

# LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: Minority Attorneys



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

We've alphabetically listed 84 of the very best of those professionals here, along with insights and information about their careers, practice and success they've achieved. For our coverage in this issue, we have profiled those standout minority attorneys considered to be particularly impactful on the legal scene while serving as trusted advisors in the LA region. Congratulations to the attorneys who made this list and thank you for working to keep the people and businesses of Los Angeles on the right track.

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

## LOI: MINORITY ATTORNEYS

**NAZANIN AFSHAR**

Partner  
Fisher Phillips

**N**azanin Afshar is a partner in Fisher Phillips' Los Angeles and Woodland Hills offices. Afshar represents employers and individuals in single-plaintiff, multi-plaintiff, class action matters and representative lawsuits brought under California's Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA), involving a variety of issues, such as discrimination, harassment, retaliation, whistleblower allegations and wage and hour issues. In her practice, Afshar has represented many clients in mediation and has been trusted with crafting winning strategies that have created favorable results for her clients.

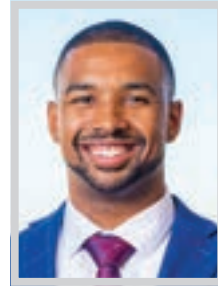
Afshar also assists her clients in navigating state and federal employment laws, advising them on compliance with wage and hour laws, proper classification of non-exempt/exempt employees and independent contractors, and maintaining up-to-date and compliant handbooks and employment policies to avoid litigation. As a member of the International Practice Group, Afshar assists clients on various issues related to employees in jurisdictions around the world.

**DANIEL H. AHN**

Partner  
Reed Smith LLP

**D**aniel H. Ahn is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Reed Smith and helps lead the firm's white-collar practice on the West Coast. He is an accomplished trial and appellate lawyer and nationally recognized investigations partner as well as former supervisory federal prosecutor who represents clients in sensitive internal and regulatory investigations, complex commercial and criminal litigation, and high-stakes trials and appeals.

Recognized by The Legal 500 for his work in corporate investigations and white-collar criminal defense, Ahn is known for his strong experience from the Department of Justice and his exceptional judgment. He also possesses particular expertise in FCPA matters involving Asia, state attorney general matters and False Claims Act actions. Ahn is one of only a handful of Korean Americans who held high-ranking positions at the US Department of Justice and who now leads a white-collar practice at a major law firm.

**CLIFTON W. ALBRIGHT, JR.**

Partner  
Albright, Yee & Schmit, APC

**C**lifton Albright, Jr. is a dedicated attorney at Albright, Yee & Schmit, APC (AY&S), where he specializes in general and complex business litigation, with a focus on labor and employment matters. Graduating from Loyola Law School in 2020, his career has already been remarkable. A defining moment in his legal 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, ensuring justice while preserving the reputation of his client.

Within his firm, Albright's multifaceted role involves engaging deeply with clients and 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.

**SERINEH BAGHDASARIAN**

Partner  
Sklar Kirsh

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

Baghdasarian also has an entrepreneurial background. Prior to joining Sklar Kirsh, she was an associate in the Real Estate Practice Group of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher where she worked on cutting-edge real estate and real estate finance transactions.

**JASMIN BHANDARI**

Principal  
Scali Rasmussen, PC

**J**asmin Bhandari maintains a regulatory and litigation practice primarily focused on labor and employment law. She provides advice and counsel to clients on compliance with state and federal employment laws, including termination and on-boarding issues. She also represents businesses in a broad range of disputes, including discrimination, harassment, wrongful termination, wage and hour, and trade secret matters.

Bhandari's experience further includes defending companies in wage and hour class actions against meal and rest break, overtime, and timely payment of wage claims, including extensive experience with PAGA cases in both litigation and arbitration. Bhandari has obtained a dismissal of class claims in arbitration, drafted briefs for cases at the California Court of Appeal and successfully brought a motion to dismiss the appeal. Jasmin also has significant experience drafting and revising handbooks, pay plans, break and leave policies, employee surveys and confidentiality agreements.

**JOSHUA BRIONES**

Member; Managing Member, Los Angeles Office  
Mintz

**J**oshua Briones has served as lead defense counsel on over 600 alleged nationwide class actions in state and federal courts across the country. He and his team have successfully defended many bet-the-company class actions that threaten a company's brand, reputation, business model and bottom line. A skilled negotiator, Briones has a long record of securing dismissals and extremely favorable settlements for his clients.

Notably, under Briones' leadership, Mintz's Los Angeles office has more than tripled in size and developed additional capabilities in specialty practice areas including IP and Health Law. He also brought in a highly regarded products liability team from Sedgwick and a talented real estate team from Pritcher. Recently, in a class action case alleging false advertising, Briones and his team successfully won a Motion for Sanctions against the plaintiff's counsel leading to the plaintiff's dismissal of class action claims.

**ELIZABETH CAMACHO**

Partner  
Loeb & Loeb

**E**lizabeth Camacho has significant experience with general planning and zoning law, including the complex and ever-changing statutes and regulations governing housing and other land use matters at the state and local levels, with substantial experience on a wide range of project types and sizes, including multi-family housing, mixed-use, educational and religious institutions, hospital and medical uses, studios, and industrial uses, among others.

Camacho is frequently sought out by clients for her deep experience in successfully guiding matters involving the California Environmental Quality Act, the Subdivision Map Act, the California Coastal Act, historic preservation law and Housing Element Law, including the Housing Accountability Act. She recently represented Claremont McKenna College in the entitlement of the Robert Day Science Center, now under construction on the CMC campus, which will be a modern teaching and laboratory facility approximately 135,000 square feet in size.

**MELANIE CHANEY**

Los Angeles Office Managing Partner  
Liebert Cassidy Whitmore

**M**elanie Chaney, the managing partner of LCW's Los Angeles office, stands as an exemplary leader in the legal field, distinguished by her expertise as a negotiator and litigator, and her unwavering commitment to collaboration and inclusivity.

Chaney's extensive experience in negotiation and litigation has been marked by significant achievements. She excels in providing practical advice on labor and employment issues, demonstrating a nuanced understanding of complex legal matters. Her success in guiding clients through bargaining processes, including impasse, mediation and factfinding, showcases her strategic acumen and ability to secure favorable outcomes in interest-based bargaining and strike preparations. Handling collective bargaining agreements, interpreting memoranda of understanding, resolving labor disputes and addressing unfair labor practice charges are all within her scope of expertise. Her prowess as a skilled litigator is evident in securing favorable verdicts in harassment, discrimination, retaliation and wage cases.

**HUESTON HENNIGAN LLP**

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**Congratulations**



**BRITTANI A. JACKSON**

**Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys**

*—Los Angeles Business Journal*

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## LOI: MINORITY ATTORNEYS

**GARY CHEN***Senior Counsel*

Stubbs Alderton &amp; Markiles, LLP

**G**ary Chen excels in spearheading both domestic and international mergers and acquisitions, showcasing a remarkable skill set in navigating intricate transactions. He provides strategic guidance on acquisition and divestiture strategies, alongside the management of deal structuring. His proficiency has notably contributed to the successful execution of numerous high-value deals including restructuring of US corporate clients with Chinese subsidiaries and representing both China- and US-based corporate clients.

Chen is also heavily involved in venture capital and private equity financings, facilitating funding for emerging growth companies. He has been instrumental in helping startups secure capital, navigate negotiations and foster growth opportunities. He represents early-stage companies through various stages of venture capital financing, demonstrating his commitment to nurturing and supporting startups. He has a track record of successful mergers and acquisitions, venture capital involvement, representation of startups, international experience, and expertise in corporate governance and compliance.

**CANDICE CHOH***Co-Partner in Charge, Century City and Los Angeles Offices*

Gibson, Dunn &amp; Crutcher LLP

**C**andice Choh, co-partner in Charge of the Century City and Los Angeles offices of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, is a highly talented, impactful and in demand deal lawyer. She has a broad-based practice encompassing mergers and acquisitions across a wide variety of industries and other private equity transactions, including co-investments, secondary transactions, and investments in sponsors. Choh regularly counsels private equity sponsors on firm structuring and internal governance matters.

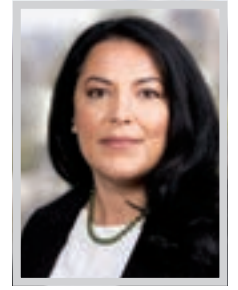
Among Cho's recent notable transactions has been her work for Stone Canyon Industries Holdings in the acquisition by Stone Canyon and Kissner Group Holdings minority owner and CEO Mark Demetree of K+S Aktiengesellschaft's Americas salt business, including Morton Salt, for \$3.2 billion. She also represented Hackman Capital Partners in its partnership with Square Mile Capital Management, LLC to acquire CBS Studio Center, a best-in-class studio lot with over one million square feet of space.

**EVAN CHUCK***Partner; Head, Asia Practice*

Crowell &amp; Moring LLP

**E**van Chuck, a partner in Crowell & Moring's Los Angeles office, leads the firm's Asia practice and provides unparalleled guidance to Fortune 500 companies on navigating the complexities of China's Antiforeign Sanctions Law, PRC Export Control Law, Unreliable Entity List, and the PRC Cybersecurity Law. He began his career as an international trade lawyer in Washington D.C., and made significant contributions to major unfair trade disputes, including a pivotal role in filing a constitutional challenge that led to a settlement in the US-Canada Free Trade Agreement dispute on behalf of the US lumber industry.

Chuck combines legal and strategic business advice to address the impact of US and Chinese laws on supply chains, addressing conflicts with legislation like the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act and corporate ESG policies. He ensures that clients' operations align with both legal requirements and ethical considerations.

**ERIKA CONTRERAS***Partner*

Panish | Shea | Boyle | Ravipudi LLP

**E**rika Contreras is an attorney at Panish | Shea | Boyle | Ravipudi LLP and focuses her practice on catastrophic personal injury, wrongful death, and motor carrier liability cases. Licensed in California and Nevada, Contreras has obtained millions of dollars in awards for her clients, including many seven-figure and eight-figure verdicts and settlements throughout California.

Most recently, Contreras obtained a \$15,750,000 settlement for the wrongful death of a 13 year old girl who died as the result of a mismanaged asthma attack at school. More importantly, Contreras was able to obtain five non-monetary terms which included more training for employees to help prevent this type of tragedy from ever happening again. She was selected by the Consumer Attorneys of California as a finalist for 2023 Consumer Attorney of the Year for her work on this case. Contreras also serves on the Latina Lawyers Bar Association Board of Directors.

**EMAHN COUNTS***Founding Partner*

Counts Law Firm PC

**E**mahn Counts has been practicing law for more than 18 years and is the founder of Counts Law Firm PC. His practice areas include: business, family and real estate litigation. Counts enjoys resolving contract disputes and financial matters. He has represented corporate clients, including American Express, Porsche Cars, Honda Finance, as well as thousands of individual and small business clients in Greater Los Angeles.

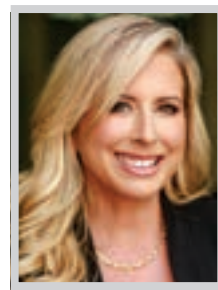
Counts has successfully negotiated and/or litigated over 1000 cases, recovering tens of millions of dollars for clients. Counts achieved success through intelligent strategy, organization, negotiation and court skills, along with a commitment to value, efficiency and impact. For over 20 years, Counts has served as an ambassador for the African-American Alumni Association at Loyola Marymount University. He mentors undergraduate students in this program in addition to contributing to the scholarship program.

**MIGUEL CUSTODIO, JR.***Partner; Co-Founder*

Custodio &amp; Dubey LLP

**A**s a child of Guatemalan immigrants living in the LA neighborhood of Boyle Heights, Miguel Custodio grew up witnessing structural inequality, which is why he now dedicates his LA practice to helping regular people get justice when harmed by corporations. Custodio focuses on personal injury and wrongful death cases. He has worked with hundreds of accident victims and their families over the years. When a client comes to him, he actively ensures that they're treated like family, taking care of them in the present and in the future. Custodio is committed to helping provide justice and opportunities for people who might otherwise be overlooked or intimidated by the legal system.

Custodio celebrated his firm's 10-year anniversary last year. Their dynamic approach has brought justice to hundreds of clients, compelled manufacturers and retailers to clean up thousands of dangerous or cancer-causing products, and resulted in nearly \$100 million in settlements.

**LOURDES DE ARMAS***Partner; Litigation Attorney*

Omega Law Group

**L**ourdes 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. 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 is also an inspiration to all her peers in the industry, and this is shown in the industry-recognition she has accumulated over the years. Her tenacity and finesse in her past work surrounding contractual disputes, class actions and amusement park injury have been assets to her work at Omega Law Group.

**VICTOR DE LA CRUZ***Partner*

Manatt, Phelps &amp; Phillips, LLP

**V**ictor De la Cruz, the leader of Manatt's Land Use practice group, has become recognized as one of the leading land use and government attorneys in Los Angeles. He counsels clients in various matters at the nexus of law and government – in particular, real estate development, where his work on complicated, high-profile land use entitlements has earned him consistent accolades.

De la Cruz has played a key role in shaping the Los Angeles landscape. Projects have included Kilroy's Academy Square project in Hollywood; the Related Companies' Century condominium high-rise tower in Century City; and last year, on behalf of Mount Saint Mary's University, securing unanimous planning commission and city council approval of the university's Wellness Pavilion. De la Cruz has also become recognized as one of the leading practitioners in residential hillside development, being consistently called on for the most controversial disputes in this area.

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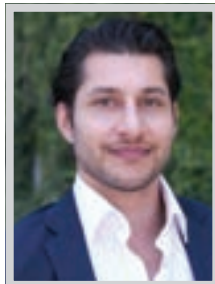


**PABLO DE LEON**

Senior Counsel  
Lagerlof, LLP

**P**ablo De Leon is senior counsel at Lagerlof, LLP practicing in real estate, corporate and finance law. His practice focuses on real estate finance transactions, as well as business matters in general. He has vast experience representing a wide variety of clients, including individuals, investors, sponsors, brokers, borrowers, lenders, as well as national and international companies on matters ranging from small license and vendor agreements to large joint venture transactions, and everything in between.

Some of De Leon's significant transactions include representing the purchaser/borrower in a \$450 million portfolio acquisition of 19 multifamily properties, including mortgage financing, mezzanine debt and equity investments, and representing the lender in a \$340 million mortgage portfolio of 55 multifamily and office properties. De Leon earned his Juris Doctorate from the UC Berkeley School of Law and a Masters of Business Administration from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College.

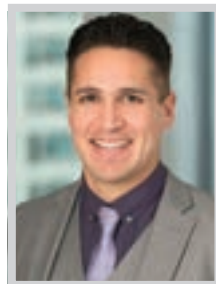


**CAMRON DOWLATSHAHI**

Founding Partner  
Mills Sadat Dowlat LLP

**C**amron Dowlatshahi is an employment attorney due to his extensive experience and dedication to personalized care for his clients, and with his background working at international law firms, Dowlatshahi has successfully represented clients in a wide range of cases, including employment discrimination and harassment, intellectual property disputes, entertainment contract negotiations and personal injury claims.

Dowlatshahi was recently featured on KABC and other media speaking about his client's lawsuit over their dog's death against a Beverly Hills Property Manager. He was featured on the radio speaking about another client's wrongful death lawsuit against a Hollister drug rehab center. He has been quoted in numerous articles, sharing legal analysis on breaking news. Dowlatshahi recently achieved a reversal in the Court of Appeal on an anti-SLAPP issue on behalf of a social media personality who accused her agency of trapping her in an exploitive contract and posting explicit material without her consent.



**GABRIEL DUARTE**

Partner  
Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP

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

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



**VINEET DUBEY**

Partner; Co-Founder  
Custodio & Dubey LLP

**V**ineet 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 ten years, he has brought forth notable lawsuits against high-volume food manufacturers and grocery stores for dangerous products. Because of Dubey's advocacy, thousands of products tainted with lead, cadmium, phthalates and other cancer-causing chemicals have been taken off the shelves.

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. Dubey's firm recently celebrated its ten-year anniversary. Its has brought justice to hundreds of clients, compelled manufacturers and retailers to clean up thousands of dangerous or cancer-causing products, and resulted in nearly \$100 million in settlements.

Congratulations to our partners **Elizabeth Camacho** and **Marc Jones** and all of our friends recognized on the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2024 Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys list.

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



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SAN FRANCISCO  
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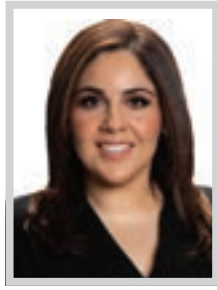
## LOI: MINORITY ATTORNEYS

**JEFFREY ERDMAN**

Shareholder  
Scali Rasmussen, PC.

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

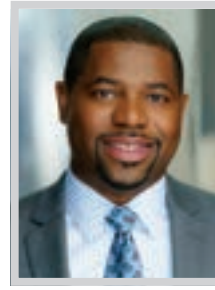
Before joining Scali Rasmussen, Erdman was managing partner of Bennett & Erdman for 16 years, where he served both as litigation counsel and as outside general counsel to various business entities and entrepreneurs. Erdman has also provided pro bono legal services in a variety of matters impacting disenfranchised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

**TINA ESHGHIEH**

Partner  
The Law Office of Arash Khorsandi, PC

Tina Eshghieh, the department chair for the Workers Compensation Department at the Law Offices of Arash Khorsandi, PC, a leading personal injury law firm. Eshghieh leads a team of attorneys, paralegals and staff members in championing cases for workplace injuries but also fosters a familial approach. Eshghieh goes above and beyond, treating her clients like family and ensuring their well-being beyond legal aspects.

Eshghieh regularly collaborates with leading medical experts in the orthopedic and brain injury field, where she keeps abreast on the latest medical developments in the field to better capture and explain the worker's injuries. Eshghieh has recovered over \$100 million on behalf of injured individuals, including a record setting \$11,250,000 recovery on behalf of a worker who was catastrophically injured when he fell four stories down a shaft. This result joins several seven figure settlements obtained on behalf of hurt employees.

**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.

**TERRENCE FRANKLIN**

Partner  
Sacks, Glazier, Franklin & Lodise LLP

Terrence Franklin has over three decades of experience handling some of the most significant and complex trusts and estates litigation. His breadth of expertise and reputation in the trusts and estates community underscore the reason clients turn to him for the resolution of high-profile multi-million-dollar disputes. Franklin is responsible for several published appeals and the landmark "Moeller v. Superior Court" case, which was brought before the California Supreme Court and established a fiduciary exception to the attorney-client privilege for successor trustees.

Franklin has successfully represented beneficiaries, trustees, individuals and institutional clients in matters involving substantial assets, including recently representing one of the nation's largest banks in its capacity as trustee in a complex array of accounting and related disputes, resulting in no liability and a recovery of trustee's fees and attorney's fees. Franklin resisted an appeal by the beneficiary and the case was successfully settled with the plaintiff.

**LISA GILFORD**

Partner  
Sidley Austin LLP

As one of the country's leading litigators, Lisa Gilford specializes in aggregate litigation, class and mass actions, and multidistrict litigations (MDL). She actively represents clients across several major industrial segments, including music recording labels, automotive, pharmaceutical, communications, oil and gas, aerospace and chemical manufacturing, sports and higher education.

Gilford excels at handling complex matters with scientific or technical aspects. She often works with engineers, physicians, computer scientists, economists and other technical experts to prepare them for deposition and trial. Her technical expertise makes her a sought-after advisor for litigation mitigation, counseling and risk assessments. In recent months, Gilford has continued to work with high-profile recording labels (among other clients) while also taking on a significant MDL case involving PFAS chemical products and a series of cases testing PREP Act immunity in the COVID-19 pandemic.

**MICHAEL GOMEZ**

Partner  
Frاندzel Robins Bloom & Csato, L.C.

Michael Gomez focuses his practice in the areas of bankruptcy, debtor and creditor rights, commercial litigation, and business litigation; debt workout negotiations, restructuring, and documentation of commercial lending transactions, and personal property and real estate-secured credits. He has represented various entities, including debtors, creditors' committees, hedge funds, indenture trustees, equipment lessors, receivers, landlords, bankruptcy trustees, judgment creditors, private lenders and institutional lenders in out of court workouts, federal and state court litigation, and chapters 7, 11, 12, and 13 bankruptcy cases.

Gomez routinely moderates and speaks at educational presentations before clients and trade groups concerning bankruptcy, enforcing judgments, financing distressed borrowers, and agricultural lending issues. He also serves as vice chair of publications for the Business Law Section of the California Lawyers Association and is past president of the California Bankruptcy Forum. He is also the lawyer representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference.

**DAVID GRAELER**

Managing Partner  
Nossaman

David Graeler serves as Nossaman's managing partner and chair of the firm's Management Committee. He previously served as chair of the Litigation Department and co-lead the Real Estate Group. Graeler possesses nearly 25 years of litigation and trial experience representing both plaintiffs and defendants. He excels at partnering with clients to identify their goals and to develop and execute winning strategies both inside and outside the courtroom. Through the development of his civil trial practice, he has honed his ability to communicate and connect with judges and juries, as well as with clients, witnesses and other attorneys.

Graeler strives to learn and understand his client's business objectives, key issues and goals in order to develop a tailored strategy and obtain the best possible result. His track record of success in high stakes litigation in federal and state courts has earned him numerous awards and accolades.

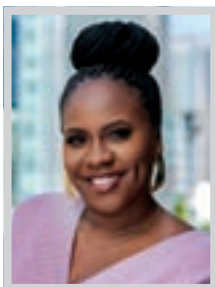
**SAMANTHA GRANT**

Partner  
Reed Smith LLP

Samantha Grant is a partner in Reed Smith's Century City office and is an effective advocate for employers and management in administrative, arbitration and trial proceedings. She leverages her analytical and strategic skills to deliver superior results in litigation of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wage and hour, breach of contract, fraud, defamation, trade secret, and unfair competition cases, among others. She advises clients on litigation avoidance strategies and local, state, and federal compliance matters. She also conducts workplace investigations and management and workforce training.

Grant has extensive experience in many different industries, including the entertainment, aerospace/defense contractor, hospitality, health care and retail industries. Her deep industry knowledge coupled with her awareness of her clients' businesses make her particularly adept at proactively advising her clients on creating harmonious workplaces, managing a diverse workforce and litigation avoidance strategies, as well as making her an effective litigator.

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**DEMETRIA L. 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 now has offices in both Pasadena and Beverly Hills. Graves is considered a leading Family Law attorney and has received many accolades for her dedication to the field of family law as well as to the community.

Graves is also the immediate past chair of the Family Law Executive Committee with the California Lawyers Association. She currently co-chairs the African American Alumni Association at Loyola Law School and is a mentor to several law students and young attorneys. She has served as a past Judge Pro Tem with the Los Angeles Superior Court. During her tenure in each position, she has worked, and continues to work, diligently to ensure diversity in the legal profession.



**JAMEL GREER**

*Senior Associate, Government Affairs and Public Policy,  
Higher Education and Collegiate Athletics  
Akerman LLP*

Jamel Greer, a senior associate attorney at Akerman LLP, boasts an impressive career in the higher education and collegiate athletics sector. His accomplishments position him as a noteworthy figure in the legal landscape. He has demonstrated a track record in successfully representing higher education institutions, navigating intricate regulatory and compliance challenges across various government levels.

Greer goes beyond legal representation, providing valuable training to board members on crucial matters such as ethics, Title IX, employment discrimination, the Freedom of Information Act, Open Meeting Act, and general board governance. His expertise extends to addressing complex issues of student and employee privacy, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. He also adeptly handles investigations.



**JOSEPH GUARDARRAMA**

*Attorney  
Kaufman Legal Group*

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

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



**ILEANA HERNANDEZ**

*Health Care Litigation Leader  
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP*

Where many litigators settle cases before going to court, Ileana Hernandez has a reputation as a true trial lawyer known for guiding some of the most recognizable names in health care through every stage of litigation in state and federal courts, mediations, arbitrations, and administrative hearings. As leader of Manatt's Health Care Litigation practice, Hernandez is the go-to counsel for health insurance and managed care organizations facing complex litigation issues through her experience successfully guiding clients through the trial and appeals process.

Hernandez successfully defended a major California health plan in a lawsuit brought by a group of ten commonly owned substance use treatment providers that alleged that the plan owed them millions in unpaid or underpaid claims. Following a two-month trial, a jury found that the providers were entitled to nothing and had in fact defrauded the plan, had interfered with contracts and were liable under RICO.



**CONGRATULATIONS**

Russ August & Kabat proudly congratulates our partner and colleague, **Benjamin Wang**, on being named among the **2024 LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS.**

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

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## LOI: MINORITY ATTORNEYS

**LAWRENCE C. HINKLE, II**

*Managing Partner*  
Sanders Roberts LLP

Lawrence C. Hinkle, II is the managing partner of Sanders Roberts LLP. He was brought on board to facilitate and drive the firm's nationwide growth. Hinkle represents institutional and individual clients in a wide range of entertainment and commercial litigation matters and transactions. In addition to serving as lead trial counsel, he regularly advises clients on litigation prevention and prioritizing developing creative approaches to manage legal risks and resolve disputes. He also advises clients regarding non-litigation matters, frequently in the capacity of outside general counsel.

Hinkle has extensive experience representing clients in the entertainment, media, technology, finance, real estate, insurance, apparel and manufacturing industries including Fortune 500 companies, global corporations, mid-size and small businesses as well as individual clients. He has handled disputes involving breach of contract, intellectual property, business torts, unfair competition, defamation, right of privacy, right of publicity, employment, shareholders, partnerships and joint ventures, among other areas.

**SHAWN HOLLEY**

*Partner*  
Kinsella Holley Iser Kump Steinsapir LLP

Shawn Holley, name partner at preeminent entertainment litigation boutique Kinsella Holley Iser Kump Steinsapir (KHIKS), routinely represents top entertainment talent in highly publicized cases. With more than 60 trials to her credit, Holley practices in the areas of both civil and criminal litigation. She began her legal career as a Los Angeles County public defender, subsequently working alongside legendary lawyer Johnnie Cochran on numerous high-profile civil and criminal cases, including as a member of the O.J. Simpson "Dream" criminal defense team in 1994-95. She is also a producer on Hulu's "Reasonable Doubt," which is loosely based on her legal career.

Holley's recent high-profile representations include actress and activist Evan Rachel Wood against a defamation suit filed by Brian Warner (Marilyn Manson); Shia LaBeouf in a civil case filed by FKA Twigs; former Dodgers pitcher Trevor Bauer in civil defamation lawsuits; and many others.

**ARASH HOMAMPOUR**

*Partner; Founder; Trial Attorney*  
The Homampour Law Firm

Arash Homampour is widely regarded as one of the best trial lawyers of our time. He exclusively represents individuals in cases involving catastrophic injuries and wrongful deaths, consistently achieving victories in cases others deem impossible to win. As the founder of The Homampour Law Firm, he has established its reputation as one of California's premier trial firms, focusing on outlier results by taking a limited number of cases at a time.

A self-made professional who financed his own undergraduate (USC) and law school (Southwestern) educations, Homampour worked full-time virtually for a solo practitioner while attending law school. Starting his law firm with no mentor, money, or cases, Homampour's story is one of the American dream with unwavering commitment and hard work, going from handling minor traffic cases to becoming a titan in the field of catastrophic injury/death litigation. Today, his firm has obtained over \$1 billion for clients.

**KENNETH HSU**

*Partner*  
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP

Kenneth Hsu is an associate in the Litigation Department at Ervin Cohen & Jessup. Hsu's practice focuses on complex business and corporate litigation in federal and state courts. He has represented a wide range of companies, including local and national retailers, manufacturers and technology companies, in various class actions, contract disputes, shareholder disputes and other complex litigation matters.

During law school, Hsu served as editor-in-chief of the Hastings Business Law Journal. He also externed for the US Securities and Exchange Commission and for the Honorable Susan Y. Illston, US District Court for the Northern District of California. He serves as chair of ECJ's Associates Committee and is a member of the Pilipino American Bar Association. Among his recent successes was his work representing the CEO of a technology company in a nine-day arbitration resulting in complete victory against claims of breach of contract and negligent misrepresentation.

**HELEN HWANG**

*Partner*  
Covington & Burling LLP

Helen Hwang focuses her practice on counseling clients through complex and sensitive cross-border anti-corruption internal investigations and investigations by government enforcement authorities, such as the DOJ and SEC. She also advises clients across a range of industries on the corruption risks of proposed transactions and how to build and improve their compliance programs.

Hwang recently served as co-lead counsel for a military parts manufacturer in a DOJ False Claims Act investigation of alleged failure to comply with MIL-SPEC requirements for testing and qualification. She and the Covington team successfully obtained a declination from the DOJ Criminal Division for the company and a highly favorable settlement from the DOJ Civil Division. She also co-leads a team of Covington lawyers representing an international gaming and hospitality company in connection with a DOJ investigation of third-party money laundering.

**BRITTANI JACKSON**

*Partner*  
Hueston Hennigan LLP

Brittani Jackson is a recognized rising star who represents clients in a broad range of complex business litigation and investigations conducted by the SEC and various Attorneys General. In January 2024 she became one of Hueston Hennigan's newest partners. She joined the firm in March of 2018, and since then has become an integral member of the team taking lead roles in several high-profile matters.

Most recently, Jackson obtained a favorable settlement, after a week of trial, for Synchrony Financial (formerly GE Capital) in a lawsuit involving breach of contract, fraudulent misrepresentation and alter ego claims; helped to secure a unique plea for Bill McGlashan, founder of TPG Growth LLC and The Rise Fund, in the "Varsity Blues" college admissions case; achieved a favorable settlement for CoreLogic in litigation involving the misappropriation of its trade secrets; and successfully represented Endo Pharmaceuticals in litigation related to opioid abuse.

**TRAVIS K. JANG-BUSBY**

*Partner, Labor & Employment*  
Blank Rome LLP

Travis Jang-Busby strategically represents his clients in high-stakes class action litigation in California and nationally, representative wage-hour litigation under the Private Attorneys General Act, discrimination litigation, and administrative investigations, and provides them with preventative counseling. He has extensive experience successfully representing clients in all phases of litigation and skillfully handles client matters from inception through trial.

Among Jang-Busby's recent client successes has been his work successfully obtaining a non-compete injunction against a former employee veterinarian after she opened a competing veterinary hospital next door to a VCA hospital. The court agreed that the former employee was not permitted to compete following receipt of over \$5 million dollars for her interest in the purchased animal hospital. The case is currently pending with the Court of Appeal. Jang-Busby also recently obtained a dismissal of all claims against his client in a claim of alleged wire-tapping by customer service chatbots.

**MARC JONES**

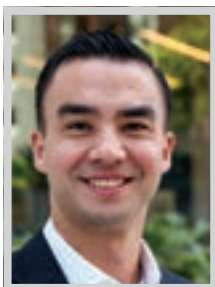
*Partner*  
Loeb & Loeb

Marc Jones, a partner in Loeb & Loeb's corporate practice, is a seasoned transactional lawyer with more than two decades of experience handling complex business transactions and securities matters. Jones focuses his practice on private equity and strategic acquisitions, minority investments, venture capital and growth equity financings and joint ventures transactions. He also has extensive experience with corporate governance controversies, recapitalizations and restructurings, executive compensation and incentive equity matters, among other highly complex matters.

Jones' prior experience in business and his MBA from UCLA allows him to be more than just a legal advocate for his clients. He is able to advise his clients on the business, strategic and market considerations that will inform the legal decisions that they will make together, especially when those decisions relate to transactions that may be new to his clients but are very familiar to Jones.



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**JASON KELLY**

Partner  
Annaguey McCann LLP

After spending more than a decade working at law firms of all sizes, Jason Kelly decided last May to start a new litigation law firm in Los Angeles with two of his partners. The firm is focused on providing high-quality litigation representation to smaller and mid-sized companies.

Kelly, along with another of his colleagues, also had the privilege of trying the first in-person federal civil jury trial in the Central District of California when the court lifted restrictions on in-person trials during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to adapting to the various COVID-related restrictions and precautions, they were also faced with a judge who imposed a tight trial schedule likely due to a heavy backlog. Despite the complex intellectual property issues involved in the claims, Kelly and the team rose to the challenge. They streamlined the case, adhered to the schedule and secured a jury verdict for their client.



**JASON KIM**

Counsel  
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

Jason Kim, litigation counsel at Hunton Andrews Kurth's Los Angeles office, is helping global brands to navigate their most high-profile cybersecurity and privacy class actions in California. He counts among his clients Meta Platforms Inc. (fka Facebook), Bath & Body Works, Inc., Walmart, Neiman Marcus, Flurry, Rite Aid, Checkers Drive-In Restaurants, MGM and Verizon.

Kim has litigated multiple highly publicized data breach class actions, financial services class actions and consumer class actions for a broad spectrum of Fortune 500 companies. Among other things, Kim has served as litigation counsel to one of the largest online services in the world in class actions involving the largest reported data breach in history. On May 4, 2022, Kim won a significant victory for Bath & Body Works, Inc. (fka L Brands) in a high-stakes class action involving multiple prominent retailers.



**JASON S. KIM**

Partner, Corporate Law  
Blank Rome LLP

Jason S. Kim, a 30-year deal lawyer, represents domestic and foreign companies, financial institutions, funds, serial entrepreneurs, and high net worth individuals in corporate and real estate transactions and related financing with an emphasis on cross border deals. His deals in the US involve foreign buyers, PEs and banks. Frequently, he is brought into PE transactions as corporate counsel, on the other side of the PEs.

Among Kim's most significant deals are investee-side representation of a green energy company in raising nearly \$300 million through six rounds of equity financing; issuer-side representation of a Korean airline in the private placement offering of \$200 million in unsecured bonds; and investor-side representation of a Korean social, on-line gaming company in acquiring controlling interest in a US social, on-line gaming company for \$130 million. Kim is co-chair of Blank Rome's firm-wide Diversity & Inclusion Committee and a member of its multicultural affinity group.



**NARY KIM**

Partner  
Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP

Kendall Brill & Kelly Partner Nary Kim is a leader inside and outside of the courtroom. As a partner and lead member of KBK's Media and Entertainment team, Kim has been an integral member of seven KBK trial teams, including the trial teams that won a favorable judgment for a prominent business client and secured multiple arbitration victories for major film and television studios.

Kim rose to be a partner in just five years, having thoroughly demonstrated the expertise needed to develop winning cases for KBK's clients. In just the past year, she played a leading role in securing the dismissal of a child pornography case filed by the person pictured on the album cover of Nirvana's "Nevermind," and recently helped secure the early dismissal of a high-profile lawsuit against Paramount Pictures seeking \$500 million brought by two former actors in the 1968 film adaptation of "Romeo and Juliet."

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**CONGRATULATIONS**  
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**Vanessa Terzian**  
Partner



**Pablo De Leon**  
Senior Counsel

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**TAISUKE KIMOTO**

Partner; Co-Lead, Japan Practice  
Covington & Burling LLP

Taisuke Kimoto co-leads Covington's Japan Practice, which advises a number of Japan's largest corporations as well as individuals, trade associations and governmental agencies on their most sensitive and complex legal challenges in the United States, Europe, China and elsewhere. Drawing upon his long-standing relationships and robust business and legal networks in Japan, Kimoto serves as an ambassador of the firm to the Japanese business community and to global companies with interests in the Japanese market.

Kimoto is a corporate lawyer whose practice focuses on M&A transactions, general corporate matters, and real estate transactions for companies based in Japan. He also serves as an outside US general counsel for a number of Japanese companies and in that capacity provides advice in many areas, including dispute resolution and employment. In 2021, Chambers Global recognized him among the leading lawyers for Corporate/M&A: Deals in Asia.

**KRISTINE KWONG**

Partner  
Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP

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

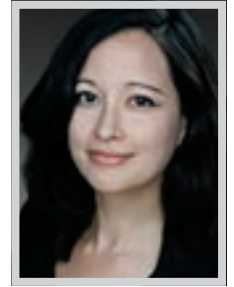
Kwong represents public and private sector entities in retail, manufacturing, finance, healthcare, hospitality, real estate and charitable and tax-exempt organizations, including religious entities, federally qualified health centers, educational institutions and public sector agencies, municipalities,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

**AYMARA LEDEZMA**

Partner  
Fisher Phillips

Aymara Ledezma is a partner in Fisher Phillips' Los Angeles office. She represents and counsels employers in all aspects of labor and employment law, including matters involving wage and hour issues, allegations of discrimination and harassment, and wrongful discharge. She has a background in representing employers against claims before state and federal courts and government agencies and has obtained favorable results at agency hearings.

Ledezma counsels businesses of all sizes on day-to-day employment issues, offering preventative advice to clients on a variety of issues including advising them on wage and hour law, exemption status, meal and rest break policy, harassment training, termination steps, and reasonable accommodations, among other employment issues. Ledezma also assists clients with workplace investigations, including allegations of sexual harassment and other complaints. She also frequently presents seminars and workshops on employment issues to executives, supervisors, managers, and human resources professionals.

**LISIA LEON**

Partner  
Paduano & Weintraub

Paduano & Weintraub partner Lisia Leon recently represented an employer (a large public company, with locations in over 100 cities across the US) in connection with a class action federal wage and hour suit brought by a former employee. Leon successfully opposed the plaintiff's efforts to certify a nationwide collective consisting of hundreds of locations and thousands of employees over a six-year period. Following a mediation, Leon obtained a favorable class-wide settlement for close to 2,000 other employees.

Leon also recently secured summary judgment for a real estate management group, board of a condominium building and individual board members on claims of tortious interference with contract and whistleblower claims. She also successfully obtained a favorable settlement for another client, an operator of a website, in connection with a web access case brought pursuant to UNRUH.



**We proudly congratulate our colleagues, Evan Chuck and Sima Namiri-Kalantari, on being named among the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* "Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys."**

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**PAUL LOH**  
*Managing Partner*  
 Willenken LLP

**P**aul Loh is Willenken’s managing partner and a founding member of the firm. Loh has spent over 30 years honing his craft in civil and criminal litigation and has tried over 120 jury trials, court trials, and arbitrations during his impressive career. He 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.



**DANIEL LYNCH**  
*Partner*  
 Akin

**A**kin partner Dan Lynch is a highly regarded leader in the firm’s Projects & Energy Transition practice. He is regularly called upon to assist leading renewable energy clients in cutting-edge, sophisticated transactions, with a particular focus on power hedges – highly complex financial tools that require the market acumen and experience of a derivatives lawyer alongside the insight into, and practical knowledge of renewable energy, of a projects practitioner.

As part of his practice, Lynch plays leading roles in many significant matters for key renewable industry players. Recent examples include leading the representations for Excelsior Energy Capital, a leading independent North American renewable energy investor, in its \$1.3 billion financing package for the Faraday Solar project in Utah County, Utah. Lynch and the Akin team also represented Excelsior in its acquisition of Faraday Solar earlier this year from Parasol and Clenera.



**HEMAL MASTER**  
*Managing Shareholder*  
 Frandzel Robins Bloom & Csato, L.C.

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

In addition to his experience with the firm, Master completed a three year long secondment to a major regional bank in which he advised on hundreds of matters involving distressed debt and supervised litigation on matters in 45 different states. He recently represented an international bank as lead lender in the structuring, documentation, negotiation and closing of a \$125 million syndicated construction loan for the development of a 236-room, full-service hotel.



**MARCELLUS MCRAE**  
*Partner; Co-Chair, Trials Practice Group*  
 Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

**M**arcellus McRae has first-chaired numerous jury trials, bench trials and arbitrations in both federal and state courts. 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.

Among McRae’s recent highlights was his work defeating all claims by a prominent crypto investor against AT&T in a cryptocurrency theft. McRae also won an important victory in 2020 in California Court of Appeal for the City of Santa Monica in a case involving the California Voting Rights Act – a win that marked the first victory for any defendant in a California Voting Rights Act case. McRae also represented California schoolchildren in the landmark case, *Vergara v. State of California*, which asserted a state constitutional challenge to laws that prevent school administrators from hiring and retaining the most effective teachers.

PANISH | SHEA  
 BOYLE | RAVIPUDI <sup>LLP</sup>

Congratulates our partners  
**ERIKA CONTRERAS**  
**& RAHUL RAVIPUDI**  
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Their leadership and dedication to serve as advocates for change, equity, and inclusion are unparalleled.

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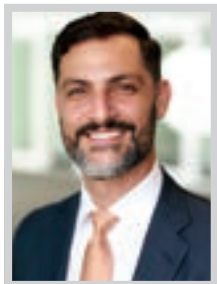


**ERIKA CONTRERAS**  
 PARTNER



**RAHUL RAVIPUDI**  
 PARTNER

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**SHAHAB MOSSAVAR-RAHMANI**

*Founding Partner; Litigation 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. He was able to help rapidly grow the litigation department to a sizable team consisting of eight litigation attorneys whom he now oversees, a stark contrast to the firm's small litigation team in 2016. In just a little over seven years, he along with his co-founders are 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 still uses to defend the vulnerable against insurance companies. What motivates Mossavar-Rahmani more than anything, is a genuine desire to help people.

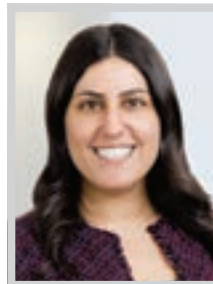


**POOJA NAIR**

*Partner  
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP*

Pooja Nair is a go-to attorney for the food, beverage and hospitality industries and handles partnership disputes, false advertising claims, employment disputes and administrative law issues. While she is a talented and experienced litigator, her specialty is finding creative means to ensure that legal problems have practical business solutions.

Some recent key representative matters include Nair's work handling a partnership dispute on behalf of a lead investor in a restaurant, which was resolved pre-litigation with a favorable settlement for the client. She also represented a restaurant group against an insurance company and successfully stayed the insurer's declaratory relief action in federal court. She also advised two related winter sports companies through a highly contentious partnership dispute that was resolved pre-litigation. She assisted over a dozen small and mid-market food and beverage clients in addressing false advertising complaints and potential complaints related to product labels, advertising and reviews.



**SIMA NAMIRI-KALANTARI**

*Partner  
Crowell & Moring LLP*

Sima Namiri-Kalantari, a partner in Crowell's Antitrust and Competition Group, has established herself as a distinguished complex commercial litigator, specializing in antitrust and unfair competition law. Providing strategic representation and guidance to her clients, Namiri-Kalantari has defended clients in civil antitrust litigation, as well as represented Fortune 500 companies as plaintiffs in recovery actions against price-fixing cartels.

Namiri-Kalantari leverages her background in economics to all stages of litigation, including expert selection and testimony, discovery, class action defense, and preparing for trial. She regularly counsels clients on a broad range of antitrust issues, and also conducts antitrust compliance trainings, equipping clients with the knowledge necessary to navigate potential legal pitfalls. Her experience spans multiple industries, including aerospace and defense, telecommunications, manufacturing, technology, healthcare, and consumer products.



**QUINCY NEWELL**

*Managing Attorney; Founding Partner  
Newell Law Firm PC*

Quincy Newell is a 30+ year veteran of the entertainment and media business. He has held senior-level executive posts at a variety of independent and mainstream music and film companies including Hits Magazine, Warner Music Group's Rhino Entertainment, Ventura Distribution's Urbanworks Entertainment, Universal/Vivendi's Codeblack Entertainment, Hidden Empire Film Group and Lionsgate, where he served as EVP & GM of Lionsgate's subsidiary Codeblack Films. Most recently Newell served as of counsel at Sanders Roberts LLP and helped to launch and lead the boutique litigation firm's entertainment transactional practice.

Newell has handled hundreds of transactions across the industry spectrum including film, television, music and digital media. He has negotiated deals on behalf of celebrities, producers and production companies such as: Kevin Hart, Tyrin Turner, Hidden Empire Film Group, NEO Studios US, Codeblack Films/Lionsgate, celebrity chef and TV host Monti Carlo, Ventura Distribution, Grand Hustle Films, TIP and many more.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PARTNERS**



**Nazanin Afshar**

*Woodland Hills/Los Angeles  
nafshar@fisherphillips.com*



**Aymara Ledezma**

*Los Angeles  
aledezma@fisherphillips.com*

**for being recognized on Los Angeles Business Journal's  
2024 Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorney list.**

With 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.

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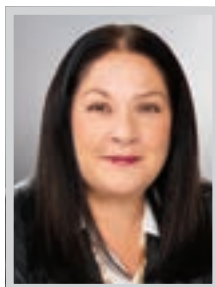


**ARAMEH O'BOYLE**

Member  
Mintz

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

O'Boyle is a litigator who focuses her practice on defending product manufacturers in complex product liability and consumer class action litigation. She represents businesses in a variety of industries including cosmetic, personal care products, medical device, pharmaceutical, over-the-counter drugs, food, retail and electronics. She regularly advises clients on product labeling and advertising strategies to navigate the requirements of the FDA's Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and mitigate challenges under California's consumer protection laws. O'Boyle represents companies in high-profile litigation and has extensive experience managing and coordinating complex class action and multidistrict litigation. Her clients regard her as strategic and creative and trust her commonsense approach to problem-solving.

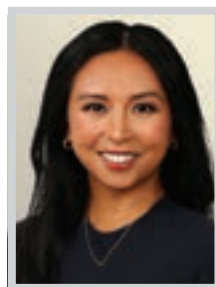


**DOREEN MARIE OLSON**

Founding Partner  
Meyer, Olson, Lowy & Meyers

Doreen Marie Olson is co-founder and partner at Meyer, Olson, Lowy & Meyers, a family law firm located in Century City and Irvine. Olson has been certified as a specialist in family law by the Board of Legal Specialization of the State Bar of California. Olson helped establish MOLM as one of the nation's most respected firms working in the arena of high-asset and high-conflict family law matters and is frequently appointed as minors' counsel.

For 30 years, Olson has worked exclusively in family law. During this time, she has brought more than a hundred cases to a successful conclusion for her clients. Her contributions to the firm and her case results helped pave the way for it to become one of the most trusted firms in high-asset and family law matters. Olson is known for her tenacity and work ethic and mentors fellow partners and associates.

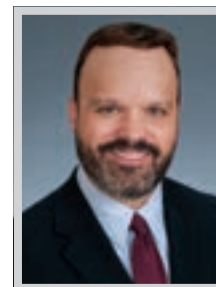


**JENNY PELAEZ**

Partner  
King & Spalding

Jenny Pelaez focuses her practice on complex commercial and class action litigation at the trial and appellate levels. She has extensive experience representing a diverse group of clients in high-stakes matters involving claims under antitrust, securities and consumer protection laws, as well as a variety of contract and tort claims. She also regularly represents public companies and individuals in a wide range of industries in securities class action and derivative litigation. Her clients include companies in the financial services, accounting, technology and entertainment industries.

Pelaez clerked with the Honorable Pamela K. Chen of the US District Court for the Eastern District of New York. She worked for two years as a fellow at the National Center for Law and Economic Justice, where she litigated class actions seeking to reform policies and practices affecting low-income populations.



**ROLLIN A. RANSOM**

Partner; Co-Leader, Entertainment, Sports and Media Group; Co-Leader, Global Commercial Litigation and Disputes Practice; Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office; Head, Greater Los Angeles Litigation Group  
Sidley Austin LLP

Rollin Ransom has extensive experience prosecuting and defending lawsuits involving a wide variety of entertainment and intellectual property claims, including copyright and theft of idea, contract, trademark, false advertising, trade secret and unfair competition actions. He has recently secured numerous wins for media and entertainment companies, and he regularly counsels clients outside of litigation on a variety of intellectual property, advertising and internet-related matters.

Ransom is a member of the LGBTQ+ community, and his leadership extends to Sidley's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, where he serves as one of Sidley's four firmwide co-chairs, as well as his active mentorship of the lawyers with whom he works. Outside of his firm leadership roles, Ransom also serves as Chairman of the Board of spcaLA, the oldest humane organization in Southern California.

**WE PROUDLY CONGRATULATE OUR PARTNER,**

**Tina Eshghieh**

On being selected as one of the Leaders of Influence: **Minority Attorneys** by the Los Angeles Business Journal.

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**RAHUL RAVIPUDI**

Partner

Panish | Shea | Boyle | Ravipudi LLP

Panish | Shea | Boyle | Ravipudi partner Rahul Ravipudi is a member of the Inner Circle of Advocates and a past recipient of the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles' Trial Lawyer of the Year Award as well as the Consumer Attorneys of California's Robert E. Cartwright Sr. Award. He has spent his legal career handling catastrophic injury and wrongful death cases involving commercial vehicles, pedestrians, industrial or construction accidents, corporate negligence, and dangerous conditions of public and private property.

Ravipudi currently serves as public entity plaintiffs' co-lead counsel in the JUUL Labs Product Cases litigation as well as plaintiffs' co-lead counsel in the Southern California fire cases litigation and in the social media cases litigation which involves cases of children and young adults harmed or driven to suicide by social media algorithms.



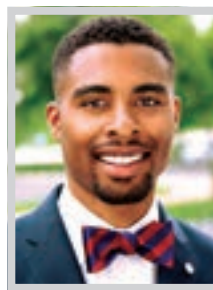
**ANGELA REDDOCK-WRIGHT**

Employment & Title IX Mediator

Signature Resolution

Angela Reddock-Wright is a leading employment and Title IX mediator and neutral with Signature Resolution. She has practiced employment and labor law for nearly 30 years. After working as an employment litigator for 15 years, in 2011, Reddock-Wright began her path as a full-time neutral.

Reddock-Wright is a graduate of UCLA School of Law and Amherst College and received her training as a mediator from the Strauss Institute for Dispute Resolution at the Pepperdine University School of Law. Reddock-Wright is a past president of the Southern California Mediation Association and is a member of the panel of mediators with the US District Court, Central District of California. She is also an adjunct professor for the Employment Mediation Clinic at USC Gould School of Law, and is a distinguished fellow with the International Academy of Mediators, the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals, and the College of Labor & Employment Lawyers.



**ARNOLD REED II**

Litigation Lawyer

Ivie McNeill Wyatt Purcell & Diggs

Arnold E. Reed II is a trial lawyer licensed in California and Michigan where he is originally from. He is a litigation associate in the LA office of the firm Ivie, McNeill, Wyatt, Purcell & Diggs. Since moving to California in 2021, Reed has tried cases in Downtown Los Angeles, Van Nuys, Pasadena and Santa Monica on behalf of severely injured plaintiffs. In 2023 Reed secured over \$4 million in settlements. Reed also defends those ensnared in the criminal justice system.

Prior to moving to California, Reed began his career in 2019 at his parents' firm, Arnold E. Reed & Associates. There, he managed a docket consisting of personal injury and medical malpractice cases. During the pandemic, Reed noticed an uptick of people struggling to navigate through the criminal justice system. This prompted him to defend indigent clients, at no cost to them, in Detroit.



**ESTEBAN RODRIGUEZ**

Partner

O'Melveny & Myers LLP

Esteban Rodriguez is an experienced litigator whose diverse practice focuses on defending consumer products and life sciences companies in government investigations and complex, multi-jurisdictional matters alleging product liability, false advertising, unfair competition and other consumer fraud claims. Promoted to partner earlier this year at the age of 38, Rodriguez has become a trusted advisor to major pharmaceutical clients, including Johnson & Johnson in the opioids litigation. He also provides life sciences law compliance advice to multiple pharmaceutical and medical device companies.

For the better part of a decade, Rodriguez has been a key member of the O'Melveny team representing J&J in state and federal multi-district litigation relating to prescription opioid medications. He was a member of the team that scored the first trial win for any drug companies in the opioid litigation when a California state court judge found J&J and others not liable in a \$50 billion suit.

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**Louise Truong,**  
and all the honorees,  
for being named among the  
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by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*

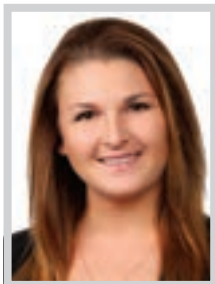


**Louise Truong**  
Partner, Los Angeles

@msklip msk.com

los angeles | new york | washington, dc

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**JULIA ROMANO**

Partner  
King & Spalding

Julia Romano is a high-performing lawyer at international law firm King & Spalding and is dedicated to DEI efforts both within and outside the firm. Her efforts advocating on behalf of LGBTQ+ individuals on pro bono matters have been especially notable.

Romano successfully obtained asylum for three trans women from El Salvador who had suffered violence at the hands of El Salvadorian police because of their transgender status. They then fled to Mexico only to be kidnapped by a human trafficker who attempted to sell them into sex slavery. They were able to escape and fled to the US in 2014, where they immediately sought asylum. Romano’s representation of one of these trans women was an odyssey that lasted throughout the pandemic and several delays in immigration court. She is now helping these women obtain permanent residency status, as well as legal name and gender changes.



**MISTY SANFORD**

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

Misty Sanford is a partner in the Real Estate Department in Willkie’s Los Angeles office, where she serves as chair of real estate for the West Coast. Her sophisticated and broad-based real estate transactional practice involves all aspects of real estate, with an emphasis on loan workouts, public/private partnerships, real estate financing (including CMBS), complex mixed-use developments, purchase and sale, joint ventures, environmental issues, land use, leasing and reciprocal easement agreements, which allows her to assist with the full lifecycle of real estate assets.

Whether leading transformational real estate transactions or creating innovative diversity programs, Sanford is a mover and shaker in real estate law and the legal community. Sanford’s work includes representation of some of the world’s leading institutional investors, private equity firms, developers, multinational corporations, REITs, foundations, non-profits and individual entrepreneurs. Clients turn to her with their most complex transactions.



**ANOUSH SARKISSIAN**

Counsel  
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Anoush Sarkissian is a counsel in Skadden’s Los Angeles real estate group where she handles large, complex, multi-faceted transactions with many of the most sophisticated clients and counterparties in the real estate, corporate real estate and private equity space, both nationally and globally. Her practice is broad, ranging from traditional real estate work to intricate private equity and M&A transactions, as well as strategic advice for portfolio companies, and her diverse client base includes private equity firms, pension & sovereign wealth funds, public companies, as well as real estate, infrastructure and healthcare companies.

Sarkissian is known for her unassuming, poised and calm presence that is powerfully reinforced by her outstanding lawyering abilities, her ability to effectively lead deals and the ease with which she inspires confidence in clients and colleagues. Sarkissian has extensive experience leading all aspects of complex transactions.



**ANNE NAKORN RATANA SLUSSER**

Partner  
Meyer, Olson, Lowy & Meyers

Anne Nakornratana Slusser began working at Meyer, Olson, Lowy & Meyers in 2002. A decade later, the law firm named her one of its partners. During the length of her tenure, she has distinguished herself as an experienced attorney capable of handling some of the most volatile cases that come to the firm. Her clients primarily include high-profile individuals from Los Angeles and Orange County. She focuses on helping her clients manage their expectations of high-asset divorce and custody.

More than just sharing her legal expertise with her clients, Slusser provides them with emotional support and is an excellent listener. In addition, while she is always prepared for trial, she also enjoys finding ways to help her clients avoid litigation.

The best leaders inspire us to soar higher.

**YC** YUKEVICH | CAVANAUGH

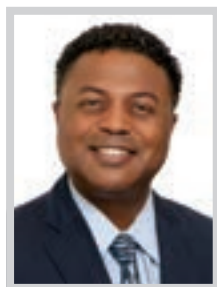


Delmar S. Thomas, Partner

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

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**ALFRED SMITH**

Chair, Water Practice Group  
Nossaman

**A**lfred Smith, chair of Nossaman’s Water Group, is a recognized expert in water, environmental, transportation and public agency law. A graduate of the Harvard Law School, he has successfully litigated multiple water right adjudications, and he has secured more than \$750 million worth of contamination settlements in favor of his clients.

Smith is a trusted advisor on matters involving water rights, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, Colorado River and Pueblo rights, recycled water, water resource development, contamination remediation, groundwater adjudications, water transfers, desalination, conjunctive use, climate change and environmental regulatory compliance. He has also developed Urban Water Management Plans, water supply assessments and environmental impact reports for a wide range of residential and commercial developments. An experienced general counsel to multiple government agencies, Smith is an expert on all aspects of public agency governance and operations.



**ALICE CHEN SMITH**

Managing Partner  
YOKA | SMITH, LLP

**A**lice Chen Smith is the managing partner of YOKA | SMITH and is an experienced trial lawyer who has successfully tried many cases to verdict. Her primary focus is litigating catastrophic personal injury cases, products liability and business litigation matters. She practices throughout the State of California in trial and appellate courts.

Smith was inducted into the American Board of Trial Advocates as a member of the Los Angeles Chapter in 2019, and currently serves as the membership co-chair. She is the secretary-treasurer of the Association of Southern California Defense Counsel and will be its president in 2026. She has served on the Los Angeles County Bar Association President’s Advisory Committee on Women in the Legal Profession since 2018. She is also a Board Member with the Association of Business Trial Lawyers.



**MISHELL PARRENO TAYLOR**

Partner, Labor and Employment  
Akerman LLP

**M**ishell Parreno Taylor, a distinguished labor and employment partner at Akerman, brings two decades of strategic defense experience to global businesses. Her focus extends across federal and state courts as well as administrative agencies nationwide, with a specific emphasis on Texas and California. Through her deep expertise practicing in nearly polar opposite states when it comes to workplace regulation, she has become a business partner to stakeholders and industry leaders on a broad range of high stake employment law issues, including individual and class-wide claims of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation as well as wage and hour litigation.

Taylor has represented clients across a broad spectrum of industries including bioscience, healthcare, technology, energy, entertainment, manufacturing, food and beverage, hospitality, finance, fintech, retail, and real estate. In addition to litigation, she has served as a key negotiator in high stakes workplace negotiations.



**GUILLERMO TELLO**

Member  
Clark Hill

**C**lark Hill labor & employment attorney Guillermo Tello has amassed an impressive set of accomplishments as a leader within his practice at Clark Hill, a leader within the Hispanic Bar, a leader in the local community where he lives and works, and a leader in successfully representing firm clients. Guillermo joined Clark Hill as a member (same as partner) in August of 2019 from LeClairRyan’s Los Angeles office where he had been a partner.

Shortly after Tello’s arrival at Clark Hill, the pandemic emerged and precipitated unprecedented shut down orders that left the business world uncertain of how-to carry-on. Tello did not hesitate and with his natural leadership formed and agreed to chair Clark Hill’s COVID-19 Employment Litigation Task Force. His team ably navigated the complex and multi-layered challenges and uncertainty facing businesses in the management of their workforce by providing business management advice with diligence and clarity.

YOKA | SMITH



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

yokasmith.com



**DAVID GRAELER**  
Managing Partner



**ALFRED E. SMITH, II**  
Chair | Water Group

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

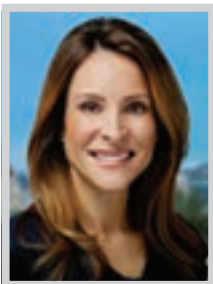
Nossaman’s commitment to a diverse and inclusive environment is rooted in our core values. We believe an inclusive environment and consideration of diverse perspectives are crucial to creating the ideal workplace.



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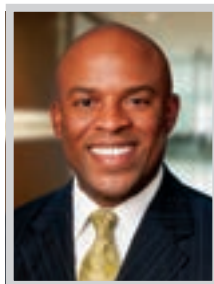


**VANESSA TERZIAN**

Partner  
Lagerlof, LLP

Vanessa Terzian began her legal career as a trust officer for Wells Fargo where she learned how a poor estate plan can ruin a family’s fortune. After witnessing the importance of proper planning, Terzian now focuses on helping families through her expertise in estate and tax planning, probate, and trust administration. What sets her apart is her understanding of the needs of growing families, her ability to relate to working parents who desire a better life for themselves and their families, and her know-how in implementing strategic estate-planning tools in the most cost-efficient and seamless manner. Terzian draws on her real estate and business background to craft comprehensive plans for clients.

Terzian is a skilled public speaker, having conducted countless seminars throughout her legal career on various estate-planning topics, including kids protection planning, special needs planning, Medi-Cal planning, advanced tax planning and asset protection for individuals and small businesses.



**DELMAR S. THOMAS**

Partner  
Yukevich | Cavanaugh

Delmar Thomas is an experienced trial lawyer with over two decades of courtroom experience. He has been consistently effective and successful for his clients in briefing and arguing key motions in state and federal courts across the country. His oral advocacy skills have led to significant victories through case dispositive motions, summary judgment, appeals, and various post-trial motions in high-exposure cases.

While Thomas is viewed in the legal community as a relentless advocate for his clients, he is also respected for his negotiation skills and pragmatic approach to alternative dispute resolution. He has negotiated countless favorable settlements for clients through aggressive factual investigation and case assessment. Thomas has a wealth of experience in handling and resolving matters through a variety of alternative dispute resolution strategies. His practice currently focuses on litigation, with extensive experience in product liability, construction defect, mass tort, premises liability and general negligence.

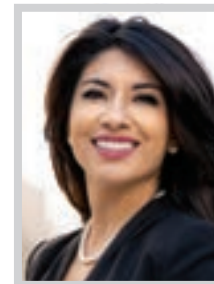


**JASON TOKORO**

Partner  
Miller Barondess, LLP

Jason Tokoro is a complex commercial litigator who is skilled at crafting a case strategy to accommodate his clients’ unique interests and objectives. He has achieved significant victories for both plaintiffs and defendants and has been recognized among the top litigators in Los Angeles.

Tokoro represented Zions Bancorporation, N.A. dba California Bank & Trust in a breach of contract case against JPMorgan Chase Bank. Tokoro defeated JPMorgan’s motion to dismiss the suit after it was removed to federal court and the suit was settled prior to trial. Tokoro is also outside counsel for the County of Los Angeles and handles the County’s complex litigation matters. He defended the County in one of the most heavily publicized civil trials in the country in 2022 – stemming from crash scene photographs taken by County personnel immediately following the tragic helicopter crash that killed nine individuals, including Kobe Bryant and his daughter.



**MARINA TORRES**

Partner, Litigation  
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Marina Torres is a partner in Willkie’s Litigation Department, where she is a member of the White-Collar Defense and Investigations & Enforcement Practices. Torres focuses on government and corporate internal investigations, white collar criminal defense, congressional inquiries and complex civil litigation.

A former federal prosecutor who served as lead or co-lead in over 30 trials in federal and state courts, Torres is an experienced litigator whose trial practice includes civil litigation, criminal investigations and enforcement. She was the opioids coordinator for the US Attorney’s Office for the Central District of California, and previously taught a week-long criminal trial skills course on behalf of the US DOJ and US Dept. of State in Mexico City for Mexican judges, prosecutors and attorneys. She has also briefed and argued numerous appeals before the US Courts of Appeals, and was a political appointee with the Department of Homeland Security under President Obama.

We congratulate

**GARY CHEN**

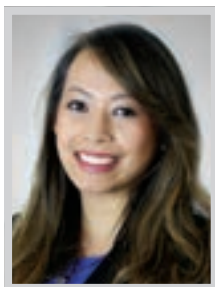
on his selection to the

*Los Angeles Business Journal’s 2024*

“Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys.”



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**LOUISE TRUONG**

Partner

Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP

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

When she's not defending clients, Truong regularly provides counseling on mitigating risk and advice on best practices for employment policies and procedures. Truong effortlessly juggles providing dedicated and top-notch legal work to clients and regularly mentoring associates at her firm, engaging in pro bono work, bringing in new business and helping her colleagues wherever she can. In 2023, Truong participated in Leadership Council on Legal Diversity's 2023 Fellows program, designed to provide high potential, mid-career attorneys with professional development opportunities, leadership training and access to relationship building opportunities with managing partners and general counsel.



**JENNER TSENG**

Partner

Hill, Farrer & Burrill LLP

Jenner C. Tseng practices in the areas of employment litigation, commercial litigation, real estate litigation, intellectual property litigation, insurance brokerage litigation, insurance recovery and complex insurance disputes. Tseng also regularly advises and assists clients in various non-litigation matters such as regulatory compliance, contract review and negotiation and corporate governance.

Tseng has extensive experience representing and advising a broad array of corporate and individual clients in the resolution of their complex business and employment disputes as quickly and efficiently as possible. He is skilled in the development of cost-effective litigation strategies to attain favorable results for his clients, including law and motion practice, utilizing focused discovery and Alternative Dispute Resolution. Tseng spent the majority of his childhood living abroad, including Saudi Arabia and Malaysia. Tseng received his Juris Doctor degree in 2002 from UCLA School of Law, where he was an associate editor of the Asian Pacific American Law Journal.



**ELIZABETH TUAN**

Partner

Irell & Manella LLP

Partner at Irell & Manella LLP, Elizabeth Tuan focuses on highly complex patent litigation ranging from biotechnology and pharmaceuticals to technical software components. Tuan is often a key member of teams on Irell's most significant victories, including serving on the team that in March 2021 secured a \$2.18 billion verdict for VLSI Technology in a suit against Intel involving two patents on technology used in Intel's microprocessors. In April 2022, the trial judge issued a \$2.3 billion final judgment in the case, which is the largest patent judgment in US history.

In November 2022, Tuan also was part of the team that obtained a \$948 million jury verdict plus running royalties for VLSI in a different suit against Intel involving a microprocessor patent. She is a member of the team representing VLSI in another complex patent suit against Intel, which is scheduled for trial in March 2024.



**BEN WANG**

Partner

Russ August & Kabat

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

Wang represents clients in a variety of matters. In another recent case, Wang was second chair in a patent jury trial and obtained a verdict in favor of his client on all issues and damages of \$3.1 million. Wang also recently won an appeal against Meta before the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, reversing a summary judgement ruling against his client.



**Diversity and inclusion are fundamental to our success.**

Mintz is proud to congratulate our Members **Joshua Briones** and **Arameh O'Boyle** and all the other honorees named as the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* **2024 Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys.**



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**Congratulations**

To our Managing Partner **Tommy SF Wang** on being named a 2024 Los Angeles Business Journal **Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys**

Wang IP Law Group, P.C. specializes in the development and active protection of the intellectual property of inventors, entrepreneurs and business owners in the U.S. and worldwide.

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**TOMMY WANG**

Partner  
Wang IP Law Group,  
a Professional Law Corporation

Tommy Wang has filed thousands of patents, trademarks and copyrights, and is experienced in negotiating licensing agreements and obtaining favorable settlements for his clients in order to avoid costly trials. Additionally, Wang is experienced in intellectual property litigation through the US Federal District Courts, United States Courts of Appeals and the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Patent Trial and Appeal Board and Trademark Trial and Appeal Board.

Although Wang's practice is primarily focused on patent, trademark and copyright, he regularly represents clients in antitrust and trade regulation, unfair competition, international business transactions and other complex business litigation matters. Additionally, Wang is an expert adviser to international businesses in US Customs and Border Protection and Food and Drug Administration regulatory compliance. Wang's clients range from multinational public corporations to individual entrepreneurs.



**BART H. WILLIAMS**

Partner; Los Angeles Office Head; Global Chair,  
Litigation Department  
Proskauer Rose LLP

Nationally renowned trial lawyer, Bart Williams is chair of Proskauer's Litigation Department and head of its Los Angeles office. He has extensive experience in commercial litigation, white collar criminal defense and corporate investigations. A longtime member of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Williams boasts an impressive track record of victories in both jury and bench trials nationwide. His legal prowess has made him the trusted trial counsel for numerous Fortune 500 companies, providing invaluable litigation and counseling services in high stakes, high-profile matters. Williams is known for his ability to deliver a win, and is often called upon just months or weeks before a trial.

Williams was lead trial counsel for Gilead Sciences in securing a significant trial victory in a \$3.6 billion antitrust case on allegations that the pharmaceutical company struck an anticompetitive "pay-for-delay" patent settlement related to two of Gilead's HIV medications, Truvada and Atripla.



**JASON WILSON**

Partner  
Willenken LLP

Willenken partner Jason Wilson has more than 30 years of litigation experience, including substantial trial and appellate experience. Wilson has taken more than 15 civil matters to trial (both jury and bench) or binding arbitrations. His experience on the appellate side is equally deep. He started his career with two clerkships for two different judges on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and has handled over 40 different appellate matters in his career so far.

Wilson is frequently retained as trial counsel by Fortune 500 clients, often just weeks before trial. His practice focuses on complex commercial business litigation, representing Fortune 500 companies across a range of industries in real estate, energy and utilities, environmental, intellectual property, class action, and complex business matters. Wilson's representative clients include AbbVie, Southern California Gas Company, Hilton, McDonalds, Starbucks, Southern California Edison and Walgreens.



**ANNITA ZHONG**

Partner  
Irell & Manella LLP

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

Before law school, Dr. Zhong was a senior research scientist at General Electric Company's Global Research Center. Her engineering and research background enables her to digest new technologies quickly and has proven valuable in delivering significant victories for clients in complex litigation. In April 2023, Dr. Zhong co-led the team that scored a \$303.15 million verdict for Netlist in a suit against Samsung involving five patents relating to computer memory technology. She also was a principal member of the team that secured an August 2021 \$300 million jury award for PanOptis in a patent suit against Apple.

Congratulations to our Partner

**Shawn Holley**

for being named to the

*Los Angeles Business Journal's 2024 list of*

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



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