

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS

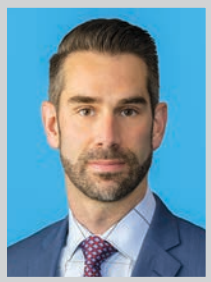


THERE IS A SPECIAL BREED OF ATTORNEY THAT NEEDS TO TRANSCEND EXPERT COMPREHENSION OF THE LEGAL system – the litigator. Lawyers who go to the proverbial mat to fight for their clients before judges and jury have their own unique sets of skills. In this special section we share profiles of the very best 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 '26.

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



BENJAMIN S. AKLEY
Partner
Pryor Cashman LLP

Benjamin Akley is a partner in Pryor Cashman’s Litigation, Music and Media + Entertainment Groups, where he works on complex entertainment and commercial disputes on behalf of both plaintiffs and defendants. Akley is known for his skill as a litigator and his knowledge of the music industry. He continues to raise his profile among a wide-ranging client base, including artists, music publishers, and record companies. Akley is the lead defense attorney on a massive copyright infringement lawsuit brought by the purported creators and owners of a rhythmic pattern against over 160 music labels, publishers, recording artists, writers, and producers. The case, known colloquially as the “dem bow” matter, could have a significant impact on the copyrightability of drumbeats and other purely rhythmic musical elements.



BERNARD ALEXANDER
Trial Attorney
Alexander Morrison + Fehr, LLP

Known for the consistency, integrity and purpose behind his work, J. Bernard Alexander has built one of the most distinguished careers in employment and civil rights litigation in California, combining extraordinary courtroom success with an unwavering commitment to justice and accountability. Over the course of his career, Alexander has tried more than 50 cases to verdict and secured numerous six- and seven-figure results in complex employment and civil rights matters involving discrimination, harassment, retaliation, disability rights, whistleblower protection, and police misconduct. In March 2025, Alexander served as co-counsel in *Lewis v. Kern County*, one of the largest police shooting verdicts in California history. A federal jury awarded \$30.5 million to the family of an unarmed Black man fatally shot by a sheriff’s deputy.



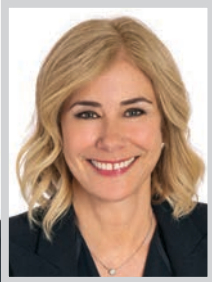
JOHN ATALLAH
Partner
Foley & Lardner LLP

John Atallah has built a strong reputation as a thoughtful and effective litigator, known for handling complex, high-stakes disputes with a clear and practical approach. His work spans consumer protection, regulatory compliance, and commercial litigation, and he has represented clients in state and federal courts across the country. Over the course of his career, he has managed a wide range of matters, including class actions and disputes involving fraud, breach of contract, and misappropriation. One of Atallah’s key strengths is his deep understanding of evolving regulatory frameworks and how they apply in practice. He regularly works with clients across industries such as consumer reporting, financial services, online retail, manufacturing, and insurance, advising on both compliance and litigation risk.



BRIAN BERGMAN
Shareholder; Vice President
BDG Law Group

Brian Bergman is a trial lawyer at one of the preeminent boutique litigation firms in California, with a practice focus in defending public and private entity clients in highly regulated or specialized areas of law including eminent domain, land use, and environmental litigation. His track record of success requires not only deep legal expertise but also a nuanced understanding of industry-specific challenges. Bergman is sought out for high-stakes litigation, consistently delivering strong results for his clients. While he is fully prepared to take cases through trial, he is also extremely efficient at resolving complex matters, often securing favorable settlements before trial becomes necessary. Bergman’s recent notable victories include for the LA Metro as it moves forward with ambitious plans for the extension of the Purple Line subway system.



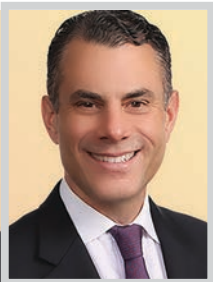
STEPHANIE BLUM
Vice President; Director
Reuben Raucher & Blum

Stephanie Blum is a certified family law specialist with more than 25 years of experience and is widely recognized as one of California’s leading family law attorneys. She is known for her ability to manage highly complex and emotionally charged matters involving custody disputes, domestic violence proceedings, and sophisticated financial issues. Blum’s recent work includes successfully leading an 18 day domestic violence restraining order trial involving a contested custody dispute over three children. In a rare outcome, the court adopted her argument that the best interests of the children required a departure from the typical structure in such cases, awarding her client sole legal and physical custody of two of the children and issuing a no visitation order against the opposing party pending further proceedings.



JOSHUA BRIONES
CEO; Founder
Briones PC

Joshua Briones is an exceptional leader in the legal profession and a demonstrated force for excellence, impact and innovation in class action defense and civil litigation. As founder & CEO of Briones PC and the former managing member of the Los Angeles office of the national law firm Mints Levin, Briones has spent over two decades shaping the strategic course of complex litigation for clients across a wide range of industries. He has served as lead defense counsel in over 600 alleged class actions in state and federal courts nationwide. Briones’ legal practice is distinguished by his unparalleled ability to navigate complex legal issues across multiple sectors; from financial services, retail, and pharmaceuticals to professional sports and technology.



ALEXANDER CALFO
Partner, Product Liability & Mass Torts Practice Groups
King & Spalding, LLP

Alex Calfo is a seasoned trial lawyer that clients in California and nationwide turn to when they are facing difficult facts in front of juries known for pro-plaintiff leanings. Calfo’s practice is devoted to trying high-profile product liability matters in the pharmaceutical and medical device, automotive, heavy machinery and chemical industries. He also has several winning verdicts in high-profile “bet the company” product liability cases, complex commercial and insurance coverage trials. He served as trial counsel for Boehringer Ingelheim in the first California trial in litigation alleging that heartburn medication Zantac causes cancer. He was also trial counsel for Johnson & Johnson in the first cosmetic talc/mesothelioma trial to go to verdict in the country (a defense verdict for J&J).



CHERYL CHANG
Partner
Blank Rome LLP

Cheryl Chang is the litigator institutions rely on when the stakes extend beyond the courtroom, requiring judgment, control, and steady leadership on complex local, federal, and international disputes. As a partner and co-chair of Blank Rome’s Financial Institutions Litigation and Regulatory Compliance practice group and co-chair of the firm’s Los Angeles office, Chang concentrates her practice on complex corporate and financial matters guided by disciplined, outcome driven decision making. One of the most significant engagements of Chang’s career is her successful defense of Caitlyn Jenner and the estate of Jenner’s late business manager, Sophia Hutchins, in a putative securities class action arising from the launch of the cryptocurrency “meme coin” \$JENNER. Chang also routinely leads high-stakes class action defenses for financial institutions nationwide.



TYRONE (TY) CHILDRESS
Partner
Jones Day

Ty Childress is one of the most versatile litigators who is equally comfortable whether seated at plaintiffs’ or defendants’ counsel’s table. On the plaintiff’s side, Childress serves as leader of Jones Day’s leading Insurance Recovery Practice and has led major litigation matters recovering billions of dollars for corporate policyholders. His experience spans state and federal trial and appellate proceedings across the United States, as well as London arbitration proceedings. Childress led a decade-long litigation for World Trade Center Properties seeking recovery for losses arising from the tragic events of 11 September, a landmark engagement that exemplifies his skill in handling high-stakes matters. On the defense side, Childress brings to bear extensive experience representing clients in significant disputes, including having defended Union Pacific Railroad in high-profile litigation.



ESTHER CHO
Partner; Co-Chair, Financial Services Litigation and Enforcement Practice
Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP

Esther Cho is a nationally respected litigator and one of the driving forces behind Stradley Ronon’s expansion into Southern California, where she serves as partner and sits on the firm’s board of directors. As co-chair of the firm’s Financial Services Litigation & Enforcement practice, she brings more than two decades of experience navigating high-stakes financial, regulatory and employment matters for some of the country’s most prominent financial institutions. Cho has built a reputation for her ability to manage and win complex cases in state and federal courts and before major arbitration forums. She has handled hundreds of matters spanning allegations of unsuitable investment recommendations, fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, and supervisory failures. Her advocacy consistently protects her clients’ reputations and financial interests.



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MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
PARTNER & TRIAL ATTORNEY

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EMAHN COUNTS

Founder; Managing Attorney
Counts Law Firm PC

Emahn Counts is a distinguished attorney and legal strategist whose career is defined by exceptional achievements, groundbreaking casework, and a relentless commitment to justice. As the founder and managing attorney of Counts Law Firm, PC, he has built a thriving legal practice specializing in business litigation, real estate disputes, and family law. His ability to navigate complex legal matters with precision and tenacity has earned him a stellar reputation among clients and peers alike.

Counts has demonstrated unparalleled legal expertise in securing multimillion-dollar victories and case dismissals across multiple practice areas. Notably, he successfully defended a client against a \$5 million construction lawsuit, reducing liability to just \$10,000-\$20,000, and secured the outright dismissal of a \$4 million fraud case.

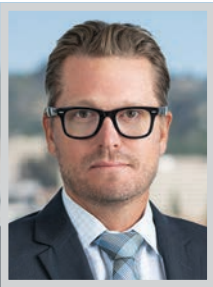


JON DEAN

Partner
Sidley Austin LLP

Jon Dean, a partner in Sidley Austin’s Los Angeles office, is a seasoned trial lawyer and former prosecutor with a practice focused on high-stakes, complex commercial litigation. His experience spans a broad range of matters, including patent and trade secret disputes, antitrust and securities actions, unfair competition and trademark claims, as well as employment, OSHA, and healthcare litigation.

A proven advocate in both civil and criminal courts, Dean also represents companies and individuals in government investigations led by agencies such as the US Department of Justice, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General. Dean also leads the Sidley team representing Airbnb in several complex litigation matters.

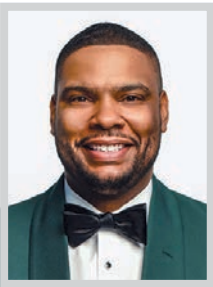


RYAN DEANE

Partner
Wood Smith Henning & Berman LLP

Four defense verdicts in 20 months. That is the clearest measure of what Ryan P. Deane brings to the courtroom and to his clients. A partner in Wood Smith Henning & Berman LLP’s Los Angeles office, Deane is a nationally recognized professional liability trial attorney with more than two decades of legal experience.

Deane practices throughout Southern California and handles some of the most technically demanding matters in the field, including medical malpractice, elder abuse, products liability, employment and wrongful termination, legal malpractice, and directors and officers liability. Where most litigators hope to try a case to verdict once or twice a year, he has built a run of trial wins that is, by any measure, extraordinary.

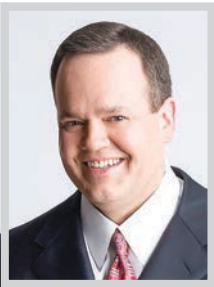


RODNEY DIGGS

President; Managing Partner
Ivie McNeill Wyatt Purcell & Diggs

Rodney Diggs became a partner at Ivie, McNeill & Wyatt in 2016 and, in 2019, became a named partner when the firm was renamed Ivie McNeill Wyatt Purcell & Diggs. In December 2025, he was appointed president and managing partner of the firm.

Diggs has obtained more than \$200 million in verdicts and settlements on behalf of his clients. Most recently, he secured a \$27,350,000 jury verdict in a civil rights excessive force case against the County of San Bernardino, the largest verdict in the history of the Riverside Federal Court. This landmark result further solidifies Diggs’ reputation as one of California’s premier civil rights and employment trial attorneys, known for taking complex, high-risk cases against powerful public entities and prevailing before juries.



RICARDO ECHEVERRIA

Partner
Shernoff Bidart Echeverria LLP

Ricardo Echeverria is a nationally respected trial attorney and partner at Shernoff Bidart Echeverria LLP, where he dedicates his practice entirely to litigation, with a focus on insurance bad faith and catastrophic personal injury cases. Over the course of more than 30 years, he has built an extraordinary trial record that includes a \$68 million medical malpractice verdict recognized by the National Law Journal as one of the Top 50 Verdicts in the country, along with numerous other eight-figure jury verdicts in wrongful death, traumatic brain injury, amputation, and complex insurance cases.

Echeverria’s work has consistently held major insurance companies accountable for failing to honor their obligations, including cases involving wildfire losses and wrongful failure to settle within policy limits.



NEIL ELAN

Partner
Stubbs Alderton & Markiles, LLP

Neil Elan is a high-stakes technology and business litigator at the cutting edge of artificial intelligence, technology and the law. His practice spans complex business litigation with a focus on software misappropriation, high-value intellectual property disputes, business torts, and bet-the-company cases.

Since joining Stubbs Alderton & Markiles in 2017, Elan has secured numerous notable wins. With hands-on experience litigating cases involving AI-based programmatic software, Elan has a front-row seat at the intersection of AI and the courtroom. A close follower of the emerging legal landscape surrounding AI agents, AI governance, and regulatory frameworks, he is frequently called upon by major publications to provide commentary on the rapidly evolving intersection of artificial intelligence and the law.



CHRIS EPPICH

Partner
Covington & Burling LLP

Chris Eppich is a partner in Covington’s litigation practice who focuses on complex litigation in federal and state courts, with a particular emphasis on mass tort and patent litigation for clients in the technology and life sciences industries. Over the past several years, Eppich has built one of the most impressive trial records in the country, delivering extraordinary results for clients across multiple jurisdictions, courtrooms, and legal frameworks.

Most recently, Eppich was a key member of a Covington team that secured a major victory for McKesson, the nation’s largest wholesale pharmaceutical distributor, when the Maryland Supreme Court vacated a \$152 million opioid verdict the City of Baltimore had won against McKesson and co-defendant Cencora Inc.

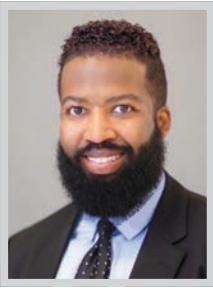


BONNIE E. ESKENAZI

Partner
Greenberg Glusker LLP

Bonnie Eskenazi is consistently recognized as one of the most prominent entertainment attorneys in Hollywood. She regularly handles some of Hollywood’s most high profile and landmark entertainment disputes for some of the industry’s leading performers, directors, writers, producers, rights holders, and talent agents.

Eskenazi’s practice is international in scope and she has extensive experience in all aspects of the entertainment industry, media and intellectual property matters, including royalties and profit participations, idea theft, contracts, defamation and reputation protection, invasion of privacy, trademarks, copyright, merchandise and licensing, music distribution, music publishing, motion picture production and distribution and new technology. Among her most notable current matters is her representation of the Bob Marley Estate.



TERRANCE EVANS

Partner, San Francisco and Los Angeles
Offices; Co-Leader, Banking and Financial
Services Practice; Co-Chair, San Francisco
Diversity and Inclusion Committee;
Member, ESG Working Group
Duane Morris LLP

Terrance J. Evans is a nationally recognized trial lawyer with substantial appellate experience who has secured victories for clients in numerous multimillion-dollar cases in federal and state trial and appellate courts across the United States. During his more than 20 years of practice, Evans has made history multiple times and distinguished himself as a leader in several of the largest bar associations in the United States. Evans is also a dynamic speaker who gives presentations on legal issues across the United States and around the world.

Evans is a partner in the San Francisco and Los Angeles offices of Duane Morris LLP, where he serves as the co-leader of the firm’s Banking and Financial Services Practice.



ADAM FEE

Partner
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Adam Fee is a first-chair trial lawyer and former federal prosecutor whose career has placed him at the center of some of the most complex and closely watched civil and criminal matters in the country. A partner in Weil’s Complex Commercial Litigation and White Collar Defense, Regulatory and Investigations practices, Fee represents global financial institutions, multinational corporations, senior executives, and public officials in their most consequential disputes.

His recent work includes acting as lead counsel in the two highest profile securities fraud prosecutions in the country, defending two major Middle Eastern media companies in high-stakes defamation and hacking litigation, and guiding a sitting US Senator through FARA and corruption charges in the Southern District of New York.

HUESTON HENNIGAN LLP

Congratulations



JOSEPH A. REITER CHRISTINE WOODIN

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

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RACHEL FISET
Managing Partner
RFZ Law, LLP

Rachel L. Fiset is the co-founder and managing partner of RFZ Law LLP, a woman-owned complex litigation and white-collar trial firm based in Los Angeles. Over the course of her career, Fiset has grown into one of the region’s most formidable trial attorneys, known for strategic creativity and the ability to prevail in high stakes matters on behalf of both plaintiffs and defendants.

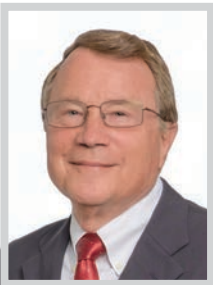
Fiset has played a central role in some of the highest profile investigations and trials in the Central District of California. Fiset established her career defending individuals and companies in complex litigation, government investigations, and enforcement actions brought by the SEC, US Attorney’s Office, and District Attorney’s Office, involving allegations such as securities fraud, False Claims Act violations, healthcare fraud, wire fraud, and public corruption.



SASHA FRID
Partner
Miller Barondess, LLP

Sasha Frid, a founding partner of Miller Barondess and chair of the firm’s Entertainment and Intellectual Property practices, is an accomplished trial lawyer who secures decisive victories in complex, high-stakes disputes. Recognized as a go-to litigator for entertainers, music labels, global corporations, public companies, real estate developers, financial institutions, private equity firms, and fashion icons, he consistently delivers exceptional results in matters that often attract intense media scrutiny.

Frid’s litigation practice encompasses business and partnership disputes, real estate, entertainment and music law, copyright and trademark law, right of publicity, trade secret misappropriation, idea theft, and insurance bad-faith litigation. In a recent victory, Frid represented CriticalPoint Partners, in arbitration over trade secret misappropriation and unfair competition.



FRED FUDACZ
Partner, Water Law Group
Nossaman

Fred Fudacz is one of the foremost water lawyers in California. His work includes representing water users in complex litigation involving the adjudication of water rights, representing water purveyors with contaminated groundwater supplies and providing a wide range of legal advice to court appointed watermasters. With more than three decades of experience, he has significant trial and negotiating skills.

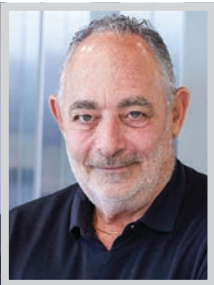
Fudacz has secured more than \$700 million worth of contamination settlements in two of the largest groundwater perchlorate pollution cases in the State. He has represented significant clients in landmark water rights adjudications, has been involved in establishing successful groundwater storage programs and provides knowledgeable advice to developers on water reliability strategies. He has been an expert witness on water issues.



BYRON GEE
Partner, Water Law Group
Nossaman

Byron Gee represents clients in trial courts and administrative hearings on all areas of water rights and environmental law. He focuses on the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act, the Hazardous Substance Account Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Clean Water Act and the California Porter Cologne Act.

Gee also provides counsel in administrative proceedings and defended claims based on Federal, State and local air quality regulations, as well as water rights disputes. Before practicing law, Gee was a vice president and general manager at various oil companies. One of his main responsibilities was to ensure that these companies complied with all Federal, State and local environmental laws.



JEFFREY GERSH
Partner; Co-Chair,
Business Litigation Practice
Stubbs Alderton & Markiles, LLP

Jeffrey Gersh is a partner of Stubbs Alderton & Markiles and the co-chair of the Business Litigation Practice. Before joining the firm, he was managing partner of The Gersh Law Firm for over 10 years and a partner for 25 years with a prominent litigation law firm.

Gersh successfully litigates, arbitrates, or mediates for both plaintiffs and defendants, complex business and commercial matters, whether for individuals, public or private corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies and/or its members, shareholders and partners. He has handled disputes regarding contract matters, trade secret disputes defending clients against claims of misappropriation of customer lists, intellectual property and confidential company information, intellectual property, and general business matters.



LONNIE GIAMELA
Partner
Fisher Phillips LLP

Lonnie Giamela is a partner in Fisher Phillips’ Los Angeles and Irvine offices and one of the most accomplished labor and employment litigators in California. Over the course of his career, he has built a trial practice defined by volume, complexity and results representing clients ranging from small businesses to national companies across the manufacturing, retail, wholesale distribution, hospitality, education and automotive industries in some of the most demanding litigation the field has to offer.

Giamela has tried several jury trials to verdict and more than ten arbitrations to final award. But it is the nature of the matters he has handled that distinguishes him. He has tried multiple class action and PAGA cases and has served as lead counsel in two separate wage-and-hour class action trials.



SCOTT GIZER
Partner
Early Sullivan Wright Gizer & McRae LLP

Scott Gizer, operations partner of Early Sullivan Wright Gizer & McRae, is a national trial and appellate lawyer who has achieved stellar results for his clients over the course of his career. Scott is also the go-to coverage counsel for all of the major title insurers in the United States.

Even though he is based in Los Angeles, in addition to California, Gizer’s clients call upon him to litigate cases in Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Texas, Connecticut, Florida, and Washington. Between jury trials, bench trials, and binding arbitrations, He has tried over 30 cases as a first chair during his 23 year career. Gizer is now called upon by his clients to step in as lead trial counsel in cases across the country.



MICHELE GOLDSMITH
Shareholder
BDG Law Group

Michele M. Goldsmith, shareholder at BDG Law Group, is a seasoned trial attorney with more than 25 years of experience handling complex labor and employment matters and litigation for public and private entities across California. Known for her collaborative, problem solving approach and success in high-stakes bench and jury trials, she is trusted by clients like the County of Los Angeles and Los Angeles Unified School District to navigate their most sensitive workplace disputes from inception through verdict.

Importantly, Goldsmith is respected by the plaintiff’s bar and judicial officers, and is known for her integrity and forthrightness in litigations. For her efforts, Goldsmith has been consistently honored as a Southern California “Super Lawyer” in Labor & Employment since 2010.



HENRY H. GONZALEZ
Founding Partner
Andrade Gonzalez LLP

Henry Gonzalez is a highly accomplished litigator whose career is defined by strong results in complex, high-stakes disputes and the confidence clients place in him when the stakes are greatest. A Harvard Law School graduate who began his career at Munger, Tolles & Olson, Gonzalez has built a broad litigation practice spanning commercial, employment, intellectual property, catastrophic injury, and insurance coverage matters.

Gonzalez brings together thoughtful legal strategy, practical business judgment, and seasoned trial experience to effectively guide clients through complex and high-pressure matters. Gonzalez was part of the trial team that obtained a complete defense verdict on counterclaims involving alleged misappropriation of trade secrets against a former employee and an affirmative \$17,550,000 jury verdict.

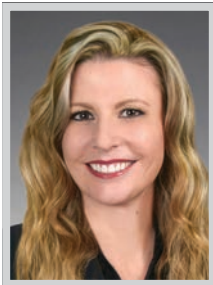


JAMIE N. GONZALEZ
Partner
Lagerlof, LLP

Jamie N. Gonzalez is a Partner at Lagerlof and an accomplished litigator whose practice focuses on complex trust, probate, guardianship and conservatorship disputes. Based in the firm’s Encino office, she has built a reputation as a highly respected advocate known for her strategic litigation skills, professionalism, and ability to guide clients through emotionally charged matters with clarity and confidence.

With more than two decades of legal experience, Gonzalez has distinguished herself through both her courtroom advocacy and her leadership within the legal community. She has successfully represented beneficiaries, trustees, fiduciaries and families in high stakes trust and estate litigation matters, consistently achieving favorable outcomes while maintaining a thoughtful and client centered approach.

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CHRISTINA GOODRICH
Managing Partner
K&L Gates

Christina Goodrich’s career has been defined by her ability to deliver exceptional results in complex, high-stakes litigation, and her role in securing the landmark Axos Bank verdict stands as a defining achievement.

In *Axos Bank v. Nano Banc et al.* Goodrich and her team led Axos Bank to a decisive jury victory following a multi-phase federal trial involving allegations of trade secret misappropriation, unfair competition, and intentional interference with contractual and economic relationships. While the Axos Bank case is a headline achievement, it reflects a broader pattern across Goodrich’s career. She has built a premier litigation practice handling complex commercial, intellectual property, and appellate matters for sophisticated clients across industries, including financial services, technology, and media.



GALI GRANT
Partner
Glaser Weil

Gali Grant is an experienced trial attorney and partner in Glaser Weil’s Litigation Department. Grant maintains a diverse practice that includes both national and international cases involving high-stakes corporate and financial disputes, complex contract disputes, intellectual property, entertainment and employment disputes.

Grant represents a range of clients, including large and small businesses, film production companies, studios, financial institutions, investment funds, high-net-worth individuals, corporate directors, hotels and municipalities. Her recent matters include her representation of a billionaire record executive and co-founder of a Hollywood studio in a high-stakes marital contract dispute filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court. She also recently represented a television series in a dispute.



SAMANTHA C. GRANT
Partner
Reed Smith LLP

Samantha Grant is a partner in Reed Smith’s Century City office and is a go-to litigator for national and global companies in administrative, arbitration, and trial proceedings. She leverages her analytical and strategic skills to deliver exceptional results in litigation of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wage and hour, breach of contract, fraud, defamation, trade secret, and unfair competition cases, among others.

Grant has extensive experience in many different industries, including the entertainment, aerospace/defense contractor, hospitality, health care, and retail industries. Her deep industry knowledge coupled with her awareness of her clients’ businesses make her particularly adept at proactively advising her clients on litigation avoidance strategies and conducting workplace investigations and litigation.



SIEGMUND GUTMAN
Member; Chair, Life Sciences Litigation Practice; Co-Chair, Patent Litigation Practice; Co-Chair, Life Sciences Mintz

Siegmund “Sige” Gutman is widely regarded as a leading life sciences litigator in California, trusted by some of the world’s largest biopharmaceutical companies to handle their most complex, high-stakes patent disputes. He has built a practice defined by technical fluency, strategic clarity, and a consistent record of results in matters that shape broader markets. His work over the past 12-18 months underscores both the scale of his practice and the tangible impact of his advocacy.

A defining example is Gutman’s leadership in Amgen’s ongoing Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act (BPCIA) litigations involving Prolia and XGEVA, two of the company’s highest-revenue biologics.



DAVID HALBREICH
Partner
Reed Smith LLP

Reed Smith partner David Halbreich is a nationally acclaimed trial lawyer, who has successfully represented policyholders across a broad range of critical industries in some of the most significant insurance litigations this century. In the last two years, Halbreich has recovered more than \$1 billion in two high-profile insurance matters. He is the former chair of Reed Smith’s renowned Insurance Recovery Group.

Halbreich has handled coverage claims for everything from crypto, securities fraud, fiduciary liability, mortgages, asbestos and other toxic torts, catastrophic injury, environmental/hazardous waste clean-up, product liability, COVID-19 and other first-party property business interruption disputes, to professional malpractice, construction defect, earthquake damage, wrongful termination, and patent infringement.

Barnes & Thornburg

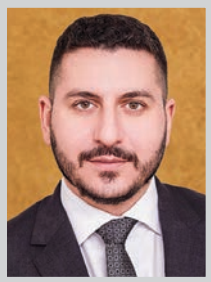
Joel Meyer & Kelley Olah

2026 Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys

Bravo to **Joel Meyer** and **Kelley Olah** on being named to the Los Angeles Business Journal’s 2026 Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys list. Their tenacity, skill, and commitment to clients exemplify what it means to be a force in Los Angeles litigation.



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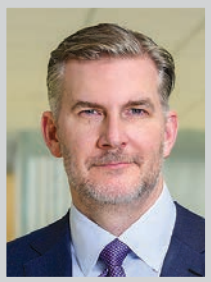
JOUBIN HANASSAB
Founder; Managing Partner
Sparrow Law Group LLP

Joubin Hanassab is a fierce litigator with an unwavering commitment to delivering reliable and effective legal representation. Hanassab brings an exceptional strategic mind to employment litigation, making the most of every tool at his disposal to achieve the best possible results for his clients. As chief litigator and founding partner of Sparrow Law Group, Hanassab dedicates his career to bringing justice to employees in court. At Sparrow Law Group, his practice involves seeking recovery on behalf of clients for wrongful termination, harassment, employment discrimination, retaliation and other statutory, common law, and regulatory violations by employers. Utilizing his vast array of experience, Hanassab offers relentless advocacy and a tireless dedication to the practice of employment law.



GENIE HARRISON
Lead Trial Attorney
Genie Harrison Law Firm

Genie Harrison is one of California’s leading employment and women’s rights attorneys, with more than three decades of experience advocating for individuals facing sexual harassment, discrimination, equal pay violations, retaliation, and workplace abuse. Throughout her career, she has secured landmark verdicts and settlements—including 9-figure, 8-figure, and numerous 7-figure recoveries—while helping drive systemic workplace reforms that have impacted thousands of lives beyond the courtroom. Among her most notable achievements, Harrison served as lead counsel in the landmark Riot Games Equal Pay Settlement, securing a historic \$100 million settlement and significant workplace reforms on behalf of women employees after taking over the litigation when plaintiffs were dissatisfied with a previously proposed settlement.



BRIAN HORNE
Partner
Knobbe Martens

Brian Horne, managing partner of the Los Angeles office of Knobbe Martens, is an industry-lauded intellectual property trial lawyer who regularly leads high stakes jury trials in federal court, including some of the largest and most consequential IP verdicts in recent years. Over the course of his career, Horne’s trial teams have secured more than \$2 billion in wins, including complete victories for defendants facing damages claims totaling more than \$750 million, establishing him as a top-tier trial litigator whose work shapes outcomes across the intellectual property landscape. In 2025, Horne delivered multiple landmark trial victories across a broad spectrum of intellectual property disputes involving cutting-edge technologies developed by California-based companies. He has a rare ability to lead and win across the full range of IP disciplines.



MARC JACOBS
Partner
Michelman Robinson

Marc Jacobs is one of Los Angeles’ most accomplished litigators, widely recognized for handling complex, high-exposure disputes where legal strategy, financial risk, and business realities intersect. With nearly 30 years of litigation experience, Jacobs represents financial institutions, insurers, marketing companies, technology businesses, and real estate interests in matters involving consumer privacy, class actions, unfair competition, trade secrets, employment disputes, deceptive advertising claims, and regulatory exposure. Clients consistently turn to Jacobs because he not only understands litigation risk but also appreciates the operational and reputational consequences that accompany it. What distinguishes Jacobs is his ability to develop creative, highly strategic litigation approaches in cases where the exposure is massive.



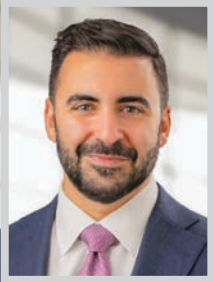
NICOLAS JAMPOL
Partner
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

Over the last decade at Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, Nicolas Jampol has been a driving force behind the expansion of the firm’s content litigation and counseling team, helping to transform it into a one-stop-shop for content issues. Jampol primarily focuses on high-stakes copyright litigation and counseling for many of the most influential names in entertainment, including Amazon, Disney, A24, and Neon. He also provides strategic advice for film, television and podcast projects that are rooted in or inspired by real people and events. His work sits at the intersection of creative storytelling and legal risk, helping clients push boundaries while protecting their most valuable assets. Last year, he prevailed at trial on behalf of M. Night Shyamalan and ten other defendants relating to the television series Servant.



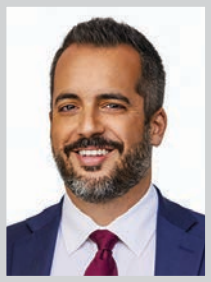
RICHARD KAPLAN
Founding Partner
Kaplan Marino, PC

Richard Kaplan stands at the pinnacle of criminal defense law, distinguished not only by nearly four decades of experience but by a rare ability to achieve exceptional outcomes in the most complex and high-stakes cases. Trusted by leading attorneys, judges and public figures, he is frequently called upon to represent fellow lawyers and other sophisticated clients facing career-defining allegations—an endorsement that speaks to his unmatched credibility within the legal community. Kaplan helped pioneer a modern approach to white-collar and criminal defense—one that challenges conventional prosecutorial narratives through innovative legal theories, deep factual investigation, and a nuanced understanding of human behavior. His work is especially notable for integrating mental health and psychological insight into defense strategy.



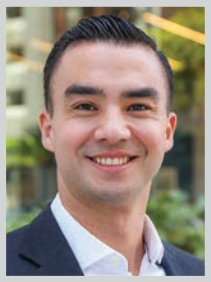
SHANT KARNIKIAN
Managing Partner
Kabateck LLP

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 Shant’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 survivors of the Eaton and Palisades fires, the Maui wildfires, and multiple devastating flood events in Merced, Tulare, and Pajaro.



ROEE KAUFMAN
Partner
Keystone Law Group, P.C.

Roee Kaufman is a partner at Keystone Law Group, P.C. and a Certified Specialist in Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law (State Bar of California, Board of Legal Specialization). Since joining Keystone in 2017, Kaufman’s practice has focused on trust, estate and conservatorship litigation throughout the State of California. Kaufman has represented clients in a variety of capacities in connection with probate litigation matters, including beneficiaries, creditors, trustees, personal representatives and court-appointed conservators in a variety of probate disputes, including will contests, trust contests, 850 petitions, financial elder abuse claims, actions for removal and surcharge of fiduciaries, heirship claims, and Marvin actions, and in non-litigated probate and trust administration matters involving estates and trusts worth in excess of \$150 million.



JASON KELLY
Partner
Annaguey McCann LLP

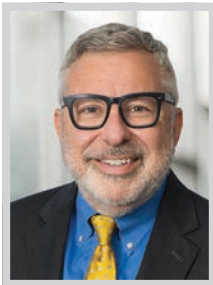
Jason Kelly’s most successful career accomplishment took place in 2023 when, after spending more than a decade working at law firms of all sizes, he decided to start a new litigation law firm in Los Angeles with two of his partners. The firm is focused on providing high-quality litigation representation to smaller and mid-sized companies. The firm has grown in recent months and is thriving. In particular, Kelly has defended and counseled companies of all sizes in the fast-moving space of privacy litigation. Kelly, along with another of his colleagues, also had the privilege of successfully trying the first in-person federal civil jury trial in the Central District of California when the court lifted restrictions on in-person trials during the COVID-19 pandemic.



MICHAEL KENT
Co-Founding Partner
KENT | PINCIN

Michael Kent, co-founding partner of KENT | PINCIN, passionately advocates for his clients, digging deep into the facts and evidence of each case, in order to develop the case and position it for the best outcome. Kent believes in advising his clients of all the risks of proceeding to and through trial, verse resolving the matter, in order for the client to make an informed and educated decision on how to proceed. In the past two years, Kent has obtained settlement of \$1.65 million for a County employee who was retaliated against. Kent also obtained a 1.45 million dollar settlement on behalf of a City fire fighter who was wrongfully demoted. Recently, Kent has obtained a number of results including: \$1,000,000 wrongful death; and a \$850,000.00 employment retaliation; among others.

LOI: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



MICHAEL KUN

Partner; Co-Chair, Labor & Employment Practice Group; Chair, Wage-Hour Practice Group
Thompson Coburn LLP

Michael Kun is one of California’s leading employment litigators, with more than three decades of experience defending employers in high-stakes wage-and-hour class actions, PAGA matters, and single-plaintiff employment litigation. Having litigated more than 200 wage-and-hour class actions nationwide, he is widely recognized for his success in defeating class certification, securing complete defense verdicts, and developing landmark precedent, including the widely cited Serrano joint-employer defense.

With 170 to 180 active lawsuits at any given time, and with 24 cases currently on his trial calendar over the next year, Kun has distinguished himself through a series of high-impact wins for employers facing significant exposure.



SCOTT LAES

Partner
Cox, Castle & Nicholson

Scott Laes is a leading litigation attorney focusing on construction disputes, including defect and delay litigation, business and commercial disputes, real estate disputes, partnership disputes, landlord/tenant disputes, and insurance coverage litigation in state and federal courts. He has extensive experience drafting and arguing briefs and motions, taking and defending depositions, and participating in arbitrations, judicial reference proceedings, and bench and jury trials.

Recently, Laes represented a cemetery owner on claims for breach of contract, nuisance and trespass against a trucking company and its principal and owner. After a three-week jury trial, he obtained a full verdict and jury award of more than \$1 million against the trucking company and jointly against its principal and owner.



SUSAN LEADER

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

Susan Leader, partner and co-chair of Paul Hastings’ Complex Litigation and Arbitration practice, has added further depth to the firm’s litigation department since joining the firm in 2023. She not only has extensive experience leading complex litigation matters for some of the world’s largest companies but also sitting first chair when trying those cases before a judge, jury or arbitrator. Since joining the firm, Leader has demonstrated that her litigation capabilities also extend across industries and sectors, obtaining victories for clients.

What sets Leader apart is not just her role as a first-chair trial lawyer, but her ability to practice in nearly any arena, including most recently a federal criminal trial.

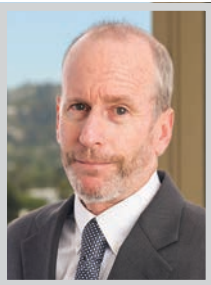


JESSE LEVIN

Partner
Glaser Weil

Jesse B. Levin is a partner in Glaser Weil’s Litigation Department. Levin is a problem solver, an aggressive advocate and a dedicated advisor for clients that face high-stakes disputes in corporate, entertainment, employment and real estate litigation. He takes pride in being responsive to his clients’ unique concerns and understands the impact litigation can have on his clients’ public perceptions and bottom lines. With that understanding, Levin helps each of his clients identify and pursue their objectives in litigation efficiently and, when necessary, relentlessly.

Levin’s notable successes include prevailing on behalf of a management company, which sued for seven figures in unpaid royalties and defeated counterclaims for alleged violations of the Talent Agencies Act after a two-week arbitration.



MICHAEL LIEB

Partner; Chair, Litigation Department; Firm General Counsel
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP

As a partner, chair of the Litigation Department, and general counsel at Ervin Cohen & Jessup, Michael C. Lieb has carved out a distinguished reputation as a master strategist in high-stakes commercial disputes. Over his illustrious career, he has built a powerhouse practice defending and prosecuting complex claims involving breach of fiduciary duty, unfair competition, and intricate business friction—specifically navigating high-stakes friction between lenders and borrowers, manufacturers and suppliers, and policyholders and insurance carriers.

Through specialized, high-impact cases, Lieb has also cultivated rare, sophisticated expertise in technically demanding financial arenas, including collateralized debt obligations, actuarial analysis, and tax disputes over net operating losses and worthless stock deductions.



Sasha Frid and Jason Tokoro

2026 Leaders of Influence
Litigators & Trial Attorneys

Los Angeles Business Journal

Miller Barondess_{LLP}



LOI: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



MEG LODISE

Partner
Sacks, Glazier, Franklin, Lodise,
McMurtrey & Scheerer, LLP

With nearly four decades in practice, Meg Lodise is widely regarded as one of California’s leading trusts and estates litigators, handling some of the most complex and high-stakes disputes through trial and appeal. Her work not only secures critical client victories, but shapes the law itself.

In *O’Connor v. O’Connor* (26 Cal.App.5th 871), Lodise obtained a precedent-setting published decision that clarified California law on powers of appointment, a ruling that continues to guide courts statewide. Underscoring her respect in the legal community, Lodise was appointed by the Probate Court as Guardian Ad Litem for the minor children of entertainer Michael Jackson, a responsibility she carried out soon after Jackson’s death in 2009. and concluded in February 2020 with his youngest child, Prince Michael Jackson II turning 18.



AMY JANE LONGO

Partner
Ropes & Gray

Amy Jane Longo, office managing partner of Ropes & Gray’s Los Angeles office, has nearly 30 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 companies, and private companies.



JASON LYON

Partner; Chair, Litigation Department
Hahn & Hahn LLP

Jason Lyon is a litigation partner at Hahn & Hahn. His practice focuses on business litigation, with an emphasis in partnership and closely held business disputes. Prior to joining Hahn & Hahn, Lyon was an attorney with Latham & Watkins, practicing in the Complex Commercial Litigation and Securities Litigation groups.

Lyon’s unique career journey, beginning with his early profession as a documentary film producer and leading to his current position as the first openly LGBTQ+ attorney and partner for a well-respected firm with a 126-year old history, has been nothing less than cinematic. After establishing his own successful business writing creative briefs for directors, Lyon found himself longing for a more challenging occupation and embarked on a career in law.



STEVE MA

Partner
Saul Ewing LLP

With 30 years of litigation experience, Steve Ma’s national practice includes securities litigation, shareholder derivative actions, and corporate governance disputes. As a seasoned trial attorney, he handles jury trials, bench trials and arbitration proceedings in both state and federal courts. He has extensive experience with securities litigation, including representation of individual officers, directors, members and investors involved in investigations by the US Securities and Exchange Commission and other regulators.

Ma helps lead Saul Ewing’s national securities litigation practice. He is frequently called upon to lead significant matters for the firm, and currently serves as lead trial counsel defending Sage Therapeutics, a biotechnology company, in a securities class action pending in the US District Court in the Southern District of New York.



SUANN MacISAAC

Partner
Kinsella Holley Iser Kump
Steinsapir LLP

Suann MacIsaac, partner at leading entertainment law boutique Kinsella Holley Iser Kump Steinsapir, is widely regarded as one of the top attorneys in her field for her representation of A-list actors, musical performers, writers, producers, executives, business managers, talent agents, and others within the entertainment industry.

MacIsaac has successfully prosecuted and defended numerous cases involving claims for breach of contract, fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, unfair competition, copyright infringement, trademark infringement, and trade secret misappropriation. Her representations have included high-profile matters such as representing former CNBC anchor Hadley Gamble, in connection with her sexual harassment claims against Comcast and its subsidiaries. She has also represented Guess? co-founder Paul Marciano.

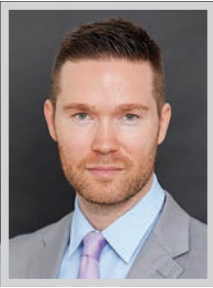


NIKKA MALEKI

Founder; Managing Partner
Sparrow Law Group LLP

Nikka Maleki has quickly distinguished herself as one of Los Angeles’ rising plaintiff-side employment attorneys through her exceptional advocacy, entrepreneurial leadership, and meaningful results for employees facing discrimination, harassment, retaliation and wrongful termination. As a founding partner of Sparrow Law Group, Maleki helped build the firm from the ground up into a respected and rapidly growing employment litigation practice in a highly competitive legal market.

In just a short period of time, Maleki and Sparrow Law Group has achieved remarkable success, recovering millions of dollars on behalf of employees across California in complex employment matters. Under Maleki’s leadership, the firm has developed a reputation for aggressive yet thoughtful advocacy, strategic litigation, and a client-centered approach.



JORDAN MATTHEWS

Founding Partner
Holtz Matthews LLP

Jordan Matthews, one of the preeminent entertainment litigation attorneys in the United States, is a business trial lawyer and litigator with broad experience in the entertainment industry and business sector, specifically focusing his practice on plaintiff sexual assault, harassment and employment matters, as well as high-profile business, and entertainment litigation.

Notably, Matthews served as lead counsel, representing the primary witness from the Wall Street Journal bombshell expose, “Dozens of People Recount Pattern of Sexual Misconduct by Las Vegas Mogul Steve Wynn,” leading to a record \$55 million in fines against Wynn Resorts, and a \$10 million fine against Steve Wynn, banning him from the Las Vegas gaming industry. The Nevada Gaming Control Board also changed its rules governing gaming licensees.

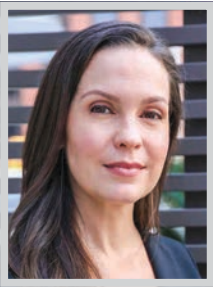


BRIDGET McCABE

Los Angeles Managing Partner
BakerHostetler

Bridget McCabe is an experienced litigator who focuses her practice on antitrust litigation in federal courts across the country, successfully defending prominent companies in high-stakes disputes and currently leading the defense of clients in several pending putative antitrust class actions. McCabe serves as the managing partner of the Los Angeles office and a member of the firm’s Operating Group and Energy Industry Team.

McCabe recently co-lead a team that achieved a major victory for a leading private university in a putative class action brought by students against dozens of the nation’s elite universities. The team prevailed on consolidated motions to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction and failure-to-state-a-claim. She also represents a national media company in a multidistrict antitrust class action.



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 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.

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 successfully handled cases in California federal and state courts, the California Court of Appeal, the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, as well as before various arbitral tribunals and administrative hearing boards.



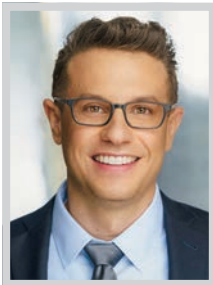
MATTHEW McNICHOLAS

Partner
McNicholas & McNicholas, LLP

Matthew McNicholas is one of California’s most accomplished and formidable advocates for first responders, with more than 90 active cases across the state – many of his cases driving major institutional reforms at agencies like the Los Angeles Fire Department and Los Angeles Police Department. As managing partner of McNicholas & McNicholas and panel counsel to both the Los Angeles Police Protective League and the United Firefighters of Los Angeles City, he has built one of the state’s premier practices focused on public accountability, employment rights, and institutional reform.

Throughout his career, McNicholas has secured more than \$150 million in verdicts and settlements for first responders and public employees while leading some of California’s most consequential mass tort and civil rights matters.

LOI: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



JONATHAN MELMED
Founder
Melmed Law Group P.C.

Jonathan Melmed is the founder of Melmed Law Group and has devoted his legal career exclusively to representing employees in high-stakes labor and employment matters. From the beginning of his practice, Melmed chose to focus solely on employment law, often litigating against employers and defense firms on behalf of workers facing unlawful workplace conduct. Over the past decade, Melmed has served as lead or co-lead counsel in hundreds of class and representative actions, securing numerous multi-million-dollar recoveries for employees, including several eight-figure settlements involving wage and hour violations, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wrongful termination, and whistleblower claims. Melmed's success is driven by a hands-on leadership approach and direct involvement in case strategy and firm operations.



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. Meyer has been certified as a specialist in Family Law by the Board of Legal Specialization of the State Bar of California since 1989. For over four decades, Meyer has been a commanding force and trailblazer within the legal profession and specifically the family law community, a successful businesswoman, and a passionate advocate for the rights of children and parents. Meyer provides 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, mediation, and more.



JOEL R. MEYER
Partner
Barnes & Thornburg

Joel R. Meyer is a commercial litigator and trial advocate at Barnes & Thornburg's Los Angeles office whose 20-year career has been defined by one distinguishing trait: he wins when it counts. Whether before a judge, jury, or arbitration panel, Meyer delivers business-minded dispute resolution that keeps his clients' financial and operational interests at the center of every strategy. Meyer's practice spans the full range of complex civil litigation—breach of contract, business torts, trade secrets, toxic torts, product liability, consumer class actions, defamation, construction disputes, and healthcare law. His client base ranges from entrepreneurs and fast-growth companies to multinational corporations and mature public enterprises. Meyer brings a combination of trial readiness and commercial judgment.



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 throughout the State of California 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 22 years. She is a dynamic 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 issues.



SANFORD MICHELMAN
Co-Founder; Chairman
Michelman Robinson

Sanford Michelman is one of Los Angeles' most accomplished and respected litigators, widely recognized for handling high-stakes "bet-the-company" disputes involving massive financial exposure, reputational risk, and complex business dynamics. As co-founder and chairman of Michelman Robinson, he has built an internationally recognized law firm while personally serving as lead counsel in significant litigation and arbitration matters across the insurance, financial services, private equity, banking, and advertising sectors. What sets Michelman apart is his ability to manage extraordinarily sophisticated matters with an eye toward strategy and meticulous execution, all the while remaining relentlessly focused on outcomes. Clients turn to him when the stakes are highest.

We're thrilled to congratulate **Siegmund (Sige) Gutman** and **Esteban Morales** on being named among the **2026 Leaders of influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys**.



Sige Gutman
Member
Chair, Life Sciences Litigation
Co-chair, Life Sciences



Esteban Morales
Member
Litigation

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LOI: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



PATRICIA MILLETT
Partner
Kinsella Holley Iser
Kump Steinsapir LLP

In her more than three decades practicing law, Patricia Millett has cemented her status as a veteran litigator renowned for handling high-stakes disputes on behalf of entertainment industry heavyweights. She has successfully represented artists, managers, producers, directors, music publishers, real estate developers, and major corporations in disputes involving contracts, copyrights, trademarks, unfair competition, idea theft, partnership dissolution and other business torts.

This past year, Millett was a member of the trial team successfully representing the Estate of Los Angeles Angels pitcher Tyler Skaggs in a high profile wrongful death civil suit against the baseball club, arising from Skaggs' 2019 overdose death in a Texas hotel room during an Angels road trip.



ELIZABETH MITCHELL
Partner
Umhofer, Mitchell & King LLP

Elizabeth Mitchell of Umhofer, Mitchell & King has distinguished herself as one of California's most accomplished and impactful litigators through a career defined by high-stakes advocacy, public service, and groundbreaking legal results. Her work spans complex civil litigation, constitutional law, civil rights matters, trade secret disputes, and False Claims Act litigation, but she is perhaps best known nationally for her leadership in the landmark Los Angeles homelessness litigation that reshaped public policy and municipal accountability.

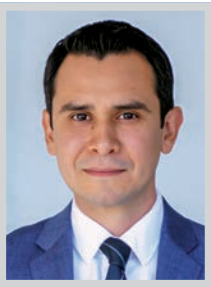
One of Mitchell's accomplishments was pioneering a first-of-its-kind lawsuit against the City and County of Los Angeles on behalf of the LA Alliance for Human Rights. The litigation demanded immediate action to provide shelter, treatment, and services for thousands of unhoused individuals.



TODD MOORE
Of Counsel
Hahn & Hahn LLP

Todd Moore's career is distinguished by a consistent record of success in high-stakes, complex matters where legal precision and practical judgment are equally essential. He represents individuals, corporations, and public entities across litigation, appeals and advisory work, with a particular focus on real estate, eminent domain, land use, and business disputes which are areas that demand both technical mastery and strategic foresight.

What sets Moore apart is his ability to transform complexity into clarity. Clients rely on him to distill multifaceted legal and business challenges into straightforward options, empowering informed decision-making in moments that often carry significant financial and operational consequences. His creative problem-solving approach, coupled with strong trial experience, enables him to navigate contentious disputes toward effective resolutions.



ESTEBAN MORALES
Member
Mintz

Esteban Morales, Mintz member (partner) and distinguished litigator, is a force to be reckoned with in class action defense and consumer-related litigation. Morales' career reflects resilience, strategic brilliance, and unwavering commitment to client success.

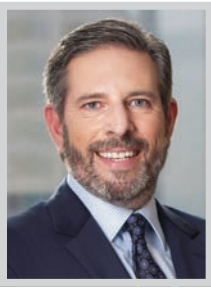
Since joining the firm, Morales has honed his skills to become a go-to expert for small and large corporate clients facing complex legal challenges. His prowess lies in securing dismissals for clients at the pleading stage and employing aggressive defense strategies to thwart claims without extensive discovery. Morales has been pivotal in defending clients against a myriad of state and federal statutes and theories. Recent victories include a landmark win in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in a high-stakes class action challenging the constitutionality of a major transportation authority's violation fee system.



STEVEN MORRIS
Partner
Quantum Law Group LLP

Steven Morris is a senior trial attorney and founding partner at Quantum Law Group whose career spans more than four decades of complex litigation in state and federal courts across California and beyond. His practice covers commercial disputes, insurance bad faith, lender liability, and financial fraud, and he brings a level of economic fluency to plaintiff-side litigation that few trial lawyers can match. His academic background in business administration, real estate, and finance gives him a structural advantage in cases built around commercial relationships, contractual obligations, and financial harm.

Morris recently served as co-lead in a Los Angeles Superior Court matter where Quantum Law Group secured a jury verdict of more than \$5,069,001 for a plaintiff who was struck by a defendant's vehicle.



PETER MORRISON
Partner
Skadden, Arps, Slate,
Meagher & Flom LLP

As head of Skadden's Los Angeles office and Litigation Group and co-head of the firm's West Coast litigation practice, Peter Morrison is recognized as one of California's leading securities litigators. For more than 25 years, he has advised blue-chip clients on their most sensitive matters with particular focus on securities, M&A and tax litigation.

Morrison also is a respected thought leader in securities litigation, having written extensively for the Daily Journal, Reuters Legal and Law360, and he is a regular contributor to Skadden's Inside the Courts. He co-authored "Business and Commercial Litigation in Federal Courts and Mergers and Acquisitions Deal Litigation Under Delaware Corporation Law," a treatise cited over a dozen times in court opinions.



LAITH MOSELY
Partner; Co-Chair, Litigation Department
Raines Feldman Littrell LLP

Laith Mosely represents clients in complex commercial litigation, trials, arbitrations, and high-stakes business disputes across a wide range of industries, including real estate, technology, entertainment, insurance, intellectual property, consumer products, aerospace, telecommunications, cannabis, and digital media. Mosely's experience includes obtaining trial verdicts, arbitration awards, dispositive motion victories, and favorable settlements in matters involving fraud, breach of contract, fiduciary duty, business torts, intellectual property, insurance recovery, and regulatory issues.

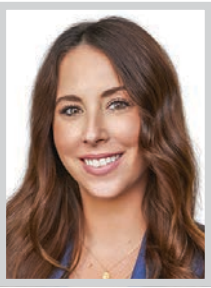
Mosely's significant recent representations include securing a judgment for a restaurateur in a multi-week bench trial involving option and purchase rights; and obtaining arbitration awards and attorneys' fees in a consumer goods contract dispute against a Fortune 500 company.



SARAH MOSES
Partner
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

Sarah Moses is a prominent entertainment litigation attorney representing clients in the music, media, entertainment and technology industries, including on copyright, trademark, right of publicity, First Amendment and AI matters.

Moses was a member of the team representing Blake Lively in her litigation against Justin Baldoni, Wayfarer Studios, and related parties. This complex matter had included three consolidated cases in SDNY, involved several high-profile parties, and raised issues related to California employment law, protected speech, and retaliatory social media campaigns. Notably, Lively's motion to dismiss raised the recently enacted California privilege protecting those who speak out about experiences with sexual harassment. Moses also plays a central role on the litigation team representing rapper LC Camel Jr. (Lucki).



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 and securing trial rulings with damages that are rarely awarded in cases that often involve complex creditor claims and intricate tax issues.

A recognized and sought-after 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, as well as numerous accolades from well-known legal publications.

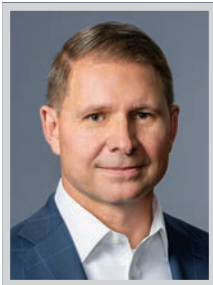


JASON MURRAY
Partner; Antitrust & Competition Group Co-Chair
Crowell & Moring LLP

Jason Murray is a sought-after antitrust litigator with a national reputation. With 32 years of practice and 17 at Crowell & Moring, he served for over a decade as co-chair of the firm's Antitrust and Competition Group and is the attorney major corporations rely on when the stakes are at their highest.

Murray's practice spans antitrust litigation, cartel cases, monopolization, exclusive dealing, and counseling in connection with state attorneys general and Federal Trade Commission investigations across industries including healthcare, technology, transportation, entertainment and telecommunications. He has tried or arbitrated numerous matters as first chair and has successfully argued before state and federal courts of appeal, as well as before the American Arbitration Association and the International Chamber of Commerce.

LOI: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



JOHN NADOLENCO
*Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office;
Co-Leader, Technology Industry Group
Mayer Brown LLP*

John Nadolenco is a distinguished lead trial counsel whose courtroom advocacy spans jurisdictions nationwide. He has established an exceptional record of securing favorable outcomes for clients facing exposure to significant financial liability, consistently defeating claims that threaten million-dollar losses.

Nadolenco represented General Motors in a slew of nationwide class action lawsuits—since consolidated—alleging claims for breach of warranty, fraud, and violation of various state consumer-protection laws arising out of the recalls of over 100,000 electric vehicles due to the risk of fire in batteries manufactured by various LG entities. He and his team succeeded in consolidating the cases in a desired forum, shrinking plaintiffs’ claims through a motion to dismiss.



MARK NEUBAUER
*Los Angeles Office Managing Shareholder
Carlton Fields LLP*

Throughout almost a half-century 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.

Neubauer also has a string of landmark appellate opinions he has won in areas like anti-SLAPP and lis pendens. 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 and bolstering its reputation in the region. Neubauer has litigated high-stakes cases for some of the world’s most prominent companies.



SEAN O’NEILL
*Partner; Trial Lawyer
Stalwart Law Group*

As partner and trial lawyer at Stalwart Law Group, Sean O’Neill leads the firm’s medical malpractice and elder abuse division with a reputation for securing record-setting results in high-stakes negligence cases. Since joining the firm in 2020, he has secured more than \$200 million in recoveries, including a \$28.7 million verdict for medical malpractice involving brain injury and multiple eight-figure settlements in cases of surgical error and cerebral palsy.

Known for his ability to navigate the medical and legal complexities of elder care negligence, O’Neill has quickly emerged as a top plaintiff-side advocate in California. With a background that spans both corporate counsel and trial advocacy, O’Neill brings a unique blend of strategic insight and courtroom expertise to his practice.



KELLEY OLAH
*Partner; Drug and Medical
Device Litigation Co-Chair
Barnes & Thornburg*

Kelley S. Olah is a partner at Barnes & Thornburg and Co-Chair of the firm’s Drug and Medical Device Litigation practice group, a nationally recognized team that has earned Chambers USA rankings year after year. Olah has built a reputation as one of the most effective and efficient product liability lawyers, defending leading manufacturers and retailers in complex, high stakes mass tort litigations in some of the most challenging jurisdictions.

Olah’s practice spans the full spectrum of product liability and mass torts litigation. She represents global manufacturers and national retailer clients in the pharmaceutical, medical device, and consumer products sectors, and regularly serves as first and second chair trial counsel for a retailer and multiple medical device manufacturers.



AGUSTIN OROZCO
*Office Managing Partner, Los Angeles
Crowell & Moring LLP*

Agustin Orozco is the office managing partner of Crowell & Moring’s Los Angeles office and maintains an active practice in white collar defense, government investigations, and False Claims Act litigation. With 16 years of experience, he brings a rare blend of prosecutorial excellence and sophisticated defense in private practice.

To deepen that experience, Orozco draws on significant federal prosecutorial work. Before rejoining Crowell & Moring, he served as an Assistant US Attorney in the Public Corruption & Civil Rights Section of the US Attorney’s Office for the Central District of California. He tried federal cases as lead counsel, examined dozens of witnesses on direct and cross-examination, delivered opening and closing arguments, and briefed and argued multiple cases before the Ninth Circuit.



Our Firm congratulates

Perrie Weiner

for being selected as a **2026 Leader of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys honoree** by the Los Angeles Business Journal.

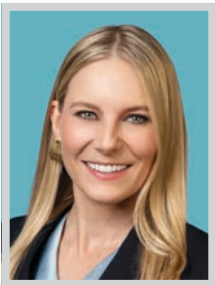


Perrie Weiner
Partner-in-Charge of Baker McKenzie’s
Los Angeles office, and Chair of the Firm’s
North America Securities Litigation Group

Over the past 5 years, our L.A. office has grown from 4 to over 75 lawyers and professional staff.

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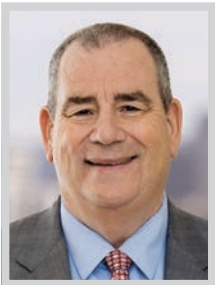
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CASSIE D. PALMER
Partner
Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP

Former senior federal prosecutor and section chief with more than 15 years of litigation experience, Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP partner Cassie D. Palmer brings trial acumen, seasoned judgment, and strategic insight to high-stakes disputes. For more than a decade, she served in the US Attorney’s Office for the Central District of California, where she earned a national reputation for success in landmark corruption, securities-fraud, and civil-rights prosecutions.

As a trusted advocate for major corporations, institutions, executives, and high-profile individuals, Palmer helps clients navigate sensitive government investigations, complex commercial disputes, and reputationally significant litigation. Palmer serves as lead counsel defending LA County in an ongoing pending federal civil rights class action.



BRIAN PANISH
Founding Partner
PANISH | SHEA | RAVIPUDI LLP

Brian J. Panish is a founding partner of Panish | Shea | Ravipudi LLP. With four decades of trial experience in plaintiffs’ personal injury litigation, his victories include more than 600 verdicts and settlements over \$1 million, more than 100 verdicts and settlements in excess of \$10 million, seven verdicts in excess of \$50 million, and a verdict of \$4.9 billion in a products liability case against General Motors.

Panish is consistently appointed to serve in a leadership role in some of the largest and most high-profile personal injury cases in California and the country. He served as plaintiffs’ lead trial counsel in the Southern California Gas Leak Cases, where he led a team of attorneys in obtaining a \$1.8 billion settlement with Sempra Energy.



DAVID PARKER
Founding Partner
Parker Shaffie LLP

David B. 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. Parker has consistently demonstrated not just technical excellence, but strategic insight, intellectual rigor, and a commitment to ethical integrity that sets him apart from others in his field.

One of Parker’s most significant career accomplishments is his founding of Parker Shaffie LLP in 1995. After helping to build what is now one of the largest defense firms in the country, Lewis Brisbois, where he was one of the original founding members, he made a deliberate decision to create a litigation boutique with a different vision — one that would focus on providing high-level advocacy.



JAMES “BO” PEARL
Partner
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Bo Pearl is a Los Angeles-based partner in Weil’s Complex Commercial Litigation and Entertainment, Sports & Media practices and one of California’s most accomplished first-chair trial lawyers. With nearly 30 years of experience, Pearl has secured landmark, industry-changing victories in bet-the-company disputes spanning entertainment, First Amendment, sports, antitrust, employment and intellectual property matters.

Pearl regularly leads large, multidisciplinary trial teams in clients’ most critical and precedent-setting cases, and has delivered multiple nine-figure trial wins in recent years alone. A true generalist who litigates on both sides of the “v,” Pearl is a trusted strategic advisor to studios, talent agencies, media and technology companies, manufacturers, financial institutions, and other leading companies.



CHRISTOPHER PELHAM
Head, Litigation and Disputes, Los Angeles
Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP

Christopher Pelham’s obsession with the law started when he would watch courtroom dramas unfold on Law & Order at only 13 years old. Today, he is a seasoned trial lawyer and former federal prosecutor, guiding clients through complex commercial disputes, internal investigations and regulatory matters, including high-stakes, cross-border issues. From prosecuting organized crime as an Assistant US Attorney to leading an investigation and litigation practice in Shanghai, Pelham loves his profession.

At Norton Rose Fulbright, Pelham has led significant matters, including securing summary judgment in RICO cases, achieving a successful trial outcome in a federal trade secret theft matter and managing multi-jurisdictional internal investigations involving the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

SHEGERIAN & ASSOCIATES



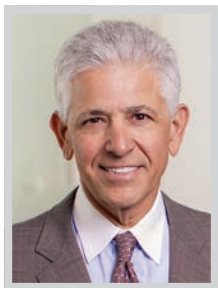
SHAREHOLDER
Carney R. Shegerian



TRIAL ATTORNEY
Justin Shegerian

Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys.

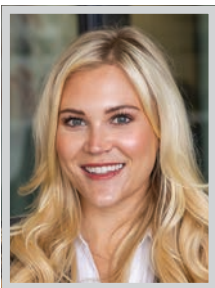
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DANIEL (DAN) PETROCELLI
*Partner; Chair, Trial Practice;
Firm Vice Chair*
O’Melveny & Myers LLP

When corporate titans, industry leaders, and entertainment A-listers need a litigation champion they can trust to tackle their headline-making legal matters, they call Daniel Petrocelli. Among the nation’s most in-demand lawyers, Petrocelli is widely recognized as the “go-to” litigator, trial lawyer, and trusted counselor sought out by major corporations, Hollywood studios, artists, athletes and executives in a stunning array of cases and disputes.

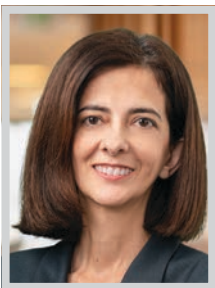
Among Petrocelli’s many recent accomplishments, he successfully defended DC Comics and Warner Bros. Discovery in a copyright infringement lawsuit brought by Mark Warren Peary, nephew of the late Superman co-creator Joseph Shuster. Ahead of the film’s 2025 release, the judge dismissed the suit.



EMILY PINCIN
Founding Partner
Kent | Pincin, LLP

Emily Pincin is a founding member and partner at the Redondo Beach based law firm Kent | Pincin, LLP. Pincin has dedicated her career to representing individuals who have been wronged or injured. Pincin’s practice is focused primarily on representing employees who have been wrongfully terminated, harassed, discriminated against, or retaliated against by their employer. She also represents individuals who have suffered personal or catastrophic injuries and family members of those who have lost a loved one because of a wrongful death caused by another. This commitment to advocating for justice has been the cornerstone of her professional journey.

Through a steadfast commitment to her principles, Pincin has built a thriving practice known for its dedication to serving the wronged and injured.



BITA RAHEBI
Partner; Vice Chair
Morrison Foerster

Bit a Rahebi, vice chair of Morrison Foerster, is one of the nation’s leading intellectual property litigators, helping companies protect the technologies powering the global technology, semiconductor, and medical device sectors. She is widely trusted by leading innovators to handle their most complex patent, copyright, and trade secret disputes worldwide—matters that often determine competitive advantage and shape the trajectory of emerging technologies.

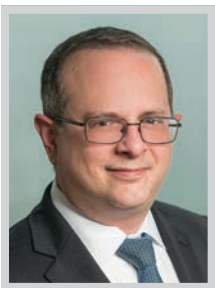
Rahebi has spent more than 25 years representing companies in high-stakes intellectual property litigation involving cutting-edge technologies. She helps guide firm-wide strategy while continuing to lead complex intellectual property disputes for companies whose innovations underpin major sectors of the global economy.



SCOTT RAHN
Founding Partner
Scott Rahn and RMO LLP

Scott Rahn is the founding partner of RMO LLP, focused exclusively on trust, estate, conservatorship, and fiduciary disputes. Over the last decade, Rahn has helped build RMO from a single Los Angeles office into a multi-state firm with offices throughout California and Texas, while maintaining a highly focused practice centered on some of the most emotionally and financially complex disputes in the trusts and estates litigation space. His leadership has positioned RMO as one of the most visible and respected firms in the private wealth disputes space.

What distinguishes Rahn is not only the sophistication of the matters he handles, but the combination of strategic trial advocacy, business leadership, and human-centered client service he brings to every case.



STEPHEN RAUCHER
Vice President; Director
Reuben Raucher & Blum

Stephen Raucher has built a distinguished litigation career representing clients in complex business, real estate, employment, and insurance-related disputes, with particular strength in high-stakes matters requiring sophisticated motion practice, trial advocacy, and appellate work. A longtime leader at Reuben Raucher & Blum, Raucher is widely respected for his ability to navigate technically complex cases while remaining intensely practical and strategic in achieving favorable outcomes for clients.

Over the past year, Raucher has secured a series of significant victories across multiple areas of litigation. What distinguishes Raucher is the breadth of his practice combined with substantial trial and appellate experience. His recent matters reflect not only strong legal analysis and advocacy, but also a consistent ability to protect clients.

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RAHUL RAVIPUDI

Partner
Panish | Shea | Ravipudi LLP

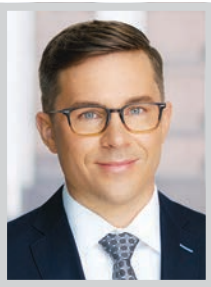
Panish | Shea | Ravipudi LLP Partner Rahul Ravipudi has spent his legal career handling catastrophic injury and wrongful death cases involving commercial vehicles, pedestrians, industrial or construction accidents, utility negligence, dangerous conditions of public and private property as well as cases of sexual abuse and sexual assault. Ravipudi also represents consumers in class actions against businesses who engage in unfair/illegal business practices and public entities in cases where corporations have endangered the safety, health, property or comfort of the public. 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 which involves cases of children and young adults harmed or driven to suicide by social media algorithms.



DAVID RAWI

Partner
Lagerlof, LLP

Lagerlof, LLP partner David A. Rawi is a highly accomplished litigator and business attorney whose practice focuses on complex business, healthcare and commercial disputes. Based in the firm’s Encino office in Los Angeles County, Rawi has established himself as a trusted advisor to healthcare providers, medical businesses, and companies navigating sophisticated litigation and operational challenges. With more than 15 years of experience, he is widely recognized for his strategic approach, deep industry knowledge, and ability to resolve high stakes matters efficiently and effectively. He has successfully handled complex disputes involving business litigation, healthcare operations, real estate, fiduciary matters, and complex tort claims.



JOSEPH REITER

Partner
Hueston Hennigan LLP

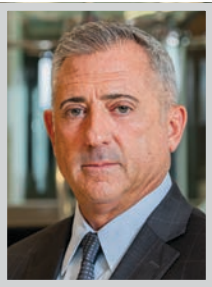
With a dozen trials under his belt, Joseph Reiter is a highly accomplished litigator and trial lawyer with a track record of high-profile wins at trial and on appeal. Reiter has built a reputation for creative, forceful advocacy. He routinely secures Hueston Hennigan’s most significant victories, many of which garner press across the country. Reiter has obtained highly favorable results across a broad range of complex litigation, including healthcare, antitrust, trade secret, class action, False Claims Act, whistleblower retaliation, employment, patent, and tax cases – securing wins for clients including Amazon, Kaiser, Price-waterhouseCoopers, Deloitte, the California Institute of Technology, BlackBerry, and the State Bar of California.



MARC ROHATINER

Partner
Wolf, Rifkin, Shapiro, Schulman & Rabkin, LLP

Marc Rohatiner has successfully tried numerous cases in a wide variety of industries. He is a partner in the litigation department of Wolf, Rifkin, Shapiro, Schulman & Rabkin, LLP. As a business litigator and trial attorney, Rohatiner has over 40 years’ experience representing parties with contract-based disputes in all industries. Rohatiner’s clients have included defense contractors, hotel owners, escrow holders, contractors, developers, common interest developments, entrepreneurs, movie producers and real estate brokers. Well regarded for his exceptional people skills, he has successively mediated and effectively arbitrated many disputes, ranging from those involving complex legal issues with multiple parties to cases driven more by emotions that need to be carefully addressed during the proceedings.



JEFF ROSENFELD

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

As partner-in-charge, Jeff Rosenfeld has helped Alston & Bird expand the firm’s strong presence in Los Angeles and California. Under his stewardship, and as a key driver for the firm’s Los Angeles and Century City offices, Rosenfeld has continuously strengthened and grown the firm’s West Coast headcount and client offerings. With close to four decades of experience handling complex commercial litigation, Rosenfeld’s practice focuses on trial and appellate litigation, with an emphasis on class action and other complex commercial litigation. A leader in litigation for his expertise and zealous advocacy for clients in highly contentious matters, his practice includes working with powerhouse companies in a range of industries.



FRED FUDACZ
Partner, Water Group



BYRON GEE
Partner, Water Group

Congratulations to
Fred Fudacz and **Byron Gee**
for being recognized on the
LABJ’s Leaders of Influence:
Litigators & Trial Attorneys list.



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Attorneys

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Gali Grant
PARTNER
LITIGATION

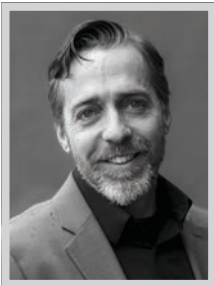


Jesse Levin
PARTNER
LITIGATION

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KRISTOPHER (KRIS) ROSSFELD

Managing Partner, White Collar, Investigations, and Compliance Practice
FROST LLP

Kristopher (Kris) Rossfeld is managing partner of FROST LLP's Investigations, Compliance, and Privacy practice. A longtime compliance leader and in-house counsel, Rossfeld combines comprehensive experience managing compliance investigations with designing ethics, artificial intelligence, privacy, and cyber security programs and responses. He has managed hundreds of compliance investigations in over 30 countries. He is also an accomplished commercial litigator with strengths handling antitrust, fraud, labor and employment, and commercial real estate matters, among other practice areas.

In February 2026, the Compliance team Rossfeld leads expanded to include three new partners.



DYLAN RUGA

Partner; Trial Lawyer
Stalwart Law Group

Dylan Ruga is certified by The State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization as a specialist in legal malpractice law, a distinction held by fewer than one-tenth of one percent of lawyers in Los Angeles County.

Known for his tenacity and professionalism, Ruga has built a reputation as a dedicated advocate who consistently achieves results by outworking and outmaneuvering his opponents. He is forward thinking and creating innovative paths for technology, AI and legal operations for his firm and challenging industry standards for client and case management. Ruga was recently the lead attorney in a tragic premises liability case against the City of Burbank concerning a drag racing fatality that resulted in a \$10 million settlement.



JENNIFER RUSSELL

Partner
Mendez & Sanchez APC

Jennifer Russell is a partner at Mendez & Sanchez and a highly respected plaintiff-side trial attorney known for delivering exceptional results in complex personal injury and wrongful death matters. Over the course of her career, Russell has tried nearly 50 cases throughout California, earning a reputation as an impressive courtroom advocate with a remarkable record of success.

In the past several years alone, Russell has secured multiple multi-million-dollar outcomes for her clients. In *Edward Hernandez v. Carlos Palomares, CCC America Inc., dba BNB Global*, Russell obtained a \$4,974,000 jury verdict after just 40 minutes of deliberation, with the total recovery exceeding \$5.5 million, including costs and interest. She also achieved an \$8,000,000 settlement in a hard-fought traumatic brain injury case.



RYAN SABA

Founding Partner
Rosen Saba, LLP

Ryan Saba is a nationally recognized leader in civil trial and litigation matters. His results have been impactful on society and have changed the legal landscape. Since 1997, Saba has prosecuted and defended individual, class action and mass action claims throughout the United States.

Saba has extensive experience in a wide range of federal and state matters, including consumer litigation, employment litigation, women's rights, complex business and entertainment disputes, catastrophic injury claims, professional responsibility, copyright/trademark, civil rights, maritime, and municipal, insurance bad faith, landowner, and product liability. On the plaintiff side, Saba obtains some of the largest settlements and verdicts each year. On the defense side, Saba is considered a premier "bet-the-company" trial lawyers.



JOHN SCHWAB

Partner
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

John Schwab is a trial lawyer whose practice centers on complex civil litigation, trials and arbitrations. He represents companies across a wide range of industries, including major media and entertainment companies, pharmaceutical manufacturers and emerging technology firms. He has led significant copyright and commercial disputes for studios, streaming platforms and industry groups, securing meaningful results at both the trial and appellate levels.

Schwab represented Disney in a series of closely watched lawsuits arising from the use of facial motion-capture technology in major motion pictures, including *Beauty and the Beast*, *Avengers: Infinity War* and *Avengers: Endgame*. He also represented nearly every cardroom in California in a landmark victory for the state's cardroom industry.

YUKEVICH | CAVANAUGH

Congratulations to our fearless leader,

James Yukevich,

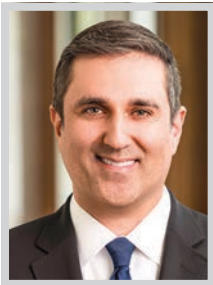
on his recognition as one of the

Los Angeles Business Journal's 2026

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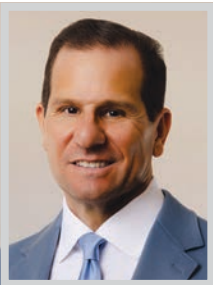
Litigators & Trial Attorneys."

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SHAWN SHAFFIE
Managing Partner
Parker Shaffie LLP

Shawn S. Shaffie, a partner at Parker Shaffie LLP, is a litigator who has built a career on handling complex, high-stakes disputes with skill, clarity, and a deep sense of professional responsibility. His work spans legal malpractice, business litigation, entertainment law, and professional liability. What distinguishes Shawn from others in the field is not only the breadth of his experience, but his measured approach to strategy and his insistence on preparation and precision. Since joining Parker Shaffie in 2016 and rising to partnership by 2020, Shaffie 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. He represents professionals such as lawyers, accountants and executives.



CARNEY SHEGERIAN
Founder
Shegerian & Associates

Carney Shegerian opened Shegerian & Associates in 1996 with a singular focus: representing employees against the largest corporations in the country. In the three decades since, he has personally tried more than 100 jury trials to verdict and has secured more than 50 seven-figure verdicts on behalf of California workers. His career recoveries for clients exceed \$1 billion. What sets Shegerian apart, however, is consistency. He goes to trial. In a profession increasingly defined by settlement, mediation and risk-aversion, he has tried more FEHA cases to verdict than virtually any plaintiff-side attorney in California, and he has done so against the country's largest defense firms. His success rate on those trials exceeds 98 percent.



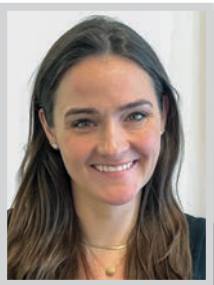
JUSTIN SHEGERIAN
Trial Attorney
Shegerian & Associates

Less than one year after passing the bar, Justin W. Shegerian stood before a Los Angeles jury as first chair trial counsel and returned the largest age discrimination verdict in United States history, a \$103 million jury verdict in Slagel v. Liberty Mutual Insurance. It was his first trial as first chair. Previously, no attorney is known to have won a nine figure employment verdict in their first year of practice. Shegerian developed the case narrative, delivering the opening statement and closing argument, conducting all key witness examinations, and introducing the documentary evidence that defined the liability theory. Shegerian has walked into courtrooms against seasoned defense firms and delivered outcomes that will shape how employers across the country assess the true cost of discrimination.



JOEL SIEGEL
Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office
Dentons

With nearly three decades of litigation experience, Joel Siegel has earned a national reputation as one of the country's premier trial lawyers, delivering favorable results in complex, high-exposure disputes. He is widely recognized for his strategic judgment and ability to resolve cases efficiently – whether by defeating class allegations at the earliest stages, securing dismissals, or achieving successful trial outcomes when settlement is neither possible nor prudent. As managing partner of Dentons' Los Angeles office, Siegel has led teams through a wide array of challenging cases, including defeating serial class actions under the California Invasion of Privacy Act, prevailing in multidistrict commercial disputes, and securing favorable verdicts in both state and federal courts across the country.



MEGAN SMITH
Partner
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Megan K. Smith is a partner within Willkie's Litigation Department and is a stand-out trial lawyer practicing in Los Angeles courts and courts across the country. Her practice spans many of Los Angeles' most important business sectors, including entertainment, fashion, sports, media and technology, finance, retail, energy, hospitality, insurance, real estate, and life sciences. The breadth of her client roster illustrates what sets Smith apart from others: she learns her client's businesses and becomes their most valued advisor on matters that keep them up at night. Smith has secured victories in federal and state courts, arbitrations, and agency proceedings. She has experience litigating and settling business disputes, intellectual property and trade secret matters, and criminal and regulatory proceedings.



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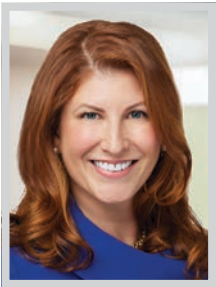
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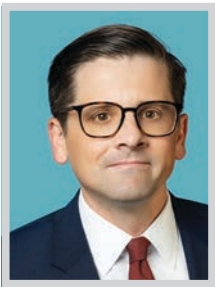
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LAURA SMOWE
Partner
Akin

Laura Smolowe’s career is marked by a series of standout accomplishments that reflect both her legal acumen and her leadership in high-stakes litigation. As a first-chair litigator and trial lawyer, she has successfully led complex commercial and employment-related cases for Fortune 500 companies across multiple industries, including finance, technology, insurance brokerage, healthcare and entertainment.

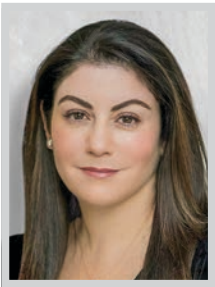
Smolowe distinguishes herself as a trusted strategist in the most high-stakes disputes. Leading corporate and fund clients have turned to her for their most sensitive and complex challenges. Her commercial litigation practice is anchored by a special concentration on trade secrets and employee mobility, areas where her insight and precision consistently deliver results.



CHARLES J. SNYDER
Partner
Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP

KBK partner Charles J. Snyder is a seasoned first-chair trial lawyer and former Supervisory Deputy Federal Public Defender who has served as lead or co-lead counsel in some of the Central District of California’s most significant and well-known recent cases, including co-leading the defense of former LA City Councilmember José Huizar and serving as lead trial counsel for nationally prominent plaintiff’s attorney Tom Girardi.

During his tenure as a member of the Federal Public Defender’s Office, Snyder compiled a trial record that includes acquittals in half of his federal criminal trials while appearing in hundreds of cases and supervising a team of trial lawyers. For nearly a decade, he has also served as a faculty instructor at the National Institute for Trial Advocacy.



SAMANTHA F. SPECTOR
Founder
Spector Law, A Professional Law Corporation

Samantha F. Spector is an internationally recognized California family law attorney and the founder of Spector Law, A Professional Law Corporation, a boutique firm established in 2012. She represents high-net-worth and high-profile clients in complex parentage cases throughout California, including Los Angeles, Orange County, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Silicon Valley, and San Francisco.

For over two decades, Spector has represented prominent figures in entertainment, sports and business as a leading high-asset divorce lawyer. She concentrates her practice on high-asset marital dissolutions, legal separations, domestic partnerships, domestic violence restraining orders, parentage actions, and complex child custody, visitation, and support matters.



ALEX SPJUTE
Counsel
BakerHostetler

Alex Spjute, counsel in BakerHostetler’s Los Angeles office, advises companies and executives across the full lifecycle of complicated disputes, often at moments where legal strategy and business priorities must be aligned quickly and decisively. His experience spans intellectual property disputes (including trademark and copyright), federal banking and financial services issues, contract and business tort matters, product liability exposure, class action defense, and a broad range of labor and employment claims, including wrongful termination, discrimination, misclassification, and wage and hour matters.

What makes Spjute unique is his ability to operate seamlessly at the intersection of legal risk, operational realities, and reputational considerations.



EMILY LOU STEENWYK
Managing Director
ForensisGroup

Emily Steenwyk has become a standout leader in the litigation support ecosystem by strengthening one of the most time-sensitive, high-stakes needs litigators face: securing the right expert witness - quickly, credibly and with confidence.

As managing director at ForensisGroup, Steenwyk has recognized that litigation is evolving - timelines are tighter, matters are more technically complex and attorneys are balancing more moving parts than ever. In response, she is deeply committed to continuously improving the firm’s processes and service model so the legal community can move faster without sacrificing the rigor required for court-ready testimony. Over the past 12–18 months, Steenwyk has focused on early case intake, expert identification and clear, consistent communication.



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**MERCY TOLENTINO
STEENWYK**
Founder; President
ForensisGroup

Mercy Tolentino Steenwyk is the founder and CEO of ForensisGroup and a recognized leader of influence in the litigation ecosystem because she built an expert witness firm on a principle that protects the integrity of the legal process: “Nothing But the Truth.” Long before “transparency” became a buzzword, Steenwyk saw a critical gap in how expert witnesses were sourced and used—too often, experts were treated like names on a list, selected without rigorous vetting, without clear communication and without the independence needed to withstand scrutiny in deposition and trial. She set out to change that.

ForensisGroup has supported attorneys, law firms and public and private agencies across thousands of areas of expertise—helping litigators navigate complex technical disputes.



WILLIAM O. STEIN
Partner
Fisher Phillips LLP

Bill Stein is an accomplished trial lawyer who has led more than 50 jury trials, bench trials, and arbitrations, earning an impressive track record of victories for clients across numerous industries in all California jurisdictions. He is a strong advocate who continuously listens to clients’ business goals, deftly negotiating settlements when advantageous or preparing to fight tenaciously at trial when winning is the only option—often prevailing so thoroughly that opposing counsel thinks twice before challenging his clients again.

Stein’s passion for intensive litigation and courtroom advocacy makes him an invaluable asset to Fisher Phillips. As employment litigation has increased nationwide, he has risen to meet this challenge head-on, positioning himself as a go-to resource for attorneys across the firm’s offices.



JOHN STOKES
Partner
Stris & Maher LLP

John Stokes has emerged as one of the leading trial lawyers of his generation. He wields exceptional responsibility and authority at Stris & Maher LLP, where he leads—and wins—cases with the highest possible stakes for his clients. His practice is defined by taking on matters that are existential to businesses and individuals alike, often stepping in when the outcome will determine control of a company, the viability of a business, or the recovery of hundreds of millions of dollars.

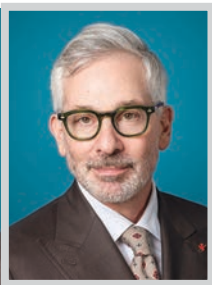
What distinguishes Stokes is his rare combination of first-chair trial leadership and strategic judgment across the full lifecycle of complex litigation. Clients and colleagues trust him not just to execute at trial, but to shape the case from the outset and then defend his wins on appeal.



ALEX STOLYAR
Partner
Loeb & Loeb LLP

Alex Stolyar prosecutes and defends high-stakes breach-of-fiduciary-duty claims and contractual disputes in all phases of commercial litigation in state and federal courts, as well as alternative dispute resolution proceedings, for a client base that includes Fortune 500 companies, a major foreign government, high net worth individuals, and multiple international conglomerates.

Stolyar’s diverse practice involves contested matters between majority and minority shareholders, limited and general partners, founders and investors, joint venturers, trustees and beneficiaries, and other principals and their fiduciaries. He has litigated across jurisdictions nationwide on issues spanning breach of contract, fraud, RICO, foreign judgment enforcement, probate, and commercial real estate disputes.



ADAM STREISAND
Partner
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter
& Hampton LLP

Adam Streisand is known for winning high-profile courtroom victories across the US. If you’ve seen it on HBO’s “Succession,” Streisand has likely litigated it in real life. Celebrities, musicians, pro sports franchises, athletes and some of the world’s wealthiest individuals and families turn to Streisand for battles over inheritance, fiduciary conduct and business succession.

Streisand made headlines in the last year for his landmark victory for media mogul Rupert Murdoch. In another notable settlement victory, Streisand represented Dea Spanos Berberian as a co-trustee of the Alex and Faye Spanos Family Trust in five years of litigation and settlement negotiations. In addition to his recent successes, Streisand is well known for his courtroom battles over estates of the very famous.



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Raines Feldman Littrell congratulates Laith Mosely on being recognized by the LA Business Journal as a 2026 Leader of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys.



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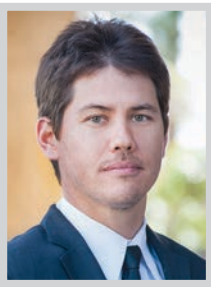
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PETER STRIS
Partner
Stris & Maher LLP

Peter Stris is one of the most prominent business litigators of his generation. He serves as a lead strategist and presenter in must-win trials, landmark appeals, and rapid media-response campaigns. In addition, he is the founding partner of LA-based Stris & Maher LLP.

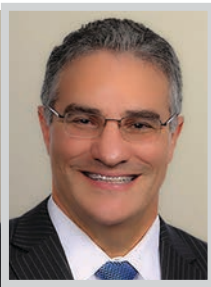
Stris has built one of the nation's premier business litigation boutiques. At 30+ lawyers and rapidly growing, the firm regularly represents clients in sophisticated business disputes in state and federal courts nationwide. The firm is one of the country's premier plaintiff-side appellate practices. In addition to building the firm, Stris has personally successfully first-chaired a variety of bet-the-company cases and handled dozens of high-profile appeals, including 10 Supreme Court arguments.



JASON TOKORO
Partner
Miller Barondess, LLP

Jason H. Tokoro is a trial lawyer with significant experience representing public and private entities in state and federal courts. He has extensive experience handling high-stakes, high-profile matters for an elite roster of clients across the entertainment, sports, real estate, government, and financial sectors, with a diverse practice spanning commercial disputes, civil rights, employment, intellectual property, malpractice, and complex business litigation.

As outside counsel to the County of Los Angeles, Tokoro manages many complex cases. His notable successes include securing a summary-judgment ruling for LA County in a high-profile collective action lawsuit obtaining a published decision from the Second District Court of Appeal in a pandemic-related lawsuit.



DARON TOOCH
Partner, Government Matters & Regulation Practice Group
King & Spalding, LLP

Daron Tooch focuses on managed care litigation and has recovered hundreds of millions of dollars for healthcare providers in civil actions and arbitrations against health plans, having tried over 150 cases before juries, judges and arbitrators in federal, state and administrative courts. He has dedicated his career to representing the interests of countless healthcare providers, which serve patients throughout the Los Angeles area, California, and the country.

Through several industry-shaping matters, Tooch has played a significant role in helping his clients provide high-quality care to their patients. He secured a favorable outcome for Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center against Kaiser Health Plan, obtaining a jury verdict in the amount of \$105,887,963.



ALICIA VAZ
Partner
Cox, Castle & Nicholson

Alicia Vaz is a seasoned trial and appellate attorney with a distinguished track record in real estate and high-stakes business litigation. As co-chair of Cox Castle's Litigation Department, Vaz brings a rare combination of litigation expertise, strategic insight, and executive leadership to her work.

Vaz has been hailed by clients for her effective, efficient and creative approach to resolving disputes, providing solutions that align with her clients' goals and business needs, either to avoid a lawsuit where feasible or to achieve a favorable result through litigation in a cost-effective manner. She is considered a strategist who develops crucial evidence, evaluates and advises her clients of their options, and executes a plan for settlement or success at trial.



THOMAS VIDAL
Partner
Pryor Cashman LLP

Thomas H. Vidal is a first-chair trial lawyer who is frequently retained in high-stakes governance and enterprise disputes where control, ownership, or reputation is at risk. A partner in Pryor Cashman's Litigation practice, he has spent more than twenty-five years representing founders, CEOs, investors, entrepreneurs, executives and high-net-worth individuals in complex disputes that often escalate beyond conventional settlement dynamics and must be prepared for trial from the outset.

Vidal has secured significant victories in courts across the country. Most recently, he obtained a \$26 million judgment—including \$15 million in punitive damages—in federal court in the Eastern District of New York in an elder abuse, fraud, and legal malpractice case involving the loss of control over a valuable property asset.



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LAURA WASHINGTON
Partner; Global Vice Chair, Complex Commercial Litigation Practice
Latham & Watkins LLP

Laura Washington is the global vice chair of Latham & Watkins’ Complex Commercial Litigation Practice. She is a member of the Entertainment Sports & Media Practice. She represents clients in complex business disputes and intellectual property litigation.

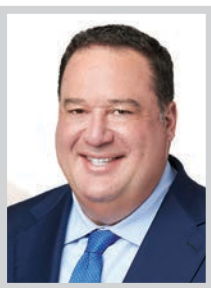
Washington has been praised for her creative and strategic approach to litigation. Her wide-ranging litigation experience includes pre-litigation counseling, trial, and appellate work. She has extensive motion and discovery experience, has conducted internal investigations, and has managed crisis responses. Her practice covers a broad range of business disputes, including unfair business practices, false advertising, fraud, contract, trade secret misappropriation, trademark and copyright infringement, and business torts.



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

Perrie Weiner, partner-in-charge of Baker McKenzie’s Los Angeles office and chair of the firm’s North America Securities Litigation Group, whose practice focuses on high-stakes securities class action and shareholder derivative litigation, SEC enforcement matters and complex class action business litigation, is acknowledged as a go-to advocate for hedge funds facing complex suits and CEOs squaring off against the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

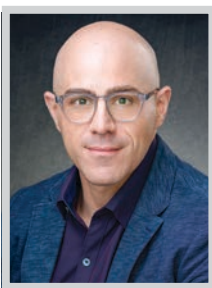
With more than 35 years of experience, Weiner’s international practice is well known to the global legal community. He advises private equity funds, including hedge funds, broker-dealers, underwriters, placement agents and issuers in SEC and FINRA enforcement proceedings, and in white-collar criminal cases.



ALEX WEINGARTEN
Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Alex Weingarten is recognized across the legal and business community for his results and leadership, helming Willkie’s Los Angeles office as managing partner. He maintains an active docket of high-stakes matters and his work over the last two years features decisive wins in entertainment-related commercial disputes, fiduciary litigation with material business consequences, and complex cross-border matters. He is known for his trademark tenacity.

Weingarten is an elite trial lawyer and trusted strategist in high-stakes litigation, particularly in entertainment, probate and commercial disputes. He is representing Tempo Music, an investment platform behind Bruno Mars’s “When I Was Your Man,” in a high-profile copyright and commercial rights case challenging Miley Cyrus’s “Flowers.”



JOSHUA WHITE
Founding Attorney; Chief Executive Officer
Laurel Employment Law, APC

Joshua White’s role at Laurel Employment Law is first and foremost that of a builder. Since founding the firm in March 2024, he has grown Laurel into one of the most dynamic plaintiff-side employment practices in the country — 25 attorneys, over 1,800 clients, and a remote-first culture that has been recognized among the best in the industry — all within the firm’s first two years of operation.

White built a firm where technology, culture, and legal excellence reinforce one another, and where clients get the kind of sophisticated advocacy that was previously reserved for clients of much larger, more established practices. His personal contribution to the firm’s legal work draws heavily on a decade of experience as a general counsel.



NIMALKA WICKRAMASEKERA
Co-Chair, Intellectual Property Practice
Winston & Strawn

Nimalka Wickramasekera is among the most accomplished intellectual property litigators practicing. As co-chair of Winston’s nationally recognized Intellectual Property Practice, she has built a distinguished record as a first chair trial lawyer who consistently delivers exceptional results in high stakes patent, technology, and complex commercial disputes. Her technical fluency, courtroom command, and strategic clarity have made her a go to advocate for leading companies in the medical device, technology, and life sciences sectors.

Over nearly 20 years of practice, Wickramasekera has served as first chair or co-lead in more than 15 trials across federal and state courts, the US International Trade Commission, and the Patent Trial and Appeal Board.

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Congratulations to Managing Partner Shant Karnikian, named to the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2026 "Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys."

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

Bart Williams is chair of Proskauer’s Litigation Department and head of the Los Angeles office. A nationally recognized commercial litigator, corporate counselor and trial lawyer, he is renowned for handling some of the most significant crises facing Fortune 500 companies. While he manages litigation matters from inception, he is also frequently brought in just months or even weeks before trial to secure a win.

A Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Williams has built a distinguished track record of success in high-stakes litigation, prevailing in both jury and bench trials nationwide. He shapes precedent and redefining standards through his role as lead counsel in many high-profile matters, including as lead trial counsel for Gilead Sciences in securing a trial victory in a \$3.6 billion antitrust case.



CHRISTINE WOODIN
Partner
Hueston Hennigan LLP

With a focus on high-stakes IP and complex commercial litigation, Christine Woodin regularly leads or serves as a core member of teams on some of Hueston Hennigan’s highest-profile matters, many of which have garnered national and worldwide press. She has worked on important cases in a variety of industries – including managing global patent licensing disputes, defending billion-dollar product lines from patent assertions, pursuing and defending business-critical anti-trust claims, and handling breach of contract and other important commercial disputes for her clients.

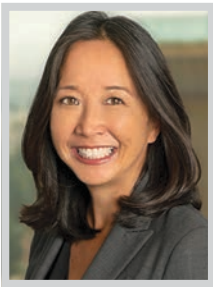
Woodin’s clients include Amazon, AbbVie, Medtronic, Match Group, Samsung Bioepis, Ericsson, TotalEnergies and Clear One.



JACK YEH
Partner
Sidley Austin LLP

Jack Yeh is a seasoned trial lawyer and litigation strategist who leads trial teams in complex commercial disputes throughout the country. He regularly represents both publicly traded companies and emerging businesses in a wide range of industries and has deep experience representing clients in government-regulated industries and disputes involving unfair competition, environmental issues, governmental regulations, the California Environmental Quality Act, public contracting, and governmental-related matters involving state, regional and local public agencies.

Yeh secured a victory for American Airlines in San Diego County Superior Court - defeating a motion for preliminary injunction that sought to immediately halt the airline’s newly launched commercial service at McClellan-Palomar Airport in Carlsbad.



STEPHANIE YONEKURA
Global Head, Investigations, White Collar, and Fraud Practice
Hogan Lovells

Stephanie Yonekura is one of the most trusted names in white collar defense and corporate investigations today. As the global head of Hogan Lovells’ Investigations, White Collar, and Fraud practice, she leads a team of more than 150 lawyers across 20 jurisdictions, guiding global corporations through some of their most complex and sensitive challenges. A former Acting US Attorney for the Central District of California, Yonekura brings unmatched credibility, deep trial experience, and a steady hand to crisis moments – whether in the courtroom, the boardroom, or before regulators.

Her combination of technical excellence, real-world insight, and authentic leadership make her a force in her field and a role model in the profession. Yonekura has secured high-profile victories.



JAMES YUKEVICH
Founding Partner
Yukevich | Cavanaugh

With over 100 jury trials under his belt representing Fortune 500 companies, James J. Yukevich is widely regarded as one of the best trial lawyers in the country. Augmenting his stature is his outstanding win percentage in contested civil trials. He 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, and many others.

Yukevich’s 30 years of legal experience began in the Bronx, New York District Attorney’s Office where he prosecuted violent felons and murderers to partner in a major New York firm.

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