



40s

THRIVING IN THEIR

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE

A SKILLED BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL – BE IT AN ACCOUNTANT, ATTORNEY, BANKER, REAL ESTATE EXPERT, insurance professional or some other form of trusted advisor – can be one of the key ingredients for any company’s success. Working with an expert who possesses the right skill set can actually help set growth in motion for businesses in virtually any industry.

Demand for such expertise can be competitive. Fortunately, Los Angeles is home to a growing group of such established professionals – and the numbers of young people training to become leaders are up. Currently, in the Los Angeles region, there is no shortage of excellent advisors, many of whom happen to be in their 40s.

Listed alphabetically in this section, you’ll find a selection of Los Angeles’ leading professionals in their 40s, along with some insights about their careers, attributes and accomplishments.

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: THRIVING IN THEIR 40s



ASHKAN AFSHARI
Senior Associate Project Manager
WATG

Ashkan Afshari has led a distinguished career in architecture, contributing to a wide range of projects across sectors such as hospitality, residential and education. Since beginning his 10-year tenure at the global design firm WATG, Afshari has played a key role in designing landmark luxury hospitality, residential and urban destinations worldwide.

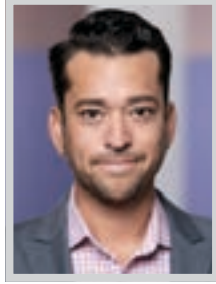
Afshari has worked on prestigious projects such as The Ritz-Carlton Xi'an and The City by Zhongda International in China, exemplifying the blending of creativity and community development. These projects are prime examples of integrating cultural context with architectural excellence, bringing modern developments to regions steeped in history and setting a new standard for hospitality design.



DAVID ALVARADO
Partner
Harvest LLP

David Alvarado is an attorney known for his dedication to excellence in both law and business. Alvarado is passionate about helping institutional owners, operators and developers make the most of their opportunities and bring their business goals to life. As one of Harvest LLP's founding partners, he continues to be the go-to lawyer for several of Southern California's leading real estate companies.

After launching Harvest in 2022, Alvarado continues to focus his practice on purchase and sale, debt and equity financing, development, construction and leasing transactions. He has successfully shepherded numerous major projects to completion with a total aggregate consideration of over \$1 billion in development projects and over \$5 billion in real property acquisition and disposition work.



CARLOS BECERRA
Partner
Nixon Peabody LLP

Carlos Becerra is a skilled and accomplished litigator, trial attorney and strategic advisor who maintains a robust practice tailored toward his clients' complex business, intellectual property, and employment-related needs. He aggressively litigates matters for a broad range of clients in state and federal courts.

Becerra focuses on high-stakes business disputes involving executive mobility, breach of fiduciary duty, labor and employment, intellectual property, and business divorce-related issues, across many industries including healthcare, entertainment and financial services. He also works with hedge funds and private equity firms. Additionally, he has been a featured speaker for healthcare, employee mobility, PAGA, and Americans with Disabilities Act matters at the Los Angeles County Medical Association.



ALEX BLECKSMITH
Associate Vice President
Colliers

Alex Blecksmith is an associate vice president specializing in the sales, leasing and investments of industrial assets within the Los Angeles Basin market. He has spent his near-20-year commercial real estate career honing his skills and building a prolific portfolio at Colliers. With expertise in national tenant expansion and representation of principals, operators and occupiers across a wide spectrum of real estate needs, he has been involved in well over 360 transactions, exceeding more than \$630 million in total consideration.

Blecksmith is part of the Colliers team that facilitated the \$209 million disposition of the 30-acre former Smithfield/Farmer John plant in Vernon, CA, in 2023. He also represented Pickup USA Fitness in their national expansion across 36 leases in 21 states.



ORI BLUMENFELD
Senior Counsel
Levinson Arshonsky Kurtz
& Komsky, LLP

Ori Blumenfeld focuses his practice in all areas of complex bankruptcy and insolvency, corporate restructuring, distressed assets, acquisition and disposition, and related litigation matters. Blumenfeld has represented debtors, trustees, and both secured and unsecured creditors in bankruptcy courts. A substantial portion of his work consists of serving as general or special counsel to federal and state receivers appointed to general equity, Family Code, rents and profits, Health and Safety Code, and regulatory receiverships, as well as bankruptcy trustees, and other fiduciaries.

Blumenfeld has significant civil litigation experience defending and prosecuting actions on behalf of receivers and businesses. He also provides legal counsel for partition referees, successor trustees, and provisional directors.



ALI BRODIE
Partner; Co-Chair of Immigration Practice
Fox Rothschild

Ali Brodie is an experienced immigration attorney that businesses turn to when their future depends on securing key international talent, relocating executives or responding to a federal immigration enforcement action. A partner at Fox Rothschild, Brodie co-chairs the firm's Business Immigration and EB-5 Immigrant Investor Services practices. Clients rely on her forward-looking counsel to solve their current challenges and to identify risks that exist just beyond their view, over the horizon.

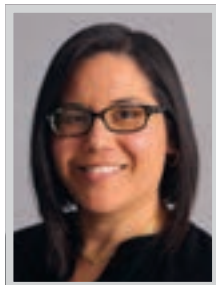
Brodie advises startups and established companies in connection with visa sponsorship of foreign nationals and permanent residency. She also helps companies assess immigration compliance and train relevant personnel on federal and state employer verification laws with particular focus in the hotel, restaurant, construction and gaming industries.



NICOLE BUFFALANO
Partner
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

Whether she's negotiating collective bargaining agreements covering thousands of employees or advising management on strategies when a divisive union-organizing campaign arises in the workplace, Morgan Lewis labor and employment partner Nicole Buffalano has established herself as a leading labor and employment lawyer. She represents employers across industries, including universities, global retailers, technology companies and healthcare organizations in traditional labor matters, such as collective bargaining negotiations, arbitrations and in proceedings before the National Labor Relations Board.

Buffalano led the collective bargaining negotiations for the US Soccer Federation that led to the historic equal pay agreement in May 2022. She also serves on the Law360 Sports and Betting Editorial Advisory Board.



ERIKA CANCHOLA
Partner
Ramo Law PC

A powerhouse in the entertainment legal field, Erika Canchola is a partner whose career is shaped by her deep expertise and steady solutions-oriented approach to high-stakes film and television productions. Canchola has built a career balancing her comprehensive legal knowledge with a pragmatic, forward-thinking approach that enables clients to successfully navigate the complex landscape of entertainment law.

Canchola's resume includes serving as outside production counsel for Skydance Television, where she plays a pivotal role in guiding projects from inception through distribution. She optimizes her clients' financial, legal, and business positions, advising on everything from film financing to contract negotiations for notable Skydance productions such as "Reacher," "Foundation," and "FUBAR."



CHRISTOPHER CASAMASSIMA
Partner
WilmerHale

Christopher Casamassima is a distinguished trial lawyer with a career marked by significant accomplishments and contributions to the legal field. His expertise spans complex business disputes involving environmental claims, antitrust, breach of contract, fraud, trade secrets, and other commercial issues. He has achieved notable victories for both plaintiffs and defendants across various industries, including healthcare, entertainment, financial services and aerospace.

One of Casamassima's accomplishments is his work on the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard case, which involves defending Tetra Tech EC, Inc. and its parent company Tetra Tech. Among many other career highlights, he secured total victory for the nation's largest donor-advised fund after a two-week federal bench trial.



JENNIFER CHANG
Education Rights Attorney
The Law Offices of Jennifer Chang

With over a decade of experience in the complex laws of special education, Jennifer Chang has had great success assisting students with disabilities and their families to understand and exercise their legal rights and receive the services they are entitled to under the law. The core of Chang's practice focuses on advocating for students with disabilities and helping families navigate the complexities of special education within the California public school system.

Growing up in an immigrant family, the challenges Chang thought she faced due to learning English as a second language were in fact due to dyslexia, dysgraphia and auditory processing complications. Drawing from these personal experiences, she is a staunch advocate for early assessment in schools, ensuring students with disabilities receive timely access to services.

HUESTON HENNIGAN LLP

Congratulations



PADRAIC FORAN ALISON L. PLESSMAN

Leaders of Influence: Thriving in Their 40s
—Los Angeles Business Journal

LOI: THRIVING IN THEIR 40s

**CHRISTOPHER CHATHAM**

Partner
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

Chris Chatham is a leading Hollywood dealmaker, guiding big stars through sophisticated corporate deals and complex litigation matters. His client base operates on several digital platforms with approximately 200 million users and over 2 billion views per month, developing dozens of pilots, renewing multiple shows on network, cable, streaming, and podcasts, and selling more than 60 million books. Over the past decade, he has facilitated deals amounting to an estimated \$10 billion in value.

Recently, Chatham co-lead the Manatt team representing Megan Roup and The Sculpt Society in a lawsuit alleging copyright and Lanham Act violations, breach of contract and unfair competition. The court sided with Roup and dismissed all copyright claims and unfair competition claims in addition to granting Roup's anti-SLAPP motion.

**CHRIS CHO**

EVP; Regional Chief Banking Officer
Hanmi Bank

In the 11 years since Chris Cho joined Hanmi Bank, he has consistently grown the portfolio he manages by 50-100% annually. By 2021, he had increased that portfolio by 3000%, which led to his promotion to executive vice president, responsible for not only the Corporate Banking Center II, but with additional responsibility for overseeing the bank's eastern region, Chicago, and Virginia locations. Together with this team he has grown loan commitments, balances and deposits across all locations.

Cho grew the loan and deposit business portfolio by 50 times over the course of 11 years, despite market conditions or regional challenges. His vision has not only expanded Hanmi's services but also introduced new lines of business, such as the launch of Asset-Based Lending services.

**JP (JEFF) COGHILL**

CEO
Broadmoor Development

Jeff Coghill is a distinguished real estate professional with a 24-year track record in the industry, boasting expertise in the acquisition, repositioning, operation and disposition of distressed residential properties. Coghill's journey began in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, where he successfully managed the acquisition and renovation of a 54-room beachfront boutique hotel.

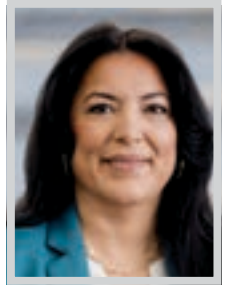
In 2011, Coghill became the founder of Broadmoor Development, a firm dedicated to infill multi-family development in South Central Los Angeles and Denver. Under his leadership, the company has excelled in overseeing the acquisition, entitlement process, and either sale or operation of multifamily assets in both markets. His specialization in the construction of 2-10-unit infill projects for resale and operation underscores his commitment to property development and enhancement.

**KATY CONROY**

Partner
Sklar Kirsh LLP

Katy Conroy is a Partner of Sklar Kirsh LLP in the corporate and real estate departments. A former 'big law' M&A attorney, she brings a wealth of experience in complex corporate and real estate transactions. She has deep expertise in sophisticated legal areas such as real estate capital markets, corporate M&A, equity investments, and fund formation, from which she skillfully distills complex concepts into understandable, actionable advice for her clients.

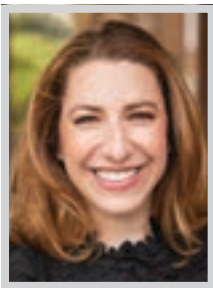
Conroy has a broad corporate practice, advising clients across a variety of industries in various corporate and transactional matters, including mergers and acquisitions, and equity and debt financing transactions. She counsels clients through all phases of the transaction process, including structuring, negotiation, implementation and ongoing post-transaction advice.

**ERIKA CONTRERAS**

Partner; Trial Attorney
Panish | Shea | Ravipudi LLP

Erika Contreras is a trial lawyer and partner at Panish | Shea | 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 for clients, including several eight-figure verdicts and settlements.

In 2023, Contreras was a recipient of the California Lawyer's Attorney of the Year Award for her work on *Sepulveda v. Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified School District* Following, in which she and her partner were able to obtain five non-monetary terms which included increased training for employees to help prevent wrongful deaths like the one from the case. She is also a frequent speaker at a wide variety of legal education seminars and conferences.

**SHARNA DADUK**

Head of Communications
Akido Labs

Sharna Daduk is a strategic communicator with nearly 20 years of experience and a track-record for developing powerful communications campaigns. In her role as head of communications at Akido Labs, Daduk is responsible for designing and managing the company's public profile and building from scratch its media relations strategy. She leads the company's internal communications and keeps its global workforce connected.

Prior to joining Akido Labs, Daduk spent six years at Leaf Group, rising the ranks to become vice president of communications, working closely with its executive leadership team. There, she developed the company's PR process, building a bicoastal team and overseeing all communications for the publicly traded company, including corporate and investor relations and crisis communications.

**JAMES DAUGHRITY**

Co-Founder
SoCal Premier Property Management

James Daughrity is a distinguished commercial real estate broker and co-founder of SoCal Premier Property Management. With an expertise in leasing, acquisitions, dispositions, consulting, and development, Daughrity has made significant contributions to the real estate industry, having closed approximately \$89 million in transactions in the past two years alone, with an additional \$15-20 million actively in the pipeline. He also plays an integral role in the new development of Stocker Street Creatives, a state-of-the-art campus designed to fuel the creative industry through studio and sound production.

A relationship-builder and community advocate, Daughrity specializes in properties within Opportunity Zones and is deeply involved in the development surrounding the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project.

**ALEXANDER DeGOOD**

Partner
Cox, Castle & Nicholson

Alexander DeGood is a leading California land use attorney who specializes in zoning matters, environmental compliance, and land use litigation. He works across various industries, representing residential, commercial, and industrial property owners, as well as non-profit institutions.

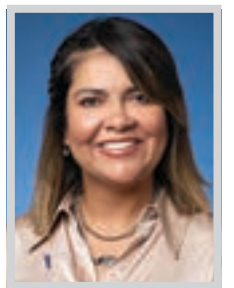
DeGood's robust land use litigation practice includes defense of all project types, from residential to alternative energy. In addition, he represents developers in advancing their rights under California's housing laws, including bringing litigation against agencies that improperly refuse to approve housing projects. Recently, DeGood secured entitlements for a large private school master plan, wrote adopted state legislation providing for by-right operation of thrift retail, and protected development rights of a property facing comprehensive historic designation.

**TYRONE DINNEEN**

Financial Advisor
Northwestern Mutual

In 2003, Tyrone Dinneen began his 12-year career with After School All Stars, an organization focused on closing the opportunity gap for students in low socioeconomic areas. Due to his expansion efforts, the program grew from four schools to over 60 by the time he left.

Dinneen's desire to find meaningful work led him to join Northwestern Mutual. His goal was to continue helping professionals working in the non-profit space who lack access to financial planning. As time progressed, he expanded his client base to begin working with business owners and tech professionals. By aligning knowledge of employer benefits with strategies around tax efficiency, wealth building, and wealth preservation, Dinneen and his team create the ultimate value for their clients.

**GLORIA DOMINGUEZ**

VP; Branch Manager
City National Bank

Gloria Dominguez, originally from Colombia, moved to the US at age eight. Today, she has more than 25 years of financial service industry experience, as vice president and recently appointed branch manager of City National's forthcoming new branch in Whittier, which is scheduled to open in January 2025. Prior to her current role, she served as the branch manager in Hollywood for three years.

When Dominguez joined City National in 2021, she had the opportunity to join the colleague resource group, Latino Community Network. She started as co-chair of the philanthropy arm of the group, and has provided educational seminars in person and virtually, on topics such as lending, access to capital, wealth building, cyber and wire fraud.

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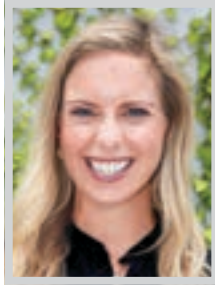
LOI: THRIVING IN THEIR 40s

**ERIN DONOVAN**

Partner
Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP

Erin Donovan is a partner at Musick Peeler, where her principal practice areas include general civil litigation, business litigation, insurance coverage and defense litigation, and probate litigation. She has participated in civil and probate trials, and as lead counsel, has successfully obtained a defense award at arbitration. Donovan has served as counsel for a variety of businesses, academic institutions, universities and charter schools.

Recently, Donovan successfully resolved two personal injury claims against a wireless network operator and telecommunications company via mediation, one with a summary judgment motion pending in 2024. She also resolved two personal injury claims against a wireless network operator and telecommunications company without mediation in 2024 with trial dates pending in 2024.

**CHRISTY EVANS**

Obstetrician & Gynecologist;
Lead Physician
Almond OBGYN

Head physician at Almond OBGYN, Christy Evans spearheads the company's mission to address the pressing women's health crisis. She is committed to providing compassionate, accessible, and high-quality healthcare within a thoughtfully designed environment that is as welcoming as it is healing. Dedicated to empowering patients, Evans prioritizes trauma-informed care, ensuring every patient feels seen, respected and educated about their health.

Evans led the launch of innovative Group Pregnancy Care and PCOS programs, which integrate the expertise of health coaches and providers to take a root-cause approach to long-term health goals. Evans is also the co-founder of NewDAWN Africa, an organization dedicated to improving maternity care and providing gynecologic surgeries in Nairobi, Kenya.

**JEREMY EVANS**

CEO; Founder; Managing Attorney
California Sports Lawyer

Jeremy M. Evans is an award-winning attorney and industry leader based in Los Angeles and Newport Beach. He is an expert in best practices and negotiations in entertainment, media and sports. He specializes in contractual and intellectual property negotiations with a focus on dealmaking, representing clients that range from Fortune 500 corporations to entrepreneurs, advertising and production companies, studios, agencies, talent, and more.

Evans is the CEO, founder, and managing attorney for California Sports Lawyer. He writes a weekly column and hosts the company podcast, which focuses on interesting legal angles in entertainment, media, and sports law. Evans previously served as president of the California Lawyers Association, and currently serves as president of the California Lawyers Foundation.

**JONATHAN FITZGARRALD**

Chief Executive Officer
Equinox Strategy Partners

Jonathan Fitzgarrald looks to undervalued professionals, untapping their potential to grow revenue, market visibility and their practices. Fitzgarrald's proprietary approach adapts a Moneyball strategy by recognizing and coaching traditionally overlooked, highly skilled professionals in legal, financial, accounting and professional services firms.

In 2015, Fitzgarrald established Equinox Strategy Partners to advise professionals nationwide to tap into their own potential to generate revenue. He is a longtime leader of the Legal Marketing Association, and he served on the board of advisors of the Legal Sales and Service Organization, Inc. He currently serves on the board of Raise A Child, a non-profit devoted to preparing prospective parents for the foster-to-adopt program.

**PADRAIC FORAN**

Partner
Hueston Hennigan LLP

A creative and forceful litigator, Hueston Hennigan partner Padraic Foran focuses on complex civil litigation, including fraud, trade secret and professional liability matters in California and across the country. Foran has guided a wide variety of clients — from Southern California Edison, Epic Games, Bausch Health, and Endo Pharmaceuticals, to Qualcomm, SpaceX, Tesla, and GlaxoSmithKline — through sensitive, high-stakes litigation. He also advises corporate officers and directors in a broad range of industries, such as telecommunications, real estate and financial services.

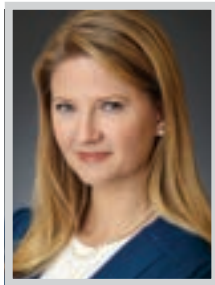
Foran is an integral member of teams on many of Hueston Hennigan's highest profile matters, including representing Epic Games in a series of suits that are testing the bounds of tort law as it applies to publishers and developers of video games.

**BRIAN FORD**

Partner
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Brian Ford is a corporate partner at Kirkland & Ellis and co-leader of the Debt Finance practice in Los Angeles. Ford focuses his practice on complex financing transactions for private equity firms, commercial lending institutions, portfolio companies, hedge funds, asset managers, alternative capital sources and other private and public companies.

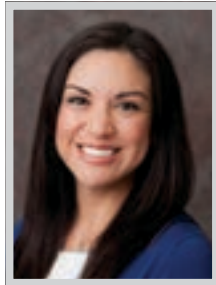
In the past year, Ford has worked on transactions totaling more than \$36 billion. Such transactions include the negotiation, structuring and documentation of secured and unsecured financings, including senior, mezzanine and subordinated debt transactions, acquisition financings, dividend recapitalizations, debtor-in-possession, exit financings and restructurings. Additionally, Ford serves on the board of trustees of nonprofit leader All4Kids, a role he has held for more than five years.

**CAMERON W. FOX**

Managing Partner; Chair, Los Angeles Office; Co-Chair, Los Angeles Region; Chair, Traditional Labor Practice Group; Employment Law Department Partner
Paul Hastings LLP

As the chair of the Paul Hastings LLP Los Angeles Office, Cameron W. Fox oversees and guides various departments, including litigation, corporate, labor & employment, and tax, as well as the office's business development, recruiting and civic responsibility initiatives. She was recently appointed the co-chair of the Los Angeles Region.

Fox is sought out by employers across the country for her expertise as a trial lawyer, traditional labor lawyer, and adviser. She has successfully defended her clients in jury and bench trials, arbitrations, and before state and federal appellate courts. She also has a passion for mentoring and training younger lawyers, and in 2020, won Paul Hastings' global award for Coach and Mentor of the Year.

**CYNTHIA FRAUSTO**

Director, Marketing and Public Relations
Antelope Valley Medical Center

Cynthia Frausto has demonstrated exceptional leadership and strategic foresight across a 28-year career in marketing, with significant achievements in economic development, healthcare and non-profit sectors. Known for her ability to transform complex marketing challenges into strategic initiatives, she has developed and executed numerous campaigns, cultivated community partnerships, and designed public relations plans with measurable impact.

Frausto joined Antelope Valley Medical Center as the marketing and public relations director during the height of the global COVID-19 pandemic, and launched the hospital's redesigned website while leading a comprehensive rebranding that redefined the 420-bed hospital's public image with a new name and visual identity. She currently oversees all aspects of the hospital's brand strategy.

**RICHARD GALOFARO**

Co-Managing Partner
Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP

Richard Galofaro serves as co-managing partner in the Musick, Peeler & Garrett Los Angeles office. He focuses his practice on estate and gift tax planning for high-net-worth individuals and families, the administration of trusts and estates, and probate matters. Galofaro has experience structuring and implementing sophisticated transfer tax planning techniques, including sales to defective grantor trusts, grantor retained annuity trusts, irrevocable life insurance trusts.

Galofaro also advises clients with respect to business and succession planning, charitable giving, and the establishment and administration of private foundations. He recently counseled multiple sets of clients regarding the use of their remaining estate/gift tax exemption considering the 2026 tax law changes by which there will be a severe reduction of exemption amount.

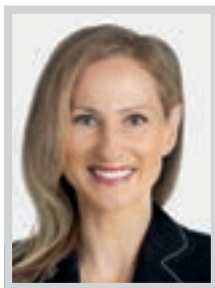
**NADIA GELLER**

Principal and Managing Director
Nadia Geller Designs

Nadia Geller is the principal of Nadia Geller Designs and founded the company in 2005. Through the past 19 years, she has formed a design firm that not only works across the full spectrum of real estate, but also cultivates a culture that supports forward-thinking, solutions-oriented female employees.

Geller's first corporate job was at design mecca ABC Carpet and Home in New York, a well-known leader in the furniture industry. For her quality of work and appreciation of interior design, she was cast on TLC's home improvement reality show While You Were Out where she appeared in 29 episodes over two years. Now, Geller has an average roster of 20 projects spanning large ground up multi-family, hospitality, student housing and residential projects.

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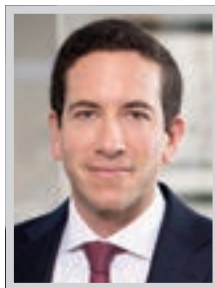


EVELINA GENTRY

Partner, Litigation
Akerman LLP

Evelina Gentry is a litigator at Akerman LLP, focusing on high-stakes commercial litigation, corporate disputes, and bankruptcy litigation, with substantial experience representing private equity firms and financial institutions. She has unique expertise in bankruptcy matters originating from her clerkship and her deep understanding of financial affairs.

Gentry skillfully assesses key facts and legal principles early on, allowing her to craft comprehensive, creative and tailored strategies. She has secured numerous victories, representing a wide range of industries, including financial services, retail, oil and gas, healthcare, and real estate, and has played a key role in bankruptcy litigation matters, including fraudulent transfers, Ponzi schemes and preference actions.



ROBERT GLASSMAN

Partner; Trial Attorney
Panish | Shea | Ravipudi LLP

Robert Glassman is a trial lawyer and the youngest partner at the nationally recognized plaintiff's personal injury law firm Panish | Shea | Ravipudi LLP. He has spent his career representing individuals and families who have suffered catastrophic injuries or the loss of a loved one.

Glassman has recovered hundreds of millions of dollars for his clients, but among his most successful career accomplishments are the non-monetary results he has obtained through his high-profile school injury cases, which led to significant reforms at the school districts where the tragedies occurred and helped to establish new child safety laws in California. He also represents survivors of sexual abuse, including 'Jane' who filed suit against her abusers in the high-profile case against Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell.

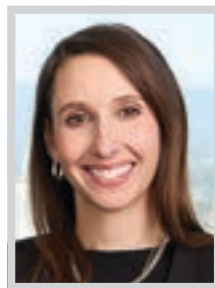


NICOLE HOEKSMAGORDON

Partner
The Sohagi Law Group, PLC

Nicole Hoeksma Gordon is a partner at The Sohagi Law Group who advises public agencies on complex environmental and land use matters at the administrative, trial and appellate level. She focuses her practice on complex issues and projects under the California Environmental Quality Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the federal and California Endangered Species Act, and Planning and Zoning Laws.

As the 2018-2019 chair of the Executive Committee of the Environmental Law Section of the California Lawyers Association, Gordon is at the forefront of the environmental law issues with which public agencies must grapple. She is also a frequent lecturer on environmental matters at various public and private workshops.

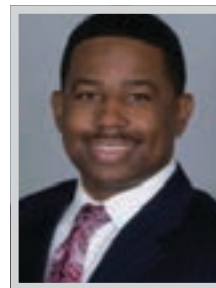


GALI GRANT

Partner
Glaser Weil

Gali Grant is an experienced trial attorney and partner in Glaser Weil's litigation department. Grant maintains a diverse practice that includes cases involving high-stakes corporate and financial disputes, complex contract disputes, intellectual property and employment disputes. She represents a range of clients, including large and small businesses, financial institutions, investment funds, high-net-worth individuals, corporate directors, hotels and municipalities.

Whether Grant is preventing litigation from ever being filed, directing settlement efforts or stepping in as lead trial counsel, her clients trust her to bring their matters to a successful conclusion. In many of her cases, she navigates not only the legal strategy but also the reputational implications of the matters.



JABARI GRANT

VP; Business Community Manager
City National Bank

With more than 25 years of experience in the financial services industry, Jabari Grant is a seasoned leader who has been instrumental in the successful launch of City National Bank's Small Business Ladder Up Program, a special purpose credit program with flexible lending and eligibility criteria. Grant serves as the business community manager in LA County and works with community partners to help small business owners connect with resources aimed at helping them grow.

Grant believes that a large barrier preventing small business owners from accessing the resources they need is a lack of awareness about lending standards and the programs available to them. He actively partners with local non-profit small business advocacy organizations to facilitate financial literacy workshops and seminars.

Holland & Knight is proud to celebrate our colleague
Vivian Lee Thoreen
for being named one of *Los Angeles Business Journal's*
Leaders of Influence: Thriving in their 40s.

We join in recognizing Vivian's exceptional leadership, dedication to her clients and remarkable achievements in the legal profession.

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**CHRISTOPHER GRAVELL**

Attorney

Frاندzel Robins Bloom & Csato, L.C.

Christopher E. Gravell joined Frاندzel in 2016 in the Real Estate Transactions Group. His practice focuses on commercial and real estate loan documentation for banks, lenders, and other financial institutions. Gravell is also well versed in real estate transactions, loan restructures and real property sales. Prior to joining the company, he was a litigation attorney and legislative counsel to a United States Representative.

Gravell works with numerous large regional and national financial institutions. He is continuously interested in helping clients reach their goal in specific transactions, often through educational presentations or meetings that address significant changes in law and practice. He has secured documentation for over \$100 million in loans for refinancing apartment complexes, acquisition of properties and the construction of several warehouses.

**MICHAEL HARBOUR**

Partner

Irell & Manella LLP

Michael Harbour has been a core member of legal teams that achieved incredible results for clients and earned accolades from legal media, representing clients in precedent-setting appeals in cases before the US Supreme Court, the California Supreme Court and the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Harbour has experience in all stages of litigation, with a practice that spans diverse areas of law, including antitrust, intellectual property, securities litigation, false advertising and unfair business practices, and class actions. Prior to joining Irell & Manella, he clerked for the Hon. Mary M. Schroeder of the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He currently serves on the firm's Hiring Committee and is co-chair of the Summer Committee.

**LAURA HARWOOD**Deputy Director, Interim Housing;
Chief Programs Officer

Hope the Mission

Laura Harwood stands out as an inspirational leader in addressing homelessness in Los Angeles County. Harwood's most successful career accomplishments to date include her rapid ascension through leadership roles at Hope the Mission, culminating in her current position as chief programs officer. In this role, she oversees all of the organization's interim sites, including Inside Safe Tiny Homes, Family, and Individual Residential programs.

Under Harwood's leadership, the Inside Safe program, a Mayor's Initiative focused on providing immediate housing solutions to encampments, has successfully transitioned more than 200 individuals off the streets in the last year. The program saw a significant increase in permanent housing transitions, from 7% in FY 2022-2023 to 35% in FY 2023-2024.

**CHRIS HENNESSY**

Senior Director

Shawmut Design and Construction

With roots in hospitality, Chris Hennessy is focused on providing the best client experience in his role as senior director of Shawmut Design and Construction's West region, leading the pursuit and execution of projects across hotels, restaurants, life science, commercial, sports venues, museums, and high-end residential. Entrenched in the Southern California hospitality industry for more than 15 years, Hennessy has worked on both the client and operations side, leveraging the two experiences to provide an approach to the construction process that not only considers all technical aspects, but the intricacies of the end user experience, as well.

Hennessy's book of business includes Nobu Hospitality, Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts, Oak View Group, Levy Restaurants and Soho House.

**BRAD HERREMA**

Shareholder; Chair,

Natural Resources Department
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

Brad Herrema, shareholder and chair of Brownstein's Natural Resource Department, brings more than 20 years of experience handling the most significant and complex water matters in California, Nevada and across the West.

Whether developing groundwater management strategies, identifying water and agricultural investment opportunities, defending water rights or securing industrial and recreational water supplies, Herrema understands how to synthesize clients' unique business needs with market realities, keeping key stakeholders' concerns in mind. He serves as special water counsel to private corporations, private equity funds, renewable energy developers, water purveyors, resorts and golf courses, mining companies, investor-owned utilities and landowners.

**JANE HINTON**

Partner

Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

With European and global banking roots, Jane Hinton possesses keen insight into the complexities of real estate deals and the critical issues for their stakeholders. As a partner in the Los Angeles office of Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP on the Capital Finance & Real Estate Team, Hinton maintains a nationwide 360-degree real estate practice that includes representing clients in acquisitions, dispositions, leasing and portfolio property management, and joint ventures as well as lending transactions at every level throughout the capital stack, with a focus on structured debt and equity transactions.

Hinton is experienced in all types of asset classes, including office, construction, retail, mixed-use, hotels and resorts, multifamily and industrial. She advises both lenders and borrowers in complex mortgage financings.

**PHILIP HOSP**

Partner

Foley & Lardner LLP

Phillip Hosp is a distinguished partner in Foley & Lardner's business litigation & dispute resolution practice. Hosp has consistently demonstrated exceptional prowess in the legal field, securing victories in courtrooms, arbitrations, and settlement negotiations. His unwavering commitment to understanding clients' businesses and objectives has allowed him to provide pragmatic, creative and strategic advice to a diverse range of financial institutions.

For over a decade, Hosp has been at the forefront of representing clients in complex commercial litigation, handling cases involving fraud, unfair or deceptive acts or practices, securities fraud, lender liability, and consumer protection claims. He has successfully defended clients in high-stakes investigations and litigation.

**RAYMOND HUA**

Partner

Yukevich | Cavanaugh

Raymond Hua is an equity partner at Yukevich Cavanaugh and manages a team of attorneys and paralegals in his practice. Throughout his more than two decades of legal practice, Hua has become a respected leader and has achieved a strong reputation as an experienced civil litigator and trial attorney in the areas of products liability defense, high exposure defense litigation and business litigation.

Hua has represented his clients in complex litigation matters including federal multidistrict litigation and judicial council coordinated proceedings. He has handled complex and specialized practice areas including water rights and environmental contamination cases. He has also handled high exposure quadruple injuries, traumatic brain injuries and wrongful death cases for a vast range of clients, from manufacturers to school districts.

**BRADFORD HUGHES**Member; Leader, Transportation
Practice Group
Clark Hill PLC

A dynamic leader at Clark Hill, Bradford Hughes leads the firm's Transportation Practice Group and is deputy member-in-charge of the Los Angeles office. Hughes also serves as Clark Hill's litigation business unit leader, directly responsible for the recruitment and retention of attorneys across the firm's 31 offices.

Hughes represents clients in state and federal courts across the United States in complex litigation related to business disputes, goods transportation and catastrophic injury claims. He counsels businesses regarding California's complicated litigation and regulatory framework with a focus on helping clients identify and mitigate risk. In addition to leading a team of more than a dozen attorneys managing hundreds of active litigations, he serves as chair of the Trucking Law Committee for the Defense Research Institute.

**MALVE ILDEFONSO**Assurance Principal
BDO USA, P.C.

An assurance principal for BDO Los Angeles' Asset Management practice, Malve Ildefonso has built a reputation as one of California's leading public accountants over the course of her two-decade career. With a particular focus on alternative investment companies, she is committed to delivering high-quality audits while also demonstrating strong leadership and a dedication to mentoring within her teams.

Ildefonso oversees numerous audit engagement teams and serves a broad range of clients across different sectors, including registered investment advisers, private equity funds, real estate funds and employee benefit plans. Her technical expertise in areas such as fair value market-based measurements, financial statement disclosures, SEC filings, and financial reporting is highly valued by her clients.