

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: Litigators & Trial Attorneys



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

We've alphabetically compiled this lineup of superb litigation specialists, along with information about their careers, practice and relevant recent successes they've achieved. Congratulations to the attorneys who made our class of '25.

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: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



CHARLES H. ABBOTT
Partner
Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP

Charles Abbott is a leading defense lawyer for public entities. In 2021, he drafted the briefs and argued *Martinez v. City of Beverly Hills*, 71 Cal.App.5th 508, which eased the requirements for constructive notice for areas of public property rarely used by pedestrians.

Abbott is a trusted advocate for public entities facing other issues. In 2023, he secured a defense verdict for the City of Beverly Hills sued after its police officer was involved in an automobile collision. In 2024, a Los Angeles County Superior Court sustained a demurrer that Abbott drafted and argued on behalf of the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power in a years-long dispute over electrical power lines to a cannabis business.



DANNY ABIR
Managing Partner
ACTS LAW

Danny Abir is a founding and managing partner of ACTS LAW, a plaintiff firm that has obtained more than \$1 billion on behalf of clients. In less than a decade, Abir has helped build one of the premier plaintiff firms in Los Angeles. Last year, the firm celebrated more than \$200 million obtained for clients, a feat that very few firms, even long-standing ones, can boast. He’s helped grow the firm to more than 100 dedicated lawyers and staff across four offices in California.

Abir has been a speaker at a number of conferences, including but not limited to CAALA, Law-Di-Gras, CAOC and Justice HQ. His written work has appeared in a number of leading legal and business publications.



CLIFTON W. ALBRIGHT, JR.
Attorney
Albright, Yee & Schmit, APC

Clifton 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.

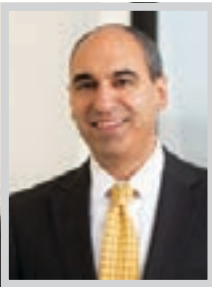
His accolades, though early in his career, are significant: from the privilege of being part of the Byrne Trial Advocacy Team to his enriching clerkship under the Honorable Carol Rose. Each of these experiences has forged his capabilities in employment litigation and the intricate art of legal investigations. A defining moment in Clifton’s legal career came in 2022, when he took on the challenging responsibility of representing Tiffany Haddish in a high-stakes 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.



PARAG AMIN
Principal; Managing Attorney
Law Office of Parag L. Amin, P.C.

With a 99% litigation success rate and a reputation for resolving high-stakes cases efficiently and effectively, Parag Amin has consistently demonstrated extraordinary legal acumen and leadership. As a business attorney, Amin is known for helping entrepreneurs, business owners and executives navigate the most complex disputes with clarity and confidence.

One of Amin’s most notable accomplishments was leading a complex, multi-jurisdictional federal case involving hundreds of millions of dollars in dispute. After the matter had been pending for years with little movement, he was brought in to spearhead a strategic shift, managing and aligning two separate legal teams across state lines. Within just six months, he navigated the intricacies of federal litigation, harmonized multi-state team dynamics, and secured an optimal resolution for the client.



MICHAEL AMIR
Co-Founder
Doll Amir & Eley LLP

Michael M. Amir is the co-founder of Doll Amir & Eley LLP. He has a 20-year record of winning bet-the-company cases. He represents clients in high stakes litigation, including health organizations, banks, technology companies, educational organizations (universities and schools), large national corporations, medium-sized companies and high net-worth individuals.

Amir has represented clients as lead counsel in litigation, including state and federal jury and bench trials, arbitration proceedings, and Court of Appeals and California Supreme Court arguments. Among Amir’s recent successes has been his work obtaining preliminary injunction on behalf of company in an action against former executive who allegedly misappropriated company assets.



MIKE ARIAS
Managing Partner
Arias Sanguinetti

Mike Arias has obtained well over \$1.5 billion for his clients throughout his over 40-year career, including several eight and nine-figure verdicts and settlements. He is widely recognized as a national leader in class actions, mass torts, personal injury, employment and sexual assault cases. He has been awarded CAOC’s highest award – Consumer Attorney of the Year – and served consecutive terms as president of Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles (CAALA) then Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC), two of the nation’s largest plaintiff attorney organizations.

Through his work in CAALA, Arias founded the Plaintiff Trial Academy, a CLE program that continues to graduate many of California’s top trial lawyers and where he still teaches. Arias also serves on the executive committee of American Association for Justice.



KERI CURTIS AXEL
Partner
Waymaker LLP

One of California’s leading white-collar lawyers, Keri Curtis Axel defends clients in criminal and regulatory investigations and handles high-stakes civil and criminal litigation in courts and in arbitration. A former federal prosecutor and an enforcement attorney with the Securities & Exchange Commission, she is a first-chair trial lawyer and an experienced appellate attorney who has argued in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals nine times and also before the California Court of Appeals.

Axel defends Yasiel Puig, the former Dodgers star, who has been accused of false statements to federal investigators; and Roman Storm, a software developer who developed the crypto platform “Tornado Cash,” against a cutting-edge prosecution in which the US Attorney in the Southern District of New York is attempting to apply criminal laws to software development.



RYAN BAKER
Co-Founding Partner
Waymaker LLP

An elite trial lawyer, Waymaker LLP co-founding partner Ryan Baker regularly wins trial verdicts and appeals in high-stakes cases. Reporters have described his victories as a “legal earthquake” and “landmark.” A skilled litigator and trial lawyer whose cases often deal with intellectual property and innovative or disruptive technology, Baker has built Waymaker into one of the nation’s premiere trial and litigation boutiques. His practice is focused on complex commercial litigation, intellectual property, entertainment law and First Amendment issues.

Baker has tried cases and argued motions in state and federal courts across the country. He has argued before numerous courts of appeal, winning precedent-setting cases ranging from California’s anti-SLAPP provision to First Amendment free speech.



KOREN (KORI) BELL
Partner
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Koren (Kori) Bell is a partner in Willkie’s Litigation Department. She focuses on high-stakes trials, white collar defense, and investigations. A nationally recognized litigator and former Federal Defender, Bell has a record of success representing clients in high-stakes, widely publicized trials and appeals across the country—including in a case she argued before the US Supreme Court.

A Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Bell has been lead counsel in some of the nation’s most complex courtroom matters. She has been recognized as a top litigator by numerous publications, and praised by clients, judges and peers for her courtroom skill. Inside and outside the courtroom, she has handled high-stakes and sensitive matters for companies and prominent individuals across a range of industries.



ARASH BERL
Partner, Business Litigation
Blank Rome LLP

Arash Beral is a distinguished advocate and strategic legal advisor with a wealth of experience in the legal arena. With a career marked by significant achievements and a dedication to excellence, Beral has proven himself as a trusted advisor and distinguished advocate in the courtroom.

Beral’s practice encompasses high-stakes business disputes including complex, multidisciplinary trials and appeals. He regularly litigates business, management and partnership disputes; real estate and construction disputes; federal and state misappropriation of trade secret / non-competition litigation; franchisor/franchisee disputes; and other commercial and corporate litigation matters. Beral’s understanding of these areas allows him to craft strategies that align with his clients’ business objectives.

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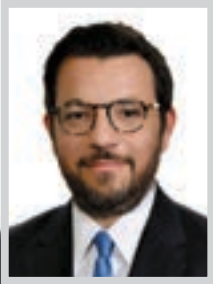


ALEX BEROUKHIM

Partner; Co-Chair, Consumer Products & Retail Industry Group
Arnold & Porter

As co-chair of Arnold & Porter's Consumer Products & Retail Industry group, Alex Beroukhim has earned a reputation as a formidable litigator in high-stakes, complex litigation. His practice focuses on consumer class actions, products liability and environmental litigation, and he is a trusted strategist to a wide-ranging list of clients, including some of the world's biggest and best-known retailers and consumer brands.

In the last few years alone, Beroukhim has disposed of many actions at the pleading stage and on summary judgment. He has also represented clients in high-stakes trials and arbitrations, achieving favorable outcomes. Beroukhim recently scored a defense judgment for Puritan's Pride, defending the company in an extremely rare context — the trial of a certified class action.



OREN BITAN

Shareholder
Buchalter

Oren Bitan is a distinguished trial attorney with more than 17 years of experience, based in Buchalter's Los Angeles office. As a shareholder and co-chair of the firm's Litigation Department in Los Angeles, as well as the Fiduciaries, Receivers & Trustees Group and Cannabis & Hemp Industry Group, Bitan plays a central role in shaping the firm's litigation strategy and thought leadership. He has first-chaired numerous high-stakes trials and arbitrations across a variety of industries including real estate, financial services, mortgage banking, consumer products, media and hospitality. His litigation success includes multiple eight-figure verdicts and judgments.

Bitan is a trusted advisor to financial institutions, investors and real estate owners on complex business disputes, creditors' rights, restructuring, receiverships, and post-judgment recovery.

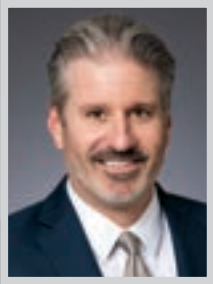


KIM BRANSCOME

Product Liability & Mass Torts Co-Chair
Paul, Weiss, Riffkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

As co-chair of Paul, Weiss's Product Liability & Mass Torts practice group, Kim Branscome is a nationally renowned trial lawyer and litigation strategist focusing on complex litigation and trials involving product liability, professional liability, environmental and toxic torts, and securities matters. She is one of few lawyers nationwide regularly entrusted to both architect overall defense strategy in sprawling, incredibly complex mass tort litigations and lead the defense in the highest-stakes bellwether trials.

Branscome has secured several high-profile product liability trial victories on behalf of leading multinational corporations across a broad range of sectors. Industry-leading clients regularly turn to her due to her top-flight strategic and courtroom abilities, combined with her engineering background.



MICHAEL BRODY

Partner
LightGabler LLP

Michael Brody has devoted almost 20 years to representing businesses in legal disputes involving employment litigation matters. Brody litigates a broad range of employment and business matters in both state and federal court, as well as in administrative proceedings. He represents businesses at all stages of litigation, from the initial claim through trial and in alternative dispute resolution, consistently securing major wins for his clients.

In a recent jury trial in Santa Barbara County Superior Court in which a female employee claimed disability discrimination, wrongful termination and related causes of action against her former employer, the jury returned a complete defense verdict on behalf of Brody's client. Brody was the sole trial lawyer on behalf of the defendant law firm.



MATT CAVE

Founding Partner
Kibler Fowler & Cave LLP

Just nine years into his legal career, Matt Cave founded the litigation boutique Kibler Fowler & Cave LLP. Cave's leadership has been pivotal in cementing KF&C's success. Over the past five years, KF&C has risen to prominence, attracting and building a loyal client base. The firm's client roster includes major institutions such as Toll Brothers, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Travelers, AIG, Banc of California, Prime Capital, Melrose Industries Ltd., and several private equity firms based in California, Denver and New York.

Cave and his partners have not only expanded KF&C's footprint to the East Coast, but have also garnered significant victories in high-stakes litigation. From securing pre-trial dismissals and jury verdicts to tackling legal issues in diverse areas such as real estate and music law, Cave consistently outmatches formidable opponents.



CYNDIE CHANG

Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office;
Partner
Duane Morris LLP

Cyndie M. Chang is a dynamic and inspirational leader at Duane Morris LLP and in the legal industry. Chang is a managing partner at Duane Morris and serves on the firm's governing Partners Board.

Chang advises and partners with clients to enforce their rights, mitigate exposure and litigate their commercial disputes involving complex, class action or B2B disputes involving contracts, licensing, products liability, product safety and recall, unfair competition, fraud, construction defect, trademarks, trade secrets, California Proposition 65, COVID-19 and real estate. She also advises insurance companies on environmental, asbestos, toxic tort and commercial general liability insurance coverage claims, as well as subrogation, contribution, bad faith, extracontractual and reinsurance disputes.



JEFFREY M. CHERMINSKY

Partner
Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP

As a KBK partner with over 15 years of experience as a civil- and criminal-trial attorney, Jeff Chemerinsky serves as a key member of the firm's white-collar defense and complex commercial litigation practices.

Chemerinsky is currently lead counsel in a high-profile case on behalf of students and Prop 28 author Austin Beutner against LAUSD, seeking to enforce voter-mandated arts and music education funding. The lawsuit challenges LAUSD's failure to use \$76.7 million in Prop 28 funds as required. In a separate case, he currently serves as counsel for Nirvana, Universal Music Group, and the members of Nirvana in the litigation pending in federal court over the iconic cover art for the Nevermind album, brought by a man who was photographed swimming naked as an infant.



JULIA CHERLOW

Partner
Bird, Marella, Rhow, Lincenberg, Drooks & Nessim, LLP

A former ballerina turned litigation powerhouse, Julia Cherlow is a force in plaintiff-side entertainment litigation. She represents A-list talent and entertainment companies in high-stakes, high-profit disputes, including multiple active arbitrations involving complex compensation and profit participation claims. Her clients span the entertainment spectrum — from Oscar-winning producers to chart-topping performers — and she routinely litigates bet-the-company civil matters across industries, securing victories for television creators, multinational apparel brands, entrepreneurs, and world-renowned architects.

Cherlow is not only a litigator but also a thought leader. She's published widely, including six articles over the past decade, with pieces appearing in the UCLA Entertainment Law Review.



EMIL DAVTYAN

Founder; Managing Attorney
D.Law

Earlier in his career, Emil Davtyan worked in Santa Monica, defending companies having employment issues, but he stepped down from the role because he noticed plaintiffs desperately needed the personalized help that he knew he could provide. He founded D.Law in 2015. Now, his team of 150-plus lawyers and staff have helped hundreds of thousands of California workers recover over \$1.15 billion from their employers. To date, the firm has helped pursue over 6,000 cases.

Davtyan's ability to be adaptive is a huge factor in his success. In 2020, there was an unprecedented level of employment disruption as a result of COVID-19. He and his team maneuvered around the daily changes to ensure workers in need don't get the "short end of the stick."



MICHAEL De VRIES

Partner
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Michael De Vries is a nationally recognized IP trial lawyer with substantial success representing plaintiffs in high-stakes intellectual property trials. In just the last year, he was lead trial counsel in three separate jury trial wins throughout the country and is now undefeated in nine consecutive jury trial wins as lead trial counsel over the last five years.

De Vries' unblemished jury trial win streak as lead trial counsel has led to secure more than \$2.5 billion for his clients in verdicts and publicly reported settlements since 2018. Additionally, De Vries has obtained numerous defense-side jury verdicts, including for Samsung in February 2024 in a multi-patent case seeking \$4 billion in damages — the largest defense-side patent jury verdict in US history.

HUESTON HENNIGAN LLP

Congratulations



ALISON L. PLESSMAN DOUGLAS J. DIXON

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

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ALEXANDER DeGOOD
Partner
Cox, Castle & Nicholson

Alex 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, in complex and often controversial entitlement matters.

DeGood regularly appears before planning commissions and city councils. He often works at the intersection of law and politics, assisting clients with overall project strategy, including public affairs and interfacing with elected officials and senior agency staff. From entitling one of the largest mixed-use projects in the City of Los Angeles to regularly providing land use advice in large financing transactions, his practice touches all aspects of the development process.



PENNY DEIHL
Member (Partner);
Member, Executive Committee
Clark Hill

Penelope “Penny” Deihl is a superlative litigator, negotiator and trusted advisor with over 30 years of experience representing individuals, corporations and other entities in a range of commercial and civil disputes. Focused on developing and pursuing legal strategies that are efficient and relevant throughout the lifespan of a matter, her extensive trial experience is unique.

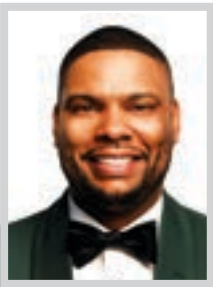
Deihl sincerely enjoys figuring out the puzzle of what happened in a case and determining the best way to put it together for her client — whether to mediate, arbitrate or litigate. If it proceeds to litigation, what elements does she need to consider translating the facts to a jury? The challenge inherent in those exercises, unraveling the story, motivate her to deliver her best every day.



WILLIAM A. DELGADO
Managing Partner; Founding Partner
DTO Law

Few litigators bring the combination of courtroom experience, strategic insight and client trust that William Delgado delivers. As managing partner and co-founder of DTO Law, Delgado leads a national litigation practice that clients rely on for their most complex, high-stakes legal challenges. He represents clients ranging from startups to global brands across industries including consumer products, financial services, technology and automotive.

Delgado’s philosophy toward litigation: win — and win as quickly as possible. He doesn’t just learn the case; he immerses himself in the client’s business, identifies leverage points, and charts a course toward resolution. Delgado has handled hundreds of matters, including 135+ intellectual property cases and over 125 threatened or filed class actions and secured victories at every stage.



RODNEY DIGGS
Director
Ivie McNeill Wyatt Purcell & Diggs

Rodney Diggs became a partner at Ivie, McNeill & Wyatt in 2016, and in 2019, he became a named partner when the firm changed its name to Ivie McNeill Wyatt Purcell & Diggs. Diggs has obtained over \$200 million in verdicts and settlements on behalf of his clients.

Diggs’ significant achievements include obtaining a \$25 million verdict as lead counsel in an Employment Retaliation lawsuit that is possibly the largest ever retaliation verdict against a school district. He obtained a \$9.1 million verdict in a wrongful death case against the City of Long Beach. This was the largest verdict in history against the City of Long. Diggs has obtained over \$200 million in verdicts and settlements on behalf of his clients.



DOUGLAS DIXON
Partner
Hueston Hennigan LLP

A first-chair trial lawyer who has been recognized for his blockbuster commercial litigation victories, Douglas Dixon is described by clients in Chambers as a “phenomenal courtroom lawyer” who “has unbelievable credibility with judges and juries.” Clients turn to Dixon to solve their most important, oftentimes bet-the-company commercial disputes, including complex business litigation, mass torts, antitrust, intellectual property and securities matters. His roster of high-profile clients has included Amazon, Amgen, Broadcom, ClearOne, Epic Games, Glaukos, GoDaddy, Lionsgate, Match Group, PacificCorp, Southern California Edison, and Yelp.

For several years, he has represented Southern California Edison in its most significant wildfire-related lawsuits.



SHANNON DUDIC
Of Counsel
DLA Piper

Shannon Dudic is a litigator who partners with her clients to navigate ever-changing legal landscapes that threaten the very survival of her clients’ businesses. She has a track record of successfully resolving class actions through aggressive motion practice, as well as creatively structuring settlements to meet her clients’ unique legal and business needs.

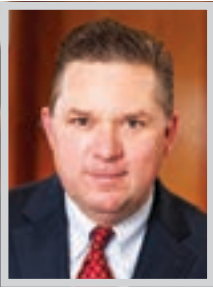
Dudic represents clients in a wide array of cases involving claims alleging false advertising and unfair, unlawful and fraudulent business practices, including those brought under California’s UCL, FAL, CLRA and other consumer protection statutes. With nearly two decades defending consumer class action companies, she is at the forefront of defending prominent companies in class actions relating to pricing and fee disclosure practices and advising clients on compliance.



HUNTER ELEY
Managing Partner
Doll Amir Eley LLP

Hunter R. Eley has served as lead counsel for clients in defense of class action and individual lawsuits throughout the country. Eley has successfully litigated cases at all levels, including arguing cases of first impression in the Ninth Circuit, arguing appeals in the California Court of Appeal and routinely appearing in state and federal trial courts nationwide. As the chair of the firm’s financial services practice, Eley’s experience extends across all lines of the consumer lending business, including issues arising out of retail and online banking, mortgage lending and servicing, credit cards, health-care loans and auto loans.

Highlights of Eley’s recent matters include his work as national counsel to defend major tech company against waive of “Right to Repair” class actions in multiple jurisdictions across the country.



CHRISTOPHER FAENZA
Partner; Owner
Yoka | Smith, LLP

Chris Faenza is a partner at Yoka | Smith and is an experienced trial attorney, specializing in catastrophic injury cases, as well as business litigation and products liability matters. Faenza has extensive trial experience, having taken over 85 jury trials to verdict in both New Jersey and California.

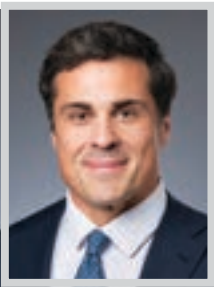
Of the cases Faenza has taken to verdict, more than 80% of the cases have resulted in a defense verdict and most of the remaining verdicts have come in below the final demand made in those matters. Faenza has obtained defense verdicts in wrongful death, intentional torts and business litigation matters alike, and across different industries including, health clubs, trucking and products. Faenza was inducted into the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers.



ZACK FAIGEN
Partner
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Zack Faigen practices complex civil litigation in state and federal court, representing clients in a wide range of cases, including securities and other class action litigation, shareholder derivative actions, antitrust lawsuits, contract disputes and fraud claims.

In addition, Faigen is at the forefront of cutting-edge litigation in the blockchain/digital asset space, managing complex cases for clients. He coordinates multi-firm defense groups, oversees all discovery and briefing, and serves as the primary client contact on these novel matters. He has been lead lawyer on three related, high-stakes putative tax class actions involving \$3 billion in exposure. He secured reversals of two class certifications on appeal, managed all expert discovery, and was the architect of multiple successful appellate strategies.



ADAM FEE
Partner
Paul Hastings LLP

Adam Fee is a partner in the Investigations & White Collar Defense practice of Paul Hastings and is based in the firm’s Century City, Los Angeles and New York offices. He advises companies, individuals and boards facing government investigations and high-stakes trials.

Fee is in demand in California and across the nation for sophisticated, aggressive trial and investigations work. What distinguishes him from his ranked peers is that he is one of the few attorneys in California, or anywhere, with a truly national, high-stakes criminal trial practice. Fee is now in-demand on both coasts for the most high-profile criminal and regulatory enforcement matters. Just this past year, he has handled or will handle three complex criminal trials in three different federal districts.

THE FIRM OTHER FIRMS CALL™

Congratulations

The firm congratulates David Parker for his well-deserved selection to the **Los Angeles Business Journal's Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys** list!

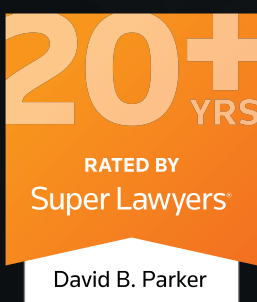
This recognition is a testament to his exceptional leadership in the courtroom, unwavering commitment to excellence and the ethical foundation that makes us **"The Firm Other Firms Call."**



DAVID PARKER
Founding Partner, Parker Shaffie LLP

PARKER SHAFFIE LLP

TRIAL LAWYERS. ETHICS LAWYERS. BUSINESS DISPUTE LAWYERS.



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ENTERTAINMENT LAW | INSURANCE RECOVERY
LITIGATION | INSURANCE RECOVERY
& LIABILITY MANAGEMENT**



LOI: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



MARC FENSTER

Chair, Patent Litigation Department;
Co-Chair, Litigation Department
Russ August & Kabat

Marc Fenster is chair of patent litigation at RAK, a practice group he started in 2003. Under his leadership, RAK’s patent group has grown to over 30 lawyers, and has been one of the top firms representing patent holders for over a decade. Fenster has served as lead trial counsel in over 18 jury trials for patent holders, obtaining jury verdicts of infringement in all but two of them.

In 2024 and 2025 alone, Fenster has led RAK to a number of significant results. Prior to joining Russ August & Kabat, Fenster was a lawyer at Irell & Manella LLP from 1995 to 2003, where he was a member of the Intellectual Property and Litigation work groups. Fenster acts as a mentor to young lawyers at RAK.



RACHEL FISET

Managing Partner
ZFZ Law

Rachel L. Fiset is a co-founder and partner of Zweiback, Fiset & Zalduendo LLP and has been involved in several of the highest profile investigations and cases in the Central District of California.

Over the past year, Fiset has broadened her practice and had an impressive streak of wins that demonstrate her skilled approach to representing both plaintiffs and defendants involved in complex litigation and defending government investigations by the SEC, US Attorney, and District Attorney’s Office stemming from violations ranging from securities fraud, False Claims Act violations, healthcare fraud, wire fraud and public corruption, among other issues. Fiset also has an impressive track record working with whistleblowers and qui tam relators in cases brought by the SEC and US Attorney’s office.



MICHAEL G. FREEDMAN

Founder; Principal
The Freedman Firm PC

Michael G. Freedman has quickly established himself as one of the top criminal defense and trial attorneys of his generation, routinely handling high profile federal criminal cases in Los Angeles and nationwide. After serving as a federal prosecutor, he established The Freedman Firm in 2021 and has already grown it to a total of five lawyers.

Freedman currently represents numerous high profile clients including Harvey Weinstein, Bill Cosby, Trey Songz and Ippei Mizuhara, the former interpreter for Los Angeles Dodgers star Shohei Ohtani, in addition to public officials, doctors, lawyers, executives and corporations. Freedman tries numerous cases each year, including recently defending former Los Angeles Deputy Mayor Chan in a two-week federal RICO/corruption trial in the Los Angeles City Council investigation.

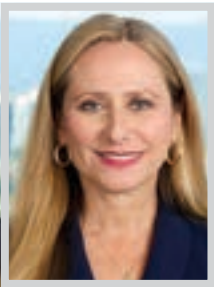


ELAINE FRESCH

Senior Partner;
Partner-in-Charge, Los Angeles
Hawkins Parnell

Among Elaine Fresch’s most significant accomplishments is her consistent record of securing favorable outcomes for her clients — developers, contractors, design professionals and product manufacturers — often in cases where the odds appeared daunting.

Fresch has successfully defended clients in multi-million dollar litigation, including a landmark construction defect case involving over 100 plaintiffs, where she orchestrated a settlement that absolved her client of any financial contribution while obtaining full reimbursement and significant contributions from other parties. Fresch’s appellate victory in Swigart v. Bruno not only resulted in a published opinion but also set a new standard for the application of primary assumption of risk in California.



JULIE GERCHIK

Partner; Co-Chair, Litigation Department
Glaser Weil

Julie R. F. Gerchik is a highly sought-after complex commercial litigation partner and co-chair of Glaser Weil’s Litigation Department. Gerchik represents an enviable roster of domestic and international clients, including investment firms, entertainment and media companies, and financial services entities, as well as high-net-worth individuals. She also handles all aspects of investigations.

Gerchik brings the exacting skill required to both effectively navigate high-profile public disputes with significant PR implications and handle highly confidential personal matters. Some of her greatest client accomplishments are those that successfully avoided headlines. An example of her work includes her representation of Simon Wiesenthal Center and Rabbi Abraham Cooper in successfully defending a \$4.8 billion defamation lawsuit.



LISA GLASSER

Partner
Irell & Manella LLP

When it comes to intellectual property litigation, few attorneys command the courtroom with the precision, strategic prowess and sheer effectiveness of Irell & Manella partner Lisa Glasser. Over the past two years, she has reinforced her reputation as one of the nation’s most formidable litigators, securing more than 10 trial victories across multiple complex litigation matters — many of them requiring back-to-back appearances in court.

In March 2025, as co-lead counsel, Glasser secured a trial victory for memory module company Netlist in a suit against Samsung. The jury returned its verdict in less than two hours agreeing with Netlist that Samsung breached an agreement to supply crucial NAND and DRAM memory products in exchange for a license to Netlist memory patents.



HAL GOLDFLAM

Shareholder
Frandzel Robins Bloom & Csato, L.C

Hal Goldflam’s practice focuses on business and commercial litigation at the trial and appellate levels. An experienced litigator, trial and appellate attorney, Goldflam regularly represents banks and other financial institutions, including equipment lessors, in the area of commercial and general business litigation, creditor’s rights, secured transactions, banking law, real estate, fraud, and in the defense of lender liability claims.

Goldflam has represented court-appointed receivers in many large-scale fraud cases brought by the Federal Trade Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission. He also has extensive experience handling environmental litigation and compliance matters, public and private construction contracts disputes, real property disputes, and tort-related matters.



KENT GOSS

Partner;
Co-Chair, Commercial Litigation Group
Crowell & Moring LLP

As co-chair of Crowell’s Commercial Litigation Group, Kent Goss leverages over 35 years of experience as a seasoned first chair trial lawyer, specializing in high-stakes intellectual property and complex commercial litigation matters. More recently, Goss successfully tried three jury cases to verdict in the soft IP space and prevailed in a complex arbitration, including two of the jury cases where he was brought in to replace existing counsel and try the case. This rise in trial activity mirrors the recent trend of large verdicts in the trademark, copyright and trade secret cases.

Goss’ team approach ensures seamless collaboration, efficiency and credibility, driving successful outcomes. Goss’ ability to handle high stakes “bet the company” disputes makes him a trusted advisor for a wide range of prominent clients.

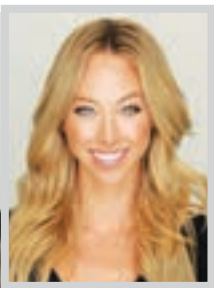


SAMANTHA GRANT

Partner
Reed Smith LLP

Samantha Grant is a go-to labor and employment litigator for national and global companies in administrative, arbitration, and trial proceedings who leverages her analytical skills to deliver superior results in the most difficult matters facing her clients. She also spends significant time dedicated to serving the Bench, Bar, and broader communities and made history when she became the first woman of color to be elected as chair of the American Bar Association Section of Labor and Employment Law.

Because of the insight and experience she gained on her secondment working as in-house employment counsel for a Fortune 50 company, Grant is a pragmatic and strategic outside counsel. She learns the business of her clients and finds targeted solutions to legal problems while considering the business objectives and impact.



KILEY GROMBACHER

Founding Partner
Bradley/Grombacher LLP

Kiley Grombacher has obtained seven and eight-figure verdicts and settlements in personal injury, employment, mass tort and class action matters over the decade. She is also a member of the AAJ, and CAALA. In addition, she has been recognized as part of an elite group of attorneys as a Rising Star and has received the award of Super Lawyer for a number of consecutive years including 2022. Grombacher is one of the founders of Trial Lawyers of Mass Torts, an organization aimed at promoting constructive conversations that enhance collegiality and mutual understanding between the bench and the bar.

In Beth Bowen v. Energizer Holdings, Grombacher was successful in a Ninth Circuit appellate matter where the lower court decision was reversed and remanded with instructions.

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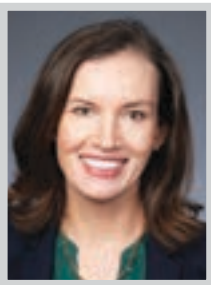
MATTHEW HAFEY
Partner
Nicolaides Fink Thorpe Michaelides
Sullivan LLP

Matthew Hafey has built a career defined by strategic leadership, exceptional legal skills, and an unwavering commitment to delivering outstanding results for insurers. As a key leader of Nicolaides Fink Thorpe Michaelides Sullivan LLP’s Los Angeles office, Hafey has played a central role in transforming the office into a powerhouse for sophisticated insurance coverage and bad faith litigation. His efforts have significantly expanded the firm’s reach and reputation across the West Coast, establishing the Los Angeles office as a vital hub for complex, high-stakes matters. Hafey exclusively represents insurers in coverage disputes, providing nuanced and strategic counseling in both litigated and non-litigated claims.



ANTON (TONY) HANDAL
Partner
Munck Wilson Mandala, LLP

As a litigator, Tony Handal has tried over 100 matters and served as lead counsel in more than 170 patent litigation cases, demonstrating both his deep knowledge of intellectual property law and his unparalleled courtroom prowess. Beyond his domestic litigation expertise, Handal has an impressive international practice, advising both US and international clients on a variety of complex business and intellectual property issues. His fluency in Arabic, coupled with his active offshore practice, makes him a trusted advisor to international companies navigating both US legal requirements and complex disputes in US courts. His global reach spans across the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia, Dubai, and Abu Dhabi, as well as the Pacific Rim, including China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea, and Vietnam.



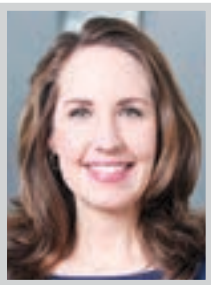
SASCHA HENRY
Partner; Practice Group Leader
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton

For nearly three decades, Sascha Henry has defended companies against class actions and other sensitive and complex legal challenges. Well-versed in litigation across state and federal trial courts, along with appellate work in the California Court of Appeal and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Henry uses practical business judgment to creatively reach optimal results for her clients, who view her as an exceptional litigator, trial lawyer and problem solver. In addition to her practice, Henry co-leads Sheppard Mullin’s Business Trial practice group, which is not only the firm’s largest practice group but also one of its fastest growing. In 2024, the litigation-based practice group welcomed an unprecedented number of lateral hires, including eight partners, seven special counsel and 15 associates.



SHAWN HOLLEY
Partner
Kinsella Holley Iser Kump
Steinsapir LLP

Shawn Holley, name partner at Kinsella Holley Iser Kump Steinsapir, routinely represents top entertainment talent in highly publicized cases. With more than 60 trials to her credit, Holley is the rare trial attorney who practices in the areas of both civil and criminal litigation. She began her storied legal career as a Los Angeles County Public Defender, subsequently working alongside legendary lawyer Johnnie Cochran on numerous high-profile civil and criminal cases. Her recent high-profile representations include actress and activist Evan Rachel Wood against a defamation suit filed by Brian Warner (p/k/a Marilyn Manson); Shia LaBeouf in a civil case filed by FKA Twigs; former Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Trevor Bauer in civil defamation lawsuits; among many others.



ESRA HUDSON
Partner; Leader, Employment and Labor
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

As leader of Manatt’s Employment and Labor practice, Esra Hudson has established herself as the go-to employment adviser for iconic entertainment companies, national insurance providers, well-known medical centers and leading financial services companies through her deft defense against wage and hour class and collective actions, PAGA representative matters, and trade secret and unfair competition claims. With extensive experience in crisis management and media relations, including in sensitive matters, Hudson has successfully represented employers in proceedings across a number of forums, as well as in alternative dispute resolution and arbitration, often saving her clients financial and reputational damage in claims, or even avoiding litigation altogether.

Congratulations!



Oren Bitan
SHAREHOLDER



Joshua M. Robbins
SHAREHOLDER

Los Angeles
Business Journal

2025 LEADERS OF
INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS &
TRIAL ATTORNEYS

LOI: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



KIRSTEN JACKSON
Partner
Latham & Watkins LLP

Latham partner Kirsten Jackson represents policyholders in a variety of insurance recovery matters, regularly securing multimillion-dollar settlements and awards for policyholders in the full spectrum of insurance cases. Jackson’s impressive litigation record in the past year includes representing Westbrook Partners in Westbrook Partners v. Continental Casualty Company, in which Jackson won a motion for terminating sanctions against CNA Insurance earlier this spring. She also successfully represented Chevron in a breach of contract and negligence litigation filed against Advanced Corrosion Technologies & Training (ACTT) in the Northern District of California. She also currently represents Malibu Boats in a \$140 million bad faith failure to settle a claim against its insurers.



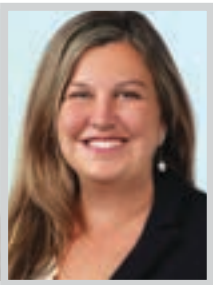
EDDIE JAUREGUI
Partner; Co-Chair, National White Collar Defense and Investigations Team
Holland & Knight

Eddie A. Jauregui has stopped criminals, helped corporate clients and advised colleagues – as a federal prosecutor, a white-collar defense attorney and a mentor to attorneys from all backgrounds, including those from Latino, LGBTQ+ and other underrepresented communities. As a litigation associate at Latham & Watkins and then Jenner & Block over six years, Jauregui could have positioned himself for a partnership at a major law firm. However, he went to work for the US Attorney’s Office in Los Angeles, where he prosecuted high-profile fraud, extortion and public corruption cases. Since joining Holland & Knight as a partner in 2020, Jauregui has helped clients resolve matters before they escalate to criminal prosecution and the damaging publicity that often accompanies it.



DAVID JOHANSON
Senior Partner
Hawkins Parnell

David R. Johanson is a nationally recognized authority in employee benefits and ERISA law, whose career accomplishments have set a benchmark for excellence in the field. As chair of Hawkins Parnell & Young’s national Employee Benefits & ERISA group and partner-in-charge of the firm’s Napa office, Johanson’s influence extends far beyond his legal acumen — he is a visionary leader, prolific educator and a trusted advisor to businesses navigating the complex landscape of employee ownership and executive compensation. With over 40 years of experience, Johanson has handled more than 750 ESOP (Employee Stock Ownership Plan) transactions, making him one of the most experienced ESOP attorneys in the country. His expertise is regularly sought by companies, executives and regulatory agencies alike.



ARWEN JOHNSON
Partner
King & Spalding

Arwen Johnson is a first chair commercial litigator who delivers results in high-stakes cases. Arwen’s clients rely on her subject matter and industry expertise in a wide variety of subject matters, as well as her extensive knowledge of emergency and provisional remedies, class action procedures, and post-trial motions and appeals. Johnson was recently selected to lead the Los Angeles office of King & Spalding as its Managing Partner. Johnson is unique in having several impressive practices: representing some of the nation’s top entertainment clients in high profile idea theft and copyright infringement matters; representing companies in trade secrets disputes over their highly valuable technologies and innovations; and representing public companies in complex class action and commercial disputes.



SHANT KARNIKIAN
Managing Partner
Kabateck LLP

Shant Karnikian began his career at Kabateck LLP as a law clerk in 2012. Over the next decade, he steadily earned his place as a key player in the firm—rising through the ranks under the mentorship of renowned trial lawyer and consumer advocate Brian Kabateck. In 2024, Karnikian became managing partner, stepping into a leadership role at one of California’s most active firms in disaster and mass tort litigation. Under Karnikian’s leadership, Kabateck LLP has taken on major cases involving fire, flood and utility-related disasters — representing thousands of victims in high-stakes litigation. The firm is currently advocating for victims of the Eaton Canyon Fire, the Maui wildfires, and multiple devastating flood events in Merced, Tulare, and Pajaro.



DENNIS KASS
Firm Managing Partner
Manning Kass

Dennis Kass has dedicated his career to fighting insurance fraud. He has taken on organized crime rings, crooked doctors who bill for services not rendered, attorneys who submit a large volume of false insurance claims, and others who simply abuse the system, harming California citizens in the long run. Kass filed the very first lawsuit using California’s novel anti-fraud law: Insurance Code section 1871.7. He has since filed over 175 such claims and has represented most major insurance carriers. Kass prevailed on the first trial under this statute, winning an \$8.2 million jury verdict against doctors who abused the system by submitting false insurance claims. He has been called as an expert witness on behalf of the insurance industry, and has testified before the California State Assembly.



PHIL M. KELLY
Named Partner
Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP

Named KBK partner Phil Kelly stands as one of Hollywood’s leading litigators, having achieved significant victories in cases involving some of its biggest names, including Paramount Global, NBCUniversal, TikTok, Inc., CAA, Lionsgate, Paramount Pictures, CBS Broadcasting, composer Hans Zimmer, and Regency Entertainment. Kelly is a leading attorney in the firm’s award-winning media and entertainment litigation practice, with a track record of success in high-stakes disputes and multimillion-dollar litigation involving copyright infringement, film finance, profit participation, intellectual property licensing, and film and TV distribution agreements. He also represents clients in and outside the entertainment industry nationwide and provides strategic pre-litigation counsel to help avoid costly legal disputes.



HYONGSOON KIM
Partner
Akin

Akin litigation partner Hyongsoon Kim is a recognized leader within the firm and throughout the legal industry. He is highly regarded for his impressive track record of handling complex consumer protection, antitrust and privacy class actions and product liability cases for some of the firm’s top clients, including industry giants VIZIO, Polaris Industries, Kingston Technology, Comcast/NBCU and various subsidiaries of Mars Corporation. At the same time, he has cultivated a reputation for his unwavering commitment to pro bono efforts and inclusion, working to ensure fairness, access and opportunity for all. Kim serves as head of both Akin’s California litigation practice and nationwide class action practice. He is regarded as a leader in the defense of major class actions and complex product liability matters.



ANGELA KIM
Partner
Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP

Angela Kim is a partner in Musick, Peeler & Garrett’s Los Angeles office and a member of the Litigation Department. She brings over 25 years of experience defending Fortune 500 companies as well as businesses of all sizes in the defense of product liability claims, employment claims, invasion of privacy claims and commercial disputes. She has also represented large and small entities in the entertainment industry relating to core business issues. Kim also has extensive experience in representing non-profits as well as defending medical professionals and attorneys. Kim has represented networks, producers, creators, distributors and financiers in all media, including television, music, motion pictures and digital media. Her clients included production companies, program suppliers to television networks and cable networks, individual artists, writers, and performers.



GREGORY KNOPP
Partner
Proskauer Rose LLP

Over his more than 25 year career, Greg Knopp has built a strong track record of successfully defending some of the world’s most prominent companies in complex employment litigation across both state and federal courts, in California and beyond. He specializes in class action and Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) cases and has led some of the nation’s most closely watched employment disputes – cases with outcomes that often set important precedents for employers. Knopp’s deep understanding of employment law spans wage and hour disputes, wrongful termination, discrimination, and harassment cases. His clients include major entertainment studios, leading retailers and professional sports leagues, as well as financial services firms, technology companies, transportation providers, and healthcare organizations.

LOI: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



GREGORY KORN
Partner
Kinsella Holley Iser Kump
Steinsapir LLP

Gregory Korn is a leading trial lawyer for high-stakes disputes in entertainment, intellectual property and business litigation, with a trusted track record representing studios, talent, and executives. A Partner at KHIKS, Korn brings sharp strategic instincts to a range of high-stakes matters involving motion pictures, television and music. He represents clients across the industry, studios, producers, talent and rights-holders and is known for guiding them through trial, arbitration and appeals with clarity and precision. Among his most recent stand-out matters, Korn led the team defending New Republic Pictures in a closely watched contractual dispute filed by the company's former president, film producer Bradley Fischer.



ROBERT KUM
Vice Chair, Products Liability and Toxic Torts Division, Trial Practice Group; Partner
Duane Morris LLP

During his career, Robert Kum has accrued a record of proven success in high-stakes jury trials, including jurisdictions recognized as plaintiff-friendly “judicial hellholes,” and is often sought after to defend actions ranging from a single plaintiff to large mass torts. Kum is also a leader at the firm. Working across multiple industries, including the automotive, chemical, consumer products and construction sectors, Kum has extensive experience in environmental and toxic torts, products liability, catastrophic injuries and dispute resolution, including arbitration and mediation. Kum also provides guidance to companies concerning the latest technological advances and cost-saving measures applied to various forms of litigation.



AMY LALLY
Partner; Global Co-Leader, Consumer Class Actions Practice
Sidley Austin LLP

As global co-leader of Sidley's nationally recognized Consumer Class Action practice, Amy Lally represents clients from a broad range of products and services industries in commercial litigation matters, including class actions, false advertising claims and contract disputes. Lally has achieved significant success in class action litigation arising under California's Unfair Business Practices Act, the Consumers Legal Remedies Act, labeling laws, Proposition 65, the California Invasion of Privacy Act (CIPA), as well as false advertising and unfair competition claims under other state and federal laws. Lally is also recognized for her impressive track record of dismissals — especially in California courts.



SUSAN LEADER
Partner; Co-Chair, Complex Litigation & Arbitration
Paul Hastings LLP

Susan Leader joined Paul Hastings in May 2023, adding further depth to the firm's Entertainment & Media litigation practice. Leader not only has experience leading complex litigations but also serving as a first chair in trying those cases in front of a judge, jury, or in arbitration. Since joining the firm, Leader has shown that her litigation capabilities also extend well beyond the entertainment industry, as she has led several successful litigation matters for the firm's clients in the tech and energy sectors, among others. Over the last year, Leader has solidified herself as a go-to litigator and a premier trial lawyer from coast-to-coast. Her successes of late come on behalf of both plaintiffs and defendants, and include her recent back-to-back defense verdict wins for RWE Renewables.



LISA W. LEE
Partner
Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP

Lisa Lee, a partner at Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP, is a 28-year trial attorney who has successfully represented police officers, government entities, businesses and individuals in more than 90 federal and state jury trials throughout California in the areas of constitutional law/civil rights, torts, contracts and employment. As a deputy District Attorney and assistant prosecutor, Lee convicted hundreds of criminals who committed the most heinous crimes against the most vulnerable in our society, including sex crimes against children and adults, and homicides. Lee spent nine years in general civil practice where she served as advisory counsel for businesses, as well as successfully litigating tort, contract and employment litigation matters.

Los Angeles Business Journal's
2025 Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys



Barry J. MacNaughton
Managing Partner



Pooja S. Nair
Partner

Effective. Creative. Judgment.
ERVIN COHEN & JESSUP LLP

LOI: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



BRENT LEHMAN

Partner
Munck Wilson Mandala, LLP

Brent Lehman is a partner in Munck Wilson Mandala’s litigation practice. Lehman brings a unique legal practice that focuses on complex entertainment and commercial litigation. He has served as lead trial counsel, taking multimillion-dollar cases to verdict, and has litigated matters on behalf of video game creators, major record labels, venture capitalists, celebrities, entrepreneurs and small business owners.

Lehman has had successful results against major media giants such as NBCUniversal, arriving at several good settlements with them after litigation and achieving fair results for his clients. Lehman also handles matters related to intellectual property, breach of contract, corporate theft and fraud. Prior to joining MWM, Lehman worked at Gerard Fox and at a LA litigation boutique where he represented clients in state and federal courts.



AMY LONGO

Partner
Ropes & Gray LLP

Known as one of LA’s star litigators, Amy Jane Longo has more than 25 years of experience in securities litigation, with significant first-chair experience both as a defense counsel and as a senior SEC trial attorney.

Longo served as the head of the SEC’s Los Angeles Regional Office trial unit for nearly five years, building a formidable reputation throughout the Southwest region. As a founding partner in Ropes & Gray’s Los Angeles office since 2022, Longo leads litigation and enforcement matters that span commercial and securities litigation, SEC and DOJ enforcement—particularly involving asset managers and public issues, and hot-button cryptocurrency issues, including for some of California’s most prominent investment funds, public and private companies.



D. JASON LYON

Partner
Hahn & Hahn LLP

Jason Lyon provides skilled strategy and advocacy to clients in commercial and general civil litigation matters, both in the trial court and on appeal. His practice emphasizes high stakes business disputes, often centered on complex financial transactions and intricate fact patterns.

Lyon joined Hahn & Hahn LLP, a 125-year-old law firm based in Pasadena, in 2017. He became a partner in 2019. Previously, he practiced complex commercial litigation and securities fraud defense at Latham & Watkins. His approach to litigation is equal parts strategy, psychology and storytelling. To achieve success, Lyon leverages both his legal experience and his work (prior to becoming a lawyer) as a documentary film producer. His unique skillset of legal excellence and fact-based storytelling is a formidable combination in the courtroom.



MATTHEW MACDONALD

Partner
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

In an era of specialized litigators, Matthew Macdonald stands out. It’s not just the diversity of industries that his matters cover, stretching from his trial win involving racehorses at Santa Anita Park to his recent summary judgment win for OpenAI in first-of-its kind litigation alleging that ChatGPT defamed the plaintiff. It’s not just the diversity of legal issues they cover either, from privacy to patent disputes. While handling such disparate matters, Macdonald stands out for the near uniformity of his successful results.

Since the beginning of 2023, Macdonald has taken two cases to trial and one to arbitration—and won three times. He also won a complete defense victory on the papers in a precedent-setting privacy class action and successfully represented Impossible Foods in a groundbreaking foodtech patent fight.



THOMAS MACKEY

Principal
Jackson Lewis P.C.

Thomas G. Mackey is a principal in the Los Angeles office of Jackson Lewis P.C., a pre-eminent national workplace law firm. Mackey focuses his practice on trials and arbitrations. He has substantial jury trial experience in state and federal courts and has arbitrated a wide variety of claims throughout his career. He is also highly experienced in electronically stored information and related litigation issues.

The entirety of Mackey’s career is marked by important wins on behalf of clients; he has recorded more than a dozen favorable wins in the Los Angeles Superior Court, the United States District Court, Central District of California, the San Diego Superior Court and in front of organizations such as the American Arbitration Association.



BARRY MacNAUGHTON

Managing Partner
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP

Barry MacNaughton has spent more than 40 years litigating and resolving significant business and commercial litigation matters for clients in the real estate, construction, manufacturing, technology and environmental sectors in Southern California. He solves clients’ problems, litigates their disputes and advocates for them at trial. MacNaughton understands the impact of disputes and litigation on business—he not only litigates matters once disputes arise, he actively preaches and manages pre-litigation problem resolution and litigation avoidance.

Distinctive among Southern California litigators for his depth of experience and knowledge, MacNaughton has more than three dozen trials or arbitrations to his credit. A co-managing partner of Ervin Cohen & Jessup, MacNaughton has served in that leadership role since the position was created.



MICHAEL MANCINI

Founding Partner
Mancini Shenk LLP

Michael Mancini is a founding partner of Mancini Shenk and is a highly regarded litigator known for his work in shareholder and derivative actions, cannabis law, business disputes and entertainment litigation. He represents a diverse clientele, including internationally recognized companies, leading angel investors, high-profile celebrities, startups, local businesses and private individuals.

A recognized authority in cannabis litigation, Mancini is frequently called upon to lead complex, high-stakes cases that have drawn national media attention. He is often retained as an advisory co-counsel by top-tier law firms and regularly shares his expertise on panels addressing key legal and ethical issues in the cannabis sector. His litigation success includes recovering tens of millions of dollars for clients.



DAVID MARTINEZ

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

David Martinez is a partner and influential leader at Robins Kaplan, a national trial law firm. As an elected member of the firm’s Executive Board since 2019, Martinez plays a critical role in shaping policies that impact over 200 attorneys, including initiatives around firm strategy and practice group development, diversity, talent development, and compensation. He also serves as pro bono chair for the firm’s California offices, where he champions access to justice for underserved rural communities.

After serving in the US Navy, Martinez turned to law and developed a multi-faceted business and intellectual property litigation practice. Martinez has built a reputation as a “lawyer’s lawyer,” trusted by clients ranging from Fortune 100 companies to individuals, to handle their most challenging disputes.

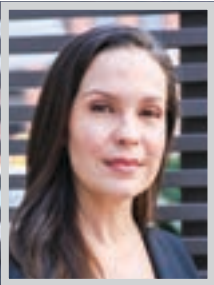


JORDAN MATTHEWS

Founding Partner
Holtz Matthews LLP

Jordan Matthews is the co-founder of Holtz Matthews LLP, which he founded with his partner, powerhouse entertainment litigator, Michael D. Holtz. Holtz Matthews LLP, specializes in representing plaintiffs in sexual assault, harassment and employment matters, generally handling high-profile matters in the entertainment and gaming industries.

Matthews and Holtz served as lead counsel in landmark litigation against Steve Wynn. They represented the primary witness for a Wall Street Journal exposé, which led to Wynn’s resignation from Wynn Resorts and the Republican Finance Committee. The litigation coincided with \$55 million in fines levied against Wynn Resorts, leading to a \$10 million fine in July 2023 against Steve Wynn and his removal from the gaming industry.



KATHRYN McCANN

Partner
Annaguey McCann LLP

After 17 years of working at mid-size bi-coastal firms, Kathryn McCann decided to start the women and minority owned litigation boutique Annaguey McCann LLP with her friend and law partner, Maribeth Annaguey. Along with a third partner, they started the firm with the goal of engaging in a smaller, more client-focused practice. In just 10 months, the firm grew to five attorneys and three full-time staff, all colleagues from previous firms.

McCann’s entire legal career has been focused on representing national and global companies in large, complex and class action litigation in the areas of business, real estate, contracts, employment and entertainment. She has a long track record of securing favorable outcomes for her clients in trial, arbitration, mediation and motion practice.

LOI: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



BRETT McCLURE
Shareholder
Frandzel Robins Bloom & Csato, L.C.

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

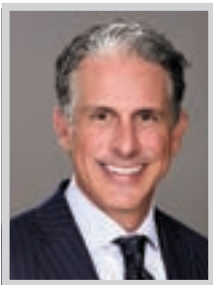
McClure is skilled in providing insightful and pragmatic advice to avoid disputes and to resolve them if they ripen. He has litigated cases in an array of industries, including real estate, banking, business and consumer technology, entertainment, professional services, manufacturing and insurance industries. His recent experience covers a broad spectrum of practice areas including complex real estate disputes.



MARGARET McDONALD
Partner
Reed Smith

Margaret (Maisie) McDonald is a partner in Reed Smith’s Los Angeles office. She is a breakout star in the firm’s Insurance Recovery Group, having been named partner in January 2025, after less than six years with Reed Smith. McDonald is a conscientious and detail-oriented attorney.

When the pandemic struck, McDonald quickly became a go-to, proficient in business interruption coverage for losses arising out of COVID-19, closely monitoring cases around the country, and carefully threading the needle when preparing complaints and briefing to ensure clients did not fall afoul of the many adverse rulings constricting coverage. McDonald is now helping the team’s task force provide client and pro bono services for victims of the devastating wildfires.



MATTHEW McNICHOLAS
Partner
McNicholas & McNicholas, LLP

Matthew McNicholas has impacted the inner workings of large and powerful agencies. He has prevented illegal and coercive force that affects the lives of the public, law enforcement officers and firefighters. He has protected the livelihoods of good law enforcement officers and firefighters.

As panel counsel to the Los Angeles Police Protective League and the United Firefighters of Los Angeles City, McNicholas is Southern California’s go-to employment attorney for first responders who have faced discrimination, harassment and retaliation at work. Securing over \$27 million in employment resolutions in 2024 alone, McNicholas stands as the leading advocate for law enforcement professionals committed to eradicating misconduct within their departments.



PATRICK McNICHOLAS
Partner
McNicholas & McNicholas, LLP

After nearly four decades as a leading trial attorney and advocate for Los Angeles plaintiffs, Pat McNicholas’ career is still reaching new heights. He was lead counsel in the recently approved \$4 billion settlement between Los Angeles County and more than 7,000 victims of sexual abuse at local juvenile detention centers. This historic resolution is the largest ever against a municipality for sexual abuse claims and an important step toward long-overdue reform.

The force behind some of California’s most impactful legal cases, McNicholas is perhaps best known for his litigation against the utility companies that have contributed to California’s devastating wildfires. In 2024 alone, McNicholas secured \$331 million in wildfire settlements.



JONATHAN MELMED
Founder
Melmed Law Group P.C.

Jonathan Melmed is a nationally recognized leader in employment law and the founder of Melmed Law Group. With over 15 years of legal experience and nearly a decade at the helm of his firm, Melmed has distinguished himself as one of California’s most effective advocates for employee rights. His track record includes serving as lead or co-lead counsel in hundreds of class and representative actions, achieving numerous multi-million-dollar settlements, including multiple eight-figure outcomes. These cases have involved workplace discrimination, harassment, wrongful termination, wage theft and whistleblower retaliation.

Melmed is known for personally guiding plaintiffs through complex legal battles and ensuring that every client’s voice is heard and respected.



We proudly congratulate our colleague, **Kent Goss**, on being named among the *Los Angeles Business Journal’s* “**Leaders of Influence: Litigation & Trial Attorneys 2025.**”

crowell.com



LOI: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



JAMES MENTON

Partner; Chair, Corporate Restructuring and Bankruptcy Group
Robins Kaplan LLP

James Menton is a partner at Robins Kaplan and chair of the Corporate Restructuring and Bankruptcy Group. His practice focuses on all types of fiduciary disputes, creditor's rights and remedies, and corporate restructuring and bankruptcy matters. A skilled advisor and litigator, Menton draws upon his extensive professional network to provide clients with strategic resources and solutions in their cases.

Menton has decades of experience in areas that include insolvency-related matters, including complex corporate bankruptcies, distressed-debt litigation and complex collection matters. His experience with respect to distressed corporate situations, secured transactions, and the corporate bankruptcy process forms an integral part of his clients' strategic planning.

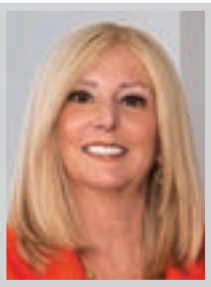


LISA HELFEND MEYER

Founding Partner
Meyer, Olson, Lowy & Meyers LLP

Lisa Helfend Meyer is a co-founder and senior partner at Meyer, Olson, Lowy & Meyers, LLP, a boutique family law firm located in Century City and Irvine. Meyer has been certified as a specialist in Family Law by the Board of Legal Specialization of the State Bar of California since 1989.

Meyer provides innovative, vigorous and the highest quality legal services in all areas of family law, including complex divorces, such as the valuation and division of high asset marital estates, high conflict and complex child custody cases, domestic violence cases, prenuptial and postnuptial agreements, parentage matters, dissolution of domestic partnerships and issues specific to LGBTQ+ families, and mediation. Over the course of her four-decade career, she has honed her skills both inside and outside the courtroom.



FELICIA R. MEYERS

Founding Partner
Meyer, Olson, Lowy & Meyers LLP

Felicia R. Meyers is a partner at Meyer, Olson, Lowy & Meyers, LLP. The law firm attracted a lot of attention when it launched as California's only female-established firm. Since then, the firm's record in court has garnered even more public interest. This has attracted many high-profile clients in the entertainment, business and sports industries. Meyers primarily serves high-profile clients on matters related to high-asset divorce and custody.

Meyers started her career practicing civil litigation, and she has exclusively practiced family law for over 25 years. She is a dynamic and zealous litigator, who is at her best when she is battling it out for her clients in the courtroom. Her extensive litigation experience provides a distinct advantage in representing clients with complex child custody and financial issues.



DEANNE MILLER

Partner
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

Deanne Miller, a nationally respected litigator and trial lawyer, represents companies in some of the most complex and consequential legal battles in California and across the country. Miller is known for resolving litigation that blends legal intricacy with reputational risk — cases involving toxic exposure, environmental contamination, climate change litigation, product liability and emerging public health issues. In the last year, she has led the defense for four significant lawsuits centered on critical issues that are currently challenging companies and other entities across the globe.

Miller is known for her composure in the courtroom, ability to translate science-heavy claims into persuasive trial narratives, and instinct for guiding clients through uncertainty when the stakes are high.

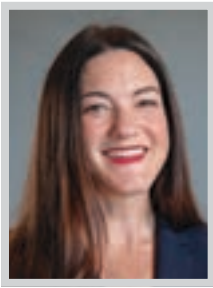


SKIP MILLER

Partner
Miller Barondess, LLP

Skip Miller is an experienced and prominent trial lawyer. He is also renowned for his strategic counsel in major litigation. Miller has served as lead trial counsel in more than a hundred state and federal cases, representing private and public corporations, Fortune 500 companies, individual clients (including entertainers), and governmental entities.

Miller defended a client in a complex criminal conspiracy and securities fraud trial in the Southern District of California. After a hung jury (10-2 for acquittal), he secured a full dismissal of charges in December 2024. As counsel for the trustee of the Woodbridge Liquidation Trust, he resolved a \$1.3 billion Ponzi scheme case against multiple professionals for aiding and abetting the scheme. Through mediations, he secured substantial confidential settlements before discovery, saving significant expense.



ELIZABETH MITCHELL

Partner
Umhofer, Mitchell & King LLP

Elizabeth Mitchell, a distinguished attorney and partner at Umhofer, Mitchell & King LLP has been instrumental in initiating and leading the lawsuit brought by LA Alliance v. City and County of Los Angeles, which has resulted in significant legal and policy reforms, including a \$4 billion settlement with the City of Los Angeles and a commitment from the County to provide additional mental health and substance use treatment beds.

Mitchell's expertise and leadership in complex civil litigation have been pivotal in advancing the cause of justice for the homeless population. Mitchell is not only challenging institutional failures but is also driving meaningful change to ensure that the rights and dignity of homeless individuals are upheld.



ALI MOJIBI

Partner
Covington & Burling LLP

Ali Mojibi is a dynamic trial lawyer who has tried cases for leading global businesses across a range of industries, including telecommunications, software, medical device and biotech. His diverse background in engineering, medical sciences and technical sales enables him to quickly master a complex factual record and craft simple, compelling presentations.

Mojibi's diverse background and presentation style have enabled him to appear as trial counsel in several challenging and high-profile matters, where he has conducted tens of hours of direct and cross examination. He served as first-chair in a confidential arbitration proceeding for a global pharmaceutical against one of the largest PBMs relating to prescription drug rebates and is currently representing a non-profit organization in a high-profile sexual harassment dispute.



TODD MOORE

Of Counsel
Hahn & Hahn LLP

Todd Moore represents individuals, corporations and public entities in his litigation and appeals practice with an emphasis in real estate issues, eminent domain and business disputes. Combining his creative problem-solving proficiency and trial experience, Moore helps clients navigate through contentious situations toward favorable outcomes. Clients appreciate his ability to distill a complicated situation into a simpler one and to provide the best options for resolving their problems.

Moore has shared his legal counsel in speaking opportunities such as the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership's Economic Forecast in 2025 and in several informational sessions for the Los Angeles community in response to the 2025 Eaton and Palisades wildfires.

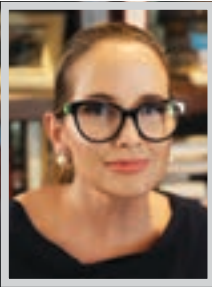


ESTEBAN MORALES

Member
Mintz

Esteban Morales, Mintz partner and distinguished litigator, is a force to be reckoned with in class action defense, consumer, and privacy-related litigation. Since joining the firm, Morales has honed his skills to become a go-to expert for both small and large corporate clients facing complex legal challenges.

Morales secures dismissals for clients at the pleading stage and employs aggressive defense strategies to thwart claims without extensive discovery. His strategic acumen has been pivotal in defending clients against a myriad of state and federal statutes and theories, including the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, the California Invasion of Privacy Act, the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act, and California's Unfair Competition Law, among many others. He is currently representing a family seeking humanitarian parole.



ANN MARIE MORTIMER

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

Ann Marie Mortimer has built a distinguished career as a leader in commercial litigation and environmental law, and her accomplishments reflect her dedication to excellence, advocacy and mentorship. As the founder and managing partner of Hunton Andrews Kurth's Los Angeles office, she stands out as one of the few female managing partners in California, exemplifying leadership and paving the way for future generations of women in law.

California is the crucible of regulations in technology and the environment--two of the most defining issues of our time, and Mortimer is at the forefront of the legal battles in both of these areas. She has secured multiple wins recently, distinguishing her as an impactful lawyer attaining noteworthy results for name brand clients.

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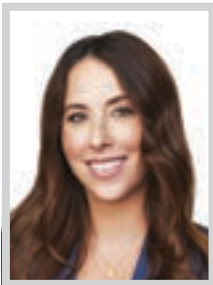


LAITH MOSELY

Partner
Raines Feldman Littrell LLP

Laith D. Mosely has taken cases to juries in federal and state courts and dispatched others through dispositive motions. He has significant experience with intellectual property, contract, unfair competition, defamation, white-collar defense, entertainment, antitrust, mass tort, insurance, securities, and real estate litigation. He has also guided clients to successful resolutions in a variety of administrative and non-judicial forums including the United States International Trade Commission, arbitrations and mediations.

Mosley has also represented an aerospace and defense technology company in a sensitive international matter involving personnel in Middle East and provided consultancy services for a multinational drink and brewing company related to the sponsorship of 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.



LINDSEY MUNYER

Partner
Keystone Law Group, P.C.

As a formidable litigator, partner and founding member of Keystone Law Group's Executive Committee, Lindsey F. Munyer has been a driving force behind Keystone's propulsion to California's largest and most prominent probate litigation firm, representing high-profile clients like the administrator of Hollywood producer Steve Bing's estate, and securing trial rulings with damages that are rarely awarded in cases that often involve complex creditor claims and intricate tax issues.

A recognized thought leader in probate litigation, Munyer is both a certified specialist in Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law and holds her LLM in taxation, having worked with the IRS Office of Chief counsel early in her career, and her influence extends beyond the courtroom to speaking, writing, and teaching engagements.



JOHN NADOLENCO

Partner; Managing Partner,
Los Angeles Office; Global Leader,
Technology Industry Group
Mayer Brown

John Nadolenco is an effective lead trial counsel in courts around the country and has a solid track record of defeating claims against his clients who are at risk of losing millions of dollars and substantial reputational harm.

Nadolenco also runs the Summer Fellowship Diversity Program through American University College of Law. In partnership with eBay, Mayer Brown gives diverse students insights into what it means to work at a law firm and in-house at a company. He also serves on the Advisory Board for American University's Tech, Law & Security Program and is the chair of the Family Fellows Program at Northeastern University as well as a Member of the Board of Trustees of Viewpoint School since 2010.



POOJA NAIR

Partner
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP

Pooja Nair is a go-to business litigator and problem solver with a focus on the food and beverage sector. She advises restaurant groups, mid-market food brands and food manufacturers on a comprehensive range of issues, including employment, trade secrets, partnership disputes, contract negotiations and intellectual property.

Nair recently 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 (both traditional and social media), and reviews. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Music and Arts School, the Harvard Club of Southern California, and the Inner City Law Center. She publishes a bi-monthly legal column for Modern Restaurant Management on legal developments.



SABRINA NARAIN

Managing Partner
LTL Attorneys

Sabrina Narain is a formidable litigator who became the first female partner at her past firm within three short years, and is just getting started. Narain joined LTL Attorneys earlier this year as a managing partner, where she spearheads the firm's consumer protection litigation practice.

As a leader at her firm, Narain manages her booming team and continues to grow the department. In less than a year, she has dramatically expanded the firm's practice by attracting and nurturing junior attorneys and a robust support staff. She is also adept at leveraging the firm's in-house proprietary technology Legalmaton, an AI software that organizes a company's propriety information to maximize efficiency and drives smarter legal strategies and savings for her clients.

YUKEVICH | CAVANAUGH

We applaud

James Yukevich

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

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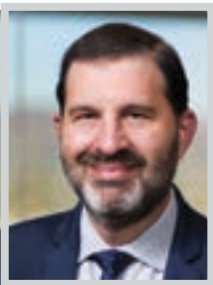


MARK NEUBAUER

Los Angeles Office Managing Shareholder
Carlton Fields LLP

Throughout more than 45 years of practice, Mark Neubauer has achieved key litigation victories for some of the world’s most well-known companies, protecting them from multimillion-dollar claims. He has tried numerous jury and bench trials in state and federal courts, focusing on sophisticated litigation, including commercial, securities, antitrust, real estate, employment and entertainment matters. As the founding managing shareholder of Carlton Fields’ Los Angeles office, Neubauer was instrumental in establishing and expanding the firm’s California presence, attracting top trial attorneys.

Client service and communication are at the heart of Neubauer’s success. His client philosophy is rooted in understanding the client’s business needs and goals, and then collaborating with the client on strategy decisions and keeping the client informed.



BRIAN NEWMAN

Trial Lawyer; Managing Member,
Los Angeles Office
Dykema

For over two decades, Brian Newman has distinguished himself as a formidable force in litigation, commanding a practice defined by breadth, depth, and consistent excellence. As office managing member of Dykema’s Los Angeles office and its long-standing general counsel, Newman has become a trusted advisor for some of the nation’s largest financial institutions and businesses.

Newman has managed a portfolio of hundreds of high-stakes financial services litigation matters, resolving nearly all of them on extraordinarily favorable terms — dismissals with prejudice, summary judgment, or minimal settlements. His strategic acuity, business-minded pragmatism, and deep legal insight allow him to tailor each approach to the unique needs and objectives of his clients.



AUSTIN NORRIS

Partner
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Austin Norris is a litigation partner in Kirkland’s Los Angeles and Bay Area offices who has established himself as a leading litigator handling complex commercial disputes across multiple jurisdictions. He successfully represents high-profile clients in matters spanning securities fraud, shareholder derivative suits, RICO claims, real estate litigation and class action defense, demonstrating strategic versatility in federal and state courts nationwide.

Norris is experienced in both plaintiff and defense-side work and has particularly distinguished himself in California’s state and federal courts, where his measured approach consistently delivers results in high-stakes litigation. His client roster includes a distinguished lineup of industry leaders, such as Accenture, Bristol-Myers Squibb, General Motors, Events.com, Toll Brothers, Torrid, and Wynn Resorts.



MEGAN O’NEILL

Chair, Litigation; Founding Partner
DTO Law

As co-founder and chair of litigation at DTO Law, Megan O’Neill leads the firm’s litigation practice and is a trusted advisor to Fortune 500 clients facing high-stakes class actions and commercial disputes. O’Neill combines deep legal expertise with pragmatic business sense to achieve favorable outcomes efficiently. Her clients, including HP, Unilever, John Paul Mitchell Systems, General Mills, and Walgreens, rely on her for their most significant legal matters.

O’Neill excels across practice areas, from breach of contract and fraud claims to trademark infringement cases, though she is often recognized for her work in the class action space. Her versatility stems from her expertise across all litigation forums, including appeals before the Second, Third, and Ninth Circuits, and the California appellate courts.



BRIAN PANISH

Founding Partner
Panish | Shea | Ravipudi LLP

Brian Panish is a founding partner of Panish | Shea | Ravipudi LLP and recognized among the leading trial attorneys in the country. With over four decades of trial experience in plaintiffs’ personal injury litigation, Panish’s victories include more than 600 verdicts and settlements over \$1 million, over 100 exceeding \$10 million, seven exceeding \$50 million, and a verdict of \$4.9 billion in the high-profile products liability case Anderson v. General Motors.

One of Panish’s most important contributions to the legal field came through his role as lead counsel in Viner v. Sweet, a California Supreme Court case that established key precedent in legal malpractice law. The ruling clarified the “case-within-a-case” causation standard for attorney negligence, reshaping how malpractice cases are evaluated and litigated in California.



DAVID PARKER

Founding Partner
Parker Shaffie LLP

David Parker, the founding partner of Parker Shaffie LLP, has earned a reputation as one of California’s most accomplished litigators in the areas of legal malpractice, professional responsibility and complex business disputes.

After helping to build what is now one of the largest defense firms in the country, Lewis Brisbois, Parker decided to create a litigation boutique with a different vision — one that would focus on providing high-level advocacy in a collaborative environment. Parker Shaffie is one of the few firms that successfully handles both plaintiff and defense malpractice cases, ensuring a balanced understanding of liability litigation. This dual perspective has become a defining feature of Parker’s practice and a major reason why other law firms frequently refer their most serious matters to him.



KHAIL PARRIS

Partner
PARRIS Law Firm

PARRIS Law Firm partner Khail Parris specializes in personal injury, product liability, and product defect claims, and represents parties who have suffered spine, brain, or catastrophic injuries as a result of auto collisions. He has been designated as one of Super Lawyers’ Southern California “Rising Stars” from 2021 to 2024.

Since joining the firm in 2015, Parris has recovered more than \$200 million in verdicts and settlements for injured individuals. In 2025, he helped secure a \$32.8 million verdict for a client who was severely injured as a result of a rear-end collision. Parris was part of a team that obtained an \$80 million judgment for the victim of a “T-bone” accident caused by a distracted driver.



JAYESH PATEL

Partner
Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP

A trial lawyer and strategic advisor for his clients on a wide range of business issues, Jayesh Patel isn’t focused on his win-to-loss ratio or the millions of dollars in favorable judgements that he has secured over his nearly four-decade career.

Now a partner at global law firm Norton Rose Fulbright’s Los Angeles office, Patel has been practicing law since 1987, long before there was a blueprint for an Indian American litigator in Los Angeles. Following the path to law inspired by his lifelong interest in puzzles and an uncanny skillset for problem solving, Patel found his calling in law and never looked back. Today, he continues to help clients tackle and resolve complex financial, real estate and commercial matters on a wide range of business issues.



ALISON PLESSMAN

Partner
Hueston Hennigan

Alison Plessman leads many of Hueston Hennigan’s highest profile matters and has cemented a reputation as one of the state’s top litigators. Her wide-ranging practice includes matters involving wildland fire and debris flow, copyright infringement, contract, defamation, employment, securities fraud and trade secrets. She also advises clients on their most sensitive and confidential internal matters, including whistleblowing, discrimination, breach of fiduciary duty, trade secrets misappropriation, termination and unfair competition.

Plessman is currently representing PacifiCorp and Pacific Power in numerous high-stakes lawsuits stemming from the 2020 “Labor Day Fires” that burned over 500,000 acres across eight counties in Oregon and California. Plessman and the team have achieved multiple pre-trial and trial wins.



SCOTT RAHN

Founding Partner
RMO LLP

Scott Rahn has been litigating contentious probate matters for more than 20 years, and launched law firm RMO LLP in 2015. He represents heirs, beneficiaries, fiduciaries (including individual, private professional, and institutional trustees, executors and conservators), and other interested parties in contested trust, estate, conservatorship and guardianship matters.

Rahn has earned a reputation for handling the intricate interplay between domestic and international probate laws, conducting in-depth investigation of estate assets, and defusing challenging, often decades-long family dysfunctions. His solutions to complex trust and estate disputes have earned him several accolades over the past year.

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EUGENE RAMIREZ
Founding Partner
Manning Kass

Eugene Ramirez is a founding partner of the law firm Manning Kass, where he leads the governmental entity liability, military and veterans law and school civil liability teams. He has handled hundreds of cases throughout his career, including class action lawsuits against the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Canine Unit. He advises several public entities on the issues of use of force, canine and SWAT issues, supervisor liability, and policies and procedures.

Ramirez is an associate member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and has tried 49 cases to date in both state and federal courts – 12 criminal trials (including murder trials), and 37 civil cases. He has been awarded the LA County Sheriff's Department Trial Lawyer of the year twice.



RAHUL RAVIPUDI
Partner
Panish | Shea | Ravipudi LLP

Panish | Shea | Ravipudi LLP Partner Rahul Ravipudi has spent his legal career handling catastrophic injury and wrongful death cases involving commercial vehicles, pedestrians, industrial accidents, utility negligence, and dangerous conditions of public and private property. He also handles cases of sexual abuse and sexual assault.

Ravipudi has obtained numerous landmark verdicts on behalf of his clients, including a \$46 million jury verdict in Greener v. M. Phelps, Inc., et al., finalized after a two-year battle that reached the California Supreme Court. Ravipudi currently serves as plaintiffs' co-liaison counsel in the Eaton Fire Cases litigation as well as co-lead counsel in the Social Media Cases litigation, involving children and young adults harmed or driven to suicide by social media algorithms.



WILL REED
Shareholder
Shegerian & Associates

Will Reed is one of the top litigators at Shegerian & Associates, renowned for his expertise and success in employment law. With a deep understanding of complex legal issues and a reputation for tireless advocacy, Reed has consistently delivered outstanding results for his clients, including securing multi-million-dollar verdicts and settlements.

In 2023, Reed secured a \$9 million default judgment for Jill Lawler, a victim of sexual assault, after successfully obtaining terminating sanctions against Choudhury due to his willful discovery failures. Reed recently played a pivotal role in the appellate process of Rudnicki v. Farmers Insurance, which resulted in the affirmation of a \$23.9 million judgment in a case involving retaliation against an attorney who opposed gender discrimination.



HEATHER RICHARDSON
Partner
Gibson Dunn

Heather Richardson is a litigation partner in Gibson Dunn's Los Angeles office. Her practice focuses on health care, the gig economy, and class action matters in state and federal courts around the country. Last year, Dunn was one of the primary lawyers trying the Uber misclassification case brought by the Massachusetts Attorney General, which resolved in a settlement before closing arguments.

Among several successful representative matters, Dunn notably secured a \$37.4 million jury verdict against a group of surgery centers found liable for fraud, interference with contract and unjust enrichment. This year, she has four trials scheduled for United Healthcare on a variety of issues, ranging from a shareholder dispute involving a medical group, to a bad faith trial relating to bariatric surgery.



NAEUN RIM
Partner; Leader, Trial, White Collar and Investigations Practice
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

As leader of Manatt's Trial, White Collar and Investigations practice, Naeun Rim has first-chaired numerous trials and arbitrations and successfully defended against multimillion-dollar civil lawsuits. Known for achieving favorable and effective results for clients facing high-stakes legal disputes, Rim is an established and highly sought-after advisor with a notable track record of success, including obtaining a judgment in favor of a publicly traded company in a fraud lawsuit seeking damages of \$100 million and winning a trial in a commercial real estate dispute.

One example of Rim's success is her recent work leading the Manatt team representing Hanmi Financial Corporation, a publicly traded bank, in a shareholder derivative action.

2025 LEADERS OF INFLUENCE

LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS

Los Angeles Business Journal

SKIP MILLER

AMNON SIEGEL

MILLER BARONDESS, LLP

Trial | Appeal | Arbitration

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DAVE RING
Founding Partner
Taylor & Ring

Nationally recognized as a top advocate for survivors of sexual abuse and assault, Dave Ring co-founded Taylor & Ring in 2002 with John Taylor and has secured landmark victories that have exposed systemic failures within schools, churches, youth organizations and other institutions. Ring is relentless in his pursuit of justice, holding powerful individuals and entities accountable — especially those who commit abuse or allow it to occur through negligence or willful blindness.

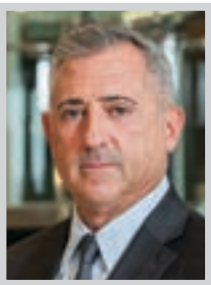
Many of the cases Ring handles are newsworthy due to their complex nature and involve high-profile defendants, including celebrity actors, athletes and businessmen. Notably, he represented Jane Doe 1 in the Harvey Weinstein case in Los Angeles – the only victim to obtain a criminal conviction of Weinstein in California.



JOSHUA ROBBINS
Shareholder
Buchalter

Joshua Robbins is a seasoned trial lawyer and former federal prosecutor who brings clarity and impact to high-stakes litigation. As co-chair of Buchalter's White Collar & Investigations practice, he represents individuals and businesses in the life sciences, technology, and financial sectors, navigating complex disputes involving fraud, kickbacks, unfair competition, and regulatory exposure. His skill in distilling dense legal issues into persuasive narratives sets him apart in the courtroom and in negotiations.

Robbins has a rare record of success across civil, criminal and appellate matters. He has secured complete defense jury verdicts in multi-million dollar federal anti-trust and whistleblower retaliation cases — one of which was named a "Top Defense Verdict of the Year" by The Daily Journal.



JEFF ROSENFELD
Partner-in-Charge, Los Angeles and
Century City Offices
Alston & Bird

Partner-in-charge of Alston & Bird's Los Angeles and Century City offices, Jeff Rosenfeld is an instrumental force in shaping the offices' culture and helping the firm to steer and build its expanding footprint and growing presence throughout California. In 2024, Rosenfeld oversaw a complex office move and major transformation in downtown LA. He also helped oversee the opening of the firm's entirely new Century City office.

As an attorney with three decades of experience handling complex commercial litigation, Rosenfeld is adept at preemptively ending expensive disputes by negotiating favorable settlements before litigation and by securing early dismissal. He focuses his practice on trial and appellate litigation, with an emphasis on class action and other complex commercial litigation.



NEEMA SAHNI
Partner; Co-Chair, Commercial Litigation
Practice; Co-Chair, Entertainment and
Media Industry Group;
Co-Chair, Music Industry Group;
Vice Chair, Sports Industry Group
Covington & Burling LLP

As a partner and co-chair of Covington & Burling's Commercial Litigation and Entertainment & Media Practices, Neema Sahni serves as go-to counsel for some of the entertainment industry's biggest names. Through her work at Covington – and her prior experience in-house at Disney – Sahni has developed a sophisticated understanding of the legal and business issues impacting content creators and platforms.

Recently, she was part of the team that represented Spotify in opposing a petition for pre-litigation discovery filed by musical artist Drake accusing Spotify of participating in a scheme to promote Kendrick Lamar's Grammy Award-winning song "Not Like Us."



CHRISTIAN SCALI
Founder; Managing Shareholder
Scali Rasmussen, PC

Founder and managing shareholder of Scali Rasmussen, Christian Scali has a diverse practice that includes advice and counsel and complex, high-stakes litigation. He is known throughout California for his work on behalf of the retail automotive industry in a series of advertising lawsuits brought against it under California's Unfair Competition Law. He also regularly assists auto dealers and auto dealer groups with their mergers and acquisitions.

Scali is on the Los Angeles County Bar Association Litigation Section as an executive committee member and the Board of Governors of the LGBT Bar Association of Los Angeles. He is also a board of directors delegate for the Independent Automobile Dealers Association of California, and serves as secretary of the Italian American Lawyers Association.



JOHN SCHREIBER
Partner;
Chair, Los Angeles Litigation Practice
Winston & Strawn LLP

John Schreiber is a partner at Winston & Strawn and chair of the firm's Los Angeles Litigation Practice. He has led several teams that achieved precedent-setting legal victories in recent years, including twice leading teams that have secured unanimous victories before the US Supreme Court in cases involving the federal securities laws.

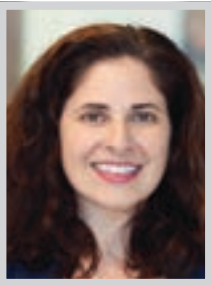
Most recently, in 2025, Schreiber was an integral member of the Winston team that represented Caitlyn Jenner and her manager, Sophia Hutchins, in a putative class action brought by a UK citizen, alleging millions of dollars of losses as a result of investing in the \$JENNER memecoins. US District Judge Stanley Blumenfeld Jr. in granted the defendants' motion to dismiss, dismissing all nine causes of action.



SHAWN SHAFFIE
Partner
Parker Shaffie LLP

Shawn Shaffie, a partner at Parker Shaffie LLP, is a litigator who has built a career on handling complex, high-stakes disputes spanning legal malpractice, business litigation, entertainment law and professional liability. Since joining Parker Shaffie in 2016 and rising to partnership by 2020, he has become a central figure in the firm's litigation team, helping guide clients through disputes that often threaten reputations, business continuity and professional licenses.

Shaffie represents lawyers, accountants, and executives, often when allegations carry long-term consequences for a client's standing, licensure, or public trust. From 2014 through 2021, he was recognized as a Super Lawyers Rising Star, and in 2025, he was named to the full Super Lawyers list, marking his transition from rising talent to trusted leader.



NADA SHAMONKI
Partner
Mintz

Nada Shamonki, special counsel at Mintz, is a standout leader with deep experience across complex commercial disputes — including real estate litigation, contract disputes, labor and employment matters, trade secret enforcement, consumer class actions and finance-related litigation.

Shamonki has successfully defended clients in consumer class action lawsuits alleging violations under the California Unfair Competition Law, deceptive, false, and misleading advertising, the Consumer Legal Remedies Act, and Proposition 65. She also handles employment litigation cases before state and federal courts, including cases involving claims for violations of wage and hour laws, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wrongful discharge, breach of contract, trade secret protection, and enforcement of noncompetition and nonsolicitation agreements.



JASON SHEASBY
Partner
Irell & Manella LLP

In less than two years, Irell & Manella LLP partner and litigator Jason Sheasby took more than 10 highly complex, high-stakes cases to trial, winning all of them. He was named American Lawyer's Litigator of the Year (along with Irell partner Lisa Glasser) for this work.

In March 2025, as co-lead counsel, Sheasby secured a trial victory for memory module company Netlist in a suit against Samsung, involving patents relating to computer memory technology. The jury returned its verdict in less than two hours, agreeing that Samsung breached an agreement to supply crucial NAND and DRAM memory products in exchange for a license to Netlist memory patents. The win confirmed that Netlist properly terminated the license.



CARNEY R. SHEGERIAN
Founder
Shegerian & Associates

Widely considered one of the top plaintiff-side employment litigators and trial attorneys, Carney Shegerian advocates for workers facing discrimination, wrongful termination, and retaliation. He has tried well over a hundred cases, achieving more than 50 seven-, eight-, and nine-figure verdicts.

In 2024, Shegerian achieved a \$3.6 million verdict in *Incalza v. Porsche*, in which he led the team representing an employee who was wrongfully terminated just before his 60th birthday. The jury found Porsche guilty of fraud after the company misled the employee, awarding him \$3.6 million in damages. In *Pinter Brown v. UC Regents* (May 2024), Shegerian secured a \$14 million verdict for Dr. Lauren Pinter-Brown, a T-Cell Lymphoma specialist, who faced gender-based discrimination and false accusations from colleagues.

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JOHN SHENK
Founding Partner
Mancini Shenk LLP

Founding partner of Mancini Shenk LLP John Shenk is a litigator focused on shareholder and derivative, cannabis and business disputes. With extensive experience in partnership disputes and the personal nature of discord within businesses, Shenk refers to his specialty as “business divorce.” Shenk skillfully guides his clients in asserting their rights as they navigate complex business relationships — whether through thoughtful negotiation, alternative dispute resolution, or, when necessary, aggressive litigation. He has played a leading role in some of the most high-profile investor and shareholder disputes in the emerging legal cannabis industry, often involving novel legal questions and unique dynamics, particularly where corporate mismanagement, self-dealing, or fraud are at issue.



PETER SHERIDAN
Partner; Chair, Construction Practice
Glaser Weil

Partner and chair of Glaser Weil’s construction practice, Peter Sheridan is one of the leading litigators in America. Sheridan litigates and tries cases in all courts and before JAMS and the American Arbitration Association on a variety of issues, including construction closeouts and defects, design errors, delays and related construction disputes Sheridan’s focus on construction has allowed him to develop a specialty in disputes involving mega resorts and large hotels and casinos. He represents owners, developers, architects and government entities in California, Nevada and internationally. In addition to construction litigation, he has also handled complex multidistrict cases, and has represented clients in land use, eminent domain and inverse condemnation litigation.



AMNON SIEGEL
Partner
Miller Barondess, LLP

A partner at Miller Barondess, Amnon Siegel has been instrumental in establishing the firm as a litigation powerhouse, handling high-profile cases across diverse industries, including banking and asset management, technology, real estate, consumer products, transportation, insurance and government regulation. Siegel secured a \$10.1 million jury verdict in Los Angeles County Superior Court on behalf of James Boothe, a former executive at Santa Barbara Asset Management and its parent company, Nuveen Investments. Judgment was entered in favor of Siegel’s client and against Nuveen for \$15.8 million. Siegel was also lead counsel in a shareholder dispute representing Christopher Coffey, a pioneer in remote surveillance, against international security company Garda Security, Inc.



ALICE CHEN SMITH
Managing Partner
Yoka | Smith, LLP

Alice Chen Smith is the managing partner of Yoka | Smith and an experienced trial lawyer who has successfully tried many cases to verdict and obtained summary judgment wins. Her primary focus is litigating catastrophic personal injury cases, products liability and business litigation matters. Smith practices throughout the State of California in trial and appellate courts. She 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 also the secretary-treasurer of the Association of Southern California Defense Counsel and will be its president in 2026. Born in Taiwan, Smith obtained a B.A. from the University of Chicago and her J.D. from Loyola Law School.



GLENN SOLOMON
Partner
King & Spalding

As a partner in the King & Spalding Healthcare practice, Glenn Solomon specializes in commercial and government managed care, complex business litigation, arbitration, mediation, class action, investigations, and other dispute resolution matters. His diverse clientele includes prominent hospitals and health systems, medical groups, independent physician associations, management services organizations, and other health care providers and entities. On behalf of providers, he has both resolved significant disputes with health plans and negotiated high-profile contracts with them, as well as solved disagreements with other providers. Solomon has helped providers obtain several hundred million dollars through underpayments recoveries, contract improvements, and negotiations.

Congratulations to Mark Neubauer
Recognized in *Los Angeles Business Journal's*
2025 Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys

Carlton Fields is honored to share this recognition among other recent accolades:

- Mark Neubauer - *Los Angeles Business Journal* 2025 **Top 100 Lawyers**
- Robert P. Friedman – *Daily Journal* 2025 **Top Real Estate & Development Lawyers**
- Mark Neubauer and Robert P. Friedman – *Los Angeles Times* 2025 **Law Firm Visionaries**
- Named a “**Litigation Powerhouse**” – *BTI Litigation Outlook* 2025
- Ranked among **Vault’s 2026 Top Law Firms for Diversity**

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McKenzie.**

Baker McKenzie congratulates
Perrie Weiner for his inclusion
on the **Los Angeles Business
Journal’s 2025 Leaders of
Influence: Litigators & Trial
Attorneys List.**



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

Over the past 4 years, our Los Angeles office has grown from 4 to over 70 lawyers and professional staff.

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LOI: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



IRA STEINBERG
Partner
Greenberg Glusker LLP

Ira Steinberg, litigation partner at Greenberg Glusker, practices at the frontlines of consumer claims and class action defense. He is best known for representing top fashion and beauty brands, food and beverage companies, and international consumer goods retailers in cases involving data privacy practices, false advertising, and disability access.

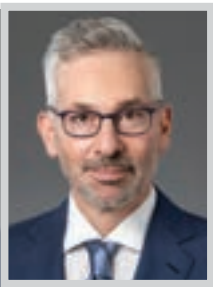
Steinberg is extensively familiar with statutes such as California’s CIPA and the Federal Wiretap Act, which have recently been at the center of increased litigation in claims involving Meta Pixel and other tracking technologies. He has also been at the forefront of litigation involving the Video Privacy Protection Act, as clients in the media and content space grapple with exposure and risk in the age of TikTok integrations.



DANIEL STONE
Partner
Greenberg Glusker LLP

Trusted advocate for artists, executives and global companies, Daniel Stone brings sharp courtroom instincts and strategic depth to high-stakes entertainment, media and employment disputes. A partner in the Litigation Group at Greenberg Glusker LLP, Stone has guided clients, including Fortune 100 companies, through every stage of litigation, from pre-dispute counseling to trial and appeal.

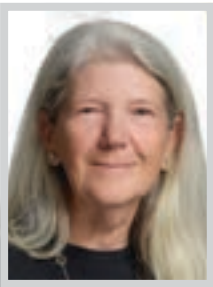
Among his most recent stand-out matters, Stone represented actor Gerard Butler and his production company, GBASE Entertainment, in a profit participation lawsuit concerning the film “Olympus Has Fallen.” The case was settled before trial. He also obtained a complete defense in three related proceedings under California’s Talent Agencies Act, defeating claims that sought commissions from “Star Wars: Episode VIII” writer-director Rian Johnson.



ADAM STREISAND
Partner; Leader, Private Wealth and Fiduciary Litigation Practice
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

Sheppard Mullin partner and trial lawyer Adam Streisand is currently representing Rupert Murdoch, the patriarch whose legacy served as the initial inspiration for the hit HBO series, in the media tycoon’s own “Succession” battle. Renowned for sweeping victories in other high-profile cases, Streisand represents some of the world’s wealthiest individuals and families in disputes over celebrity estates, inheritance, fiduciary conduct and business succession.

Streisand has been the go-to trial lawyer for trust wars over the LA Lakers, LA Clippers, LA Chargers and Baltimore Orioles. After earning acclaim as Britney Spears’ first choice of attorney in her conservatorship case, he was featured in The New York Times’ “Framing Britney Spears” and Netflix’s “Britney vs Spears.”



JULIA STRICKLAND
Partner
Steptoe LLP

Partner at Steptoe LLP, litigator Julia Strickland leads a broad national practice that focuses on the defense of class actions and other complex actions. She is regularly called by world-renowned financial services companies when they are confronted with issues that put them at substantial economic and reputational risk.

Of particular note is Strickland’s representation of Citibank in an extremely visible case brought by the New York Attorney General in the Southern District of New York, challenging Citibank’s handling of alleged fraudulent wire transfers initiated online. The Complaint alleges a wide range of theories including under EFTA, UCC Article 4A and New York consumer protection laws. The case is critically important to the banking industry and has garnered headlines nationwide.



PETER STRIS
Founding Partner
Stris & Maher LLP

Peter Stris is the founding partner of Stris & Maher LLP, a litigation boutique focused on ultra-high-stakes business disputes. He leads the firm’s nationwide trial and appellate practice. Over the past two decades, Stris has first-chaired a variety of bet-the-company cases to verdict or judgment. He has also handled dozens of high-profile appeals, including 10 he personally argued before the US Supreme Court.

Over the past year, Stris has delivered major victories to clients, including in Rhodium v. Whinstone. After securing injunctions for his client, an industrial-scale bitcoin miner, Stris successfully defended them at trial. The dispute spanned state court, arbitration, and ultimately bankruptcy court. Due to the victory, the client was able to sell (to their litigation opponent) their bitcoin mining business for \$186 million.



CYNTHIA SUN
Partner
LTL Attorneys

For the past 19 years, Cynthia Sun has been practicing law as a litigator in the areas of general liability, personal injury, product liability, breach of warranty, breach of contract and consumer fraud. She has held partnership roles at two of the most prominent minority-owned law firms in Los Angeles, including her current firm, LTL Attorneys, in their consumer protection practice group.

Sun recently won summary judgment in a consumer warranty case in LA County Superior Court (Yaghoubi v. Ford Motor Company) on behalf of the dealership. She also obtained summary adjudication in the same case on behalf of the manufacturer on the Consumer Legal Remedies Act and the Violation of Business and Professions Code 17200 claims.



JOHN C. TAYLOR
Founding Partner
Taylor & Ring

Widely recognized as one of California’s elite trial attorneys, John Taylor has tried over 135 cases to verdict. He co-founded Taylor & Ring with Dave Ring in 2002, and together they have built one of California’s most respected and formidable plaintiff law firms. Taylor is renowned for his tireless advocacy in sexual abuse, personal injury and wrongful death cases, and consistently handles high-profile matters that garner both local and national attention.

Taylor recently obtained a \$35 million verdict on behalf of a woman who was sexually abused by a Pomona High School track coach. He also recently obtained a \$25 million verdict for a former student of Dos Pueblos High School in the Santa Barbara Unified School District who was sexually abused by an assistant coach.



G. CRESSWELL TEMPLETON III
Managing Partner
Hill, Farrer & Burrill LLP

G. Creswell Templeton III is an AV-rated partner in Hill, Farrer & Burrill LLP, specializing in complex business and intellectual property litigation. Over the past twenty-five years, he has successfully brought and defended numerous federal and state cases and class actions spanning trademark, copyright and patent infringement, false advertising, unfair competition, real estate disputes, securities violations, insurance coverage and more.

In addition to his intellectual property litigation practice, Templeton counsels and assists clients in the areas of licensing, entertainment, copyright and trademark registration, insurance coverage, and the general protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights. He has guest lectured incoming law students on real estate and finance law



LISA TRACY
Of Counsel
Spencer Fane LLP

With nearly three decades of experience in civil litigation, Lisa Tracy has contributed to the legal field since women attorneys comprised a much smaller fraction of current demographics. Today, she continues to enhance her position as a distinguished leader within the Spencer Fane Litigation and Dispute Resolution practice group, boasting a lengthy track record of successful outcomes both in and out of the courtroom.

Widely recognized for her vigorous trial advocacy, Tracy primarily focuses her practice on litigation involving real estate, housing, construction and products liability, where she navigates a wide variety of matters in both state and federal courts. Additionally, she has defended habitability cases and employment practices cases, including claims for wrongful termination, discrimination, sexual harassment and retaliation.



KENNETH TRUJILLO-JAMISON
Managing Partner
Willenken LLP

Kenneth Trujillo-Jamison, a partner at Willenken, is a highly accomplished litigator who leverages his sharply honed analytical and strategic skills to efficiently handle his clients’ most complex and challenging matters. His practice spans a wide range of high-stakes, complex commercial and business litigation matters, including intellectual property disputes, class action defense, product liability litigation and entertainment litigation, where his strategic prowess and commitment to delivering exceptional results have earned him industry-wide recognition.

Trujillo-Jamison also has deep experience defending technology companies in litigation about users and user-generated content posted on their platforms.

LOI: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



MATTHEW UMHOFER
Partner
Umhofer, Mitchell & King LLP

Umhofer, Mitchell & King LLP partner Matthew Umhofer is an ex-federal prosecutor and former Skadden Arps attorney who has tried federal and state cases and argued complex appeals for more than two decades.

Umhofer is deeply committed to advocating for those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. He won the prestigious California Lawyer Attorney of the Year Award in 2024 for his work on a groundbreaking homelessness case that secured \$4 billion, 20,000 new beds, and dramatic increases in mental health and substance use disorder services for those struggling on the streets of Los Angeles. He is currently representing the LA Alliance for Human Rights in a critical federal lawsuit against the City and County of LA concerning the receivership of the Homelessness Program.



THOMAS WASKOM
Partner
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

Thomas Waskom provides skilled guidance to leading retail and consumer product companies across the country. He develops ongoing partnerships with his clients, proactively counseling on risk mitigation and potential regulatory pitfalls that may lead to future litigation. When litigation does arise, Waskom is well-prepared to defend client interests in consumer class action, mass tort, product liability and environmental.

Waskom's recent significant work includes representation of a Fortune Global 20 consumer electronics manufacturer in several class actions across the country regarding advertising, warranties and product safety. He also recently represented a major personal care products manufacturer in class actions regarding labeling, marketing and formulation of FDA-regulated products.



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

Perrie Weiner is the partner in charge of Baker McKenzie's Los Angeles office, and chair of the firm's North America Securities Litigation Group. He joined the firm just over five years ago and was tasked with leading, growing and diversifying it. He also led the securities litigation practice group in North America.

Weiner's practice focuses on securities litigation, SEC enforcement matters and business litigation. He advises private equity funds, including hedge funds, broker-dealers, underwriters, placement agents and issuers in SEC and FINRA enforcement proceedings, and in white collar criminal proceedings. He also defends both underwriters and issuers in securities class actions, shareholder derivative actions, and takeover defense litigation.



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

Alex Weingarten serves as managing partner of Willkie Farr & Gallagher's Los Angeles office and chair of the firm's entertainment litigation practice. He is a leading commercial trial lawyer who represents clients in all facets of entertainment, probate and business litigation.

Weingarten spearheaded the launch of the firm's Los Angeles office in 2021 and co-led its impressive growth from just three attorneys to over 100 today. Under his leadership, the office has attracted top-tier talent, including Doug Emhoff, marking his return to private practice. In 2024, under Weingarten's leadership, the firm partnered with Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services to help establish a new substance abuse disorder treatment center for children ages 12-17.



STEVEN WEISBURD
Partner
Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP

Over the past three decades, Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP partner Steven Weisburd has become a go-to lawyer for clients seeking to derail bet-the-company litigation through tactically executed legal arguments and vigorous advocacy. He has consistently secured defense verdicts, judgments, dismissals or favorable settlements in complex civil disputes, mass tort cases and class actions for major corporate clients and product manufacturers, including high-profile cases of national and international significance with billions of dollars in potential exposure.

Weisburd is ranked nationally for product liability and mass torts. He has also devoted a significant part of his community work to pro bono advocacy on mental health issues, including years of service on the board of Mental Health Advocacy Services in Los Angeles.

LARSON

welcomes and congratulates our esteemed colleague

Michael Zweiback

Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys

mzweiback@larsonllp.com

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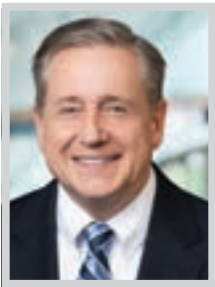
Congratulations to all named Leaders of Influence in Litigation for 2025, including our partners Kirsten Jackson and Alex Wyman, both of whom exemplify the strategic thinking and commitment to client service that are hallmarks of our firm's Litigation & Trial Department.

Alex Wyman
Partner
White Collar Defense & Investigations

Kirsten Jackson
Partner
Complex Commercial Litigation

LW.com

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WILLIAM (BUZ) WHITE
Partner
Hill, Farrer & Burrill LLP

William (Buz) White is a veteran trial attorney with a national reputation for defending clients in high-stakes, complex litigation – known for his composure under pressure, strategic precision and relentless preparation. With decades of experience, White regularly leads diverse trial teams in litigation involving numerous parties, overlapping jurisdictions and financial exposure in the hundreds of millions.

Among the substantial matters White has taken through settlement, trial or appeal are antitrust, domestic and international business, insurance coverage, contract, shareholder, accounting and tax cases. His current practice is largely devoted to class actions, intellectual property cases, sophisticated business disputes, international litigation and corporate counseling.



BART H. WILLIAMS
Partner; Los Angeles Office Head; Global Chair, Litigation Department
Proskauer Rose LLP

When the stakes are high and reputations are on the line, several of the world’s leading organizations rely on Bart Williams to deliver a win. A renowned trial lawyer, Williams is chair of Proskauer Rose’s Litigation Department and head of its Los Angeles office. He has a wealth of experience across commercial litigation, white collar criminal defense and internal corporate investigations.

Williams’ legal prowess has made him the trusted trial counsel for numerous Fortune 500 companies in high stakes, high-profile matters. His recent success on behalf of Gilead was highly publicized after he jumped into the \$3.6 billion antitrust trial – when the company’s lead counsel retired just three months prior to trial – and delivered a total defense verdict.



DANIEL WOODS
Partner
Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP

An accomplished and decorated litigator, Daniel Woods is a partner in Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP’s Los Angeles office. In 2024, he briefed, argued, and won a motion in limine (a year before trial) drastically limiting the amount of restitution available to plaintiffs in a putative class action alleging false advertising and unfair competition claims.

Woods’ most well-known case came when he represented the Log Cabin Republicans in the well-publicized “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” trial which ended the US Military’s discriminatory policy towards the LGBTQ community. Woods, on behalf of his client, won a judgment declaring the US military’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy to be unconstitutional and an injunction against further enforcement of the policy on due process and First Amendment grounds.



MATHEW WRENSHALL
Managing Partner, Pasadena
RMO LLP

Mathew Wrenshall joined RMO LLP in 2020 and serves as the firm’s managing partner in its Pasadena office. He brings extensive experience working closely with clients through complex and emotionally charged disputes.

Driven to provide relief to people grieving the loss of a loved one or coming to the aid of a compromised loved one, Wrenshall has earned a reputation for his keen ability to manage family dysfunction while securing real-world results. His clients are typically embroiled in inheritance disputes, trust contests, will contests, caregiver undue influence, undue influence and breach of fiduciary duties. At RMO, he seamlessly oversees the day-to-day operations of the firm’s Pasadena office, manages casework, and pioneers the firm’s business development in the market.



ALEX WYMAN
Partner
Latham & Watkins LLP

A former federal prosecutor and accomplished trial lawyer, Alex Wyman represents clients in complex litigation and regulatory investigations. He advises individuals and organizations on business-critical matters, including complex civil trial litigation, government investigations, white collar criminal litigation, internal corporate investigations, regulatory compliance and enforcement, and class action defense.

A first-chair trial lawyer with wide-ranging trial experience, Wyman has tried cases in both federal and state courts and has achieved victories in jury trials, bench trials, and arbitration hearings. Prior to joining Latham, Wyman served as an assistant United States attorney for five years in the US Attorney’s Office for the Central District of California.

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Kori Bell and Alex Weingarten



Los Angeles Business Journal’s
2025 Leaders of Influence:
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Leaders of Influence:
Litigators & Trial
Attorneys



Julie Gerchik
PARTNER AND CO-CHAIR
LITIGATION



Peter Sheridan
PARTNER AND CHAIR
CONSTRUCTION

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JACK YEH
Partner
Sidley Austin LLP

A longtime leader at Sidley Austin and in the California legal community, Jack Yeh is called upon by clients to help them navigate challenging and enterprise-threatening conflicts. He is a seasoned trial lawyer and litigation strategist who leads experienced trial teams in complex commercial disputes, regularly representing both publicly traded companies and emerging businesses in a wide range of industries, including energy, oil and gas, real estate, media and entertainment, sports and apparel, advertising and technology.

Yeh also has deep experience representing clients in government-regulated industries and is a go-to trial lawyer for disputes involving unfair competition, environmental issues, governmental regulations, the California Environmental Quality Act, and public contracting.



STEPHANIE YONEKURA
Partner; Global Head, Investigations, White Collar and Fraud
Hogan Lovells US LLP

Stephanie Yonekura is the global head of Hogan Lovells' Investigations, White Collar and Fraud practice, which is comprised of more than 150 lawyers across 20 jurisdictions globally. Having served as a federal prosecutor for over 14 years, Yonekura has specialized knowledge of the hot-button issues that are considered in every stage of any government investigation.

Yonekura was previously acting US Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California. Under her leadership, the office investigated the hacking of one of the world's largest entertainment companies. As the Acting US Attorney, Stephanie was an active participant in the larger DOJ community, serving on nationwide committees in connection to white collar fraud, cybercrime, and intellectual property matters.



JASON YU
Partner
Snell & Wilmer

Jason Yu is a labor and employment and commercial litigation partner in the Los Angeles office of Snell & Wilmer. His practice focuses on a broad spectrum of employment liability, commercial litigation, intellectual property and transactional work. He has significant experience in cases involving debt collection, labor and employment law matters and trade secret misappropriation.

As a labor and employment litigator, Yu advises clients on state and federal regulations affecting employers, including legislation related to hiring practices, employee benefits and several forms of workplace discrimination. He has an extensive track record for recovering financial debts on behalf of corporations. Yu is a frequent guest speaker at several organizations and local businesses, giving seminars on labor and employment law issues.



JAMES YUKEVICH
Founding Partner
Yukevich | Cavanaugh

Trial lawyer James Yukevich is frequently consulted by the general counsel of Fortune 100 companies in areas involving liability issues, damages, proposed recalls and public relations issues. Since the end of the pandemic, he has taken to trial and resolved over 20 high-exposure cases involving companies such as Lenovo, Tesla, Uber, CVS Health, Jaguar/Land Rover, Skanska, among others.

Yukevich founded his law firm with a clear focus on providing a special level of highly personalized expertise as well as outstanding results in civil litigation defense. This past year, he has secured major victories in several high-profile cases, including successfully defending American Honda Motor Corporation Inc. in Gardner v. Honda Motor Co., a precedent-setting case in which the plaintiffs demanded \$32.5 million.



MICHAEL ZWEIBACK
Of Counsel
Larson LLP

Michael Zweiback has extensive experience in white collar criminal defense, complex commercial litigation, and trial practice in state and federal courts. He has also litigated complex commercial disputes in international arbitration forums. A former big law partner, he has served as practice group leader across a broad range of practice disciplines including cyber security and privacy, national security and digital crimes, and government investigations.

Zweiback formerly served as an Assistant US Attorney in the Central District of California and was Chief of the Cyber & Intellectual Property Crimes Section, where he investigated and prosecuted cyber-related crimes including computer intrusions, privacy related offenses and the theft of intellectual property and trade secrets.





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and
LISA LEE

being named to the Los Angeles Business Journal's

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YOKA | SMITH congratulates Managing Partner

ALICE CHEN SMITH

and Partner

CHRISTOPHER E. FAENZA

on being selected as Leaders of Influence: Litigators and Trial Attorneys by the Los Angeles Business Journal.

yokasmith.com

Shifting Attorney Workforce Leads to Growing Demand for Representation

The State Bar of California recently released findings from its latest Justice Gap Study, revealing that the civil legal needs of Californians remain widespread and unmet at alarming rates—conditions that have worsened since the first California Justice Gap Study, completed in 2019.

The study finds that legal needs affect Californians at every income level while the supply of attorneys available is insufficient to meet the growing demand for legal help.

A PERSISTENT JUSTICE GAP FOR CALIFORNIANS ACROSS ALL INCOME LEVELS

A centerpiece of the study (with numbers gathered in 2024) is a statewide survey of over 6,000 Californians conducted in partnership with NORC at the University of Chicago. The survey shows a persistent and deepening divide between Californians’ civil legal needs and the services available to meet them. While lowest-income Californians continue to be the most impacted, the justice gap cuts across the economic spectrum.

- More California households are experiencing civil legal problems compared with five years ago. In 2019, 55 percent of California households experienced at least one civil legal problem in the previous 12 months. The 2024 survey suggests that this figure has increased, with nearly three-quarters of California house-

holds reporting at least one problem.

- Civil legal problems are widespread across all income groups in California, with little variation in prevalence—between 72 and 75 percent of households in every income group experienced at least one civil legal issue in the past year.
- In 2019, Californians sought legal help for 32 percent of their civil legal problems. Results from the 2024 survey suggest that this share has declined, with Californians currently seeking legal help for just 18 percent of their problems overall and 29 percent of problems that substantially impact their lives. The pattern holds across all income groups—most Californians do not seek legal help for the majority of their civil legal problems, even those that substantially impact them.
- Californians do not receive any or enough legal help for 85 percent of their civil legal problems, the same as reported in 2019. This trend persists at all income levels.

BARRIERS TO SEEKING LEGAL HELP ARE ROOTED IN KNOWLEDGE, TRUST AND AFFORDABILITY

- Most Californians are unaware that lawyers or other legal professionals can help resolve many of the everyday civil legal problems they face.

Lower-income Californians are more likely to have uncertain or negative perceptions of the

civil legal system than middle- and high-income Californians.

- Just six in 10 Californians are confident they could find an affordable lawyer or legal professional, with lowest-income Californians the least confident.
- Cost concerns remain a key barrier, with 27 percent of Californians reporting they were too worried about the cost to seek legal help. Nearly half said they would only consult a lawyer if they didn’t have to pay anything upfront, and the average amount survey respondents said they would be willing to pay an attorney for an hour consultation was \$153.

“The justice gap is not just persistent — it is growing,” said Leah Wilson, executive director of the State Bar of California. “Millions of Californians, including many who don’t qualify for free legal services, face serious civil legal problems with no meaningful access to help.”

THE NEED FOR IMMIGRATION SERVICES

The 2024 study reveals a troubling mismatch between the rising demand for immigration legal services and the limited number of attorneys available to meet that demand.

- Over a quarter of California’s population — approximately 11 million people — are foreign born, with nearly five million lacking US citizenship.

- According to the 2024 NORC survey, nine percent of California households experienced an immigration-related legal problem, yet they received help for just 40 percent of these problems.
- Despite this need, just two percent of active attorneys in California report practicing immigration law, creating a significant access gap.

A SHIFTING ATTORNEY WORKFORCE AVAILABLE TO MEET DEMAND

California is experiencing significant shifts in its attorney workforce:

- Most counties have seen a decline in the number of active attorneys. As a result, the number of counties classified as “attorney deserts” — areas with insufficient access to licensed active attorneys — has grown from 11 to 16 over the last decade. Most counties in California are attorney deserts or at risk of becoming one.
- Only 24 percent of California’s \$57.8 billion legal market now serves individuals, with the rest focused on corporate and institutional clients. Since 2016, the number of in-house counsel in California has increased by 45 percent.

The State Bar calls on policymakers, the legal profession, and community stakeholders to take bold steps to increase access to civil legal services for all Californians.

Learn more at calbar.ca.gov.

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