

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: Minority Attorneys



LOS ANGELES IS TRULY A NATIONAL LEADER WHEN IT COMES TO INFLUENTIAL PROFESSIONALS WITH MINORITY backgrounds – and the field of law is certainly no exception. There are many superb attorneys in the LA region who happen to be minorities, which is an important benchmark for an effective legal landscape. The California State Bar has reported that “having a diverse legal profession positively impacts the administration of justice, ensures fairness, and promotes the rule of law.”

We’ve alphabetically listed 96 of the very best of those professionals 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 standout 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.

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



WADE ACKERMAN

Partner; Co-Lead, Digital Health Initiative
Covington & Burling LLP

Through nearly two decades of experience in private practice and positions within the FDA and on the Hill, Wade Ackerman provides clients with advice around complex regulatory issues that demand coordinated legal, regulatory, and public policy strategies. He also serves as one of the leaders of Covington’s multidisciplinary Digital Health Initiative, which brings together the firm’s resources across legal, regulatory, commercial, and policy issues relating to innovative digital health technologies.

Ackerman has been actively involved on behalf of the cosmetic industry in efforts to modernize U.S. cosmetics regulation. On December 29, 2022, President Biden signed into law the Modernization of Cosmetics Regulation Act of 2022, which more closely aligns U.S. cosmetics regulation with other areas that FDA regulates. Ackerman was intimately involved in the legislative process around federal cosmetics reform, including by representing the nation’s leading cosmetics trade association, the Personal Care Products Council, in negotiations around the bill.

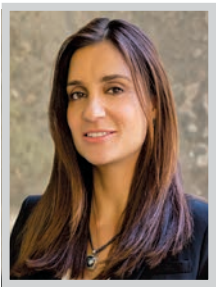


CLIFTON ALBRIGHT

President and Founding Partner
Albright, Yee & Schmit, APC

Clifton Albright is the president of Albright, Yee & Schmit, APC and specializes in labor and employment law. Albright was the first attorney to win a lawsuit against the Department of Health and Human Services 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. ITAC works closely with the Secretary of Commerce and the United States Trade Representative to enhance trade between the United States and other countries. A sought-after speaker, Albright conducts continuing education programs for attorneys, executives, and employees in such areas as employment and labor law, business management, and complex litigation.



SERINEH BAGHDASARIAN

Partner
Sklar Kirsh

Serineh Baghdasarian is a partner at Sklar Kirsh LLP in the Real Estate Department. Her practice experience includes extensive representation of real estate private equity funds, developers, and institutional and non-institutional investors in all areas of transactional real estate and real estate finance, including: construction, permanent, securitized, and mezzanine financing; the acquisition and disposition of vacant land, office buildings, apartment complexes, and other commercial, residential and mixed-use properties; the formation and representation of limited liability companies, general partnerships, and other joint ventures; the syndication of real estate investments; and the representation of commercial tenants and landlords in commercial transactions.

Baghdasarian also has an entrepreneurial background. Prior to joining Sklar Kirsh, Baghdasarian was an associate in the Real Estate Practice Group of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, LLP, where she represented real estate private equity funds, lenders, and other institutional clients in cutting-edge real estate and real estate finance transactions.



MATTHEW BARHOMA

Founder; Criminal and Civil Attorney
Barhoma Law, P.C. & Power Trial Lawyers

Criminal and civil litigation lawyer Matthew Barhoma devotes his Los Angeles practice to ensuring defendants wrongfully or overly 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 success- es few other law firms can claim.

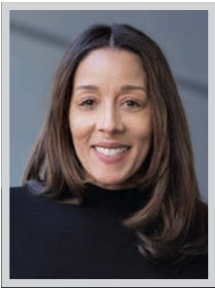


JASMIN BHANDARI

Principal
Scali Rasmussen

Jasmin Bhandari maintains a regulatory and litigation practice primarily focused on labor and employment law. She provides advice and counsel to clients on compliance with state and federal employment laws, including termination and on-boarding issues. She also represents businesses in a broad range of disputes, including discrimination, harassment, wrongful termination, wage and hour, and trade secret matters. Her experience further includes defending companies in wage and hour class actions against meal and rest break, overtime, and timely payment of wage claims, including extensive experience with PAGA cases in both litigation and arbitration.

Bhandari has obtained a dismissal of class claims in arbitration, drafted briefs for cases at the California Court of Appeal and successfully brought a motion to dismiss the appeal. Jasmin also has significant experience drafting and revising handbooks, pay plans, break and leave policies, employee surveys and confidentiality agreements.



GINA BIBBY

Partner, IP, Technology;
Global Head of Fashion Technology
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. Bibby is also a registered patent attorney.



JOSHUA BRIONES

Member; Managing Member, Los Angeles Office
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. A hard work ethic at an early age was the fuel that helped Briones succeed later in life. Today, Briones is managing member of Mintz’s Los Angeles office and serves on the firm’s Policy Committee.

A highly experienced trial lawyer, Briones has received awards and national recognition for his innovative approach to the defense of bet-the-company litigation. He has served as lead defense counsel on over 600 alleged nationwide class actions in state and federal courts across the country. He and his team have successfully defended many bet-the-company class actions that threaten a company’s brand, reputation, business model and bottom line. A skilled negotiator, Briones has a long record of securing dismissals and extremely favorable settlements for his clients.



MICHAEL BROPHY

Partner; Los Angeles Office Managing Director;
U.S. Regional Divisional Leader, Private Client and Tax Division; US Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Co-Chair; Recruitment Committee Member
Withersworldwide

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

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

HUESTON HENNIGAN LLP

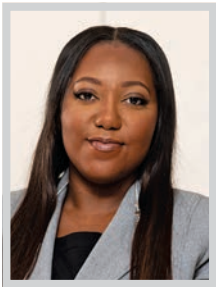
Congratulations



SOURABH MISHRA

Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys
—*Los Angeles Business Journal*

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



LATRICE BURKS
Associate
McGuireWoods LLP

A second-year associate at McGuireWoods, Latrice Burks already has established herself as a leader and rising star at the firm and a champion for diversity and inclusion. At the USC Gould School of Law, Burks was the founding member and co-president of the USC Womxn of Color Collective and she is the first African American woman to serve on Gould’s Board of Councilors’ Clerkship Committee. Since joining McGuireWoods in September 2021, Burks has made her mark, focusing her practice on complex commercial litigation, with a passion for intellectual property. In a critical defamation case, she was part of a team representing a client sued for alleged defamation and contractual interference. Burks zeroed in on the common interest privilege, which turned out to be one of the defense team’s strongest arguments. Based on this argument, McGuireWoods obtained a full dismissal of the matter with no settlement payment.



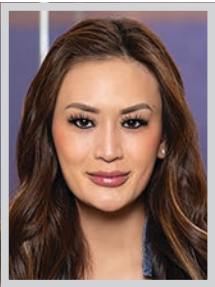
MANUEL F. CACHÁN
Partner
Proskauer Rose LLP

Manuel Cachán is an experienced trial lawyer and co-head of the Trial Practice Group at Proskauer, whose practice covers a wide array of complex civil litigation matters as well as counselling services to leading national and international corporations. He has served as first-chair trial counsel in various significant and high-profile cases, including for Monsanto and Johnson & Johnson. Among Cachán’s recent successes has been his work securing landmark victories for Monsanto in mass tort litigation regarding the herbicide Roundup. He served as lead counsel in a five-week, multi-plaintiff trial resulting in the jury roundly rejecting plaintiffs’ claims entirely, returning a defense verdict on all counts. This case, the first to be tried in St. Louis, Missouri, where Monsanto is headquartered, is the first multi-plaintiff case in the Roundup mass tort litigation that Monsanto has taken to trial, and it will serve as precedent for ongoing multi-plaintiff litigation regarding Roundup.



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

As Blank Rome’s first female Asian-American partner and vice chair of the firm’s nearly 50-member Financial Institutions Litigation and Regulatory Compliance practice group, Cheryl Chang is a skilled leader and a formidable litigator. She consistently achieves favorable outcomes for her clients in complex corporate matters. 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. She is recognized by co-counsel and opponents alike for her keen ability to see legal issues and business decisions from her clients’ point of view. Fluent in spoken Mandarin Chinese, Taiwanese, and French, she often communicates with her clients, and negotiates with adversaries, in multiple languages. Last year, a team led by Chang successfully defended a global software provider and its foreign parent company in an arbitration action brought by a reseller seeking nearly \$8 million in damages.



CHRISTINA CHANG
Counsel
Nixon Peabody LLP

Christina Chang broke into entertainment law as in-house counsel at licensing giant CMG Worldwide by protecting and maintaining the brands of iconic stars like James Dean, Jackie Robinson, Arthur Ashe, and Aaliyah. She used integrity, determination, and resourcefulness to safeguard these celebrities’ images and earning power, parlaying that experience into a spot on Nixon Peabody’s growing entertainment team. At Nixon, Chang provides boutique-level focused service with the resources of a Big Law firm, building bespoke teams to provide the services of a legal advisor, talent and business manager, and PR and crisis manager. Chang’s complete grasp of her clients’ businesses, goals, and preferences helps her anticipate needs while minimizing legal risk. She strikes deals in all verticals, including film and TV, endorsements, NFTs, IP licenses, advertising, brand collaborations & development, and more — handling all the fine print so her talent can focus on what they do best.



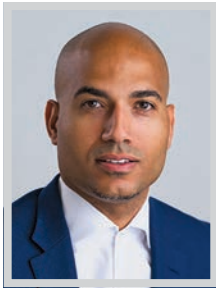
JENNIFER CHANG
Special Education Attorney
Law Office of Jennifer Chang

Jennifer Chang is an education rights attorney who is a staunch advocate for the rights of children with special needs in the California public school system. With over a decade of experience in the complex laws of special education, she has had great success assisting students with disabilities and their families to understand and exercise their legal rights and receive the services they are entitled to under the law. Equally important to Chang’s practice is helping the families of students with special needs learn to advocate for themselves and their children, and hold the school system accountable when it comes to providing equal educational opportunities. While the core of her practice focuses on special education law and protecting students with disabilities, Chang is also passionate about educating Korean American families and helping them navigate the complexities of advocating for their children while language poses a barrier.



ANN CHEN
Partner
Loeb & Loeb

Often tapped for thoughtful, pragmatic counsel, Ann Chen has helped many public and private corporate clients navigate the waters of mergers and acquisitions, private equity, joint ventures and corporate issues. With diverse experience leading complex, high stakes business combinations, negotiating financial and strategic private equity and debt investments, and advising on start-up formation and fundraising, Chen focuses her legal acumen and dealmaking skills on advancing the goals of corporate clients across a wide range of industries in both U.S. and cross-border transactions. Chen represents production studios, post-production studios, book publishers, gaming companies, gamers, athletes, authors, singers, social media influencers and celebrities as part of the Loeb & Loeb team representing clients, such as Netflix, who she helped in its acquisition of Night School Studio, a game studio. This acquisition marks Netflix’s first acquisition of a game studio as part of its business plan to create gaming experiences for members.



EMAHN COUNTS
Founding Partner
Counts Law Firm PC

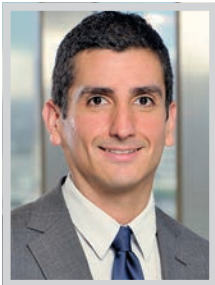
Emahn Counts has been practicing law for more than 18 years and is the founder of Counts Law Firm PC. His practice areas include business, family, and real estate litigation. Counts enjoys resolving contract disputes and financial matters. He has represented corporate clients such as American Express, Porsche Cars, Honda Finance, as well as thousands of individual and small business clients in Greater Los Angeles. Counts has successfully negotiated and/or litigated over 1000 cases, recovering tens of millions of dollars for clients. Counts achieved success through intelligent strategy, organization, negotiation, and court skills, along with a commitment to value, efficiency, and impact. Prior to opening Counts Law Firm, he was the managing attorney of the Pasadena office of a nationwide consumer litigation firm where he represented blue-chip clients. For over 20 years, Counts has also served as an ambassador for the African American Alumni Association at Loyola Marymount University.



MIGUEL CUSTODIO, JR.
Partner & Co-Founder
Custodio & Dubey LLP

As a child of Guatemalan immigrants living in the Los Angeles neighborhood of Boyle Heights, Miguel Custodio grew up witnessing structural inequality, which is why he now dedicates his LA practice to help regular people get justice when harmed by corporations or institutions. Today, Custodio focuses on personal injury and wrongful death cases. He has worked with hundreds of accident victims and their families over the years. Custodio is committed to helping provide justice and opportunities for people who might otherwise be overlooked, left out, or intimidated by the legal system, and giving them the best representation possible. Custodio and firm co-founder Vineet Dubey recently celebrated their firm’s 10-year anniversary. Their dynamic approach has brought justice to hundreds of clients, compelled manufacturers and retailers clean up thousands of dangerous or cancer-causing products, and resulted in nearly \$100 million in settlements.

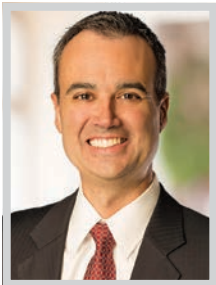
LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



VICTOR DE LA CRUZ
Partner
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP

Victor De la Cruz, the leader of Manatt’s land use practice group, has become recognized as a leading land use and government attorneys in Los Angeles. Widely sought out for complex and controversial projects at the intersection of law and government, De la Cruz has played a key role in shaping the LA landscape. Projects have included Kilroy’s Academy Square project in Hollywood; the Related Companies’ Century condominium high-rise tower in Century City; and just last year, on behalf of Mount Saint Mary’s University, securing unanimous planning commission and city council approval of the University’s Wellness Pavilion, the first development project approved at the University’s Brentwood campus in almost four decades.

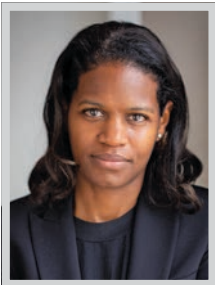
In the government contracts realm, De la Cruz has represented Live Nation in its bid to operate both the Greek Theatre and the Hollywood Bowl; and major duty-free and food and beverage concessionaires at Los Angeles International Airport.



WILLIAM DELGADO
Managing Partner
DTO Law

William Delgado, managing partner of minority-owned law firm DTO Law, which he co-founded in 2019, is a relentless litigator with an unmatched obsession for superior results. Delgado approaches litigation with a clear focus: win, as fast as possible. To do that, he dives into his clients’ business so that he has a clear understanding of what matters, what doesn’t, what creates leverage, and what triggers a successful outcome.

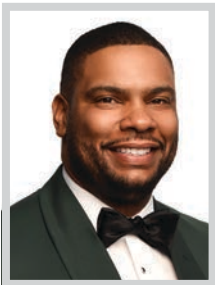
The key to Delgado’s success? Never be complacent. Every morning, he combs various legal publications for issues of relevance to his clients, sending them updates on issues they are currently facing, or he foresees they might face. He also takes time to develop associates and junior partners at his own firm to impart the lessons he has learned on his business development journey so that they, too, can build their own books of business.



RENÉE DELPHIN-RODRIGUEZ
Partner
Crowell & Moring LLP

Renée Delphin-Rodriguez brings a compelling blend of private practice and in-house experience to solve corporations’ thorniest legal issues. Her deep understanding of managed care and value-based payment arrangements, combined with her corporate experience, allows her to effectively guide clients through complex transactions and provide strategic advice in a heavily regulated industry.

Delphin-Rodriguez has served as assistant general counsel to a Fortune 500 health care company and general counsel to a health care management services organization and is now a Los Angeles-based partner in Crowell & Moring’s Corporate and Health Care groups. She focuses on mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, equity financing, corporate governance, and complex commercial agreements. Her clients span a wide range of industries, with a particular emphasis on companies within the health care industry. She assists business leaders in transactions that are transforming the healthcare industry.



RODNEY DIGGS
Director
Ivie McNeill Wyatt Purcell & Diggs

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

Diggs’ significant achievements include recently obtaining a \$25 million verdict as lead counsel in an employment retaliation lawsuit. Diggs believes it may be the largest retaliation verdict against a school district. He also obtained a \$9.1 million verdict in a wrongful death case against the City of Long Beach. This was the largest verdict in history against the city and the second largest verdict in a wrongful death case in the Central District of California.



CONGRATULATIONS

Russ August & Kabat proudly congratulates our partners and colleagues, **Irene Lee** and **Benjamin Wang**, on being named among the **2023 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.

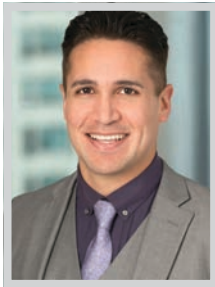
LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



MINH-VAN DO
Associate
Miller Barondess, LLP

Minh-Van Do is a complex commercial litigator with trial and appellate experience in both state and federal court. She is an experienced white-collar defense attorney and has represented individuals and large institutions in government investigations; has substantial experience in banking and finance litigation; has represented companies and individuals in various business disputes; and has represented numerous global financial institutions in disputes involving breach of contract, fraud, and federal securities violations.

Among Do's successes, she represented Peninsula Hotel Beverly Hills against Waldorf-Astoria Hotel Beverly Hills in a more than \$50 million trade secret theft case in which the hotly contested litigation against three law firms settled right before trial. She also spearheaded LA County's enforcement of Governor Newsom's COVID-19 emergency health orders. She defended LA County in an 11-day federal jury trial involving photographs taken by County personnel following the tragic helicopter crash that killed Kobe Bryant and his daughter.



GABRIEL DUARTE
Partner
Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP

When advising high net worth individuals and families on the planning and administration of multimillion-dollar trusts and estates, Gabriel Duarte provides strategic counsel to preserve clients' legacies and honor their wishes on transferring wealth to the next generation. Appreciated as a clear communicator who easily connects across multiple generations, Duarte is particularly effective with the administration of sophisticated trusts, including those involving family offices and those invested heavily in real estate.

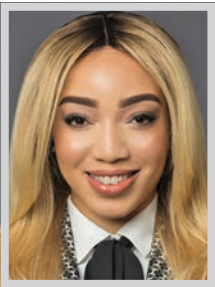
Duarte's dual strengths in estate planning and post-death trust administration inform his counsel to trustees, prominent entrepreneurs and families. Additionally, he represents corporate fiduciaries in administering complex trusts. Many of Duarte's clients have intricate real property assets, ranging from residences and multifamily apartment complexes to shopping centers and office buildings. Duarte works closely with trustees and professional teams to manage purchases, sales, leasing, loan transactions and related environmental, tax and investment concerns.



VINEET DUBEY
Partner & Co-Founder
Custodio & Dubey LLP

Vineet Dubey has dedicated his law career to pursuing environmental litigation, primarily suing companies that are selling goods to the public containing toxic and cancer-causing chemicals. Over the past 10 years, he has brought forth notable lawsuits against food manufacturers and grocery stores, including: Nurture Inc., Beech-Nut Nutrition Corp. and Gerber Products Co. for high levels of lead and arsenic in their baby foods; Target for its branded foods with high levels of lead; and Kroger stores and Trader Joe's for high levels of lead in numerous food products.

Because of Dubey's advocacy, thousands of tainted products have been taken off the shelves or reformulated. According to the California Attorney General's Office, Dubey has settled more Proposition 65 matters than any other attorney in the country for each of the last three years. This relentless dedication has forced violators to pay millions of dollars in civil penalties and fees.



SIERRA ELIZABETH
Partner
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Sierra Elizabeth is a top litigation and trial lawyer and one of the few African American female equity partners at a major law firm in California. She serves as lead counsel in some of the biggest civil litigation in the country and securing high-profile litigation wins. There are few minority attorneys that have led as many trials in so short of time as Elizabeth as she continues to become a dominant force in the courtroom.

Among Elizabeth's recent successes has been her work representing 3M in lawsuits involving 3M's Combat Arms Earplugs version 2 (CAEv2). The matters were part of the largest multidistrict litigation in U.S. history. As co-lead trial counsel for 3M, she not only secured a complete defense verdict in May 2021 in the second bellwether trial but again in October 2021 in the fifth bellwether trial.



JEFFREY ERDMAN
Shareholder
Scali

Jeffrey Erdman is a senior litigation and trial attorney with nearly 25 years of litigation experience practicing in both the state and federal courts of California. He has extensive courtroom and trial experience, both as plaintiff's counsel and as defense counsel, and successfully argued cases before the California Court of Appeal. Erdman's litigation experience spans many areas of business, including the insurance, manufacturing and service industries, as well as all variety of real estate disputes. He also has experience in the hospitality industry having worked with Westin Hotels and Resorts for more than ten years prior to attending law school.

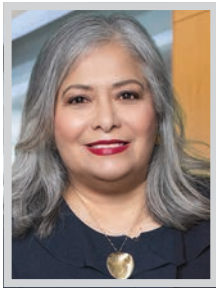
Before joining Scali Rasmussen, Erdman was managing partner of Bennett & Erdman for 16 years, where he served both as litigation counsel and as outside general counsel to various business entities and entrepreneurs. Erdman has also provided pro bono legal services in a variety of matters impacting disenfranchised individuals.



GEORGE C. FATHEREE III
Partner
Sidley Austin LLP

George Fatheree has a distinguished profile and reputation in California – and nationwide – built on his commercial real estate practice, his counseling of artists and museums in arts and culture transactions, his civil rights-focused pro bono work and his extensive civic and community service. Fatheree is regularly engaged in impact-focused pro bono matters such as representing the descendants of Willa and Charles Bruce in the landmark return of the Bruce's Beach property – a groundbreaking transaction involving the return of property that was wrongly taken from an African American family almost 100 hundred years ago.

Fatheree also represented Debbie Allen Dance Academy in its acquisition, financing and development of a state-of-the-art performing arts academy in the West Adams district of Los Angeles, and assisted Black Lives Matter Los Angeles in its acquisition of a headquarters building. These projects have been recognized as important civic and cultural additions to the city.



ELISABETH A. FRATER
Partner
Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP

Elisabeth Frater is a partner at Burke, Williams & Sorensen. She has over 30 years of litigation experience and has conducted complex internal investigations for over a dozen years. She represents both public and private-sector clients including cities, counties, private and public universities, state agencies and Fortune 5 companies in employment law and litigation, business litigation, administrative law, civil rights matters and criminal law. As a trial lawyer, she has successfully represented individuals, businesses, public officials and local and state governmental entities in more than 130 jury trials throughout California.

As certificate-holder from the Association of Workplace Investigators, Frater is in demand as an investigator. She is accomplished at handling investigations in areas including discrimination, harassment, retaliation, disability discrimination, fraud, and workplace violence, and is skilled at handling high-profile cases involving public officials and law enforcement. She previously worked for the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General.



CHRISTOPHER A. GELPI
Of Counsel
Fisher Phillips

Aseasoned litigator in Fisher Phillips' Los Angeles office, Christopher Gelpi focuses on providing comprehensive employment counsel with zeal, advocacy and understanding. He takes the time to listen to clients, pinpoint their individual needs, and design strategies to obtain exemplary results and build solid and lasting relationships.

Gelpi represents clients in employment litigation matters involving allegations of harassment, discrimination, retaliation, wrongful termination, wage and hour violations, unfair competition and restrictive covenants. He has extensive experience representing businesses in state and federal courts, arbitrations, and before the Equal Opportunity Commission, the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, and the National Labor Relations Board's Division of Labor Standards Enforcement. Gelpi has defended employers in numerous wage and hour class action lawsuits, in litigation related to worker classification issues and employment benefits under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, and in Private Attorney General Act lawsuits.

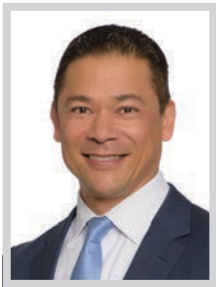
LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



LISA GILFORD
Partner
Sidley Austin LLP

Lisa Gilford is one of the nation’s pre-eminent first-chair trial lawyers. She represents a diverse range of high-profile clients in the automotive, pharmaceutical, communications, oil and gas, aerospace and chemical manufacturing, sports and higher education fields. Gilford is routinely engaged to lead her clients’ most challenging and significant class actions, multidistrict litigation, products liability matters and large-scale commercial disputes.

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. She is often retained to provide litigation mitigation and counseling services, along with litigation risk assessments for large corporate transactions. In several COVID-19 cases, she represents a company that owns senior care facilities, where patients were tragically lost to the pandemic. These cases will be among the first to test that certain claims are barred by the PREP Act.



DAVID GRAELER
*Chair, Litigation Department;
Co-Chair, Real Estate Group*
Nossaman

David Graeler serves as chair of Nossaman’s Litigation Department and co-chair of its Real Estate Group. With nearly 25 years of litigation and trial experience representing both plaintiffs and defendants, Graeler excels at partnering with his clients to identify their goals and to develop and execute winning strategies to effectively resolve complex business disputes both inside and outside the courtroom. Through the development of his civil trial practice, Graeler has honed his ability to communicate and connect with judges and juries, as well as with clients, witnesses, and other attorneys.

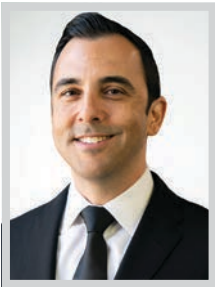
Graeler strives to learn and understand his clients’ business objectives, key issues and goals in order to develop a tailored strategy and obtain the best possible result. He focuses his practice on the representation of public and private sector clients principally in the areas of real estate, eminent domain, construction, and commercial disputes.



DEMETRIA GRAVES
*Founding & Managing Partner;
Certified Family Law Specialist*
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 Pasadena and Beverly Hills and is today 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.

Graves assists individuals who wish to amicably dissolve their family law matters. She handles custody and visitation, child support, spousal support, property division, the dissolution of same-sex marriages, mediation, all while paying close attention to her clients’ needs and concerns in order to achieve the most desirable outcomes. Graves works to ensure that her clients’ rights and interests are protected. Graves hosts a weekly podcast, ‘Legally Uncensored with Demetria L. Graves’ which is available on Apple Podcasts.



JOSEPH GUARDARRAMA
Attorney
Kaufman Legal Group

Joseph 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.

Prior to joining the firm, Guardarrama served as a planning commissioner in the City of West Hollywood for over seven years. 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.

Buchalter

Congratulates

Mercedes Martin & Philip Nulud

2023 Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys
Los Angeles Business Journal

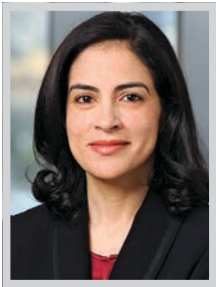


Mercedes Martin
Shareholder



Philip Nulud
Shareholder

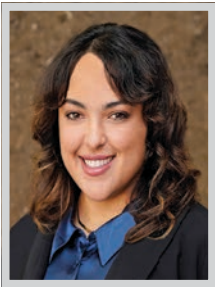
LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



ILEANA HERNANDEZ
Partner
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP

Leader of Manatt’s Health Care Litigation practice, Ileana Hernandez is the go-to adviser for health insurance and managed care organizations facing the gamut of complex litigation issues. While many litigators settle cases before they make it to a courtroom, Ileana is a true trial lawyer known for guiding clients through every stage of litigation – from pre-litigation counseling through trial and appeal – and she represents clients in state and federal courts, mediations, arbitrations and administrative hearings.

Hernandez’s recent representations include successfully defending Health Net from a lawsuit seeking an eight-figure award in damages. She also co-led the Manatt team representing Blue Shield in a wrongful death lawsuit. She and her team filed a motion for summary judgment on the basis that the plaintiffs were not entitled to recover in this case because the decedent and his family lied about employment status and falsified documents to fraudulently obtain coverage.



RACHAEL HIATT
Associate
Sklar Kirsh

Rachael Hiatt is an associate in the Litigation Department at Sklar Kirsh LLP. Hiatt has considerable experience in complex commercial litigation, including disputes involving breach of contract, intellectual property, fraud, bankruptcy, collections, and employment issues. Hiatt has also handled matters involving real estate, construction defect, and environmental claims. Prior to joining Sklar Kirsh, Hiatt practiced law in Northern California, most recently at Hopkins & Carley, ALC where her time was devoted to an array of complex civil disputes.

Hiatt represents an electrical utility company in ongoing wildfire litigation involving subrogation, landowner, and oil production company plaintiffs. She oversees the liability portion of the case and am involved in all aspects of discovery and trial preparation for a trial in 2023. She also recently successfully defended an international construction engineering company against a tort claim by bringing an anti-SLAPP and attorney’s fees motion.



ARASH HOMAMPOUR
Partner & Founder; Trial Attorney
The Homampour Law Firm

Trial attorney Arash Homampour has a remarkable record of success in civil lawsuits against some of the country’s largest corporations and public entities, including the state of California, Costco Stores and Sunbeam Products. Homampour’s firm has obtained more than half a billion dollars on behalf of its clients since he founded it in 1993. He represents plaintiffs in catastrophic injury, wrongful death, employment and insurance bad-faith matters.

Homampour and his firm specialize in taking complex cases to trial. One of his recent cases, Vinolo vs. the City of San Diego, in which he beat the odds to obtain a \$23.75 million settlement for the plaintiff, is one of the numerous cases he has handled that had been deemed nearly impossible to win. In another mark of his abilities as a litigator, Homampour has successfully briefed and argued cases on appeal, including before the California Supreme Court.



DAVID HONG
Partner
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

David Hong is a partner in Willkie’s Asset Management Department, where he focuses on the formation and ongoing operation of private funds across the spectrum of asset classes, including private equity, credit, real estate, venture capital, growth equity, hedge and hybrid funds, as well as advising private fund sponsors.

Hong regularly represents emerging and institutional private fund sponsors in connection with a broad range of matters, including fund formations, fund investment matters, seed capital arrangements, complex restructurings, the structure of their investment management businesses, and regulatory, compliance and operational issues. He provides clients with representation covering entity formations, the fundraising process and ongoing operational advice. He also represents institutional investors, including sovereign wealth funds, public and private pension plans, family offices and endowments, in connection with their investments in various private funds. This year, Hong joined Willkie as a partner in the firm’s new Los Angeles office.



LAUREN HUDECKI
Partner
DTO Law

Lauren Hudecki is a seasoned litigator whose practice focuses on complex commercial and employment litigation matters, including arbitration, mediation, and trial. She has represented commercial clients in various areas, including those involving contracts, consumer class actions, mass torts, and intellectual property. Hudecki is representing American Honda Motor Co., Inc. in three nationwide automotive class actions. Earlier this year, she successfully secured dismissal of a false advertising class action at the pleading stage on behalf of Target. She was also a member of the DTO team representing State Farm Fire and Casualty Company in a putative class action case, which was dismissed without leave to amend.

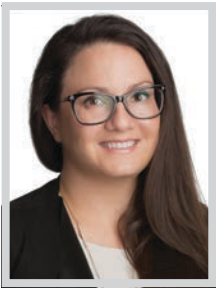
Prior to joining DTO, Hudecki developed her practice at Cole Pedroza LLP, Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP, and Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, where she garnered a vast array of experience, including first and second chairing multiple trials and successfully arguing dispositive motions.



RYAN IWASAKA
Partner
Greenberg Glusker LLP

Ryan Iwasaka applies an energetic and holistic approach to his real estate practice at Greenberg Glusker, pursuing the deal at hand and simultaneously addressing his clients’ ownership, investment and strategic goals.

Iwasaka maintains a diverse practice across the primary real estate disciplines of acquisitions & sales, leasing, and finance. His experience covers a wide range of property categories, spanning commercial, retail, and industrial sites to residential, multi-family and raw land. Although he focuses on the California market, Iwasaka regularly handles transactions across the U.S., having closed deals in nearly every state, globally throughout Asia and Latin America. Iwasaka’s practice also encompasses the sale or exchange of interests in corporations, LLCs, and partnerships that own or operate real estate assets, resolution of major title defects and vesting issues, and the acquisition and repositioning of distressed assets. He routinely oversees many of the firm’s most complex and high-profile commercial transactions.



SHADI JAHANGIR
Partner, Finance
Blank Rome LLP

Shadi Jahangir is a firm partner at Blank Rome 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.

Significantly, Jahangir was one of the first attorneys in the U.S. to represent lenders in the national, COVID-relief Main Street Loan Program. Among her recent successes was her work representing one of the largest national banks in a \$1.6 billion term loan to an ultra-high net worth individual and their revocable trusts, which was secured by equity interests in a public company. It was one of the largest loans to a private individual in 2021.



JAELYN EDWARDS JUDELSON
Partner
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Jaelyn Edwards Judelson is a highly regarded emerging leader in the firm’s renowned international trade practice—playing key roles in business-critical engagements and the development of award-winning, cutting-edge tools for key clients; co-chairing the firm’s Black Firmwide Resource Group; and serving on the firmwide and Los Angeles office diversity, equity and inclusion committees.

Judelson has built a thriving practice focused on advising technology and software companies, including regarding the application of encryption regulations in the development and regulation of apps, cloud computing platforms and artificial intelligence products. She also advises multinational corporations and manufacturers of military goods and commercial electronics operating in the technology and defense space. Her work is particularly valuable to the firm’s clients who are navigating novel national security initiatives and related regulations to meet those aims. Judelson has consistently pursued innovative approaches in helping clients address legal and business challenges.

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



ROSHANNE KATOUZIAN
Attorney
RMO LLP

Roshanne Katouzian is an associate in the Los Angeles office of RMO LLP. Katouzian focuses her practice on two areas of litigation: (1) representing beneficiaries, professional and corporate fiduciaries (administrators, executors, trustees, conservators, and guardians) in contested trust, estate and probate litigation; and (2) representing businesses, business owners, directors, executives, members, officers, partners and shareholders in business litigation and commercial disputes, and internal and external investigations.

Katouzian's recent success includes her work successfully pursuing litigation in connection with a temporary conservatee's request for an elder abuse restraining order against a perpetrator who had financially and physically abused the conservatee. The conservatee's petition was granted after a two-day trial. Katouzian also recently suspended a co-trustee who had stolen hundreds of thousands of dollars of trust funds for personal use, followed by a summary judgment ruling against the co-trustee.



JASON KIM
Counsel
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

Global brands count on Jason Kim, litigation counsel at Hunton Andrews Kurth's Los Angeles office, to navigate their most high-profile cybersecurity and privacy class actions in California. He counts among his clients Meta Platforms Inc. (fka Facebook), Bath & Body Works, Inc., Walmart, Neiman Marcus, Flurry, Rite Aid, Checkers Drive-In Restaurants, MGM and Verizon. Kim has litigated multiple highly publicized data breach class actions, financial services class actions and consumer class actions for a broad spectrum of companies. Kim has served as litigation counsel to one of the largest online services in the world in class actions involving the largest reported data breach in history.

Last year, Kim won a significant victory for Bath & Body Works, Inc. in a high-stakes class action involving multiple prominent retailers. Kim ultimately obtained a complete dismissal of Bath & Body Works from the lawsuit through a successful challenge to the court's jurisdiction.



AMRIT KULKARNI
Principal (Partner)
Meyers Nave

With more than two decades of experience, Meyers Nave's Amrit Kulkarni is a California infrastructure heavy-weight, providing transaction and litigation counsel on many of the state's and Los Angeles area's highest profile, most complex, and sometimes controversial commercial and urban development projects.

Chair of the firm's Land Use, Environmental Law, and Transportation and Infrastructure practice groups, Kulkarni's project experience includes serving local, state and national clients involved in the development of airports, passenger transit systems, freight rail networks, ports, highways, water resources, mixed-use residential developments, university campus expansions, and a wide range of commercial and industrial facilities. He also provides transactional counsel during a project's planning, development and implementation phases, as well as litigation expertise when clients need to defend or challenge a project.



KRISTINE KWONG
Partner
Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP

Kristine Kwong is a partner in the Musick, Peeler & Garrett's Los Angeles office and advises and counsels clients on a wide range of business, corporate, operational, and employment issues, including business counseling, contract negotiation and preparation, restrictive covenant and non-compete agreements, executive mobility issues, due diligence in connection with mergers and acquisitions, and range of employment matters.

Kwong represents public and private sector entities in retail, manufacturing, finance, healthcare, hospitality, real estate, and charitable and tax-exempt organizations, including religious entities, federally qualified health centers, educational institutions from K-12 districts, colleges to charter schools, and public sector agencies, municipalities, commissions, and special districts in both litigation and transactional matters. She has defended single-plaintiff and class action wage and hour matters, claims under PAGA, discrimination, harassment, retaliation claims, non-compete, trade secrets, restrictive covenants, as well as business and partnership disputes.

MAKING AN IMPACT

Congratulations to **Christina Chang** and **David Song** for being honored as Leaders of Influence. Your leadership and commitment make a positive impact on our clients and firm every day.



Christina Chang
Counsel



David Song
Associate



LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



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. She has extensive experience in trademark and copyright prosecution and litigation with an emphasis on global brand expansion and content management. As a registered patent attorney, Lee also counsels clients concerning patent litigation and monetization with an eye toward building value to their overall business focus.

Recently, Lee has managed over 5,000 brands and attendant rights as part of her role in managing IP portfolio for clients such as The Honest Company, Inc., Carroll Hall Shelby Trust, Scantron Corporation, Maxon Liftgate, Pixelynx, Pro-Tec, Adolescent Content, Trevor Noah, The Kid LAROI, Cardi B, Deadmau5, Saint Jhn, 21 Savage, Jaden Hossler, Prima.Co, Fred Segal, and Beauty Quest Group's RUSK, ONE 'N ONLY, and AQUAGE.



LENNETTE LEE
Partner
King & Spalding LLP

In her commercial litigation practice, Lennette Lee specializes in solving complex consumer and employment issues, especially those impacting leading tech, media, and gig-economy companies.

Lee recently obtained a complete victory for Snap Inc. in a high-profile federal court case alleging that Snap was liable for product liability and other tort claims because content posted on its Snapchat app led to the shooting death of a minor. Lee's team successfully obtained dismissal of all claims against Snap on grounds that Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act shields communications platforms from liability for third party content. Given her deep experience in litigating CDA Section 230, she is currently representing ByteDance and Snap in multiple high stakes matters around the country where the scope of the CDA immunity is being challenged. Lee's civil litigation practice focuses on high-stakes disputes that span a wide range of claims.



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. 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. As a result, 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.



ROGER LEE
Senior Counsel
Stubbs Alderton & Markiles, LLP

Roger Lee, senior counsel at Southern California's leading business law firm Stubbs Alderton & Markiles, LLP, is an accomplished corporate and finance attorney with a high-profile client roster of business innovators and leaders. He focuses on advising emerging growth and middle market companies in a wide variety of transactions, including buy and sell-side mergers and acquisitions, as well as venture capital, debt and asset-based financing transactions. Lee also represents major financial institutions, private equity investors, independent power producers, project developers, investor-owned and municipal utilities, retail off-takers, operators and equipment and construction services providers in connection with conventional energy projects, renewable energy projects, and infrastructure projects.

Lee recently represented Bushfire Kitchen, an elevated fast-casual restaurant brand founded in 2012 by serial entrepreneur Clive Barwin and chef Brandon Barwin, in its new partnership with leading private investment firm CapitalSpring.

CONGRATULATIONS

2023 Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys

Los Angeles Business Journal



JASON H. TOKORO



MINH-VAN T. DO

MILLER BARONDESS, LLP

Miller Barondess is a 40-lawyer firm in Los Angeles specializing in high-stakes litigation, trial, and appellate work in California and around the country. The firm represents clients in a wide range of sectors, including technology, real estate, healthcare, sports, entertainment/media, consumer products, insurance, retail, environmental, licensing and branding, financial services, mergers and acquisitions, and in representing government.

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



AARON LEWIS

Partner; Vice Chair, 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 at the Department of Justice.

Lewis has been a leader and innovator in this rapidly evolving frontier at the intersection of ESG and traditional internal investigations since it first emerged in 2016. This foundation of experience includes helping to lead Covington’s work to support the first civil rights audit for Airbnb, as well as the firm’s assessments of Starbucks’ efforts to promote civil rights, equity, diversity, and inclusion, and also more recent engagements for Citibank, Verizon, Dow, Wells Fargo and other public companies in a variety of industries.

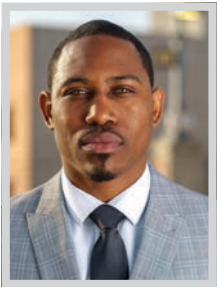


PAUL LOH

Managing Partner
Willenken LLP

Managing partner Paul Loh is a founding member of Willenken. Founded in 2002, Willenken is a minority-owned, majority-women boutique litigation firm. Loh is Asian American and a native Mandarin speaker. He has more than 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 action cases. Loh has spent much of his legal career truly trying cases. He has tried over 120 jury trials, court trials, and arbitrations. As a result of Loh’s experience, leading companies turn to him for some of the most challenging cases on their dockets. Some of his clients have engaged him just months or weeks before trial to take over as lead trial counsel to help secure winning results.



BRYAN LUTHER, JR.

Associate
Albright, Yee & Schmit, APC

After graduating from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, 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. Luther provides general and employment counseling and guidance to his corporate and government entity clients on an ongoing basis.

Luther recently successfully defended a Los Angeles County business from a claim of several million dollars forcing the plaintiffs to dismiss all claims within three months of filing. Luther also helped defend a well-known public figure against reputation-destroying and career-ending claims which necessitated litigation in both state and federal court, where the matter ultimately resolved for nuisance value, successfully protecting the reputation and livelihood of his client. Luther routinely conducts employment investigations for clients spanning the state of California.



MERCEDES MARTIN

Shareholder; Chair, Diversity Committee
Buchalter, PC

Mercedes O. Martin specializes in real estate transactions, with an emphasis on real estate secured transactions, tax credit finance and equity investments. She co-chairs the firm Community Development Finance group. Martin regularly 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 joint venturers in the acquisition, disposition, management and financing of office, retail, commercial and multifamily projects.

Martin’s areas of expertise include complex low income housing tax credit transactions involving multiple public and private funding sources, affordable housing and subsidy layering analysis, new markets tax credit funded affordable housing developments, formation of tax credit partnerships, and federal, state and local compliance of utility scale solar, wind and battery storage projects.

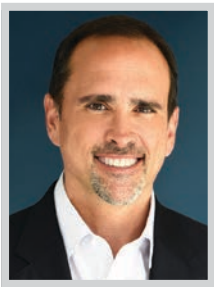


We proudly congratulate our colleague, Renée Delphin-Rodriguez, on being named among the *Los Angeles Business Journal’s* “Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys.”

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LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



DAVID MARTINEZ

Partner; Elected Member, Executive Board;
Member, Diversity Committee;
Firm Pro Bono Chair, California Offices
Robins Kaplan LLP

Passionate. Tenacious. Skilled. These are descriptors earned by David Martinez over his 25-year legal career. A partner at Robins Kaplan LLP, he is an accomplished commercial litigator handling nearly any complex litigation with particularly deep experience in commercial and intellectual property litigation, arbitration, and mediation. He also handles shareholder disputes, partnership disputes, breach of contract, and employment matters, and often acts as outside general counsel for clients.

Martinez’s clients include individuals, startups, and Fortune 100 companies in the real estate, media, retail, fashion, transportation, financial, entertainment, manufacturing, and technology industries. He also works with Spanish and other foreign clients interested in developing a presence in the United States, often acting as their outside general counsel.



HEMAL MASTER

Managing Shareholder
Frandzel Robins Bloom & Csato LC

Hemal Master serves as the Frandzel Robins Bloom & Csato’s managing shareholder. He maintains a robust practice focusing on all aspects of lender representation, including representation of commercial banks, private equity funds, commercial finance companies, hedge funds and other lenders in real estate and commercial loan transactions, commercial and real estate loan workouts, lender liability defense, and exercise and enforcement of all types of lender remedies.

In addition to his experience with the firm, Master completed a three-year-long secondment to a major regional bank in which he advised on hundreds of matters involving distressed debt and supervised litigation on matters in 45 different states. Master regularly speaks at both industry events and to clients on timely topics involving finance. In addition, he currently serves as the general counsel for the Western Independent Bankers and on the Event Planning Committee for the Special Assets Management Association.

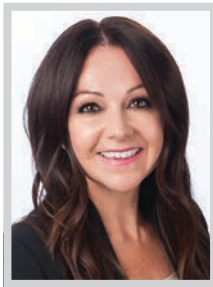


SOURABH MISHRA

Counsel
Hueston Hennigan LLP

Sourabh Mishra is a rising star focusing on complex commercial litigation, intellectual property litigation, white collar criminal defense and investigations. Mishra—who has a perfect record of six trial victories over the past seven years, including two wins at trials occurring only weeks apart—is a valued member of multiple high-profile trial teams.

Mishra was a key member of the team that won a record \$293 million verdict for Monster Energy against rival beverage company Vital Pharmaceuticals — the largest Lanham Act award ever — with findings in Monster’s favor on every claim asserted, and earlier in the year won “the largest-ever U.S. trademark award” for Monster Energy against Vital. Following a two-week trial, an arbitrator awarded Monster and Orange Bang \$175 million in damages, nearly \$10 million in attorney’s fees and costs, and an extraordinary 5% royalty on all future sales of Bang Energy.



TANIA MOYRON

Partner; Chair, US Region Restructuring, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Group; US Region Co-Chair, Global Restructuring, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Group
Dentons US LLP

Tania Moyron is well-known for her skill in both out-of-court and in-court restructurings spanning a variety of industries including health care, retail, entertainment, trucking, and real estate. She currently leads a Dentons team in Chapter 11 cases filed by home mortgage originator First Guaranty Mortgage Corporation. The team negotiated and obtained approval of two debtor in possession facilities; one providing financing for FGMC’s cash flow for operations, and one, with Barclays, providing financing to fund loans in the pipeline. Moyron obtained first-day relief allowing FGMC to continue in business.

Moyron was also the attorney primarily responsible for representation of Verity Health System of California and 16 related entities, including six acute care operating hospitals, in their chapter 11 cases—the second largest hospital bankruptcy case in American history.



Fisher Phillips is proud of our 2023 Leaders of Influence:
Minority Attorneys



Christopher A. Gelpi
Of Counsel
Los Angeles
213.402.9580
cgelpi@fisherphillips.com



Hannah Sweiss
Partner
Woodland Hills/Los Angeles
818.230.4255
hsweiss@fisherphillips.com



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Fisher Phillips is a national law firm committed to providing practical business solutions for employers’ workplace legal problems. The firm is proud of our tradition of diversity and inclusion and continues to expand upon it. With over 500 attorneys in 37 offices, our firm’s commitment to diversity and inclusiveness continues to grow.

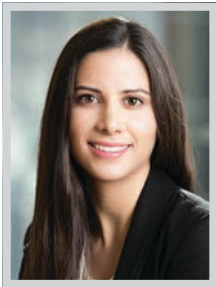
LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



CHRISTOPHER NG
Managing Partner
Gibbs Giden Locher Turner Senet & Wittbrodt

In construction law, Chris Ng represents owners, contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and design professionals in connection with all aspects of private and public projects, from contract negotiation to enforcing and defending contract, mechanics lien, stop payment notice, bond and other statutory claims. Ng is uniquely well-equipped to counsel all types of business in a wide variety of legal issues. He provides a broad range of legal services to protect and grow a company in every stage of the business life cycle.

In addition to his work in construction law and business law, Ng also regularly assists manufacturers, distributors and retailers with a vast array of commercial law issues. Ng is also an adjunct professor of business law at the David Nazarian College of Business and Economics and Graduate Business Program at California State University, Northridge, where for more than 15 years he has taught an array of business law subjects.



IDA NOWAID
Counsel
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Since joining Skadden in 2015, Ida Nowaid has quickly distinguished herself as an emerging talent and leader at Skadden, recognized for her exceptional legal counsel on a range of complex real estate, real estate M&A, finance and private equity matters. She is noted for her broad experience, which includes portfolio and single-asset acquisitions and dispositions, joint ventures, financings, restructurings and leasing. Her clients include institutional investors, sovereign wealth funds, lenders, borrowers, buyers, sellers, landlords, tenants and developers.

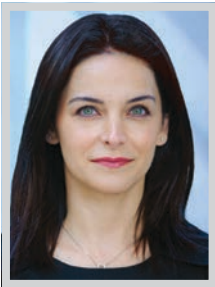
Nowaid leads large, complex and sophisticated transactions, often collaborating with a diverse coalition of sophisticated stakeholders in the U.S. and globally, and has a reputation for her leadership, pragmatism, legal advice and creative solutions to complex and thorny issues. Among her notable accomplishments has been her work leading Skadden's efforts in disposing a portfolio of retail malls located across the U.S. for Queensland Investment Corporation.



PHILIP NULUD
Shareholder
Buchalter, PC

As a member of Buchalter's Intellectual Property Practice Group, Philip Nulud focuses his practice on counseling clients in all aspects of intellectual property, including trademarks (domestically and internationally), patents, copyrights, strategy, enforcement, protection, licensing, marketing, policy, social media issues, and domain names.

A seasoned intellectual property attorney, Nulud has assisted clients in developing, protecting, and licensing their valuable ideas by providing critical freedom to use clearance and infringement opinions for patents and trademarks, while also preparing, prosecuting, and enforcing their patents, trademarks and copyrights. He is also very experienced with the enforcement and prosecution of trademarks overseas and in particular in China. Nulud also engages in negotiating and drafting license agreements as well as influencer agreements and endorsement deals for many brands, fashion houses, celebrities, retailers, artists, and consumer product companies. Nulud also represents clients in high-stakes intellectual property litigation in Federal and state courts.



ARAMEH ZARGHAM O'BOYLE
Member
Mintz

Arameh Zargham O'Boyle is a trailblazer and the first female partner in Mintz's growing LA office. In her more than 15 years of practice, O'Boyle has become one of the most sought after attorneys product innovators and manufacturers rely on.

O'Boyle is a litigator who focuses her practice on defending product manufacturers in complex product liability and consumer class action litigation. She represents businesses in a variety of industries. She regularly advises clients on product labeling and advertising strategies to navigate the requirements of the FDA's Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and mitigate challenges under California's consumer protection laws. O'Boyle represents companies in high-profile litigation and has extensive experience managing and coordinating complex class action and multidistrict litigation. O'Boyle's clients regard her as strategic and creative and they trust her commonsense approach to problem-solving and ability to resolve disputes efficiently.

Congratulations to our partners **Ann Chen** and **Rodney Lee** and all of our friends recognized on the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2023 Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys list.

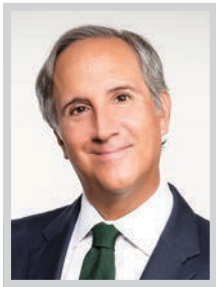
We salute your extraordinary professional achievements and unwavering dedication to serve as an advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion.



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BEIJING
HONG KONG

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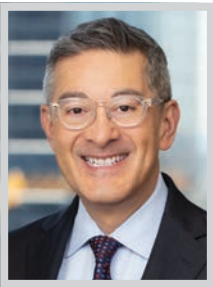
LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



RICK OLIVAREZ
Founding & Managing Partner
Olivarez Madruga Law Organization LLP

Rick R. Olivarez, founding and managing partner of Olivarez Madruga Law Organization, 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.

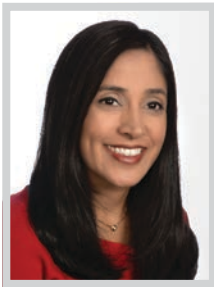
Shortly after the 2008 recession, Olivarez made the decision to continue building upon his reputation for providing the highest quality counsel, at fair and affordable rates, and establish his own firm. In doing so, he overcame the challenges of starting a new business at that time, during which banks were hesitant to lend, even exhausting his own IRA in the process. He hired fellow partner and seasoned litigator Tom Madruga and founded the firm of Olivarez Madruga Law Organization, 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.



ANTHONY PACHECO
Shareholder
Vedder Price

For 35 years, Vedder Price shareholder Anthony Pacheco has been a pillar within the Los Angeles community, whether advising corporations, public entities, C-suite executives and not-for-profit leaders, trying criminal and civil cases (state and federal) or spearheading groundbreaking pro bono initiatives to provide legal help for veterans, for The TransLatin@ Coalition, public entities and people in need.

As a litigation shareholder, Pacheco is a member of its nationally recognized Government Investigations & White Collar Defense group, which focuses on white collar criminal defense, internal investigations and complex business litigation. Pacheco typically advises a wide range of organizations and individuals including public and private companies and nonprofit entities. His areas of focus include medical centers, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities and laboratories as well as physicians and physician groups. Included among his clients are studios, post-production companies, software companies, medical centers, hospitals, brokerage firms and more.



NITA PARIKH
Principal
Jackson Lewis

Nita Parikh started at Jackson Lewis as a junior associate and was elevated to principal in 2009. At that time, she predominantly litigated employment cases, including trials and disability access matters. After having children and seeking work-life flexibility, she led the cause for parental resources at the firm as one of the first alternative work arrangement attorneys. In 2015, Parikh transitioned to an administrative leadership role at the request of the firm’s leadership.

In her role today, among other things, Parikh has developed attorney productivity and performance, attorney workloads, attorney transitions, associate training, hiring and attorney and a variety of staff-related matters. This role includes overseeing the mentoring and professional development of associates. Parikh’s position as a leader has been crucial to the strength and position of Jackson Lewis in the Los Angeles market. Parikh is fiercely committed to the development of the Los Angeles office and its attorneys.



ANN I. PARK
Partner
Foley Mansfield

Foley Mansfield partner Ann I. Park has extensive experience in toxic tort defense, commercial business disputes, insurance coverage and environmental law matters. Skilled in explaining the often technical and highly intricate medical and scientific aspects of her cases, she defends complex, high-risk toxic tort, asbestos products liability and premises liability actions.

Park is hands-on in all aspects of litigation, including pretrial discovery, expert preparation and cross-examination, trial and the preparation of appeals. She has also handled successful appeals before the California Court of Appeals. Park has recently notched several significant client successes, including obtaining a court order that plaintiff be tested for the germline BAP1 mutation in the matter Basgal v. Amcord, Inc. et al. The plaintiff actually had a history of uveal melanoma and basal cell carcinoma and a strong family history of cancer, but was claiming that low-dose exposure to asbestos caused his peritoneal mesothelioma.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PARTNERS

Albert Valencia and
Pantea Yashar

for being recognized on Los Angeles Business Journal’s
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LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



ARNOLD PETER
Managing Partner
Peter Law

Arnold P. Peter has a unique combination of specialized legal and business experience with national law firms, the public sector and international companies. He divides his practice between employment matters and complex entertainment transactions and litigation. He currently represents a variety of clients for litigation and transactional matters, including clients in television and cable, new media, location-based entertainment, hospitality, real estate and franchising.

Peter is one of the most prominent attorneys assisting Indian and United States based clients, navigating the interaction between Hollywood and Bollywood in a vibrant India practice. Peter began his legal career at New York based Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft after completing a clerkship with the Honorable Edward Dean Price, United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California. He later served as director of labor relations for Universal Studios. Soon he was promoted to vice president of legal and business affairs for Universal Studios.



BYRON PURCELL
Director and Firm President
Ivie McNeill Wyatt Purcell & Diggs

Byron Michael Purcell is an experienced litigator who has successfully tried dozens of cases in a wide range of areas, including commercial litigation, products liability, personal injury defense, real estate and employment. Purcell also represents clients in contractual disputes, complex business matters, Labor Commission claims, commercial and real estate claims, insurance, equipment failures, wild fires, explosions and automobile accidents. He has argued before the U.S. Federal Court of Appeals and the California Court of Appeals.

Among Pucell's recent successes was his work on Doyle v. American Eagle Transportation Company. Along with co-counsel, Purcell successfully defended a four-week trial in which a trucking company and its driver were being sued for negligently injuring a boy leaving him incapacitated. Purcell became a Partner with Ivie, McNeill & Wyatt in 2001. Before joining the firm as a law clerk in 1994, he clerked with the Federal Public Defenders of San Diego.



ARJUN RAO
Partner
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP

With more than a decade of complex commercial litigation experience focused in the financial services sector, Arjun Rao has distinguished himself as a go-to litigator for some of the industry's highest profile banking and financial services companies. He has built a national reputation for handling high stakes consumer class actions, as well as regulatory matters and government investigations.

Rao defends clients in a wide range of actions arising from lending and retail banking operations, including for alleged violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, the Truth-In-Lending Act and numerous provisions of state law, including California's Unfair Competition Law and Consumers Legal Remedies Act, and the Uniform Commercial Code. In addition, Rao has extensive experience representing clients in connection with automobile lending. Major matters from this past year include cases for JP Morgan Chase Bank, Discover, Mercedes-Benz and BMW.



ANGELA REDDOCK-WRIGHT
Employment Mediator & Arbitrator
Reddock Law/Judicate West

Angela Reddock-Wright is an employment mediator, arbitrator, workplace, and Title IX investigator. A graduate of UCLA School of Law and Amherst College, Reddock-Wright received her training as a mediator from the Strauss Institute for Dispute Resolution at the Pepperdine University School of Law. She has been a distinguished fellow with the Coro Foundation of Los Angeles, the German Marshall Fund, and the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles.

Reddock-Wright has practiced as an employment and labor law attorney for 26 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. 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 she is one of the only African American women to be on a top mediation panel.

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us to soar higher.

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Delmar S. Thomas, Partner

Yukevich | Cavanaugh is proud to congratulate our **Partner Delmar S. Thomas**, for being named by the *Los Angeles Business Journal* to the **Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys** list.

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LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



REGINALD ROBERTS, JR.
*Co-Founding Partner and Co-Managing Partner
Sanders Roberts LLP*

Reginald Roberts, Jr., a co-founding partner and a co-managing partner of Sanders Roberts LLP, has been handling complex employment and business litigation issues for over 15 years, relentlessly defending public and private clients in matters that stand to critically impact their lives and livelihoods: from discrimination and harassment to wrongful termination, breach of contract to insurance coverage disputes, premises liability to wrongful death.

Roberts is a leading employment defense trial lawyer and a persuasive advocate for his clients who range from global corporations and financial institutions to municipalities and individuals. He handles cases from pre-litigation all the way through trial, in both state and federal courts. He assists his clients in navigating complex and sometimes challenging employment scenarios that may garner public attention while simultaneously minimizing risk and addressing concerns beyond just monetary impact. Roberts also has an excellent track record when it comes to defending cases at trial.



BENAZEER (BENNY) ROSHAN
*Chair, Trusts and Probate Litigation Group
Greenberg Glusker LLP*

Benazeer “Benny” Roshan chairs Greenberg Glusker’s Trusts and Probate Litigation Group. Roshan’s practice focuses on litigation surrounding substantial trusts and estates, including conservatorships. For over 18 years, she has successfully represented a wide range of fiduciaries and beneficiaries in disputes involving trusts, fiduciary appointments, accountings, removal, and surcharge actions.

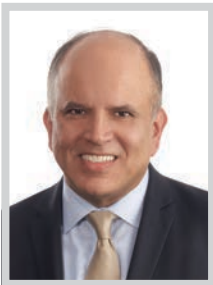
Roshan is a thought leader in her area, presenting topics such as “Conservatorship Primer: A Case Study of the Britney Spears Conservatorship” and authoring many articles, including “Best Practices Guide for Fiduciaries and Their Representatives” and “View from the Bench” with the Honorable Reva Goetz, both published by the American Bar Association, Trusts & Estates Litigation Committee. Roshan successfully represented a group of trust beneficiaries before the 9th Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel on the issue of whether bankruptcy debt of the beneficiaries’ parent impacted their contingent beneficial interest in their family trust.



JERRY RUIZ
*Shareholder
Frost Brown Todd AlvaradoSmith, LLP*

Jerry Ruiz began his legal career as deputy legislative counsel working on public school finance matters with the California Legislature for two years before relocating to Texas to work on real estate and corporate matters as an associate attorney in a small business law firm. He then returned to California to handle real estate and business transactions with a Stockton law firm for eight years. In 1993, Ruiz moved to Los Angeles to join a large diversified financial institution’s law department supporting its corporate real estate group.

Ruiz returned to private law practice 14 years ago with AlvaradoSmith, where he is co-chair of the firm’s Real Estate Practice and is active in community and economic development initiatives across Southern California. He recently negotiated and documented a 10-year \$10 million renewal of a lease of office and industrial premises in the Valley for a global leader in connected car technology.




RAUL SALINAS
*Partner in Charge
Frost Brown Todd AlvaradoSmith*

Raul Salinas serves as the partner-in-charge in Los Angeles of Frost Brown Todd AlvaradoSmith. Salinas is a bilingual Los Angeles-based lawyer representing private sector clients in a number of industry segments including middle-market and Fortune 500 corporations, and multi-national Latin American-based companies. Salinas is lead counsel on behalf of a number of institutional clients in employment, health care, telecommunication and public entity representation. Over the course of his career as a trial attorney, Salinas has appeared in federal and state courts throughout California, including the 9th Circuit Court of Appeal, and the California Supreme Court.

As a trusted advisor to senior corporate executives, Salinas is equally comfortable in the courtroom as he is in the boardroom involving governance issues as general counsel. He helps navigate clients to avoid potential litigation pitfalls, and to resolve potentially costly matters through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

大成 DENTONS



Congratulations to **Tania Moyron** on being named to *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2023 Leaders of Influence: **Minority Attorneys.**

We salute Tania’s leadership and achievements, and embrace the contributions of all our diverse partners and counsel.

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We congratulate

Rachael Hiatt & Serineh Baghdasarian

on their selection to the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2023 "Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys."



Rachael Hiatt



Serineh Baghdasarian

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JUSTIN SANDERS

Founding Partner and Co-Managing Partner
Sanders Roberts LLP

Justin H. Sanders is the founding and co-managing partner of Sanders Roberts LLP. His practice focuses on business litigation, general liability defense and criminal investigations involving medical professionals. He represents Fortune 100 corporations, businesses and individuals in an array of litigation matters, including general commercial matters, breach of contract and fiduciary duty claims, catastrophic accidents, negligence, misrepresentation, fraud and criminal investigations. He is known as a forceful trial lawyer and a detailed deposition taker. Some of his clients include Ford Motor Company, Morgan Stanley, Southern California Edison, Honda Finance, and the City of Los Angeles.

Sanders has tried multiple cases to jury verdicts in federal and state court on behalf of Fortune 100 corporations and individual clients. For example, Sanders successfully represented the first Latina neurosurgeon in the history of the State of California in a licensing dispute before the Court of Appeal for the State of California.

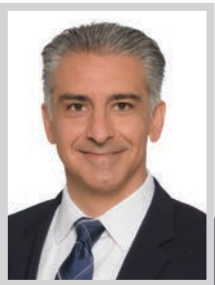


MISTY SANFORD

Partner; Chair, West Coast Real Estate
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Misty Sanford is a partner in the Real Estate Department in Willkie's Los Angeles office, serving as chair of the West Coast Real Estate practice. Her work involves all aspects of real estate, with an emphasis on public/private partnerships, complex mixed-use developments, purchase and sale, finance, joint ventures, environmental issues, land use, leasing and workouts, which allows her to assist with the full lifecycle of real estate assets.

Whether leading transformational real estate transactions or creating innovative diversity programs, Sanford is a mover and shaker in real estate law and the legal community. Sanford's work includes representation of leading institutional investors, private equity firms, developers, multinational corporations, REITs, foundations, non-profits and individual entrepreneurs. Clients turn to her with their most complex transactions. Sanford continues to work on the \$2 billion Mission Rock project in San Francisco representing a joint venture between Tishman Speyer and the San Francisco Giants.



ARTIN SHAVERDIAN

Partner, Eminent Domain & Valuation Group
Nossaman

Artin Shaverdian is widely recognized as an expert in California in real estate, eminent domain and inverse condemnation matters. He represents public agencies, business entities and individuals in commercial and real estate related disputes, including valuation-related litigation.

Shaverdian represents public agencies as lead counsel on the acquisition of thousands of parcels of real property. He works on some of the largest public works projects shaping California's infrastructure, including roads, highways, utilities, grade separations, rail projects, schools, flood basins and redevelopment projects. Agencies regularly invite him to host seminars for their in-house counsel and real estate staff on legal issues in the right-of-way industry and to assist in streamlining their precondemnation planning including relocation. He has had significant success representing property and business owners in eminent domain/inverse condemnation litigation. On their behalf, he has pursued claims against multiple governmental agencies across California recovering millions of dollars.



STACEY SHIN

Partner
Kaufman Legal Group

Stacey Shin joined Kaufman Legal Group in 2010. Shin advises candidates, office-holders, labor unions, ballot measure committees, major donors, independent expenditure committees and other political organizations on compliance with federal, state and local campaign finance, election and governmental ethics laws. She also counsels lobbying organizations and lobbying firms on compliance with lobbying laws.

Shin previously served as legal counsel to then-chairman Steven T. Walther of the Federal Election Commission, where she advised on policy and enforcement matters coming before the Commission. Before that, she spent two years as policy counsel at the Commission, drafting federal campaign finance regulations and advisory opinions implementing the Federal Election Campaign Act and the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2001. During her time in Washington, D.C., Shin also worked as a legal intern for the U.S. House Judiciary Committee, U.S. Senator Tom Harkin, and in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Justice Department.

Congratulations **Jesús Torres** for being named to *The Los Angeles Business Journal's* **2023 Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys.** Thank you for all you do to advance diversity and inclusion in the legal industry!

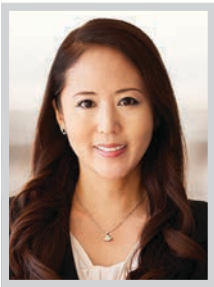
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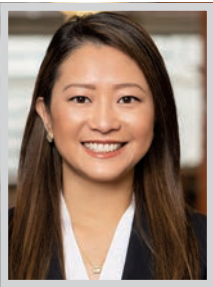
LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



MIWA SHODA
Partner; Co-Chair, Japan Practice
Jenner & Block LLP

Born and raised in Japan, Miwa Shoda passed the country’s bar exam when the passing rate was only 2.5%. She began her career at one of Japan’s premier law firms and then traveled to the US for her LL.M degree, and passed the California and New York bar exams in her second language. Shoda then made groundbreaking transition from a visiting attorney to associate and then partner.

Shoda has been pivotal in representing Japanese companies facing legal issues in the US. The Japanese legal system is fundamentally different from the US. Japan is a civil law country, as opposed to common law. This, coupled with the language barrier, presents challenges for Japanese companies navigating US legal issues. Calling on her international education and understanding of the business cultural differences, Shoda has a strong ability to articulate complicated legal concepts and strategies across practice areas in complex litigation and sophisticated transactions.



ALICE CHEN SMITH
Managing Partner
YOKA | SMITH, LLP

Alice Chen Smith is the Managing Partner of YOKA | SMITH, LLP and is an experienced litigator who has successfully tried many cases to verdict. Her primary focus is litigating catastrophic personal injury cases, products liability and business litigation matters. She practices throughout the State of California, including Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, San Diego, San Francisco, Alameda, San Mateo, Fresno, and Santa Clara Counties in trial and appellate courts.

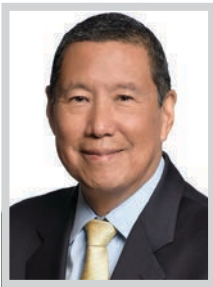
Smith was inducted into the American Board of Trial Advocates as a member of the Los Angeles Chapter in 2019, and was appointed as an Executive Committee member in 2022. She is an elected member of the Board of Directors for Los Angeles County for Association of Southern California Defense Counsel. She has served on the Los Angeles County Bar Association President’s Advisory Committee on Women in the Legal Profession since 2018.



DAVID SONG
Associate
Nixon Peabody LLP

David Song is a public finance attorney in the Los Angeles office of Nixon Peabody LLP. In his practice, he represents states, counties, cities, school districts, large nonprofit organizations, underwriters, and borrowers on a variety of infrastructure and capital improvement finance transactions. He has worked with some of the largest issuers in California, such as the State of California, the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

In Song’s work, many of the bond financings support large affordable housing and homelessness in Los Angeles and nationally. One recent transaction for the City of Los Angeles involved its 2022 General Obligation Bonds, designated as Social Bonds. The Social Bonds provide safe, clean, affordable housing for the homeless and those in danger of becoming homeless, such as battered women and their children, veterans, seniors, foster youth, and the disabled.



BRIAN SUN
Partner
Norton Rose Fulbright

Brian Sun is a seasoned trial lawyer experienced in complex business litigation, white collar criminal defense and multi-jurisdictional investigation matters. A fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Sun’s litigation practice covers a range of areas, including matters involving unfair competition, intellectual property, commercial bribery, public corruption, entertainment, shareholder rights, contractual disputes, fraud and cross-border issues.

Sun’s clients include Fortune 500 institutions and high-profile individuals embroiled in high-stakes litigation. Over the years, he has represented such clients as Hon Hai Precision Co. (Foxconn), Mattel, Emerson Electric Co., Air China, EFG Bank AG, Sanofi-Aventis, the City of Los Angeles and a number of individuals, including former Orange County Sheriff Michael Carona and Dr. Wen Ho Lee in his successful civil lawsuit. Sun served as a deputy general counsel to the Christopher Commission, which recommended sweeping reforms of the Los Angeles Police Department in the wake of the Rodney King incident.

YOKA | SMITH



YOKA | SMITH congratulates
our firm’s managing partner,
ALICE CHEN SMITH
on being selected as one of the
Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys
by the Los Angeles Business Journal.

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Willkie congratulates
partners **David Hong** and
Misty Sanford



Los Angeles Business Journal’s
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HANNAH SWEISS
Partner
Fisher Phillips

As a partner at Fisher Phillips, Hannah Sweiss serves as a key advisor to employers. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, she was an integral member of the firm’s COVID-19 Taskforce and was a go-to resource for employers. Sweiss continued to stay up-to-speed on the ever-changing legal landscape employers faced. She has been a go-to source for reporters and presented over 150 webinars and contributed to at least 60 COVID-19 subject-matter articles. She continues to serve the community by providing timely information on changing federal, state and local laws and continues to be a trusted resource internally and externally. She is continuously tapped to present and provide insights in articles and publications on employment law topics.

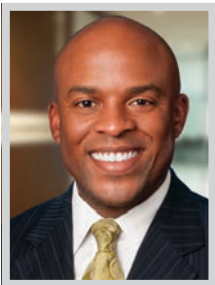
Sweiss is also a trusted litigator and focuses on defending employers in complex class action wage and hour lawsuits, as well as representative lawsuits brought under California’s Private Attorneys General Act.



DOMINGO TAN
Partner
Wood Smith Henning & Berman, LLP

Domingo Tan joined WSHB over 20 years ago. As one of the firm’s earliest hires, Tan has long enjoyed integral leadership roles within the firm. A partner in the firm’s Los Angeles office since 2009, and a defined equity partner since 2021, Tan enjoys a broad range of experience in multiple areas of law, including construction, business litigation, complex torts, transportation, product liability, habitability, insurance and toxic torts. He is widely sought out by clients throughout the nation and is considered the “go to” partner for complex matters involving construction and real estate throughout California. He regularly represents some of the nation’s largest homebuilders and is known for his creative approach to litigation, cutting edge strategies and savvy negotiation skills.

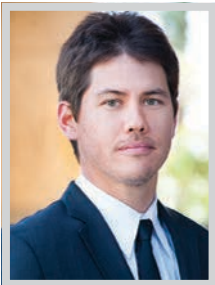
Known as a top-rated construction litigation attorney in Los Angeles, Tan is also a Certified Litigation Management Professional and a sought after public speaker.



DELMAR S. THOMAS
Partner
Yukevich I Cavanaugh

Delmar Thomas is an experienced trial lawyer who has also been successful in briefing and arguing key motions in state and federal courts across the country. Thomas’ effective advocacy skills have led to significant victories through summary judgment, appellate motions, and various post-trial matters in high exposure cases.

While Thomas is often viewed as a relentless advocate for his clients, he is also respected for his negotiation skills and pragmatic approach to alternative dispute resolution. Thomas has effectively negotiated favorable settlements for his clients through mediation, mandatory settlement conferences, and, in some cases, voluntary settlement. Thomas’ practice currently focuses on litigation, with extensive experience in product liability, construction defect, premises liability and general negligence. His practice has expanded to entertainment litigation, insurance coverage, general negligence, and other complex litigation matters. He is active in the Los Angeles community, focused on increasing educational opportunities for students of color.



JASON TOKORO
Partner
Miller Barondess, LLP

Jason Tokoro is an accomplished trial lawyer with significant victories for both plaintiffs and defendants. He obtained a \$120 million settlement on behalf of LA County against SoCalGas stemming from the Aliso Canyon gas leak. He also spearheaded LA County’s enforcement of Governor Newsom’s COVID-19 emergency health orders and defended lawsuits challenging these orders, including contact-tracing, stay-at-home, and indoor service restrictions. He secured TROs against the Cities of Norwalk and Bell Gardens for refusing to cooperate with Project Roomkey, Governor Newsom’s program enacted to book homeless individuals into hotels during the pandemic.

Tokoro won a summary judgment on behalf of LA County in a FLSA class action lawsuit relating to the State’s IHSS program, in which plaintiffs sought nearly \$50 million – which ended up being named the Daily Journal’s “Top Defense Verdict” of 2020. Tokoro is also a mentor to the firm’s young lawyers.



We applaud **Will Delgado** on his selection to *The Los Angeles Business Journal’s* 2023 Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys.

“If you really want to have a diverse and inclusive organization, you must bake it into the DNA itself.” — Will Delgado

- U.S. News & World Report “Best Law Firms” - 2023*
- California Lawyers Association “Excellence in Diversity Award” - 2022*
- Chambers and Partners “Outstanding US Law Firm for Diversity & Inclusion”- 2021*
- NAMWOLF’s “Law Firm MVP” - 2020*

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JESÚS TORRES

Partner
Andrade Gonzalez LLP

Jesús Torres’s legal practice includes litigating and trying catastrophic personal injury and wrongful death matters. He has over 20 years of experience in the automotive litigation space, having handled personal injury and economic loss product liability matters, consumer class actions in state court consolidated proceedings, multidistrict litigation, and litigation-related automotive warranty claims. His experience includes working for companies such as Toyota, Honda, Volkswagen, Nissan, Ford, Kia, Hyundai, Walmart, DuPont/Corteva, and Monsanto, among others. He also worked for U-Haul International, Inc., and Johnson & Johnson talc supplier Imerys as national counsel.

Torres has successfully represented clients in manufacturer defects, design defects, and failure to warn lawsuits that resulted in catastrophic injuries and wrongful deaths; premises liability matters involving dangerous defective designs of parking lots and crosswalks involving pedestrian vs. vehicle accidents; and toxic tort cases involving individuals exposed to chemicals.



LOUISE TRUONG

Partner
Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP

Louise Truong has become the go-to labor and employment lawyer for some of the biggest names and brands in Hollywood. Throughout her career, Truong has represented virtually every major player in the media and entertainment industry, securing favorable resolutions for clients such as CBS and Red Bull despite contentious litigation.

When she’s not defending her clients, Truong regularly provides counseling on mitigating risk and advice on best practices for employment policies and procedures. Truong effortlessly juggles mentorship and pro bono work, and she goes above and beyond her day-to-day work by consistently bringing in new business for the firm and helping her partners wherever she can. She recently represented Netflix in a discrimination and retaliation lawsuit brought by well-known comedian, Mo’Nique Hicks. Truong and the MSK team brought the case to a favorable resolution when Hicks agreed to end all litigation in June 2022.



ALBERT VALENCIA

Partner
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP

Albert Valencia is a partner and chair of Ervin Cohen & Jessup’s Real Estate Department. His practice is focused on real estate and related 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 commercial, office, retail, multi-family, 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. Prior to practicing law, Valencia was a business consultant for the global consulting firms of Arthur Andersen and Deloitte Consulting.



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.

Wang 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 district court then enhanced the amount of damages by 100%, awarding Wang’s client total damages of over \$15 million. On June 3, 2022, after an oral argument in which Wang argued for his client, the appellee, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit issued a precedential opinion, affirming the verdict in favor of Wang’s client on all grounds. In another recent case, Wang was 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.



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* **2023 Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys.**



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Burke proudly celebrates partner

ELISABETH FRATER

being named to the Los Angeles Business Journal’s

2023 LEADERS OF INFLUENCE



Elisabeth is one of Burke’s most high performing trial attorneys, having represented clients in over 130 jury trials.

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LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



TOM WATSON
Partner
Steptoe & Johnson LLP

Thomas Watson is a partner at the international law firm of Steptoe & Johnson LLP. Watson focuses his practice on the trial and arbitration of complex, often bet-the-company, matters. What sets him apart is the creative approach he brings to solving complex legal issues, an approach that has brought him clients ranging from start-ups, to established local companies, to some of the largest publicly traded companies in the world. They trust him with their problems, which range from a few million to hundreds of millions in dispute.

Watson has a particular emphasis on energy, financial, bankruptcy, human rights, cross-border, and international disputes. Notably, although he is based in Los Angeles, Watson represents clients from Los Angeles but also from all over the world, including from Europe and Asia. Watson also has deep experience litigating whistleblower claims under the False Claims Act.



JOO WEBB
Partner
Steptoe & Johnson LLP

Joo Cha Webb litigates a variety of claims in the areas of environmental toxic tort, and commercial litigation. Webb's environmental practice focuses on the defense of energy companies, manufacturers, distributors, and industrial users of a variety of consumer and industrial products against claims involving per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), benzene, organic solvents, silica, aluminum, lead, formaldehyde, and various other substances.

Currently, Webb's practice is focused on defending claims involving PFAS, a class of chemicals that has gained nationwide attention in recent years. She serves as one of the lead counsel for Arkema Inc., who has been sued in a number of lawsuits involving alleged PFAS exposures. As one of Arkema's lead counsel, Webb is responsible for day-to-day management of over two dozen other matters involving PFAS venued in the state of New Jersey. Webb is instrumental in developing and implementing Arkema's defenses in all matters involving alleged PFAS exposures.



NANA WILBERFORCE
Partner
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

Nana Wilberforce is a key member of WilmerHale's Regulatory and Government Affairs Practice. Wilberforce has earned a stellar reputation in antitrust and competition from her extensive investigation, transactional and litigation work. Specializing in price-fixing investigations and merger clearance, she has helped clients—including some of the nation's largest, best-known and industry-leading companies—navigate the US Department of Justice's Antitrust Division's Leniency Program in cartel enforcement matters, counseled clients through changes to enforcement priorities including no-poach agreements and interlocking directorates, and worked to secure merger clearance for transactions across a range of industries.

Wilberforce's notable public matters include representing a major natural gas company in DOJ investigation of leasing practices; representing an auto parts manufacturer in navigating investigations by the DOJ and the European Commission; and representing a financial institution in a class action.



BART H. WILLIAMS
Partner
Proskauer Rose LLP

Bart Williams is one of the nation's most sought-after trial lawyers. A leader within his firm, Williams is a member of Proskauer Rose's seven-member Executive Committee and also serves as head of Proskauer's Los Angeles office. A strategic, diligent and persuasive litigator with a wealth of experience across commercial litigation, white collar criminal defense and internal corporate investigations, Williams is equally expert at counseling clients on the management of their most complex litigation crises and trying their cases before juries and judges. He frequently is called in just months or even weeks before a trial in order to deliver the win.

A recent notable representation was his work as lead trial counsel for Gilead Sciences in various upcoming California state and federal product liability actions brought by 20,000 plaintiffs related to Gilead's HIV prevention and treatment drugs. He also represents Monsanto in mass tort litigation regarding the herbicide Roundup.



DAVID GRAELER
Chair
Litigation & Real Estate



ARTIN SHAVERDIAN
Partner
Real Estate

Congratulations David & Artin
on being recognized as
Minority Leaders of Influence
by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*.

Nossaman's commitment to a diverse and inclusive environment is rooted in our core values. We believe an inclusive environment and consideration of diverse perspectives are crucial to creating the ideal workplace.



We congratulate our partner
Louise Truong,
and the other honorees,
for being named among the
2023 Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys
by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*



Louise Truong
Partner, Los Angeles

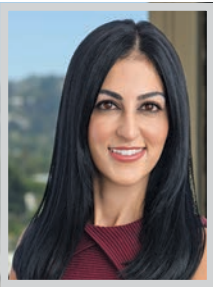
LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



JASON WILSON
Partner
Willenken LLP

Jason Wilson joined Willenken LLP shortly after the firm’s formation in 2002. Wilson is an Asian American partner 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, Wilson is a winning force in the courtroom. He draws on a unique background that combines substantial trial experience (including trying 15 civil matters and one criminal matter) with deep appellate experience (including over 25 appellate matters with numerous appellate oral arguments—including before the California Supreme Court). Wilson’s extensive experience, in both trial litigation and appeals, provides significant advantages to his leading clients, including Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas), Walgreens, Starbucks, Hilton, and McDonald’s; just to name a few.



PANTEA YASHAR
Partner
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP

Pantea Yashar advises on, litigates, and resolves a wide range of real estate and business disputes, with a focus on real property and projects in Southern California for large-scale commercial and residential landlords and developers. From protecting their rights to negotiating resolutions to contentious challenges involving developers, property owners, commercial lease holders, and buyers and sellers in the nation’s most expensive property markets, Yashar adds tremendous value with her strategic handling of complex matters.

Yashar manages the full spectrum of her clients’ legal needs and obligations. Yashar’s creatively assertive resolution style centers around positioning clients purposefully from the outset and powerful client advocacy. Appreciated for her market savvy and big-picture vision, She has experience with all property types—shopping centers, mixed-use, retail, residential, industrial, and office buildings.



STEVE YOO
Partner
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Steve Yoo is a partner in Kirkland’s Investment Funds Group, where he focuses on the structuring, formation and operation of private investment funds. Over the course of his career at Kirkland, Yoo has worked with leading private equity fund sponsors in connection with all facets of their business. He defines the modern private funds lawyer that would be almost unrecognizable to what was considered the norm even a decade ago – providing creative ways beyond traditional flagship funds to raise capital, while simultaneously seeking innovative liquidity solutions for older funds.

Yoo is spearheading the evolution of the fund formation space in Los Angeles by redefining what it means to be a private funds lawyer, acting as a true strategic partner to his clients by adapting with them as soon as they want to evolve by sourcing and creating opportunities that are already being looked to as industry precedents.



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.

Before law school, Dr. Zhong was a senior research scientist at General Electric’s Global Research Center in Niskayuna, New York. Her engineering and research background enables 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 a \$300 million jury award for PanOptis in a patent suit against Apple.

California State Bar Launches DEI Leadership Seal Program

In an effort to recognize California legal employers who take vital steps to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), the State Bar of California announced earlier this month the launch of its new DEI Leadership Seal Program.

“Promoting diversity and inclusion in the legal profession is an important part of the State Bar’s mission,” said Leah Wilson, State Bar executive director. “Our latest Diversity Report Card showed us where DEI improvements in the legal profession are occurring and where far too many disparities still exist in California. The State Bar’s DEI Leadership Seal Program encourages real action that can move us toward the ultimate goal: a more inclusive legal profession that reflects the diversity of our state.”

The State Bar’s 2022 Diversity Report Card found that the demographics of California’s licensed attorneys do not reflect the diversity of the state’s population. To support greater DEI in the workplace, the State Bar published “Calls to Action” that legal employers and attorneys can implement. The DEI Leadership Seal Program utilizes these Calls to Action as the centerpiece of this effort.

Legal employers who commit to meet at least five of the 10 stated DEI Leadership Seal Program Action Items will be recognized as participating employers. Participating employers will have one year after applying to the program to implement the Action Items. Employers that implement at least 5 of the 10 Action Items will be recognized as Bronze-level recipients on the State Bar’s DEI webpage, enabling them to carry the DEI Leadership Seal on their own materials

and websites. Those that implement at least seven Action Items will receive Silver-level recognition. The highest level of recognition is Gold-level for those legal employers that implement at least nine Action Items.

Beyond overseeing the DEI Leadership Seal Program, the State Bar will also be an active participant, with a commitment to earn Gold Seal status. The State Bar will share its own journey in obtaining Gold Seal status as an example for other employers.

“While the State Bar has actively worked to increase DEI throughout the organization for some time now, Board and staff leadership recognize that we can do more, and more importantly, the State Bar can show others how to follow our lead,” said Wilson. “The goal is to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal field, and for us that means nothing less than Leadership Gold Seal Status will suffice.”

The Board of Trustees Audit Committee



will monitor and oversee the State Bar’s pursuit of Gold level status.

Participating legal providers could include an entire organization—such as a nonprofit legal aid provider or a local law firm—or a smaller unit or department within an organization, such as an in-house legal department of a corporation. A nationwide law firm can choose to implement the Action Items and receive the DEI Leadership Seal for their entire firm, or for only their California offices.

In future years, DEI Leadership Seal Action Items will change to encourage employers to commit to additional, more ambitious steps toward diversity, equity, and inclusion.

To be considered in the first cohort of DEI Leadership Seal recipients, interested parties must apply by March 31, 2023.

Learn more at calbar.ca.gov.

We applaud our Partners Jerry J. Ruiz and Raúl F. Salinas for being named two of LA's Most Influential Minority Attorneys.

Through their experience, strong leadership, and iconic presence, Jerry and Raúl have continued to advance the role of people of color in the legal industry and the business world.



Jerry J. Ruiz

Partner | Los Angeles, CA



Raúl F. Salinas

Partner | Los Angeles, CA

Following our recent merger with California-based AlvaradoSmith, the firm's more than 575 attorneys across 16 offices provide unparalleled service to meet clients' needs, delivering the insights and solutions available only from a diverse group of professionals.

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