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OCTOBER 31, 2022



LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL
**CORPORATE
COUNSEL
AWARDS 2022**

**HONOREES
& FINALISTS**



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Letter from the Publisher



Welcome to our twelfth annual special section honoring the leading general counsel in the Los Angeles area for 2022. Considering the fact that the Los Angeles region has long been known for its status as a hub for legal thought leaders and expert attorneys, being a standout in the in-house field for our many iconic businesses in the region is particularly impressive.

Our celebration of these examples of legal leadership excellence took place at our Corporate Counsel Awards earlier this month, on Thursday, October 27th at the Millennium Biltmore. The Los Angeles Business Journal honored the accomplishments and significant roles that these business attorneys play in the success of their enterprises.

Candidates in various categories were recognized for exceptional legal skill and achievement across the full spectrum of responsibility, exemplary leadership and for contributions to the Los Angeles community at large.

In the following pages, we share biographical information on the honorees and finalists from what was a truly inspirational event, and shed additional light on some of the premier examples of corporate counsel practitioners among us today.

Special thanks to our two Diamond Sponsors: **Greenberg Gross LLP** and **USC Gould School of Law** for their support of this program, and the entire legal community. We hope you enjoy this special section, which contains some unique insights on what exactly it means to be a leading in-house attorney in today's business climate.

Best regards,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JS".

Josh Schimmels
Publisher & CEO

Break through.

Cooley

Fighting for Survivors of Sexual Assault

By Wayne R. Gross and Deborah S. Mallgrave

Since opening our doors almost a decade ago, Greenberg Gross has focused on being the business litigation firm of choice for plaintiffs and defendants in bet-the-company trial work across the country. We have worked hard to provide the very best representation to companies and executives in need of sophisticated lawyering. In 2019, California enacted a law that opens a window for survivors of childhood sexual assault to file cases that had previously been barred by the statute of limitations. The firm was inspired by the opportunity to bring its formidable skills to bear in support of survivors of abuse, and added a practice group dedicated to these cases of paramount importance to our clients and to further social justice. The firm has become one of the foremost law firms representing survivors of childhood sexual assault. To learn more, visit: FightForSurvivors.com. This article explains the widespread impact that California window legislation has had and continues to have on the business community and beyond.

The California Child Victims Act (AB 218)

In 2019, a landmark piece of legislation, California Child Victims Act (AB 218), afforded survivors of childhood sexual assault an “open window,” during which they have until December 31, 2022 to file claims that would otherwise be time barred by the statute of limitations. After the present window closes, survivors of childhood sexual assault will have either until age 40, or five years from the discovery of abuse to file civil lawsuits.

In the past, many institutions covered up the crimes of sexual predators and escaped responsibility. AB 218 made it easier for survivors to bring lawsuits against these institutions, which sadly includes not only religious organizations, but also public and private schools, youth sports leagues, daycare facilities, foster care agencies, detention centers, and others that have a duty to protect the children in their care.

Greenberg Gross regularly confronts powerful adversaries in its complex business litigation. With its deep experience handling some of the most complex, challenging cases, as well as counting among its attorneys former federal prosecutors, in the last two years, the firm has used its resources, platform, and experience to litigate childhood sexual assault cases at the highest level. The ravage of child sexual assault cuts across all swaths of society and strikes people from all walks of life, regardless of income, education, professional success, religious affiliation, gender or other demographic. Two Greenberg Gross cases exemplify this reality.

The Gucci Sexual Assault Case

On one end of the spectrum is what has become known as the Gucci sexual assault case. Greenberg Gross filed a lawsuit on behalf of Alexandra Zarini, a member of the Gucci fashion family and the granddaughter of founder Aldo Gucci, against her mother Patricia Gucci, grandmother Bruna Palombo (Aldo Gucci’s longtime partner), and step-father Joseph Ruffalo. The case alleges that Patricia Gucci and Bruna Palombo were negligent, that Patricia Gucci was physically and emotionally abusive, and that Joseph Ruffalo repeatedly sexually harassed, abused, and assaulted Zarini in their Beverly Hills home starting when she was just six years old and continuing through her young adulthood. Zarini further alleges that her mother enabled the assaults, and that her grandmother ordered Zarini to keep quiet and say nothing. The great-granddaughter and Gucci heiress has set up a foundation, the Alexandra Gucci Children’s Foundation (guccifoundation.org), and will use any financial recovery she receives to help other victims of sexual assault. The Foundation is currently working on policy initiatives, both in Washington and globally, as well as bringing awareness to one of the biggest societal challenges of today, the sexual assault of the world’s children.

The La Luz del Mundo RICO and Trafficking Case

On the other end of the spectrum is a tragic human trafficking case involving some of the poorest members of society. Representing Sochil Martin, Greenberg Gross filed a lawsuit against the global religious institution, La Luz del Mundo (LLDM), under federal human trafficking and racketeering (RICO) statutes and several other federal and state laws, including AB 218. Now in nearly 60 countries, and with more than 5 million members, LLDM is built around a doctrine of complete subservience to the “Apostle,” Naason Joaquin Garcia. As alleged, the case seeks to end the longstanding cycle of exploitation, abuse and retaliation against Martin and hundreds of others at the hands of LLDM and its leadership, which grooms children to be sexually assaulted by the Apostle. In Martin’s case, the abuse began at the age of nine when she was given over by her foster mother to “serve” the Apostle. Since Martin broke away from the group at age 30, LLDM has tried to buy her silence, threatened her, and launched a smear campaign against her. Even in the midst of her own lawsuit and personal struggles, Ms. Martin fights for the rights and freedom of other survivors of sexual assault and financial exploitation. Thanks in part to Martin’s cooperation and perseverance, LLDM’s “Apostle” is now a convicted sexual predator and serving time for his crimes in jail.

What both of these groundbreaking cases illustrate is that the California legislature was absolutely right in passing AB 218, which has enabled Greenberg Gross, as well as other firms who have taken up the cause, to fight for courageous survivors of childhood sexual assault from all walks of life.

The Californian Sexual Abuse and Cover Up Accountability Act (AB 2777)

Based on the positive impact of the Child Victims Act, the California legislature recently passed a similar law to address the injustice suffered by many survivors of adult sexual assault—specifically the inability to hold companies liable for protecting and empowering the repeat offenders in their midst. Through the use of nondisclosure agreements, quiet transfers, and other efforts to cover up known instances of sexual assault, entities have allowed sexual predators to continue to prey on unsuspecting individuals. Starting January 1, 2023, survivors of adult sexual assault will have one year, until December 31, 2023, to file claims against entities that covered up previous instances of sexual assault. Greenberg Gross is honored to continue the fight for justice with the survivors of adult sexual assault.



Wayne R. Gross is a highly respected trial attorney who regularly handles high-stakes business litigation for major companies and top executives in their most important matters. He is a founding partner of Greenberg Gross LLP, where he focuses on trial practice, complex civil litigation, and white-collar defense. He previously served as Chief of the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Orange County and prosecuted cases of national and international significance. Mr. Gross can be contacted at wgross@ggtriallaw.com.



Deborah S. Mallgrave is co-chair of the firm’s Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking Litigation practice where she concentrates her practice on complex litigation matters and advocating for survivors of sexual abuse and assault. Her extensive litigation experience includes a multitude of different business transactions, fraud schemes, unfair competition scenarios, real estate issues, intellectual property disputes, and trust litigation. Ms. Mallgrave can be contacted at dmallgrave@ggtriallaw.com.

To learn more, visit: FightForSurvivors.com



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Gross LLP**



2022 NOMINEES



Kristen Abajian
Corporate Counsel
Shryne Group, Inc.



Amir Amini
General Counsel
AND Asset Management, Inc.



Ismael Bautista
Senior Counsel
Southern California Gas
Company (SoCalGas)



Derrick Boston
Chief Legal Officer
Virgin Orbit



Brandon Braga
General Counsel
The Agency



Joe Connaughton
General Counsel
Los Angeles Football Club



Brendan Connell, Jr.
Chief Operating Officer
and General Counsel
Academy Museum of
Motion Pictures



Lisa W. Cornehl
Senior Vice President,
Chief Legal Officer
First American Financial
Corporation



Christi Cox
General Counsel
Epirus



Todd Davis
SVP and General Counsel
Los Angeles Rams



Carla Ford
General Counsel
U.S.VETS



Carter Goetz
In-House Counsel
Del Mar Seafoods



Lisa Gok
Chief Legal Officer
Cetera Financial Group



Varty Hindoyan
Associate General Counsel
Meta



Cynthia Kao
SVP, Business and Legal Affairs
Pluto TV



John Kim
Senior Vice President and
Deputy General Counsel
Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield



Vivian I. Kim
EVP, General Counsel &
Corporate Secretary |
Chief People Officer
Hanmi Bank



Michael Lewis
SVP Business Affairs &
General Counsel, Chief
Corporate Development Officer
American Public Media Group



Joe Moschella
EVP, General Counsel
TMB (Trusted Media Brands)



Njeri Mutura
Assistant General Counsel
Microsoft Corporation



Keith Petersen
General Counsel
Infillion



Rob Rader
General Counsel and
Corporate Secretary
Ovation LLC



Christopher Ramos
General Counsel &
Chief of Staff
Time By Ping



Robert Ray
General Counsel
Inter-Con Security
Systems, Inc.



Steven Rice
General Counsel
Los Angeles County Employees
Retirement Association (LACERA)

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SOCIAL WORK ADMINISTRATION

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2022 NOMINEES



Lisa (Smolinisky) Richardson
Executive Vice President, Business & Legal Affairs / Associate General Counsel
Fox Corporation



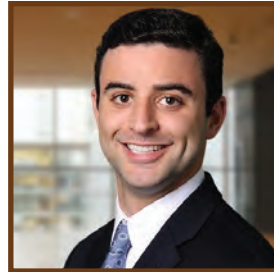
A. Joel Richlin
Vice President & General Counsel
Prime Healthcare



Rosemarie Rodriguez
Director and Assistant General Counsel
MUFG Union Bank



Todd J. Rosen
General Counsel
Main Street Advisors



Michael Rosenblum
VP of Legal
Shryne Group, Inc.



Bill Shafton
VP, Business & Legal Affairs
Grindr



Lana Shneydina
Corporate Counsel
Sunbit



Michael Speaker
General Counsel
City National Bank



Jaclyn Swe
General Counsel & Regional Director of Sales
Aptus Court Reporting



Armond Tatevossian
Vice President, Region Chief Counsel
AECOM



Jo Taylor
Chief Legal Officer
Belkin International



Tyler Theobald
First Vice President / General Counsel / Chief Compliance Officer
Marcus & Millichap



Barak Vaughn
Deputy City Attorney
City of Los Angeles Office of the City Attorney



Leah Weil
Senior EVP and General Counsel
Sony Pictures Entertainment



Cesely Westmoreland
Registered In-House Counsel
KIPP SO CAL



Teri L. Wittman
Chief Legal Officer and Secretary
Beyond Meat



Shari Wollman
Vice President and Assistant General Counsel
Mattel Inc.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR 2022 NOMINEES!



Honoring the leaders of our legal community

Congratulations to **A. Joel Richlin**, Vice President & General Counsel at Prime Healthcare, a 2022 Corporate Counsel Award nominee.



2022 HONOREES & FINALISTS

CORPORATE COUNSEL OF THE YEAR - PUBLIC COMPANY HONOREE

LEAH WEIL

Senior EVP and General Counsel
Sony Pictures Entertainment

Leah Weil is senior executive vice president & general counsel of Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc. (SPE), a subsidiary of Tokyo-based Sony Corporation. She is a member of the SPE's senior management team and is the company's most senior legal advisor with oversight responsibility for all legal matters relating to SPE and each of its operating division's global operations encompassing motion picture and television production, acquisition and distribution, media networks, digital content creation and distribution, operation of studio facilities and the development of new entertainment products, services and technologies.

In addition to serving as the company's chief legal officer, Weil oversees SPE's Legal Compliance, Labor Relations, Music Business & Legal Affairs and Live Stage departments. Weil is also responsible for SPE's Global Policy and External Affairs function and its Corporate Social Responsibility group which handles the studio's strategic philanthropic efforts, cultural participation and community outreach activities.

Weil serves on the Board of Directors of Bet Tzedek Legal Services, a non-profit organization which provides free expert legal services and representation to low income residents of Los Angeles County, and the Motion Picture Association of America and Creative Future, organizations which are dedicated to advancing creativity, driving economic growth, supporting storytellers and fostering technological innovation in the audiovisual sector.

Weil also oversaw the studio's pandemic planning during unprecedented times, ensuring that all SPE activities were consistent with local laws and guidelines.

In 2020, Weil was integral in the creation and institution of Sony Pictures Action, SPE's global racial equity and inclusion initiative.



LISA W. CORNEHL
FINALIST

Senior Vice President, Chief Legal Officer
First American Financial Corporation

Lisa Cornehl initially joined First American Financial Corporation in November 2011 as senior litigation counsel. The company is a leading provider of title insurance, settlement services and risk solutions for real estate transactions. In September 2021 Cornehl was named senior vice president and chief legal officer, responsible for overseeing legal affairs and setting legal strategy.

Cornehl is a trusted advisor who has skillfully managed risk and has handled transactional, regulatory, and litigation matters across global operations. She defines, develops and implements action plans to promote First American's core strategy and minimize legal exposure. At the time of her appointment last year, CEO Ken DeGiorgio described Cornehl as a "proven legal strategist and operator who has skillfully managed our company's risk and vigorously defended its reputation; her keen insights into our business and strategic counsel will serve our company well as we execute our growth strategy."



JOHN KIM
FINALIST

Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel
Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield

John Kim is the U.S. deputy general counsel of Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield (URW), the premier global developer and operator of flagship shopping and lifestyle destinations, offices, convention and exhibition venues, as well as award-winning airport terminals. Kim advises the company on all aspects of shopping center and airport operations, property acquisitions and dispositions, joint ventures, bond and debt offerings, secured and unsecured financing transactions, litigation, employment and all other legal matters, including complex casualty losses.

Focusing on the Los Angeles community is a core component of Kim's work at URW. The company's U.S. corporate headquarters is located in the city, as are six prominent shopping centers. URW is also the long-term commercial partner of Los Angeles World Airports, playing a pivotal role in the \$15 billion capital improvement program at LAX, including transforming the traveler experience at Terminals 1, 2, 3, 6, Tom Bradley International Terminal, and the new Midfield Satellite Concourse.



ROSEMARIE RODRIGUEZ
FINALIST

Director and Assistant General Counsel
MUFG Union Bank

Rosemarie Rodriguez is a senior leader with 20+ years of legal experience, all within the financial services industry. She is member of the MUFG Union Bank, N.A. legal team and the lead attorney for the Transaction Banking Institutional Agency Services group, where she oversees legal matters for the business line.

As part of her current role, Rodriguez steers leadership in the right direction as they navigate through complex laws and regulations while supporting the business unit's growth. She also actively works to resolve fraud cases on behalf of the bank and its clients, an industry-wide issue with long time horizons that requires persistence and patience to bring to completion. Notably over the last 18 months, Rodriguez was the lead legal team member for MUFG Union Bank for the portfolio sale of MUFG Union Bank's Debt Servicing and Securities Custody Services Client Portfolio to U.S. Bank, announced in early 2021.



SHARI WOLLMAN
FINALIST

Vice President and Assistant General Counsel
Mattel Inc.

Shari Wollman serves as vice president and assistant general counsel of Mattel Inc., owner of a portfolio of children's and family entertainment franchises in the world. As the head of global litigation, advertising, and data privacy, Wollman manages Mattel's portfolio of iconic brands, including Barbie, Hot Wheels, Fisher-Price, American Girl, Thomas & Friends, UNO, Masters of the Universe, Monster High, and MEGA, as well as other popular intellectual properties that the company owns or licenses in partnership with global entertainment companies.

She is responsible for managing worldwide litigation, advertising and marketing, data privacy, and product safety and leads a team of more than 25 attorneys, paralegals, managers, and administrative staff. She has also supervised the employment, ethics and compliance, and intellectual property practices at Mattel. She recently oversaw the successful appeal that ended the 15-year-old intellectual property dispute with MGA over ownership of the Bratz line of dolls.



CONGRATULATIONS

TODD DAVIS

**A GREAT LEADER, TEAMMATE,
AND SUPER BOWL CHAMPION!**



2022 HONOREES & FINALISTS

CORPORATE COUNSEL OF THE YEAR - LARGE PRIVATE COMPANY HONOREE

LISA GOK

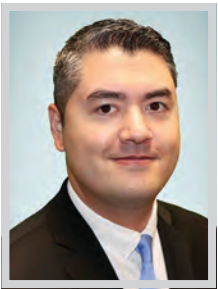
Chief Legal Officer
Cetera Financial Group

Embedded in the Los Angeles legal community for over 25 years, Lisa Gok likes to roll up her sleeves and take on the financial services industry's greatest challenges. Between guiding Cetera through multiple acquisitions and ownership changes, ensuring its advisors are up to date on the government's latest regulatory shifts, and streamlining litigation and arbitration processes, her contributions to the industry are beyond measure.

Gok joined Cetera in 2012 with wide-ranging experience in the financial litigation and regulation spaces. Cetera currently oversees approximately \$353 billion in assets under administration and \$122 billion in assets under management.

Joining Cetera as deputy general counsel and now its chief legal officer, Gok helps the financial services firm manage litigation and navigate its regulatory landscape.

She works closely with Cetera's finance team to provide strategic counsel for growth. She has worked on major acquisitions, including three acquisitions in 2021 that added \$100 billion to Cetera's assets under administration. This included the acquisition of all assets related to Voya Financial Advisors' independent financial planning channel in February of 2021. Through that acquisition, 385,000 retail customers and nearly \$40 billion in assets became part of Cetera. This work included leading diligence, drafting and following up to integrate the deal, which was made in partnership with Cetera's private equity parent company Genstar. In addition to working on acquisitions, Gok's contributions help fortify Cetera's financial strength. Cetera's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) increased by 24% from 2021 to 2022.



A. JOEL RICHLIN
FINALIST
Vice President & General Counsel
Prime Healthcare

Joel Richlin is the vice president & general counsel for Prime Healthcare, an award-winning health system operating 45 hospitals and more than 300 outpatient locations in 14 states, providing over 2.6 million patient visits annually. Richlin's leadership ensures consistent and sound legal advice to Prime Healthcare's hospitals and medical groups.

Throughout the pandemic, Richlin has led the Legal Department's response and provided tremendous support to the health system and its front-line caregivers. With a team of 30 attorneys across the country, the delivery of legal services had to be reinvented to coordinate amongst a geographically dispersed department with a mix of on-site and remote attorneys. Through Richlin's dedicated leadership, the Legal Department was able to partner even more closely with its front-line caregiver clients to meet an ever-changing regulatory environment. This enabled Prime Healthcare to maintain access to care through an unprecedented spike in need for services.



MICHAEL SPEAKER
FINALIST
General Counsel
City National Bank

In 2019, Michael Speaker took the reins as general counsel for City National Bank – a company known as the “bank to the stars” and one of LA's most important institutions. He has successfully navigated new legal and regulatory waters as the bank has transformed, nearly doubling in size to \$91 billion in assets from \$51 billion when he joined. City National has more than 3,000 colleagues in downtown LA and a nearly 70-year history.

Speaker's Legal and Corporate Administrative Group also has expanded since Speaker took over the team. As City National has grown, the bank has become subject to increased legal and regulatory expectations. The scope and demand of Speaker's role are very complex, and he plays an instrumental role in helping City National's parent company, Royal Bank of Canada, navigate its regulatory and legal environment, too. Speaker has become an invaluable asset to both companies.



You are an inspiration

You are quick to reach out to those in need. You selflessly give of your time.
You make a positive difference in our community one kind act at a time.
For your inspired example, we salute you.

**Union Bank® is a proud sponsor of the Los Angeles Business Journal
Corporate Counsel Awards, 2022. Congratulations to all the nominees,
and to our own Rosemarie Rodriguez, Director-Assistant General Counsel.**

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2022 HONOREES & FINALISTS



CORPORATE COUNSEL OF THE YEAR - MID-SIZED PRIVATE COMPANY
HONOREE

TODD DAVIS

SVP and General Counsel
Los Angeles Rams

Todd Davis is known for his calm and persuasive manner of communicating with others. He has managed the legal necessities of the Rams' moves from and back to Los Angeles. This was a significant challenge to maintain the ongoing status of the players, coaches and staff in the transition. He oversees human resources, contracts, vendor sponsor and community relations as well as ticket holder issues.

His tenure with the team is a milestone in professional athletics. Davis has been an invaluable resource in the continuity of the team over many ownerships and maintains his status as a leader in the team's legal relationship with the NFL.

He also played an important role in the development of SoFi Stadium, which has become an architectural landmark in Los Angeles.

Davis is also on the board of the Rams' Foundation. In this capacity he is tireless in fundraising and inclusion of all in the spirit of this part of the Rams' family. The Foundation provides a settling for youngsters in the community to engage in various sponsored activities. He has joined with the LA Police Department to engage with students in a sports environment. He has arranged for cheerleading schools to participate and learn from Rams Cheerleaders. He has recently initiated a "Young TV Interviewer" program for youngsters to gain self-confidence meeting players.

Davis also gives of his time to mentor young attorneys. He is a frequent speaker at colleges and universities and is a member of the Sports Lawyers Association where he has lectured regularly.

FOX CORPORATION
CONGRATULATES
our own
Lisa Richardson
and all
2022 Corporate Counsel
Awards honorees



2022 HONOREES & FINALISTS



BRANDON BRAGA
FINALIST
General Counsel
The Agency

As general counsel of The Agency, Brandon Braga holds an integral, multifaceted role. In addition to fostering a positive, solution-oriented environment, Braga is particularly proud to be a part of the firm’s uniquely collaborative company culture. In his role as general counsel, Braga is responsible for overseeing The Agency’s and its affiliates’ legal affairs, including litigation, intellectual property, corporate and franchising matters, as well as developing, implementing and overseeing risk management policies and procedures. Braga is also routinely consulted during significant business decisions.

A natural team player and a calm yet quick-thinking problem-solver, Braga learned early on that ensuring a positive outcome for clients requires being exceptionally detail-oriented. As The Agency rapidly expands with now more than 60 offices, Braga is integral in the success of the company. In addition to volunteering for the Susan G. Komen Foundation, Braga is also actively involved with The Agency’s philanthropic partner, Giveback Homes.



BILL SHAFON
FINALIST
VP, Business & Legal Affairs
Grindr

Bill Shafon has always been fascinated by the intersection of law in technology. As a teenager, he worked in law firms to apply leading edge technology to develop scalable processes for document generation and matter management. After law school, Shafon joined an exceptional team of lawyers at Winston & Strawn, focusing on corporate restructuring & special situations.

In January 2017, Shafon was recruited to be Grindr’s first in-house lawyer. With his background as a legal technologist, his demonstrated success navigating complex regulatory and transaction matters, and his passion for having a positive impact, made Shafon a natural fit for a company that helps millions of marginalized people daily, in virtually every country, connect and thrive. As the world’s largest social network for the LGBTQ+ community, Shafon is proud to be leading Grindr in its journey to becoming a public company and continuing the next chapters of success.



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Dentons is delighted to congratulate **Lisa Cornehl** on her nomination for *LA Business Journal’s* **2022 Corporate Counsel of the Year award.**

Lisa’s well-deserved nomination is a testament to her skills, leadership and unwavering pursuit of excellence as First American Financial Corp.’s Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer.

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2022 HONOREES & FINALISTS

CORPORATE COUNSEL OF THE YEAR - GROWING COMPANY HONOREE

ROB RADER

General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Ovation LLC

Rob Rader is general counsel and corporate secretary at Ovation TV, America's only arts cable network, which is distributed on AT&T/DIRECTV, Comcast, DISH, Time Warner Cable and Verizon in approximately 50 million households in the United States. At Ovation TV, Rader has direct responsibility for all business and legal matters and human resources, including production, distribution, marketing, litigation, intellectual property, real estate and corporate affairs (including board relations and M&A).

Rader's chief accomplishments for Ovation include handling all business affairs, production and clearance for over 300 annual hours of internal productions from all of the major studios in the US, UK and Europe; creating new "over the top" (Internet-based direct-to-consumer) and "FAST" (free advertising-supported television) channels, including obtaining programming rights and negotiating platform agreements with numerous distribution platforms, such as Apple, Android and Roku; and managing crucial distribution negotiations with major providers, such as DIRECTV, Verizon, Comcast and Charter Spectrum, leading to extremely successful outcomes in both rates and numbers of subscribers. He has also overseen successful corporate re-financing and managing board/corporate matters.

Rader is also extremely committed to community involvement and serves in numerous roles in key local organizations, devoting hundreds of hours per year to these non-profit and educational efforts. Rader is a member of the Santa Monica College Board of Trustees, representing the cities of Santa Monica and Malibu in the administration and oversight of the community college. Rader also works on cutting-edge issues such as online and distance education, edtech and public transportation and ridesharing/ride hailing.



U.S.VETS proudly congratulates

Carla Ford

on your selection as a finalist for the
Los Angeles Business Journal
2022 Corporate Counsel Awards



Thank you for your commitment to serving those who served
and your partnership in helping end veteran homelessness.

We're also grateful to our legal partners in this mission.

Jackson Lewis, P.C. ★ Wilson Elser, Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP ★ Best, Best & Krieger ★ Practice Aligned Resources ★ Barboza & Associates ★ Greenburg Traurig ★ Tharpe & Howell ★ Walsworth ★ Skane Mills ★ Bongiovi Mediation ★ Hoffman Legal, LLC

#HONORUSVETS

2022 HONOREES & FINALISTS



TODD J. ROSEN
FINALIST
General Counsel
Main Street Advisors

Todd Rosen has a broad legal and finance background. He started as a corporate and tax lawyer at Irell & Manella LLP then left the law for a few years to work as an investment banker at Saybrook Capital focusing on financial restructurings and bankruptcy. After Saybrook, Rosen returned to the law joining Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP, where he became partner. After 14 years, he joined Main Street Advisors as the firm's first general counsel. Main Street Advisors serves as a strategic advisor to influential and accomplished people and businesses in media, music, entertainment and sports including LeBron James, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jimmy Iovine, Drake and Billie Eilish. At Main Street, Rosen has been involved in all aspects of the firm's investment and legal functions and has been instrumental as Main Street has grown from \$4 billion of AUM to over \$8.5 billion of AUM.



JACLYN SWE
FINALIST
General Counsel & Regional Director of Sales
Aptus Court Reporting

As general counsel for Aptus Court Reporting, Jaclyn Swe's tenacious work ethic and legal grit has positioned the organization for continued success and growth. Her meticulous attention to detail and equitable approach to upholding the rule of the law has allowed Aptus to provide unmatched services to its many clients in the legal space while being audacious enough to evolve during a worldwide pandemic, and yield historic revenue growth for the organization. Swe has been able to overcome several obstacles including negotiating, renegotiating and exiting leases for Aptus' various offices during the pandemic – all while still making space available for legal clients to conduct depositions and hearings without disruption to their own business operations. In addition, Swe was instrumental in helping the company recalibrate its service portfolio to offer more virtual services (depositions, video services, litigation support, etc.) for legal proceedings to continue without interruption.



Glaser Weil

Glaser Weil is proud to sponsor the Los Angeles Business Journal Corporate Counsel Awards

We congratulate this year's nominees and winners.



2022 HONOREES & FINALISTS



CORPORATE COUNSEL OF THE YEAR - NONPROFIT/GOVERNMENT/
MUNICIPAL HONOREE

CARLA FORD

General Counsel
U.S.VETS

Carla A. Ford is the general counsel for U.S.VETS. She is responsible for providing legal advice to officers and directors in the organization, assisting in the management of company risks, and overseeing the company's legal matters, including contract formation, litigation, dispute resolution, and protection of the company's property rights.

Ford served for 16 years as an assistant United States (AUSA) in the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO) in Los Angeles, where she represented the government in a varied civil litigation practice. In 2010, Ford left the USAO to join Walmart Stores, Inc. as a senior member of their field-based Environmental Compliance & Ethics Team, which helped the Fortune One's 300+ California facilities stay in compliance with State and Federal environmental laws. During her legal career in Atlanta, she served as an AUSA and, later, she was appointed chief executive officer of Georgia's Commission on Equal Opportunity, the agency that investigated claims of discrimination in housing and in state employment.

Involved in her community, Ford serves on the board of Being Alive!, a nonprofit organization that helps those affected by HIV/AIDS and she is a life member of the Black Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles. She is a mentor to many through her work at U.S.VETS as well as in her personal life as she believes in reaching a hand down the ladder.

Ford has worked tirelessly throughout her career to ensure the mission of U.S.VETS – to serve those who have served – is well represented.

Waymaker LLP congratulates Los Angeles Business Journal General Counsel Award nominee Amir Amini and all nominees for the recognition of their contributions to the greater Los Angeles community.



Amir Amini
General Counsel, AND Asset Management, Inc.



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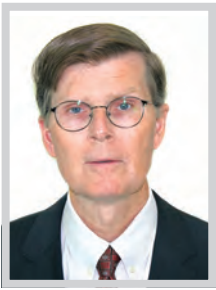
2022 HONOREES & FINALISTS



MICHAEL LEWIS
FINALIST

*SVP Business Affairs & General Counsel,
Chief Corporate Development Officer
American Public Media Group*

Michael Lewis serves as SVP of business affairs and general counsel, chief corporate development officer at APMG, where he merges his passion for public radio, entertainment and media, business acumen and legal expertise to be the helm of a transforming and evolving organization and industry. With public radio, award winning journalism and podcasts, and live entertainment platforms, Lewis has not only raised the business profile of APMG and spearheaded some of the company’s largest-ever deals, but he also helped lead the changing industry as it emerges into multiple new platforms. Lewis’ vast business and operational experience positioned APMG’s law department as meaningful business partners, now seen as problem-solvers and collaborators. He oversees all business affairs, legal, governance, and compliance for all APMG companies, including Minnesota Public Radio, Southern California Public Radio, and The Fitzgerald Theatre, and APM programs, such as Marketplace, Live from Here, The Splendid Table, and BBC World Service.



STEVEN RICE
FINALIST

*General Counsel
Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association
(LACERA)*

Steve Rice practiced at private law firms at the highest level for more than 30 years. He has been general counsel of LACERA for nearly nine years and before that was general counsel of the San Diego Employees Retirement Association (SDCERA) for about four years at the same time as being a partner at national law firm Crowell & Moring law firm carrying a full case load. In his general counsel role, he oversees all corporate governance matters, statutory compliance, Jones Act matters, and disputes and litigation, as well as being the advisor and counsellor to the Board. He is also involved in review of investment policy. Rice’s work at LACERA and his previous work at SDCERA serve the community by protecting and maximizing the pension and retirement benefits of county employees in southern California. Rice’s work has helped preserve and maximize these critical retirement benefits for public servants.





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2022 HONOREES & FINALISTS



CORPORATE COUNSEL TO WATCH OF THE YEAR HONOREE

ISMAEL BAUTISTA

Senior Counsel
Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas)

Ismael Bautista is senior counsel at the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas), the nation’s largest natural gas utility, where he provides strategic advice and counsel to management regarding renewable energy and supplier diversity, and represents the company before the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Bautista has been instrumental in supporting SoCalGas’ sustainability strategy that includes a bold commitment of achieving net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in its operations and delivery of energy by 2045.

Bautista represents SoCalGas in the CPUC’s Biomethane Proceeding focused on (1) establishing procurement targets for renewable gas, which would displace fossil-based natural gas, and (2) whether hydrogen should be blended into the gas system.

In February 2022 the CPUC issued a decision establishing a renewable gas standard (RGS) for all California natural gas utilities, an important step toward decarbonizing the gas system and reducing short-lived climate pollutant emissions; California is the first state to adopt an RGS and SoCalGas will now be required to replace 12.2% of the traditional gas it delivers to core customers with renewable gas by 2030. For the two years prior, Bautista was a zealous advocate through his multiple CPUC advocacy filings, strategic advice to senior executives, and engagement meetings with various stakeholders. His tireless efforts helped achieve this historical decision that will help significantly reduce GHG emissions in California.

He is also seeking CPUC approval to establish hydrogen blending demonstration pilots that would inject up to 20% of hydrogen into the pipeline, similarly, reducing GHG emissions.

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CYNTHIA KAO
for being nominated in the
Public Company Category
for LABJ’s Corporate
Counsel Awards

On behalf of
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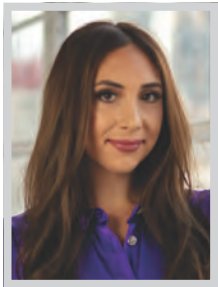


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JOHN KIM
2022 CORPORATE COUNSEL AWARD NOMINEE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION,
PASSION, AND COMMITMENT

2022 HONOREES & FINALISTS



KRISTEN ABAJIAN
FINALIST
Corporate Counsel
Shryne Group, Inc.

Kristen Abajian plays a leading role in the legal department at Shryne Group, Inc., California’s largest cannabis company, where she serves as corporate counsel. Given the size and growth of Shryne, which was founded in 2019 and employs over 2,000 people, Abajian’s role and responsibility far exceeds that of a typical first year attorney.

Since joining Shryne as a junior corporate counsel in August 2021, Abajian has overcome numerous challenges including lean in-house staffing and monumental deal flow, while guiding Shryne through uncharted waters as the largest privately held cannabis company in an industry that remains federally illegal. She skillfully navigated these obstacles and guided several transactions to a successful closing, including a May 2022 debt financing in which Shryne received a senior secured term loan of up to \$170 million, the largest direct loan made to a private cannabis company.



CARTER GOETZ
FINALIST
In-House Counsel
Del Mar Seafoods

As a former mergers and acquisitions corporate attorney and mentor/legal partner for The Founders Institute, an organization that takes start up leaders and helps them grow their business, Carter Goetz knew he wanted to focus his career on companies where he could make the greatest impact. In July 2021, he transitioned from being the corporate attorney Del Mar Seafoods hired for a potential M&A deal, to its in-house counsel, after falling in love with the industry. Here he is able to use his JD/MBA to help modernize commercial seafood business practices to benefit the industry and those who work in it.

Goetz works with MSC for certifications for the seafood industry, to show how sustainable and ethical Del Mar Seafoods’ fishery is, which benefits the LA area by increasing jobs. Goetz also works with labor agencies to ensure the company is bringing employment opportunities to the local community.





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Navigating the Rough Water Ahead for California Employers

By SHAREEF FARAG

For California employers, the constantly evolving legal landscape is a persistent challenge and even the most diligent and conscientious employer can be caught off guard. The end of the year is particularly challenging, as California employers have to grapple with a wave of new laws signed by the governor, effective January 1, usually without any interpretive guidance. 2023 is certainly no exception, especially considering the economic headwinds California employers may be facing. As we move toward 2023, California employers should be especially mindful of the following:

PAY TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS

SB 1162 significantly expands pay reporting and disclosure requirements for most California employers. Effective Jan. 1, 2023, California employers must disclose pay ranges in job postings and make pay scale information available to current employees upon reasonable request. The law also extends the California Labor Code's retention rules to require employers to maintain records of the job title and wage history for each employee for the duration of

the employee's employment and for three years following separation. SB 1162 also revises and expands California's pay data reporting requirements for employers with 100 or more employees. California employers must now report the "median and mean hourly rate within each job category, for each combination of race, ethnicity, and sex in the report" in addition to reporting the number of employees by race, ethnicity and sex in 10 different job categories and by the occupational survey bands established by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. California employers with 100 or more employees must also submit separate pay data reports regarding employees hired through labor contractors within the prior calendar year. Lastly, SB 1162 changed the pay data report due date to the second Wednesday of May, annually.

CCPA AND CPRA COMPLIANCE

Starting January 1, 2023, the California Privacy Rights Act (CPRA) will apply to employees, job applicants, and business-to-business contacts (provided that the employer is subject to the CPRA). The CPRA will provide workers with the right to access, delete, opt out of the sale and sharing of, and limit the use of

their sensitive personal information, among other rights. Although some of these rights overlap with those mandated by other California laws, including under the Labor Code, the CPRA does not carve out situations in which employers already provide access or deletion rights under other laws. Instead, the CPRA will be an additional layer of compliance for employers that are subject to its minimum revenue or data-processing thresholds. Employers that are subject to the CPRA will also need to make comprehensive changes to their applicant and employee privacy notices and publish the updated notices by January 1, 2023.

Additionally, the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) exemptions for employee and business-to-business personal information (PI) will not be extended. This means that on January 1, 2023, full consumer rights will apply to the PI of workforce members as well as to their PI collected on behalf of their employer in the context of "providing or receiving a product or service to or from" a business. California businesses should carefully assess the differences between the rights afforded to workplace members under the CCPA, including exemptions, and those provided under

the California Labor Code. Most California employers should have many of the processes required under the CCPA in place.

CHANGES TO THE FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING ACT (FEHA)

SB 523, among other things, amends the FEHA to make it unlawful to discriminate against an employee or job applicant based on their "reproductive health decision-making," which includes, but is not limited to, a decision to use or access a particular drug, device, product or medical service for reproductive health.

AB 2188 prohibits employers from discriminating against an employee or job applicant based on the person's use of cannabis while not working and outside the business premises. While AB 2188 is effective January 1, 2024, California employers should review their drug testing and drug-free workplace policies and develop a plan for compliance.



Shareef Farag is a partner at BakerHostetler. The firm helps clients navigate California law and mitigate risk – all with an eye toward the bottom line.

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LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL



Corporate Legal Departments See Shifting and Evolving Roles

When the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) last year conducted its Chief Legal Officer Survey, it found ever-increasing roles and responsibilities of CLOs as key business partners. In addition, respondents are increasingly assuming responsibility for their company's privacy function, expanding their legal operations capacity, and (in one department out of three) planning to hire new lawyers. The survey also provided insights to the response of in-house legal departments and insights to future plans in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The ACC CLO Survey once again provides insights into the ever-increasing depth and breadth of CLOs' responsibilities and overall importance to organizations," said Veta T. Richardson, president and CEO of ACC. "2020 accelerated the evolution of this role, forcing CLOs to support their businesses' operations through a global pandemic, the international reckoning with racial injustice, and both the new socially distant and online workplaces. Sadly, none of 2020's challenges magically disappeared in 2021, but ACC has seen how the global in-house community learned and grew

from those challenges. The integral ways CLOs are helping their organizations adapt and move forward shows that the numerous challenges of the past year have only amplified these times as the 'age of the CLO.'"

The survey affirms we are in the "age of the CLO." With 78 percent of respondents reporting to the CEO, the overall trend remains very positive. Further, while CLOs still spend around one quarter of their time providing legal advice, they also spend a significant amount of time on board matters and governance issues, contributing to strategy development, and advising other executives on non-legal issues. The survey found that 46 percent of CLOs are responsible for their company's data privacy function, reflecting the growing integration of legal in business strategy and technology policy. In the order of functions reporting to the CLO, only compliance (74 percent) outranks privacy. CLOs are also increasingly engaging with environmental, social, and governance issues (ESG). This includes diversity and inclusion (D&I). A full 72.7 percent of CLOs expect diversity and inclusion specifically to accelerate in 2021.

Encouragingly, even despite COVID-19, 32 percent of law departments plan to take on more lawyers in 2021, a slight increase over 30 percent from 2020. Interestingly, 49 percent of those departments that expect to add lawyers in 2021 also anticipate sending more work to law firms and other legal service providers.

Legal operations continue to grow as well. Sixty one percent of legal departments now employ at least one legal operations professional. This is a 6.7 percentage point increase over last year and a 39.4-point increase since 2015. Twenty-one percent of departments now employ at least four legal ops professionals signaling clear and consistent growth in the role.

The survey concludes with five main points:

- **In a continuing trend, the CLO is a key business partner** to the c-suite and board. CLOs regularly participate in board meetings, are often asked to provide input on business decisions by leadership teams on operational and risk areas. They only spend 28 percent of their time on strictly legal work.

- **Many legal departments plan to hire new staff**, despite the pandemic – in fact, law departments plan to hire two percent more

lawyers in 2021 than in 2020. Twenty percent of departments plan on adding paralegals and 12.7 percent expect to hire additional legal ops professionals.

- **Legal operations is now imperative.** Sixty-one percent of legal departments have at least one legal operations professional on staff, the highest percentage observed since ACC began tracking this metric. Thirty-eight percent of CLOs say their department's most important strategic initiative involves legal operations.

- **Data privacy continues to impact organizations**, with 80 percent expressing concern over changing data privacy laws in the jurisdictions where they do business. Ninety percent expect data privacy concerns to accelerate.

- **ESG and D&I are central to strategy**, impacting third-party relationships, supply chain standards, and investor and stakeholder relationships. Many CLOs are taking new measurable actions, internally and externally, to build equity and inclusion practices into staffing and operations.

Learn more at acc.com.

New Framework for Sustainable DEI Solutions Announced by Minority Corporate Counsel Association

Last week, in celebration of its 25th Anniversary, the Minority Corporate Counsel Association (MCCA) announced MCCA Approved, a dynamic new framework for diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) that will provide sustainable and actionable solutions for the legal industry. MCCA Approved was formally unveiled at MCCA's 25th Anniversary Diversity Gala.

Law firms and legal organizations meeting the program guidelines will receive an MCCA Approved accreditation and website seal highlighting the organization's commitment to DEI efforts and social responsibility. The program encourages law firms and corporate legal departments to "Do Better," by providing strategy and solutions; "Lead Better," by educating leaders to be more empathetic and effective; and "Change for the Better," by ensuring consistency from change-makers.

"For the past 25 years, MCCA has served as a strategic partner for law firms and corporate organizations in the DEI space. As a result, we understand the challenges organizations are facing, and we know that a concerted and meaningful effort to diversify corporate America must successfully bring everyone to the table, including those at the top" said Jean Lee, president and CEO of the Minority Corporate Counsel Association. "MCCA Approved is distinguishable from other diversity initiatives because it is focused on impact that identifies systemic challenges in the recruiting, retention and promotion of diverse attorneys, which is critical to DEI sustainability."

Using this framework, MCCA Approved's



unique set of key guidelines will foster an inclusive and diverse legal profession by implementing three fundamental areas key for DEI. First, leadership accountability, to improve senior leadership's commitment and accountability for DEI strategy and management; second, business processes and practices, that provide metrics for talent management, including ongoing DEI education, workforce engagement and employee compensation; and finally, human capital diversity metrics to ensure that those of different genders, identities, and racial and ethnic backgrounds are represented in new hires, promotions and representation in leadership.

"We are proud to be a leader in the legal industry that has consistently worked to

improve diversity in the legal profession for 25 years," said Wanji Walcott, former executive vice president, chief legal officer & general counsel at Discover Financial Services and MCCA's board chair. "MCCA Approved builds on our commitment to support law firms and corporate legal departments with impacting long term change in the profession."

Participants in the program will receive a Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum accreditation based on their commitment to DEI and the guiding principles of the program. Some of the requirements include participating in MCCA's Diversity Scorecard, attending a career fair, beyond the traditional T-14 law schools, with a higher concentration of underrepresented racial

'MCCA Approved is distinguishable from other diversity initiatives because it is focused on impact that identifies systemic challenges in the recruiting, retention and promotion of diverse attorneys, which is critical to DEI sustainability.'

and ethnic students, a dedicated DEI council or committee, and a formal recruiting strategy to increase the number of women and diverse attorneys in the organization in adherence with MCCA's bias interrupters research.

The Minority Corporate Counsel Association is the preeminent advisor to C-suites across corporate America on diversity, equity, and inclusion. MCCA provides data-driven solutions for sustainable change, grounded in a quarter century of research and expertise. Through thought leadership, professional development programs, and a cutting-edge strategic advisory practice, MCCA empowers partners and members to know better, do better, and lead better – paving the way for a more just and equal future.

Learn more at mcca.com.