

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: Labor & Employment Attorneys



THERE ARE MANY BRILLIANT ATTORNEYS IN LOS ANGELES – MASTERS OF THEIR CRAFT THAT CAN PREPARE individuals and businesses for any legal issue that might arise while expertly providing counsel as needed and writing and overseeing the documents designed to protect their clients’ assets and livelihoods.

When it comes to the intricacies of employment and labor, a whole additional set of skills is required. The leading employment attorneys and experts in the region have their finger on the ever-changing pulse of labor legislation, what changes have come to the labor law landscape in light of the COVID pandemic, the new rules of hiring and firing, and the various trends that they have been tirelessly monitoring and managing for their clients.

In this special section we have gathered some of the very best labor and employment attorneys in region. These are the lawyers you want in your corner in court.

We’ve alphabetically listed this lineup of superb specialists, along with information about their careers, practice and some of the relevant recent successes they’ve achieved. Congratulations to the attorneys who made this prestigious class.

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

LOI: LABOR & EMPLOYMENT ATTORNEYS

**NATALIE ALAMEDDINE**

Partner, Labor & Employment
Blank Rome LLP

Already established as an influential leader at Blank Rome, Natalie Alameddine routinely counsels and represents employers in litigation regarding federal and California wage and hour issues, class actions and Private Attorneys General Act representative actions, discrimination and harassment issues, retaliation, wrongful termination and misclassification. At a young age, Alameddine has become a go-to attorney for national employers accused of unlawful wage practices or wrongful termination. She has also carved a niche for her practice with independent contractor and misclassification issues, which have both been recent hot-button topics in California.

Alameddine has been employment counsel for numerous matters for BYD Coach & Bus LLC, BYD Motors, Inc., and BYD America LLC, American subsidiaries of BYD Company Ltd, which is the largest domestic auto-manufacturer and electric-bus manufacturer in China. She has successfully managed and resolved numerous matters compelled to arbitration or brought in arbitration.

**CLIFTON W. ALBRIGHT, JR.**

Attorney
Albright, Yee & Schmit, APC

In the intricate dance of legal practice, few shine as brightly and steadily as Clifton Albright Jr. Currently an integral part of Albright, Yee & Schmit, APC, Albright exemplifies commitment and profound expertise in business litigation, with a distinctive prowess in labor and employment matters. Graduating from Loyola Law School in 2020, a defining moment in Albright's career came in 2022, when he took on the challenging responsibility of representing the renowned Tiffany Haddish. Against the backdrop of a high-stakes sex abuse and molestation lawsuit, Albright's expertise was evident as he swiftly led the case to dismissal in just 18 days.

Within his firm, Albright isn't just another attorney. His multifaceted role involves engaging deeply with clients, offering holistic legal guidance on a plethora of matters. His unerring attention to detail, combined with an unwavering commitment to safeguarding his clients' interests, sets him apart in a crowded field.

**MARISSA ALGUIRE**

Partner; Deputy Chair,
Labor and Employment Practice Group
Akerman LLP

Marissa Alguire is a partner at Akerman LLP where she holds the role of deputy chair for the Labor and Employment Practice Group and team leader of the firm's California Labor and Employment law team. Alguire exercises her strategic expertise to shape and influence Akerman's Labor and Employment practice both nationally and locally. Her expertise spans the breadth of employment-related business matters and litigation.

Alguire's exceptional specialization lies in vigorously defending management against various challenges, including wage and hour class actions, PAGA claims, multi-plaintiff and single-plaintiff lawsuits, allegations of harassment, discrimination, and wage and hour discrepancies. Alguire's influence extends to proceedings before esteemed bodies such as the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the US Department of Labor, and the Employment Development Department.

**KATHIANA AURELIEN**

Counsel
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Kathiana Aurelien is counsel in Willkie's Labor and Employment Group in Los Angeles. She focuses her practice on California employment issues, representing industry-leading clients on a wide range of labor and employment matters. She regularly advises on the employment implications of corporate transactions, and has extensive experience working with clients on workplace investigations, evaluating worker classification issues and implementing reductions-in-force.

Aurelien regularly advises clients on sensitive executive separation matters, compliance issues, and developing, implementing and enforcing personnel policies. She has experience defending state and federal discrimination and retaliation claims; drafting and negotiating employment, severance, and general release agreements; complying with wage payment and sick leave obligations; and drafting effective personnel policies. A thought leader in the industry, Aurelien writes and speaks on topics ranging from cannabis in the workplace to the impact of Dodd-Frank on employers.

**SABRINA BELDNER**

Partner
McGuireWoods LLP

Sabrina A. Beldner has earned national acclaim for her work representing employers in high-stakes discrimination, wage-and-hour, and traditional labor litigation. In addition to her class action practice, Beldner has obtained favorable results representing management in collective-bargaining negotiations, grievance arbitrations, unfair labor practice proceedings, and at trial before the National Labor Relations Board. She has represented clients in dozens of grievance arbitration matters involving employee discipline and contract issues and represented employers in single-plaintiff litigation in court and in employment arbitration proceedings.

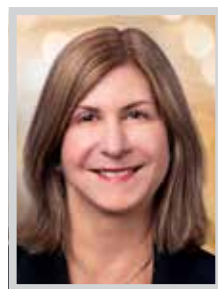
Earlier this year, Beldner successfully compelled class action claims to individual arbitration in a case involving a staffing agency employee suing the entity where he was placed on assignment. Beldner convinced the court there was no waiver in light of the plaintiff's failure to identify his employer until the latest iteration of the pleadings.

**JIM BERRY**

Co-Managing Partner, LA Office
Munck Wilson Mandala, LLP

James (Jim) H. Berry is co-managing partner of Munck Wilson Mandala's LA office and a member of the firm's employment and labor law and litigation groups. Berry brings several decades of experience in employment law, including both litigation and counseling on the wide variety of challenges for employers created by California and federal law. His represents clients on discrimination, harassment, wrongful termination, disability compliance, whistleblower claims, and wage and hour issues.

Berry handles claims based on common-law tortious discharge theories; breach of express and implied contract; discrimination; harassment; wage and hour violations, including overtime, penalty pay and Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) claims; class and representative actions; and matters before the NLRB involving non-union employers. In commercial litigation, he advises and represents clients on matters related to breach of contract, unfair competition and a variety of IP infringement litigation disputes.

**NANCY BERTRANDO**

Partner
Greenberg Glusker LLP

Nancy Bertrando has over three decades of experience working exclusively with employers in ensuring their compliance with increasingly stringent federal, state and local employment laws. She has built a highly successful and respected practice over the years by making her clients' well-being her primary concern. Bertrando's clients see her as an extension of their legal and human resources teams as she is understanding of, and responsive to, their business needs. Her clients also appreciate that she gives them practical advice on complex employment issues that can make a significant bottom-line difference. Bertrando does not take a cookie-cutter approach. Instead, she gets to know her clients' businesses, philosophies and objectives.

Bertrando's clients include studios, networks, production companies, real estate developers, investment banking firms, hotel owners, clothing retailers, law firms, business management firms, high-profile celebrities, high net-worth individuals and entrepreneurs.

**CHARLOTTE CARNE**

Senior Counsel
Dykema Gossett

Charlotte Carne recently argued and won a summary judgment in the Los Angeles County Superior Court in a disability discrimination action filed against her client where "contended" damages were \$172 million and the plaintiff's settlement demand was \$43 million. Carne stands out because of her preparation and professionalism. She brings these skills not only to the court, but to her counseling with employers on personnel matters arising under the ADA, ADEA, FMLA and other state and federal employment laws.

In addition, Carne adeptly manages wage and hour class action and PAGA suits brought by plaintiffs' firms against her clients, managing discovery on putative classes of over 1000 employees. Carne also counsels and litigates in the trade secret arena, counseling clients on both bringing and defending trade secret claims. Currently, Carne is hosting a webinar series, "Char's Corner: Key California Labor Law Insights for Employers."

D.Law

Congratulations

Emil Davtyan

on being recognized as one of
Los Angeles Business Journal's 2023
Leaders of Influence in Labor and
Employment Law.

You serve not only as Founder
and Managing Attorney of D.Law,
but as a guiding light of our mission
to redefine the image of what an
employment law firm can be.

With our highest regards,
—The D.Law Team



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**JESSE CRIPPS***Partner*

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Jesse Cripps has been consistently recognized as a leading labor and employment attorney for his track record of securing major victories for his clients in high-stakes employment actions. He handles the full range of labor and employment matters under both federal and state law and is unique among his peers in his success at both the trial and appellate court levels. Clients not only trust Cripps to litigate these high-stakes matters at the pre-trial phase, but to try them: among his peers, he is one of the few who has taken class and representative actions to trial.

Among his recent successes, Cripps secured a complete victory for Northrop Grumman after a two-day arbitration hearing. Cripps also successfully eliminated all class claims from a class arbitration against Gulfstream; and secured multiple wins for Taylor Farms California in a class and PAGA action.

**EMIL DAVTYAN***Founder and Managing Attorney
D.Law*

During his last year of law school, Emil Davtyan served as a judicial extern at the US District Court for the Central District of California for Honorable Stephen J. Hillman and as a law clerk in a year-long clerkship program at a global business immigration law firm.

Davtyan worked in Santa Monica, defending companies having employment issues, but he stepped down from the ivory tower because he noticed plaintiffs desperately needed the personalized help that only he could provide. So, he founded Davtyan Law Firm (now known as D.Law) in 2015. Now, his team of 100-plus lawyers and staff have helped hundreds of thousands of California workers recover \$800 million from their employers. To date, the firm has helped pursue over 4,000 cases. Davtyan has meticulously cultivated a company culture that re-imagines the modern law firm to provide a welcoming atmosphere.

**DAMIEN DELANEY***Partner; Co-Chair, Wage and Hour Practice
Akerman LLP*

Damien DeLaney stands out as a seasoned employment litigator and co-chair of the Wage and Hour Practice Group at Akerman LLP. His expertise extends across a diverse spectrum of industries, including retail, hospitality, real estate, technology, entertainment and more. What sets DeLaney apart is his ability to offer inventive and value-centered approaches to complex employment litigation matters. Clients rely on his expertise for resolving intricate challenges and for proactive risk management.

DeLaney's legacy is underscored by his proficiency in handling class actions and intricate litigation scenarios, encompassing wage and hour class actions, California Private Attorneys General Act actions and Fair Credit Reporting Act class actions. His outstanding achievements in class actions are a testament to his mastery, including successful motions to defeat class certification and securing favorable settlements. His litigation spectrum encompasses a wide array, spanning from employment discrimination and whistleblower claims to trade secrets and restrictive covenant disputes.

**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.

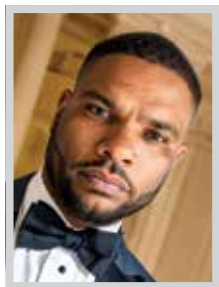
In October 2022, deRubertis obtained a \$2.2 million gross jury verdict in a challenging premises liability personal injury case against Costco involving an "open and obvious" condition in which liability was hotly contested and the highest offer, by CCP 998, was \$650,000 [gross verdict subject to comparative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

**V. JAMES DESIMONE***Trial Lawyer*

V. James DeSimone Law

Jim DeSimone is a leader in the employment attorney realm, advocating for his clients and fighting for justice daily. His firm in Marina del Rey has become a paragon in handling employment and civil rights claims. Renowned for his expertise, DeSimone appears in local and national news, enlightening audiences with his insights on relevant current events. He also frequently makes appearances at prestigious institutions and conferences.

A significant moment occurred this year for DeSimone's firm when a groundbreaking wrongful death lawsuit, filed by DeSimone in August 2020, progressed to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. The lawsuit involved LAPD officers responsible for the tragic death of an innocent man. DeSimone passionately argued that the district ruling in *Daniel Rivera v. The City of Los Angeles* should be overturned, highlighting the lower court's error in granting qualified immunity to the involved officers.

**RODNEY DIGGS***Director*

Ivie McNeill Wyatt Purcell & Diggs

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

Diggs' significant achievements include recently obtaining a \$25 million verdict as lead counsel in an employment retaliation lawsuit, possibly the largest retaliation verdict against a school district. He 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 of Long Beach and the second largest verdict in a wrongful death case in the Central District of California.

**CAMRON DOWLATSHAHI***Partner*

Mills Sadat Dowlat LLP

Camron Dowlatshahi has represented both plaintiffs and defendants in a variety of employment matters. Most recently, he has obtained significant settlements for victims of sexual harassment, amongst other successful results.

Among Dowlatshahi's recent successes was the case of *Tiffany Wrolstad v. NRT Technologies Inc.*, a San Diego County Superior Court Case where a long-term employee of a technology company suffered from severe anxiety and depression and requested straightforward accommodation – no more than a day off per month to treat her depressive episodes. NRT repeatedly denied her accommodation requests despite the fact that she presented numerous notes from her physician. The company ultimately terminated Wrolstad less than a week after she tested positive for COVID-19 and sent the company her test results. Dowlatshahi for Wrolstad was able to force the company to substitute their counsel midway through the litigation and ultimately settle the matter on the precipice of trial.

**LAURA FARBER***Partner*

Hahn & Hahn LLP

Laura V. Farber is a partner in the Pasadena law firm of Hahn & Hahn LLP and is an accomplished trial lawyer in the areas of employment and commercial litigation, and personal injury. Farber practices civil litigation with an emphasis in employment disputes and also counsels clients in employment and a variety of other matters. She was recently elected to serve as the chair of the American Bar Foundation Fellows and is a current Patron Fellow.

Additionally, Farber is a member of the American Bar Association, where she serves as the state delegate for California in the House of Delegates; chair, ABA House of Delegates Committee on Rules & Calendar; past co-chair of the Coordinating Group on Practice Forward; past chair of the Latin America and Caribbean Initiative Council; former member of the Rule of Law Initiative Board; and a former member of the Steering Committee of the Nominating Committee.

Shegerian & Associates

LOS ANGELES | SAN DIEGO | SAN FRANCISCO | RIVERSIDE | NEW YORK

A professional headshot of Carney Shegerian, a middle-aged man with short, light brown hair, wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a white dress shirt, and a light blue patterned tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a dark, solid color.

Carney Shegerian

Los Angeles Business Journal
2023 Leaders of Influence
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**DEBRA FISCHER***Partner*

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

Following the pandemic, employers are seeing a marked increase in employee mobility at every level and are competing for a smaller talent pool. During the last 30 years, Debra Fischer has developed a niche employee mobility practice in California and nationwide, advising on and litigating unfair competition and trade-secret issues that arise when employees change employment. She has achieved noteworthy outcomes, including back-to-back jury wins this year.

Among Fischer's recent achievements was a complete defense victory after a six-day jury trial (March 1-8, 2023) in the US District Court for the Western District of Washington for her clients Newfront and insurance producers Stanley Ogden, Eleanor O'Keefe and John Haskell. Despite the adverse summary judgment rulings, after less than two hours of deliberations, the jury returned a total defense verdict concluding that no damages had been caused by Fischer's clients.

**KATHERINE FORSTER***Partner*

Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

A seasoned employment practitioner, Katherine Forster has litigated scores of wage/hour class, collective, and representative actions. She has particular expertise in helping companies navigate highly sensitive claims for sexual harassment and abuse, gender discrimination, whistleblower retaliation and pay equity at the pre-filing stage, thereby avoiding any public filing.

What sets Forster's practice apart is her dedication to pro bono work and advancing LGBTQ+ rights. In July 2023, Forster, a team of MTO lawyers and co-counsel filed a federal lawsuit against the Idaho State Superintendent of Education and other Idaho school officials on behalf of a rising seventh-grade transgender student and an LGBTQ high school student organization challenging Idaho's new school facilities law, Senate Bill 1100, that singles out transgender students for discriminatory treatment. In another case, Forster obtained a preliminary injunction preventing the Washington Department of Corrections from "outing transgender inmates."

**JEANNE FUGATE***Partner*

King & Spalding LLP

Jeanne Fugate is a go-to partner on employee mobility issues, from drafting enforceable employment agreements, to advising clients on appropriate on-boarding and off-boarding practices, to litigating any disputes that may arise from the termination of an employer/employee relationship. In order to litigate employee mobility claims, lawyers are often called upon to respond quickly to demand letters and to immediately move to draft and/or defend against requests for TROs and preliminary injunctions.

Fugate's successes in these matters includes representing financial technology company Sidetrade as a defendant in a suit by competitor HighRadius, which sued two former employees and Sidetrade, their new employer, claiming those employees were violating their post-employment restrictive covenants. After weeks of litigation and discovery and a full evidentiary hearing, the court denied HighRadius' request for a temporary injunction, refused to enforce one employee's non-compete, and only required that the other employee's non-compete be enforced for five days.

**BEN GIPSON***Partner*

DLA Piper

Ben Gipson serves as a trusted advisor for clients' employment needs, with a special focus on the technology, media, sports and entertainment sectors. Gipson helps his clients effectively manage their workforce and maintain their focus on successfully operating the business.

Gipson conducts sensitive, high-stakes investigations to address clients' most sensitive and urgent workplace matters. Working with a cross-practice team including former prosecutors and other employment attorneys, Gipson investigates allegations of misconduct, assesses and advises clients on internal and external statements and develops practices and procedures to address ongoing concerns. Gipson serves as lead counsel in a high-profile representation of a major US professional women's soccer club in an internal investigation, culture and compliance review, and defense of the termination of a former head coach for sexual harassment and other misconduct in connection with parallel investigations by the US Soccer Federation, the Players Association and the National Women's Soccer League.

**ELISSA GYSI***Partner*

Hill, Farrer & Burrill, LLP

Hill, Farrer & Burrill partner Elissa Gysi has built a career around a number of high profile and successful efforts in the employment law realm. She has successfully brought over 50 motions to compel arbitration of pending class action and PAGA claims in state courts and has assisted over 30 employers, including national retail companies, construction companies and restaurants in litigating and resolving representative PAGA actions.

Gysi represented a large, national employer in arbitration by terminated employee alleging disability discrimination, failure to accommodate, and wrongful termination. Under Gysi's legal stewardship, her client prevailed in arbitration. She also successfully represented a large, national employer in arbitration by a former employee alleging sexual harassment and gender discrimination. In yet another recent case where her client prevailed in arbitration, Gysi represented a large, national employer in arbitration by former employee alleging age discrimination and retaliation.

**MIRA HASHMALL***Partner*

Miller Barondess, LLP

Mira Hashmall is an accomplished trial lawyer and a certified appellate expert. She is skilled in crafting a case strategy to serve the client's unique interests and objectives in a comprehensive way. She handles complex employment litigation from prelitigation negotiations to trial and appellate proceedings. Hashmall has extensive experience defending employers in matters involving claims of harassment, discrimination, retaliation, wage and hour, wrongful termination, disability discrimination and accommodation, and family and medical leave rights.

Hashmall recently won a victory in the California Court of Appeal, holding that an elected public official in the City of Inglewood could not state a claim under Labor Code section 1102.5 for retaliation based on whistleblowing because elected officials are not "employees" under the Labor Code. The Court of Appeal held the anti-SLAPP motion filed by City Councilmembers seeking to strike the official's claims should have been granted in its entirety.

**DANIEL HOFFER**

Partner; Co-Chair, Commercial Litigation California Practice Group; Co-Partner-in-Charge, Los Angeles Office
Venable LLP

Daniel Hoffer is a co-chair of the Commercial Litigation California Practice Group and a co-partner-in-charge of the Los Angeles office. He is an accomplished litigator who focuses on all aspects of employment law, commercial, and class action defense. Hoffer has litigated hundreds of lawsuits in both state and federal courts, and before administrative agencies, such as the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

In addition, Hoffer donates time and money to numerous nonprofits. Currently, he serves as a mentor for multiple individuals as part of an adult literacy campaign. He is also involved in fundraising and other activities dedicated to providing mental health counseling and resources to at-risk youths. From 1996 to 1998, Hoffer served with distinction as an FBI special agent, working on a multi-agency task force that prosecuted some of LA's most violent criminal enterprises.

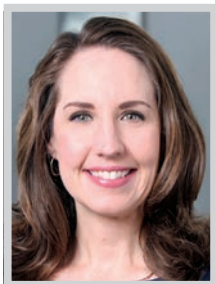
**ROBERT HUDOCK***Founding Attorney*

Hudock Employment Law Group

Robert Hudock founded Hudock Employment Law Group in 2015 to deliver tailored legal services to California companies that thrive in vibrant, creative work environments. His clients are often companies looking at new markets and competitive opportunities, that want to recruit the best talent available, while avoiding distracting workplace issues or lawsuits.

Hudock is an experienced litigator with over 21 years of practice and has devoted his career to employment law for businesses for the last 16 years. He spent several years in "Big Law" and has experience managing large litigation teams. Hudock was drawn to the "human side" of employment law, helping clients overcome challenges presented by difficult issues and sparing them the angst of conflict and worry. Known for his careful case analysis and preparation, thoughtful counsel, and leadership skills, Hudock is a disciplined advocate and tenacious litigator for his clients.

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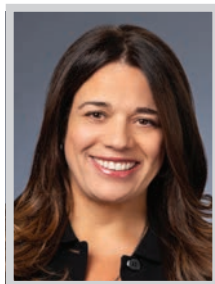


ESRA HUDSON

*Leader, Employment and Labor Practice
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP*

Esra Hudson has established herself as the go-to employment adviser for iconic entertainment companies, national insurance providers, well-known medical centers and leading financial services companies through her deft defense against the gamut of labor and employment issues. With extensive experience in crisis management and media relations, including sensitive matters involving executives and high-profile individuals, Hudson is known for helping her clients mitigate financial and reputational damage in claims, and avoid litigation altogether.

Some of Hudson's most recent work includes leading the defense for a nationwide insurance provider against an eight-figure, statewide representative wage-and-hour PAGA lawsuit. In one case, the plaintiff initially filed the case as a class action and Hudson successfully defeated the class by developing a strategy of filing a motion to compel arbitration in her client's home state, in cooperation with local counsel.



RONDA D. JAMGOTCHIAN

*Partner
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP*

Ronda Jamgotchian is an experienced litigator who handles all facets of labor and employment law. She has successfully defended employers in wage and hour class, collective and representative action lawsuits involving claims for overtime pay, misclassification, meal and rest period violations, unpaid business expenses and a variety of other related claims. She also has extensive experience successfully defending single plaintiff lawsuits involving allegations of harassment, retaliation, and discrimination based on age, race, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability and other protected classifications, as well as claims for breach of contract, defamation, wrongful termination and various others.

Jamgotchian is a loyal and trusted advisor to her clients, and regularly counsels employers on a wide range of labor and employment law issues, including leaves of absence, personnel policies and procedures, disability accommodations, reductions in force, employee discipline, and wage and hour matters.



ROLAND JUAREZ

*Partner
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP*

Roland Juarez is known for handling high-stakes labor and employment cases for some of California's largest and most high-profile employers in the temporary staffing, service, manufacturing, and retail industries, skillfully defending clients against challenging wage and hour, discrimination, non-compete and anti-raiding claims facing employers in California and nationwide.

Juarez is currently defending multiple clusters of PAGA and class actions for several clients in varied industries, and has developed an accomplished and impressive unfair competition and employee raiding practice in California. Juarez is at the forefront of the Supreme Court's new Viking River decision and the impact it has on arbitration agreements and PAGA claims. He is in the process of filing multiple motions across the State of California on the issue. Juarez leads and manages an active litigation practice involving a number of trade secret and employee theft lawsuits relating to professional services industry client.



MICHAEL J. KENT

*Co-Founder; Trial Attorney
Kent | Pincin*

Michael Kent, co-founder of Kent | Pincin, is one of Los Angeles' leading attorneys due to his extensive experience and track record of successfully securing substantial compensation for his clients. Kent's commitment to advocating for his clients' rights sets him apart in the legal community.

In *Murphy v. City of Glendale*, Kent achieved a settlement of \$1.45 million (a top 50 Settlement for 2022) after a City of Glendale Battalion Chief was demoted to a fire captain after he reported and opposed the fire chief's illegal orders. In *Thompson v. City of Pasadena*, Kent achieved a settlement of \$924,000 when a City of Pasadena supervisor was retaliated against, and demoted, following his opposition to gender discrimination and for providing favorable testimony in an underlying sexual harassment case against the city. Another confidential pre-litigation settlement of \$950,000 was achieved by Kent when three Hispanic employees were discriminated against and harassed.

M | R MICHELMAN & ROBINSON, LLP

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**MICHAEL KLEINMANN**

Partner
Reed Smith LLP

Michael Kleinmann is a partner in Reed Smith's Labor and Employment Group and resides in the Los Angeles office. Kleinmann's practice focuses on employment issues that arise in the entertainment industry, C-suite contract negotiations, mergers and acquisitions, and helping technology start-ups grow while mitigating their risk. Kleinmann also regularly litigates wage and hour and wrongful termination/discrimination type claims in defense of employers.

Kleinmann practices across many different industries but has a specific focus in advising and helping entertainment industry clients with employee issues, disputes and risk mitigation. He is attuned to the various unique concerns in the entertainment industry, including related to confidentiality and the increased risk of litigation associated with celebrities. Kleinmann not only advises some of the top music labels and talent management companies, but also advises artists and high-net-worth individuals in their employment issues.

**HOWARD M. KNEE**

Partner, Labor & Employment
Blank Rome LLP

In his more than 50-year career, Howard Knee has handled dozens of jury and non-jury trials and arbitrations, and has appeared before the United States Supreme Court, the California Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and various state courts of appeal. He has handled jury and bench trials in federal and state courts, arbitrations, labor arbitrations, NLRB cases and various administrative proceedings.

Knee represents high-profile companies in complex and high-stakes cases, including defending against discrimination and sexual harassment cases as well as wage and hour class actions and PAGA representative actions. He is respected by his peers for the professional and intelligent way he approaches his cases and the innovative strategies he uses to defend his clients. He is representing Accredited Nursing Services in a case involving disability discrimination, reasonable accommodation, retaliation under the Fair Employment & Housing Act, and retaliation under the California Family Rights Act.

**DANA KRAVETZ**

Firm Managing Partner
Michelman & Robinson, LLP

Dana Kravetz is one of the most sought-after employment lawyers in Los Angeles, representing some of the most innovative and admired companies in the region. He is also the firm managing partner of Michelman & Robinson, where he represents some of the most admired companies in LA. He brings a unique vantage point to his work—that of a manager and business owner—and assigns practical applications to the employment issues confronting clients.

It is Kravetz's breadth of practice area knowledge and his solutions-based approach to employment law that make him so effective. He recently negotiated the highly favorable settlement of a class action against a major hotel brand related to donning and doffing, with the client paying 5% of the initial demand. He also represented several Los Angeles-based private membership clubs, handling all employment claims and wage and hour class actions and serving as outside general counsel.

**WENDY LANE**

Partner; Employment Department Chair
Greenberg Glusker LLP

Wendy Lane is chair of Greenberg Gluske's Employment Department, focusing on employment counseling and litigation on behalf of a variety of clients, including high profile entertainment studios and production companies, celebrities and high-net worth individuals, real estate and investment companies, fashion and apparel companies, gaming companies, restaurants, manufacturers, retailers, and professionals including doctors, lawyers and accountants.

In the employment litigation arena, Lane has considerable experience representing employers in cases involving claims of harassment, discrimination, wrongful termination and wage and hour claims. Lane has also taken numerous actions to prevent theft of her client's intellectual property and trade secrets. By strategically using investigations, witness interviews, depositions, and other discovery mechanisms, Lane has successfully resolved numerous lawsuits and disputes at their early stages. On the employment counseling side, Lane uses her litigation experience to provide advice and draft policies, handbooks and other documents.

**KATE LAQUAY**

Partner
Munck Wilson Mandala, LLP

Kate LaQuay has more than 18 years of experience representing clients in both commercial litigation and employment and labor matters. Listed as a Leader of Influence: Labor and Employment Attorney in 2022 by the Los Angeles Business Journal, LaQuay has extensive experience in business litigation, regulatory matters and resolving employment disputes on behalf of employers. She is highly successful in resolving matters for employers facing claims of wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment, wage/hour disputes, whistleblower claims and other employment law matters. Her practice also encompasses breach of contract claims, corporate director/officer liability issues and unfair competition disputes.

A prolific writer, LaQuay frequently presents on employment law issues, and she writes articles on the evolving employment and labor law landscape to help her clients stay informed, including an update called California Compliant focused on California employers and what they should know to be in compliance with the state's ever-changing employment laws.

**MARGARET MARASCHINO**

Partner
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

A rising star in the California employment law world, Maggie Maraschino regularly leads the defense of cases against leading national and California companies against wage-and-hour class and collective actions, discrimination claims and termination challenges. Her clients include Morgan Stanley, Wells Fargo, Carrington Mortgage Services, Square, Inc., Yelp, NBCUniversal, Novartis and the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, a philanthropic entity created by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and his wife, Dr. Priscilla Chan.

In addition to the litigation, trial and appeal of employment disputes, Maraschino provides strategic advice to major companies on a broad range of employment matters, including issues related to mergers and other corporate transitions. In the past year, she led a team through a three-week arbitration, culminating in a complete victory for Morgan Stanley as it defeated a host of discrimination, contract and fraud claims by a former financial advisor.

**DWAYNE MCKENZIE**

Managing Partner
Cox, Castle & Nicholson

Dwayne McKenzie is managing partner at Cox, Castle & Nicholson and has a practice that has grown to meet the needs of a wide variety of real estate and construction industry clients in traditional labor relations, employment law, ERISA matters, and litigation in state and federal courts.

McKenzie represents owners, public agencies, developers, contractor trade associations, and employers in traditional labor relations. He counsels contractor associations and participates in industry-wide master labor agreement negotiations and in legislative matters. He negotiates project labor agreements on behalf of owners and developers and provides ongoing representation for owners, developers, contractors, and contractor trade associations in managing relationships and resolving disputes with individual unions and building trades union councils. McKenzie has also been involved extensively in prevailing wage law legislation, interpretation and litigation for over 20 years and is active in public works, prevailing wage, skilled and trained workforce and related labor-related issues.

**SEAN MCLOUGHLIN**

Partner
Hill, Farrer & Burrell, LLP

Sean McLoughlin specializes in representing management and employers in employment litigation and labor law, including the defense of wage and hour class action cases. McLoughlin defends employers and their management in court and before arbitrators and administrative agencies, and specializes in trial of wrongful termination, retaliation and discrimination cases. His specialized expertise includes aggressive and innovative defense of class action, PAGA and UCL lawsuits based on California's unique wage and hour laws, as well as federal FLSA claims. Additional expertise includes development and implementation of cutting edge arbitration strategies to preserve employers' rights to defend claims on the merits of each individual case.

McLoughlin litigates labor and employment cases for management. During his 20 years of practice, he has defended employers in courts and in arbitration against claims of unlawful discrimination, sexual harassment, retaliation, wrongful termination, breach of contract, defamation, Labor Code violations and unfair business practices.

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**MATTHEW MCNICHOLAS***Partner*

McNicholas & McNicholas, LLP

Matthew McNicholas' work has impacted the inner workings of large and powerful agencies such as the Los Angeles Police Department. He has prevented illegal and coercive force that affects the lives of the public, law enforcement officers and firefighters and protected the livelihoods of good law enforcement officers and firefighters who have dedicated their lives to serving and protecting their communities.

It is notoriously difficult to uncover what goes on behind closed doors at many police and fire departments, but when plaintiffs want to hold their unethical employers accountable and create real change, they turn to McNicholas. As panel counsel to the Los Angeles Police Protective League and the United Firefighters of Los Angeles City, McNicholas' tenacity and advocacy has lifted the veil on what really happens within police and fire departments, including the recent leak of undercover LAPD officers' photographs (he represents over 600 undercover officers).

**ERIC MINTZ***Senior Counsel*

Sanders Roberts, LLC

Eric Mintz joined Sanders Roberts, LLP after working many years for boutique trial and litigation firms in Beverly Hills, Century City and Los Angeles, most recently at Korey Richardson LLP and Bradley & Gmelich, LLP where he handled all phases of civil litigation in employment matters, wage and hour class actions, discrimination, business litigation and wrongful discharge lawsuits, as well as arbitrations and mediations. He also has experience in commercial litigation, contract enforcement and defense, insurance subrogation, collection litigation and worked as private counsel to the US Attorney General and Department of Justice.

Mintz's recent career achievements include serving as second chair in a multi-million dollar trial representing a large LA employer which resulted in full defense verdict. He also achieved a non-suit on behalf of a large public entity and successfully defended a municipality in a labor dispute and won a judgment for costs.

**TRITIA MURATA***Partner; Co-Chair, Employment & Labor Group*

Morrison Foerster

Tritia Murata is a true star in the California labor and employment market. Her hallmark is her knack for obtaining court victories and developing innovative solutions to strategically dispose of high-exposure wage-and-hour class actions and representative actions brought under the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (PAGA).

Murata pursues an aggressive strategy to defeat class certification and has notched successes on behalf of leading clients spanning various industries. She has an impressive track record of defeating certification in wage-and-hour class actions, which continue to be a major concern for employers. She has achieved two of the most significant PAGA decisions since the statute was enacted in 2004. Murata secured a complete defense victory in the first suitable seating case to go to trial since the California Supreme Court's decision in *Kilby v. CVS Pharmacy, Inc.*

**KRISTEN NESBIT***Co-Regional Managing Partner*

Fisher Phillips

A powerhouse lawyer with a record for successfully handling high-stakes matters, Kristen Nesbit is a trusted partner to her clients, including Fortune 500 companies, billion-dollar corporations and public entities. Nesbit has handled numerous single-plaintiff and class action lawsuits, seeing them through to verdict. Her triumphs in the labor and employment arena, combined with her active community involvement, prestigious award recognitions and commitment to championing diversity and equality make Nesbit a legal industry leader.

Committed to helping diverse business owners succeed, Nesbit regularly assists Disability-Owned Business Enterprise, Minority Business Enterprise, Women Business Enterprise and Veteran Business Enterprise employers. Within Fisher Phillips, Nesbit serves as co-chair of the firm's California Litigation Practice Group and is one of the youngest practice group co-chairs within the firm and was the youngest female to co-chair a firmwide practice group at the time she was appointed to this role in 2019.



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**ANTHONY (TONY) ONCIDI**

Partner; Co-Chair, Labor and Employment Law Department
Proskauer Rose LLP

Tony Oncidi is the co-chair of the Labor & Employment Law Department at Proskauer Rose and heads the West Coast Labor & Employment group in the firm's Los Angeles office. His influence reverberates throughout the legal landscape. Oncidi brings a wealth of experience to high-end employment law cases involving celebrities and high-profile media and entertainment organizations. Known as the go-to employment lawyer for A-list entertainment companies, Oncidi consistently scores victories and sets precedents that leave a direct and lasting impact on the industry.

Oncidi's impressive roster of clients includes esteemed names such as the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (the GRAMMYs), Viacom/Paramount Pictures, FOX, Sony Music/Columbia Records, the NBA and NFL, Live Nation Entertainment, Inc., and Creative Artists Agency. Oncidi is a valued partner to C-suite executives, boards of directors and major media players because of his 360-degree approach to sensitive DEI and anti-discrimination issues in the workplace.

**MATTHEW OSTER**

Partner and Litigation Lead
Wolf Rifkin Shapiro Schulman & Rabkin LLP

Matthew Oster has been practicing employment law for more than 25 years. In that time, he has advised thousands of employers and is trusted by them to help navigate California's extremely difficult employment environment. When litigation is necessary, those same employers rely on Oster to defend them vigorously and achieve the best possible result. Oster has trained dozens of junior lawyers in the art and science of employment law and is a valued mentor.

In 2021, Oster was among the notable experts from the Southern California business community whose insights and predictions were included in a virtual panel discussion on economic trends likely to shape and impact the business landscape in California. Oster also regularly advises a number of pro bono clients including A Sense of Home, an organization devoted to preventing homelessness by creating homes for youth aging out of foster care with donated furniture and home goods.

**DEBORAH PETITO**

Principal
Offit Kurman

With more than 38 years of experience, Offit Kurman's Debbie Petito is a battle-tested and skilled trial lawyer, focusing on employment defense and litigation. Petito represents companies, non-profit organizations and individual clients in all types of employment litigation matters, including discrimination, harassment, and wage and hour. In her day-to-day role, Petito advises and counsels employers on navigating thorny employment laws and making the best of bad situations.

Whether she is advising on employee leave laws or supporting the C-suite through employee exits, Petito's main goal is to help her clients understand and focus on the human angle of business, where a more sensitive approach can often stave off costly litigation. In her client advisor role, Petito leverages her ability to connect with people to conduct numerous workplace investigations. Petito has conducted well over 100 investigations in her career, resolving employment disputes before they turn into time-consuming and costly litigation.

**RYNE POSEY**

Counsel
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Ryne Posey is a highly sought-after labor and employment attorney who has been on a rapid ascent within Skadden and in the Los Angeles community since joining the firm as a summer associate in 2012. In 2022, he was promoted to counsel based on his legal acumen, versatility and experience working with a wide array of clients on complex and high-profile matter, and his tenacity for up-lifting others on his team, in the office and in the community, especially those from under-represented backgrounds.

Posey's broad and unique practice encompasses compliance and counseling, litigation and alternative dispute resolution and transactional matters. His compliance and counseling work includes advising companies on domestic and global pay equity reviews and related compliance measures; conducting workplace investigations; mitigating unfair competition and trade secret misappropriation; planning and implementing reductions in force; and developing, implementing and enforcing personnel policies and procedures; and advising on pre-litigation matters.

**ANGELA REDDOCK-WRIGHT**

Employment & Title IX Mediator
Reddock Law / Signature Resolution

Recently inducted into the prestigious College of Labor & Employment Lawyers as well as the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals, Angela Reddock-Wright is an employment and Title IX mediator. Reddock-Wright has practiced as an employment and labor law attorney for 27 years. After working as an employment litigator for 15 years, in 2011, she opened the Reddock Law Group and transitioned to becoming a full-time neutral.

In addition to having her own firm, Reddock-Wright is a member of the panel of mediators and arbitrators at Signature Resolution, a private dispute resolution firm with offices throughout California. She began her journey as a neutral 12 years ago and has been a full-time neutral for more than three years. She is a past president of the Southern California Mediation Association (2019) and is a member of the panel of mediators with the US District Court, Central District of California.

**KATHERINE A. ROBERTS**

Partner; Co-Chair, Labor, Employment and Immigration Group
Sidley Austin LLP

Kate Roberts has an unusually wide range of recent accomplishments including a complete victory at trial in a major employment wage and hour lawsuit, and her work leading the employment and labor team on numerous major transactions and union negotiations. Her strong record of achievement, combined with her ongoing work defending high-stakes executive disputes and class actions, her leadership of one of the nation's top employment practices, and her pro bono and philanthropic work make her a strong candidate for this honor.

Roberts served as trial counsel for Liberty Mutual Insurance Company in one of very few misclassification cases to go all the way to trial. Working with co-counsel Shook Hardy, the team won a complete defense verdict against nine plaintiffs in a wage/hour action in which Liberty Mutual argued it had correctly classified its adjusters as administratively exempt under California law.

**MARIA RODRIGUEZ**

Partner; Los Angeles Office Managing Partner; Management Committee Member
McDermott Will & Emery

Maria Rodriguez represents global corporations in entertainment (film and television), sports, retail and closely held sports and entertainment companies (e.g., Stephen and Ayesha Curry's companies). She advises the C-suite and general counsel's office in labor and employment, and for her closely held clients, acts in an outside general counsel capacity. Rodriguez's clients rely on her to help effectively run their organizations, manage their human capital, defeat complex cases and negotiate challenging problems.

With 26 years practicing, and 20 years as a partner, Rodriguez is sought-after in the Los Angeles market because of her ability to win difficult cases, legal and business acumen, client-oriented and strategic approach to solving problems. Global retail clients engage Rodriguez for her track record of successfully defeating employment and complex class action litigation, to manage their employment litigation portfolios, and for her technical and pragmatic compliance counseling.

**JENNIFER ROSNER**

Partner
Liebert Cassidy Whitmore

Liebert Cassidy Whitmore partner Jennifer Rosner is a prolific litigator with an extensive background in lawsuits involving discrimination, harassment and retaliation, as well as disciplinary and due process issues. As a litigator, Rosner has considerable experience with law enforcement issues, including the Public Safety Officers Procedural Bill of Rights Act, and in defending law enforcement agencies in officer discipline, Section 1983 claims and Pitchess Motion hearings. She has tried law enforcement lawsuits to verdict and/or judgment in state and federal court in cases involving claims for retaliation for exercising freedom of speech rights.

In one of her recent trials, Rosner obtained a non-suit after nine-day jury trial involving a police officer who alleged numerous tort causes of action. Rosner has been successful in obtaining summary judgment on behalf of clients in many of her litigation matters in both state and federal court and also has extensive appellate experience.

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LINDSAY RYAN

*Employment Advice & Investigations Vice Chair
Polsinelli*

Lindsay Ryan is committed to providing reliable counsel to strategically solve client matters and address their litigation needs. Clients rely on Ryan to develop solutions and effective arguments with respect to their complex legal challenges. Her practice focuses on advising employers on compliance with both state and federal requirements for disability accommodation, leaves of absence, wage and hour, harassment and discrimination complaints, workplace investigation, reductions in force, disciplinary actions and terminations.

Ryan represents clients in all forums, including state and federal courts, arbitration and administrative agencies. She recently successfully represented a medical supply company against disability discrimination, wrongful termination, failure to accommodate, failure to engage in the interactive process, retaliation and intentional infliction of emotional distress claims by a former employee. The court granted her client's motion in its entirety, thereby disposing of the action completely.



SONIA SALINAS

*Partner
Hanson Bridgett LLP*

Sonia Salinas is an experienced labor and employment attorney and a skilled litigator. She represents clients in a wide range of litigation matters, including wrongful discharge, race, gender, and disability discrimination/harassment, retaliation, wage and hour claims (including class actions and FLSA collective actions), and claims involving non-compete agreements. She also provides advice and counsel to clients on employee discipline, leaves of absence and personnel policies.

Salinas has a diverse client base, including public entities, multi-national corporations, hospital systems, health care providers, nonprofit entities, small businesses and individuals, and tailors her services and advice to the unique needs of each client. Sonia has represented The Regents of the University of California; Coachella Valley Water District; Cardenas Markets LLC; Evexia Health Services and Los Angeles Unified School District. Over the course of her 17-year career, she has successfully litigated a variety of complex employment matters.



CHRISTIAN SCALI

*Founder and Managing Shareholder
Scali Rasmussen, PC*

Christian Scali has a diverse practice that includes advice and counsel and complex and high stakes litigation. His clients are in a variety of industries, including restaurant and hospitality, property management, entertainment, clothing manufacturing and ecommerce, but the majority of them are in the retail automotive industry. Scali is known for his work on behalf of the retail automotive industry in a series of advertising lawsuits brought against it under California's Unfair Competition Law.

Scali also regularly assists clients with mergers and acquisitions. While he is always a fierce advocate for his clients, when he is engaged on a buy/sell, his focus is on making the deal. Years of litigating buy/sell and commercial lease disputes on behalf of his clients have made him an effective transactional attorney. Scali also creates effective corporate compliance and ethics programs for his clients.



TODD SCHERWIN

*Regional Managing Partner
Fisher Phillips*

Fisher Phillips' Todd Scherwin is a powerful and effective advocate for Los Angeles-area business clients facing thorny employment issues and perilous lawsuits. One of California's premier labor and employment attorneys, Scherwin has blazed a trail in the ever-evolving world of California employment law through highly successful advocacy – including a track record of victories for employers and, recently, sitting at the counsel table before the US Supreme Court. He has also led the firm's burgeoning Los Angeles office since 2013, opened a Woodland Hills office in 2020, and founded (and co-chairs) the firm's Sports Industry Team in 2021.

Scherwin recently won summary judgment in Los Angeles Superior Court for a leading restaurant chain against a former employee's wrongful termination, harassment, and discrimination claims and served as Counsel of Record in the US Supreme Court for amicus curiae Restaurant Law Center, a public policy organization affiliated with the National Restaurant Association.

Los Angeles Business Journal's 2023 Leaders of Influence
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Great leaders make a lasting impact on those around them, creating a culture of excellence that molds the next generation of leaders. Akerman congratulates our colleagues and partners, Marissa Alguire and Damien DeLaney, on their well-deserved recognition as *Los Angeles Business Journal* Leaders of Influence. Their tireless efforts and commitment to excellence, empathy, and mentorship leave a lasting impression on our colleagues and our work in Los Angeles and throughout the United States.



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**KELLY SCOTT***Partner*

Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP

Kelly Scott is a partner and head of the Ervin Cohen & Jessup's Employment Law Department. Scott is also a member of the Litigation Department and has practiced law since 1987. His areas of practice include representation of employers in all types of employment matters, including class actions, wrongful termination, sexual harassment, employment discrimination and harassment, retaliation, wage and hour claims and advice and/or training for compliance with various employment laws.

Scott is also an experienced investigator in various types of employment law-related complaints and problems, including, but not limited to, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, workplace violence, wage and hour issues, overtime exemptions, employee theft and various allegations of employee misconduct. He is well-versed in pre-employment investigations and background checks, and is frequently active in the interviewing and review process for hiring, terminating and improving the performance of employees.

**CARNEY R. SHEGERIAN***Founding Partner*

Shegerian & Associates

Carney Shegerian has made a measurable impact over the past 33 years as an enthusiastic advocate and seasoned trial attorney for those who have been wronged by their former employers. Since launching Shegerian & Associates over two decades ago, Shegerian has developed a reputation as "the people's attorney," fighting passionately for the rights of his employee clients, and compassionately explaining the process as each client navigates through their own case.

As an experienced trial attorney, Shegerian has tried numerous jury trials to verdict in both State and Federal court, always representing individuals that have suffered financial or emotional losses and have been wronged by employers, including major corporations. Shegerian has consistently won monumental and record-breaking verdicts on behalf of his clients. Most recently, he secured a jury verdict of \$155 million in a case on behalf of a client who fell victim to retaliation.

**KATHERINE SMITH***Partner; Co-Chair,**Labor and Employment Practice Group
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP*

As co-chair of Gibson Dunn's Labor and Employment Practice Group, Katherine Smith has extensive experience representing employers in individual, representative and class action litigation at both the trial court and appellate level. In addition to her busy litigation practice, Smith is in demand by clients needing guidance with respect to nearly all aspects of employment law, including government investigations, enforcement of non-solicitation and non-competition covenants and independent contractor/common law employee status.

Smith recently secured final approval of a \$100 million putative class and government action settlement for Riot Games; secured a victory in a series of arbitration wins for Lowe's; secured dismissal of claims against a Netflix VP on Demurrer, without leave to amend; and secured a significant class certification victory for Amazon. She also secured a complete victory for Ford Motor Company in a putative class action challenging hiring policies at a Chicago assembly plant.

**TINA TELLADO***Partner*

Holland & Knight

Tina Tellado's ability to whittle down nationwide class action lawsuits from thousands of potential plaintiffs to a handful makes her a go-to wage-and-hour litigator in a state with some of the strictest employment laws in the US. Tellado is a partner in Holland & Knight's Century City and Philadelphia offices. She represents employers in all aspects of employment and labor law, with an emphasis on wage-and-hour complex collective, class and representative litigation, as well as discrimination and harassment claims. She has served as first and second chair in federal, state and arbitration forums.

Tellado represents major companies through the most difficult employment claims and has secured a plethora of wins that demonstrate her prowess in employment law. Among her successes has been her work defending Tesla against race, sex, harassment and discrimination claims in 15 matters, making it California's largest piece of complex employment litigation.

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GUILLERMO TELLO

Member
Clark Hill LLP

Clark Hill labor & employment attorney Guillermo Tello has amassed an impressive set of accomplishments as a leader within his practice. As the chair of Clark Hill's COVID-19 Employment Litigation Task Force, Tello met the complex and multi-layered challenges facing businesses in the management of their workforce day-to-day business management. He led the Task Force to help bring the firm's clients into compliance with the ever changing and varying COVID-19 related laws, orders and guidance, and also successfully represented clients facing shut-down orders pertaining to COVID-19. And as emergency orders began to expire, Tello has guided clients in the development and implementation of safe return to work policies.

Tello has also worked creatively with clients to develop and implement varying work policies that allow clients to continue to meet their operational needs, save overhead costs and continue to comply with the complex web of California labor and employment laws.



MATTHEW WALLIN

Partner
Gibbs Giden Locher Turner Senet & Wittbrodt

Matthew Wallin is a partner in the Los Angeles and Westlake offices of Gibbs Giden Locher Turner Senet & Wittbrodt, where he practices labor and employment law. He has extensive experience defending private business and public entities in litigation involving discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and wage and hour disputes. He also has experience defending employers against claims of assault and work place violence.

Wallin advises businesses and entities regarding best employment practices. He has assisted clients in developing and refining policies, procedures, employee handbooks and severance agreements. He has assisted businesses regarding compliance with disability matters and wage and hour laws. Wallin has defended cases in both state and federal courts, and represented clients with matters before agencies, including the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, Equal Opportunity Employment Commission, Department of Industrial Relations and the Office of Administrative Hearings.



BRIAN WALTER

Partner
Liebert Cassidy Whitmore

Liebert Cassidy Whitmore partner Brian Walter represents a diverse group of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore'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.



KERRY GARVIS WRIGHT

Partner; Chair, Employment Practice Group
Glaser Weil

Kerry Garvis Wright has emerged as a force in the legal community. A high-stakes trial attorney and a go-to employment lawyer, Wright is a fierce, sharp and dedicated advocate. Her strategic approach to litigation has translated into significant trial and arbitration victories for her clients. Having launched Glaser Weil's Employment Practice Group, which she now chairs, Wright is recognized for her litigation successes, strategic advocacy and hands-on client counseling, handling significant and often highly sensitive employment matters for some of the most powerful players across multiple industries.

Recent achievements include Wright's representation of members of the Guess? Board of Directors who were sued by two Jane Doe plaintiffs under a novel theory of law; and film producer, Victoria Alonso, in connection with Disney/Marvel's termination of her employment as one of the three founding members of Marvel Studios, responsible for producing all 31 of the iconic Marvel Cinematic Universe films.



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With more than 50 attorneys in our Los Angeles and Woodland Hills offices combined, almost 600 attorneys in 41 offices across the United States and Mexico, Fisher Phillips is an international labor and employment firm providing practical business solutions for employers' workplace legal problems. We regularly advise and counsel clients on issues surrounding wage and hour, employment discrimination and harassment, litigation, workplace safety, immigration, trade secrets and non-competes, and more.



Todd B. Scherwin

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Kristen Nesbit

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JASON YU
Partner
Snell & Wilmer

Jason Yu is a labor and employment and commercial litigation partner in the Los Angeles office of Snell & Wilmer, a full-service business law firm with more than 450 attorneys practicing in 16 locations throughout the United States and in Mexico, including three offices in California. His practice focuses on a broad spectrum of employment liability, commercial litigation, intellectual property and transactional work.

Yu has significant experience in cases involving debt collection, labor and employment law matters, and trade secret misappropriation. His clients are individuals and corporations, including major manufacturers, banking and financial institutions, transportation and shipping companies, import and export logistics companies, clothing manufacturers and retail clothing businesses, professional partnerships, and technology companies. As a labor and employment litigator, Yu offers his clients comprehensive advice relating to labor and employment law matters. He counsels clients regarding state and federal regulations affecting employers.



DAVID ZINS
Partner
Morrison Foerster

David Zins is a skilled litigator with expertise in complex wage-and-hour and other employment matters. He is a zealous advocate for employers and has a long track record of defeating putative class actions, Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) representative actions, Fair Labor Standards Act collective actions, and other employment-related litigation. Zins' dedication to his clients and his proven ability to obtain victory on their behalf make him a leader of influence.

Among Zins' recent successes was his work defeating certification, in February 2023, of a putative class claim alleging underpayment of meal and rest period premiums by persuading the court that determining whether an employee was owed a premium to begin with was not subject to common proof. He also defeated certification of a kitchen-sink wage-and-hour class action in its entirety in February 2022 on behalf of a leading manufacturer and distributor of nutritional supplements and home care products.

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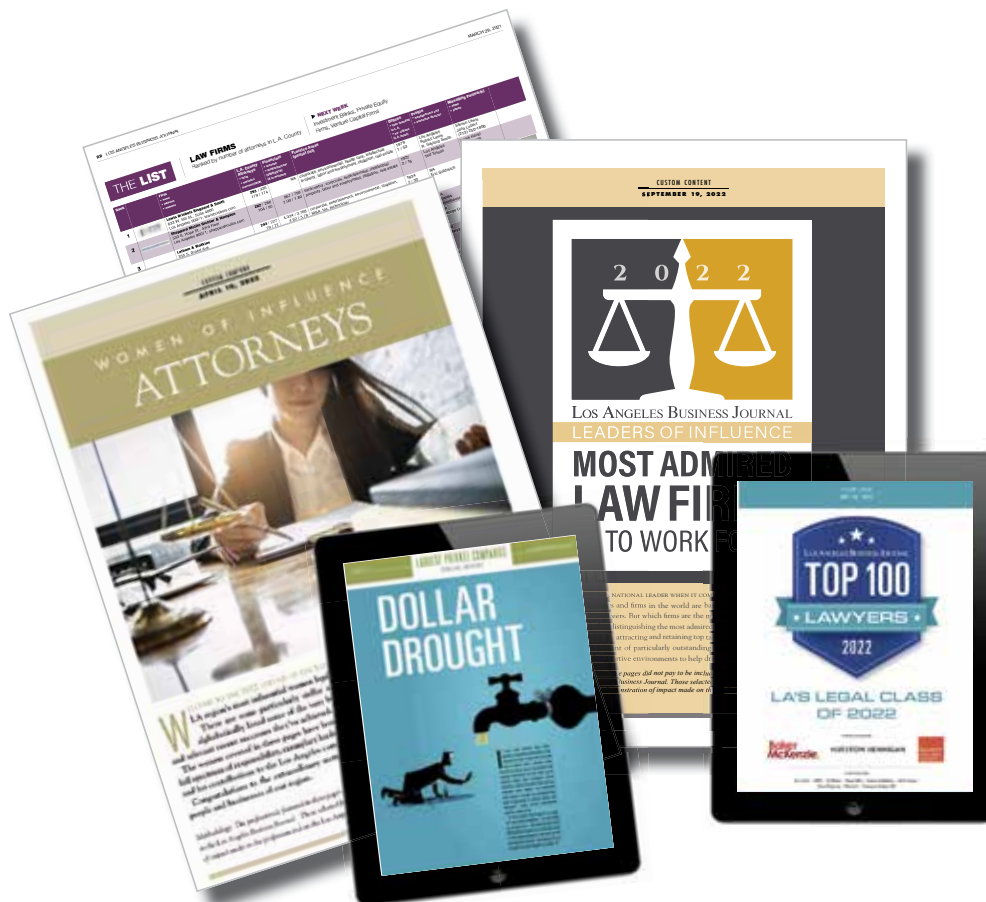
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