group, Shin served as Legal Counsel to then-Chairman Steven T. Walther of the Federal Election Commission. Recently, Shin provided counsel and representation to political candidates during the 2020 election cycle, including Vice-President Kamala Harris; numerous federal congressional candidates and officeholders including Adam Schiff, Karen Bass and Ted Lieu; LA County Supervisorial candidate Janice Hahn; and LA City Council candidates Nury Martinez, Marqueece Harris-Dawson, and Mark Ridley-Thomas.

Congratulations to our partner **Lara Shortz** on being named a Woman of Influence by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*, a wonderful honor that recognizes her extraordinary impact upon our clients, her colleagues, and the City of Angels.

Los Angeles
310.299.5500

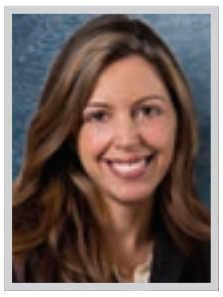
Orange County | San Francisco

Chicago | New York

M|R MICHELMAN & ROBINSON, LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

www.mrllp.com

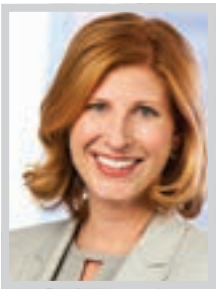
WOMEN OF INFLUENCE: ATTORNEYS



LARA SHORTZ

Firm Recruiting Partner
Michelman & Robinson, LLP

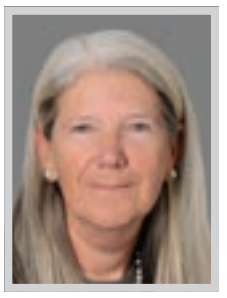
Lara Shortz's stature within the legal community continues to rise. Not only is she responsible for the strategic growth of Michelman & Robinson, LLP, she has also built an extraordinary employment practice representing some of the most admired companies in L.A. Recently, Shortz has been involved in dozens of notable employment-related matters. She provided employment-related advice and counsel for the launch and operations of a TV network for the streaming generation, including hiring and executive negotiations and guidance in connection with COVID-19 and also represented a talent agency in connection with employment-related fallout due to COVID-19, including advice and counsel concerning furloughs; separations; health and safety requirements (OSHA, etc.); workplace procedures, manuals, and employee training; telecommuting and electronic use policies; employee reintegration; and regulatory and municipal compliance. She also guided multiple restaurant properties through COVID-19-related furloughs and returns to work.



LAURA D. SMOLOWE

Partner
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

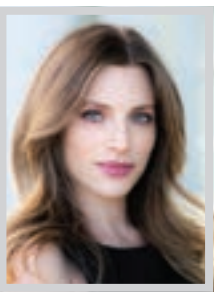
Laura D. Smolowe is a partner at Munger, Tolles & Olson, where she co-leads the Trade Secret and Employee Mobility Practice Group. She publishes regularly and co-authored the chapter on trade secrets and restrictive covenants in the 2016-2017 editions of the California Business Litigation handbook. Smolowe has also litigated multiple constitutional issues pro bono, including section 1983 and state and federal habeas cases. Smolowe joined the firm after clerkships with Judge Richard A. Paez on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and Judge Dean D. Pregerson on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. Smolowe's practice focuses on complex commercial litigation and trials in federal and state court, as well as counseling clients through difficult issues. She has particular expertise in trade secrets and employee mobility, as well as privacy law.



JULIA STRICKLAND

Managing Partner of Los Angeles Office and Chair of National Financial Services Litigation, Regulation and Enforcement Practice Group
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP

As chair of Stroock's Financial Services Litigation, Regulation and Enforcement Group, a member of Stroock's national Executive Committee and managing partner of its Los Angeles office, Julia Strickland is often the first attorney called when a financial services company needs anything from practical guidance to the fierce defense of contentious and high-stakes litigation and regulatory enforcement matters. She also is routinely sought out for counseling on federal and state regulatory compliance matters and the full range of issues arising from lending and servicing, retail banking, real estate and unfair and deceptive practices. She has amassed a client list that includes American Express, Citigroup, Discover, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, Lending Club, HSBC, Synchrony Financial and OneWest/CIT Bank, among many others. Strickland recently successfully represented Verizon in obtaining a groundbreaking Ninth Circuit decision relating to appellate review of arbitration orders.



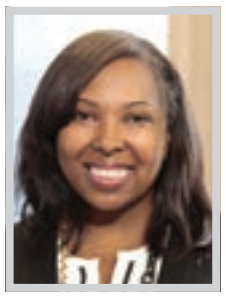
CASEY SYPEK

Partner
Miller Barondess, LLP

Casey Sypek is a business litigator with experience representing clients in contract, fraud, employment, copyright, trademark, entertainment and false advertising disputes. Sypek successfully represented the City of Inglewood and Mayor Butts against Madison Square Garden's attempts to block construction of the new LA Clippers arena in Inglewood. She played a key role in defending the City against MSG's claims in seven different lawsuits; and worked hand-in-glove with the lawyers for the Clippers. After nearly three years of hard-fought litigation, a settlement was reached in May 2020 by way of Clippers owner Steve Ballmer purchasing The Forum, and MSG dropping all opposition to the project. Among other work, Sypek also represents Kovac Film against PMC Retaliators and Fluke Studios involving the financing and production of a feature-length motion picture. She also represents approximately 800,000 Prius drivers in a federal class action against Toyota Japan and U.S. subsidiary, Toyota Motor Sales.

CONGRATULATIONS
DIANE CAFFERATA
on being named a 2021
Woman of Influence by the
Los Angeles Business Journal

quinn emanuel trial lawyers
quinn emanuel urquhart & sullivan, llp



JADE TURNER-BOND

Partner
Nixon Peabody LLP

Jade Turner-Bond, a public finance partner at Nixon Peabody LLP, is known throughout California for her high-profile and high-impact work in the public finance space, as well as at her prior role with the California State Treasurer's Office. She represents diverse clients in the financing and refinancing of infrastructure and capital improvement projects for state and local municipal entities, as well as cultural institutions and foundations, including the City of Los Angeles, the State of California, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the State of New Jersey, the County of Contra Costa, the J. Paul Getty Trust, and The Broad. During the economic crisis precipitated by COVID-19, Turner-Bond worked tirelessly to serve her clients by working on various financing to ensure that state and local government had the necessary resources to continue to serve their communities despite the declines in revenues due to the pandemic.

EMILY BURKHARDT VICENTE

Partner; Co-Chair Diversity & Inclusion Committee; Co-Chair of labor & Employment Practice
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

Emily Vicente was selected as co-chair of the national labor and employment practice of an American Lawyer 100 firm after only eight years as a partner. This is no small feat and a testament to her leadership abilities. She has defended some of the largest Fortune 100 companies in high-stakes employment litigation and is one of the few lawyers to successfully take hybrid class and collective action cases to jury trial. She has helped clients navigate sexual harassment claims fraught with legal and public relations challenges in the #metoo era, equal pay challenges, implementation of AI and emerging technologies in the workplace, and most recently COVID-19 related employment issues. She has also helped Fortune100 companies develop and implement ESG programs around diversity and inclusion that balance legal, business and social interests, while accomplishing the clients' goals to increase representation and inclusion of diverse talent within their workforce.

TANYA VINER

Shareholder
Buchalter

Tanya Viner is a shareholder and Los Angeles chair of Buchalter's Corporate practice group. She focuses her practice on mergers and acquisitions, representing both the buyer and seller in large complex transactions ranging from the sale of closely-held family businesses to transactions in excess of a billion dollars. In addition to her mergers and acquisitions practice, Viner provides day-to-day counseling on a broad range of transactional and governance matters advising emerging growth companies on formation, venture capital financing, licensing, and employment issues, often acting as outside general counsel, and trusted advisor throughout every aspect of growth. Viner advises clients on matters in nearly every major business sector, including consumer product, apparel and textiles, food and beverage, technology, beauty, financial services, manufacturing, and retail. Currently, she is serving on the Board of The Professional Club and on the Board of the California Fashion Association.

LAURA WASHINGTON

Partner
Latham & Watkins LLP

Laura Washington is a driving force of Latham's litigation team, representing many high-profile clients in complex business disputes in the entertainment, media, and other sectors, with wide-ranging litigation experience that includes pre-litigation counseling, trial, and appellate work. She's currently active in leading several closely-watched cases connected to the #MeToo Movement, and continues to represent leading entertainment and media clients in litigation, internal investigations, and to manage crises responses. Washington has earned her place at the forefront of entertainment and media matters, having led one of the biggest #MeToo cases that continues to make headlines. Representing Miramax and a former board member of The Weinstein Company – current deputy CEO of Technicolor Tim Sarnoff – in the US-based Harvey Weinstein-related litigations, she has defeated every single Weinstein-related lawsuit filed against Miramax and Sarnoff in the US.

Buchalter

BUCHALTER.COM

AZ | CA | OR | WA

CONGRATULATIONS

Los Angeles Business Journal

Women of Influence – Attorneys

Kalley R. Aman
Shareholder

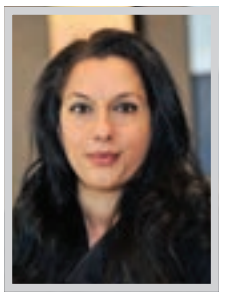
Tanya Viner
Shareholder

WOMEN OF INFLUENCE: ATTORNEYS

DONNA WILSON

CEO and Managing Partner
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

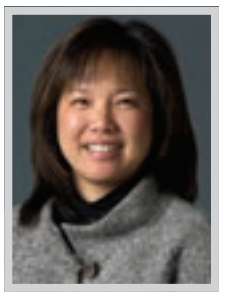
In June 2018, Donna Wilson was elected to serve as Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP's CEO and managing partner, a role that officially began in July the following year. Her elevation stands out in the legal industry for numerous reasons, not the least of which is the fact that she is both a woman and a member of the LGBTQ+ community. Since her elevation in July 2019, Wilson has successfully brought this unique perspective to bear in her efforts to expand Manatt's reach into new geographies as well as the restructuring of the firm to focus on industry groups, rather than traditional practice areas. Through her efforts to build the professional services firm of the future – one built on a foundation of inclusivity – she has overseen the opening of the firm's 10th office in Boston and the acceleration of the growth of Manatt's pool of elite talent.



LIAT YAMINI

Partner
Jones Day

Liat Yamini is a natural leader who has set herself apart from peers through her track record of success in significant client matters coupled with her dedication to community service. Yamini focuses her practice on employment litigation, as well as class and representative wage and hour actions, and she has both bench and jury trial experience. She has played key roles on case teams litigating significant wage and hour class and representative actions, and helped secure summary judgment and denial of class certification for important clients of Jones Day. In the past year, she has successfully resolved three wage and hour class and representative actions on an individual basis in a coordinated proceeding pending in the Complex Division of Los Angeles Superior Court. In another action, Garcia v. Great Wolf Lodge, Yamini is the lead lawyer defending the employer in a Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) case alleging various representative Labor Code violation claims.



DEBRA WONG YANG

Co-Chair, Crisis Management Group
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Debra Wong Yang has spent the past decades honing a practice where she is breaking through barriers and practicing where the law is just emerging, whether in litigation or investigations or white collar defense. She has had a groundbreaking career – first Asian-American woman to serve as a U.S. Attorney, former California state judge, and, reflective of her broad practice and comprehensive abilities, current co-chair of Gibson Dunn's Crisis Management Practice Group. Given the depth of experience and record of success, Yang focuses part of her practice on strategic counseling and litigation. She leads critical representations, both high profile and highly confidential, involving a wide variety of industries, economic sectors, regulatory bodies, law enforcement agencies, global jurisdictions and all types of proceedings. Her clients are in the private and public sectors and include the University of Southern California, MGM Resorts, UCLA and the UC Regents and NeoPollard Interactive LLC.

ANNITA ZHONG

Partner
Irell & Manella LLP

A partner at Irell & Manella LLP, Annita Zhong focuses on patent litigation, contested patent office proceedings and licensing in the U.S., the European Union and China. She has deep experience litigating before federal and state courts, the International Trade Commission, arbitral panels and the Patent Trial and Appeal Board. Dr. Zhong earned her J.D. from Yale Law School, her Ph.D. in chemistry from California Institute of Technology, and her B.S. in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering from MIT. Dr. Zhong's engineering and research background have enabled her to digest new technologies quickly and has proven valuable in delivering significant victories for clients in complex litigation. She is well versed in technical areas such as semiconductor fabrication and packaging, computer architecture, telecommunications, artificial intelligence, renewable energy, and chemicals and materials. Dr. Zhong was a principal member of the team that obtained a $506.2 million jury award for PanOptis in a patent suit against Apple.

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL

LAW SPOTLIGHT

ALIGN YOUR BUSINESS WITH OUR EXTENSIVE **LEGAL** PORTFOLIO

The **Los Angeles Business Journal** recognizes the crucial role that the Legal industry provides to help strengthen our business community. The Business Journal provides extensive coverage of the legal industry through custom supplements, industry lists and special events throughout the year. Reach our affluent business readers by strategically positioning your firm in the following issues:

LISTS
Fastest Growing Private Companies
Investment Banking Firms
Largest Employers
Largest Public Companies
Law Firms
Private Equity Firms
Venture Capital Firms

SPECIAL REPORTS
Cannabis
Largest Private Companies
Law Firms
Private Equity
Professional Services

CUSTOM CONTENT & EVENTS
IP & Licensing Law Roundtable
Labor & Employment Roundtable
Leaders in Law Awards Event
Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys
Women of Influence: Attorneys
Minority Leaders of Influence: Attorneys
Most Admired Law Firms to Work For
Nonprofit & Corporate Citizenship
Women's Leadership Series & Awards Event

For more information and to secure space, please contact
Lanna Solnit at lsolnit@labusinessjournal.com