

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: Litigators & Trial Attorneys



THERE IS A SPECIAL BREED OR ATTORNEY THAT NEEDS TO TRANSCEND EXPERT COMPREHENSION OF THE LEGAL system – the litigator. Lawyers who go to the proverbial mat to fight for their clients before judges and jury have their own unique sets of skills. In this special section we share profiles of the very best litigators and trial attorneys in the region. These are the trusted advisors you want in your corner in court.

We've alphabetically compiled this lineup of superb litigation specialists, along with information about their careers, practice and relevant recent successes they've achieved. Congratulations to the attorneys who made our class of '24.

Methodology: The professionals featured in these pages did not pay to be included. Their profiles were drawn from nomination materials submitted to the Los Angeles Business Journal. Those selected for inclusion were reviewed by the editorial department. The professionals were chosen based on a demonstration of impact made on the profession and on the Los Angeles community.

LOI: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



CHRISTINE ADAMS

Partner & Founder
Adams, Duerk & Kamenstein LLP

Christine Adams is the co-founder of not one, but two majority women-owned boutique litigation firms. Her firm’s mission has always been to provide the same excellence in service that Big Law provides while elevating the women in our profession who may not have been showcased in Big Law, for instance, women who are also mothers and women who are re-entering the legal field after serving a full-time stint as caregivers to their children.

Adams previously served as a federal prosecutor for eleven years in the US Attorney’s Office in Los Angeles, where she served as the Defense Contractor Fraud Coordinator for the Central District of California. In that role, she coordinated and directed investigations by federal law enforcement agencies.

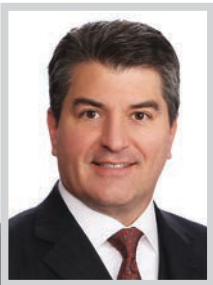


JASON ADAMS

Partner
Cox, Castle & Nicholson

Jason Adams is a leading litigator whose practice focuses on construction law, insurance law and risk management, and business and civil litigation.

Adams has extensive experience representing developers, contractors, subcontractors, designers, and other construction professionals through all phases of the construction process. He has a wealth of expertise in contract negotiation, procurement and evaluation of insurance programs, project delays, defects, insurance claims, and disputes. He is also a licensed property and casualty insurance broker and certified Construction Risk & Insurance Specialist. In addition, he has significant trial and arbitration experience and serves as outside general counsel to a variety of businesses.



JOE AKROTIRIANAKIS

Partner
King & Spalding LLP

Joe Akrotirianakis is an accomplished trial lawyer who has first-chaired or co-chaired 35 trials and arbitrations. He has never lost a jury trial or bench trial.

Akrotirianakis has built a practice litigating cases that are unusually complex and involve unusual or novel applications of the law, prosecuting and defending matters involving cutting-edge legal theories in high-profile matters brought under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act and the California Comprehensive Computer Data Access and Fraud Act, as well as the Lanham Act, the California Unfair Competition Law and similar state unfair trade practices laws. Prior to joining King & Spalding, Joe served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Central District of California.

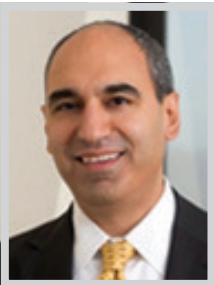


CLIFTON W. ALBRIGHT

President and Founding Partner
Albright, Yee & Schmit, APC

Clifton Albright Jr. is a dedicated attorney at Albright, Yee & Schmit, APC, where he specializes in general and complex business litigation, with a focus on labor and employment matters. Graduating from Loyola Law School in 2020, his career has already been remarkable. A defining moment in his legal career came in 2022, when he took on the challenging responsibility of representing the renowned Tiffany Haddish.

Against the backdrop of a high-stakes sex abuse and molestation lawsuit, Albright’s expertise was evident as he swiftly led the case to dismissal in just 18 days, ensuring justice while preserving the reputation of his client.

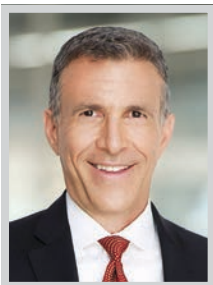


MICHAEL AMIR

Co-Founder
Doll Amir & Eley LLP

Michael M. Amir is the co-founder of Doll Amir & Eley. He has a 20-year record of winning bet-the-company cases. He represents a variety of clients in high stakes litigation, including health organizations, banks, technology companies, educational organizations (universities and schools), large national corporations, medium-sized companies and high net-worth individuals.

Amir has represented clients as lead counsel in complex matters in all phases of litigation, including state and federal jury and bench trials, arbitration proceedings, and Court of Appeals and California Supreme Court arguments. He recently obtained a complete defense decision in a state court trial on behalf of a major university in a discrimination and breach of contract case.



DAVID ARONOFF

Partner, Sports & Entertainment Law
Fox Rothschild

For more than 30 years, David Aronoff has fiercely defended major content creators and distributors against copyright infringement, defamation, right of publicity and other claims, much like the masked avenger Zorro (whose rights holder he represents) looked out for the citizens of Spanish colonial Los Angeles.

Rather than slashing a Z in his opponents’ business suits, Aronoff lets his legal work be his calling card. Over the years, he has successfully litigated dozens of high-stakes lawsuits involving major film, television and streaming properties facing potentially existential challenges. His clients have included most of the major motion picture and television studios, distributors and production companies.



KERI CURTIS AXEL

Partner
Waymaker LLP

Keri Axel practices white-collar criminal and government enforcement defense, and civil litigation. A former federal prosecutor and SEC enforcement attorney, Axel is a first-chair trial lawyer who helps clients navigate government investigations and charges and has successfully litigated and argued many Ninth Circuit Appeals. She defends Yasiel Puig, the former Dodgers star.

Additionally, Axel draws on her extensive experience in tax, accounting, and the securities industry in representing executives, financial services professionals, and hedge funds in FINRA matters and civil litigation. For the national media, she provides insight into criminal and SEC investigations and in the Elizabeth Holmes Silicon Valley fraud trial.

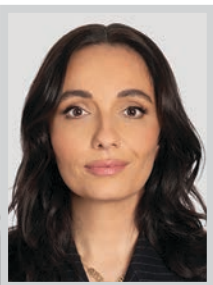


RYAN BAKER

Co-Founding Partner
Waymaker LLP

One of California’s elite trial and appellate lawyers, Waymaker LLP founding partner Ryan Baker regularly wins trial verdicts and appeals in high-stakes cases. A skilled litigator and trial lawyer who often deals with cases involving intellectual property and innovative or disruptive technology, Baker has built Waymaker into one of the nation’s premiere trial and litigation boutiques. The firm regularly handles litigation at the intersection of innovative technology and complex legal issues.

Baker himself has a stellar record of achievement at both trials and appeals in intellectual property cases and is known for presenting arguments in a clear, elegant, persuasive manner in his representation of industry innovators.



MARINA BECK

Partner
Elkins Kalt Weintraub
Reuben Gartside LLP

Marina Beck is a partner at Elkins Kalt, and a co-chair of the firm’s Family Law practice group. Since 2011, the primary focus of Beck’s practice has been the litigation of sophisticated marital dissolution issues, including complex financial, property, support and custody matters. Beck has extensive experience in international custody disputes (Hague Abduction Convention) and other jurisdictional disputes, as well as in Domestic Violence Prevention Act matters.

Beck has handled high profile cases with national and international issues and consequences, representing high net worth individuals or their spouses in many different fields, including the entertainment and sports industry, tech and business executives, philanthropists, doctors, attorneys, bankers and other professionals.



ROBERT BEGLAND

Partner
Cox, Castle & Nicholson

Rob Begland is a partner and part of Cox Castle’s Litigation Team. He is a leading litigator and an experienced trial lawyer. He typically represents individuals and companies in disputes related to real property, contracts, corporate governance, and insurance recovery.

Begland has a wide range of commercial experience, having pursued and defended claims in state court, federal court, arbitrations, and before administrative tribunals. He has also supervised litigation outside the US, including claims made in Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean. His most recent large lawsuit involved claims from the massive Porter Ranch gas leak in which he represented three corporate developers, as plaintiffs, in their claims against Southern California Gas Company and its parent Sempra.

HUESTON HENNIGAN LLP

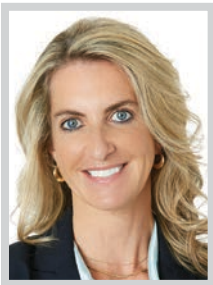
Congratulations



ANDREW K. WALSH DOUGLAS J. DIXON

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—Los Angeles Business Journal

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KOREN (KORI) BELL

Partner, Litigation
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Koren (Kori) Bell is a partner in Willkie’s Litigation Department. A nationally recognized litigator and former federal public defender, Bell’s diverse practice focuses on high-stakes trials, white-collar criminal defense, complex commercial litigation, government and internal investigations, and regulatory enforcement matters.

Bell has been lead counsel in some of the nation’s most complex and highly publicized trials and appeals—including in a case she argued before the US Supreme Court. Praised by judges for her courtroom skill, Bell is known as a tenacious and creative advocate. She has handled high-stakes and sensitive matters for companies and prominent individuals across a range of industries—from entertainment to finance, technology, healthcare, pharmaceutical, real estate, and sports.



DAVID BIDERMAN

Partner; Firmwide Chair, Consumer Products & Services Litigation
Perkins Coie

David Biderman, a partner in Perkins Coie’s Los Angeles office, focuses his practice on consumer class actions and heads the firm’s Consumer Products & Services Litigation group. After 40 years of practicing law, he continues to represent a wide range of companies in both state and federal courts in consumer class actions or in related statutory claims. His clients range from some of the world’s largest product/food manufacturers to brands on the rise, keeping him at the forefront of the industry.

Biderman and his team have created a very strong food litigation practice that is recognized nationally by food companies. On consumer class actions, he represents packaged food companies, coffee companies, dairy companies, footwear companies and others.

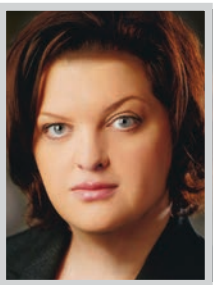


BRIAN BIELUCH

Partner; Vice Chair of Intellectual Property Litigation Group
Covington & Burling LLP

Brian Bieluch is a partner in Covington’s Los Angeles office and serves as vice chair of the Intellectual Property Litigation Group. Bieluch focuses on complex, multi-forum patent and technology litigation, representing companies in disputes with competitors in the US International Trade Commission, district courts, and the Federal Circuit.

Bieluch has served as coordinating counsel for international IP disputes and regularly works with Covington teams in China and South Korea on complex IP matters. He represents Samsung Electronics in IP litigation matters in federal court, recently represented taurine manufacturer QYP in securing complete dismissal of long-running patent litigation, and further represents a variety of companies in critical patent, trade secrets, and technology litigation.



MARINA BOGORAD

Partner
Munck Wilson Mandala, LLP

Marina Bogorad was named among Billboard’s Top Music Lawyers of 2023 for her work on the copyright infringement litigation against Taylor Swift. The litigation achieved widespread coverage because Bogorad scored several victories for her clients, including a reversal of the dismissal by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and a denial of summary judgment. The case focused on the chorus of Taylor Swift’s smash hit Shake It Off and involved groundbreaking issues of copyrightability concerning short phrases, including Bogorad’s clients’ lyrics “Players gonna play, haters gonna hate.”

The Taylor Swift litigation has been just one of the several appellate victories Bogorad achieved on behalf of her client. Another includes a published appellate decision applying the controversial SLAPP statute.



MICHAEL BROPHY

Partner; Los Angeles Office Managing Director; US Regional Divisional Leader of Private Client and Tax Division; US Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Steering Committee Member; Recruitment Committee Member
Withersworldwide

Michael Brophy is a partner Withersworldwide’s trust, estate and inheritance disputes team and is the office managing director of the Los Angeles office and the regional divisional leader of the firm’s Private Client & Tax (PCT) division. In the latter role, Brophy has been supporting the US PCT division of more than 100 lawyers in the firm’s new working environment, including leading through the transition to a new LA office space.

Brophy has extensive experience representing prominent individuals, families, charities, corporate trustees, private professional fiduciaries, and creditors in high-stakes litigation involving complex trusts and estates.



MANUEL CACHÁN

Partner
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Manuel Cachán is a seasoned trial lawyer who has served as lead counsel on numerous significant, high-profile jury trials in the most challenging jurisdictions throughout the country. His experience ranges from handling single claims on behalf of a company or individual to representing clients in extremely complex multidistrict, multiparty litigation. From tackling consumer class actions encompassing thousands of putative claimants to winning jury verdicts in plaintiff-friendly venues, Cachán has overcome countless obstacles.

In the one year since joining Skadden, Cachán achieved two significant trial wins on behalf of Monsanto. Cachán and team recently secured a complete defense verdict on behalf of Monsanto in a seven-week products liability trial held in Illinois.



RICARDO CESTERO

Partner
Greenberg Glusker LLP

With more than two decades of legal experience, Ricardo Cestero is best known for developing creative strategies and winning arguments for an extensive client list of celebrities, athletes, and sports and entertainment companies in a wide range of entertainment-related disputes and lawsuits. Cestero joined Greenberg Glusker as a first-year associate after graduating law school in 1999. Now as a partner, Cestero’s practice also extends beyond the entertainment industry to complex commercial litigation involving partnership, contract, and real es

Cestero has particular expertise in First Amendment issues, including defamation and restraint of speech, as well as extensive experience handling motion picture and television production and distribution disputes and profit participation cases



CHERYL CHANG

Partner; Vice Chair, Financial Institutions Litigation and Regulatory Compliance Group; Co-Chair, Los Angeles Office
Blank Rome LLP

As Blank Rome’s first female Asian-American partner, vice chair of the firm’s nearly 50-attorney Financial Institutions Litigation and Regulatory Compliance practice group, and co-chair of the 90-member Los Angeles office, Cheryl Chang is a skilled leader and a formidable litigator.

Chang consistently achieves favorable outcomes for her clients in complex corporate matters using her creative, pragmatic approach to conflict resolution in litigation, trial, and settlement negotiations. Chang litigates for significant corporate and entertainment clients before state and local courts in the areas of intellectual property, anti-trust, and consumer class action defense. She is recognized for her keen ability to see legal issues and business decisions from her clients’ point of view.



HAILYN CHEN

Co-Managing Partner
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

Hailyn Chen is known as a strong leader inside and outside the courtroom, with a practice focused on complex business litigation, white collar criminal defense, and government and internal investigations. As Munger, Tolles & Olson’s co-managing partner and as a regular award recipient and vocal thought leader, Chen is highly regarded for her leadership in the profession.

Chen is one of the nation’s leading lawyers for government and internal investigations, particularly those involving higher education or allegations of sexual misconduct. Her clients frequently turn to her to guide them through their most challenging legal matters, from statewide and nationwide class actions to internal investigations involving the most sensitive issues.



ESTHER E. CHO

Partner-in-Charge, Southern California
Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young

Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young partner Esther Cho stands at the forefront of successfully defending some of the biggest names and largest financial services institutions in the securities and regulatory industry. With a track record that spans more than two decades, Cho has resolved hundreds of client cases filed in state and federal courts and before securities arbitration forums, such as the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, New York Stock Exchange, JAMS and American Arbitration Association.

Highly regarded in the financial services litigation space, Cho also represents clients in mortgage banking matters. She also focuses her practice on employment-related matters, arguing on behalf of employers related to unfair competition laws, discrimination, privacy and the California Labor Code.

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MORGAN CHU
Partner; Chair, Litigation Group
Irell & Manella LLP

Morgan Chu has secured many of the world’s largest—and in some cases precedent-setting—verdicts, judgments and settlements, resulting in actual payments totaling more than \$9 billion. He recently obtained the largest US patent judgment of all time – a \$2.3 billion final judgment for VLSI Technology in a Waco, Texas trial against Intel. He also secured a \$948 million trial verdict for VLSI in a suit against Intel in Austin, Texas.

Defense representations have comprised an equal share of Chu’s career, and he has scored a series of wins that have been named top defense verdicts of the year. Chu recently argued Intel Corporation v. Fortress Investment Group before the Ninth Circuit, which resulted in a complete defense win.



TRENT COPELAND
Partner
Ellis George LLP

Trial attorney Trent Copeland is a partner at Ellis George and has a broad and diverse practice. He is a highly sought after business litigator who represents a diverse roster of clients. He is routinely on the short list of go-to lawyers for senior executives and high-profile clients who have sensitive matters that require resolution.

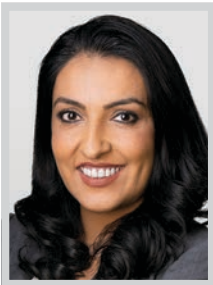
Copeland’s track record of success in the courtroom and his reputation for skillful and exceptional oral advocacy is what sets him apart. His recent matters have included leading the trial team in the representation of former Los Angeles District Attorney Jackie Lacey in connection with claims arising out of her duties as District Attorney, which settled on the eve of opening statements.



MARK CRAMER
Shareholder
Buchalter, PC

Mark Cramer advises clients ranging from Fortune 50 corporations to start-up companies about how to manage actual and potential business disputes in the context of their overall business goals. He collaborates with clients, their executives, and in-house counsel to formulate and implement customized litigation strategies. Cramer’s clients have included national and international brands such as Accenture, AG Adriano Goldschmied, Inc., Home Depot, Pabst Brewing Company, Warner Bros., as well as financial services companies, startups, and their executives, directors, and officers.

Cramer has represented clients in litigated disputes filed in state and federal courts throughout California and in federal courts throughout the country, including before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the US Supreme Court.



MARYAM DANISHWAR
Member
Clark Hill PLC

Maryam Danishwar is a fierce advocate for her clients in the courtroom, in arbitration and in negotiation. Driven by the desire to achieve total client satisfaction, Danishwar has developed a risk assessment audit that enables her to provide clients with the advice and counsel that helps them achieve their business goals and mitigate the financial and reputational impact of litigation.

A self-described “law nerd” who always had her professional sights set on becoming a trial lawyer, Danishwar enjoys the process of digging into a new matter, overcoming obstacles and presenting her case before a jury. Juries and judges respect her capabilities and clients appreciate her guidance.



MIKE DE VRIES
Partner
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Mike De Vries is a preeminent trial attorney who represents clients in high-stakes IP litigation involving primarily trade secret misappropriation and patent infringement, especially in cases tried to a jury. Since 2018, De Vries has led seven consecutive jury trial wins as lead trial counsel and secured more than \$2.5 billion in verdicts and publicly-reported settlements on behalf of his clients.

De Vries’ Syntel and Motorola damages awards, on behalf of his large, corporate clients, are among the highest trade secret awards in US history. His current clients include Motorola Solutions, Applied Materials, Samsung, State Farm, Oracle, Verizon, Cognizant/Trizetto, Comet, LivePerson, EagleView, Apcon, and Energy Labs.

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2024

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– Los Angeles Business Journal

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RODNEY DIGGS

Director

Ivie McNeill Wyatt Purcell & Diggs

Rodney Diggs became a partner at Ivie, McNeill & Wyatt in 2016, and in 2019, he became a named partner when the firm changed its name to Ivie McNeill Wyatt Purcell & Diggs. Diggs has obtained over \$200 million in verdicts and settlements on behalf of his clients in his eleven years of being an attorney. In addition to his corporate practice, Diggs has had notable successes with assisting individuals in need of representation.

Diggs’ significant achievements include recently obtaining a \$25 million verdict as lead counsel in an employment retaliation lawsuit, which is considered to be the largest retaliation verdict against a school district.



DOUGLAS DIXON

Partner

Hueston Hennigan LLP

A first-chair trial lawyer who has been recognized for his blockbuster commercial litigation victories, clients turn to Doug Dixon to solve their most important, oftentimes bet-the-company commercial disputes, including complex business litigation, mass torts, antitrust, intellectual property and securities matters. His roster of high-profile clients has included Amazon.com, Amgen, Broadcom, ClearOne, Epic Games, Glaukos, Liongate, Match Group, PacificCorp, Southern California Edison Co., and Yelp.

Dixon is often at the forefront of Hueston Hennigan’s heaviest-hitting wins. On the eve of trial in November 2023, he co-led the in a suit over Google’s illegal monopolization and other anticompetitive conduct in the distribution of Android mobile apps and processing of in-app purchases.



DEVIN DONOHUE

Partner

Loeb & Loeb

Devin Donohue is a seasoned litigator who focuses his practice on litigating and arbitrating corporate, trade secret, securities, commercial and employment cases in federal and state court and before various arbitration tribunals (JAMS, AAA and FINRA).

With a strong focus in the financial services sector, Donohue has served as lead trial counsel defending several financial institutions in more than 100 court matters and arbitrations. He has handled litigation and regulatory enforcement matters involving several different types of complicated investment products resulting in claims of statutory and common law securities fraud. In addition to typical employment claims, Donohue is highly experienced in internal investigations and crisis management and aims to provide proactive solutions to mitigate risk.



HUNTER ELEY

Managing Partner

Doll Amir & Eley LLP

Hunter R. Eley, managing partner of DAE, has served as lead counsel for clients in defense of class action and individual lawsuits throughout the country. Eley has successfully litigated cases at all levels, including arguing cases of first impression in the Ninth Circuit, arguing appeals in the California Court of Appeal and routinely appearing in state and federal trial courts nationwide.

As the chair of the firm’s financial services practice, Eley’s experience extends across all lines of the consumer lending business, including issues arising out of retail and online banking, mortgage lending and servicing, credit cards, healthcare loans and auto loans.



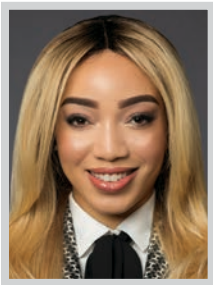
STEVEN ELIE

Managing Partner

Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP

Steven J. Elie is a partner specializing in complex business, insurance and environmental litigation and counseling. Although based in Los Angeles, he routinely handles matters throughout the state. Elie has extensive experience defending and prosecuting a broad range of environmental, administrative and litigation matters. He has handled a wide variety of insurance, commercial litigation and white collar criminal matters as well as pre-litigation counseling for businesses, non-profit organizations and public entities.

Elie has extensive experience in complex environmental, insurance and tort litigation and environmental counseling. His environmental and tort litigation experience includes dozens of actions in California State Courts and Federal District Courts.



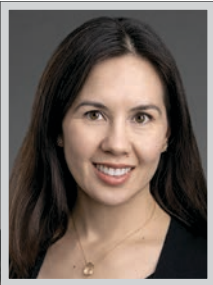
SIERRA ELIZABETH

Partner

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

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

In her career, Elizabeth has obtained significant trial victories for a diverse array of clients in wide-ranging industries including pharmaceuticals, consumer goods, healthcare, food and beverage, energy, retail, health and wellness, automotive, and oil and gas, among others. Since the pandemic, Elizabeth has tried and won four bet-the-company jury trials, serving as lead counsel in some of the country’s biggest civil litigations.



CHRISTINE ELLICE

Partner

DLA Piper

Christine Ellice advises consumer financial services, banking, securities and technology companies on commercial litigation and class action defense matters. She has particular experience in the defense of securities class actions, primarily representing investment banks in ‘33 Act claims. Additionally, she assists individuals and growth-stage companies in partnership and LLC disputes, investor actions and general business litigation.

Ellice is also experienced in the entertainment industry, having represented clients in film finance, copyright, defamation and licensing litigation. As a licensed lawyer in both California and New York, Ellice partners with clients nationwide to resolve their disputes, and, in particular, helps them navigate California’s unique legal landscape.



CHRISTOPHER FAENZA

Partner/Owner

YOKA | SMITH, LLP

Christopher Faenza, a highly successful and respected defense attorney, has extensive trial experience, having taken over 75 Superior Court jury trials to verdict in both New Jersey and California. Of the cases Faenza has taken to verdict, more than 85% have resulted in a defense verdict and most of the remaining verdicts have come in below the final demand made in those matters.

Faenza has obtained defense verdicts in wrongful death, intentional torts, business litigation, health clubs, auto, trucking and product liability cases. While his practice is primarily defense oriented, Faenza also litigates cases as a plaintiff on behalf of his corporate clients, and has recovered millions of dollars on behalf of these clients.



MIA FARBER

Principal; Co-Leader, Class Actions and Complex Litigation Practice Group
Jackson Lewis P.C.

Mia Farber is a principal in the Los Angeles office of Jackson Lewis P.C. and a co-leader of the firm’s Class Actions and Complex Litigation practice group. She is a former member of the firm’s Board of Directors and the former Los Angeles Office managing principal. She has extensive experience in all facets of employment and labor litigation with a focus on representing employers in wage and hour class action litigation.

Farber has represented employers in all types of employment litigation, including sexual harassment, discrimination, retaliation and wrongful termination. She has defended a significant number of wage and hour class actions over the course of her impressive career.



JOHN FOWLER

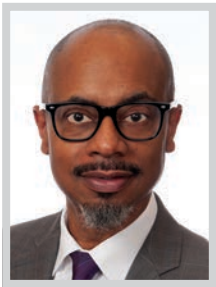
Founding Partner

Kibler Fowler & Cave LLP

John Fowler is a founding partner at the Los Angeles-based litigation boutique Kibler Fowler & Cave LLP. His successful practice spans the vibrant intersections of Hollywood, Crypto, and Cannabis, where he consistently delivers noteworthy outcomes for a diverse range of prominent clients. Fowler’s clients include individuals, businesses, artists, production companies, and major corporate entities, for whom he navigates litigation disputes encompassing copyright, trademark, idea theft, anti-SLAPP, right of publicity, Talent Agencies Act, management commissions, and other issues prevalent in entertainment.

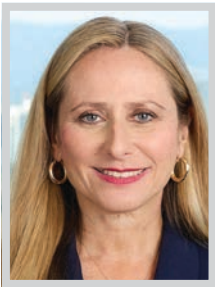
Fowler’s track record of noteworthy victories and his diverse representations across prominent industries, solidifies his position as a leader in the entertainment and intellectual property legal community.

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TERRENCE FRANKLIN
Partner
Sacks, Glazier, Franklin
& Lodise, LLP

Terrence Franklin has over three decades of experience handling some of the most significant and complex trusts and estates litigation. His breadth of expertise and reputation in the trusts and estates community underscore the reason clients turn to him for the resolution of high-profile multimillion-dollar disputes. Franklin is responsible for several published appeals and the landmark “Moeller v. Superior Court” case, which was brought before the California Supreme Court and established a fiduciary exception to the attorney-client privilege for successor trustees. Franklin has successfully represented beneficiaries, trustees, individuals and institutional clients in matters involving substantial assets, including recently representing one of the nation’s largest banks.



JULIE GERCHIK
Partner
Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan
Shapiro LLP

Julie R. F. Gerchik is a highly sought-after complex commercial litigator, who regularly represents an enviable roster of domestic and international financial institutions, entertainment companies, and high-net-worth individuals. Julie handles all aspects of litigation and trial, including investigations, and has considerable experience across various industries in all aspects of motion practice, discovery, mediation, and both trial and arbitration work in federal and state court. Gerchik brings the exacting skill required to both effectively navigate high-profile public disputes with significant media implications and handle highly confidential personal matters. Some of her greatest client accomplishments are those that successfully avoided headlines.



JOHN GIBSON
Partner; Co-Chair, US Business & Commercial Litigation Practice
DLA Piper

John Gibson is a trial lawyer who focuses on complex litigation, including antitrust, class action, and multi-district litigation defense. In 35 years of practice, he has won high-profile trials and cases in California and around the nation for industry-leading companies, professional sports teams, and pro bono clients seeking social justice. Gibson’s representative matters and accomplishments include winning a Top 100 Jury Verdict in California in a business and commercial case where he represented a manufacturing conglomerate as the plaintiff; and winning a company-saving trial victory in patent, contract, and unfair competition international arbitration for a branded-pharmaceutical company before unanimous tribunal of retired judges in New York.



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

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



JACOB HARPER
Partner; Nationwide Co-Chair, Food + Beverage and Agriculture Practice; Co-Chair, Class Action Defense Group
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

With his creative and sometimes unorthodox tactics, Jacob Harper has reduced scores of ten-figure claims to walk-away dismissals and, in the process, amassed a long record of industry-changing victories in disputes involving property rights, privacy, shareholder and management relations, competition, and consumer protection. In the last few years, Harper has secured a remarkable number of trailblazing decisions. He was lead counsel representing Kroger in one of 12 national class actions alleging “reef-friendly” sunscreen was mislabeled for containing fish-killing chemicals. Harper’s was the only firm to obtain complete dismissal with prejudice after finding the plaintiffs’ counsel engaged in an illegal plaintiff-hiring scheme.



Congratulations, Maryam Danishwar, named among the 2024 Leaders of Influence: Litigators and Trial Attorneys.

Clark Hill is committed to promoting strategies and initiatives to increase the representation of women, minorities, and others at every level.

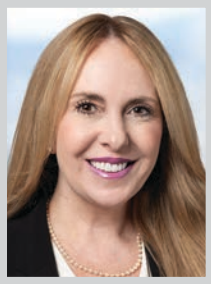
Maryam Danishwar
mdanishwar@clarkhill.com
+1 213.417.5344

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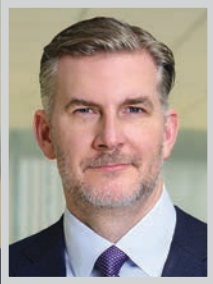
LOI: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



JULIA HAYE
Partner
Greenberg Glusker LLP

With more than 25 years of entertainment litigation experience under her belt, Julia Haye is widely recognized and highly regarded as among the top attorneys in her field. As a partner at Greenberg Glusker, her entertainment practice includes successful resolution, at trial and in arbitration, of complex business disputes involving profit participation, motion picture production and distribution, rights ownership, copyright and trademark infringement, idea submission, and other entertainment-related conflicts and contractual disputes.

Haye's counsel and interests encompass every genre of entertainment and media, including studio and independent motion pictures, television, music, dance, and online and digital media. She has represented Marvel Entertainment in various matters involving IP and profit participation.



BRIAN HORNE
Partner
Knobbe Martens

Brian Horne is the managing partner of the Los Angeles office of IP law firm Knobbe Martens and is an industry-recognized leading trial lawyer who litigates headline-grabbing cases in Southern California and throughout the country. Horne has won trials involving a wide range of disputes, including patent, trade secret, trademark, trade dress, and breach of contract.

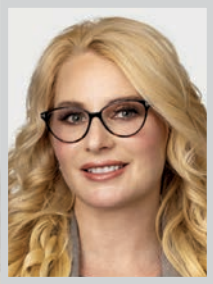
Horne's trial teams have won more than \$1 billion cumulatively, and his teams have been featured in The National Law Journal's list of Top 100 verdicts on multiple occasions. His leadership abilities are essential as he manages teams of attorneys of all levels to reach favorable results for his clients. In 2022, he became the managing partner of the firm's Los Angeles office.



VICTOR JIH
Partner
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

Arriving at Wilson Sonsini the same month as California's initial pandemic lockdown, Victor Jih has combined his background in entertainment and media disputes with Wilson Sonsini's dominance in the technology industry to create a thriving practice at the intersection of those areas.

At Wilson Sonsini, Jih was asked to build a litigation practice in LA from the ground up. He brought a wealth of entertainment litigation experience. He had worked on a long-running dispute involving Warner Bros. and Disney over the rights to Winnie the Pooh. His more recent work shows how that background is melding with Wilson Sonsini's technology roots to powerful effect. He is representing Hulu and Disney+, for instance, in putative class actions across the country.



PERLETTE MICHÈLE JURA
Partner; Co-Chair, Transnational Litigation Practice Group and Environmental Social Governance Practice Group
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Perlette Michèle Jura co-founded Gibson Dunn's Transnational Litigation Practice Group in 2010, which was the first US-based transnational litigation group in the country. She was also one of the first female chairs in the country of such a group and has consistently been at the forefront of the transnational litigation that is shaping the law around the country. Her work has included high-profile disputes like the hotly contested Chevron Ecuador battle, and representing the world's largest food and beverage companies.

Jura routinely handles cutting edge cross border disputes for the world's leading corporations. She also serves as a distinguished arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association's International Center for Dispute Resolution.



ADAM KAMENSTEIN
Partner & Founder
Adams, Duerk & Kamenstein LLP

With over twenty years of combined experience as a trial attorney and business executive, Adam Kamenstein is a skilled litigator who specializes in corporate white-collar defense, internal investigations, and complex litigation.

Kamenstein has served as lead trial counsel in more than thirty federal and state trials. He has also successfully argued numerous cases before both federal and state appellate courts. His approach to representing clients is enhanced by his extensive business background. Previously, as a federal prosecutor in the Criminal Division of the US Attorney's Office in Los Angeles, Kamenstein served as deputy chief of the Office's Government Fraud, Public Corruption and Civil Rights Section.



JASON KELLY
Partner
Annaguey McCann LLP

Jason Y. Kelly's trial experience and insight into artificial intelligence and privacy law make him stand out. Kelly, along with another colleague, tried the first in-person federal civil jury trial in the Central District of California when the court lifted restrictions on in-person trials during the pandemic. Despite the complex intellectual property issues involved in the client's trademark infringement and counterfeiting claims, Kelly and team streamlined the case, adhered to the Judge's schedule, and secured a jury verdict for the client.

Kelly also counsels and represents clients in litigation concerning privacy law in California. Through the International Association of Privacy Professionals, he obtained the CIPP/US and CIPP/E certifications, making him a US and European Certified Information Privacy Professional.



TRACEY KENNEDY
Partner
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

Tracey Kennedy's 30 years of representing clients in discrimination, harassment and wrongful termination cases combined with an impressive win record (including trying-to-verdict three multi-million-dollar wage-and-hour cases) make her one of the most sought-after labor and employment trial lawyers.

Kennedy spent eight years on Sheppard Mullin's Compensation Committee and nine years on the Executive Committee. Her leadership has been critical to a number of the firm's most important D&I initiatives, including the Women Attorneys Success Initiative Committee and the Attorneys of Color and LGBTQ+ Attorneys Success Initiative Committee, which used data to generate innovative programs and initiatives that continue to drive the firm's overall D&I program.



SARAH KROLL-ROSENBAUM
Partner, Litigation
Akerman LLP

Sarah Kroll-Rosenbaum consistently demonstrates an unwavering commitment to achieving the best outcomes for her clients. Drawing on her extensive legal knowledge and analytical skills, she provides strategic guidance and insightful advice that help her clients navigate complex legal challenges. She is a skilled strategist, negotiator, and litigator, and her impressive track record of success in the courtroom is a testament to her exceptional advocacy skills.

As the co-leader of Akerman's Los Angeles Litigation Practice Group, Kroll-Rosenbaum is a trusted strategic advisor to her clients, with whom she collaborates closely to design and execute litigation and compliance strategies through the lens of their business priorities.



CLAIRE-LISE KUTLAY
Partner
Greenberg Gross LLP

Claire-Lise Kutlay's abilities transcend her years of experience and this has led to her quickly gaining significant trial experience in high-stakes cases. Kutlay is frequently called upon to handle some of the firm's toughest cases and most difficult issues, including navigating PAGA claims, representing women who retaliated against or discriminated against in their employment, seeking justice for persons who survived sexual assault and harassment, and representing individuals and business entities in complex commercial cases.

Kutlay has worked on numerous high-profile matters, including representing plaintiffs in whistleblower/wrongful termination suits, gender discrimination actions, and defending an AmLaw 200 firm in a case seeking \$500 million in damages for violation of civil RICO, fraud, and other torts.

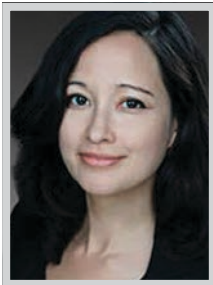


BRENT LEHMAN
Partner
Munck Wilson Mandala, LLP

Brent Lehman is a partner in Munck Wilson Mandala's litigation practice. Lehman brings a unique legal practice that focuses on complex entertainment and commercial litigation. He has served as lead trial counsel, taking multimillion-dollar cases to verdict, and has litigated matters on behalf of video game creators, major record labels, venture capitalists, celebrities, entrepreneurs, and small business owners.

Lehman has had successful results against major media giants such as NBCUniversal, arriving at several good settlements with them after litigation and achieving fair results for his clients. A diverse and talented attorney, Lehman also handles matters related to intellectual property, breach of contract, corporate theft, and fraud.

LOI: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



LISIA LEON
Partner
Paduano & Weintraub LLP

Lisia Leon has extensive experience as an attorney representing public and privately-held corporations in employment-related matters. She works out of Paduano & Weintraub's Los Angeles and New York offices, assisting companies and organizations, large and small.

Leon employment practice ranges from wage/labor issues, class actions, wrongful terminations, discrimination and retaliation brought under Title VII, ADA, ADEA, FMLA, and related state laws, as well as government audits and investigations. She regularly appears before federal, state and administrative and regulatory courts and agencies, including but not limited to the United States District Courts, state courts, and the EEOC. In addition, she has experience claims of public accessibility.



JEFFREY A. LEVEE
Partner
Jones Day

Antitrust litigators rarely try lawsuits, but Jeff LeVee has tried multiple cases to verdict. His most recent trial was Sidibe v. Sutter Health, No. 3-12-cv-04854 (N.D. CA), in February-March 2022, whereby the jury returned a complete defense verdict following a five-week trial of anti-trust claims involving contracts between Sutter Health and several insurance companies, where plaintiffs were seeking well over \$1 billion in damages.

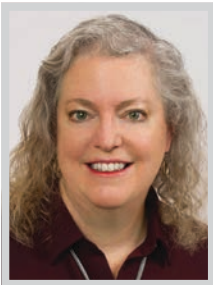
LeVee brings to bear experience trying cases for Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, Macy's, Sheffield Medical Group, and others, obtaining complete defense verdicts in each of those cases. Most recently, LeVee was lead counsel for RE/MAX in the series of antitrust cases involving brokerage fees in the residential real estate market.



LUIS LI
Partner
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

Luis Li arrived at Wilson Sonsini in 2021 as an integral part of the firm's push to enhance its profile as a national trial firm.

Less than a year later, Li delivered in a big way when he secured a \$15 million jury award (and ultimately a nearly \$30 million settlement) for Kobe Bryant's widow Vanessa in the nationally covered trial following the helicopter crash that took the life of the basketball legend, their daughter and seven others. The jury returned its verdict in favor of Bryant after just four hours of deliberation. Their conclusion followed a two-week trial in which Li and his team demonstrated that Los Angeles County first responders lacked proper training and policies.



MEG LODISE
Partner
Sacks, Glazier, Franklin & Lodise LLP

In her 35-plus year career, Meg Lodise has established an impressive reputation for successfully handling some of the most complex and high-dollar trusts and estates disputes in California. Her work not only achieves important resolutions for clients, but also shapes the future of trusts and estates law.

Lodise obtained a precedent-setting decision in O'Connor v. O'Connor, defending an appeal brought to challenge the exercise of a power of appointment. In a published decision, the Court of Appeal affirmed the probate court orders, and in doing so, clarified California law on powers of appointment. Underscoring her respect in the legal community, Lodise was appointed by the Probate Court as Guardian Ad Litem for the minor children of entertainer Michael Jackson.



AMY JANE LONGO
Partner
Ropes & Gray

Known as one of LA's star litigators, Amy Jane Longo has more than 25 years of experience in securities litigation, with significant first-chair experience both as a defense counsel and as a senior SEC trial attorney.

Longo served as the head of the SEC's Los Angeles Regional Office trial unit, building a formidable reputation throughout the state of California. In private practice, as a partner in Ropes & Gray's Los Angeles office, Longo leads litigation & enforcement matters that span commercial and securities litigation, SEC and DOJ enforcement—particularly involving asset managers and public issues, and hot-button cryptocurrency issues, including for some of California's most prominent investment funds, public and private companies.

Congratulations to our partner Devin Donohue for being recognized on the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2024 Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys list!

We applaud your exceptional professional achievements and unwavering dedication to the firm and your clients.



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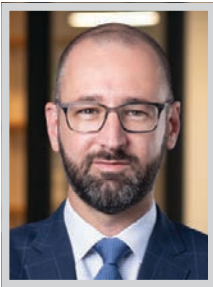
LOI: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



D. JASON LYON
Partner
Hahn & Hahn LLP

D. Jason Lyon is a commercial litigation and appeals partner at Hahn & Hahn LLP. His practice centers on matters arising from complex financial transactions and intricate fact patterns. In 2023, Lyon won a \$21.1 million arbitration award in a partnership dispute involving multiple real estate developments in the San Gabriel Valley. He also recovered a \$1.1 million verdict and more than \$1 million in attorneys’ fees in a case involving a commercial property developer who hid assets from a former spouse.

Among Lyon’s long-term clients is a large national provider of medical billing and coding services, which he has represented as plaintiff and defendant in various matters involving trade secrets, vendor fraud, and business tort claims, among others.



MICHAEL MANCINI
Founding Partner
Mancini Shenk LLP

Mancini Shenk founding partner Michael V. Mancini focuses on shareholder and derivative, cannabis, business, and entertainment disputes. He has represented internationally recognized businesses, notable angel investors, startups, world-famous celebrities, small local businesses, and private individuals.

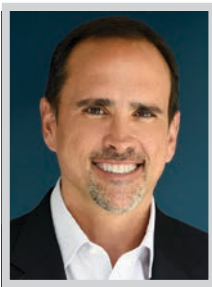
Mancini is a leader in cannabis litigation who handles headline-making cannabis disputes. He regularly spearheads complex cannabis litigation and frequently serves as advisory co-counsel to other premier firms. He has spoken on multiple expert panels regarding the ethics of representing licensed cannabis companies, emerging trends in cannabis litigation, and the need to thoroughly comprehend state and local licensing before rushing into court.



NEAL MARDER
Partner
Akin

With nearly 40 years of experience, Neal Marder is a trial lawyer and highly accomplished class action litigator. He has achieved significant victories in state and federal courts in California and nationwide, including precedent-setting victories in high-visibility, enterprise-threatening litigation. As a partner at Akin, Marder leads the firm’s litigation efforts in California and co-chairs its national class actions practice.

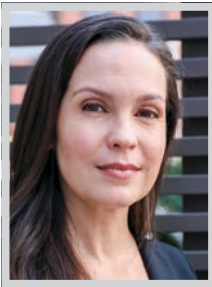
Marder has tried to verdict and arbitrated over 50 cases on behalf of a diverse range of clients spanning various industries, including energy, food and beverage, entertainment, transportation, consumer products and real estate. He is a first-call lawyer for several of the firm’s top clients, including industry giants McDonald’s, Cheesecake Factory, C.R. England and Eastman Kodak.



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

David Martinez is an equity partner and prominent leader at the national trial law firm, Robins Kaplan LLP. A member of Robins Kaplan’s Executive Board, Martinez weighs in on major policy decisions of the 200+ attorney firm. Along with his fellow board members, he steers, shapes and advises the implementation of the firm’s diversity and inclusion initiatives and other policies governing talent recruitment, retention, compensation and career development.

Martinez is also pro bono chair of the firm’s California offices, and member of the Diversity Committee. Concurrently, he has litigated commercial disputes that have improved business practices and has parlayed his professional capital to expand access to justice to underserved rural Californians.



KATHRYN McCANN
Partner
Annaguey McCann LLP

Kathryn McCann’s entire legal career has been focused on representing national and global companies in large, complex and class action litigation in the areas of business, real estate, contracts, employment and entertainment. She has successfully handled cases in California federal and state trial courts, the California Court of Appeal, the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the California Supreme Court as well as before various arbitral tribunals and administrative hearing boards.

McCann has a long track record of securing favorable outcomes for her clients in trial, arbitration, mediation and motion practice. McCann recently secured highly favorable settlements on behalf of two clients.

ELKINS KALT WEINTRAUB REUBEN GARTSIDE LLP
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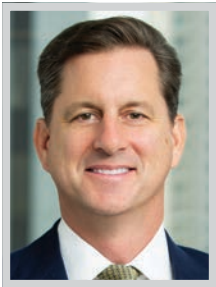
Our partner, **Marina Beck**



Los Angeles Business Journal’s
Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys.



LOI: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



ERIC McDONOUGH
Shareholder
Vedder Price

Eric McDonough focuses his practice on business and commercial litigation. He has extensive experience in trade secrets litigation and restrictive covenant claims, technology disputes, unfair competition disputes, real estate litigation, products liability and tort litigation insurance bad faith and ERISA litigation. McDonough also has significant experience in all phases of civil discovery, pre-trial, trial and post-trial litigation and has defended a number of complex litigation matters in California. His varied practice includes representation of companies in defense contracting, aerospace, electric bicycles, real estate, retail, investment services, automobiles, health care, fitness, food and beverage, entertainment and technology, as well as individuals with unique litigation needs.



DANIEL D. McMILLAN
Partner; Co-Leader, Global Construction Practice
Jones Day

Dan McMillan is the co-leader of Jones Day's global construction practice. He is widely recognized as a construction industry leader by Fortune 500 project owners and developers, contractors, and public entities who seek his advice on the largest, most complex and challenging projects located in California, throughout the United States, and across the globe. This past year McMillan acted as the lead trial counsel in an ICC arbitration in New York concerning the design and construction of a large LNG facility located in southwest Louisiana. Dan succeeded in recovering more than \$200 million for the EPC contractor and defeated the owner's claim of more than \$1 billion for alleged mismanagement.



MATTHEW McNICHOLAS
Partner
McNicholas & McNicholas, LLP

Matthew McNicholas has impacted the inner workings of large and powerful agencies. He has prevented illegal and coercive force that affects the lives of the public, law enforcement officers and firefighters. He has protected the livelihoods of good law enforcement officers and firefighters. As panel counsel to the Los Angeles Police Protective League and the United Firefighters of Los Angeles City, McNicholas is Southern California's go-to employment attorney for first responders who have faced discrimination, harassment and retaliation at work throughout the state. Securing over \$17 million in employment resolutions in 2023 alone, he stands as the leading advocate for law enforcement professionals committed to eradicating misconduct within their departments.



PATRICK McNICHOLAS
Partner
McNicholas & McNicholas, LLP

Few attorneys can say their cases have a direct impact on law, policy and public safety the way Pat McNicholas can. His mass tort work has achieved more than \$1 billion in resolutions for his clients, held massive utility companies, retailers and manufacturers accountable, and improved the lives of millions of Californians. McNicholas has represented more than 12,000 victims against Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E), SoCal Edison and the California Department of Water and Power (DWP), serving as co-lead on the Dixie Fire and Creek Fire cases. He has also been trusted to serve on the Plaintiff's Steering Committees for several of his mass action lawsuits.



JON McNUTT
Partner
Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP

Jon McNutt is a partner in Musick, Peeler & Garrett's Los Angeles office. He represents hospitality, higher education, healthcare, manufacturing, retail, transportation, gaming, entertainment, financial services, and many other industries in all aspects of employment and labor law. His practice primarily involves traditional labor on behalf of management, including union campaigns, collective bargaining, defending union grievances, arbitrations, representation cases, and unfair labor practice charges before the National Labor Relations Board. McNutt also counsels employers on a wide variety of employment and labor issues, including employee terminations, workplace investigations, management training, reduction-in-force planning, and conducts wage and hour and employer practices' audits.

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Happy Anniversary to Shook's LA Office!

Celebrating 5 years of exceeding expectations, growth from 5 to 25+ lawyers, and a recent move to a larger space in Century City.

Michael Mallow
Managing Partner
Los Angeles
mmallow@shb.com

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The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements.

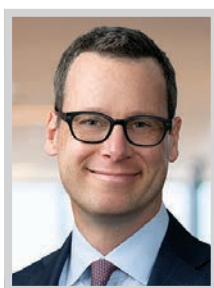
Partner and Co-Chair
The Trials Practice Group

Among McRae's recent highlights was his work defeating all claims by a prominent crypto investor against AT&T in a cryptocurrency theft. McRae also won an important victory in 2020 in California Court of Appeal for the City of Santa Monica in a case involving the California Voting Rights Act – a win that marked the first victory for any defendant in a California Voting Rights Act case.



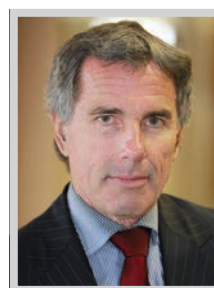
Founding Partner
Meyer, Olson, Lowy & Meyers, LLP

For over four decades, Meyer has been a trailblazer within the legal profession and specifically the family law community, a successful businesswoman, and a passionate advocate for the rights of children and parents.



Partner, Investigations + White Collar
Defense Group; Global Chair, Ethics +
Compliance Practice
Morrison Foerster LLP

Michael was retained by the attorney general of California to lead an independent review of the California DOJ's public release of confidential personal information contained in a firearm-related database.



Partner
Miller Barondess, LLP

Miller often uses unconventional but highly effective and efficient approaches to problem-solving. For example, during mediation of high-stakes litigation, he worked up a multi-defendant case and gave opening statements/closing arguments to the other side and their insurance adjusters in a series of mediations, resulting in settlements totaling \$60 million.



Member (Partner)
Mintz

Morales' strategic acumen has been pivotal in defending clients against a myriad of state and federal statutes and theories, including the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act, and California's Unfair Competition Law, among many others.

**Baker
McKenzie.**



Baker McKenzie congratulates
Perrie Weiner on his inclusion into
the **Los Angeles Business Journal's**
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Over the past 4 years, our Los Angeles office has grown from 4 to over 63 lawyers and professional staff.

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Partner-in-Charge of Baker McKenzie's
Los Angeles office and Chair of the Firm's
North America Securities Litigation Group

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ANN MARIE MORTIMER
Managing Partner, Los Angeles; Head of Commercial Litigation Practice
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

As companies are facing increasingly complex legal and regulatory changes and challenges, Ann Marie Mortimer's role as a leading litigator continues to make an impact for her clients, many of whom are name brand companies making their own impact in the marketplace. Her cross-disciplinary practice encompasses complex commercial transactions including novel cybersecurity litigation and high profile toxic tort/environmental claims.

At the forefront of complex litigation in the male-dominated field of data privacy, Mortimer has been named "MVP" in Cybersecurity & Privacy by Law360 two years in a row and recognized as leading one of the top verdicts in California stemming from her precedent-setting California Consumer Privacy Act victory for Walmart.



JOHN NADOLENCO
Partner; Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office; Global Co-Chair, Technology Industry Group
Mayer Brown

John Nadolenco's litigation and trial practice focuses on defending companies against allegations of improper consumer charges and practices, false and misleading advertising, defective products, unauthorized call recording under California's Invasion of Privacy Act, violations of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, internet privacy violations, improper tracking via computer-based cookies and improper use of smartphone and apps.

Nadolenco currently represents the entire auto industry in challenging the constitutionality of a Massachusetts ballot initiative that requires car companies to share data generated by their vehicles. He has become one of General Motors' go-to class action litigators.



DOREEN MARIE OLSON
Founding Partner
Meyer, Olson, Lowy & Meyers, LLP

Family law attorney Doreen Marie Olson offers a big-picture and realistic perspective that combines respect, compassion and clients' long-term well-being. Olson leads men and women through all aspects of high asset divorce and asset dissolution. She has in-depth experience with child custody issues and has helped resolve the most contentious and complex custody fights during her 30 years of practice.

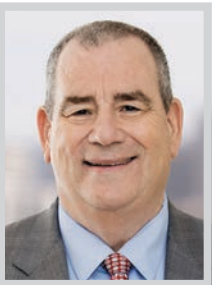
Olson has brought more than a hundred cases to a successful conclusion on behalf of her clients. Her contributions to the firm and her case results helped pave the way for it to become one of the most trusted and revered US law firms in high-asset and family law matters.



AGUSTIN OROZCO
Partner
Crowell & Moring LLP

Clients trust Agustin Orozco to lead and navigate complex white collar cases and investigations, manage sophisticated pretrial litigation, and skillfully argue challenging cases at trial. He has excelled as lead counsel in federal trials, adeptly examining numerous witnesses on direct and cross-examination, delivering compelling opening and closing arguments, and has successfully briefed and argued multiple cases before the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Prior to rejoining Crowell & Moring as a partner, Orozco served as an assistant US attorney in the Public Corruption & Civil Rights Section of the US Attorney's Office for the Central District of California. In this role, he represented the United States in a range of white collar criminal matters.



BRIAN PANISH
Co-Founder and Partner
Panish | Shea | Ravipudi LLP

Panish | Shea | Ravipudi LLP co-founder and partner, Brian J. Panish, is recognized among the leading trial attorneys in the country. His victories include more than 600 verdicts and settlements over \$1 million, more than 100 verdicts and settlements in excess of \$10 million, seven verdicts in excess of \$50 million, and a verdict of \$4.9 billion in the high-profile products liability case Anderson v. General Motors.

Most recently, Panish and his colleagues obtained a \$135 million jury verdict for two former Moreno Valley Unified School District students who were sexually abused by their teacher and failed by the school district entrusted to protect them.

LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

Defining Excellence in Litigation

Congratulations to all the attorneys named Leaders of Influence in Litigation for 2024, including our partners Joshua Hamilton and Amy Quartarolo.

Both partners are leaders of our local Litigation Department being recognized for their commitment to excellence and client service, as well as contributions to the legal profession and the Los Angeles community. As litigators, they play to win at every stage of a case, in venues across the county and in a range of disputes. They embody the talent and culture of our firm and richly deserve this recognition among their peers.



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



Amy Quartarolo
Partner and Co-Chair of the Los Angeles and Century City Litigation & Trial Department
Complex Commercial Litigation

LOI: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



CHRISTOPHER PELHAM
*Head of Litigation and Disputes,
Los Angeles*
Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP

Christopher Pelham has been obsessed with law since he was 13 years old. A freshman in high school, he would watch the courtroom intrigue unfold on his favorite show, Law & Order, and scrutinize every dramatic twist and turn. Now an experienced trial lawyer at one of the world's oldest and most-respected law firms, Pelham has been involved in countless real-life legal dramas.

Clients call on Pelham to help resolve sensitive and complex issues through commercial dispute advocacy, internal investigations, compliance counselling and representations before government agencies and regulators. But no matter how busy he is helping clients in his thriving practice; he also finds time to give back to his community.



AMY QUARTAROLO
*Partner; Co-Chair, Litigation &
Trial Department in Los Angeles*
Latham & Watkins LLP

Amy Quartarolo sets the strategic vision of Latham's LA-based disputes team as co-chair of the Litigation & Trial Department, providing guidance, mentorship and support for the more than 50+ litigators based there. She has also built a premier bankruptcy litigation and creditors' rights practice, counseling both debtors and creditors in a wide range of bankruptcy-related and complex commercial litigation.

Quartarolo recently led the Latham team that won a motion to dismiss, in its entirety, a 24-count complaint against 14 former directors and officers of GCX Limited and its affiliates. More than \$150 million in damages were at stake. In February, the court dismissed the entire case without prejudice, agreeing with Latham's argument of lack of personal jurisdiction.



BITA RAHEBI
*Partner; Co-Chair, Global Intellectual
Property Litigation Group*
Morrison Foerster LLP

As co-chair of Morrison Foerster's global IP Litigation Group and cross-disciplinary Intellectual Property Group and co-leader of its Semiconductor Industry Group, Bitu Rahebi helps innovative technology companies protect their most valuable assets by providing strategic direction and leading complex, high-stakes intellectual property litigation matters. She is a first-chair trial lawyer whose services are in high demand due to her ability to explain complicated issues to juries and judges, a skill honed from involvement in some of the nation's top trial cases.

Rahebi is active in the IP Bar and is a past president of the Los Angeles Intellectual Property Law Association. She co-founded LAIPLA's Women in IP Committee, which supports the development of women IP attorneys.



SCOTT RAHN
Founding Partner
RMO LLP

Scott Rahn founded RMO LLP in 2015, and his vision and leadership have kept the firm laser-focused on representing only beneficiaries, heirs, executors, and trustees in contested probate court cases and families and fiduciaries in contested conservatorships and guardianships, and over the last decade he and the firm have earned a reputation for providing real-world solutions that provide relief for people grieving the loss of a loved one or coming to the aid of a compromised loved one, solutions that not only add to their bottom line but their peace of mind.

Rahn's and the firm's success has powered the firm's growth from a single office in Los Angeles to six offices throughout California and two offices in Texas.



RAHUL RAVIPUDI
Partner
Panish | Shea | Ravipudi LLP

Panish | Shea | Ravipudi LLP partner Rahul Ravipudi has spent his legal career handling catastrophic injury and wrongful death cases involving commercial vehicles, pedestrians, industrial or construction accidents, utility negligence, dangerous conditions of public and private property as well as cases of sexual abuse and sexual assault. He also represents consumers in class actions against businesses who engage in unfair/illegal business practices and public entities in cases where corporations have endangered the safety, health, property or comfort of the public.

Ravipudi currently serves as plaintiffs' co-lead counsel in the social media cases litigation which involves cases of children and young adults harmed or driven to suicide by social media algorithms.

Litigation Powerhouse

We are proud to join in congratulating our Member **Esteban Morales** on being named among the **2024 Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Lawyers** by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*.



Esteban Morales
Member



Mintz is nationally recognized for successfully guiding clients through all phases of high-stakes disputes — both in and outside of the courtroom.

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Willkie congratulates
partners **Kori Bell** and
Alex Weingarten



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WILLKIE 1,200 LAWYERS | 15 OFFICES | 6 COUNTRIES

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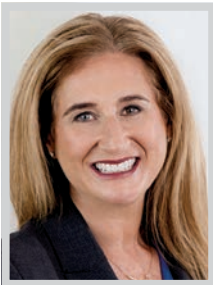
LAURA REATHAFORD
Partner in Charge, LA Office
Lathrop GPM LLP

Laura Reathaford is an accomplished employment litigator who has led Lathrop GPM’s California-based labor and employment group from its Los Angeles office since 2019. She was appointed partner in charge of the LA office in January 2023. Reathaford is widely respected by her peers in the legal field and is known for her impressive track record in “bet-the-company” cases, litigating hundreds of wage and hour class and collective actions with a particular emphasis on class actions and representative actions under California’s Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA). Clients keep returning to Reathaford and recommending her to their peers because she takes a unique approach to California litigation



ELLEN ROBBINS
Partner, Litigation
Akerman LLP

Ellen Robbins, a litigation partner and co-head of litigation for the Los Angeles office of Akerman LLP, boasts an impressive career trajectory marked by her pivotal role as the senior trial lawyer on the West Coast. With a focus on complex commercial disputes, she navigates the intricacies of state and federal courts, advocating vigorously for her clients’ interests. Robbins is as comfortable litigating multi-forum and “bet the company” cases for large public companies as she is representing individuals and smaller entities in more routine matters. She served as trial counsel in the Microsoft/Motorola smartphone patent litigation, including a landmark bench trial setting royalties for standard-essential patents, a subsequent jury trial where she obtained a favorable verdict for Microsoft.



JENNIFER ROMANO
Partner; Management Board Member;
Co-Chair, Litigation & Trial Department
Crowell & Moring LLP

Jennifer Romano, a litigation partner in Crowell’s Los Angeles office, serves as co-chair of the firm’s Litigation & Trial Department, and is a member of the firm’s Management Board. Romano focuses her practice on defending companies against class actions, litigating on behalf of health care companies, and representing companies in high stakes litigation matters. Romano represents clients as both plaintiffs and defendants in state and federal courts, as well as in arbitration and mediation. Her clients include major health plans, retail and consumer products companies, and professional services firms. She has established herself as a thought leader in the legal industry. Additionally, Romano regularly speaks on timely legal topics.



MARK SEDLANDER
Of Counsel
Mancini Shenk LLP

Mark Sedlander is a trial attorney and litigator whose practice consists of white collar defense, government investigations, and business litigation. Sedlander has represented corporate clients and individuals facing government investigations, including executives, management personnel, and other corporate employees. His matters involve health care fraud, commercial cannabis, import/export licensing, aviation management, education, and technology. He regularly negotiates with the Department of Justice and other prosecuting and investigative state and federal agencies. Before joining Mancini Shenk, Sedlander represented clients charged with federal criminal offenses with the Office of the Federal Public Defender in the Central District of California.



JASON SHEASBY
Partner
Irell & Manella LLP

Jason Sheasby, a partner with Irell & Manella, continues to demonstrate why he is one of the nation’s leading litigators. Recently, in a span of just a little over a year-and-a-half, he pulled off a remarkable feat, taking seven highly complex, high-stakes cases to trial and winning each, resulting in more than a billion dollars in verdicts, a permanent injunction, and two key defense victories. As co-lead counsel for G+ Communications, Sheasby in January 2024 persuaded a jury to find Samsung infringed patents essential to the 5G standard originally created by ZTE, a Chinese telecommunications company. In April, he secured \$142 million in patent damages, the full amount requested, in a retrial of the damages portion of the case.



Congratulates Jason Adams
and Robert Begland
on being recognized as
Leaders of Influence
Litigators & Trial Attorneys
by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*



Jason Adams
Partner



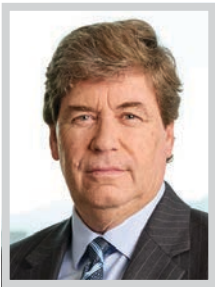
Robert Begland
Partner

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PETER SHERIDAN
Partner; Chair, Construction Practice
Glaser Weil Fink Howard
Jordan & Shapiro LLP

Partner and chair of Glaser Weil’s Construction Practice, Peter C. Sheridan is widely recognized for his extensive experience and superb service. Sheridan’s focus on construction has allowed him to develop a specialty in construction disputes involving mega resorts and large hotels and casinos. In addition to construction litigation, Sheridan has also handled complex multidistrict cases, in particular a group of consolidated environmental contamination cases representing a US EPA remediation contractor.

Sheridan has also represented government as well as landowners in land use, eminent domain and inverse condemnation litigation, including the cities of La Cañada Flintridge and Laguna Hills, and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.



AMNON SIEGEL
Partner
Miller Barondess, LLP

Amnon Siegel is a partner with Miller Barondess and has been instrumental in the firm’s growth as a litigation powerhouse. An experienced trial lawyer and litigation strategist, Siegel handles complex disputes for both plaintiffs and defendants in a wide range of sectors, including banking and asset management, technology, real estate, consumer products, transportation, governmental regulation, and insurance. He has recovered more than \$500 million for plaintiffs and has helped his defense clients avoid substantial exposure and potential liability.

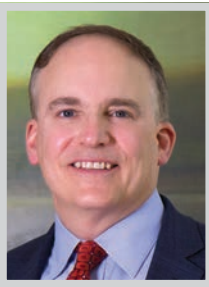
Siegel’s past trial victories include a \$256 million jury verdict against defendant Nissan Motor Acceptance Corp, a \$16 million jury verdict against Toyota, and a unanimous jury defense verdict for East West Bank in a multimillion-dollar lender liability action.



ASHLEY SIMONSEN
Partner
Covington & Burling LLP

As a partner in Covington’s Class Action and Mass Torts practices based in Los Angeles, Ashley Simonsen has successfully represented clients in the technology, financial services, and consumer products industries—including Afterpay, Aristocrat Technologies, Capital One, City National Bank, Clorox, Intuit, JPMorgan Chase, Meta, Mondelez, Navient, OpenSea, and PayPal—through all stages of litigation, with a strong track record of success on early dispositive motions.

Simonsen has represented Meta in numerous high-profile matters, including two class actions brought by former content moderators for Facebook; an advertiser class action challenging alleged “fake clicks” on Facebook; and over 1000 product liability, public nuisance, and state attorney general lawsuits.



MATT SLOAN
Partner
Skadden, Arps, Slate,
Meagher & Flom LLP

Over the past 30 years, Matt Sloan has built a formidable reputation as a white collar attorney, first as a federal prosecutor in Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles, and for the past 15+ years at Skadden where he has worked on some of the most significant white collar criminal and civil enforcement matters in the country.

Sloan has had remarkable success in securing acquittals, hung verdicts and deferred prosecution agreements for his clients; convincing the DOJ and the SEC to decline prosecutions in other cases; the creativity of his approach; his great legal judgment; and, his ability to handle a broad variety of cases from criminal trials to internal investigations and civil False Claims Act matters.



CHRISTOPHER ‘SMITTY’ SMITH
Partner; Chair of the Environmental Group
Greenspoon Marder LLP

Over the past sixteen years, Christopher “Smitty” Smith has been at the forefront of tackling some of the most intricate environmental challenges, navigating the regulatory landscapes of federal, state, and local agencies with finesse. His expertise has been honed through years of handling complex litigation issues ranging from federal environmental policy to state-specific regulations.

Recently, Smith’s leadership and track record led to his appointment as the chair of the newly established Environmental practice at Greenspoon Marder LLP, based out of the firm’s Los Angeles office. Under his guidance, the group has hit the ground running, providing counsel to Waste Management, one of the country’s largest environmental services companies.

Congratulations!



Mark T. Cramer
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Congratulations!

Partner Laura Reathaford has been selected for the Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys List by the Los Angeles Business Journal. Thank you for your dedication to the firm, our clients and our community.

Congratulations on this well-deserved honor.

Working together,
we build exciting futures.

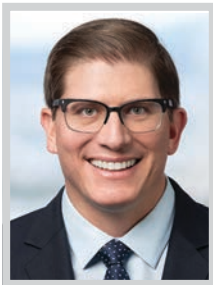


Laura Reathaford
310.789.4648
laura.reathaford@lathropgpm.com



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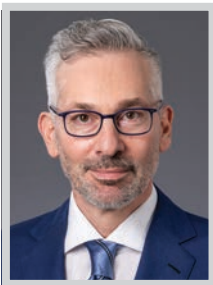


STEVEN STEIN

Partner
Greenberg Glusker LLP

In his more than a decade of legal experience, Steve Stein has focused his practice on media, intellectual property, entertainment and business disputes. Stein has represented large businesses, media organizations, entertainment companies and individuals in lawsuits involving complex contract issues, valuable film and television projects, multi-million-dollar defamation claims, copyright and trademark infringement claims, and real estate disputes. Stein also has significant experience in litigating and advising clients about issues in the cannabis industry and litigating business issues in high-net worth dissolution proceedings.

Before joining Greenberg Glusker, Stein wrote for the Washington Post and served as a law clerk on the United States Court of Appeal for the Fifth Circuit.



ADAM STREISAND

Partner
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

If you've seen it on HBO's "Succession," Adam Streisand has litigated it in real life. Some of the world's wealthiest individuals and families turn to Streisand for battles over inheritance, fiduciary conduct and business succession. While Streisand is known for his sweeping victories in high-profile courtroom battles involving celebrity estates, he has also become the go-to trial lawyer whenever the fate of a national sports franchise is on the line, including trust wars over the LA Lakers, LA Clippers, LA Chargers and Baltimore Orioles.

Streisand earned acclaim as Britney Spears' first choice of attorney in her conservatorship case and is featured in The New York Times' "Framing Britney Spears."

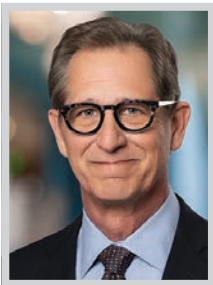


PETER STRIS

Founding Partner
Stris & Maher LLP

Peter Stris is the founding partner of Stris & Maher LLP, an elite litigation boutique that represents clients in difficult and high-stakes business disputes. Based in Los Angeles, Stris leads the firm's nationwide trial and appellate practice. Over the past two decades, he has successfully first-chaired a wide variety of bet-the-farm business cases to verdict or judgment. He has also handled dozens of high-profile business appeals, including 10 he personally argued before the US Supreme Court.

Stris' pathbreaking work has led himself and his firm to nationwide prominence. Stris is currently serving as lead trial counsel for Rhodium, an industrial-scale bitcoin miner, in truly bet-the-company litigation against Whinstone, a company that hosts industrial-scale bitcoin miners.



G. CRESSWELL
TEMPLETON III

Partner
Hill, Farrer & Burrill LLP

G. Creswell Templeton III is an AV-rated partner in Hill, Farrer & Burrill LLP, specializing in complex business and intellectual property litigation. His extensive knowledge and experience in his practice have made Templeton respected by colleagues and peers.

Over the past 25 years, Templeton has successfully brought and defended numerous federal and state cases and class actions involving: trademark, copyright, and patent infringement; misappropriation of trade secrets; unfair competition; false advertising; securities violations; partnership disputes; real estate disputes; and insurance coverage and bad faith. Templeton also counsels and assists clients in the areas of licensing, entertainment, copyright and trademark registration.



KENNETH TRUJILLO-
JAMISON

Co-Managing Partner
Willenken LLP

Kenneth Trujillo-Jamison, Willenken's newly elected co-managing partner, is an award-winning and result-driven litigator who leverages his sharply honed analytical and strategic skills to efficiently handle his clients' most complex and challenging matters. Trujillo-Jamison's practice focuses on complex commercial litigation, including intellectual property, copyright, class action defense, and entertainment-related disputes. Over the years, Trujillo-Jamison has built an excellent reputation of consistently delivering outstanding results for his clients.

Trujillo-Jamison has achieved many successes in the courtroom, including as a member of AbbVie's 100%-diverse trial team in a high-profile, nine-figure pharmaceutical lawsuit.

YOKA | SMITH



YOKA | SMITH congratulates our firm's Founder
WALTER M. YOKA
and Partner
CHRISTOPHER E. FAENZA
on being selected as Leaders of Influence:
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Christine Ellice



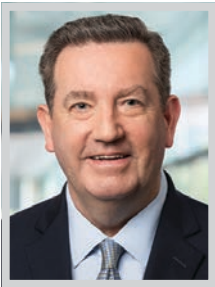
John Gibson

DLA Piper applauds our colleagues
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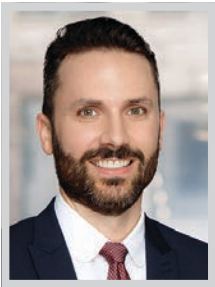
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MICHAEL TURNER
Partner
Hill, Farrer & Burrill LLP

Michael S. Turner is a partner at Hill, Farrer & Burrill, specializing in the litigation and trial of employment cases, representing employers in state and federal courts and in arbitration. Turner has defended employers against employment-related claims including wrongful termination, unlawful discrimination, harassment, retaliation, breach of contract, labor code violations, defamation, unfair business practices, whistleblower claims and wage and hour claims. Turner also represents employers before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the California Fair Employment and Housing Department, the Department of Labor, the California Labor Commissioner, the California Department of Labor Standards Enforcement, Cal OSHA and other administrative agencies.



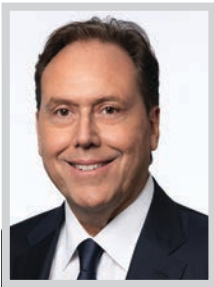
ANDREW WALSH
Partner
Hueston Hennigan

Andrew Walsh represents clients in many of Hueston Hennigan’s most complex civil business disputes, as well as high-stakes environmental and entertainment litigation and white-collar criminal actions in state and federal court. Walsh works with clients to develop comprehensive strategies that will set them up for the best resolution at every stage of litigation. Among numerous high-profile matters, Walsh was co-lead counsel for the Navajo Nation in federal multi-district litigation against the US EPA, its contractors and mining companies for damages involving a disastrous acid mine wastewater spill from the Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado nearly a decade ago. Walsh helped the Nation secure more than \$40 million in settlements from the USEPA and private parties.



STACEY WANG
Partner
Holland & Knight

While much of Stacey Wang’s litigation and arbitration work is completely confidential, she does stand at the forefront of two hot-button issues related to class actions and mass arbitration that can be discussed here. Wang is a commercial litigation partner in the Los Angeles office and one of the leaders on Holland & Knight’s national team defending colleges and universities against class action lawsuits coming out of the pandemic in which students seek tuition refunds from the schools’ transition to distance learning. Her team has secured judicial orders that are the first in the country on these issues, in favor of the universities, which other schools are now using to defend themselves in tuition reimbursement class actions.



PERRIE WEINER
*Partner in Charge, Los Angeles Office;
Chair, North America Securities
Litigation Group*
Baker McKenzie

Perrie Weiner, partner-in-charge of Baker McKenzie’s Los Angeles office, and chair of the firm’s North America Securities Litigation Group, whose practice focuses primarily on high stakes securities class action and shareholder derivative litigation, SEC enforcement matters, and complex class action business litigation, is acknowledged as the go-to advocate for hedge funds facing complex suits and CEOs squaring off against the US Securities and Exchange Commission. Weiner speaks, publishes and is quoted in the media regularly, as he has become a world-renowned authority in the area, always practicing in cutting-edge areas of securities litigation, such as most recently in the Special Purpose Acquisition Company niche area.



ALEX WEINGARTEN
*Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office;
Chair, Entertainment Litigation Practice*
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Alex Weingarten serves as managing partner of Willkie’s Los Angeles Office and chair of the firm’s Entertainment Litigation Practice. Weingarten is a leading commercial trial lawyer who represents clients in all facets of entertainment, probate and business litigation. Clients look to Weingarten to handle “bet the company” cases, protect their integrity during the very public litigation process, provide a fresh approach, and suggest novel and overlooked strategies. He is aggressive in optimizing results and prides himself on finding the most direct route to victory. Weingarten is known for his trademark tenacity and his creative and zealous advocacy on behalf of his clients.



LEADERS OF INFLUENCE:
**Litigators &
Trial Attorneys**

D. Jason Lyon
Partner
*Los Angeles Business Journal,
2024*

RECENT VICTORY
Won \$21 million arbitration award in partnership dispute involving general partner’s failure to distribute funds in accordance with partnership agreement



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Julie Gerchik
PARTNER IN THE LITIGATION
DEPARTMENT



Peter Sheridan
PARTNER AND CHAIR OF THE
CONSTRUCTION PRACTICE

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KEITH WESLEY
Managing Partner
Ellis George LLP

Keith Wesley has been a leader in representing brand owners in enforcing their intellectual property against online infringers, and especially infringement on “print-on-demand websites.” He has obtained a verdict of willful contributory counterfeiting on behalf of the fashion brand Brandy Melville that ultimately was upheld following a published decision in the Ninth Circuit. Wesley is currently litigating a copyright infringement action against Amazon’s print-on-demand division, Merch by Amazon. His work enforcing IP rights against print-on-demand sites has been instrumental in shaping the practices and law governing this growing industry. Wesley also has recently obtained successful results on behalf of makers of compounded pharmaceuticals who have been sued by Big Pharma companies.



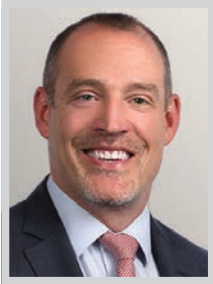
BART WILLIAMS
Partner; Los Angeles Office Head;
Global Chair, Litigation Department
Proskauer Rose LLP

When the stakes are high and reputations are on the line, the world’s leading organizations rely on Bart Williams to deliver a win. A renowned trial lawyer, Williams is chair of Proskauer’s Litigation Department and head of its Los Angeles office. He is a strategic, diligent and persuasive litigator with a wealth of experience across commercial litigation, white collar criminal defense and internal corporate investigations. Williams’ legal prowess has made him the trusted trial counsel for numerous Fortune 500 companies in high stakes, high-profile matters, and is frequently called upon months or even weeks before a trial to deliver a win.



GENE WILLIAMS
Partner; Co-Head, Los Angeles Office
Paduano & Weintraub LLP

Gene Williams is a member of Paduano & Weintraub, leading the newly established Los Angeles office. Joining the firm in 2024, his practice is concentrated in employment litigation, class actions, and commercial litigation. With a dynamic legal career spanning over two decades, Williams has developed a reputation in handling complex legal disputes in state and federal courts, as well as arbitration panels. Williams’ expertise in employment law includes defending employers in discrimination, retaliation, wrongful termination, and wage and hour class actions. He has successfully mediated and settled a significant number of individual and class action cases. His experience extends to advising employers on policy, procedural matters, and employee discipline.



DAVID WILLINGHAM
Partner
King & Spalding, LLP

David Willingham is a resounding leader and skilled trial lawyer whose litigation successes transcend industries, jurisdictions, and subject matters. He is known across the nation for his defense of high-profile cases of public interest and his handling of parallel investigations. A former federal prosecutor turned white-collar criminal defense lawyer who handles complex litigation matters, Willingham represents companies and individuals in high-stakes and often highly confidential settings in state and federal courts. An innovative courtroom strategist, he has handled numerous parallel investigations with the SEC and other regulatory bodies, and obtained many successful verdicts that are at the top of the list for important cases in California and nationally.



JASON WILSON
Partner
Willenken LLP

Willenken partner Jason Wilson has more than three decades of litigation experience, including substantial trial and appellate experience. Wilson has taken over 15 civil matters to trial (both jury and bench) or binding arbitrations. His experience on the appellate side is equally deep. He started his career with two clerkships for two different judges on the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and has handled over 40 different appellate matters. Wilson is frequently retained as trial counsel by Fortune 500 clients, often just weeks before trial. His practice focuses on complex commercial business litigation, representing major companies across a range of industries in real estate, energy and utilities, environmental, intellectual property, class action, and complex business matters.

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CBRE



Jim Kruse
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Jessica Lall
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Ann S. Lee
Greenberg Glusker LLP



Tarik Rahmani
City of Carson



Paul Rosenkranz
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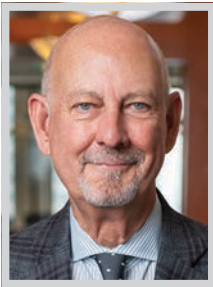
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MATHEW WRENSHALL
Managing Partner, Pasadena
RMO LLP

Joining RMO LLP in 2020, Mathew Wrenshall showed his leadership qualities from the outset and was tapped to lead the firm’s Pasadena office. As the managing partner in the Pasadena office of RMO LLP, Wrenshall brings extensive experience working closely with clients through complex and emotionally charged disputes.

Driven to provide relief to people grieving the loss of a loved one or coming to the aid of a compromised loved one, Wrenshall has earned a reputation for his keen ability to manage family dysfunction while securing real-world results. His clients are typically embroiled in inheritance disputes, trust contests, will contests, caregiver undue influence, undue influence, and breach of fiduciary duties.



WALTER M. YOKA
Chairman/Partner
YOKA | SMITH, LLP

Walter Yoka is a nationally recognized trial attorney focused on litigating cases involving products liability, commercial disputes and class actions. In addition to having tried numerous high profile cases to verdict, Yoka has also successfully argued in California’s Supreme and Appellate courts.

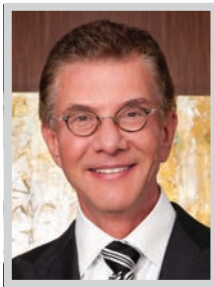
Among his many affiliations, Yoka is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is also a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, serving as the 2014 president of the Los Angeles chapter. In 2003, Yoka was appointed to serve on the Judicial Council Blue Ribbon Panel of Experts on the Fair and Efficient Administration of Civil Cases, and formerly served as a member of the Judicial Council Civil & Small Claims Committee.



THOMAS YOO
Partner
Holland & Knight

For nearly 30 years, Thomas Yoo, a litigation partner in Holland & Knight’s Los Angeles office, has provided superior product liability, class action and mass tort defense for clients in the life sciences, manufacturing, financial services, real estate, transportation and private investment industries.

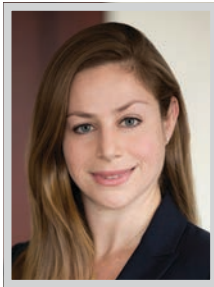
Yoo excels in understanding and effectively communicating complex scientific data; legal tenacity; superior organizational skills; an embrace of collaboration; and a willingness to provide counsel to large corporate clients who may be perceived as profit-focused organizations. He has served as national, regional and trial counsel and in other strategic roles on behalf of leading companies in numerous industries and in some of the highest-profile mass tort litigations in the country.



JAMES YUKEVICH
Partner
Yukevich | Cavanaugh

With over 100 jury trials under his belt representing Fortune 500 companies, James Yukevich is widely regarded as one of the best litigators in the country. Augmenting his stature is his outstanding win percentage in contested civil trials. He is frequently consulted by the General Counsel of Fortune 100 companies in areas involving liability issues, damages, proposed recalls, and public relations issues.

Since the end of the pandemic, Yukevich has taken to trial and resolved over 20 high exposure cases involving companies such as Lenovo, Tesla, Uber, CVS Health, Jaguar/Land Rover, Skanska and many others. He is currently counsel of record for the entirety of Ford’s asbestos cases throughout the state of California.



YARDENA ZWANG-WEISSMAN
Partner
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

Yarden Zwang-Weissman is a Los Angeles native, distinguished trial and litigation lawyer, and talented firm leader who has been instrumental in helping clients traverse multi-dimensional legal challenges on complex and often novel issues, particularly in her representation of energy, medical device, manufacturing, and technology companies in complex, coordinated and multidistrict litigation.

Zwang-Weissman is the local leader of Morgan Lewis’ litigation practice in Los Angeles and is the deputy practice leader for the firm’s product liability, mass tort, and insurance practice. She focuses largely on the intersection of environmental, mass tort, and product liability litigation in California and throughout the United States.

California State Bar Reports Record Diversity Gains

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

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

“While there have been encouraging advancements in the diversity of new attorneys, notably among women and people of color, these changes are gradual,” said Leah Wilson, State Bar executive director. “It’s important to recognize that such progress might not automatically sustain itself to create a lasting impact. Our commitment to actively fostering and championing diversity, equity, and inclusion within the legal profession is integral to both fulfilling our statutory mission and the goal of long-term, sustainable, change in the make-up of California’s attorney population. This approach is not about diversity for its own sake, but about understanding the essential role of representation in fostering an inclusive legal community and providing meaningful access to justice.”

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

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

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT’S FINDINGS INCLUDE:

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



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

INACTIVE STUDY FINDINGS:

- The inactive attorney survey was the first in-depth look at when and why attorneys choose to go on inactive status. Among its findings:
- Each year, about 4,600 attorneys choose to transfer to inactive status.
 - The number of inactive status licensees increased by 38 percent over the last 10 years, reaching an all-time high of over 71,000 in

2023. The growth in inactive attorneys was primarily driven by those age 70 and older, who accounted for 12 percent of all licensees in 2023 compared with just 5 percent in 2013.

- In 2023, white men and white women are overrepresented among those transitioning to inactive status compared with their representation among all licensees.
- The analyses suggest that retirement is a significant reason for transitioning to inactive status, cited by over half of those making the switch.
- However, 43 percent indicate that retirement is not their motive, particularly women and attorneys of color, signaling a deliberate departure from active law practice. The State Bar will conduct further analyses to better understand why some attorneys are choosing to leave the practice of law before retirement.