

# LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: Litigators & Trial Attorneys



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

We've alphabetically compiled this lineup of superb litigation specialists, along with information about their careers, practice and relevant recent successes they've achieved. Congratulations to the attorneys who made our class of '23.

*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.*

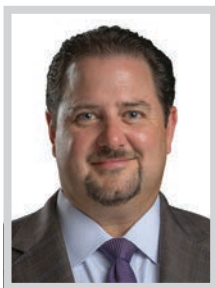
## LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS &amp; TRIAL ATTORNEYS

**CLIFTON W. 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.

**SEAN ANDRADE**

*Founding Partner  
Andrade Gonzalez LLP*

Sean Andrade, managing partner of Andrade Gonzalez, has become the “go-to” insurance coverage counsel for the nation’s second largest school district, Los Angeles Unified School District, playing a critical role in leading the district through the recent chapter of numerous difficult and complex, multi-plaintiff tort matters and the subsequent high-stakes efforts to obtain insurance coverage for those same multi-million litigations. He has led the defense in multi-plaintiff cases and the plaintiff-side of the insurance recovery efforts in cases involving hundreds of millions of dollars.

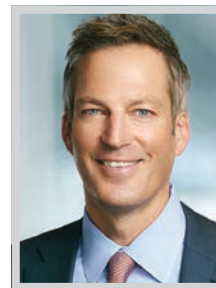
Having handled insurance coverage cases for more than 15 years, Andrade has developed an expertise in all types of commercial insurance, successfully handling all types of liability claims issues and matters involving intellectual property, the sale of copyrighted patterns in the fashion industry, officers and directors coverage and failed solar arrays on satellites in space.

**JEAN-CLAUDE (J.C.) ANDRÉ**

*Partner  
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP*

As co-chair of BCLP’s Appellate and Supreme Court Group, J.C. André has strengthened the firm’s appellate practice and reputation. Prior to BCLP, André was a partner and head of Sidley Austin’s Supreme Court and Appellate Practice. He served as a law clerk to the Honorable A. Andrew Hauk of the US District Court for the Central District of California and the Honorable Harry Pregerson of the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

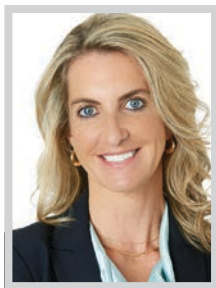
André splits his two decades of active practice—predominantly as an appellate lawyer, and primarily in the federal courts—between government service and the private sector. He has personally briefed and/or argued hundreds of distinct appeals before the US Supreme Court, various US Circuit Courts of Appeals, the California Supreme Court and the California Court of Appeal, including dozens of briefs and three arguments before the US Supreme Court.

**RYAN BAKER**

*Co-Founding Partner  
Waymaker LLP*

One of California’s elite trial and appellate lawyers, Waymaker LLP founding partner Ryan Baker wins trial verdicts and appeals in high-profile and high-stakes cases across the country. Skilled with cases involving intellectual property and innovative or disruptive technology, Baker built Waymaker (formerly Baker Marquart LLP) into one of the nation’s premiere trial and litigation boutiques. The firm is known for success in litigation at the intersection of innovative technology and complex legal issues.

Waymaker, which Baker managed from inception, has a stellar record of achievement at both trials and appeals. The firm Baker has built over the past 17 years is widely recognized for its excellence in many areas, with a particular focus on complex litigation, intellectual property and fintech/cybersecurity. Baker successfully guided Waymaker through the turmoil of the pandemic and in 2021 the firm changed its name to reflect its growing diversity and commitment to a collaborative culture.

**KOREN (KORI) BELL**

*Partner, Litigation  
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP*

Koren (Kori) Bell is a partner in Willkie’s Litigation Department, where she is a member of the White-Collar Defense, Strategic Motions & Appeals, and Investigations & Enforcement Practices. A nationally recognized litigator and former federal public defender, Bell’s diverse practice focuses on white-collar criminal defense, complex commercial litigation, government and internal investigations, and regulatory enforcement matters.

Bell has been lead counsel in some of the nation’s most complex and highly-publicized trials and appeals—including in a case she argued before the US Supreme Court. She has handled high-stakes matters for prominent individuals, public entities and private companies across a range of industries—from entertainment to finance, technology, pharmaceutical and sports. Her successful representations span cross-border business disputes to crisis management and all manner of criminal matters. She is known as a tenacious and creative advocate and has earned praise from judges for her courtroom skill.

**BRAD BRIAN**

*Firm Chair and Partner  
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP*

Brad D. Brian, the first elected chair of Munger, Tolles & Olson, is recognized as one of the top trial lawyers globally. A fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, Brian represents some of the largest companies in Los Angeles and throughout the country in their most important matters.

Brian’s practice spans a wide range of industries and includes a ‘who’s who’ roster of clients, such as PG&E, MGM Resorts, Southern California Edison, Activision, Jacobs Engineering, Bechtel, Transocean, Sotera Health, Sterigenics, Fortress Investment Group, the Kobe Bryant Estate and some of the largest law firms in the country. Brian has sustained a career as one of the world’s top trial lawyers because he goes beyond the typical outside counsel, becoming fully immersed in his clients’ teams and meeting their needs as a true business partner.

**MICHAEL K. BROWN**

*Partner  
Reed Smith LLP*

Michael K. Brown is a partner at Reed Smith and has been a “go to” trial lawyer, litigator and strategist who has helped shape drug and device law, particularly in the mass tort and medical device federal preemption context for more than 40 years.

Brown is renowned for handling complex product liability and commercial cases, including class actions, mass torts, MDLs and unfair competition and false advertising claims. Clients for whom he has had significant roles include Pfizer, Merck, GSK, Medtronic and C.R. Bard/Becton Dickinson. Currently as co-national coordinating and trial counsel for Bard in the hernia mesh litigation, Brown is handling an MDL pending in the Southern District of Ohio with more than 20,000 cases. Bard’s first bellwether trial in the Ohio MDL began in 2021, with Brown successfully trying the case for the defendants, and the jury rejecting all product liability claims and awarding zero damages.

**MORGAN CHU**

*Partner; Chair, Litigation Group  
Irell & Manella LLP*

Morgan Chu has secured many of the world’s largest—and in some cases precedent-setting—verdicts, judgments and settlements, resulting in actual payments totaling more than \$9 billion. His decades-long career stands apart for its impact and influence. Defense representations have comprised an equal share of his career, and he has scored a series of wins that have been named top defense verdicts of the year.

In just the past year, Chu has obtained nearly \$3.3 billion in awards for VLSI Technology in patent trials against Intel involving microprocessor technology. In November 2022, he convinced a jury to award VLSI \$948 million plus running royalties, and in a separate case in April 2022, he secured a \$2.3 billion judgment for VLSI—the largest patent judgment in US history. His strategy included ensuring that technical issues surrounding the infringement were easily understandable for jurors.



**Congratulations**

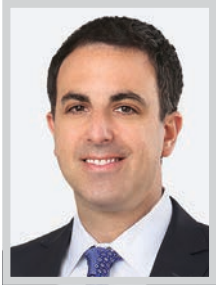


**DOUGLAS J. DIXON**  
**ALLISON LIBEU**

**Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys**  
*—Los Angeles Business Journal*

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## LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS &amp; TRIAL ATTORNEYS

**NOEL COHEN**

*Los Angeles Office Managing Partner;  
Commercial Litigation Vice Chair  
Polsinelli*

Noel Cohen is a shareholder at Polsinelli – a nationally recognized law firm with more than 1,000 attorneys in 22 offices across the country. As managing partner of the firm's Los Angeles office (one of its largest) and vice chair of the Commercial Litigation practice, Cohen is a proven leader and excels at combining his talent as a litigator with his ability to lead across different practices and grow the Los Angeles office.

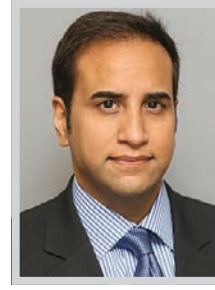
In his litigation practice, Cohen works closely with clients to build relationships and manage their legal needs both in and out of the courtroom. He combines strong advocacy skills, litigation experience and an understanding of clients' business goals to deliver results in high profile and novel cases through settlement, arbitration and, when necessary, trial. His litigation practice focuses on complex commercial litigation and consumer class action defense.

**ROBYN CROWTHER**

*Regional Managing Partner, California  
Steptoe & Johnson LLP*

Robyn Crowther is a trial lawyer focusing on commercial disputes. She represents individuals, multinational corporations, municipalities and small businesses. Crowther has experience in provisional and preliminary remedies, pleading attacks and motions for summary adjudication and summary judgment. Clients rely on her strategic and trial skills across a variety of practice areas when their matters call for a first-chair trial lawyer who uses all of the litigation tools to pursue favorable resolutions.

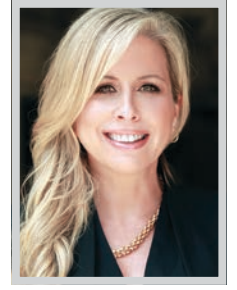
Crowther's matters have included professional negligence disputes, including the defense of an AmLaw 50 law firm in several different disputes. Crowther's client was granted summary judgment in three such cases and she defended those orders on appeal. She has also represented plaintiffs asserting professional negligence claims against attorneys and accountants and her well-rounded understanding of the landscape helps her develop creative and effective approaches to those cases.

**JON DARYANANI**

*Partner & Office Managing Partner – Los Angeles  
Perkins Coie LLP*

Jon Daryanani is the managing partner of the Los Angeles office for Perkins Coie, LLP, and a partner with the firm's Labor & Employment practice. He focuses his practice on all aspects of employment and labor litigation and client counseling, including trade secrets and employee mobility litigation. Drawing on his extensive experience, Daryanani represents clients in civil litigation, including class actions and administrative proceedings, involving wage and hour, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wrongful termination and misappropriation of trade secrets claims.

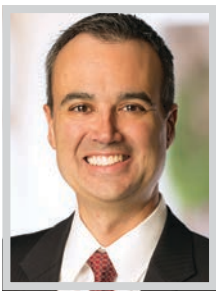
Daryanani routinely partners with his clients to serve a resource and general counsel for all aspects of his clients' business operations. In his advice to employers, which include high-profile clients in business and media, he provides strategic planning on various employment and operational business matters. As a former certified public accountant with a Big Four accounting firm, Daryanani brings a unique insight to his practice and advice to his clients.

**LOURDES De ARMAS**

*Partner & Lead Trial Attorney  
Omega Law Group*

Lourdes De Armas is a partner and lead trial attorney at Omega Law Group. She has devoted her trial practice to protecting those vulnerable to the greed and exploitation of the powers that be — whether they be insurance companies, big business, etc. The strategic and methodical way in which she approaches her cases serve as an inspiration to future generations of lawyers, as well as those who have had the pleasure of knowing her. Throughout her career, she has used her intellect and expertise to advocate for victims of catastrophic personal injury, premises liability, wrongful death, as well as sexual abuse.

De Armas' tenacity and finesse in her work surrounding contractual disputes, class actions and amusement park injury have been assets to her work at Omega Law Group. She continues to help secure million dollar settlements for those wronged by big businesses and provide justice for the firm's clients.

**WILLIAM DELGADO**

*Founding and 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.

**DAVID deRUBERTIS**

*Sole Shareholder and Lead Trial Lawyer  
The deRubertis Law Firm, APC*

David deRubertis is the sole shareholder and lead trial lawyer of the deRubertis Law Firm. As lead counsel, deRubertis last year obtained the largest employment jury verdict in United States history in *Martinez/Page v. SCE/Edison*. One of his clients was awarded over \$422,377,265 and his other client was awarded \$42,200,000. This is also the largest compensatory damage verdict ever in a FEHA case, the largest male victim sexual harassment verdict, and is believed to be the largest jury verdict in California in 2022 for any type of case.

In October 2022, deRubertis obtained a \$2.2 million gross jury verdict in a challenging premises liability personal injury case against Costco involving an "open and obvious" condition in which liability was hotly contested and the highest offer, by CCP 998, was \$650,000 [gross verdict subject to comparative fault reduction of 50%.

**RODNEY S. 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.

**DOUGLAS DIXON**

*Partner  
Hueston Hennigan LLP*

Described by clients as an exceptional attorney who has unbelievable credibility with judges and juries, Doug Dixon navigates complex technological, regulatory and business matters across multiple areas of the law. Clients turn to him whenever they have a frontline legal issue.

In May 2022, Dixon successfully sought a TRO against Google on behalf of Match Group apps, including the popular dating app Tinder, over Google's illegal monopolization and other anticompetitive conduct in the distribution of mobile apps and processing of in-app purchases. Rather than fight the TRO, Google stipulated to the pre-trial relief Match Group sought, preserving the status quo and the apps' ability to operate in the Google Play Store without having to comply with Google's anticompetitive policies while the claims proceed to trial in November 2023. Also, throughout 2022, Dixon continued to represent Southern California Edison against civil claims.





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*Congratulations!*

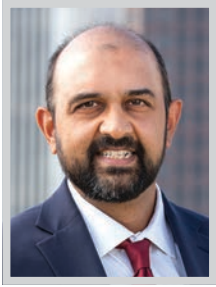
SHAHAB MOSSAVAR-RAHMANI  
LOURDES DE ARMAS



**2023 LEADERS OF INFLUENCE:  
LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS**

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL

## LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS &amp; TRIAL ATTORNEYS

**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.

**ERIC EARLY**

Founding and Managing Partner  
Early Sullivan Wright Gizer & McRae LLP

Eric Early, founding and managing partner of Early Sullivan Wright Gizer & McRae LLP, has earned a national reputation for his representation of Fortune 500 companies, small business entrepreneurs and individuals around America, and has built one of the best and most respected boutique law firms in the nation. He is one of the go-to attorneys for all of the major national title insurance companies including Fidelity National Financial, First American Title Insurance Company and Stewart Title.

Early is also representing a group of concerned Santa Barbara residents against the Santa Barbara Unified School District and Just Communities Central Coast. The case is the first lawsuit in the nation filed against what is now commonly known as critical race theory. Additionally, Early represents coal industry legend Don Blankenship in federal court in West Virginia against the entire spectrum of mainstream media in a landmark defamation action.

**CHRISTOPHER EPPICH**

Partner  
Covington & Burling LLP

Chris Eppich helps clients in the health care and other industries successfully navigate complex litigation challenges from pre-trial to verdict. Eppich co-led a team of Covington lawyers representing McKesson securing a full defense verdict for McKesson in a first-of-its-kind opioid jury trial under Georgia's "Drug Dealer Liability Act." Plaintiffs in the case were seeking more than \$250 million dollars in damages and brought claims against McKesson and other licensed wholesale distributors under Georgia's Drug Dealer Liability Act. The victory followed four weeks of trial with over 60 witnesses and has already resulted in the dismissal of another case under the same theory.

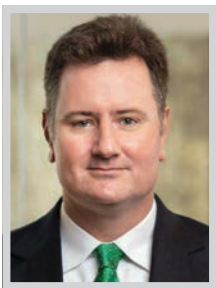
He also co-led a team of Covington lawyers representing McKesson in a three-month federal Bellwether trial resulting in a ruling that the plaintiffs failed to prove that the distributors had faulty controls against the diversion of opioids for illicit use and did not cause the opioid crisis.

**MELVIN L. FELTON, II**

Partner  
Sanders Roberts LLP

Melvin Felton, II is a partner at Sanders Roberts LLP. He represents corporations and individuals in a wide range of employment and business litigation matters. He has extensive experience advising in all stages of litigation, mediation and arbitration, having successfully resolved nearly 500 matters in a variety of different industries, including construction, professional services, retail, finance, healthcare, manufacturing and real estate.

Felton takes a client-centered approach to litigation and advice, focusing on each client's particular sensitivities, culture and bottom line. He takes a personal investment in the success of his clients. Felton serves as outside general counsel for multiple clients and a lead outside counsel for numerous Fortune 500 companies and large municipalities. Recently, Felton obtained full summary judgment on a sexual harassment, gender discrimination, defamation matter, after winning an Anti-SLAPP motion, resulting in a client-victory and reimbursement of attorney's fees.

**ASHLEY FICKEL**

Leader, Financial Services Litigation Practice Group;  
Member  
Dykema Gossett PLLC

Ashley Fickel is the leader of Dykema's Financial Services Litigation Practice Group. When high-profile, high-dollar consumer claims threaten a company's financial, operational, or reputational interests, Fickel steps in to deliver robust, strategic defense. He represents financial institutions, manufacturers and a diverse group of businesses in complex legal disputes. Fickel brings extensive trial experience and sound business judgment to defending financial institutions, automotive and other manufacturers, and a diverse group of businesses facing a broad spectrum of consumer claims and class actions.

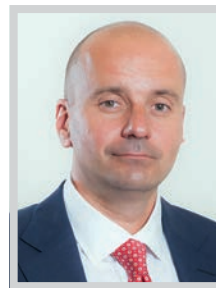
Managing cases from intake through appeal, Fickel leverages his formidable advocacy skills to defend businesses facing individual and class action claims involving consumer financial services, consumer fraud, privacy, products liability, catastrophic injury and complex business disputes. Most recently, Fickel has been defending businesses, including major financial institutions and manufacturers, from various consumer and privacy-based claims.

**MICHAEL FREEDMAN**

Founder and Principal  
The Freedman Firm PC

Michael Freedman has quickly established himself as one of the top criminal defense and trial attorneys of his generation. After serving as a federal prosecutor, he established The Freedman Firm in 2021 and has already grown it to a total of four lawyers. Freedman currently represents numerous high profile clients including Harvey Weinstein, Bill Cosby and Trey Songz.

In 2022, Freedman tried three trials, including winning an acquittal for R. Kelly's former manager in the Southern District of New York, securing no punitive damages for Bill Cosby following a month-long trial, and representing a lawyer in a contempt of court prosecution. Freedman's federal criminal practice currently involves representing Deputy Mayor Ray Chan in the Huizar/City Hall Corruption prosecution, the lead defendant in a headline-grabbing murder for hire and arson prosecution, and several doctors in healthcare fraud prosecutions in Los Angeles and New York.

**SASHA FRID**

Partner  
Miller Barondess, LLP

An accomplished litigator and trial lawyer with significant victories for plaintiffs and defendants, Sasha Frid is one of the founding partners of Miller Barondess. Frid represents Mötley Crüe in a highly-publicized lawsuit against former guitarist Mick Mars. After Mars publicly resigned and was offered a generous compensation package, he sued the band for allegedly forcing him out after 41 years. An arbitration is also pending.

Frid worked on a successful Federal jury defense verdict for Virtual Sonics (cutting-edge technology company specializing in digital music instruments) and its founders, composers Jeremy and Julian Soule. Plaintiffs, former investors Scott and Skyler Mednick, sought millions in compensation. The jury verdict, delivered in less than an hour, wiped out plaintiffs' claims entirely. Frid also represented Peninsula Hotel Beverly Hills against Waldorf-Astoria Hotel Beverly Hills in a more than \$50 million trade secret theft case which settled right before trial under confidential terms.

**STEPHEN GARCIA**

Senior Partner  
Garcia & Artigliere

Representing plaintiffs for nearly 40 years in thousands of elder abuse and nursing home neglect cases, Stephen Garcia has dedicated his career to protecting the interests of the elderly. To date, his efforts have resulted in over \$1.3 billion in settlements and awards that have served to bring at-fault parties to justice. In the past two years alone, he has secured more than \$150 million in verdicts and settlements.

Garcia served as lead counsel in published appellate opinions affecting long-term health care litigation, including *Fenimore v. Regents of University of California* (2016) wherein the Court held that, "[A] violation of staffing regulations may provide a basis for finding neglect. In 2018, the Ninth Circuit affirmed the prevailing notion of *Fenimore*, rejecting improper removal of actions to Federal Court to stymie timely acquisition of justice for elder and infirm adults.



LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



**JULIE GERCHIK**

Partner

Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan & Shapiro LLP

Julie R. F. Gerchik is a highly sought-after complex commercial and business litigator, who regularly represents an enviable roster of domestic and international financial institutions, private equity firms, financial advisory firms, entertainment companies and high-net-worth individuals.

Gerchik is the go-to litigator when high-profile and/or high-net-worth clients have sensitive matters. For example, when a private equity mogul was being extorted; when the CEO of a financial institution discovered a breach involving confidential trade secret information; when a top Hollywood executive called Gerchik late at night because sexual assault allegations were being leveled against a family member; and when one of Hollywood's premier fitness trainers was calling Gerchik daily to seek her advice on how to respond to personal attacks in the press by a well-known music industry heavyweight. She also represents Lindsey Boylan, the first woman to come forward publicly with allegations of sexual harassment against Andrew Cuomo.



**STANLEY GIBSON**

Partner; Chairman, Patent Litigation Group  
Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP

Stan Gibson is an experienced trial lawyer who has focused on high-stakes cases involving complicated technology and mission-critical cases in the entertainment industry. He is the chairman of JMBM's Patent Litigation Group and the publisher of the Patent Lawyer Blog on jmbm.com. Gibson obtained a \$16.7 million award after a six-month arbitration that involved the engineering and design of direct broadcast satellites and satellite launch vehicles.

Gibson tried to a jury *Intraspace v. Lockheed Martin/Loral* in San Jose and obtained a \$8.5 million verdict for the firm's client. With an aptitude for technology and patents, Gibson handles complex cases involving technology in the fields of LCDs, semiconductors, computerized telescopes, automotive design, Internet search engines, exercise equipment and medical devices, among others. Gibson was one of the principal trial lawyers in *Medtronic v. Michelson*, in which his client Dr. Gary Michelson won \$570 million after a multi-month jury trial.



**VALERIE GOO**

Los Angeles Office Managing Partner  
Crowell & Moring LLP

For over two decades, Valerie Goo, managing partner of Crowell & Moring's Los Angeles office, has represented some of the world's leading companies in complex litigation involving trademark infringement, unfair competition, trade secrets, false advertising and consumer class actions. She has tried numerous cases in federal and state courts across the country and holds a successful record in representing clients in commercial litigation and intellectual property matters, including eight- and nine-figure disputes.

Goo currently represents several large companies in fiercely fought intellectual property, commercial disputes and trade secrets cases between competitors. One example of her recent success is her work on behalf of Lockheed Martin. Goo led the Crowell team in a commercial and trade secrets litigation matter, with rulings constituting a complete defense victory in a lawsuit in which plaintiffs sought over \$500 million in alleged damages.



**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.



Linda Kornfeld



Congratulations to Insurance Recovery Partner **Linda Kornfeld** for being recognized in “**Leaders of Influence: Litigators and Trial Attorneys**” by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*.

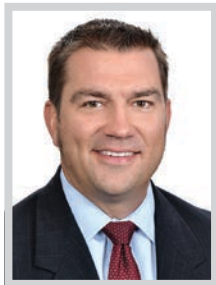
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**GABRIEL GREEN**

Shareholder  
Buchalter

**G**abriel G. Green is a shareholder and a co-chair of Buchalter's Los Angeles office's Litigation Department. Green focuses his practice on intellectual property, franchise, real estate and commercial litigation. He represents corporations and public personalities encountering infringement claims involving musical compositions, video game graphics, sculptural works, jewelry design and literary works. Green also assists clients with registering and protecting their valuable copyrighted material as well as their trade and service marks.

Green's franchise litigation practice derives from his representation of nationally and internationally renowned franchisors with brands in a range of industries. Understanding the valuable aspects of a franchised system, Green has obtained affirmative relief for franchisors against third-parties misappropriating a brand mark and/or a franchised trade secret. In addition, Green also frequently litigates infringement claims involving trademarks, service marks and trade dress, as well as claims for trademark dilution and unfair competition.

**TANYA GREENE**

Partner  
McGuireWoods LLP

**M**cGuireWoods partner Tanya Greene is a respected litigator, an innovative diversity and pro bono champion and an influential mentor. She works on high-profile, complex litigation for some of the most prominent corporations in the world and manages consumer class actions and complex multi-plaintiff litigation in heavily regulated industries, including finance, technology, aerospace and petroleum. She has led successful legal challenges for homeless and displaced Los Angeles residents. She has also dedicated herself to recruiting and mentoring the next generation of women and minority lawyers.

Greene's achievements include a string of extraordinary successes defending Costa Mesa-based fashion and footwear maker Vans and its iconic "OLD SKOOL" trademark from infringement. In April 2022 she represented Vans in a trademark and trade dress infringement and unfair competition lawsuit against Walmart which granted Vans' motion for a preliminary injunction requiring Walmart to remove millions of infringing shoes from its shelves.

**JEFFREY HAMMER**

Partner  
King & Spalding

**J**eff Hammer is an experienced litigator and counselor who focuses on complex commercial litigation matters. His clients regularly rely on him to handle their thorniest problems. Recent success includes his work representing a litigation funding company who the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and New York Attorney General were pursuing for hundreds of millions of dollars, asserting consumer protection claims across multiple jurisdictions. After more than five years of litigation, Hammer and his colleagues from King & Spalding resolved these actions for a mere \$1 penalty in November 2022, with no admission of liability or finding of fault.

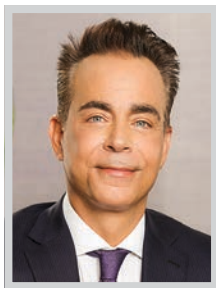
Hammer also represented an affordable housing investor in the Central District of California in a partnership dispute involving a low-income housing tax credit property, prevailing on summary judgment on an issue that is closely watched in the industry and has been litigated in federal and state courts throughout the country.

**WILLMORE (BILL) HOLBROW III**

Shareholder  
Buchalter

**B**ill Holbrow currently serves as the co-chair of Buchalter's Intellectual Property Practice Group as well as the Privacy and Data Security Group, which has grown significantly since Holbrow joined the firm. Over the last 20 years, he has primarily focused his practice on patent, trademark, copyright and trade secret litigation. Holbrow works with clients in a variety of industries, including those involving medical devices, apparel, chemical compounds, computer software, furniture, internet-based applications, LED technology, locks, wheel designs, electronics and hospitality.

Holbrow is well versed in all aspects of alternative dispute resolution, including arbitrations, mediations and focusing on unique strategies to resolve disputes and avoid costly litigation, when appropriate. In addition, he is a member of the patent bar, prepares trademark licensing agreements in a variety of areas including hospitality, prepares and litigates franchise agreements, further prosecutes trademark applications and counsels clients on an array of business and licensing issues.

**ARASH HOMAMPOUR**

Partner & Founder; Trial Attorney  
The Homampour Law Firm

**T**rial attorney Arash Homampour's firm has obtained more than half a billion dollars on behalf of its clients since he founded it in 1993. 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. 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, saw Homampour 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.

**WINSTON HSIAO**

Partner  
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

**W**inston Hsiao is an instrumental member of Skadden's Los Angeles litigation group, as well as its newest partner, having been promoted in April 2023, becoming the first Asian American litigation partner in the history of Skadden's LA office. He has built a track record for his clients of securing prompt dismissals on early dispositive motions in a wide range of litigations, including securities shareholder actions and business tort claims. In addition to being an elite brief writer, Hsiao is a respected and trusted advisor, known for his ability to think multiple steps ahead in litigation, and for his insight and sensitivity to how litigation fits into clients' broader business goals.

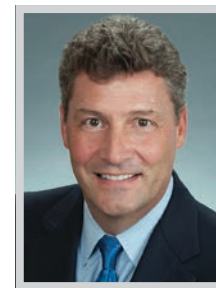
For Centene Corporation, Hsiao secured a dismissal with prejudice of a consolidated derivative action brought by shareholders against certain of Centene's current and former directors and officers at the pleading stage, and successfully opposing a subsequent Eighth Circuit appeal.

**BRADFORD HUGHES**

Member; Co-Member-in-Charge, San Diego Office  
Clark Hill PLC

**B**rad Hughes is an exemplary leader within Clark Hill, the industries he serves, and the community. He has been lauded for his sophisticated and pragmatic approach to the COVID-19 pandemic, guiding hospitality, retail, and commercial businesses to safe, prosperous futures.

Underlying Hughes' success is his awareness that clients think like businesspeople, not like lawyers, and his application of unique skills, knowledge and problem-solving to craft creative and business-focused resolutions. Hughes proactively works with clients to identify, manage, mitigate and educate them on the ever-increasing risks which threaten their business. Hughes surrounds himself with a diverse team of brilliant attorneys who cohesively learn from each other while representing clients in negotiations, settlement discussions or jury trials – that is because he works tirelessly training young litigators to become trial attorneys and client advocates. Hughes serves as lead trial counsel in courts across the US, recovering millions of dollars for clients.

**CHAD HUMMEL**

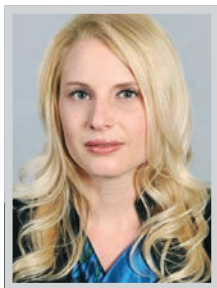
Partner; Co-Leader, National Trial Practice  
Sidley Austin LLP

**C**had Hummel stands out for the exceptional results he has achieved for Sidley's clients in numerous high impact litigations, trials and arbitrations during the contest period. Within the last 12 months alone, he served as lead trial counsel in seven separate arbitrations and trials and won them all – delivering hundreds of millions of dollars in value for his clients.

Hummel was lead trial counsel in a closely followed three-week arbitration in California's bio-tech startup industry. The case arose out of the breakdown of a collaboration between Sidley's client, Lyell Immunopharma and PACT Pharmaceuticals, which attempted to combine resources and find a cure for solid tumor cancers. Hummel's team prevailed in the hotly-contested confidential arbitration in which it was proved that an investment of over \$100 million by Lyell had been achieved in violation of California's securities laws.



LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS

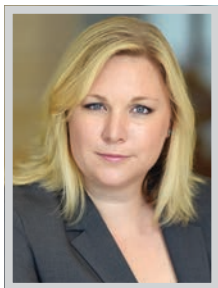


**PERLETTE MICHÈLE JURA**

*Partner; Co-Chair, Transnational Litigation Practice Group and the Environmental Social Governance Group  
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP*

**P**erlette Jura co-founded Gibson Dunn’s Transnational Litigation Practice Group in 2010, which was the first U.S.-based transnational litigation group in the country. She was also one of the first female chairs of such a group. She has been at the cutting edge of the transnational litigation that is shaping the law around the country. Her work has included high-profile disputes like the hotly contested Chevron Ecuador battle, and representing the world’s largest food and beverage companies in transnational supply chain and human rights litigation that has gone all the way to the US Supreme Court.

Jura routinely handles cutting edge cross border disputes for the world’s leading corporations. In the past 18 months, Perlette and the Gibson team secured a victory for Meta, which was wrongly blamed for the atrocities carried out by the military in Myanmar.

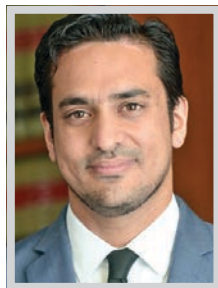


**SARAH KELLY-KILGORE**

*Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office  
Greenberg Gross LLP*

**M**anaging partner of Greenberg Gross LLP’s Los Angeles office, Sarah Kelly-Kilgore has built a reputation as a highly skilled and innovative trial and appellate lawyer with the ability to persuade judges and juries in cases with the highest stakes. Clients have come to know Kilgore for her ingenuity, skill and leadership, with one of the firm’s most high-profile clients praising her as a “Platinum attorney who performs well beyond [her] experience.”

Kelly-Kilgore is co-lead counsel in landmark lawsuits filed for the Trustee of the PG&E Fire Victim Trust to pursue assigned claims against former PG&E vegetation management contractors and major management consulting firms for their responsibility in contributing to the causes of deadly wildfires in Northern California. The Fire Victim Trust will distribute the funds to the 70,000 victims who lost their homes and businesses in the fires.



**AMJAD KHAN**

*Partner  
Brown, Neri, Smith & Khan LLP*

**A**mjad Khan has worked as a commercial litigator for nearly two decades. During this time, he has handled some of the most complex and high stakes litigation cases in the country and Los Angeles County, including disputes related to commercial contracts, corporate control, civil fraud, business torts and intellectual property. His diverse clients include Fortune 500 companies, A-List artists in music and motion pictures, fashion retailers, mortgage lenders, energy companies, technology firms, major airlines, municipalities and religious institutions.

Within the past 18 months, Khan secured a significant settlement victory in a wrongful death action on behalf of the son and estate of beloved actress Naya Rivera and also successfully represented the late Lisa Marie Presley in a large litigation matter against her former business manager. Khan is frequently called on to take on difficult litigation cases of prominence because of his relentless advocacy, creative decision-making and cool demeanor under pressure.



**MICHAEL KIBLER**

*Managing Partner  
Kibler Fowler & Cave LLP*

**M**ike Kibler is the managing partner of the Los Angeles-based firm Kibler Fowler & Cave LLP. Kibler is an accomplished trial lawyer—over the past 20 years, his plaintiff-side jury verdicts and settlements in commercial cases total over \$300 million. He has represented businesses and financial institutions in litigation covering a wide range of industries, including real estate development and investments, finance and private equity, banking, pharmaceuticals, and insurance. Kibler has advised companies on litigation risk in connection with corporate transactions, and has successfully represented financial institutions before regulatory bodies, including the SEC.

In January 2020, after 18 years at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP (14 years as a partner), Kibler took a leap of faith and left Big Law to pursue his passion for the courtroom by launching KF&C, a litigation boutique that prides itself on its trial-ready attorneys.

Congratulations to our partners  
**Sasha Frid and Amnon Siegel**

2023 Leaders of Influence:  
Litigators & Trial Attorneys

- Los Angeles Business Journal

**Miller  
Barondess**<sub>LLP</sub>

2121 Avenue of the Stars, 26th Floor  
millerbarondess.com





## LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS &amp; TRIAL ATTORNEYS

**LINDA KORNFELD**

Partner; Co-Chair, Insurance Recovery Practice  
Blank Rome LLP

Linda Kornfeld, Blank Rome partner and co-chair of its nationally recognized Insurance Recovery practice, has been referred to as “a card-carrying member of the ultra-elite club of insurance recovery specialists. She is at the top of the highly competitive, male-dominated insurance policyholder bar—one of only six women ranked nationally by Chambers USA.

Recently, in a record TCPA private class action award, a team led by Kornfeld proved that an insurance policy limit is not a limit if the insurer fails to take its duties to its policyholder seriously.

After months of aggressive litigation in the bad faith case against the insurer, Kornfeld and her team played a central role as litigation coverage counsel in convincing the insurer to settle in July 2021 for a record \$75.6 million. Kornfeld also represents the Philadelphia Eagles against FM Insurance under its \$1 billion property/business interruption COVID-19 losses in Pennsylvania federal court.

**SARAH KROLL-ROSENBAUM**

Partner, Litigation  
Akerman LLP

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

As the co-leader of Akerman’s Los Angeles Litigation Practice Group, a top 100 law firm with over 700 attorneys in 24 cities, Kroll-Rosenbaum is a trusted strategic advisor to her clients, with whom she collaborates closely to design and execute litigation and compliance strategies through the lens of their business priorities. In addition to her role as the co-leader of the Litigation Practice Group, Kroll-Rosenbaum serves as the esteemed team leader of Akerman’s Staffing Law sector team.

**CHET KRONENBERG**

Partner  
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

It would be difficult to overstate the impact that Simpson Thacher Litigation Partner Chet Kronenberg has made on the litigation landscape over the course of his nearly three-decade career at the firm. He consistently plays key roles and secures victories for his clients across a wide range of complex commercial litigation matters.

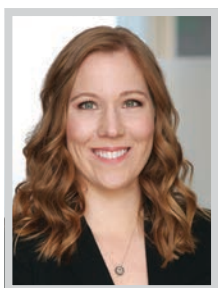
Kronenberg racked up numerous wins in 2022 alone. In July, in a case alleging that Old Spice powder was contaminated with asbestos, he secured the reversal of a \$3 million punitive damages award against his client Whittaker, Clark & Daniels. In its decision, the Appeals Court agreed with Kronenberg and team, “no one knew exposure to talcum powder could cause mesothelioma until 1994—years after plaintiff’s exposure to talc ended in 1980,” and “[m]edical or scientific developments years after plaintiff’s injury cannot establish defendant’s executives knew of ‘probable dangerous consequences’ of contaminated talc before plaintiff’s injury.”

**KEVIN LALLY**

Partner  
McGuireWoods LLP

McGuireWoods Downtown Los Angeles partner Kevin Lally, a member of the firm’s nationally recognized Government Investigations & White Collar Litigation Department, joined the firm in 2019 after serving as a federal prosecutor in the US Attorney’s Office for the Central District of California for nearly two decades, most recently as senior litigation counsel in the Major Frauds Section. As an Assistant United States Attorney, Lally prosecuted some of the largest and most difficult cases in the Central District and distinguished himself as an outstanding trial lawyer, having convicted every defendant who proceeded to trial against him.

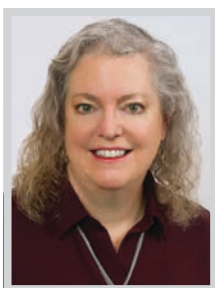
After joining McGuireWoods, Lally hit the ground running, winning dismissal of a case alleging civil rights, wiretapping and stored communications act violations for a client in just 30 days. He continues handling high-profile white-collar cases and investigations.

**ALLISON LIBEU**

Partner  
Hueston Hennigan LLP

Allison Libeu litigates high-stakes business disputes across a variety of areas, including business torts, contracts, class actions, securities fraud, and trade secrets. Libeu has successfully prosecuted and defended disputes involving company founders; the termination of C-suite executives; and claims that frequently arise in such cases, including claims related to breach of fiduciary duty and unfair competition as well as violation of nondisclosure, noncompete, and nonsolicitation agreements. Her national practice includes litigation at the trial and appellate levels in both federal and state courts, in addition to US-based and international arbitration.

Libeu consistently achieves successful outcomes for her clients both before and at trial, and has extensive experience in all stages of litigation—up to and including settlement negotiations and trial. She also regularly represents clients in appellate matters and arbitrations as well as in administrative and regulatory proceedings.

**MARGARET (MEG) LODISE**

Partner  
Sacks, Glazier, Franklin & Lodise LLP

In her 30-plus year career, Meg Lodise has established an impressive reputation for successfully handling some of the most complex and high-dollar trusts and estates disputes in California. Her work not only achieves important resolutions for clients, but also shapes the future of trusts and estates law.

Among her high-profile representations and underscoring her respect in the trusts and estates community, Lodise was appointed by the Probate Court as Guardian Ad Litem for the minor children of entertainer Michael Jackson, a responsibility she carried out soon after Jackson’s death in 2009 and concluded in February 2020 with his youngest child, Prince Michael Jackson II turning 18. In November 2021, Lodise was requested by Mark Klaver, Counsel for the Government of Canada’s Trade Law Bureau, to act as an expert and testify. She produced a comprehensive written report and, testified in a five-day arbitration on California trust law in connection with a NAFTA Chapter 11 dispute.

**PAUL LOH**

Managing Partner  
Willenken LLP

Paul Loh, Willenken LLP’s managing partner, is a founding member of the firm. He has extensive litigation experience and has tried over 120 jury trials, court trials, and arbitrations during his impressive career. Loh counsels and defends leading corporations in high-stakes litigation with a focus on product liability and major torts, white collar criminal defense and internal investigations, intellectual property, class actions, and complex business litigation. As a result of his substantial trial experience, major companies turn to Loh for some of their most challenging litigation cases and have engaged him just months or weeks before trial, specifically to act as trial counsel.

Loh’s clients include leading companies such as AbbVie, Procter & Gamble, Motorola Solutions, SunPower, Southern California Gas Company, and Walmart. He has more than 30 years of experience representing major leading American and Asian corporations in both civil and criminal litigation matters.

**TRE LOVELL**

Trial Lawyer and Founder  
The Lovell Firm, PC

Founder of the Los Angeles-based Lovell Firm, Tre Lovell is a nationally recognized lawyer specializing in various legal matters affecting clients in the entertainment industry and general business litigation matters. Lovell is considered one of the premiere experts in this area by the national media and regularly speaks about entertainment and business property in the news such as Kanye West having a hard time finding new lawyers, Alec Baldwin’s ‘Rust’ shooting, Kim Kardashian’s SEC charges, the infamous Will Smith/Chris Rock slap, the Miles Teller incident in Maui with his wedding planner’s husband and more.

Lovell recently filed a lawsuit on behalf of a company called Melomega, who accused Justin Bieber and Dan + Shay of stealing the “core portion” of their Grammy-winning country hit “10,000 Hours” from a little-known 1980 song called “The First Time Baby Is A Holiday.”



LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



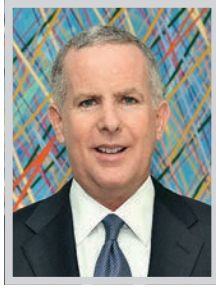
**SUANN MacISAAC**

Partner

Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump Holley LLP

Suann MacIsaac, partner at leading entertainment law boutique Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump Holley LLP, is widely regarded as one of the top attorneys in her field for her representation of high-profile clients, including the Estate of Michael Jackson. She specializes in entertainment, intellectual property and general business litigation.

MacIsaac has successfully prosecuted and defended numerous cases involving claims for breach of contract, fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, unfair competition, copyright infringement, trademark infringement, and trade secret misappropriation. Her representations over the last several years have included high-profile matters such as representing legendary producer Neal Moritz in his dispute with Universal regarding the motion picture Hobbs & Shaw; representing Paradigm Talent Agency in an employment-related dispute with a former agent; representing, along with other KWIKH lawyers, The Estate of Michael Jackson in a variety of civil litigation matters; and representing The Management Group, in a high-profile dispute with Johnny Depp.



**CRAIG MARCUS**

Partner

Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan & Shapiro LLP

Trial attorney Craig Marcus, a partner in Glaser Weil’s Litigation Department, has a broad and diverse practice covering the gamut of complex business disputes. His clients include Fortune 500 companies, startups, charitable organizations, and individuals. Marcus has litigated multi-billion dollar lawsuits, as well as \$100,000 disputes.

Among Marcus’ recent work highlights has been his efforts representing the Lemieux Group and Team Lemieux concerning their sale of a controlling interest in the Pittsburgh Penguins National Hockey League franchise. In 2021, the owners of Team Lemieux sold a controlling interest to the Fenway Sports Group. A limited partner sued to invalidate the transaction. Marcus filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit based on a mandatory arbitration clause that required the limited partner to arbitrate its claim before the NHL Commissioner. The Motion was granted and the limited partner thereafter quickly capitulated on terms very favorable to Marcus’ clients.



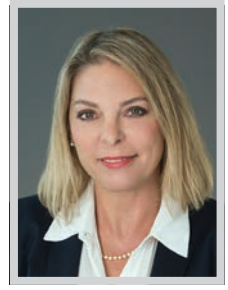
**NEAL MARDER**

Partner

Akin

With over 35 years of experience, Neal Marder is a Chambers-ranked trial lawyer and highly accomplished class action litigator. He has achieved significant victories in state and federal courts in California and nationwide, including precedent-setting wins in high-profile, enterprise-threatening litigation. As a partner at Akin, Marder leads the firm’s litigation efforts in California and co-chairs its national class actions practice.

In a high-stakes matter for American Medical Response, with more than \$100 million in potential exposure, Marder opposed a class certification involving alleged California state law violations prohibiting the intentional recording of all cellular and cordless telephones communications. The California Southern District Court agreed with nearly all of Marder’s arguments and denied class certification, leaving plaintiff little room for appeal. The court ultimately dismissed all claims. He also defended Neil Schimmel and Investors Management Group in an arbitration involving multiple breach of contract disputes.



**NINA MARINO**

Founding Partner

Kaplan Marino, PC

Nina Marino oversees a complex litigation and white-collar crime practice that is national and international. She negotiates with the US Department of Justice, state attorneys general, District Attorneys, and Interpol in her defense of individuals alleged to be involved with Medicare fraud, Foreign Corrupt Practice Act violations and tax, cyber and other crimes.

Right from the start, clients understand that Marino takes their cases as personally as they do. Her presentations before US Attorneys introduce new perspectives, compelling context and workable paths to resolution. Marino’s unconventional combination of caring, integrity and formidable lawyering has earned her a national reputation and recognition. She discovers the shades of gray behind prosecutors’ black-and-white arguments to shine new light on her clients’ circumstances. Her team-driven, meticulously prepared strategies have repeatedly helped clients reach their objectives – from staying out of prison to defending allegations all the way to trial.



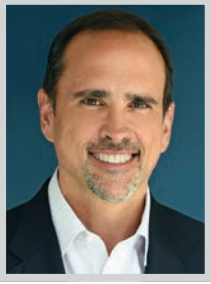
**We proudly congratulate Valerie Goo and Jen Romano on being named among the Los Angeles Business Journal’s “2023 Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys.”**

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## LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS &amp; TRIAL ATTORNEYS

**DAVID MARTINEZ**

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

**D**avid Martinez is an equity partner and prominent leader at the national trial law firm, Robins Kaplan LLP. A member of Robins Kaplan's Executive Board, Martinez weighs in on major policy decisions of the 200+ attorney firm. Along with his fellow board members, he steers, shapes and advises the implementation of the firm's diversity and inclusion initiatives and other policies governing talent recruitment, retention, compensation and career development. Concurrently, he has litigated commercial disputes that have improved business practices and has parlayed his professional capital to expand access to justice to underserved rural Californians.

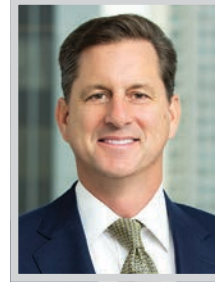
Resolving the most complex business disputes, Martinez represents US and international clients in conflict resolution and business counseling. Martinez is currently guiding one major national law firm through its own high-stakes partnership dispute.

**BRETT McCLURE**

*Shareholder; Trial Lawyer  
Frاندzel Robins Bloom & Csato, L.C.*

**B**rett McClure is a shareholder and trial lawyer at Frاندzel Robins Bloom & Csato. He focuses his practice on resolving the business disputes of his clients, from Fortune 500 companies to start-ups and high net worth individuals. He has served as lead or co-lead trial counsel representing plaintiffs and defendants in state and federal courts, as well as arbitration, across the nation.

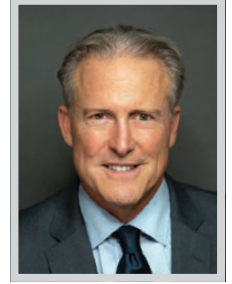
McClure is skilled in providing insightful and pragmatic advice to avoid disputes and to resolve them if they ripen. He has litigated cases in an array of industries, including real estate, banking, business and consumer technology, entertainment, professional services, manufacturing and insurance industries. McClure's recent experience covers a broad spectrum of practice areas including real estate disputes, environmental claims, consumer class actions, unfair competition, breach of contract, fraud, employment and trade secrets, personal injury / toxic torts and copyright and trademark disputes.

**ERIC McDONOUGH**

*Shareholder  
Vedder Price*

**E**ric McDonough focuses his practice on business and commercial litigation. He has extensive experience in trade secrets litigation and restrictive covenant claims, technology disputes, unfair competition disputes, real estate litigation, products liability and tort litigation insurance bad faith and ERISA litigation.

McDonough's varied practice includes representation of companies in defense contracting, aerospace, electric vehicles, real estate, retail, investment services, automobiles (hypercars), health care, fitness, food and beverage, entertainment, technology, and numerous non-profits, as well as individuals with a wide variety of unique litigation needs. Clients appreciate and respect McDonough's focus on bottom line business oriented results, in which the goal of litigation is always what is best for your business or you as an individual. Sometimes that means taking a case to verdict or even through appeal, other times it may be an early brokered resolution allowing the client to return its focus to its business instead of litigating.

**PATRICK McNICHOLAS**

*Partner  
McNicholas & McNicholas, LLP*

**F**ew attorneys can say their cases have a direct impact on law, policy and public safety the way Pat McNicholas can. His mass tort work has achieved more than \$1 billion in resolutions for his clients, held massive utility companies, retailers and manufacturers accountable, and improved the lives of millions of Californians.

McNicholas is at the forefront of California wildfire litigation against PG&E, SoCal Edison and the DWP, representing tens of thousands of victims. His tireless efforts against these behemoth companies have made unmatched change that will protect millions of people through critical safety improvements. Both PG&E and Edison are burying thousands of miles of power lines to reduce fire risk. McNicholas' success in these matters has ensured that victims receive maximum financial recoveries, via the passing of two California bills that exempt past and future wildfire victims from being taxed on any settlement monies they receive.

We applaud

**Will Delgado**

on his selection to the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2023 "Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys."



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LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS

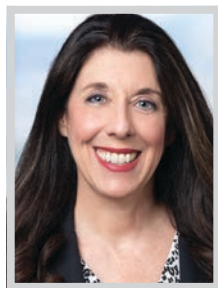


**MARCELLUS McRAE**

Partner  
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Among the region’s leading trial lawyers, Marcellus McRae has first-chaired numerous jury trials, bench trials, and arbitrations in both federal and state courts. At Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, McRae has honed his litigation and white-collar criminal defense practices to focus on a wide variety of complex business disputes, internal investigations, and criminal prosecutions including defense of individuals and corporations in cases involving allegations of financial fraud, False Claims Act violations, public corruption, violations of federal and state environmental laws, health care fraud, wrongful death, criminal antitrust violations, and other matters.

McRae represented AT&T Mobility LLC in *Terpin v. AT&T Mobility LLC*, obtaining a victory against a prominent crypto investor who claimed that criminals stole cryptocurrency purportedly worth \$24 million and brought claims alleging that AT&T was responsible for that theft. The court granted summary judgment in AT&T’s favor on all remaining claims.

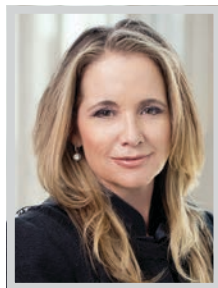


**ELISABETH MORIARTY**

Partner  
Greenberg Glusker

Elisabeth Moriarty is a partner in Greenberg Glusker’s Litigation Group. She specializes in handling complex, high-profile disputes. Moriarty has represented plaintiffs and defendants in some of the entertainment industry’s most significant, high-stakes disputes involving copyright, trademark and trade dress infringement, motion picture production and distribution, defamation, unfair competition, the licensing of intellectual property rights, and contractual disputes. She is skilled at working on large, high-profile entertainment matters where a confluence of issues come together to span a wide variety of disciplines.

Moriarty has extensive experience litigating major profit participation matters on behalf of talent, artists and rights holders, including the Estate of J.R.R. Tolkien, Marvel Entertainment and the rights holders to the Winnie the Pooh property. She has close relationships with the top entertainment auditors/accountants in the field, and has unique experience interpreting complex contractual royalty provisions and convoluted participation statements.

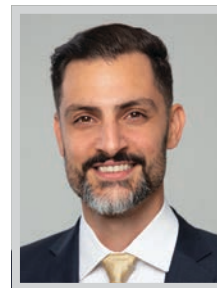


**ANN MARIE MORTIMER**

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

Ann Marie Mortimer heads Hunton Andrew Kurth’s commercial litigation practice and served as first chair defending Yahoo! in class actions stemming from reportedly the largest data breach in history with over three billion accounts impacted. She is the founder and managing partner of the firm’s Los Angeles office.

Mortimer is at the forefront of novel cybersecurity litigation threatening the fundamental business of global brands, counseling Fortune 50 companies on the novel challenges and regulation endemic, including Fortune 1 big box retailer Walmart and name brand retailer Bath & Body Works, Inc. in some of the first alleged California Consumer Privacy Act actions in the state of California. Mortimer won a pivotal victory for Walmart in a putative class action including alleged violation of CCPA – one of the first decisions dismissing a CCPA claim on the merits that went on to impact other CCPA claims.



**SHAHAB MOSSAVAR-RAHMANI**

Founding Partner & Lead Trial Attorney  
Omega Law Group

Shahab Mossavar-Rahmani is a co-founding partner of Omega Law Group, one of the fastest growing personal injury firms in Southern California. Along with his co-founders, he was able to rapidly grow the litigation department to a sizable team consisting of seven litigation attorneys who he now oversees, a stark contrast to the firm’s small litigation team in 2016. In just a little over seven years, they’re able to employ over 100 employees and serve personal injury victims nationwide.

With trial experience as a deputy public defender in Orange County, Mossavar-Rahmani is a seasoned litigator who has dealt with countless felony and misdemeanor cases where he gained invaluable skills and tactics he now uses to defend the vulnerable against greedy insurance companies. Mossavar-Rahmani has had a hand with million-dollar settlements that the firm was able to lock in in the past year.



Congratulations to our Managing Partner

**ERIC EARLY**

one of the *Los Angeles Business Journal*’s  
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LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS

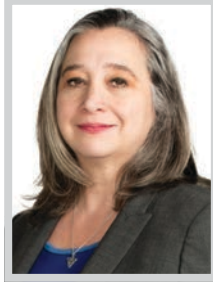


**JOHN NADOLENCO**

*Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office;  
Litigation Partner  
Mayer Brown LLP*

John Nadolenco has a successful civil litigation and trial practice focusing on high-stakes cases and class action defense, including defending consumer class actions, employment and antitrust cases, and challenging inappropriate government regulations. He has defended companies in cases alleging improper consumer charges and practices, false and misleading advertising, defective products, unauthorized call recording under California's Invasion of Privacy Act, violations of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, Internet privacy violations and improper tracking via computer-based cookies and improper use of smartphone and tablet apps.

Nadolenco is currently representing the entire auto industry in challenging the constitutionality of a Massachusetts ballot initiative that requires car companies to share data generated by their vehicles. He also has become one of GM's go-to class action litigators. GM turned to Nadolenco to defend against nationwide class actions alleging fraud and vehicle defects.



**COLLEEN O'BRIEN**

*Principal  
Scali Rasmussen, PC.*

Trial attorney and litigator Colleen O'Brien tries and resolves lawsuits and challenges related to toxic torts, catastrophic injury and complex employment matters. Her experience includes leading a range of civil litigation, from consumer fraud to defamation to chemical exposure and personal injury claims. O'Brien defends companies against plaintiffs' sophisticated claims involving long-term occupational injury, infectious disease, property damage and groundwater contamination. A former military prosecutor, O'Brien guides business clients as first chair, lead counsel in bench and jury trials in state and federal courts throughout the United States.

O'Brien has successfully tried more than 30 matters to verdict for her clients, both as a government attorney in criminal contexts and in private practice. She is known for her skillful preparation and examination of medical and technical experts at deposition and trial. Her keen attention to detail and commitment to cases have helped clients settle their disputes efficiently and quickly.

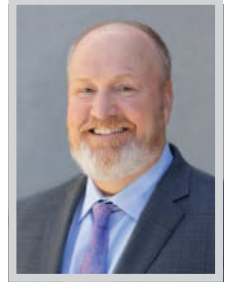


**PAMELA PALMER**

*Member  
Clark Hill PLC*

Decades after winning Gonzaga University's Linden Cup Moot Court competition and getting completely hooked on litigating, Pamela Palmer brings nearly 25 years of unwavering knowledge, skill and savvy to the courtroom. She represents clients in complex litigation matters and advises insurers, vessel owners, trucking companies and logistics providers. She also counsels and defends insurers on the full spectrum of first- and third-party claims including environmental, marine, inland marine, general liability, auto, transportation, aviation, sex abuse and suspicious claims involving theft, arson, smoke losses and vessel sinkings.

Palmer's recent experience includes her work on *Panterra GP, Inc. v. Superior Court of Kern County*. In this case of first impression, the Court of Appeal held that a licensed contractor was not barred from asserting a breach of a construction contract cause of action where the entity mistakenly listed as the contractor in the contract was not a licensed contractor.



**JOHN J. PERLSTEIN**

*Founder  
Law Offices of John J. Perlstein*

John Perlstein represents individuals and families in high profile personal injury and wrongful death cases, achieving multi-million dollar settlements. Deeply respected by clients and peers alike as one of the best injury litigators in Los Angeles, Perlstein established his practice more than three decades ago to advocate exclusively for the rights and entitlements of those injured in California. Since then, he has tried more cases than any of his peers and has amassed an impressive record of courtroom victories in a wide range of injury claims against negligent people, corporations, and wrongful insurance adjusters.

Perlstein manages a wide selection of personal injury claims, encompassing truck crashes, car and motorcycle accidents, pedestrian accidents, catastrophic injuries including spinal cord injuries and traumatic brain injuries, premises liability accidents including pool accidents and slips and falls, dog bites, product liability, wrongful death, and fire accidents throughout all of Southern California.

**BUCHALTER CONGRATULATES**

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**Willmore (Bill) Holbrow III**

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LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



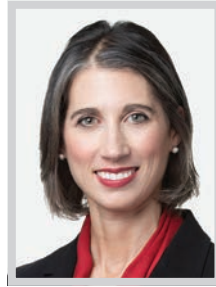
**DANIEL PRINCE**  
Partner  
Paul Hastings LLP

Daniel Prince is a partner in the Litigation Department of Paul Hastings. After nearly two decades with the firm, the last 12 months may have been his most successful yet. First, Prince led the Paul Hastings team to a complete victory for Rear Admiral Bruce Loveless (Ret.) in what has been described as the “worst corruption scandal” in the history of the US Navy. Paul Hastings represented Adm. Loveless pre-trial and at trial, having reviewed approximately 14 million documents, prepared key motions, and participated in an evidentiary hearing during trial on the government’s withholding of exculpatory material (the Court concluded that the lead prosecutor engaged in “flagrant misconduct”). The government obtained more than two dozen guilty pleas in this matter. Following a 15-week trial and approximately three weeks of deliberations, the jury returned convictions on four defendants but reached no verdict against Adm. Loveless.



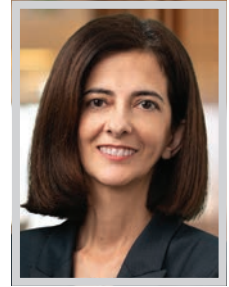
**EDWARD QUIGLEY**  
Co-Chair  
Cox, Castle & Nicholson

Edward Quigley is a trial lawyer and is a co-chair of Cox Castle. He handles complex commercial litigation, including in all aspects of real estate. Ed has litigated and tried cases throughout the country. He has extensive experience litigating partnership disputes, low-income housing disputes, construction claims, fraud & breach of fiduciary duty claims, valuation disputes, lease disputes, unfair business practice claims, easement disputes, and insurance coverage litigation (CGL, Property, E&O and D&O policies). Quigley’s experience extends into state court, federal court, private arbitration and public works arbitration at the trial court and appellate levels. He represents developers, property owners, lending institutions, lessees, managers, real estate investors, and others involved in the real estate industry. Quigley tried six cases in the last year, including successfully trying a \$100 million construction claim for a project involving a hotel with 420 units condominium units, entertainment venues, bars and restaurants.



**BRENDA RADMACHER**  
Partner, Litigation, Construction  
Akerman LLP

Brenda Radmacher is a highly accomplished and respected lawyer who delivers exceptional results to her clients. As a distinguished litigation partner at Akerman LLP, a top 100 law firm with over 700 attorneys in 24 cities, Radmacher possesses unparalleled legal knowledge and over 25 years of experience in construction law. She has successfully resolved complex disputes for construction companies, developers, design professionals, and owners through all aspects of the dispute resolution continuum. She also is sought after for drafting contracts and assisting in development transactions associated with the built environment. Radmacher played a lead role in the Champlain Towers South Condominium case, resulting in a resolution exceeding \$1.1 billion, the largest construction settlement in US history which was resolved in just under one year. Additionally, she has skillfully settled multiple complex construction dispute involving multiple parties within a remarkably short timeframe of fewer than six months.



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

As co-chair of Morrison & Foerster’s global IP Litigation practice and cross-disciplinary Intellectual Property Group, Bitra Rahebi helps the world’s most innovative technology companies protect their most valuable assets by providing strategic direction and leading complex, high-stakes litigation matters. She is a first-chair trial lawyer whose services are in high demand due to her ability to explain complicated issues to juries and judges, a skill honed from her continued involvement in some of the nation’s top trial cases. Rahebi is often called upon to lead teams for tech giants, given her proven track record of delivering successful results. Recently, Rahebi delivered a significant victory for Nevro Corp. against Boston Scientific Corporation in the Federal Circuit when the court issued a unanimous and precedential opinion in Nevro’s favor, which upheld the validity of patent claims to Nevro’s core technology for treating chronic pain in a unanimous and precedential opinion.

# THE DERUBERTIS LAW FIRM, APC

## trial lawyers

# congratulations

David deRubertis & all of  
2023’s Leaders of Influence:  
Litigators & Trial Attorneys

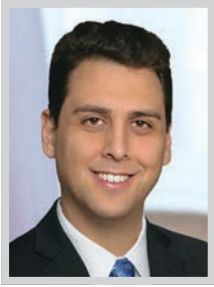
The deRubertis Law Firm, APC – a leading contingency-fee trial law firm – handles employments disputes on behalf of employees, catastrophic personal injury/wrongful death matters, contingency business litigation and consumer class actions.



**David deRubertis**



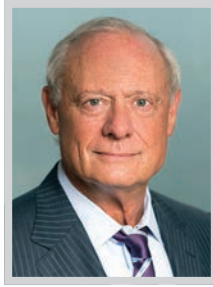
## LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS &amp; TRIAL ATTORNEYS

**JAMES RAPORE**

Member  
Mintz

Mintz member James Rapore is recognized as a top legal strategist with a track record of achieving highly favorable outcomes for clients in high-stakes, complex civil litigation matters. He also has extensive experience representing companies and individuals in government investigations and related prosecutions and enforcement actions. Clients seek Rapore's representation when they are facing novel issues and require unique approaches.

Rapore has achieved exceptional and unprecedented results for clients. In a recent case, he obtained the dismissal with prejudice of a federal securities fraud indictment alleging around \$100 million in losses. He also achieved the dismissal of several thousand cases alleging economic loss against a Fortune Global 100 Company. He recently represented a former CEO in a case brought by the CEO's former employer alleging fraud and improper granting of company stock. He obtained complete dismissal of all claims within two weeks of entering an appearance, including attorney's fees.

**TIMOTHY REUBEN**

Managing Principal / CEO  
Reuben Raucher & Blum

Timothy Reuben has litigated all types of business and tort cases, including real estate, construction, entertainment, copyright and trademark, trust and estates, employment, securities, antitrust, insurance, unfair competition, professional negligence, and complex civil matters. In addition to extensive trial experience, Reuben is a tough and successful negotiator.

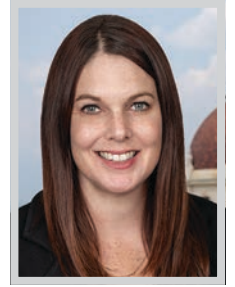
Upon graduation from law school, he became a litigation associate with Lillick, McHose & Charles (today known as Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw & Pittman, LLP), then joined the law firm of Rosenfeld, Meyer & Susman as an associate, and became a partner with the Westside firm of Resch, Polster, Alpert & Berger in 1987 where he headed the litigation department. He formed Reuben Raucher & Blum in the Spring of 1992. Reuben has taught Advanced Litigation Seminars on topics such as intellectual property litigation, entertainment litigation and cross-examination. A prolific writer, Reuben has authored over 50 articles on a variety of legal issues.

**NAEUN RIM**

Leader, Trial, White Collar and Investigations Practice  
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

Naeun Rim is the leader of the Trial, White Collar and Investigations unit at Manatt, where she is a partner in the Los Angeles Office. An accomplished trial attorney, Rim has first-chaired numerous trials and arbitrations to successful conclusion in civil and criminal matters. She served as first-chair trial counsel for a movie executive accused of over a dozen felony violations of wire and mail fraud, and after years of tireless advocacy, she won acquittals and dismissals on all counts for a complete defense victory.

Rim also served as trial counsel for a Fortune 150 company in one of the largest criminal environmental trials in California history and helped the company avoid convictions on the most serious felonies after a four-month jury trial. In 2021, she successfully defended a public company in a civil case brought by 18 plaintiffs seeking \$100 million in damages for contract and fraud allegations.

**CANDICE ROGERS**

Partner  
Hahn & Hahn LLP

Candice Rogers is a partner in the firm's litigation practice group and practices primarily in the area of family law including premarital agreements, postnuptial agreements, dissolution of marriage, property division, custody and support. Rogers has settled and litigated numerous dissolution of marriage actions involving highly contested custody disputes, and complicated income and property issues. She has also drafted and negotiated cohabitation agreements for high profile and high net worth clients, each with unique business and income structures.

Clients count on Rogers's ability to understand their complex legal situations and develop creative strategies to achieve a successful resolution. She is a certified Family Law Specialist, skilled in handling complex family law matters. Last year, Rogers was named a fellow of The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, an organization founded to recognize attorneys providing "leadership that promotes the highest degree of professionalism and excellence in the practice of family law."



Greenberg Glusker congratulates  
**Elisabeth Moriarty**  
for being recognized as a  
**Leader of Influence: Litigators &  
Trial Attorneys**  
in the *Los Angeles Business Journal*



**Elisabeth Moriarty**  
Partner, Greenberg Glusker LLP



LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS

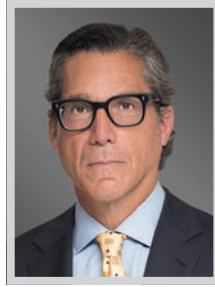


**JENNIFER ROMANO**

Partner; Co-Chair, Litigation & Trial Department  
Crowell & Moring LLP

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

Romano has served as lead counsel on a number of successful cases. For example, on behalf of Planned Parenthood, a team co-lead by Romano challenged the legislation in Kentucky federal court as unconstitutional and obtained both a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction blocking the law's enforcement until the state's trigger law banning abortion in most circumstances took effect.



**MATHEW ROSENGART**

Litigation Shareholder  
Greenberg Traurig, LLP

Mathew Rosengart is one of the nation's foremost trial lawyers, with a unique preeminent practice, and is known for his innovative litigation skills and getting results for his clients, including Lena Dunham, Julia Louis Dreyfus, Keanu Reeves, Britney Spears, Steven Spielberg and Verizon. A former federal prosecutor, Rosengart has also been lauded by longtime client Sean Penn as "a tough as nails streetfighter with a big brain and bigger principles" and described by NPR as a lawyer with "a lot of star power" and Los Angeles Magazine as a "winner" and "heavy hitter" with a "long history of getting results for his big name clients."

A former federal prosecutor, Rosengart's practice is unique in that he is a go to lawyer for both A-list celebrities and corporate america, and he immerses himself in his cases whether they are for well-known high net worth individuals or corporations.

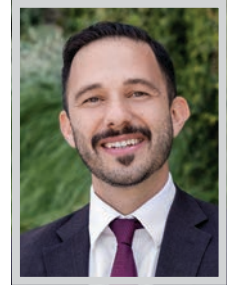


**NICK ROZANSKY**

Partner  
Stubbs Alderton & Markiles, LLP

Nick Rozansky, a partner at Stubbs Alderton Markiles, advises and represents clients in several industries, including fashion and apparel, jewelry, banking and finance, and consumer products. Rozansky's clients seek his advice on a wide range of issues faced by their businesses, including pre-litigation and litigation matters, risk avoidance, collaboration deals, IP protection and business strategies.

As part of his firm's Business Litigation and Trademark and Brand Protection Practice Groups, Rozansky serves as outside general counsel to companies of all sizes, and his passion is listening closely to his clients' needs and obtaining the best possible outcome for them. In business litigation, Rozansky handles significant high-stakes cases including partner and shareholder disputes, serious frauds, trademark and copyright infringement disputes and contract cases. Rozansky represents large institutional clients in matters worth tens of millions of dollars as well as small businesses and individuals in everyday business matters.



**ARASH SADAT**

Founding Partner  
Mills Sadat Dowlat LLP

Arash Sadat is a top employment attorney due to his extensive experience as a litigator and his impressive track record, which includes representing LGBTQ+ employees in discrimination and harassment cases against a large logistics company, representing a woman in a sexual harassment suit against a private jet management company, negotiating severance on behalf of CEO of financial advisory firm, representing an Indian national in a racial discrimination suit against large streaming service and production company, and representing misclassified employees against a large events company.

With over a decade of experience and a background working at prestigious law firms, Sadat has successfully represented clients in a wide range of cases. He is also known for his pro bono work and dedication to serving his community. An example of his success has been his work on a representative PAGA action alleging misclassification of field supervisors for defendant, SAS Retail Services.



Congratulations to Bradford Hughes, Pamela Palmer and all Leaders of Influence: Litigation & Trial Attorneys honorees



Whether the objective is to resolve a matter through negotiation, alternative dispute resolution, or ultimately a courtroom, Clark Hill's litigation team advocates for clients in need of legal support. Our team enables business clients from all industries to resolve matters and maintain focus on their business goals.

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LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



**GERALD SAUER**  
*Founding Partner*  
 Sauer & Wagner LLP

Gerald Sauer has been a civil trial attorney for over 30 years and has extensive jury trial experience in federal and state courts, handling numerous matters in alternative dispute resolution forums, including arbitrations and mediations. Sauer served as the lead trial attorney in several highly-publicized matters that have received extensive print and television media coverage, including an appearance by on NBC Nightly News and Sauer's appellate advocacy experience has involved briefing and arguing several cases before various state and federal appellate courts, including the California Supreme Court, California Courts of Appeal, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Recently, Sauer quickly resolved a copyright infringement/fraud lawsuit that was filed against Cincoro Spirits Group, a tequila spirits company, owned by Michael Jordan and other NBA team owners. The lawsuit was dismissed, with prejudice, with no money being paid to the plaintiffs.



**RASHA GERGES SHIELDS**  
*Partner*  
 Jones Day

Rasha Geroges Shields, with more than 20 years of experience, is a respected leader in the legal profession, a trusted advisor to companies and organizations, and a champion of diversity and racial justice. She has served as a first chair trial and appellate counsel in multiple matters, led sensitive independent and government investigations for significant clients and is actively involved in the community, including most recently having been appointed by Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass to serve on the Board of Police Commissioners, and having been appointed by the California Supreme Court Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero to serve as a member of the Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal Bias Prevention Committee.

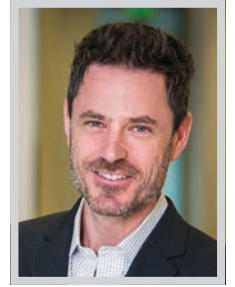
At Jones Day, Shields has been defending companies and executives in high-stakes civil and criminal matters, including complex litigation and DOJ and State Attorneys General investigations. She also helps companies conduct internal investigations and develop compliance programs.



**AMNON SIEGEL**  
*Partner*  
 Miller Barondess, LLP

An accomplished litigator and trial lawyer with significant victories for both plaintiffs and defendants, Amnon Siegel joined Miller Barondess in 2007 and has been integral to the firm's growth.

Among his noteworthy work, Siegel currently represents plaintiff Mythical, Inc. (gaming technology company at the forefront of the emerging sector of blockchain video gaming) against former Mythical executives who allegedly covertly undermined the company's interests to line their own pockets. Defendants, while employed at Mythical, allegedly stole a business worth hundreds of millions. Siegel also achieved a \$256 million jury verdict for fraud and punitive damages for an automobile dealership group against Nissan Motor Acceptance Corporation (a top 10 verdict in the country). Nissan appealed the verdict and the case was remanded for a new trial. The lawsuit recently settled during jury deliberations. He also represents 1.1 million Prius owners in a federal court class action against Toyota.



**DAVID SINGER**  
*Partner; Co-Chair, Content, Media, and Entertainment Practice*  
 Jenner & Block LLP

David Singer's record of success in high-profile, complex litigation in the dynamic media space and other industries has made him a leader in his field.

Singer represented Paramount Pictures, MTV Networks and co-defendants in Brandon "Bam" Margera's highly publicized lawsuit arising from his termination from the film Jackass Forever. Singer and team filed an anti-SLAPP motion to strike multiple claims from Margera's complaint, as well as his request that the court enjoin Jackass Forever's release. In January 2022, Singer obtained a favorable ruling ensuring that the film's theatre release would not be enjoined. Shortly thereafter, the matter was settled under confidential terms. In August 2022, Singer and a partner won a motion to dismiss claims filed in a Michigan federal court that Fox improperly based its show Empire on the memoir of a woman who alleged similarities between the works.

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




Los Angeles Business Journal's  
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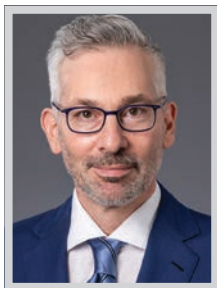
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LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



**ADAM STREISAND**

Partner

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton

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

Streisand earned acclaim as Britney Spears' first choice of attorney in her conservatorship case and is featured in The New York Times' "Framing Britney Spears," Netflix's "Britney vs Spears," Hulu's "Controlling Britney Spears," and Discovery+'s "Jamie Vs Britney: The Father Daughter Trials."



**PETER STRIS**

Founding Partner

Stris & Maher LLP

Peter Stris is the founding partner of Stris & Maher, a 20-lawyer litigation boutique that represents clients in difficult and high-stakes business disputes. Based in Los Angeles, Stris leads the firm's nationwide trial and appellate practice. Over his 20-year career, he has successfully first-chaired a wide variety of bet-the-farm business cases to verdict or judgment. He has also handled dozens of high-profile business appeals, including 10 he personally argued before the US Supreme Court.

Stris' pathbreaking work has led both himself and Stris & Maher to nationwide prominence. Stris has delivered a number of major wins for clients, including, for example, as lead Supreme Court counsel in Novartis Pharmaceuticals v. HEC Pharma, an ultra-high-stakes patent dispute, Stris successfully defended HEC's Federal Circuit victory before the Supreme Court. Facing elite IP and Supreme Court counsel from three AmLaw firms, Stris defeated Novartis's emergency stay application and subsequent petition for certiorari.



**KIMBERLY TALLEY**

Partner

Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete, LLP

For over 30 years, Kim Talley has devoted her practice to management-side labor and employment law. She has been involved in many high-stakes, well-known matters and achieving success in a multitude of cases.

Talley's tenacity in advocating for clients can be demonstrated through numerous cases, including obtaining summary judgment on behalf of two high-level city public officials against a claim of retaliation by a former city attorney; obtaining dismissal of a complex putative wage-and-hour class action on behalf of a retail grocery chain; successfully defending an employer against numerous wage-and-hour claims in a 13-day arbitration evidentiary hearing; procuring dismissal of a California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 claim on a motion for judgment on the pleadings of thousands of aggrieved employees; and successfully arbitrating a number of claims brought pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement involving contract interpretation, wage and hour issues, and employee misconduct.



**DIANA TORRES**

Partner

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

With deep experience in both intellectual property and commercial litigation, Diana Torres is recognized as one of the few female lawyers known for winning complex intellectual property and commercial litigation disputes. She has a track record of wins representing both plaintiffs and defendants. She has represented such household names as Dick's Sporting Goods, Equinox, Facebook, PepsiCo, Inc., SoulCycle and LifeLock, among others, in trademark, copyright, Internet, and false advertising disputes.

Torres' practice is global in scope, appearing in state and federal courts throughout the US and international tribunals. Clients frequently engage Torres to counter the growing threat of unfair trade practices abroad by enforcing and protecting their most important intellectual property assets ensuring their ability to operate successfully in foreign markets. Currently, Torres is representing Biozeal in a trademark infringement litigation concerning wrongfully registered versions of Biozeal's marks, including a Chinese-character version in Asia markets.



**Stanley M. Gibson**

Partner

Chairman, Patent Litigation Group

310.201.3548

SGibson@jmbm.com

Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP congratulates outstanding partner

**Stanley M. Gibson**

on his recognition as one of the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2023 Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys.



## LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS &amp; TRIAL ATTORNEYS

**POLLY TOWILL***Partner*

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter &amp; Hampton

**P**olly Towill is recognized among clients and peers as a “go-to” litigator and legal strategist, consistently earning exceptional results in bet-the-company lawsuits. In addition to being a top rainmaker at Sheppard Mullin, Towill is the office managing partner of the firm’s largest office (Los Angeles), and she leads the firm’s Federal Whistleblower Retaliation Defense Team and Toxic Tort and Products Liability Team.

Towill is a trial lawyer of choice when a case concerns alleged violations of securities and banking regulations and whistleblower retaliation. She and her team recently won a decision from a FINRA arbitration panel finding that securities trader Scott Reynolds was liable for intentional misconduct in connection with a short-selling scheme that caused client Axos Clearing more than \$16 million in losses in a single day. The panel found entirely for Axos Clearing, ordering Reynolds to pay Axos more than \$17.8 million in damages and interest.

**ALICIA VAZ***Partner; Chief DEI Officer*

Cox, Castle &amp; Nicholson

**A**licia Vaz is an experienced trial and appellate attorney, who specializes in real estate and high-stakes business litigation and dispute resolution and is co-chair of Cox Castle’s litigation team. Vaz has significant trial and arbitration experience in venues throughout California and she has appeared and argued before the California appellate courts. She has extensive knowledge of all facets of the real estate.

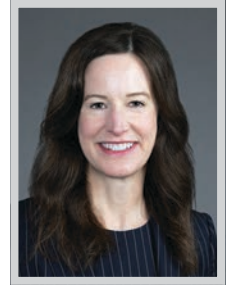
Vaz has litigated virtually every type of real estate dispute including purchase and sale disputes and specific performance actions; claims by or against agents, brokers, or title companies; lease and property valuation claims; nuisance and trespass claims; guarantor and lender liability claims; easement, boundary, and neighbor disputes; and construction defect and delay claims. Alicia also has extensive expertise in litigation involving the LIHTC and affordable housing industry, including Year 15 exit disputes between partners in affordable housing partnerships.

**RYAN WAGGONER***Partner*

Allen Matkins

**R**yan Waggoner is a real estate litigator in Allen Matkins’ downtown Los Angeles office. Waggoner has deep experience representing clients in disputes concerning commercial leases, purchase and sale agreements, and financing and security agreements. He represents Fortune 500 companies, middle market companies and emerging businesses. Waggoner is an expert in the unique rules and regulations that apply to real estate and real estate secured transactions. He has successfully resolved complex real estate-related disputes at every level, including through pre-litigation negotiations, mediation, arbitration and traditional litigation in virtually all forums, including state and federal courts.

Most recently, Waggoner secured a complete defense verdict on behalf of a real estate developer client, which was one of largest and most significant verdicts in California in 2022. Following an intense month of trial and two full days of deliberations, the jury returned a complete defense verdict for Waggoner’s client.

**MELANIE WALKER***Partner; Co-Chair, Corporate and Securities Litigation Practice*

DLA Piper

**M**elanie Walker spent over 19 years at an Amlaw 10 firm in Chicago, where she served as deputy head of the 100+ lawyer litigation group. In 2021, she joined DLA Piper in Los Angeles, where she serves as co-chair of its Corporate & Securities Litigation practice and head of the Los Angeles litigation group. She has been instrumental in growing DLA Piper’s Los Angeles litigation group, attracting and retaining high level talent.

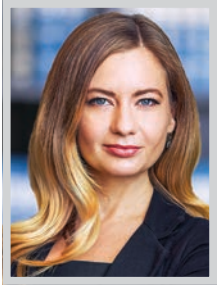
Throughout her career, Walker has tackled novel issues in the securities litigation space and beyond. She was on the team that won *Tellabs, Inc. v. Makor Issues & Rights, Ltd.*, (2007) before the US Supreme Court, setting the standard for what plaintiffs need to plead to adequately allege a “strong inference of scienter” under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act. More recently, Walker has been on the cutting edge of litigation related to SPACs.

We work with clients to resolve their complex business disputes in California and around the globe.

Congratulations to BCLP Partner Jean-Claude (J.C.) André and all 2023 Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys!



LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



**JENIFER WALLIS**

Chair of Entertainment Practice  
Munck Wilson Mandala, LLP

Jenifer Wallis is the chair of MWM’s entertainment practice, and she is a partner in the firm’s intellectual property practice. Wallis brings more than 17 years of legal experience to the firm and her unique practice positions her to represent clients in business litigation and entertainment law. Her commitment to growth and professional excellence has helped her firm expand through business development and recruiting efforts, adding 12 attorneys to the LA office in the past two years.

Wallis’s significant achievements in the past two years also include serving as first chair in various trade secret, trademark, and copyright infringement lawsuits, serving as general counsel to small and mid-sized companies, and serving as general counsel to production companies in LA, handling matters from business formations and IP protection to drafting talent and location agreements, production schedules, and network negotiations.

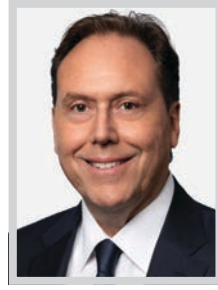


**BRIAN WALTER**

Partner  
Liebert Cassidy Whitmore

Liebert Cassidy Whitmore partner Brian Walter represents a diverse group of the firm’s clients, including police departments, not-for-profit hospitals, and independent schools against complex employment and parent/student claims, and is often asked to defend high-profile matters involving elected officials, police chiefs, city attorneys and high-level administrators. Walter has extensive experience handling class and collective actions in federal and state courts in addition to FLSA issues.

Walter is a focused and strategic litigator, and positions the matters he defends for summary judgment. He has obtained complete summary judgments in numerous cases, including an age discrimination claim brought by the chair of the Radiology Department of an academic teaching hospital, and in a federal whistleblower violation lawsuit brought by the former Independent Assessor of the Los Angeles Fire Department against the City of Los Angeles, Mayor Garcetti and the City’s Fire Commissioners, among others.

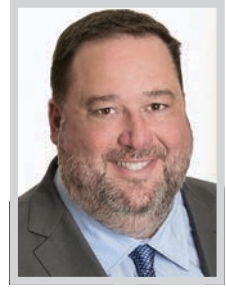


**PERRIE WEINER**

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

Perrie Weiner is the partner in charge of Baker McKenzie’s Los Angeles office, and chair of the firm’s North America Securities Litigation Group. With more than 30 years of experience, Weiner’s practice focuses on securities litigation and enforcement matters and complex business litigation. He is acknowledged as the go-to advocate for hedge funds facing complex suits and CEOs squaring off against the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

Weiner’s practice also includes high stakes complex business litigation. He advises private equity funds, including hedge funds, broker-dealers, underwriters, placement agents and issuers in SEC and FINRA enforcement proceedings, and in white collar criminal proceedings. In addition, he defends both underwriters and issuers in securities class actions, shareholder derivative actions and takeover defense litigation. He also has an active complex business litigation practice, including representing a broad spectrum of clients in consumer class actions.



**ALEX WEINGARTEN**

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

Alex Weingarten is managing partner of Willkie’s Los Angeles Office and chair of the firm’s Entertainment Litigation Practice. Weingarten is a leading trial lawyer who represents clients in all facets of entertainment, probate and business litigation. Clients look to Weingarten to handle “bet the company” cases, protect their integrity during the very public litigation process, provide a fresh approach, and suggest novel and overlooked strategies.

In 2021, Weingarten joined Willkie and co-led its launch and rapid expansion to more than 80 attorneys. Among his recent matters is his work on behalf of Selena Gomez. Weingarten is suing developers of the game Clothes Forever for their unauthorized use of her name and likeness. Gomez earns millions of dollars annually from her endorsements, and this action represents an effort to prevent use of her celebrity without authorization. Trial is scheduled for Fall 2023.

Where great work and great people come together.

Congratulations to **Noel Cohen** for being featured as one of the *Los Angeles Business Journal’s* **Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys!**

Leaders stand out.



Office Managing Partner,  
Commercial Litigation  
Vice Chair  
Los Angeles



Am Law 100 firm with  
1,000 attorneys nationwide  
22 offices from LA to NY  
170+ services/industries  
[polsinelli.com](http://polsinelli.com)

The choice of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Polsinelli PC, Polsinelli LLP in California, Polsinelli PC (Inc) in Florida.

**Baker McKenzie.**

Baker McKenzie congratulates **Perrie Weiner** on being named by the **Los Angeles Business Journal** as a **2023 Leader of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys.**



Perrie M. Weiner  
Partner-in-Charge  
of Baker McKenzie’s Los Angeles  
office and Chair of the Firm’s  
North America Securities Litigation Group

Over the past three years, our Los Angeles office has grown from 4 to over 54 lawyers and professional staff.

[bakermckenzie.com](http://bakermckenzie.com)

## LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS &amp; TRIAL ATTORNEYS

**STEVEN WEISBURD**

Shareholder and Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office  
Carlton Fields, LLP

In his more than 30 years of litigating class actions and mass tort cases for major corporate clients and product manufacturers, trial and appellate litigator Steven B. Weisburd has time and again brought home defense verdicts, dismissals, or favorable settlements, including in high-profile cases of national and international significance with billions of dollars of potential exposure.

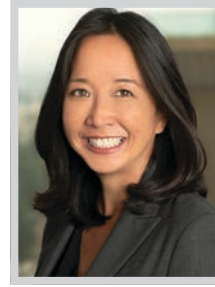
Recently, Mattel and Fisher-Price turned to Weisburd to lead their defense in the coordinated California and Delaware state court proceedings arising from infant fatalities allegedly related to the Rock 'n Play Sleeper, which was recalled in 2019. This past year, Weisburd secured summary judgment in the first two Rock 'n Play Sleeper cases to reach judicial ruling, and also co-led a team that secured dismissal of a putative nationwide class action against Johnson & Johnson arising from alleged marketing of Tylenol Rapid Release Gels.

**BART WILLIAMS**

Partner; Chair, Litigation Department;  
Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office  
Proskauer Rose

Proskauer Rose's Bart Williams is one of the nation's most sought after trial lawyers. A leader within the firm, Williams is chair of the firm's Litigation Department and 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 most important cases before juries and judges.

Williams secured a landmark victory for Monsanto in a case brought by a woman claiming that use of the herbicide Roundup caused her non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. A California jury rejected the claims, returning a defense verdict on all counts. The jury concluded that Roundup did not cause the woman's cancer, and that Roundup performs safely and does not pose a cancer risk.

**STEPHANIE YONEKURA**

Partner, Practice Area Leader - Investigations,  
White Collar, and Fraud  
Hogan Lovells

Stephanie Yonekura is the global head of Hogan Lovells' Investigations, White Collar, and Fraud practice, comprised of more than 150 lawyers across 20 jurisdictions globally. Yonekura was previously acting US attorney in the US Attorney's Office for the Central District of California, the largest US Attorney's office outside Washington D.C. Under her leadership, the office investigated the hacking of one of the world's largest entertainment companies.

Yonekura brings a unique perspective to internal investigations. Having served as a federal prosecutor for over 14 years, she knows the hot-button issues that are considered in every stage of any government investigation. In private practice, Yonekura uses her substantial experience in the trenches, in the courtroom, and as the chief law enforcement officer in Los Angeles to help clients understand the key issues, investigate matters strategically and surgically, and negotiate with and defend clients before law enforcement agencies around the world.

**RON ZAMBRANO**

Employment Litigation Chair; Partner  
West Coast Employment Lawyers

Ron Zambrano brings over a decade of experience fighting for employee rights, winning nearly \$3 million in verdicts and settlements between 2020-2022. Zambrano is deeply passionate about employee rights, and as a son of immigrants and fluent in Spanish, he is particularly skilled in claims on behalf of Spanish-speaking employees.

Since 2008, Zambrano's exclusively represented victims of workplace discrimination and harassment, wrongful termination, whistle blower retaliation, and wage and hour violations. Zambrano has settled millions of dollars in claims on behalf of aggrieved employees from various walks of life and backgrounds. Prior to joining West Coast Lawyers, he was an attorney at Carlin & Buchsbaum LLP, where he took on high profile cases against the City of Los Angeles, Long Beach Police Department, Department of Water and Power, and major corporations including Boeing, Ralphs, Carmax, Wells Fargo, Walmart, Macy's, Curacao and others.



## LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE:  
MOST ADMIRABLE LAW FIRMS

The *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2023 **Leaders of Influence: Most Admired Law firms** custom content is coming up.... A dedicated section in the **September 18** issue will recognize your outstanding professionals in the industry. Nominees will be selected based on their professional achievements, community leadership, milestones, and notable accomplishments during the past 12-18 months.

To nominate, visit [labusinessjournal.com/nominate](http://labusinessjournal.com/nominate)

NOMINATION DEADLINE: **FRIDAY, JULY 28**