

CUSTOM CONTENT

MARCH 23, 2026

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: INSURANCE

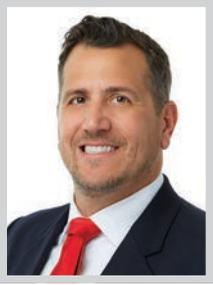


AFTER LAST YEAR'S BRUTAL WILDFIRE SEASON, LOS ANGELES FACED MANY CHALLENGES SURROUNDING PICKING up the pieces and rebuilding businesses, communities and homes. Insurance professionals found themselves in heightened roles of responsibility – perhaps more than ever before – to help companies move forward and be prepared for future, similar disasters.

Insurance professionals do more than provide you with the business policies you need. They – and the organizations they represent – can genuinely prepare your business with an overarching safety net to help provide financial stability and fiscal comfort for decades to come. We've shone the spotlight on some of the very best of them here.

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.

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: INSURANCE

**JASON ADAMS**

Partner
Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP

Jason Adams is a leading litigator whose practice focuses on insurance law and risk management, construction law, and business and civil litigation. He is a leader of Cox Castle's Corporate Insurance Recovery & Risk Management Practice. He represents policyholders against insurance companies in the pursuit of coverage. He also provides strategic counsel regarding contractual risk transfer and the structuring and implementation of complex insurance programs.

Adams has extensive experience with residential and commercial owner controlled and contractor controlled insurance programs, and other nuanced liability and property insurance programs. He is also a licensed property and casualty insurance broker and certified Construction Risk & Insurance Specialist. Adams is also a member of the firm's Wildfire Resources & Response Team.

**ANDREW AGRESS**

Executive Vice President,
Employee Benefits
IMA Financial Group

Andrew Agress has been with IMA Financial Group for more than 14 years and works to handle the insurance and risk management needs of some of the world's largest corporations, as well as being widely known locally as a human resources luminary in his role as president of National Human Resources Association – Los Angeles since 2011.

Agress has emerged as one of IMA's key leaders in employee benefits on the West Coast and his success has resulted in a number of personal accolades from his direct colleagues. He has been named IMA's Western Region Top Producer six times. Agress has dynamic experience in the human resources space, which gives him a unique perspective into the employee benefits challenges that employers face.

**JOHANNA ALVAREZ**

California Market Leader,
Employee Benefits
IMA Financial Group

As IMA Financial Group's Johanna Alvarez leads one of the largest employee benefits divisions within the office, which brings in over \$36 million in revenue to the agency annually. In one of the largest insurance markets in the country, Alvarez leads a team of over 60 benefits professionals and collaborates closely with local sales teams to drive organic growth, build optimal benefits packages to suit client needs and drive positive client experiences.

Over her more than 12 years with IMA, Alvarez has emerged as not just a key leader in her market, but across the national presence of the company. She was named "Employee of the Year" in 2023 by her California peers and local leaders that recognized her leadership and contribution to IMA's company culture.

**PETER ARKLEY**

President, National Retail Brokerage
Alliant Insurance Services

Peter Arkley oversees development and implementation of the retail property and casualty and employee benefits business strategies at Alliant. Under Arkley's leadership, Alliant has grown to become a top five US retail P&C broker with \$5.1 billion in revenue; 14,000+ employees; and more than \$47 billion in premium placed.

In addition to Alliant's Employee Benefits operation, Arkley's purview includes a nationwide footprint of 16 specialty insurance operations that include agribusiness, aviation, construction, cyber, energy/power, executive risk, financial institutions, healthcare, law firms, marine, mergers and acquisitions, power, public entity, real estate, trade credit and transportation. He also oversees Alliant's five regional operations across the US, specializing in the delivery of sophisticated insurance services and products.

**LILIT ASADOURIAN**

Partner; Insurance Recovery and
Counseling Group Co-Chair
Barnes & Thornburg LLP

Co-chair of Barnes & Thornburg's Insurance Recovery and Counseling Group, Lilit Asadourian is among California's most accomplished insurance recovery attorneys, distinguished by her career of precedent-setting victories, sophisticated risk counseling, and exceptional results for policyholders.

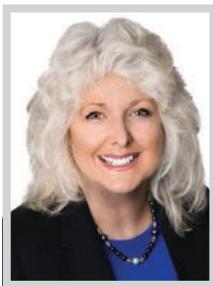
A nationally recognized and Chambers-ranked attorney, Asadourian represents major institutions and Fortune 500 companies across financial services, real estate, technology, healthcare and life sciences. Her practice spans the full range of executive and professional liability coverage, including directors and officers (D&O), errors and omissions (E&O), fiduciary liability, EPLI, employee benefits, and mortgage insurance. She is a trusted advisor to companies confronting high-stakes regulatory, financial, and governance risks.

**SEAN BAFAN**

Financial Advisor
Northwestern Mutual

What distinguishes Sean Bafan is the breadth of his expertise and the way he integrates it. His work spans investment management, insurance planning, estate and succession strategy, and tax-efficient design. He constructs cohesive strategies that align personal and business priorities, including capital accounts and partner buy-ins, equity compensation, buy-sell funding, trust structures, liquidity planning, and generational transitions. Each engagement results in a unified framework designed to endure growth, volatility and leadership change.

Bafan has guided founding teams through liquidity events with foresight and discipline, aligned estate structures with operating agreements to prevent costly missteps, implemented tax-aware diversification strategies, and stewarded multi-generational families through complex succession decisions.

**MARY CRAIG CALKINS**

Partner
Blank Rome LLP

Mary Craig Calkins is one of the nation's most trusted and accomplished policyholder advocates, with more than 35 years of precedent-shaping insurance recovery experience across directors and officers liability, errors and omissions, media and entertainment, intellectual property, cyber/privacy, e-commerce/technology, first party property, and business interruption claims. She is the advisor of choice for companies, boards, and producers.

Calkins leads cutting edge, nationally watched matters. What sets her apart is the combination of elite judgment, boardroom credibility, and courtroom effectiveness – paired with a relentless results orientation. She has recovered hundreds of millions of dollars for clients and repeatedly delivered creative, business forward resolutions in matters that make headlines and move the market.

**DEREK CHAIKEN**

Attorney
Merlin Law Group

Derek Chaiken is a litigation attorney at Merlin Law Group who has built his career representing clients in high-stakes insurance disputes when insurance companies fail to honor their obligations at critical moments – shifting financial burden onto families and businesses. Practicing throughout California and nationally, he is widely recognized as a relentless advocate and trusted advisor, guiding policyholders through complex coverage disputes and toward recovery.

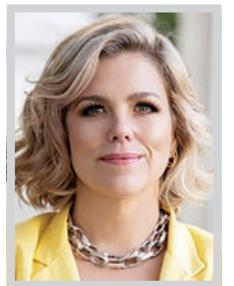
Over the past decade, Chaiken has held insurers accountable on behalf of hundreds of claimants facing wrongful denials following major losses. His leadership has been particularly impactful after catastrophic events, including the January 2025 Los Angeles County wildfires, where he has helped affected communities understand their rights and pursue recovery.

**MELISSA M. COWAN**

Partner
Burke, Williams & Sorensen,

Melissa M. Cowan stands out as an exceptional litigator whose decades-long career demonstrates both remarkable legal skill and a deep commitment to advancing her field. Her accomplishments span a broad litigation landscape, reflecting both her versatility and her ability to achieve results that meaningfully shape the law.

One of Cowan's most significant career achievements is her impactful work on behalf of first party insurers, third party administrators, and employee benefit plans across national, state, and local jurisdictions. Her litigation victories – including two separate jury verdicts awarding punitive damages against fraudulent insureds – are rare, exceptional outcomes that have influenced the development of insurance law within both the Ninth Circuit and the State of California.

**HAYLEY DICKSON**

Founder; Wealth Management Advisor
RIPPL | Wealth Management &
Insurance Solutions

Hayley Dickson began her career in the entertainment business.

Over the space of a decade, she rose from executive assistant for the head of legal affairs at Reveille Productions, to SVP global television acquisitions at Fremantle Media. From her first posting to her last, her ascent was the result of innovative business strategies and financial acumen, exacting diligence, and exceptional interpersonal skills.

Dickson became pregnant just months after starting her career as a financial advisor. She worked tirelessly with the corporate office to launch a family planning policy that allows more flexibility and better benefits for financial advisor moms. That policy she helped create is now used nationwide to the benefit of all women advisors at Northwestern Mutual and has been revolutionary for the traditionally male-dominated company.

POMS CONGRATULATES EVERYONE NOMINATED TO THE 2026 LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: INSURANCE LIST.

Including our own David A. Poms and
Angie Richards.



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CLAIMS MANAGEMENT



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& INSURANCE
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LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: INSURANCE

**TYRONE DINNEEN**

Financial Advisor
Meliora Wealth Management
& Insurance Services

Tyrone Dinneen's mission is to provide professionals, families and business owners with goal-based, wealth-building financial plans that will stand the test of time. By aligning knowledge of employer benefits with strategies around tax efficiency, wealth building, and wealth preservation, Dinneen and his team help create the ultimate value for their clients.

A desire to find work that was both meaningful and economically promising led Dinneen to join Northwestern Mutual. His goal was to continue helping professionals working in the non-profit space who typically lack access to financial planning. Not only does Dinneen serve clients, but he also serves as a formal mentor for new advisors joining the firm. His practice has grown from a one-man team to a team of seven professionals.

**EDITA EVOYAN**

Founder
The Herös Group LLC

Editia Evoyan is known for her ability to lead. She guides clients through important decisions as adeptly as she recruits, trains, mentors, and builds other leaders. Today she serves as the founder and CEO of The Herös Group LLC.

What makes Evoyan stand out is the combination of results and character. In the last 18 months alone, she has trained hundreds of licensed agents in sales, marketing, leadership development, and business growth. She has helped protect families by placing over \$100 million of life insurance coverage in force and has produced over \$10 million of annuity assets under management. Those numbers matter, but what matters more is the way she earns them: with professionalism, consistency, and genuine care for the people she serves.

**AMBER FINCH**

Partner; Global Chair,
Insurance Recovery Group
Reed Smith LLP

As global chair of the Insurance Recovery Group, Amber Finch has recovered more than \$1 billion for clients in the last two years alone – involving high-profile disputes on the national and international stage concerning environmental issues, severe weather events, mass shootings and other catastrophic losses, the pandemic, and the war in Ukraine.

Finch is growing the firm's client base, maintaining its competitive edge in the market for insurance coverage issues. She spearheads efforts to advise on complex insurance issues for clients along with pro bono efforts for homeowners and business impacted by the devastating 2025 LA wildfires. Finch recently served as co-lead counsel for three California-based global aircraft lessors in lawsuits against their insurers.

**ANDREW FORCHELLI**

President; CEO
HUB California

Andrew Forchelli exemplifies executive leadership at its highest level. Since joining HUB 11 years ago, he has grown the California region into a powerhouse of innovation and client-centered risk management — most recently overseeing a \$50 million branch with more than 250 employees spanning insurance, entertainment and middle market business solutions.

In 2026, Forchelli was appointed to HUB's Executive Management Team and promoted to general oversight of HUB's Personal Lines operations — a testament to the trust and confidence he has earned across the organization. A strategic visionary and consummate mentor, Forchelli founded the Producer Advisory Council to develop the next generation of brokers, while personally championing DEI initiatives across the region. His leadership philosophy is built on tenacity, integrity, and relentless innovation.

**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. Her influence extends far beyond the courtroom. She is a Charter Fellow of the Construction Lawyers Society of America and a Senior Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America, reflecting her standing among the nation's top construction lawyers.

**JIM GILLETTE**

President, Pacific South Region
EPIC Insurance Brokers
& Consultants

Jim Gillette is president of EPIC's Pacific South region and responsible for the management, leadership and growth of the operations in Los Angeles. Throughout his tenure at the firm, he has been a member of EPIC's Executive and Management Committees and been a part of the operational leadership team that has taken EPIC's revenues from approximately \$40 million with 250 employees when he joined to currently over \$1 billion in revenue with over 3000 employees across the country.

Gillette joined EPIC's Los Angeles office in 2010 and has grown the Los Angeles operations from \$2 million in revenue in 2010 to more than \$40 million across its Los Angeles operations and has been responsible for the leadership and growth of Southern California.

**DANIELLE GILMORE**

Partner
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart
& Sullivan, LLP

Danielle Gilmore, a partner in Quinn Emanuel's Los Angeles office and chair of the firm's National Insurance Recovery practice is one of very few female equity partners at a top-tier firm to lead a national practice. Gilmore is a formidable insurance litigator who has a track record that demonstrates her exceptional skill in navigating the most complex insurance-related disputes. Her career accomplishments reflect not only legal expertise but also strategic acumen that has secured billions in recoveries and protected clients from catastrophic liability.

For more than three decades, Gilmore has tirelessly sought coverage for policyholders across every major insurance line, including property, general liability, errors and omissions, aircraft hull and liability, cyber, directors and officers, employment liability, and financial guaranty.

**SCOTT GREGORY**

Area President, Los Angeles
Gallagher

Scott Gregory serves as the area president for Gallagher's greater Los Angeles region and has led the Gallagher Benefits Services Los Angeles branch to a "Branch of the Year" award this year. Gregory leads a sustainable high-performance team and is focused on developing, coaching, mentoring, retaining top talent and focusing on exceeding client expectations. He has said that Gallagher's culture, defined by "The Gallagher Way," is the organization's differentiator and what has kept him with Gallagher for nearly 20 years.

Beyond his role at Gallagher, Gregory is committed to giving back to the community. As a board member and coach for the Special Olympics of Southern California, he plays an active role in supporting nearly 39,000 athletes through sports, education, and health programs.

**HEATHER HABES**

Partner
Covington & Burling LLP

Heather Habes has specialized in insurance coverage work for more than a decade. Beyond an extensive array of litigation matters, she has developed expertise as a trusted advisor for in-house counsel and senior executives seeking to maximize insurance protection and recovery.

Habes co-led a team of Covington lawyers representing The Nature Conservancy in the purchase of the first-ever coral reef insurance policy in the United States. The policy will provide funding for rapid coral reef repair and restoration across Hawai'i immediately following hurricane or tropical storm damage. She also co-led a team of Covington lawyers representing Art.com in a lawsuit against Allied World Assurance Company (US) Inc. to recover defense and indemnity costs under a directors and officers liability policy.

**DAVID JOHANSON**

Senior Partner; Partner-in-Charge, Napa
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. 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. He has successfully represented clients in high-stakes litigation and regulatory proceedings before the US Department of Labor, Internal Revenue Service, and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

**MICHELMAN
ROBINSON**

/// THREE MOVES AHEAD

Mark Robinson

Co-Founding Partner
mrobinson@mrlp.com
(310) 299-5500



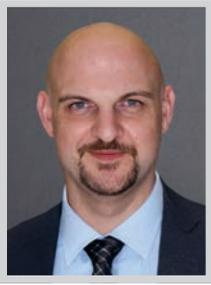
A Leader in Insurance Law. A Champion for Insurance Producers.

For more than 25 years, Mark has represented clients across the insurance industry—particularly agents, brokers, MGAs, and wholesalers—guiding them through regulatory scrutiny, enforcement matters, and strategic business transactions that shape the business of insurance.

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Legal Counsel to the Insurance Marketplace

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: INSURANCE

**ANDREW KANTOR**

Senior Partner
Kantor & Kantor, LLP

Andrew Kantor's most significant career accomplishments center on building and leading a nationally respected plaintiff-side insurance and ERISA litigation practice that consistently delivers meaningful results for individuals and families facing complex benefit denials. As senior partner of Kantor & Kantor, he has helped shape the firm into a go-to resource for long-term disability, life, health and long-term care insurance disputes, with a strong record of successful outcomes against major insurance carriers. His work has not only secured critical financial and medical benefits for clients but has also helped clarify policyholder rights and insurer obligations in a highly technical area of law.

A defining achievement of Kantor's career is his ability to translate deep ERISA and insurance litigation expertise into practical, real-world impact.

**GLENN KANTOR**

Founding Partner
Kantor & Kantor, LLP

Glenn Kantor's most significant career accomplishments stem from his longstanding leadership in plaintiff-side insurance and ERISA litigation and his role in building Kantor & Kantor into a nationally recognized firm dedicated to protecting policyholders' rights. Over the course of his career, Kantor has helped secure critical disability, life, health and long-term care benefits for individuals who were wrongfully denied coverage, often in matters involving complex policy language, extensive administrative records, and aggressive insurer defenses. His work has not only resulted in substantial recoveries for clients but has also contributed to the broader development and clarification of policyholder protections.

Kantor is a founding leader who helped shape the firm's strategic focus on representing individuals rather than carriers in high-stakes benefit disputes.

**DAVID KATZ**

Private Wealth Advisor
Strategic View Advisors

David Katz is responsible for providing trusted advice and thoughtful guidance to the clients of Strategic View Advisors. With nearly 40 years of experience as a financial advisor, Katz has built a career rooted in helping individuals and families pursue their lifelong goals while creating lasting financial well-being.

Over the decades, Katz has become a highly respected expert in life insurance planning, an area where his depth of knowledge and practical experience truly distinguish him. As a Chartered Life Underwriter he specializes in designing life insurance strategies that go far beyond basic coverage. He helps clients use life insurance as a powerful financial tool for income protection, estate planning, business succession, charitable giving, and wealth transfer across generations.

**TOBIAS KENNEDY**

President
Montage Insurance Solutions

Tobias Kennedy has served as Montage's president since coming up through the ranks in serving clients as an account executive. He has proven himself in leadership and client development, helping to manage a large book of business consisting of employee benefits and property & casualty clients. Over the last few years he has promoted the compliance arm for Montage's podcast with over 145 episodes sponsored by carriers and other organizations. He speaks on topics concerning AI, culture, legal compliance, HRIS & payroll systems, and more. He is recognized as a thought leader in insurance.

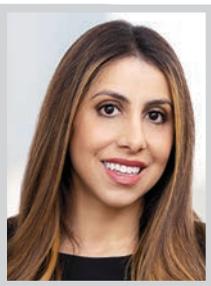
Kennedy also has given presentations on a variety of topics, from ACA, unpacking a complicated new bill that earned him a seat at the table with many leaders in insurance.

**LINDA KORNFELD**

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

Linda Kornfeld stands among the nation's preeminent insurance recovery lawyers, distinguished by decades of precedent setting advocacy, exceptional leadership, and an unwavering commitment to protecting corporate policyholders in their most consequential disputes. As partner and co-chair of Blank Rome's nationally recognized Insurance Recovery Practice, she has built an extraordinary career defined by high-stakes wins, innovative legal strategies, and a reputation as one of the most respected advisors and litigators in a highly competitive, historically male-dominated field.

Across 35 years, Kornfeld has represented major corporations, universities, and public and private entities in some of the most complex insurance recovery matters in the country.

**ALICE KYUREGHIAN**

Partner
Barnes & Thornburg LLP

Alice Kyureghian has established herself as one of California's leading insurance recovery litigators, delivering precedent-setting results for corporate policyholders facing high-stakes regulatory, environmental and financial exposure. Based in Los Angeles, Kyureghian represents companies and executives in complex coverage disputes nationwide, while shaping legal interpretations that directly impact California businesses operating in heavily regulated and litigation-prone industries.

A cornerstone of Kyureghian's career is her representation of Panega Equity Partners in a landmark D&O coverage action in Delaware arising from a False Claims Act qui tam suit tied to Section 8 housing certifications. Her win established precedent with wide-ranging implications for California real estate, healthcare, and financial services companies.

**BRIAN LACHER**

CEO
Mammoth Insurance Solutions

Brian Lacher is building something rare in the employee benefits world – a brokerage that puts humans back at the center. As CEO of Mammoth Insurance Solutions, Lacher believes that insurance should serve people first, and he is proving that every day through strategy, service and solutions that make employees' lives better.

Lacher's career spans nearly two decades in employee benefits, where he has guided organizations through some of the most complex decisions in healthcare and funding. His strength lies in translating complexity into clarity. He understands how to evaluate level-funded and self-funded options, structure plans that control long-term cost, and negotiate coverage that meets the needs of employees at every level of an organization. For Lacher, data matters when it makes life better for the people behind it.

**STEPHEN V. MASTERSON**

Partner
Andrade Gonzalez LLP

Stephen V. Masterson is a distinguished attorney whose career is marked by exceptional accomplishments and a relentless drive for excellence. With over three decades of experience as a creative and highly respected civil litigator, Masterson has dedicated his career to advancing insurance recovery for policyholders. He is recognized nationwide for his expertise, demonstrated through a robust portfolio of publications and significant contributions to leading legal treatises on insurance coverage.

Masterson has secured hundreds of millions of dollars for his clients in complex, high-stakes, multiparty insurance disputes. His deep knowledge spans mass tort litigation, construction defects, hospitality, aerospace, antitrust, business interruption, environmental claims, directors and officers liability, title insurance, and emerging trends in indoor air quality.

**MARK NEUBAUER**

Los Angeles Office Managing Shareholder
Carlton Fields

Mark Neubauer has spent nearly 50 years litigating and trying complex insurance and commercial cases, achieving landmark victories that have shaped coverage law and protected insurers from multimillion-dollar claims. As the founding managing shareholder of Carlton Fields' Los Angeles office, he helped establish the firm's California presence, attracting top litigation talent and building a reputation for excellence in insurance defense.

Neubauer has a long history of successfully defending insurers in high-stakes coverage and bad faith litigation nationwide, including repeated victories in cases involving tens of millions of dollars. Neubauer's 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 of the progress of their matter.

**BROMLEY PALAMOUNTAIN**

Wealth Management Advisor
Northwestern Mutual

Bromley Palamountain stands out as a financial advisor whose personal journey, professional accomplishments, and unrelenting commitment to others make him an irreplaceable asset to his clients and community. With over 13 years of experience in the enterprise sector and a growing influence in the financial planning world, Palamountain has transformed adversity into advantage for his clients, community, and the next generation of wealth builders.

What sets Palamountain apart is not just his technical knowledge or years of experience; it's his unique ability to innovate. While many advisors offer conventional solutions, Palamountain brings fresh, strategic thinking and out-of-the-box methodologies tailored to each client's vision and values.



THE ART OF RISK

Risk management is an artform — a blend of business, science and risk. Recognizing that each business's risk canvas is unique, our specialists mold risk mitigation solutions built on data insights, innovative thinking and personal service.

CONGRATULATIONS PETER ARKLEY

Like a skilled artist, your visionary leadership inspires a client-first culture that attracts and retains the best talent in the industry.



PETER ARKLEY
PRESIDENT,
NATIONAL RETAIL BROKERAGE



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LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: INSURANCE



DAVID POMS

Chief Executive Officer
Poms & Associates Insurance Brokers

David Poms is one of the most influential insurance and risk management leaders serving the Los Angeles business community and public sector today. As founder and CEO of Poms & Associates, which he established in 1991, he has grown the firm into a Top 50 privately held US brokerage with annual revenue exceeding \$60 million and offices across multiple states, while maintaining its roots and leadership presence in Los Angeles County.

With more than four decades in the industry, Poms has built a career defined by innovation, persistence and measurable impact. He is widely recognized as a pioneer in alternative risk solutions for public entities, nonprofits, and institutional organizations. His leadership helped shape public entity pooling and alternative risk structures.



ERIN POWELL

Senior Vice President, Property & Casualty
IMA Financial Group

Erin Powell, IMA Financial Group's senior vice president, property & casualty, is the company's P&C leader for California with more than 25 years of experience in the commercial insurance industry. Powell has held a variety of leadership and service roles throughout her career, and after nearly eight years in her current position, she covers all areas of P&C, including operations, strategic planning, business development and management of all P&C leaders at IMA West.

Over the past five years, IMA West's commercial P&C business has more than doubled under Powell. Mentorship is a hallmark of Powell's leadership approach, and with her broad and extensive insurance experience, she is a model leader for the next generation of insurance professionals.



STEPHEN RAUCHER

Vice President; Director
Reuben Raucher & Blum

Stephen Raucher maintains a broad litigation practice with a particular emphasis on insurance coverage matters, real estate disputes, and general business litigation. Over the past several years, he has achieved meaningful results for policyholders navigating disputes with commercial, life, property and professional liability insurers.

He serves as the author of the annual Insurance Law update for the California Lawyers Association and delivers an annual CLE program for the Beverly Hills Bar Association focused on recent developments in insurance coverage law. His work is often at the intersection of litigation strategy and coverage analysis, with a focus on protecting policyholders and ensuring carrier accountability. Raucher has also held numerous leadership roles within the Beverly Hills Bar Association.



ANGIE RICHARDS

Vice President
Poms & Associates Insurance Brokers

Angie Richards has built a distinguished career in employee benefits, combining financial expertise with an unwavering commitment to employee wellness. Her ability to craft benefits programs that seamlessly blend fiscal responsibility with workplace culture has made her a standout leader in the industry. What sets Richards apart is her strategic, relationship-driven approach – she doesn't simply design benefits plans; she empowers organizations and their employees to maximize their value.

Starting her career on the carrier side, Richards developed a deep understanding of the complexities of benefits programs. This experience allowed her to transition into brokerage with a unique perspective, advocating for both employers and employees. Richards has consistently prioritized accessibility, education and empowerment.



MARK ROBINSON

Co-Founding Partner
Michelman Robinson

For more than 25 years, Mark Robinson has stood at the forefront of insurance regulatory law, earning a reputation as one of Los Angeles' premier attorneys serving insurance producers. As co-founder of Michelman Robinson and chair of the firm's Property & Casualty Regulatory Practice, Robinson has built a nationally recognized platform dedicated to representing retail brokers, general agents, managing general agents, wholesalers, surplus lines brokers, and premium finance companies facing increasingly complex regulatory and business challenges.

What distinguishes Robinson is not only the breadth of his practice, but the impact of his advocacy. He is equally formidable in navigating high-stakes enforcement proceedings. He has repeatedly preserved client licenses while protecting businesses, employees, and relationships.



Congratulations to our partners **Mary Craig Calkins, Linda Kornfeld, and David Thomas** for being recognized as **"Leaders of Influence: Insurance"** by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*.

Blank Rome is an Am Law 100 firm celebrating 80 years of service, with 800 attorneys and principals working collaboratively to serve clients in 16 offices across the United States and internationally.

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LISTS

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Largest Public Companies
Fastest Growing Private Companies
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Thriving in Their 40s

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Fastest Growing Private Companies

SPECIAL EDITIONS

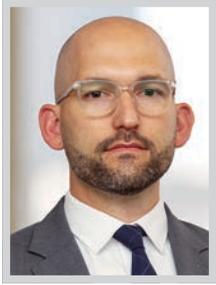
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LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: INSURANCE



JOSHUA ROSENBERG
Partner
Barnes & Thornburg LLP

Joshua Rosenberg is one of Los Angeles' most effective insurance recovery attorneys, delivering high-impact wins for corporate policyholders facing their most consequential financial, regulatory and litigation risks. As a partner in Barnes & Thornburg's Los Angeles office, Rosenberg plays a critical role in protecting California companies by securing insurance coverage when insurers seek to avoid responsibility in complex, high-stakes disputes.

Rosenberg represents publicly and privately held companies in insurance litigation and arbitration matters across California, the United States, and internationally. His practice spans healthcare, technology, banking and finance, construction and design, and real estate – industries central to the Southern California economy.



NICHOLAS ROXBOROUGH
Managing Partner
Roxborough, Pomerance, Nye & Adreani

Nicholas Roxborough has been described as both a legal and professional "difference maker" and thought leader in the California business and governmental communities. He is the managing partner of Los Angeles-based Roxborough, Pomerance, Nye & Adreani, LLP (RPNA). RPNA is an employer's rights law firm specializing in representing employers nationwide in complex employment, business and sophisticated insurance programs. He has extensive trial, arbitration and appellate experience.

Roxborough is credited with having literally made the law in California taking on the largest insurance companies on behalf of employers. In doing so, Roxborough materially modified insurance carrier behavior when it comes to serving mostly California businesses and policyholders.



PETER SESSIONS
Partner
Kantor & Kantor, LLP

Peter Sessions' most significant career accomplishments are defined by his leadership in complex ERISA and insurance litigation and his consistent success advocating for individuals and policyholders in high-stakes benefit disputes. Over the course of his career, he has handled matters involving intricate administrative records, medically complex claims, and contested policy interpretations, achieving outcomes that have restored critical disability and health-related benefits for clients whose financial stability depended on those results.

Sessions stands out in his field for combining rigorous legal analysis with disciplined evidentiary strategy. ERISA litigation requires careful synthesis of medical, vocational and financial evidence alongside evolving federal case law.



RENÉ SIEMENS
Partner
Covington & Burling LLP

René Siemens is a nationally recognized insurance coverage practitioner who represents policyholders in negotiations and disputes with their insurers. Siemens has helped clients recover over \$2 billion from their insurers. Chambers USA has described him as "an encyclopedia of insurance law," and Legal 500 has described him as "the smartest guy in the room."

Siemens co-leads a team of Covington lawyers representing Whittaker Corporation in prosecuting the company's claims against its insurers for coverage of environmental remediation and related costs. For more than two decades, he has represented the company in insurance coverage matters arising out of a wide range of environmental and product liability claims around the country, and has assisted the company in recovering hundreds of millions of dollars.



JONATHAN B. SOKOL
Partner
Greenberg Glusker

As a partner at Greenberg Glusker, with clients that span the globe, Jonathan B. Sokol has been successfully representing policyholders in complex insurance coverage and bad faith litigation against insurance companies for over 35 years.

Sokol is known by his peers as one of the go-to attorneys to represent policyholders in high stakes coverage litigation. He has handled claims and litigation for policyholders against insurers arising from disputes under virtually every type of insurance policy, including matters involving environmental contamination and litigation, construction defect litigation, securities-related claims, breach of reps and warranties, wrongful termination, patent, trademark and copyright infringement matters, employee dishonesty claims under fidelity bonds and commercial property damage claims.

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DAVID A. THOMAS
Partner, Insurance Recovery
Blank Rome LLP

David Thomas is a nationally respected insurance recovery and complex commercial litigation attorney whose work spans some of the most high-value, high-risk coverage disputes in the country. With deep experience across cybersecurity and privacy, commercial general liability, D&O, EPLI, first-party property, financial institution bonds, and business interruption insurance, Thomas is a trusted advocate for corporate policyholders, institutions, and individual property owners confronting their most consequential coverage challenges.

Thomas' practice is distinguished by his ability to navigate deeply complex disputes at scale. His strength lies in his rare combination of legal vision, technical mastery, and courtroom acumen. Chambers USA praises him as "outstanding in his field."



MIKE WAXBERG
Private Wealth Advisor
Fortify Capital | Wealth Management & Insurance Services

Michael A. Waxberg is a private wealth advisor and founder and CEO of Fortify Capital Wealth Management & Insurance Services. Waxberg is a certified financial planner and has spent over two and half decades building a nationally recognized investment and financial planning practice. He is deeply rooted in the legal, entertainment and business communities advising on comprehensive retirement, investment, and estate planning strategies. He has in-depth knowledge of tax and business planning, working with both individuals and businesses helping to navigate the ever-changing financial landscape.

Along with his CFP, he holds his chartered financial consultant, chartered life underwriter and retirement income certified professional designations.



JAQILYN WOLFE
Financial Planner; Managing Director
Northwestern Mutual

Jaqilyn Wolfe has demonstrated outstanding leadership since the very start of her career, beginning as a college intern a Northwestern Mutual. As a testament to her early dedication, she finished her internship ranked as the #14 intern nationwide. She began her professional journey at just 21 and achieved her CFP designation by the age of 25, showing impressive determination and focus.

Transitioning into full-time work as an individual financial advisor, Wolfe quickly embraced leadership roles within the West LA office, holding nearly every leadership position available while developing a clientele primarily composed of women in Los Angeles. In November 2024, at the age of 28, she became one of the youngest female managing directors at Northwestern Mutual, leading the newly opened Calabasas office.



THEONA ZHORDANIA
Partner; Insurance Team Co-Leader
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter and Hampton LLP

Theona Zhordania is a highly accomplished litigator specializing in the defense of insurance carriers in high-stakes cases involving claims for breach of contract, bad faith, fraud and unfair business practices. With extensive trial and appellate experience, Zhordania has successfully represented insurers in courts throughout California and in jurisdictions including Alaska, Alabama, Nevada, Florida, Montana, Missouri and Arizona. A co-leader of Sheppard's 50-attorney Insurance practice, she has secured numerous victories on summary judgment in bad faith actions, with many resulting in published decisions that have shaped insurance law.

For example, Zhordania has secured dozens of significant wins on behalf of Unum Insurance, one of the largest disability insurers in the world.

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Leadership, Modernization, Resilience: NAIC 2026 Strategic Priorities

Reflecting an evolving insurance marketplace and risk landscape, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' (NAIC) members have adopted proactive and forward-looking strategic priorities for 2026.

"At the NAIC, a deep bench of 56 Members representing each US state and five territories brings expert skills, backgrounds, and perspectives to today's challenges and opportunities," said NAIC president Scott A. White. "For more than 150 years, our state-based system has led amid change. Our 2026 strategic priorities continue that tradition, reinforced, as always, by our fundamental commitment to working together to regulate the insurance industry and protect consumers."

NAIC 2026 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Enhancing Capital and Investment Frameworks:** In a changing marketplace and investment environment, state insurance regulators seek to help ensure providers keep their promises to policyholders. As it moves to finalize, adopt and guide the implementation of a new investment/capital regime that will enhance regulatory oversight, the NAIC will work to ensure the proposed reforms are well-vetted, balanced, feasible and harmonized among the states.

- Enhancing Data Architecture, Predictive Analysis, and Market Analysis:** In 2026, the NAIC will work to deepen its capabilities as a data aggregator, analytics provider, and



early warning monitor, supporting more proactive regulatory oversight, risk identification, peer review, and policy insight.

- Increasing Resilience Through Regulation, Mitigation, and Public Partnership:** As policyholders and insurers face escalating risks from natural disasters, the NAIC will keep working to help close protection gaps and maximize preparedness and recovery. This includes developing further guidance that encourages resilience measures; providing regulatory guidance for catastrophe modeling, exposures, stress testing, and climate disclosures; and coordinating with federal and state

officials to bridge insurance and resilience.

- Leading on AI Model Governance, Innovation Oversight, and Cyber Threats:**

The state-based system remains the best equipped to protect policyholders as emerging technology creates new opportunities and risks. By advancing frameworks to address cybersecurity threats and insurers' use of technology and data, piloting an artificial intelligence evaluation tool, and expanding capacity and expertise through education and training, the NAIC will support state insurance regulators as they encourage responsible innovation.

'Our 2026 strategic priorities continue that tradition, reinforced, as always, by our fundamental commitment to working together to regulate the insurance industry and protect consumers.'

SCOTT A. WHITE
NAIC

As part of its state-based system of insurance regulation in the United States, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners provides expertise, data and analysis for insurance commissioners to effectively regulate the industry and protect consumers. The US standard-setting organization is governed by the chief insurance regulators from the 50 states, the District of Columbia and five US territories. Through the NAIC, state insurance regulators establish standards and best practices, conduct peer reviews, and coordinate regulatory oversight. NAIC staff supports these efforts and represents the collective views of state regulators domestically and internationally.

Learn more at NAIC.org.



Roxborough, Pomerance, Nye & Adreani congratulates Nicholas Roxborough for his leadership in both the legal and policy making of insurance in California. His knowledge, leadership and influence in all aspects of insurance, particularly representing major stakeholders in California's complex Workers' Comp system makes him a recognized "Leader of Influence" in California.

As Chair at the CHSWC Commission, his involvement in the LA upcoming Olympics, and as an Airport Commissioner, truly provide Nicholas with a strategic and specialized perspective on all that is insurance. That is why he has been a trusted counsel to the business community for over 30 years.

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