

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE:
MINORITY
ATTORNEYS



LAST YEAR ALMOST 50% OF THE CALIFORNIA ATTORNEYS WHO PASSED THE BAR WERE MINORITIES, WHICH MEANS the future looks bright in terms of a continued increase in diversity in the legal profession.

Los Angeles, in particular, is truly a national leader when it comes to influential minorities – and the field of law is no exception. There are some particularly superb attorneys in the LA region who happen to be minorities and we’ve alphabetically listed 92 of the very best of them here, along with insights and information about their careers, practice and success they’ve achieved.

For our coverage in this issue, we have profiled those minority attorneys considered to be particularly impactful on the legal scene while serving as trusted advisors in the LA region. Congratulations to the attorneys who made this list and thank you for working to keep the people and businesses of Los Angeles on the right track.

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 and chosen based on a demonstration of impact made on the profession and on the Los Angeles community.

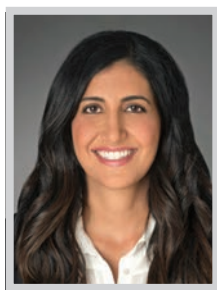
LOI: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



CLIFTON ALBRIGHT
President and Founding Partner
 Albright, Yee & Schmit, APC

Clifton Albright is the president of Albright, Yee & Schmit, and a graduate of Loyola Law School. Based in Downtown Los Angeles, Albright specializes in labor and employment law and was the first attorney to win a lawsuit against the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) regarding its Public Health Service Training Program. The case was United States of America vs. Robert Alfred St. Thomas, MD.

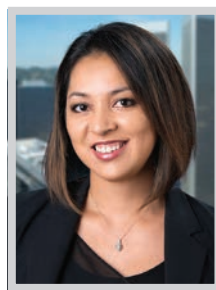
In December 2010 and March 2014, President Barack Obama appointed Albright to the International Trade Advisory Committee (ITAC 11). He was reappointed to (ITAC 9) in February 2018 by President Donald Trump, and is currently being considered for reappointment by President Biden. Albright received the ‘Lawyer of the Year’ award from The Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce; and he was also named ‘Top Lawyer’ in The Global Directory of Who’s Who.



SHIVA AMINIAN
Partner
 Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Based in Akin Gump’s Los Angeles office, partner Shiva Aminian is an established leader in the firm’s renowned international trade practice and throughout the firm is known for playing leading roles in developing innovative, creative client solutions. Aminian co-heads Akin Gump’s firmwide technology industry initiative, having relocated from Washington, D.C. to California to assist with furthering the firm’s strength and depth across the technology industry.

As part of her practice, Aminian focuses on highly complex regulatory matters regarding U.S. export controls, sanctions, and trade policy, with a particular emphasis on U.S.-China relations. Her creative approach to her practice has been instrumental in growing and fostering relationships with some of the firm’s top clients, who often rely on her proven ability to dissect and solve problems and devise and execute effective action plans for their most sensitive matters.



MARIBETH ANNAGÜEY
Partner
 Ellis George Cipollone O’Brien Annagüey LLP

Maribeth Annagüey was elevated to name partner at her firm in 2020 and is the only Filipina Latina attorney on the firm’s Management Committee. Annagüey’s practice involves class action defense, real estate disputes, Talent Agencies Act disputes, and matters involving breach of contract, misappropriation of trade secrets, fraud, and defamation. She has experience in all aspects of litigation in federal and state courts, including discovery, law and motion, trial, and post-trial law and motion. She has also represented clients before the California Labor Commission, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and in arbitrations before arbitral tribunals in California and Texas, including JAMS, ADR Services, the American Arbitration Association, and the Independent Film & Television Alliance.

Among her successful cases, Annagüey obtained several dismissals on the pleadings for a global real estate services company sued in class-action and multi-party lawsuits claiming more than \$85 million in damages.



MATTHEW BARHOMA
Founder
 Barhoma Law, P.C.

Criminal lawyer Matthew Barhoma devotes his Los Angeles practice to ensuring defendants wrongfully or over-convicted are freed from prison or not incarcerated for longer than the law requires. Often that requires understanding the intricacies of sentencing enhancements as well as amendments to the penal code that apply retroactively.

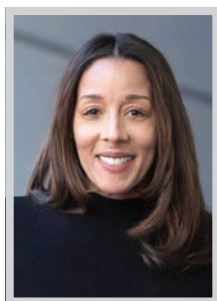
The area of criminal appeals is highly specialized, and in some cases, defendants can try for years to get convictions overturned because most criminal lawyers don’t have the expertise to argue both the law and the facts to win exoneration. Barhoma means to change that through the understanding and experience he has gained about what constitutes legal error, the standard defendants must meet to get a conviction overturned or a new trial. Barhoma’s expertise in this area has resulted in successes few other law firms can claim.



CARLOS BERMUDEZ
Partner
 Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Akin Gump corporate partner Carlos M. Bermudez is a recognized leader in his field, regularly leading or playing critical roles in significant corporate transactions on behalf of some of the firm’s largest clients, including Kingston Technology Company, Inc., one of the world’s largest independent manufacturers of memory products, and VCA Inc., the nation’s largest animal care provider.

Among Bermudez’s successful efforts has been his work representing Kingston in the \$425 million multi-jurisdictional, carve-out sale of its HyperX gaming division to HP. He also advised Kingston Technology in the blockbuster \$18 billion sale of Toshiba Memory Corporation (TMC), a fully owned subsidiary of Toshiba, to K.K. Pangea. He also advised VCA, which was publicly traded on the NASDAQ Global Market, in its marquee sale to Mars Corporation for \$9.1 billion; and represented VCA in its acquisition of 50 percent of PetCare, a company that owns veterinary hospitals and laboratories in Brazil.



GINA BIBBY
Partner and Global Head of the Fashion Tech Practice
 Withersworldwide

Former software engineer and current global fashion-tech practice lead, Gina Bibby is a trailblazer for fashion-tech entrepreneurs and women in male-dominated spaces. From ‘Big Law’ in Silicon Valley to forming her own firm to leading at Withers, Bibby’s innovative legal practice is opening paths for innovators, and women of color.

Bibby is a partner in Withers’ corporate team focusing on technology, fashion, and fashion technology, helping clients protect their innovation through commercial agreements, and patent, trademark and copyright procurement and litigation. She leads a global practice focused on advising fashion-tech clients on matters involving corporate formation, venture capital, corporate transactions, real estate, privacy, e-commerce, IP, and more. Bibby routinely handles matters involving data privacy, IP and technology licensing, and IP counseling. She has significant trial experience handling complex IP, unfair competition, and trade secret disputes. She is also a registered patent attorney.



WILLIAM J. BRIGGS, II
Partner
 Venable LLP

William J. Briggs, II, a partner with Venable LLP and the president of the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners, is recognized as a leading trial lawyer and civil litigator, with extensive experience in matters pertaining to the entertainment industry. With over 30 years of experience, Briggs has been successful in representing some of the most recognizable names in the film, television, music, and sports industries. His clients include actors, musicians, comedians, producers, high-net-worth individuals, athletes, and entertainers.

Because of his substantial courtroom capabilities, Briggs has helped defeat multi-million-dollar claims brought against his clients. His practice focuses on disputes that involve trademarks, copyrights, the First Amendment, defamation, invasion of privacy, right of publicity, guild disputes, profit participation, royalty payments, violations of the Talent Agencies Act, and interpretation and enforcement of talent, executive, distribution, film, and recording contracts.

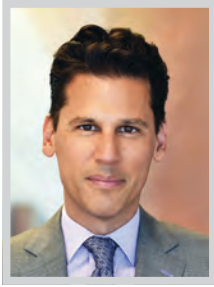


LAURA W. BRILL
Co-Founding Partner
 Kendall Brill & Kelly

With a focus on complex civil litigation and appeals relating to media, entertainment, commercial, and regulatory disputes, Kendall Brill & Kelly co-founding partner Laura W. Brill has secured precedent-setting victories in numerous appearances before state and federal courts. She handles a broad array of high-profile business disputes involving contracts, torts, intellectual property, governance issues; First Amendment and other constitutional issues; fine art restitution; government contracting, and challenges to municipal regulation.

Recognized as among the top appellate and intellectual property litigators in California, Brill served as a law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, with whom she has co-authored several articles, and has been a law school guest lecturer at Yale, Georgetown, UCLA, and USC. A certified appellate specialist, she is ranked among the top lawyers in the state and country and is a respected thought leader who publishes and speaks widely on legal issues.

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JOSHUA BRIONES
Managing Member
Mintz

Joshua Briones is a son of immigrant farm workers who came to the US from Mexico to work in the fields of Northern California. His hard work ethic at an early age was the fuel that helped him succeed later in life. Today Briones is managing member of Mintz's Los Angeles office and serves on the firm's Policy Committee. Briones has received awards and national recognition for his innovative approach to the defense of bet-the-company litigation.

Briones has represented clients in such industries as financial services, building products, retail, pharmaceuticals, automotive, professional sports, food and beverage, petroleum, chemical manufacturing, health care, high technology, and higher education. He frequently publishes and lectures before national and local bar and industry organizations. Briones has served as lead defense counsel on over 550 alleged nationwide class actions in state and federal courts across the country, including many filed in the most plaintiff-friendly jurisdictions.



MICHAEL BROPHY
Partner and U.S. Regional Divisional Leader
Withersworldwide

Michael Brophy is a partner in Withersworldwide's trust, estate and inheritance disputes team and is the regional divisional leader of the firm's US Private Client & Tax (PCT) division, co-led with William Kambas, a tax partner based on the East Coast. In this role, Brophy has been supporting the US PCT division of more than 110 lawyers across nine offices in a remote working environment, including contributing to the firm's Global Virus Committee and serving as the West Coast contact partner for COVID-19 safety issues.

Brophy's ability to adapt quickly and efficiently allowed the team to continue to see growth during the pandemic. He is also a member of the firm's Recruitment Committee, where his contributions include actively participating in diversity initiatives at law schools and in diversity mentoring programs. He has extensive experience representing prominent individuals, families, charities, corporate trustees, private professional fiduciaries, and creditors in high-stakes litigation.



TAMARA BUSH
Member
Dykema Gossett

Tamara Bush is a co-leader of Dykema's national product liability and class action litigation practice group. She is an experienced litigator who manages a wide range of general commercial and products liability lawsuits. Bush handles matters in federal and state courts across the country, both at the trial and appellate levels. She has considerable experience handling sophisticated pre-trial motions and developing complex matter case strategy.

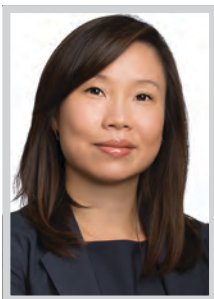
Included Bush's experience is a substantial amount of work in the defense of product liability actions on behalf of manufacturers, distributors and/or designers of automobiles, trailers, forklifts and other consumer products. Bush has a strong, active practice with the firm's Automotive Industry Group, which has been recognized as one of the strongest in the nation by The Legal 500. She represents professionals and businesses in matters involving fraud, interference, the protection of trade secrets and enforcement of covenants not to compete.



ERIKA CANCHOLA
Partner
Ramo Law PC

In her leadership of production legal for such breakout works as the 2021 Sundance film "Wild Indian" and 2020 festival films "Four Good Days," "Arkansas," and "Happily," as well as 2019 Golden Globe winner, "The Americans" and Skydance's "Grace and Frankie" and "Foundation," Ramo Law's partner Erika Canchola optimizes her clients' financial, legal and business position in the financing, production and exploitation of their content.

Canchola serves as outside production counsel for Skydance Television and is currently advising several producers of short- and long-form content slated for theatrical, television and new media platforms. Canchola established Ramo Law PC's New York office in 2017 and maintains a bicoastal practice. Among her capabilities are film financing, corporate formations, trademark and copyright filings, contract negotiations, production financing and production legal for producers, productions and other clients.



CHERYL S. CHANG
Partner and Co-Vice Chair, Financial Institutions
Litigation and Regulatory Compliance Practice Group
Blank Rome LLP

As Blank Rome's first female Asian-American partner and co-vice chair of the firm's more than 40-member Financial Institutions Litigation and Regulatory Compliance practice group, Cheryl Chang is a leader and formidable litigator who 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, antitrust, and consumer class action defense. Fluent in spoken Mandarin Chinese, Taiwanese, and French, she often communicates with her clients, and negotiates with adversaries, in multiple languages.

In December 2020, Chang successfully represented AmTRAN as lead counsel in a dispute with VIZIO, Inc. involving supply and security agreements.



MICHELLE CHANG
Managing Partner
Ramo Law PC

Named among Variety's 2021 Dealmakers Impact Report, and recently promoted to managing partner at Ramo Law, Michelle Chang provides financing, production and distribution legal and general counsel services. At the deal making intersection of where content makers meet buyers, financiers and distributors, Chang is often at the forefront of first-time deals with various emerging and established streamers. She has been instrumental in executing Ramo Law's unscripted initiative since joining the firm in 2010, advising Emmy-winning clients such as Boardwalk Pictures ("Chef's Table" and "Cheer"), Scout Productions ("Queer Eye") and Campfire Studios ("The Way Down").

Chang also serves as outside counsel to production companies including The Solution Entertainment Group ("Blacklight") and Image Nation (2022 Sundance selection "Watcher"), successfully guiding them into innovative terms that optimize their reach and prevalence in today's flattened marketplace. Outside of her office, Chang is committed to mentoring other women and minorities.



TIM CHANG
Partner
Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP

Tim Chang is a partner in Musick, Peeler & Garrett's Los Angeles office. Chang's clients range from multinational public companies to medium and small privately held companies as well as individuals with high net worth.

Chang reads, writes and speaks fluent Chinese, which he frequently uses in his practice to assist clients on transnational transactions involving the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the U.S. He often serves the position of outside General Counsel for Asian clients with respect to their legal affairs in the U.S., including coordination of litigation and supervision of intellectual property matters. He has written several journal articles related to doing business in Vietnam and China and legal status of Taiwan in the U.S. Courts. Chang's practice focuses on business transactions/planning; mergers & acquisitions; corporate finance, real estate, dispute resolution and cross-border wealth planning.



ANGELINE CHEN
Senior Attorney
Clark Hill PLC

Angeline Chen helps clients develop and implement strategies to address complex immigration matters, including obtaining family-based or employment-based permanent residence and temporary work visas. She assists permanent residents in becoming US citizens, including application preparation and representation at interviews with the US Citizenship and Immigration Services. She also represents victims of certain crimes and victims of domestic violence.

In her immigration practice, Chen has successfully represented individuals who were undocumented and victims of domestic violence by their US Citizen spouses in receiving their permanent residency. One individual was a male who was emotionally and psychologically abused by his wife and the other was a female who was a victim of severe physical abuse by her husband who was an alcoholic. They both have their permanent residency cards and are finally independent from their abusive spouses.

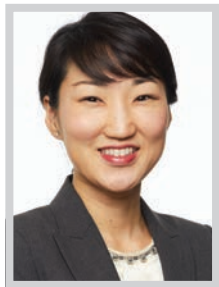
Congratulations



MOEZ M. KABA
VICKI CHOU

Minority Leaders of Influence: Attorneys
—Los Angeles Business Journal

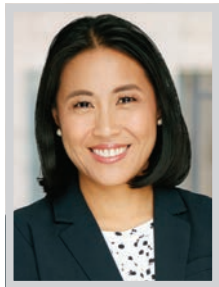
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**MICHELLE CHENG**

Partner
Reed Smith LLP

Michelle Cheng is a health care litigation partner in the Global Commercial Disputes group of Reed Smith. Her practice involves defending managed health care companies in high-stakes litigations and arbitrations. Cheng focuses her managed care practice on provider disputes and is regularly involved in defending managed care plans against claims relating to managed care contracting, reimbursements, unfair competition and breach of contract. She has also substantial experience defending medical device and pharmaceutical clients facing complex product liability and mass tort litigation. Cheng has also handled actions relating to disputes involving collaboration, co-promotion and licensing agreements among pharmaceutical and biotech companies.

Cheng frequently secures dismissals of actions involving out-of-network reimbursement actions brought against health plan clients at both the pleading and summary judgment stages.

**VICKI CHOU**

Partner
Hueston Hennigan LLP

Vicki Chou is a key member of the White Collar and Investigations teams. She is a seasoned trial and appellate attorney and recently served as a deputy chief in the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Central District of California.

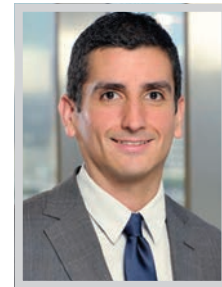
Chou's outstanding reputation for her public sector work has allowed her to quickly build a formidable private sector practice at Hueston Hennigan. Since joining the firm, Chou has been involved with developing strategies related to securing a unique plea agreement for one of the highest profile criminal defendants in the "Varsity Blues" college admissions case, securing a presidential pardon for Amir Khan, securing a declination for Southern California Edison in the criminal investigation of the deaths from the wildfires, and the upcoming jury trial in a criminal case alleging former Outcome Health CEO Rishi Shah and other executives ran a \$1 billion fraud scheme.

**MICHELLE A. COOKE**

Partner; Leader, Intellectual Property Protection and Enforcement Practice;
Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

As leader of Manatt's IP Protection & Enforcement business unit, Michelle Cooke helps IP owners build, protect and monetize their assets internationally and in the digital arena. Cooke is a key strategic and legal advisor to major global clients, assisting in asset expansion across the globe and leading complex disputes in numerous jurisdictions. She focuses much of her work on branding, online content, digital assets, copyrights, international protection/enforcement and trade secrets, and has a particular market knowledge of the entertainment, media, consumer products and software industries.

Cooke offers innovative business-oriented counseling, including protecting IP in connection with COVID-19 products, identifying rights in AI, and enforcing digital content globally. She helps lead M&A deals and works with clients to evaluate IP assets, conduct risk assessments, exploit IP assets, as well as risk mitigation.

**VICTOR DE LA CRUZ**

Partner; Leader, Land Use Practice
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

Leader of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP's nationally recognized land use practice, Victor De la Cruz has successfully guided his clients through complex land use matters at the intersection of law and government for nearly 20 years. Through his record of success, De la Cruz has cemented his position as the go-to advisor for entitlements and California Environmental Quality Act matters for the companies and institutions that are shaping Southern California's landscape with prominent high-value developments.

De la Cruz was named as one of the Top-Ranked Attorneys in Chambers USA in 2021 and has been recognized as one of The Best Lawyers in America every year since 2018. His clients include developers, institutions, high-net-worth individuals, for-profit companies and nonprofits. Notable clients include Mount Saint Mary's University, Athens Services, the American Music and Dramatic Academy, and Republic Metropolitan among many others.

**JOHN DE LA MERCED**

Associate
Stubbs Alderton & Markiles, LLP

John De La Merced, senior associate at Stubbs Alderton & Markiles LLP, handles a broad range of complex business litigation matters on behalf of high-profile clients, including commercial, intellectual property, and real estate disputes. His active practice services clients throughout all stages of the pre-litigation and litigation process, including discovery, law and motion, and trial and arbitration proceedings.

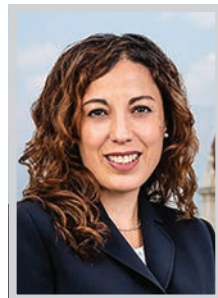
De La Merced has served as co-trial counsel in various arbitration and court proceedings and has been instrumental in securing favorable results for the firm and its clients. One accomplishment was serving as co-trial counsel and securing a complete victory on behalf of a pharmaceutical company in a two-week arbitration proceeding in a bet-the-company case against the company's former business partner. He served as co-trial counsel in one of the first fully virtual bench trials in Los Angeles Superior Court due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which occurred in early February 2021.

**DAMIEN DELANEY**

Co-Chair, Wage and Hour Practice
Akerman, LLP

Damien DeLaney is Akerman's Wage and Hour Practice co-chair. A seasoned employment litigator and advisor, he brings more than 15 years of experience helping solve employment law problems for clients large and small in a wide array of industries including retail, hospitality, food and beverage, real estate, construction, engineering, manufacturing, education, nonprofit, professional services, technology, fashion, sports, and entertainment. Clients come to DeLaney for creative and value-driven approaches to their most important employment litigation matters, as well as for proactive risk management.

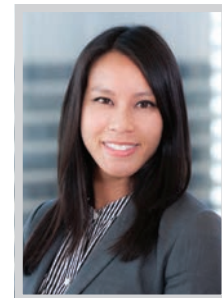
DeLaney routinely represents clients in class actions and complex litigation matters, including wage and hour class actions, California Private Attorneys General Act actions, and Fair Credit Reporting Act class actions. His track record of success in class actions includes defeating class certification motions, obtaining summary judgment prior to certification, and obtaining favorable settlements for his clients.

**RITA DIAZ**

Partner, Chair of the Litigation Department
Hahn & Hahn LLP

Rita Diaz, a partner and chair of the Litigation Department for Hahn & Hahn LLP, is a member of the firm's litigation, employment, and trust and estates practice groups. She has significant experience handling contentious trust and estates litigation, as well as advising trustees and beneficiaries through trust administration issues. She is also skilled at advising companies on employment matters, including discrimination, leaves of absence, and wage and hour issues, and reviewing and drafting employee handbooks.

Recent matters have included trust administrations; preparing estate plans (both new and updated) for numerous families; assisting trustees with administration of trusts, including trusts with difficult beneficiaries and complex assets such as business interests, valuable artwork, firearms, and high-end vehicles; assisting executors with probate administrations; preparing and successfully prosecuted objections to an overreaching trustee's accounting; and many other challenging processes on behalf of clients.

**MINH-VAN DO**

Associate
Miller Barondess, LLP

Minh-Van Do is a complex commercial litigator with substantial experience in banking and finance litigation. She has represented global financial institutions in disputes involving breach of contract, fraud and federal securities violations; and has successfully defended employers in complex labor and employment matters involving alleged violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and breach of employment contract.

Do obtained a settlement on behalf of co-founders of Community.com against Community.com and its CEO for misrepresenting the company's prospects to convince them to sell back their shares to Community at a bargain-basement price. Community reported a \$40 million investment from Salesforce Ventures bringing the total raised to nearly \$90 million, and reported more than 26 million members using the app. The company is currently valued at approximately \$450 million.



Congratulations to our Partners
Brian Kang and Richard Sweet
for being named to *Los Angeles Business
Journal's* 2022 Leaders of Influence:
Minority Attorneys

ABOUT GREENBERG GLUSKER

With 100 attorneys, Greenberg Glusker remains the largest single-office, full-service law firm in California. However, our reach from L.A.'s Westside spans the entire United States and the globe. Our structure and business strategy allow us to meet our clients' needs in a personal, competitive, and cost-efficient manner, with first-tier legal services and in-depth industry knowledge.

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**ANET DRAPALSKI**

Partner
Fisher Phillips

As a partner at Fisher Phillips, Anet Drapalski serves as a key advisor to employers across California in a diverse group of industries, including technology, hospitality, fashion, financial services and automotive/autonomous vehicles. She defends employers against a wide range of employment law claims, including disability, race, age, and gender discrimination, sexual harassment, retaliation, and unlawful termination of employment. Drapalski also defends employers against wage and hour class action claims and representative claims under the Private Attorney General Act.

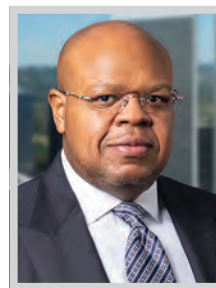
In addition, Drapalski works to prevent litigation by providing preventative counseling for employers. This includes updating and providing advice regarding the status of California's many changing laws, sound personnel policies, sexual harassment and human resources training, implementation of leave policies, employee deflection and trade secrets, employee classification, and compliance with workplace regulations.

**SIERRA ELIZABETH**

Partner
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Atop litigation and trial lawyer and one of the few African American female equity partners at a major law firm in California, Sierra Elizabeth has an unmatched dedication to her clients and a passion for the law. As courthouses eased into reopening this past summer, she returned to the courtroom swiftly, clocking two lengthy jury trials back to back. She has been serving as lead counsel in some of the biggest civil litigation in the country.

After winning a complete defense verdict on behalf of multinational conglomerate 3M in its second bellwether trial in the largest class-action MDL in history, Elizabeth jumped on a plane the same day to join another Kirkland team in Oakland for a trial where her team won a \$30 million verdict for LivePerson, Inc. Three months later, she went back to Pensacola, Florida, and obtained yet another complete defense verdict on behalf of 3M.

**DENNIS S. ELLIS**

Partner
Ellis George Cipollone O'Brien Annaguey LLP

Dennis Ellis' practice concentrates on consumer class actions, unfair competition (Section 17200), business torts, product liability defense, environmental law, and breach of contract actions. Ellis has worked for a diverse group of clients, including major retail chains, cosmetic, petroleum, pharmaceutical and manufacturing companies, and internationally known celebrities. He represented the General Electric Company as lead counsel in a breach of contract and fraud case (based on failed negotiations surrounding a purchase of medical device patents), which led to a motion for summary judgment granted in favor of GE.

Ellis was also lead attorney on a case which resulted in what has been reported to be the largest judgment ever obtained by a Chinese firm in a U.S. court. Ellis led a team of attorneys who successfully brought a motion for terminating sanctions against PrediWave Corporation, eight PrediWave-related companies, and their CEO, Jianping 'Tony' Qu.

**MELVIN FELTON, II**

Partner
Sanders Roberts LLP

Melvin Felton II, a partner at Sanders Roberts LLP, is a sought-after employment law expert. Felton takes a client-centered approach to litigation and advice, focusing on each client's particular sensitivities, culture, and bottom line. He takes a personal investment in the success of his clients. Felton serves as outside general counsel for multiple clients and a lead outside counsel for numerous Fortune 500 companies and large municipalities.

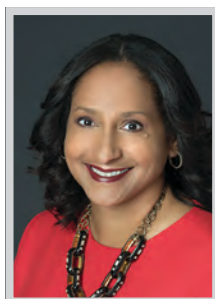
Felton has extensive experience advising in all stages of litigation, mediation, and arbitration. He assists clients through disputes, including pre-litigation, pleadings, discovery, law and motion, trial, and appeal, providing zealous advocacy. He is adept at advising clients about various subjects including employee best practices, Federal WARN Act, employee handbooks, employee contracts, entity formation, employee discipline, investigations, wage and hour compliance, EEO compliance, pre-litigation demand letters, and unique and novel employment issues.

**BYRON GEE**

Partner, Water Practice
Nossaman

Byron Gee represents clients in trial courts and administrative hearings on all areas of water rights and environmental law. He specializes in the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act, the Hazardous Substance Account Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Clean Water Act and the California Porter Cologne Act. Gee also provides counsel in administrative proceedings and defended claims based on Federal, State, and local air quality regulations, as well as water rights disputes.

Before practicing law, Gee was a vice president and general manager at various oil companies. One of his main responsibilities was to ensure that these companies complied with all Federal, State and local environmental laws. Among his recent successes has been his work representing a client in a dispute with private property owner and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding a former refinery in Santa Fe Springs.

**LISA GILFORD**

Partner
Sidley Austin LLP

Lisa Gilford is one the preeminent first-chair trial lawyers in the country representing clients in a wide variety of industries, including automotive, pharmaceutical, communications, oil and gas, aerospace and chemical manufacturing, sports and higher education. She represents well-known clients in their most challenging and significant legal disputes, such as class actions, multidistrict litigation, products liability matters and large-scale commercial disputes. Her reputation as a trailblazing attorney has earned multiple accolades.

Particularly adept at handling matters with scientific or technical aspects, Gilford frequently works with engineers, physicians, computer scientists, economists and other technical experts to prepare them for deposition and trial. Because of this expertise, she is often retained by clients to provide litigation mitigation and counseling services. She has also been retained to provide contingent liability and litigation risk assessments in connection with large corporate transactions.

**DEMETRIA GRAVES**

Founding and Managing Partner
The Graves Law Firm

Certified family law specialist Demetria Graves opened her own family law practice, The Graves Law Firm, at the age of 25 - just six months out of law school. She has offices in both Beverly Hills and Pasadena. Graves is considered a leading family law attorney and has received many accolades for her dedication to the field of family law as well as to the community. In 2021, Graves was named to the Daily Journal's 'Top Women Lawyers' list.

Graves hosts a podcast, "Legally Uncensored with Attorney Demetria L. Graves," available on Apple Podcast, addressing family law-related topics. In addition, Graves wrote and released a new book titled, "When Women Run the Firm: How to Successfully Launch and Manage Your Law Practice with Confidence." She also currently serves as the secretary of the Family Law Executive Committee with the California Lawyers Association.

**TANYA GREENE**

Partner
McGuireWoods LLP

2021 was a remarkable year for McGuireWoods partner Tanya Greene. As part of a pro bono team serving as co-counsel in a multiplaintiff lawsuit, she helped challenge practices by the City of Los Angeles related to the confiscation and disposal of homeless individuals' belongings. On Sept. 2, 2021, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit affirmed a U.S. District Court ruling granting a preliminary injunction ordering the City to stop enforcing an ordinance provision that allowed the City to seize and destroy the belongings based on the size of the item without giving adequate notice to the item's owner.

She also works on high-profile, complex litigation for some of the most prominent corporations in the world. Her experience includes managing consumer class actions and complex multiplaintiff litigation for Fortune 100 clients in heavily regulated industries, including finance, technology, aerospace and petroleum.

LOI: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



JOE GUARDARRAMA
Attorney
Kaufman Legal Group

Joe Guardarrama joined Kaufman Legal Group in 2011, bringing a unique blend of private practice experience and service as a public official to the firm's Governmental Ethics, Campaign Finance, and Election Law practices. At Kaufman Legal Group, Guardarrama advises candidates, officeholders, political action committees, independent expenditure committees, major donors, lobbyists, and corporations regarding all legal aspects of their involvement with the political process at the state and local levels.

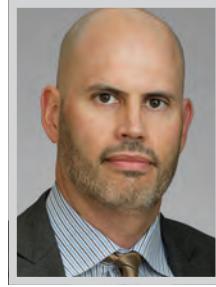
Guardarrama previously served as a planning commissioner in the City of West Hollywood. During his tenure on the Commission, he presided over its meetings as both chair and vice chair, and dealt with complicated land use policy matters such as the creation of a new General Plan, the Red Building expansion of the Pacific Design Center and multiple affordable housing developments. He has extensive experience with land use, zoning, and planning issues, as well as with the California Environmental Quality Act.



ADRIAN GUERRA
Partner
Aleshire & Wynder LLP

Adrian R. Guerra is a partner at Aleshire & Wynder. He serves as City Attorney for the City of Irwindale, the City of Grand Terrace, and the City of La Cañada Flintridge. Guerra also serves as special counsel to the Los Angeles County Development Authority, the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, and the Housing Authority of the City of Alameda. He has previously served as Assistant City Attorney for the cities of Monterey Park, Huntington Park, Cerritos, San Dimas, Glendora, and Bell.

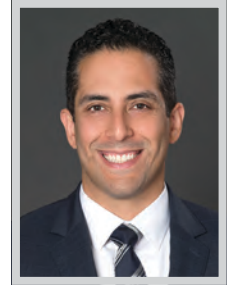
As special counsel to the Los Angeles County Development Authority, Guerra advises on the interpretation, implementation, and enforcement of federal and local program regulations. He also defends complaints filed with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, and among other duties litigates various matters.



LUKE GUERRA
Partner
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

As one of the lead M&A partners in Kirkland's Los Angeles corporate group, Luke Guerra is among the most prolific deal lawyers in the industry. In the last year alone, he has led upward of 17 M&A transactions totaling more than \$15 billion in value. He represents private equity funds and their portfolio companies in a wide array of transactions, including leveraged buyouts, public and private mergers and acquisitions, equity investments, restructurings and recapitalizations. Guerra has completed transactions across industries such as technology, manufacturing, retail, financial services, energy, health care and media and entertainment.

Guerra helps lead Kirkland's relationship with Clearlake Capital Group, one of the leading Los Angeles-based private equity firms. This past National Hispanic Heritage Month, he hosted a firmwide fireside chat alongside Clearlake Capital's co-founder and managing partner, José E. Feliciano discussing diverse representation in business and private equity in connection with Kirkland's diversity efforts.



STEVE L. HERNANDEZ
Of Counsel
DLA Piper

Steve L. Hernandez advises clients in a broad range of industries, from representing production companies and studios in the entertainment space to restaurants, concessionaires, warehouses, hospitality industry clients, and trucking companies. He devotes his practice to assisting clients with all manner of labor and employment-related issues, including advising on labor-management relations and on all areas of California employment law and addressing individual and class action cases in state and federal court as well as before the NLRB.

A bilingual child of Mexican immigrants, Hernandez brings an uncommon and valuable perspective to his work. Not only does he come from a working-class background, his father was a carpenter and his mother worked in golf-course kitchens for decades, his non-traditional legal career has given him a broad and uncommon perspective that he uses in guiding his clients.

Congratulations to our partners **Rodney Lee** and **Sarina Saluja** and all of our friends recognized on *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2022 Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys list.

We applaud your extraordinary professional achievements and steadfast commitment to serve as an advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion.



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**ALICIA Y. HOU**

Partner
Akerman, LLP

Alicia Hou joined Akerman, LLP in 2021, and is a litigation partner. She brings a decade of experience representing U.S. and international companies, as well as financial institutions in a wide variety of legal disputes. Hou focuses her practice on financial institutions commercial litigation, real estate litigation, and insurance litigation. Her work encompasses numerous sectors including, franchise and licensing, corporate governance and partnership disputes, intellectual property, trade secret, and non-compete litigation, and cross-border and multi-jurisdiction litigation.

Hou also has extensive experience advocating for the rights of her clients from anticipated litigation through arbitration and trial, assisting with appeals, and advising on best methods for dispute resolution. She also provides routine counsel to U.S. companies looking to expand their footprint in China or Taiwan, as well as to Chinese and Taiwanese companies with litigation issues in the U.S.

**PETER HSIAO**

Partner
King & Spalding LLP

Peter Hsiao is one of the nation's leading environmental, energy and natural resources attorneys in Los Angeles. He heads King & Spalding's West Coast Environmental, Health & Safety Practice and has more than 36 years of experience at the intersection of law, science and public policy, drawing upon his chemical engineering background. The firm's clients turn to Hsiao to advise on a wide range of California's cutting-edge environmental issues, including climate change, clean air and water technologies, green chemistry, transportation and transitioning to new energy sources.

Hsiao is one of the nation's few chemical engineers who is also a skilled first-chair trial lawyer. He served as the senior assistant U.S. attorney for environmental and natural resources matters in Los Angeles, where he represented EPA, and the Departments of Defense, Energy and Interior in some of their largest environmental cases.

**SHADI ENOS JAHANGIR**

Partner, Finance
Blank Rome LLP

Shadi Enos Jahangir is a firm partner whose practice focuses on commercial lending and corporate finance. She represents large and well-known financial institutions, leading private equity sponsors, and corporate borrowers in significant middle-market debt financings and investment-grade credits. Jahangir's more than 10 years of experience includes widely syndicated, club and single-lender representation in complex cross-border financings, restructurings, acquisition financings, recapitalizations, traditional asset-based lending facilities, and debt financings for technology companies. She also represents clients in senior-secured, first-lien/second-lien, mezzanine, unitranche, and unsecured financing transactions.

Significantly, Jahangir was one of the first attorneys in the U.S. to represent lenders in the national, COVID-relief Main Street Loan Program (MSLP), contributing to her firm becoming one of the leading law firms in MSLP financings.

**ROLAND JUAREZ**

Partner
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

Roland Juarez is known for handling high-stakes labor and employment cases for some of California's largest and most high-profile employers in the temporary staffing, service, manufacturing, and retail industries, successfully defending clients against the most challenging wage and hour, discrimination, non-compete and anti-raiding claims facing employers in California and across the nation. He is currently leading class, collective and other complex employment litigation and has developed a highly-successful unfair competition and employee raiding practice in California.

Juarez has been at the helm helping companies navigate the uncharted challenges brought on by the pandemic and by regulation keeping up with technology. He is representing several companies in cases that implicate COVID issues, including a novel question about whether masks and COVID-19 testing via temperature checks can be considered compensable time and reimbursement issues related to work at home.

**MOEZ KABA**

Partner
Hueston Hennigan LLP

Moez M. Kaba has an enviable string of trial and courtroom victories that makes him a force in the courtroom. Persuasive to judges and juries alike, he is trusted by clients to win their most challenging cases.

He has prevailed as co-lead trial counsel in trials and arbitrations across the nation, including, most recently, a landmark trial victory for Endo Pharmaceuticals in a closely-watched \$50 billion California opioid case alleging public nuisance, unfair competition, and false advertising. He also co-lead a complete defense verdict for Price-waterhouseCoopers in a closely watched federal trial; a complete win on all claims for Amazon in a high-profile and consequential breach-of-contract and tortious interference suit brought against it by eBay; and a complete defense verdict for renowned research university California Institute of Technology after a four-week jury trial in a \$65 million+ tortious interference and whistleblower case.

**BRIAN KANG**

Partner & Real Estate Chair
Greenberg Glusker LLP

Brian Kang, chair of Greenberg Glusker's Real Estate Group, has experience in a wide range of real estate transactions, including the acquisition, disposition, financing, and leasing of commercial, retail, multifamily, and industrial properties. His clients include real estate investors, developers, financial institutions, national universities, and REITS.

Among Kang's successful experience has been his work representing the seller in a portfolio sale of 21 industrial properties for over \$150 million. He also represented the landlord in an industrial lease of one million square feet to a global athletic retail company; represented the landlord in a 30-year lease transaction with a Regents of the University of California for a three-story 50,000 square foot medical office building in Santa Monica with a total lease value is estimated to be \$147 million; and represented the landlord in the construction, leasing, and disposition of a Dialysis medical building in West Los Angeles.

**YUKIKO KOJIMA**

Partner, Infrastructure Practice
Nossaman

Yukiko Kojima offers clients unique experience with highly innovative alternative delivery strategies for large-scale infrastructure projects in the U.S. because of her deep knowledge of national best practices as well as Canada's mature P3 market. She primarily advises public agencies in the use of methods such as P3 and design-build, but also represents private-sector participants on select projects.

Kojima takes an active role in Nossaman's P3 practice initiatives in the social infrastructure area, and co-authored the Firm's model social infrastructure P3 legislation. She served on the national board of Design Build Institute of America and chaired its P3 Committee from its inception. Before joining Nossaman, she was a partner in the leading P3 practice of a Canadian law firm in Vancouver and Tokyo where she assisted successful and shortlisted bidders on numerous award-winning P3 projects in Canada.

**EMILY KUWAHARA**

Partner in the Litigation Group
Crowell & Moring LLP

Crowell & Moring partner Emily T. Kuwahara has represented clients in appeals, patent inventorship disputes, breach of contract actions, particularly for technology companies, business torts, antitrust and consumer class actions, unfair competition law and other complex business disputes, resulting in satisfied clients and the recovery of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Over the last decade, Kuwahara has been a lead member of the Crowell & Moring team representing The Regents of the University of California in a number of key cases. She is currently leading the defense of challenges to the university's COVID-19 vaccine policy. Previously, from 2011 to 2020, she litigated a series of disputes relating to the licensing of compounds to treat prostate cancer. With a never-wavering focus on the client's goals, the team turned a lawsuit against The Regents seeking hundreds of millions of dollars of damages into an offensive suit for unpaid licensing fees.

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DEWITT LACY

Civil Rights Attorney

Law Offices of John L. Burris

Civil rights attorney DeWitt Lacy leads all litigation matters in Los Angeles and throughout Southern California for the Law Offices of John L. Burris. Having practiced civil rights law for over a decade, Lacy is well-seasoned in the areas of Section 1983 Civil Rights litigation, employment discrimination and personal injury. Lacy’s practice heavily includes ensuring families who have lost loved ones in wrongful death matters at the hands of police officers receive the justice they deserve. Currently, he is working to assure several families are able to find justice for the wrongful death of their family members by the Torrance Police Department, Montebello Police Department, San Bernardino Sheriff’s Department and the Anaheim Police Department.

As a licensed practitioner in the Northern, Eastern, Central and Southern District Courts of California and all Superior Courts of California, Lacy has successfully prosecuted wrongful death actions and civil rights violations against several municipalities.



MONIQUE LARMOND

Founding Partner

Givens & Larmond Law Group

Monique S. Larmond is a founding partner of Givens & Larmond Law Group. She began her career as a litigator, and transitioned to transactional law, focused on forming businesses entities, drafting and reviewing contracts, securing brand protection and working on various other business transactions for her clients.

Givens & Larmond Law Group is a boutique law firm providing efficient, reliable, modern-day legal services. Larmond and her firm are dedicated to assisting clients by providing bundled and unbundled services in the areas of business and transactional law, personal injury and family law. Larmond represents clients from all walks of life and is committed to providing access to efficient, reliable, modern day legal services. She and her co-founder started Givens & Larmond Law Group via grassroots methods to help build a six-figure firm, where she has helped many entrepreneurs start their own businesses and protect their brands.



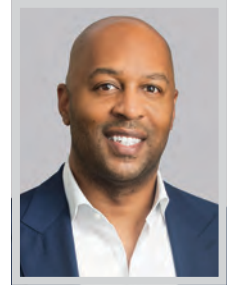
IRENE LEE

Partner

Russ August & Kabat

Irene Lee is a partner at Russ August & Kabat, where she focuses her practice on all aspects of intellectual property, including patent, trademark, copyright protection through registration, enforcement, and licensing. Lee has extensive experience in trademark and copyright prosecution, litigation, and licensing with an emphasis on global brand expansion and content management. As a registered patent attorney, Lee also counsels clients concerning patent protection and monetization to help build value.

Clients from varying industries seek and heed Lee’s advice and her peers respect her opinion because of her considered legal analysis balanced against her pragmatic approach to legal problems with real life solutions. In the past 12-18 months, Lee has managed over 5,000 brands and attendant rights as part of her role in managing IP portfolios for clients such as The Honest Company, Inc., Carroll Hall Shelby Trust, Scantron Corporation, and many others.



RODNEY LEE

Partner

Loeb & Loeb

Rodney Lee, a partner in Loeb & Loeb’s Trust & Estates Litigation practice, has always wanted to be a “fixer.” He viewed a career in law as his opportunity to help people and become their trusted advisor. And, as an African American man, Lee’s uncompromising advocacy for his clients was motivated by the fact that many Black individuals in the upper stratospheres of wealth didn’t have someone like him who could forge a clear path to pass wealth on to their future generations. He made it his mission to fill this need.

Lee brings more than 15 years of experience in general business and trust and estate matters, concentrating on estate, trust and fiduciary litigation, including disputes involving issues of undue influence, lack of capacity, breach of fiduciary duty, and elder abuse. He also has extensive experience advising clients on the removal of personal representatives and trustees.



Empowering Talent Through Diversity

Los Angeles Partners and Counsel from Diverse Backgrounds

Congratulations to Lisa M. Gilford and Jack S. Yeh on being named among the **2022 Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys**. We salute the dedication and commitment from you and our full group of partners and counsel from diverse backgrounds.



Lisa M. Gilford
Partner, Los Angeles

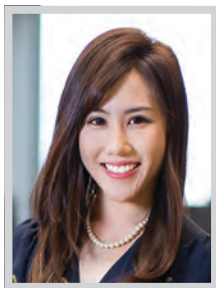


Jack S. Yeh
Partner, Century City

See more about the ways we are encouraging inclusion in the legal profession at [sidley.com/diversity](https://www.sidley.com/diversity)



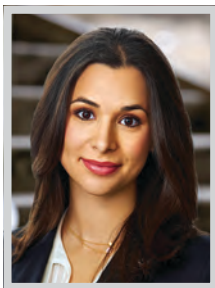
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**YOOJIN LEE**

Partner
McGuireWoods LLP

Yoojin Lee, newly elected to the McGuireWoods 2022 partnership class, joined the McGuireWoods debt finance team in 2014, and since then, has helped build and expand an asset-based lending practice that is among the best in the nation. Her practice focuses on representing financial institutions across a wide array of industries in domestic and international secured lending transactions, with an emphasis on asset based lending transactions.

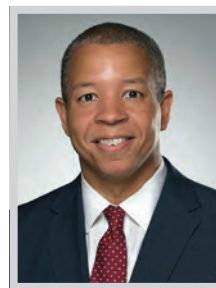
Lee has extensive international experience – prior to joining McGuireWoods, she practiced law in Seoul, South Korea, where she gained significant experience in cross border mergers and acquisition transactions and project financing transactions. Her transactions, many of them international, have involved gaming businesses, research labs, clothing and accessory retailers and conglomerates, engineering companies, private equity funds, U.S. corporations with overseas subsidiaries, hotels and others.

**JOSIE LEINART**

Sports and Corporate Lawyer
Munck Wilson Mandala, LLP

Josie Leinart started her career as an actress (Josie Loren) and starred in more than 23 professional television and film projects, including her role as Kaylie Cruz in the ABC Family series Make It or Break It and as FBI agent Michelle Vega in the CBS series The Mentalist. She became interested in law a few years after she graduated from UCLA and stayed in touch with long-time friend Tasha Schwikert, a former Olympic gymnast who became a lawyer. Leinart attended Loyola Law School and two years after she graduated, Schwikert invited her to join her law firm, Munck Wilson Mandala.

Leinart began working as a corporate and sports lawyer with the firm in January 2021. Since joining, she has handled several multimillion-dollar real estate transactions for the corporate practice, including her involvement in the successful closing of Tyler Technologies acquiring NIC Inc. in a \$2.3 billion all-cash transaction.

**AARON LEWIS**

Partner and Vice Chair of White Collar Defense and Investigations
Covington & Burling LLP

General counsel and boards of directors call on Aaron Lewis to conduct their most sensitive internal investigations and to defend their businesses and senior executives in their most serious enforcement matters. A founding member of Covington's Los Angeles office and Vice Chair of the firm's White Collar Defense and Investigations practice, Lewis returned to Covington in 2015 after six years of service in the Department of Justice, first as counsel to Attorney General Eric Holder and later as an Assistant United States Attorney in Los Angeles.

Among Lewis' recent success has been his work as a co-leader of Covington lawyers that evaluated Starbucks' ongoing efforts to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion and published its third report in March 2021. As part of this assessment, Covington developed a set of recommendations to strengthen the company's existing programs, policies, and initiatives.

**PAUL LOH**

Managing Partner
Willenken LLP

Managing partner Paul Loh is a founding member of Willenken LLP. Founded in 2002, Willenken is an elite minority-owned, majority women boutique litigation firm. Loh is Asian American and a native Mandarin speaker. He has nearly 30 years of experience representing major leading American and Asian corporations in both civil and criminal litigation matters.

Loh represents Fortune 500 clients in high-stakes, complex commercial litigation matters, focusing on product liability and major torts, white collar defense and government investigations, and class actions cases. He is an outlier, compared to lawyers of his generation, in that he has spent much of his impressive legal career truly trying cases. In fact, he has tried over 120 jury trials, court trials, and arbitrations. As a result of his substantial trial experience, leading companies turn to him for some of the most challenging cases on their dockets.

**A. ALEXANDER (ALEX) LOWDER**

Partner
Larson LLP

Alex Lowder is a partner at Larson. His practice focuses on white collar criminal defense and commercial litigation. Clients value his measured counsel and ability to effectively litigate and surmount the most contentious cases, ultimately delivering the optimal result. In his white collar defense practice, Lowder represents individuals and corporations in federal and state investigations and prosecutions, including at trial. He has successfully resolved cases before charges were filed, had charges dropped or dismissed prior to trial, and obtained acquittals on two separate occasions. In civil matters, he represents clients in complex contract disputes, business torts, and civil rights disputes.

Throughout his career, Lowder has litigated matters for a range of clients, including financial service providers, global manufacturers, municipalities, media and entertainment companies, and celebrities – at both the trial and appellate levels.

**BRYAN LUTHER**

Attorney
Albright, Yee & Schmit, APC

After graduating from Loyola Law School, Bryan Luther joined the employment law firm Albright, Yee & Schmit, APC as an associate attorney where he represents individuals, businesses, corporations, and government entities in most aspects of employment and general litigation. He zealously advocates for his clients from inception to resolution or dismissal. When Luther's clients were faced with the broad-sweeping challenges accompanying the COVID-19 pandemic, he provided counseling and guidance to his clients on an ongoing basis as legislation surrounding the pandemic changed at times on a weekly basis.

Luther recently successfully defended a Los Angeles County city from a claim of several million dollars forcing it to settle for far less than nuisance value on the eve of an all-but-certain defense verdict at trial. Luther played an intricate role in a recent trial, defending a Los Angeles school district against a nearly eight-figure traumatic brain injury claim.

**D. JASON LYON**

Partner
Hahn & Hahn LLP

D. Jason Lyon is a litigation partner at Hahn & Hahn LLP. His practice focuses on commercial litigation involving disputes concerning trade secrets, breach of contract, and fraud. Prior to joining Hahn & Hahn, Lyon was an associate with Latham & Watkins, practicing in the Complex Commercial Litigation and Securities Litigation groups.

Among Lyon's successes has been his work recently completing a two-week trial prosecuting claims involving real estate developers' breach of contract, fraud, and hidden assets (judgment is pending). He is also currently defending alleged breach of contract, business tort, and extortion claims for client in the medical industry; successfully defended multiple anti-SLAPP motions against cross-complaint, and recently argued the matter again in the Court of Appeal (opinion is pending). He is currently prosecuting a seven-figure direct and derivative for fraud and theft by management in closely held meat processing company.

**MERCEDES MARTIN**

Shareholder
Buchalter

Mercedes Martin has assumed a leading role in representing institutional banks as lenders and equity investors in low income housing tax credit projects nationwide. With a particular emphasis in California, she has developed an expertise in structuring and navigating the multitude of rules and regulations governing the subsidies and public funds required to finance these affordable housing projects.

Martin represents developers, borrowers, lenders and investors in the structuring and financing of projects nationwide utilizing low income housing tax credits, new markets tax credits, renewable energy credits and state certificated credits, as well as joint venturers in the acquisition, disposition, management and financing of office, retail, commercial and multifamily projects. Her areas of expertise include complex low income housing tax credit transactions, affordable housing and subsidy layering analysis, new market tax credit funded affordable housing developments, formation of tax credit partnerships, and federal, state and local compliance.

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AMBER MELIUS

Partner

Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump Holley

Amber Melius, partner at leading entertainment litigation boutique Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump Holley LLP (KWIKH), regularly achieves groundbreaking victories in complex, high-stakes cases on behalf of some of the biggest names in Hollywood. After graduating from Stanford University with a B.A. in Economics and Political Science, she then earned her J.D. at Harvard Law School. Her recent areas of practice include entertainment, copyright, employment, contract, and other commercial disputes, as well as government tort claims matters. She has represented clients in federal and state courts, both inside and outside of the State of California.

Alongside KWIKH's Dale Kinsella, Melius notably represented Jaycee Dugard, the victim of a high-profile abduction that led to an 18-year confinement by her captor, Philip Garrido. Melius helped Dugard in securing an unprecedented \$20 million settlement based on claims brought against the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.



BRITTANY MILLIASSEAU

Associate

Reeves Immigration Law Group

Brittany Milliasseau started practicing immigration law in 2013 and since then, she has practiced immigration law exclusively. The field of immigration law is diverse and there are many different practice areas within the field ranging from removal/deportation defense to marriage and family-based petitions, from humanitarian applications to employment-based visas, from naturalization to Federal Court appeals.

Whether Milliasseau is working directly with the HR team of a large corporation trying to figure out options for them to employ a talented foreign national executive, helping a mother be reunited with her children abroad that she has not seen in many years, or assisting a victim of immigration fraud obtain permanent residency after being undocumented for decades, she uses her knowledge of immigration law coupled with her emotional intelligence, advocacy skills, discernment, perseverance, and creativity to help clients from all walks of life achieve the results they desire.



MASAHISA MITSUNAGA

Shareholder

Buchalter APC

Masahisa (Masa) Mitsunaga is a shareholder in the Los Angeles office of Buchalter. He is Chair of the Japan Practice group and a member of the firm's Corporate and Intellectual Property groups. His clients see Mitsunaga as a solution provider, and he has represented numerous Japanese clients in connection with their challenging legal matters including large business and strategic transactions and business disputes in the United States for over a decade. Mitsunaga has regularly represented a wide range of Japanese clients through their start-ups, capital transactions, and mergers and acquisitions in the United States.

Mitsunaga's clients include media and broadcasting companies, film production and distribution companies, talent management companies, interactive game developers, private equity funds, advertising companies, logistics companies, toy and game manufacturers, food manufacturers, medical device manufacturers, real estate companies, online service providers, and other companies operating globally.



JAMES I. MONTGOMERY JR.

Partner

Gibbs Giden Locher Turner Senet & Wittbrodt LLP

James I. Montgomery is a partner and civil litigation trial lawyer with over 36 years of litigation experience in the areas of civil trial and appellate law, insurance defense, products liability and commercial law. Montgomery specializes in the analysis, negotiation, and defense of civil litigation matters, including automobile accidents, premises liability, construction defects, land subsidence, landlord-tenant habitability, toxic torts, construction accidents, personal injury, professional liability, products liability, and major losses. His experience in the litigation of toxic tort matters includes exposures to asbestos, benzene, rodent allergens, and mold.

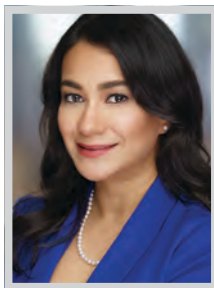
Montgomery also has significant trial experience with a high success rate. Notably, Montgomery was called upon by a client to replace ineffective counsel in a wrongful death action just prior to trial. Adding to the case complications, he inherited the case burdened with a terminating sanction order. Despite the obstacles, Montgomery successfully achieved a defense verdict for the client.



ERVIN COHEN & JESSUP LLP
ecjlaw.com

Congratulations to our Partner **Albert C. Valencia** on his *Los Angeles Business Journal* **Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys** recognition.

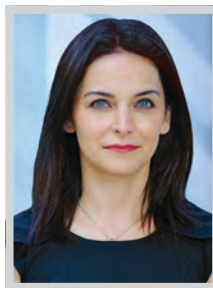
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**SABRINA NARAIN**

Partner & Trial Attorney
Sanders Roberts LLP

In 2014, Sabrina Narain graduated from law school. By 2021, she became the first female partner at litigation boutique Sanders Roberts LLP. In a short period of time, Narain grew a diverse auto manufacturing litigation team of attorneys and paralegals which effectively expanded Sanders Roberts LLP, allowing the firm to service multiple auto clients with in-depth, meticulously and aggressive litigation strategies.

Narain represents large domestic and foreign manufacturers like Ford Motor Company and American Honda Motor Company, Inc., and her experience in the auto industry has led to the creation of new and technically advanced litigation strategies to successfully defend the severity of consumer warranty cases in California, specifically those cases alleging fraud and misrepresentation. Having started as one of only five attorneys at Sanders Roberts less than four years ago, Narain is now part of a firm that services 30+ attorneys over a wide range of legal services.

**ARAMEH ZARGHAM O'BOYLE**

Member
Mintz

Arameh Zargham O'Boyle, member at Mintz, is a trailblazer and the first female partner in the firm's growing LA office. In her 16 years of practice, O'Boyle has become one of the most sought after attorneys that product innovators and manufacturers in the pharmaceutical, medical device, personal care and cosmetic sectors rely on when faced with potential or actual litigation.

O'Boyle concentrates her practice on defending companies in product liability litigation. She counsels manufacturers and distributors on various issues arising throughout a product's life cycle. She also represents life sciences companies in complex mass tort litigation. Currently she represents a leading international medical device manufacturer in product liability and other general litigation throughout California and other jurisdictions relating to products ranging from EMS supplies, surgical instruments and power tools, to orthopedic implants and bone morphogenetic proteins.

**ERNIE OCAMPO**

Partner
Reed Smith LLP

Ernie Ocampo's practice focuses on transactional law, with an emphasis on entertainment and real estate development. He has advised clients on an array of corporate matters, including equity and debt financings, formation and corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, and day-to-day legal matters. His real estate development practice focuses on acquisitions, joint ventures and development of renewable energy facilities and commercial properties. He also advises clients in various stages of development – from start-ups to mature companies – in a broad range of transactions, with an emphasis in the entertainment, real estate and renewable energy industries.

Ocampo also serves as pro bono counsel for Search to Involve Pilipino Americans (SIPA), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization serving Historic Filipinotown and other neighborhoods throughout Greater Los Angeles County. SIPA produces programs for youth and families.

**RICK OLIVAREZ**

Founding and Managing Partner
Olivarez Madruga Lemieux O'Neill, LLP

Rick R. Olivarez, founding and managing partner of Olivarez Madruga Lemieux O'Neill, LLP (OMLO), is widely considered to be one of Southern California's leading legal practitioners. Olivarez dedicated the early years of his career to providing essential legal services to municipal, education and public agency clients. He made the decision to establish his own firm. He hired fellow partner and seasoned litigator Tom Madruga and founded Olivarez Madruga, offering specialties in public agency law, labor and employment, real estate development, contract law, environmental compliance, redevelopment, construction law, premises liability, tort law, and legislative advocacy.

In 2017, Olivarez led the firm through a strategic merger with Lemieux & O'Neill, a long-time boutique firm, creating the unified firm known today as OMLO. The merger strengthened the firm's practice areas in transactional and litigation services in municipal law, water law, environmental law, and toxic tort law.

**ARJUN RAO**

Partner
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP

Arjun Rao has built a national reputation for handling high stakes consumer class actions and financial services litigation including regulatory matters and government investigations, as well as defending companies in a wide range of actions. This past year he has worked with JPMorgan Chase, HSBC, Discover, American Express and BMW Financial Services in a range of individual and class actions relating to various consumer protection statutes and alleged unfair business practices.

Rao represents Discover in a nationwide putative class action, presenting novel theories of lender liability under the discrimination laws. Recently, Rao's team at Stroock obtained a favorable ruling on a motion to compel individual arbitration of claims brought by two of the three plaintiffs. Rao also recently obtained a very favorable ruling for Chase Bank in an action involving an alleged wire fraud scam perpetrated by unknown third-party fraudsters.

**ANGELA REDDOCK-WRIGHT**

Employment and Labor Law Mediator, Arbitrator,
Workplace and Title IX Investigator
Reddock Law/Judicate West

Recently inducted into the prestigious College of Labor & Employment Lawyers, Angela Reddock-Wright is an employment mediator, arbitrator, workplace, and Title IX investigator. She has practiced as an employment and labor law attorney for 25 years. After working as an employment litigator for 15 years, in 2011, she opened the Reddock Law Group and transitioned to becoming a full-time neutral. The Reddock Law Group is a boutique, minority, and woman owned dispute resolution and investigations law firm focused on the resolution of employment and labor law, Title IX sexual assault, hazing, and bullying legal claims through the alternative dispute resolution, investigation, and other neutral processes.

In addition to having her own firm, Reddock-Wright joined Judicate West in January 2020 as one of its neutrals. This is of particular significance as Angela is one of the only African-American women to be on a top mediation panel.

**NEEMA SAHNI**

Partner, Co-Chair of Music Industry Group,
Vice Chair of Sports Industry Group
Covington & Burling LLP

Neema Sahni, partner, co-chair of Covington's Music Industry Group, and vice chair of the firm's Sports Industry Group, has built one of the most diverse legal practices serving the sports, media, and entertainment industries and has become a go-to counsel for some of the industry's biggest names. Through her work at Covington & Burling, and her prior experience in-house at The Walt Disney Company, Sahni has developed a sophisticated understanding of the legal issues facing clients in the sports, media, and entertainment industries. Her clients include Disney and Fox, major sports leagues like the NFL, professional sports teams like the San Francisco Giants, and major music companies like Sony Music and Universal Music.

Sahni co-leads a team of Covington lawyers representing all the major record labels and publishers (including Universal, Warner, and Sony) in major copyright infringement cases against the ISPs Charter Communications and Bright House Networks.

**SARINA SALUJA**

Partner
Loeb & Loeb

Sarina Saluja is a labor and employment litigator with more than a decade of experience representing employers of all sizes in a wide range of matters, including those involving discrimination claims, harassment, retaliation, wage and hour violations and wrongful termination, as well as workplace privacy, data security, unfair competition, and trade secret theft and corporate espionage.

Saluja has represented clients throughout California, in both Superior Courts and United States District Court and before the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, the California Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, the United States Department of Labor, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commissions. She has also successfully argued appeals before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. In addition to her litigation work, Saluja also advises clients on policy and procedure manuals, employment contracts and other agreements, and other workplace policies, including harassment and discrimination prevention and drug testing policies.

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CHRISTIAN JOSEPH SCALI
Founder and Managing Partner
 Scali Rasmussen, PC

Christian Scali has a diverse automotive industry practice that includes advice and counsel and complex and high stakes litigation involving franchise disputes, lender liability, reinsurance and flooring disputes, consumer finance, consumer and wage and hour class actions, high stakes employment litigation, trade secret misappropriation and corporate shareholder and partnership disputes. Scali is known for his work on behalf of the retail automotive industry in a series of advertising lawsuits brought against it under California's Unfair Competition Law resulting in the disbarment of consumer advocates, Trevor Law Group, and for his work on the Defense Steering Committee in the massive automobile consumer leasing lawsuit against the retail automotive leasing industry.

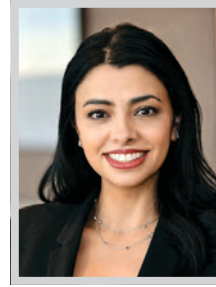
Scali also assists auto dealers and auto dealer groups with their mergers and acquisitions. Finally, Scali also creates effective corporate compliance and ethics programs for his clients and represents clients in regulatory enforcement actions and requests for information.



REENA SEHGAL
Founding Attorney
 Sehgal Law PC

Reena Sehgal has always loved business, creativity, and the arts, and in law school she discovered how to use her skills, education, and passion in a rewarding field. After working for some reputable companies, where she worked alongside, networked, and engaged with industry leaders, she decided to start her own solo practice – Law Offices of Reena Sehgal – in 2016. Since then, she has worked with numerous independent filmmakers, artists, and producers on international and domestic films. She also continues to work with individuals and companies in television, live stage, and music.

Sehgal, understanding that filmmaking is an expensive proposition, created and developed a first-of-its-kind digital automation and CRM platform for entertainment representatives called AT YOUR FINGERTIPS. The platform makes legal documents and packages of documents available to filmmakers at a fraction of the cost of traditional legal services. Her vision has always been to make legal services affordable and easily accessible.



RASHA GERGES SHIELDS
Partner
 Jones Day

Rasha Gerges Shields, an immigrant and first-generation professional, has led an exemplary career. She is a respected leader in the legal profession, a trusted advisor to companies and organizations, and a champion of diversity and racial justice.

Following law school, Shields clerked with the Honorable Gary Feess in the Central District of California, and the Honorable Ferdinand Fernandez on the Ninth Circuit. She then joined Jones Day, where she excelled as an appellate attorney, arguing before the California Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit, and the California Court of Appeal early in her career. She then served as a federal criminal prosecutor for more than seven years at the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Central District of California. Shields returned to Jones Day approximately seven years ago, and since then, has been defending companies and executives in high-stakes civil and criminal matters, including DOJ and State Attorneys General enforcement actions.



MIWA SHODA
Partner and Co-Chair of the firm's Japan Practice
 Jenner & Block LLP

Miwa Shoda was born and raised in Japan. After passing the Japanese bar exam when the passing rate was only 2.5%, she began her career at one of Japan's premier law firms. With the blessing and support of that firm, she traveled to the US to receive her LL.M degree from University of Chicago Law School, and passed two more bar exams (New York and California) this time in a second language. Shoda then made groundbreaking steps from being a visiting attorney to associate and then partner at AmLaw 100 firms – a path unheard of within LL.M. and visiting attorney programs.

Since joining a US firm with no Asia footprint, Shoda has been pivotal in representing Japanese companies facing legal issues in the US. Calling on her international education and understanding of the business cultural differences, Shoda developed her skills for navigating Japanese clients through domestic issues.

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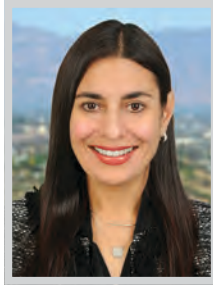
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**MICHAEL SHORTNACY**

Partner
King & Spalding LLP

Michael Shortnacy defends clients in high stakes consumer class actions, mass torts, and regulatory enforcement actions relating to consumer protection statutes. He litigates before state and federal courts in matters involving claims of unfair competition, false and deceptive advertising and other violations of consumer protection laws.

Shortnacy has developed particular experience counseling clients in all aspects of electronic discovery in complex and crisis litigation, and in civil and criminal investigations, and regulatory proceedings. He also advises clients on information governance and records management and retention, and compliance with state and federal discovery obligations, before, during and after litigation. He regularly designs cost effective and proportional electronic discovery strategies and protocols for clients in the automotive industry. Combining his subject matter knowledge of e-discovery and his litigation practice, Shortnacy has frequently and successfully argued defensibility of process to courts and special discovery masters.

**NICOLE JANIGIAN SIMONIAN**

Partner and Co-Chair, International Trade practice and International Employment and Global Mobility Lead
Crowell & Moring LLP

Nicole Janigian Simonian has more than two decades of international trade and cross border transactional experience. She has significant experience serving as a strategic advisor and outside general counsel for companies, in connection with their market entry and global business expansion, operations and dispositions worldwide, with significant experience across Asia. She currently co-chairs Crowell & Moring's International Trade practice and heads the firm's International Employment/Global Mobility practice. In addition to her legal practice, Simonian is a director of the firm's China consulting subsidiary, CMI Shanghai, and serves on the Retail Task Force and Investigation Team.

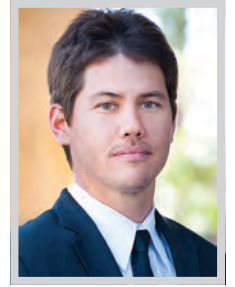
As a result of her focus on Asia, Simonian saw early on the importance of establishing a dedicated response team to address the COVID-19 pandemic. She was a founding member of the firm's COVID-19 Working Group.

**RICHARD SWEET**

Partner & Chair, Corporate, Finance and Securities Group
Greenberg Glusker LLP

Richard J. Sweet is a corporate attorney and department chair for Greenberg Glusker's Business & Tax Department. His background and experience in the automotive industry, coupled with his decades-long experience expertise in a variety of transactional and regulatory matters, including mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, contract negotiations, and debt and equity financing, enables him to provide his clients with a unique approach to practicing law.

Sweet represents various business entities including middle-market, automotive, food and beverage, service, real estate, and high-tech companies. He is experienced in advising clients in connection with general corporate and securities matters; drafting and negotiating complex limited liability company operating agreements and joint venture agreements; drafting and negotiating asset purchase, stock purchase and merger agreements, shareholder agreements, and executive compensation agreements; and advising clients in connection with regulatory issues.

**JASON TOKORO**

Partner
Miller Barondess, LLP

Jason Tokoro is an accomplished trial lawyer. He represents clients in complex litigation in the entertainment, sports, real estate, and financial industries. He is outside counsel for County of Los Angeles and its Board of Supervisors. Tokoro won summary judgment on behalf of the County in a FLSA class action lawsuit relating to the State's IHSS program, in which plaintiffs sought nearly \$50 million. Tokoro also represents the County in litigation regarding photographs taken following the tragic helicopter crash that killed nine individuals, including Kobe Bryant and his daughter.

Tokoro is committed to helping the community during the pandemic. Over the past year, he has successfully represented LA County against numerous lawsuits challenging the enforcement of emergency health orders, such as contract-tracing, stay-at-home orders, and orders restricting activities to reduce the spread of the virus. These victories have ensured protection of County residents and set precedents that are followed statewide.

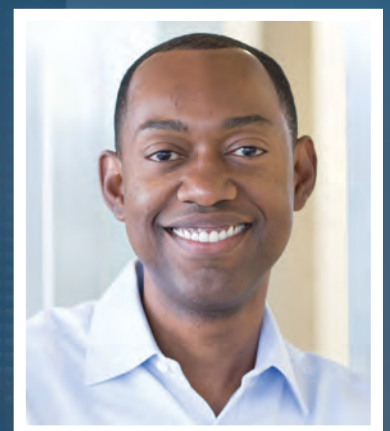
We congratulate

**Louis Wharton &
John De La Merced**

on their selection to the

Los Angeles Business Journal's 2022

"Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys."



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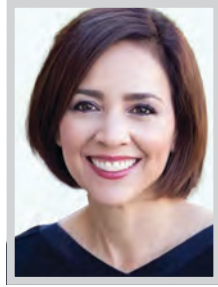


JUAN TORRES

Partner
Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP

Juan A. Torres is a partner in Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP's Los Angeles office, with which he has been associated since 1990. He has vast and expansive experience as a commercial/corporate, employment, construction, real estate and insurance litigator in federal and state courts, including bankruptcy courts and arbitration and mediation proceedings.

In the more than 30 years that Torres has been representing business owners to resolve a wide range of disputes and conflicts, he has argued on their behalf in federal and state courts, at trial and in dispute resolution forums across Southern California. A native Spanish speaker, he has earned the trust of the Latino business community in LA and beyond. An area Torres focuses on is in counseling employers on employment related matters and resolving and settling employment-related claims – from wrongful termination and wage and hour claims to complaints of discrimination, harassment and government agency investigations.



SYLVIA TORRES-GUILLÉN

Partner
Andrade Gonzalez LLP

Sylvia Torres-Guillén has dedicated her career to addressing societal inequities as well as fighting for civil rights and social, racial, environmental, and economic justice. Beginning her career as a federal public defender for almost two decades, her practice presently consists of complex commercial litigation, white-collar crimes, regulatory and corporate investigation matters, sexual harassment and employment discrimination, and catastrophic personal injury cases.

Torres-Guillén has significant experience in federal, state, criminal, and civil cases, including high-profile cases such as the first federal prosecution of an internet hate crime case in the country. With 40 trials in federal court, she uses her commanding leadership skills and a tenacious spirit to achieve remarkable results; in two cases alone, she successfully obtained settlements totaling over \$175 million dollars. Representing and protecting the rights of some of the most marginalized and oppressed communities, Torres-Guillén has secured victories and aggressively pursued cases in federal and state courts.

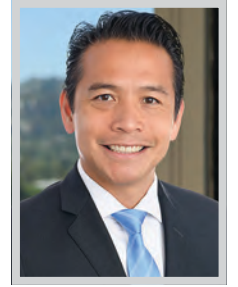


JULIA TRANKIEM

Partner
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

Fortune 100 companies count on Julia Trankiem, labor and employment partner at Hunton Andrews Kurth's Los Angeles office, to navigate the challenges of California regulations as well as federal employment law issues. She is known for extensively collaborating and partnering with companies to solve complex employment issues, including the challenges to California employers brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, now in its second year, and the ramifications of business shutdowns and workforce reductions. Trankiem is involved in significant, high-stakes employment class actions and single and multi-plaintiff litigation, where she develops and sets a strategic charge, striving to position matters for the most effective and efficient outcome.

Most recently, Trankiem represented Abbott in a lawsuit brought by a former company manager alleging age and disability discrimination, harassment, and retaliation claims for which Trankiem won for her client a favorable settlement.



ALBERT VALENCIA

Partner; Chair, Real Estate Transactional Practice
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP

Albert Valencia's practice is focused on real estate and general business matters. His clients include developers, operators, private equity investors, and commercial banks in a broad range of real estate transactions, including acquisitions and dispositions, joint ventures and syndications, commercial leasing, financing, loan modifications, workouts and restructurings. Clients look to Valencia for his experience in a broad range of real estate asset classes including multi-family, office, retail, mixed-use, and industrial properties. He regularly represents clients in forming joint-ventures and syndications, negotiating structured finance transactions (including obtaining CMBS loans, mezzanine debt, and preferred equity), and assisting property owners in asset management.

Some of Valencia's recent successes include his work representing multi-family developer in the purchase of at least ten residential properties for redevelopment in Los Angeles County. He also led the purchase of 7651 and 7501 Esters Blvd., a 176,700 square foot office complex located outside of Dallas.



CONGRATULATIONS

Russ August & Kabat proudly congratulates our partners and colleagues, **Irene Lee** and **Benjamin Wang**, on being named among the **2022 LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS.**



Russ August & Kabat focuses on representing plaintiffs in patent, trademark, copyright infringement and complex business litigation matters, intellectual property protection and licensing, mergers & acquisitions and real property transactions and litigation.

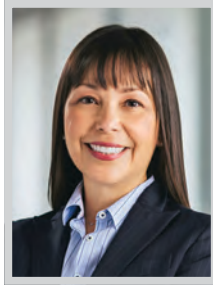
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**NICOLE RODRIGUEZ VAN DYK***Principal*

Bird, Marella, Boxer, Wolpert, Nessim, Drooks, Lincenberg & Rhov, P.C.

Nicole Rodriguez Van Dyk routinely excels in high-stakes, high-profile, and headline-grabbing litigation. Van Dyk's most recent achievement is on behalf of the MLB team, Los Angeles Angels, regarding a dispute with the Department of Justice. A November 2021 Court Order criticized the government for its improper subpoena to the Angels and sided with Van Dyk's declaration. She continues to be lead counsel for the Angels in all matters related to the death of pitcher Tyler Skaggs.

In July, Van Dyk successfully protected her client's Fourth and Fifth Amendment rights in the highly publicized U.S. Private Vaults seizure when the Judge denied the government's motion to dismiss the case. Representing over 30 individual clients, she is preventing the government from interfering with the property rights of box holders for whom the government had neither probable cause nor a valid warrant when they confiscated the property.

**BELINDA VEGA***Partner and Co-Chair,**West Coast Litigation Group*
Venable LLP

Belinda Martinez Vega, co-chair of Venable's West Coast Litigation Group, focuses on complex commercial litigation, including matters involving unfair business practices, contract disputes, and fraud. She also defends employers against false accusations, discrimination, breach of contract, and various other claims while in compliance with both California state and federal employment laws. Belinda is a passionate advocate for her clients in the financial services, hotel and hospitality, technology, professional services, consumer products, art, media, and entertainment industries.

With over two decades of experience, clients rely on Vega's sophisticated knowledge and astute insight in achieving favorable outcomes in the most complex cases. When difficult and challenging issues cannot be resolved without litigation, she is prepared to try the case for the client. Among her many recent accomplishments is her success in obtaining summary judgment for her client, Las Vegas Resort Holdings, LLC.

**BEN WANG***Partner*

Russ August & Kabat

Ben Wang is a partner at Russ August & Kabat. He represents clients in business and intellectual property disputes, particularly in patent and trade secret trials and appeals. He recently served as lead counsel in a patent jury trial that resulted in a verdict in favor of his client on all issues and damages, and found willful infringement. The court then enhanced the amount of damages by 100%, awarding Wang's client over \$15 million.

Wang was recently second chair in a patent jury trial and obtained a verdict in favor of his client on all issues and damages of \$3.1 million. He also recently won an appeal against Meta before the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, reversing a summary judgement ruling; argued over 20 substantive motions before U.S. District Courts and before the International Trade Commission; and obtained settlements or damages for clients in excess of \$20 million.

**LOUIS WHARTON***Partner*

Stubbs Alderton & Markiles, LLP

As an emerging attorney in 2004, Louis Wharton was highly interested in working with entrepreneurs and investors that sought to drive innovation. He subsequently joined Stubbs Alderton and Markiles, LLP, a local firm focused on representing technology companies in the Southern California ecosystem. Over his intervening 18 years at the firm, Wharton has advanced from associate to partner, assisting with the firm's growth and cementing its pronounced reputation as a firm offering stellar corporate, securities, IP, and litigation legal expertise.

Commended by clients for his strategic thinking, Wharton is an industry leader; his practice focuses on advising clients with venture capital funds and angel networks, along with middle-market, emerging growth, early-stage and public companies in corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, securities compliance and general corporate matters. Using impeccable attention to detail, Wharton counsels clients in the technology, e-commerce, and digital media industries, among others.

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We proudly congratulate our colleagues, **Nicole Simonian** and **Emily Kuwahara**, on being named among *Los Angeles Business Journal's* "Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys."



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Congratulations



A. Alexander Lowder
Jen C. Won

Leaders of Influence:
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BART WILLIAMS
Partner
Proskauer Rose LLP

Bart Williams has compiled an impressive list of victories in jury and bench trials throughout the United States. He has served as lead trial counsel for numerous companies in bet-the-company trials, and as a litigator and counselor for many Fortune 500 corporations across media and entertainment, banking and financial services, technology, pharmaceutical and private equity. He has also represented celebrities, government officials and corporate executives.

Williams secured a landmark victory for Monsanto in December 2021 in a case brought by plaintiff Donnetta Stephens claiming that use of the herbicide Roundup caused her non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. A California jury rejected the claims, returning a defense verdict on all counts, concluding not only that Roundup did not cause Stephens' cancer, but that Roundup performs safely and does not pose risk – the first jury finding for Monsanto in a Roundup case following three jury verdicts in similar single-plaintiff cases totaling nearly \$2.5 billion.



JASON WILSON
Partner
Willenken LLP

Partner Jason Wilson joined Willenken LLP – a boutique minority-owned, majority women elite trial and litigation firm – shortly after the firm's formation in 2002. Wilson is an Asian American attorney who represents Fortune 500 companies and other leading businesses in high-profile trials and complex commercial and intellectual property litigation matters in a wide variety of industries, including hospitality, utility, retail, and energy.

With over 30 years of practice at the trial and appellate levels, Wilson is a winning force in the courtroom. He draws on a unique background that combines substantial trial experience (including trying 15 civil matters) with deep appellate experience (including 25 appellate matters). Wilson has extensive experience untangling his clients' knottiest legal problems and is equally skilled in creatively and effectively telling his clients' stories to trial courts, juries, and appellate panels.



JEN WON
Counsel
Larson LLP

Jen Won, a bilingual trial attorney, is counsel at Larson. After practicing for two years in Chicago, Won moved to California to serve as a law clerk to the Honorable Larry A. Burns of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. She joined Larson as an associate in 2019 from Bird Marella in Los Angeles and was elevated to counsel in January 2021.

Won's practice focuses on high-stakes civil litigation and white collar criminal defense. Ingenious and earnest, she is especially apt to tackle a complex legal problem and develop a winning strategy. Since joining Larson, she has taken on many of the firm's high-profile, sensitive investigations for corporate clients facing regulatory challenges. She regularly defends individual clients in federal and state criminal investigations, and she has successfully negotiated favorable outcomes with the government on her clients' behalf.



JASON C. WRIGHT
Partner
Jones Day

In 2020 and 2021, some of the most significant litigation matters in the U.S. focused on health care providers, and Jason Wright has been key to representation of clients facing novel and unprecedented litigation threats. He assisted Sutter Health in one of the largest antitrust matters in the country by leading trial preparation for a team of more than 20 attorneys, including coordination with multiple law firms. Since 2019, Wright has been counseling a national retail pharmacy and leading management and strategy development of testifying experts for a multijurisdictional opioid litigation advancing novel theories previously only advanced in academic articles.

Wright is also well versed in false claims litigation related to the healthcare industry. He was lead counsel on a false claims matter against a leading California medical center. In 2020, the court dismissed the majority of the relator's claims, securing a very favorable resolution for the medical center.



Diversity and inclusion are fundamental to our success.

Mintz is proud to congratulate our Members **Joshua Briones** and **Arameh O'Boyle** and all the other honorees named as the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* **2022 Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys.**



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Proudly congratulates
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**DEBRA WONG YANG**

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

Debra Wong Yang has developed a practice focused on matters stemming from crises to white collar defense to litigation. Her abilities to break through difficult situations apply to not only media focused problems, but to important and emergent law litigation. She has had a groundbreaking career – first Asian-American woman to serve as a U.S. Attorney, former California state judge, and, reflective of her broad practice and comprehensive abilities, current co-chair of Gibson Dunn’s Crisis Management Practice Group.

Yang focuses part of her practice on strategic counseling and litigation. She leads critical representations, both high-profile and highly confidential, involving a variety of industries, economic sectors, regulatory bodies, law enforcement agencies, global jurisdictions and all types of proceedings. Her clients are in the private and public sectors and include the UCLA and the UC Regents, University of Southern California, Johnson & Johnson Board of Directors, MGM Resorts, and Archer Aviation.

**JACK YEH**

*Partner
Sidley Austin LLP*

Trial excellence and an ability to bring in crucial wins for his clients places Jack Yeh among the top litigators in California. A key member of Sidley Austin LLP’s Complex Commercial Litigation practice, Yeh is renowned for his representations of both publicly traded companies and emerging businesses in industries including energy, oil and gas, real estate, media and entertainment, advertising and technology.

Yeh leads a multi-state team of Sidley lawyers on behalf of ASICS America, litigating contractual rights and obligations of a shoe manufacturer selling left-over closeout shoes to a distributor. He also co-leads the Sidley team representing Ashford University and Zovio Inc. in a bet-the-company case for one of the nation’s leading online universities, brought by the California Attorney General, which will test the extent to which robust compliance programs can be used as a defense to unfair competition claims brought by law enforcement.

**TIMOTHY B. YOO**

*Principal
Bird, Marella, Boxer, Wolpert, Nessim, Drooms,
Lincenberg & Rhow, P.C.*

Timothy B. Yoo has already established himself as a go-to trial lawyer in his young career, particularly for international companies with complex cross-border disputes and tech companies seeking to resolve their most complicated technical matters – especially those involving the Asia-Pacific region. He has litigated – and successfully resolved – matters on behalf of Taiwanese electronics manufacturer Pegatron Corporation and Korean set-top manufacturer Humax Co. Ltd.

Yoo’s legal talent and experience genuinely separate him from his peers. For two years, he served as senior litigation counsel for CJ Entertainment & Media in Seoul, Korea. He managed all of the company’s overseas disputes, including a high-profile dispute against The Weinstein Company over the distribution of Bong Joon-Ho’s “Snowpiercer.” Fluent in Korean, Yoo also co-heads Bird Marella’s Korea Practice and is a member of the firm’s Entertainment Practice Group.

**ANNITA ZHONG**

*Partner
Irell & Manella LLP*

A partner at Irell & Manella LLP, Annita Zhong focuses on patent litigation, contested patent office proceedings and licensing in the U.S., the European Union and China. She has deep experience litigating before federal and state courts, the International Trade Commission, arbitral panels and the Patent Trial and Appeal Board.

Dr. Zhong’s engineering and research background has enabled her to digest new technologies quickly and has proven valuable in delivering significant victories for clients in complex litigation. She is well versed in technical areas such as semiconductor fabrication and packaging, computer architecture, telecommunications, artificial intelligence, renewable energy, and chemicals and materials. Among recent victories, Dr. Zhong was a principal member of the team that secured an August 2021 \$300 million jury award for PanOptis in a patent suit against Apple involving 4G LTE technology used in iPhones and other devices.

KING & SPALDING

Building upon a foundation of diversity and inclusion enriches our ability to provide clients with the highest quality legal service.

We congratulate our partners **Peter Hsiao** and **Michael Shortnacy** for being recognized as Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys.

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**William J. Briggs, II and
Belinda Martinez Vega**

2022 Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys

We are delighted to recognize the outstanding work of our colleagues, and we thank them for their service to our clients and to the Los Angeles community.

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Slow, Incremental Progress Continues for People of Color in Legal Profession

NALP last year released its annual ‘Report on Diversity at U.S. Law Firms.’ The report, based on information from the 2020-2021 NALP Directory of Legal Employers (NDLE), shows that overall, women and people of color continued to make incremental progress in representation at major U.S. law firms in 2020 as compared with 2019.

The percentage of Black partners and Black associates exceeded 2% and 5%, respectively, for the first time in 2020; however, representation of Black lawyers in law firms still trails that of Asian and Latinx lawyers. After experiencing several years of declines following the Great Recession, the percentage of associates who are Black women in 2020 (3.04%) finally surpassed the 2009 figure of 2.93% for the first time as well, equating to an increase of just one-tenth of a percentage point over this 11-year period.

“Despite these increases,” wrote NALP executive director James G. Leipold in the report, “less than four percent of all partners are women of color — a figure that remains abysmally low due to the significant underrepresentation of both women and people of color at the partnership level and a pattern that holds true across all firm sizes and most jurisdictions. Worse, Black women and Latinx women each continued to represent less than 1% of all partners in U.S. law firms.”

Leipold urged the legal community to con-

tinue making strides toward an industry that is diverse, inclusive, and equitable.

“The problems of racism and bias in American society are longstanding and run deep, dating back to our history of slavery, and the legal profession sits squarely in that history, but we are not bound by past practices and beliefs,” he wrote. “Let this time embolden all of us to renew our efforts to address more directly and more forcefully systemic bias and prejudice in the legal profession, and in particular the many ways that the profession has failed Black lawyers and the Black community.”

While progress is slow for representation of women and people of color, the number of LGBTQ lawyers in large law firms continues to rise steadily. The overall percentage of LGBTQ lawyers reported in 2020 increased

by approximately one-third of a percentage point, rising to 3.31%. LGBTQ representation among summer associates continues to grow at a much faster pace, increasing by 0.8 percentage points, from 6.86% in 2019 to 7.68% in 2020.

Data for non-binary lawyers were collected within the NDLE for the first time in 2020. While reporting was still somewhat limited, overall counts are included in the Significant Findings section of the report.

KEY FINDINGS

- The percentage of Black or African American associates surpassed 5% for the first time since NALP began collecting data and the share of associates who are Black women (3.04%) finally exceeded the 2009 figure of

2.93%. Eleven years later, representation of Black or African American women at the associate level has increased by just one-tenth of a percentage point.

- After experiencing more than two decades of continuous growth, the percentage of Asian associates plateaued in 2020 at 12.12%, just below the 2019 figure of 12.17%.

- Despite modest growth in 2020, Black women and Latinx women each continued to represent less than 1% of all partners in U.S. law firms. The percentage of Black partners overall finally surpassed 2% for the first time since NALP began collecting data.

- The percentage of summer associates who are people of color increased by 1.2 percentage points, growing from 35.26% in 2019 to 36.48% in 2020.

- Women accounted for over half of all summer associates (53.62%) for the third year in a row.

- The growth in the percentage of LGBTQ summer associates continued to outpace that of LGBTQ lawyers overall, climbing from 6.86% of all summer associates in 2019 to 7.68% in 2020.

NALP is an association of more than 2,500 legal career professionals who advise law students, lawyers, law offices, and law schools in North America and beyond. For additional information, visit NALP.org.

‘Let this time embolden all of us to renew our efforts to address more directly and more forcefully systemic bias and prejudice in the legal profession, and in particular the many ways that the profession has failed Black lawyers and the Black community.’



Congratulations to **Rick R. Olivarez** on his inclusion in the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2022 “Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys” list.

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