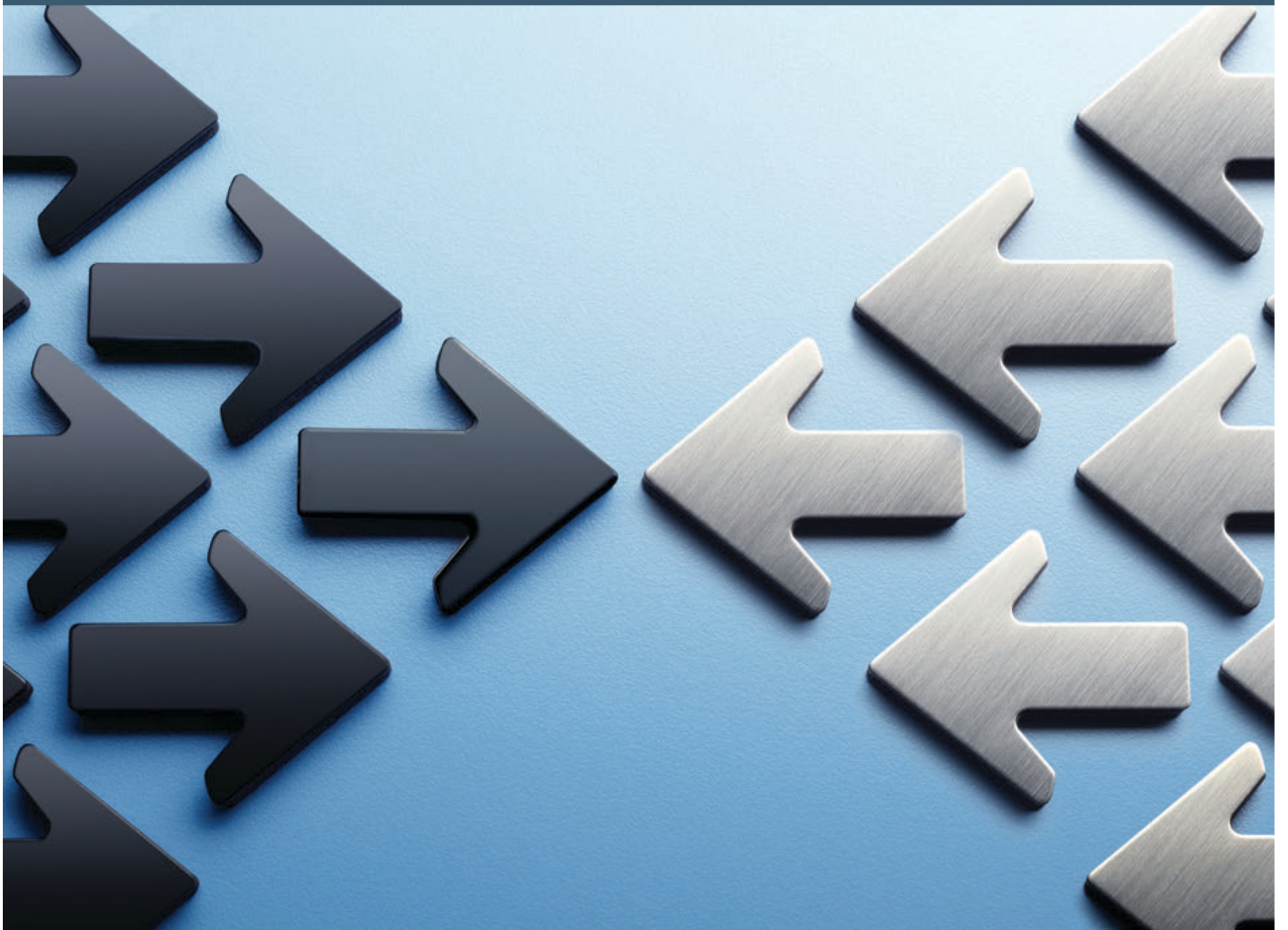


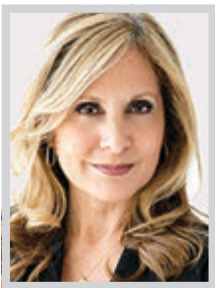
CUSTOM CONTENT
AUGUST 19, 2019

TOP LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS IN LOS ANGELES



THERE ARE MANY BRILLIANT ATTORNEYS IN LOS ANGELES – MASTERS OF THEIR CRAFT THAT CAN PREPARE INDIVIDUALS and businesses for any legal issue that should come up – while expertly writing the documents designed to protect their clients’ assets and livelihoods. But there is a very special breed of attorney that needs to transcend expert comprehension of the legal system – the litigator. Attorneys 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 have gathered some of the very best litigators in the business. These are the lawyers you want in your corner in court. We’ve alphabetically listed this lineup of superb litigation specialists, along with some basic information about their careers, practice and some relevant recent successes they’ve achieved. Congratulations to the attorneys who made this prestigious list!

TOP LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS



ANGELA AGRUSA
Co-Chair, Food and Beverage Sector; Co-Head, Business and Commercial Litigation
DLA Piper

Angela Agrusa knows that in the time it takes for a video to go viral, her agility in defense of her clients’ brands has never been more important. She represents clients, including high-profile individuals, corporations and municipalities, in highly visible and oftentimes sensational cases with a demonstrated ability to defeat and resolve matters at the bet-the-company level. Her success in the courtroom and an immersive understanding of the changing intersection of the social and legal landscapes that impact her clients’ brands and businesses has resulted in Agrusa’s development of long-term partnerships with such iconic brands as Danone, Hilton, Chipotle and G6.

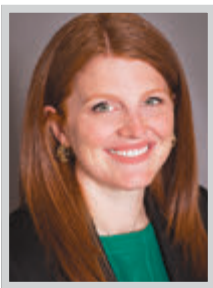
Within DLA Piper, Agrusa recently was made Co-Chair of the firm’s Food and Beverage sector as well co-head of its Business and Commercial Litigation, and in these roles she is expanding the firm’s footprint in California and beyond.



STEVEN E. BLEDSOE
Partner
Larson O'Brien LLP

Steven E. Bledsoe is a senior partner and trial lawyer at the litigation boutique Larson O'Brien LLP. He was previously an equity partner at Kirkland & Ellis and Arent Fox. After nearly 30 years in private practice, his trial experience rivals the most veteran Los Angeles litigators.

In 2019, Bledsoe served as trial counsel with his partner Stephen G. Larson, in the matter Colonial Chevrolet v. USA, US Court of Federal Claims, a decade-old lawsuit by 300 local car dealers who argue that they are entitled to payment under the Fifth Amendment’s takings clause for the market value of the businesses lost during the government’s 2009 bailout of Chrysler and General Motors. The plaintiffs argued that the Treasury Department’s restructuring required the auto companies to terminate more than 2,200 dealerships, instead of liquidating. The trial represented the culmination of three suits filed between 2010 and 2012 and later consolidated.



KIMBERLY BRANSCOME
Partner
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Kimberly Branscome is a highly regarded trial lawyer with a proven ability to provide effective counseling in crisis situations. Armed with a particular emphasis in mass tort litigation, she has served as lead trial counsel in a number of high-profile, bet-the-company cases, such as representing BP in Deepwater Horizon litigation; multistate ignition switch litigation on behalf of GM; and most recently, representing 3M in multi-district litigation involving earplugs.

Branscome served as a lead trial counsel in product liability litigation associated with Johnson & Johnson’s Baby Powder. In November 2018, Branscome obtained an important trial victory for J&J in the Superior Court of California. After two days of deliberation over plaintiff’s claims she had become sick using the product, the jury returned a unanimous verdict in favor of J&J, finding that Johnson’s Baby Powder performed safely and did not cause the plaintiff’s disease.



WILLIAM BRIGGS
Partner, Litigation
Venable LLP

William Briggs has handled a number of high-profile matters within the entertainment industry over the last year. Most notably, in a groundbreaking ruling, a California Appellate Court affirmed the decision of a trial court to dismiss a lawsuit against actor and comedian Marlon Wayans alleging harassment and discrimination over a tweet comparing a movie extra to a cartoon character. The court resoundingly ruled that the word was not an epithet but instead was a term of endearment in the context in which it was used, and that Marlon Wayans’ First Amendment rights trumped the claim of discrimination.

The court broke ground by ruling that Wayans’ tweet, which contained a picture of the plaintiff and the Cleveland Brown cartoon character, was transformative, since it juxtaposed the images with Wayans’ lampoon commentary and therefore was protected speech. The Appellate Court upheld the award of attorneys’ fees and granted additional appellate costs to Wayans.



LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

Latham & Watkins congratulates our colleagues **Marvin Putnam** and **Robert Perrin** for being recognized as Top Litigators and Trial Attorneys by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*

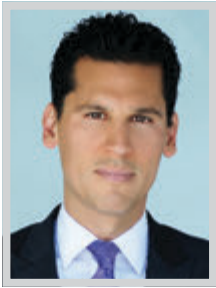


Marvin Putnam



Robert Perrin

TOP LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS



JOSHUA BRIONES

Member and Managing Member, Los Angeles Office
Mintz

Joshua Briones, a Litigation Member at Mintz and Managing Member of its Los Angeles office, is a highly experienced trial lawyer with a national practice. He has received awards and national recognition for his innovative approach to the defense of bet-the-company litigation. He has represented clients in such industries as financial services, building products, retail, pharmaceuticals, automotive, professional sports, food and beverage, petroleum, chemical manufacturing, health care, high technology, and higher education. He frequently publishes and lectures before national and local bar and industry organizations.

Briones has served as lead defense counsel on over 400 alleged class actions in state and federal courts across the country. He has successfully defended class actions on behalf of Sabre Inc., The Los Angeles Lakers, Inc., Cavaliers Operating Company, Pay Pal, Inc. eBay, Inc., CVS Pharmacy, Wal-Mart, Inc., Styles for Less, Inc., Yelp Inc., Hendrick Automotive Group and many others.

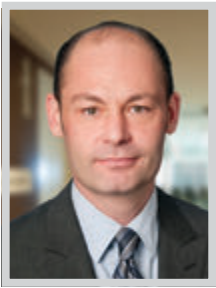


RALPH CAMPILLO

Member
Mintz

Ralph Campillo is a nationally renowned trial attorney whose specialty includes mass torts and all forms of complex litigation, including product liability, commercial disputes, and class actions. He often assumes lead roles in high-stakes cases, federal multidistrict litigations, and bellwether product liability cases. He draws on more than three decades of experience to regularly represent life sciences, pharmaceutical, medical device, and manufacturing companies in federal and state courts around the country.

Campillo has an unparalleled track record of success in high-profile cases involving product liability, mass torts, class actions, and other complex litigation matters. He also has considerable experience handling commercial matters. He has always practiced in Los Angeles, and was a partner at Sedgwick for almost 20 years. Currently he is a Member at Mintz in the firm’s dynamic Los Angeles office and heads the Products Liability Team there.



TODD A. CAVANAUGH

Partner
Yukevich | Cavanaugh

Todd A. Cavanaugh is the Co-Managing Partner of Yukevich Cavanaugh, a firm that consistently delivers on its mission — to give each client a special level of service and outstanding results in civil litigation defense. For more than 20 years, Cavanaugh has defended the interests of manufacturers and excess insurers in cases in state and federal courts in more than a dozen states and specializes in Product Liability, Automotive Product Liability, Excess Insurance Defense, Toxic Tort Litigation, and Mass Tort Litigation.

In product liability litigation, Cavanaugh has been a 2019 trendsetter in defending product liability cases premised on the consumer expectation test for design defect. Cavanaugh has also successfully defended the design, manufacture, and performance of a diverse array of products made by some of the world’s largest manufacturers. These products include automobiles, construction equipment, tires, automotive friction products, industrial machinery, and power generators.



MORGAN CHU

Partner - Chair of Litigation Practice
Irell & Manella LLP

Morgan Chu of Irell & Manella has secured a string of the world’s largest — and in some cases precedent-setting — verdicts, judgments and settlements, resulting in actual payments totaling more than \$5 billion. He has been described by clients as, “beyond doubt the most gifted trial lawyer in the USA — who “delivers staggering results.”

Continuing his winning streak, in July 2018, Chu convinced the Federal Circuit to side with Irell client NantKwest in a 7-4 en banc decision, rejecting the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office’s position that applicants who appeal to a district court must pay for the agency’s legal bills, regardless of who wins or loses. In another significant matter, in February 2018, Chu secured a favorable confidential settlement in a multi-patent action pending before the International Trade Commission and the Patent Trial and Appeal Board.

Cozen O’Connor congratulates our friend and colleague Matthew S. Steinberg on being named a Top Litigator by the Los Angeles Business Journal.

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1299 Ocean Avenue | Suite 900
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750 attorneys | 29 offices | cozen.com



HUESTON HENNIGAN LLP

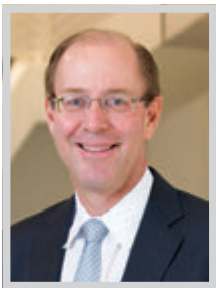
Congratulations



JOHN C. HUESTON MOEZ M. KABA

Top Litigators
—*Los Angeles Business Journal*

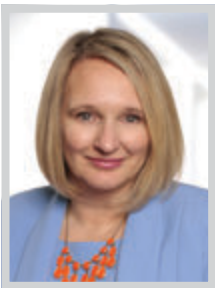
TOP LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS



CHARLES COX
Partner
Alston & Bird

Charles (Chuck) Cox is the leader of Alston & Bird’s Los Angeles Litigation Team and a partner in the firm’s Securities Litigation Group. Cox concentrates his practice on complex business disputes, including securities class actions, derivative litigation, fiduciary and other cases resulting from mergers and acquisitions, corporate control disputes, and commercial litigation. He represents clients across many industries, as well as financial institutions and professional services firms, in federal and state court proceedings, arbitration, and courts of appeal. He has tried more than a dozen cases to a verdict or arbitration award.

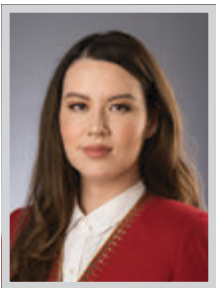
His recent practice highlights have included successful securities and merger-related litigation for a Fortune 100 technology company, major financial institutions and other significant public companies. He also serves as a member of the board of directors of Strength in Support, an organization dedicated to helping returning veterans.



ROBYN CROWTHER
Co-Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office
Steptoe & Johnson LLP

Robyn Crowther, who serves as co-managing partner of Steptoe’s Los Angeles office, has considerable first-chair trial and arbitration experience across a variety of litigation fields. One of the few female first-chair trial lawyers with a general litigation practice, Crowther has successfully litigated matters in many different arbitration forums, state and federal courts at the trial and appellate level. For many years, she has achieved successful results for her clients even under unlikely circumstances.

Last summer, Crowther secured a jury victory for Positron Systems Inc. in a multimillion-dollar case asserting tortious interference and other claims against Wyle Labs. At the conclusion of the trial, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Rita Miller told both parties that it was the best tried case she had seen in her 14 years on the bench despite the pre-trial rulings she made sharply curtailing the damages Positron could seek.



KARIN A. CURTIS
Partner
Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP

Karin A. Curtis is an experienced trial and litigation attorney at Gordon & Rees. She is a partner in the firm’s Los Angeles office and regularly practices throughout California state and federal courts. A seasoned and tenacious courtroom advocate, Curtis has conducted approximately 45 trials, as well as successfully argued hundreds of motions and hearings. Curtis excels in developing winning case-specific defense theories and strategies, as well as connecting with jurors at trial. She is experienced in the defense of a wide-range of business disputes including those involving contracts, consumer protection, product liability, professional liability, copyright, and torts.

Curtis gained tremendous trial experience in her prior capacity as a prosecutor in Miami. There, she was lead counsel in multiple high profile media cases covered by national and international media including The New York Times, CNN, and Huffington Post.



JOHN DARLING
Senior Shareholder
Hunt Ortmann

John Darling is an effective senior commercial litigator with a nationwide practice focused on the resolution of construction and commercial real estate conflicts and on complex business litigation across numerous industry groups and business sectors. A seasoned courtroom veteran, Darling has tried more than 100 cases throughout California and the United States. Clients benefit from his keen understanding of what it takes to win at trial, whether in front of a judge or an impaneled jury. Darling is equally adept at alternative dispute resolution, with a significant portion of his client’s success coming from either mandatory or elective arbitration proceedings.

Among Darling’s recent successes is his work representing Mallcraft, Inc. against the Glendale Community College District, where he achieved a significant settlement on behalf of the general contractor. Glendale settled the case for nearly \$11 million dollars after the first week of a four-week arbitration.

rise to the top

In his legal career spanning 29 years, David Schultz has cultivated countless strong and long-standing relationships with colleagues and clients and in the community. As a passionate champion of Los Angeles and respected leader within the profession, David symbolizes the very definition of an influential attorney.

We proudly congratulate David Schultz for being named a Most Influential Litigator and Trial Attorney by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*.

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The choice of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Polsinelli PC, Polsinelli LLP in California.

Holland & Knight proudly congratulates our own

Vivian Thoreen and Vince Farhat

2019 Top Litigators

We salute all of the attorneys recognized by the
Los Angeles Business Journal for this incredible honor.



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TOP LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS



MARISSA DENNIS
Partner
Allen Matkins

Marissa M. Dennis is a litigation partner in the Los Angeles office of Allen Matkins where she was recently appointed Office Operating Partner. Her litigation practice is focused on commercial, real estate, and financial services litigation and she currently leads the firm's FinTech Litigation Initiative. Dennis commonly represents commercial landlords, tenants and developers in a variety of breach of contract and tort actions, as well as national lenders and servicers in complex consumer finance litigation.

Dennis also has extensive experience representing technology companies in unfair competition and false advertising claims, including in multiple class actions. She has chaired numerous jury trials, bench trials, and arbitrations, and has argued before the California Court of Appeal and federal and state courts throughout California. A large portion of her practice of late has been representing landlords and tenants in Fair Market Rent disputes.



RICHARD J. DOREN
Partner
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

For the last 30 years, Rich Doren has solidified a reputation among clients and peers as a masterful litigator and trial attorney. When the stakes are at their highest, clients call on Doren to handle their most complex matters from inception through trial and appeal in state and federal courts across the country. An agile litigator who handles complex civil litigation across a broad array of substantive areas, Doren has also built an industry-shaping practice representing insurers across a spectrum of business segments, including health, life, homeowners and commercial general liability.

Notably, he recently defended Apple's contract manufacturers in high-stakes anti-trust litigation against Qualcomm. He also secured a West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals victory in a \$121 million lawsuit filed against his client, an AIG subsidiary. He also recently won a substantial Appellate Court victory for Cigna against a chiropractic health care provider.



MARK DROOKS
Principal
Bird, Marella, Boxer, Wolpert, Nessim, Dooks, Lincenberg & Rhow, PC

Mark Dooks focuses his practice on civil litigation and arbitration. He has been lead counsel in more than 50 civil trials and arbitrations that have been litigated to final decision. He has argued several appeals in state and federal courts. Dooks has substantial experience representing clients in breach of contract and business tort cases arising out of complex business transactions. He often represents co-owners of businesses in partnership disputes. He has frequently represented lawyers and other professionals in connection with partnership breakups, ethical issues and malpractice claims and has represented defendants in several consumer protection class action cases.

Securities matters are an area of particular expertise for Dooks. He has represented broker-dealers, investment advisers and investors in both individual and class actions. He has represented broker-dealers in various lawsuits and in more than 200 customer dispute arbitrations.



ERIC EARLY
Managing Partner
Early Sullivan Wright Gizer & McRae LLP

Eric Early, who recently announced he is running for Congress, was a candidate for California Attorney General in the 2018 California Primary. Although a first-time candidate for political office, he received more than 950,000 votes, and secured the endorsements of many prominent California Republicans including former Congressman Darryl Issa, former Los Angeles County D.A. Steve Cooley, former Secretary of State George C. Schultz and former State Senate Republican Leader Pat Bates.

Early is also Early Sullivan Wright Gizer & McRae's Managing Partner, and regularly represents Fortune 500 real estate companies and entertainment industry players. He has built one of the fastest growing law firms in California. One example of his recent success is the matter of Pak v. First American Title Insurance Company (Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 18STCV04840). Early and the firm obtained a judgment of dismissal for the firm's client, First American Title Insurance Company.



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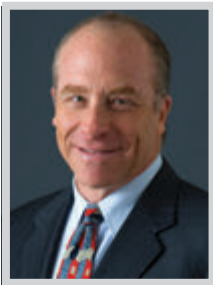


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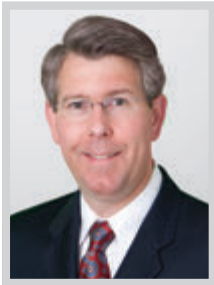
TOP LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS



SCOTT A. EDELMAN
Partner, Co-Chair of the Media, Entertainment & Technology Practice
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Scott A. Edelman has first-chaired numerous jury trials, bench trials and arbitrations, including class actions, taking well over 20 cases to final verdict or decision. He has substantial experience trying high stakes cases and has a broad background in commercial litigation, including antitrust, class actions, employment, entertainment and intellectual property, real estate and product liability. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Among his recent trial highlights, Edelman won a defense jury verdict on all claims in a five-week, first-of-its-kind antitrust trial. He also successfully defended a private equity client against fraud charges in a two-week trial in Delaware. In December of last year, Edelman scored a resounding trial victory for SIG Growth Equity Fund I, a private equity fund, and its managing agent, Susquehanna Growth Equity.



VINCE FARHAT
Equity Partner
Holland & Knight

Vince Farhat is a partner in Holland & Knight's Los Angeles office and a member of the West Coast Litigation Group, Compliance Services Team, and Healthcare & Life Sciences Team. Farhat has extensive jury trial experience and focuses his practice on representing companies and individuals in criminal and civil investigations and prosecutions by government enforcement agencies, as well as complex federal litigation. He also advises companies and tribal clients in connection with complex and sensitive internal investigations.

Prior to joining Holland & Knight, Farhat served as an assistant United States attorney in the Major Frauds Section of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California. In that position, he investigated and prosecuted white-collar crimes, including healthcare fraud, bank fraud, mail fraud, wire fraud, bankruptcy fraud and money laundering. While in the Major Frauds Section, Farhat served as the criminal healthcare fraud coordinator for the U.S. Attorney's Office.



MILES FELDMAN
Founding Partner and Chair of Trials, Litigation and Dispute Resolution Department
Raines Feldman LLP

Miles Feldman is a founding partner of Raines Feldman LLP. He heads the Trials, Litigation and Dispute Resolution Department of the firm with more than 12 litigators. A seasoned trial lawyer, Feldman has over two decades of experience handling hard fought and often high-profile cases through trial and appeal, as well as in numerous arbitration forums. Prior to launching Raines Feldman LLP more than nine years ago, Feldman was a partner with two of Los Angeles' most prominent business litigation firms.

Feldman regularly gets results in cutting-edge litigation disputes for some of LA's most forward thinking and vanguard businesses in technology, media and finance. Feldman was also the driving force and architect of several landmark cases that changed practices in the entertainment industry, involving California's seven-year employment rule, copyright fair use, the Talent Agency Act, and the descendability of rights of publicity.



DEBORAH J. FOX
Partner, Chair of Trial & Litigation Practice and First Amendment Practice
Meyers Nave Riback Silver & Wilson, PLC

Deborah Fox is a Partner in the Los Angeles office of Meyers Nave and a member of the firm's three-person Executive Committee. Fox founded, built and leads two of the firm's most prominent statewide practices – Trial & Litigation Practice and First Amendment Practice. The cases that Fox handles confirm her reputation as a go-to attorney for "bet-the-government" litigation, particularly involving man-made or natural disasters.

Fox is selected by government entities, such as cities, counties and special districts, to handle their highest profile, most complex and often most controversial litigation matters. She is well known for handling matters that are already front-page news or likely to become a headline as the case unfolds and after it concludes. Fox's complex litigation experience includes multi-party and multi-district cases, civil litigations that are intertwined with pending criminal actions, and matters that require managing, researching, reviewing and interpreting extensive electronic information.

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MIRA HASHMALL

TOP LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS



MICHAEL GARFINKEL
Partner
DLA Piper

Michael Garfinkel is an entertainment and media litigator with more than 25 years' experience navigating his clients' most challenging issues. He represents studios, production companies, talent agencies, advertising agencies and artists in matters involving intricate industry-specific agreements, trademark, copyright and right of publicity disputes, trade secrets and defamation. In addition, Garfinkel also represents a variety of clients in commercial litigation. Garfinkel's long-view approach, hands-on manner and problem solving skills have resulted in enduring client relationships. He relentlessly pursues his clients' goals, whether through pre-dispute advice, creative resolution or, when necessary, arbitration, trial and on appeal. He is described by clients as "extremely knowledgeable and reliable," and "always very quick and efficient." Since joining DLA Piper in January of 2018, Garfinkel has expanded the Media, Sport and Entertainment sector and enhanced the firm's Intellectual Property and Technology group.



JULIE R. F. GERCHIK
Partner
Glaser Weil

Julie R. F. Gerchik litigates all types of complex commercial matters including financial institution matters, securities litigation and regulatory matters, real estate and developer disputes, technology and IP matters, and entertainment matters. She has considerable experience in all aspects of motion practice, discovery, mediation and both trial and arbitration work in both federal and state court. Gerchik represents major domestic and international financial institutions, private equity firms, hedge funds, financial advisory firms, and currently or has represented JP Morgan Chase, Deutsche Bank, Societe Generale, the Carlyle Group and the Yucaipa Companies. She also has successfully defended accounting firms in civil litigation, including Ernst & Young LLP, Deloitte & Touche LLP and KPMG LLP. Gerchik has represented numerous other clients including recent high profile and confidential litigation disputes involving a gaming company, entertainment executive, real estate development business, and a high net worth executive.



JEFFREY D. GOLDMAN
Partner
Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP

Jeffrey D. Goldman is among the nation's top music litigators, having represented as lead counsel all of the world's major record companies and music publishing companies, and having received an Honorary Gold Record by the Recording Industry Association of America for his work on the Napster copyright infringement case. His clients have included all of the world's largest record companies and music publishing companies, Apple, Coca-Cola, Muhammad Ali, Eminem, and Dr. Dre. Goldman's specialized areas of litigation include intellectual property, copyright, and music industry litigation. Recently, he was successful in two Ninth Circuit appeals on important issues for the copyright bar. In 2018, Goldman also represented two members of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame band The Rascals, as well as their manager Steven Van Zandt of the E Street Band and The Sopranos, in Beata Music, LLC v. Dino Danelli and Eddie Brigati, a trademark infringement action.



JUSTIN M. GOLDSTEIN
Partner
Sklar Kirsh LLP

Justin M. Goldstein has extensive trial and appellate experience handling a wide range of business, entertainment, and intellectual property disputes in state and federal courts, as well as in arbitration. He has successfully counseled and represented some of the Fortune 500's and entertainment industry's most influential entities in a variety of commercial and intellectual property matters. Recent representative matters include representing a significant company stakeholder in an arbitration proceeding against a company CEO to block a seven-figure bonus demanded by the CEO. Goldstein prevailed in the arbitration. He also represents Myers Power Products in the ongoing matter of a trade secret case concerning theft of company designs and pricing information by departing employees who joined a newly formed competitor. Goldstein obtained a preliminary injunction to stop the sale of competitor. He represents many other high profile organizations such as Disney Parks & Resorts, CBS Studios, Southern California Edison Company, and others.

Congratulations
to our Managing Partner

Christian Scali

named *Los Angeles Business Journal* 2019

Top Litigator

ScaliRasmussen



TOP LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS



DAVID GRAELER

Partner, Chair Litigation Department
Co-Chair Real Estate Practice
Nossaman LLP

David Graeler serves as Chair of Nossaman's Litigation Practice Department and Co-Chair of its Real Estate Practice Group. Graeler also serves on Nossaman's Executive Committee. With over 20 years of litigation and trial experience representing both plaintiffs and defendants, Graeler excels at partnering with clients to identify their goals and to develop and execute winning strategies to effectively resolve complex business disputes. Through the development of his civil trial practice, Graeler has honed his ability to communicate and connect with judges and juries, as well as with clients, witnesses, and other attorneys. He focuses his practice on the representation of public and private sector clients principally in the areas of real estate, eminent domain, construction, and commercial disputes.

Graeler currently serves on the Judicial Appointments Committee for the Los Angeles County Bar Association, which assists the Governor in evaluating judicial candidates for the Los Angeles County Superior Court.



J. MIRA HASHMALL

Partner
Miller Barondess LLP

Mira Hashmall is an exceptional litigator and certified appellate specialist with a broad range of experience litigating complex civil matters. She has represented healthcare companies, commercial banks, government agencies, and entertainment studios, among others. Hashmall specializes in employment litigation and has experience resolving racial, sexual, age, and national origin harassment and discrimination claims, as well as retaliation, wage and hour, and wrongful termination claims for private and public employers. She has also litigated cases involving disability discrimination and accommodation, and family and medical leave rights.

Hashmall also has extensive healthcare experience and has represented Windsor Healthcare, Cedars Sinai Medical Center, and Newport Bay Hospital. In addition to being a top trial attorney, Hashmall is also a Certified Appellate Specialist and has handled over 50 appeals. She heads the appellate practice at Miller Barondess, where her unique appellate experience helps provide specialized knowledge from pre-trial through trial.



CRAIG J. HOLDEN

Partner
Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP

Craig Holden is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Lewis Brisbois, co-chair of the national Complex Business & Commercial Litigation and White Collar Defense Practices, and vice-chair of the Directors & Officers and Securities Litigation Practice. Holden's practice includes a wide range of domestic and international commercial matters, with an emphasis on complex business transactions, intellectual property and unfair competition, data security and breach, investment and real estate transactions, and high-stake business and employment disputes.

As a litigator, Holden is a skilled trial lawyer with first-chair experience in jury trials in federal and state court, as well as bench trials and numerous arbitrations; and he has served as lead appellate counsel in state and federal appellate courts. He has also been effective in getting clients early resolution of disputes through strategic and dispositive motion practice or alternative dispute resolution.



MARK HOLSCHER

Partner
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Mark Holscher's 30-year career has cemented him as one of California's most creative and winning trial attorneys. In 2018, the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers inducted Holscher as a Fellow. Clients describe him as "great on his feet, very strategic and always available." Another client remarked that he is "a go-to litigator for tough matters."

As a nationally recognized trial lawyer, Holscher represents clients in their most significant matters across an array of industries. These matters range from securities litigation and white-collar and regulatory investigations, to trade secret and high-profile employment disputes. For example, Holscher defended Sydney Holland in a \$150 million civil action brought by Sumner Redstone, the former Executive Chairman of Viacom Inc. and CBS Corporation, which alleged claims of elder abuse, breach of fiduciary duty and fraud. Holscher and team negotiated a settlement for Holland resulting in dismissal of all claims.

Buchalter

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOP LITIGATORS AND TRIAL LAWYERS OF 2019

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL



Joshua Mizrahi
Shareholder

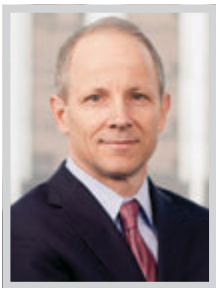
Eric Kennedy
Shareholder



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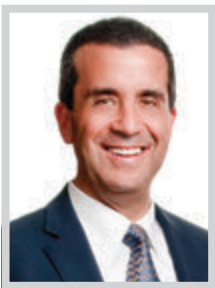
TOP LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS



JOHN C. HUESTON
Partner
Hueston Hennigan LLP

John Hueston continues to serve California in key leadership positions. In 2018, Hueston was chosen to serve as Chair of Sen. Kamala Harris’ Central District of California Judicial Commission, where he assists Senator Harris in vetting candidates for the U.S. Court of Appeals and the U.S. District Court.

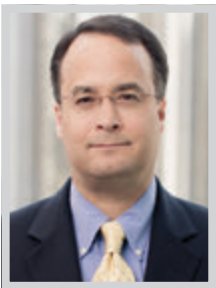
Under Hueston’s leadership, and in just over four years, Hueston Hennigan has gained national accolades and a stellar reputation for a creative and often disruptive approach to litigation with clients including Amazon, Allergan, IMDb, T-Mobile, Tesla, Taco Bell, SpaceX, Walt Disney Company, Sumner Redstone, Alec Baldwin, Western Digital, and PwC, to name a few. With ever-increasing frequency, the firm is asked by new clients to replace “big law firms” in important and complex litigation. In addition, high profile and leading business icons such as Elon Musk, and Bill Koch increasingly seek Hueston’s assistance on their most pressing matters.



LAWRENCE ISER
Managing Partner
Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump & Aldisert LLP

Lawrence Iser, the Managing Partner of KWIKA, handles complex, high profile matters around the country for clients including Mattel, SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Saban Brands, Warner Chappell, Del Records, ICM Partners, Roland Corporation, and iconic musical artists including Jackson Browne, Crosby, Stills & Nash, David Byrne and Richard Carpenter. He has received various accolades over the years for his expertise in IP matters.

For over 20 years, Iser has counseled and litigated on behalf of Mattel, Inc. concerning a variety of business disputes and intellectual property matters with respect to the Barbie, Hot Wheels, American Girl, and Monster High brands, among others. Iser and his team obtained summary judgment against a writer who claimed to own (and sought to recapture) a copyright interest in Mattel’s Masters of the Universe franchise, thereby paving the way for the development of a major motion picture by Sony.



ROLAND JUAREZ
Partner
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

Roland Juarez is known for handling high-stakes labor and employment cases for some of California’s largest and most high-profile employers, and he has successfully defended clients against the most challenging claims facing employers in California and across the nation. He has secured impressive victories for his clients through innovative strategies — whether by obtaining a trial win for an advertising agency with major implications for the industry itself, obtaining a dismissal of an arduous H-1B visa wage case in the tech and aerospace industry, or finding a breakthrough in a case for a California aerospace giant.

In a potentially precedent-setting case under the Immigration & Nationality Act, involving the H-1B visa program, Juarez secured a win via summary judgment, obtaining dismissal of 74 claims of back pay. In another significant victory, Juarez secured a trial win on behalf of United Collective and Gallegos United (Gallegos), a Southern California-based advertising agency.



MOEZ M. KABA
Partner
Hueston Hennigan LLP

Moez Kaba is a co-founder of Hueston Hennigan LLP. His practice encompasses an array of general complex civil litigation, including, securities, trade secrets, intellectual property, entertainment, and antitrust, and white-collar defense and investigations. He has practiced in state, federal, trial, and appellate courts in California, New York, Delaware, Florida, and Colorado. Clients have called Kaba “one of the best young trial lawyers I’ve ever seen,” and have said “He is innovative, smart and able to see problems from various perspectives. His oral advocacy skills are second to none.”

Kaba has had many recent successes in the last year alone. For example, recently, he obtained a complete defense victory for Caltech after a four-week jury trial in Los Angeles, successfully argued in the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals that a social network is immune from liability for third party statements.





TRUST & PROBATE ESTATE LITIGATION

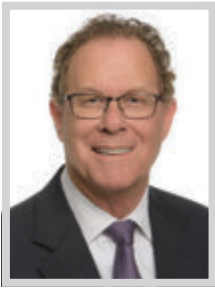
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RMOLawyers.com

Congratulations to our Managing Partner **Scott Rahn** named
Los Angeles Business Journal 2019 Top Litigator.

TOP LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS



STEVEN KAUFMANN
*Partner, Environment
and Land Use and Coastal Groups
Nossaman LLP*

Steven Kaufmann is one of the foremost Coastal Commission land use lawyers in California. He has over four decades of experience representing the California Coastal Commission and landowners, developers, public entities and public utilities with matters before that agency. His work is unique among Commission practitioners because it involves not only a broad array of Coastal Commission administrative matters, but also a substantial amount of litigation involving challenges to or defense of Commission decisions.

He has a track record for producing successful results for clients on a host of projects involving complex energy or transportation issues; wetlands, environmentally sensitive habitat and other habitat-related issues; golf courses, marinas, traditional hotels, time-shares and condominium hotels; residences, subdivisions, and commercial uses; and public agency projects. Prior to entering private practice, Kaufmann worked from 1977 to 1991 at the California Attorney General's office representing the Coastal Commission.



MARK D. KEMPLE
*Shareholder and Co-Chair, Labor & Employment
Class and Collective Action practice; Leader, Southern
California Labor & Employment Practice
Greenberg Traurig LLP*

Mark D. Kemple, Greenberg Traurig's national Co-Chair of its L&E Class and Collective Action Practice and leader of its southern California L&E Practice, is nationally recognized as one of the leading labor and employment class and collective action litigators. He also specializes in California wage and hour cases.

In the past two years, Kemple has scored significant wins for major clients such as Walmart, Abercrombie and Fitch, and Marriott Ownership Resorts, and secured a precedent-setting decision on behalf of client KFC. This latter success followed years of Kemple's focus in the area of removals. Kemple also successfully argued this in 2018 on behalf of Great American Chicken Corporation (dba KFC), holding that a plaintiff does not establish the "local controversy" exception to federal jurisdiction under the Class Action Fairness Act if more than two-thirds of the class-action members are citizens of the forum state.



ERIC KENNEDY
*Shareholder
Buchalter, PC*

Eric Kennedy is a Shareholder in the Los Angeles office of Buchalter. His practice focuses on complex litigation matters in two areas: autonomous vehicles and general commercial litigation. Kennedy has substantial experience in both state and federal court and has tried cases on both coasts. He also has significant experience managing deals relating to social media influencers.

Kennedy is the co-chair of the firm's Autonomous & Intelligent Systems and Automotive Industry Practice Groups. He focuses on the legal issues impacting the autonomous vehicle industry, including product liability and regulatory concerns and intellectual property protection. He recently managed a nationwide survey of local vehicle regulations and their impact on the development and design of autonomous vehicles for a large auto manufacturer heavily invested in the development of autonomous technology. He also has substantial experience litigating commercial matters with an emphasis on class action defense and disputes.



DALE KINSELLA
*Founding Partner
Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump & Aldisert LLP*

Dale Kinsella is a nationally known trial lawyer specializing in the areas of entertainment and intellectual property litigation. During his career, he has successfully tried numerous cases in state and federal courts, and in private arbitrations and administrative proceedings, involving a wide array of disputes, from copyright and trademark infringement matters to antitrust and securities litigation.

Kinsella currently represents the executive producer of the hit television series *Bones* in a lawsuit against 20th Century Fox Television, the Fox network and affiliated companies. The plaintiff alleges that 20th Century Fox Television cheated him out of his share of profits from the show, and that network executives threatened to cancel the series if he did not accept a lower licensing fee from Fox. The arbitration resulted in a \$179 million award for the plaintiffs. The case is now pending confirmation in the Los Angeles Superior Court.



Kimberly Branscome



Mark Holscher



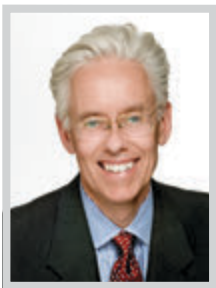
KIRKLAND & ELLIS

Kirkland & Ellis congratulates partners

Kimberly Branscome
& Mark Holscher

on being named to the *Los Angeles Business Journal's*
2019 list of Top Litigators & Trial Lawyers.

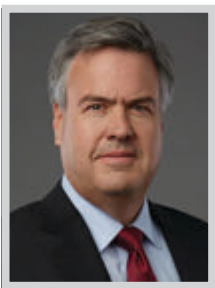
TOP LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS



MICHAEL KUMP
Partner
Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump & Aldisert LLP

Michael Kump, name partner at leading entertainment litigation boutique Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump & Aldisert, has been at the forefront of numerous high profile matters in the past two years.

In one of the highest profile cases in the entertainment business, Kump represented The Management Group (TMG) and its principals, Joel and Rob Mandel. When TMG started to foreclose on a secured loan to their former long-time client, actor Johnny Depp, Depp filed a lawsuit in state court in Los Angeles concerning TMG’s representation of him. Kump responded by filing a highly publicized cross-complaint against Depp for fraud and breach of contract. The matter was heavily litigated for over 18 months. All of the lawsuits were dismissed in August 2018 on the eve of trial. Additionally, Kump has represented the Kardashian and Jenner sisters, and their mother/manager Kris Jenner, in numerous matters over the past several years.



STEPHEN G. LARSON
Partner
Larson O’Brien LLP

Former U.S. District Judge and Magistrate Judge, Stephen G. Larson may be the only former federal judge who maintains an active trial practice. Since leaving the bench in 2009, he has co-founded one of California’s fastest growing litigation boutiques and emerged as a go-to lawyer for high stakes business litigation.

Currently, Larson is at the center of many of the nation’s most high-profile commercial and white collar criminal matters, has amassed an impressive string of trial victories since 2016, and is currently lead appellate counsel in more than a dozen pending appeals. In the last year, Larson has represented former USC Water Polo coach Jovan Vavic in the college admissions scandal, witnesses in Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation and the House of Representatives investigation into Russian election interference, and a production company in a civil dispute to recover tens of millions of dollars lost to a fraudulent financing deal.



REBECCA LAWLOR
Partner
Greenspoon Marder LLP

Rebecca Lawlor Calkins is a partner in the Litigation practice group at Greenspoon Marder LLP. Calkins has extensive experience in a wide variety of business litigation matters for clients in the technology, software and music industries. She has successfully handled notable copyright and trademark infringement matters, including landmark copyright victories in high profile cases.

In one example of a recent success, Lawlor represented an internet site where the plaintiff alleged numerous copyright and trademark infringements and violations of rights of publicity relating to the extensive collection of rock memorabilia and recordings once owned by legendary concert promoter Bill Graham and available on the site. The District Court dismissed all claims against the internet site without leave to amend and granted the internet site its full attorneys’ fees. She also recently obtained a complete dismissal for an international motor sport celebrity from a lawsuit seeking over \$21 million in damages.



SUSAN LEADER
Partner
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Akin Gump partner Susan Leader is a recognized leading litigator in California with an impressive track record for securing favorable verdicts in highly publicized, bet-the-company cases. It is her intense focus in these high stakes matters as well as her well-honed trial skills that make her a go-to lawyer for many global players including Bliss Media, DirecTV and Playboy.

Among her significant recent matters, Leader is representing Gentle Monster, a Korean sunglasses brand, in a high profile fraud and breach of contract action relating to an agreement with defendants to produce videos featuring Kanye West, Pharrell Williams and other artists. Gentle Monster alleges that defendants engaged in an elaborate and well-orchestrated scam that included forging Kanye’s signature, creating a shell company named after Kanye’s deceased mother, and creating fake invoices. This marquee lawsuit has received significant media coverage and is currently pending in Los Angeles Superior Court.



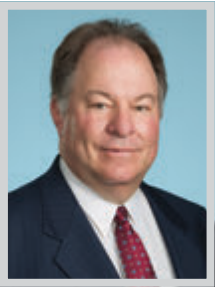
Honoring
Achievement



We are proud to join in congratulating our own **Joshua Briones** and **Ralph Campillo** on being named among the **2019 Top Litigators & Trial Lawyers** by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*.



TOP LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS

**MARK LITVACK**

Partner
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman

Mark Litvack is an accomplished litigator with experience in trademark, copyright and general commercial cases from New York to California and from Florida to Washington. He has won jury verdicts defeating multimillion-dollar claims and has won eight-figure jury verdicts for plaintiff corporate clients. As lead counsel, Litvack has successfully defended numerous multimillion-dollar class action lawsuits across various industries. He is the Executive Partner in charge of Pillsbury's Contingency matters. He is also a member of the firm's Finance Committee.

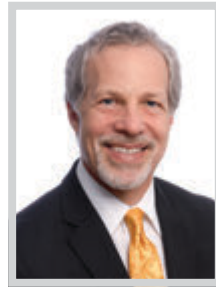
Among his representative matters and key successes include CEE v New Roads for which as lead trial lawyer, Litvack won a unanimous jury verdict for a school that it had not breached any agreements regarding its financing. The win literally saved the school. Also, in Pradmore v j2, Litvack obtained a demurrer for the defendant holding that its class action waiver and arbitration provisions in its customer agreement were enforceable.

**BARRY MACNAUGHTON**

Co-Managing Partner
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP

Barry MacNaughton focuses on business and commercial litigation with an emphasis on real estate matters, specific performance, eminent domain, purchase and sale disputes and partnership disputes. He has significant experience litigating contract disputes, trade secret and unfair competition litigation, trademark rights, litigation over corporate governance matters and insurance bad faith and coverage litigation. In addition, MacNaughton handles dispute resolution relating to the preparation, litigation and settlement of construction claims, including matters before the American Arbitration Association. He also handles problem and litigation avoidance, protection of contractors trade secrets and data rights and provides counseling regarding various construction and environmental issues.

In CRCH, LLC v. Lakha Properties-Chino Hills, MacNaughton represented plaintiff and cross-defendant. After a 15-day bench trial, MacNaughton and team were completely successful.

**JEFF MARGULIES**

Partner-in-Charge, Los Angeles and San Francisco
Norton Rose Fulbright

Jeff Margulies has a leading practice representing consumer product manufacturers and retailers in regulatory compliance, enforcement and litigation, including consumer class action litigation. Margulies is the managing partner for Norton Rose Fulbright's Los Angeles and San Francisco offices, and serves on the firm's compensation/new partner, and partnership committees. He was recently elected to serve a three-year term as a trustee of the Los Angeles County Bar Association.

Among Margulies' recent highlights has been representing several national retailers (Albertson's, Safeway, Sprouts Farmers Market and Target) in high-exposure Proposition 65 litigation over exposure to acrylamide. He is also representing Milwaukee Tools and Home Depot in consumer class action litigation over whether Milwaukee Fastback work knives are illegal switchblades. One of his major achievements this year was prevailing on an appeal on behalf of Margaret Summers, a former member of the board of directors of Wildlife Waystation.

**CRAIG J. MARIAM**

Partner
Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP

Craig J. Mariam is an experienced trial and litigation partner at Gordon & Rees. He is licensed in numerous jurisdictions (California, Nevada, Texas, Pennsylvania, New York, Missouri, and Colorado) and regularly assists clients regarding their needs nationwide. With a substantial and unblemished federal and state jury and bench trial record and educational achievements and awards in science and mathematics, Mariam's unique expertise contributes to his ability to effectively strategize and prepare an advanced, rational, winning theory in each case, as well as to convey the sometimes difficult language of expert witnesses for the benefit of his clients and the jury.

Mariam graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in economics and an underlying tract in mathematics and computer engineering. He is an active, practicing member in state and federal courts and professional organizations throughout the country.

2019 Top Litigators and Trial Lawyers in Los Angeles



Meyers Nave congratulates

DEBORAH J. FOX

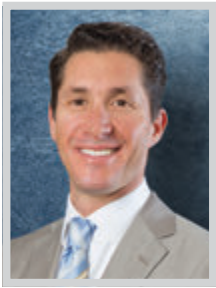
and her team of trial, litigation and First Amendment attorneys for their outstanding results, exemplary client service and highly ranked legal expertise.

Principal and Executive Committee Member
Chair, Trial and Litigation Practice
Chair, First Amendment Practice

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TOP LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS



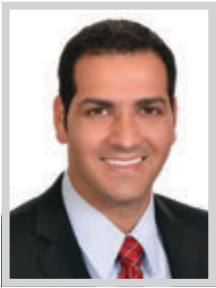
SANFORD L. MICHELMAN
Partner
Michelman & Robinson, LLP

Sanford Michelman continues to have his thumbprint on some of the most significant cases in the country – let alone Los Angeles. This year, he celebrates the 20th anniversary of the founding of his namesake law firm, Michelman & Robinson, LLP, for which he serves as Chairman. Having handled countless noteworthy class action cases and “bet the company” litigation matters, Michelman has, over the years, become a formidable presence in courtrooms – and boardrooms – nationwide, representing insurers, broker/agents, underwriters, private equity groups, banks and advertising and media companies. In fact, he has been responsible for precedent-setting legal work, particularly in the insurance space – a practice/industry subcategory that he is most renowned for. Michelman is also known for his representation of clients in governmental investigations. During his celebrated career, Michelman has protected his extraordinary client base from billions of dollars in potential exposure.



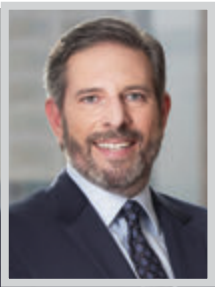
LOUIS R. (SKIP) MILLER
Partner
Miller Barondess LLP

Skip Miller represents clients from celebrities to Fortune 500 companies to government in litigation matters. Among entertainers, Miller has represented Rod Stewart, Sean Connery, Axl Rose, Steven Tyler, Gene Simmons, Nikki Sixx and his band Motley Crue, Steely Dan, the Tupac Shakur Estate, NBA and MLB players and an NFL head coach. Working with County Counsel, Miller is also counsel in cases for the County of Los Angeles and its Board of Supervisors in several matters. He has represented companies including KB Home, SunCal, Prudential, EZ Lube, Patron Tequila, Seven Jeans, German-based Kirch Media, East West Bank and several other publicly-traded banks, and Taiwan-based Pou Chen Corporation, a major manufacturing conglomerate with over 500,000 employees. Miller defended the City of Los Angeles in the Rodney King civil rights case, in cases involving the LAPD’s Special Investigation Section and in matters concerning the former LAPD Chief of Police.



JOSHUA MIZRAHI
Shareholder
Buchalter, PC

Mizrahi is a Shareholder in Buchalter’s Los Angeles office and a member of the Labor and Employment Practice Group. He defends employers against claims in a variety of labor and employment law litigation areas, including class actions, sexual harassment, wrongful termination, discrimination, wage and hour, and retaliation matters. Mizrahi also provides preventative advice and consultation to employers on a variety of matters. Mizrahi has significant experience defending companies of all sizes in the apparel, beauty, entertainment, transportation, and hospitality industries. He practices before state and federal agencies and also works closely with the firm’s corporate practice group providing all employment related due diligence for corporate transactions. Recently, Mizrahi obtained defense verdicts at numerous trials brought by employees who claimed wage and hour violations before the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement.



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

Peter B. Morrison has a broad litigation practice, with a particular emphasis on takeover and securities litigation. He advises corporations on matters involving both federal and state securities laws, duties of corporate directors, SEC and stock exchange inquiries and investigations, and contests for corporate control. Morrison also has considerable experience acting for Asian companies in U.S. securities matters. Peers and clients appreciate Morrison’s expertise and results-oriented approach and turn to him when faced with critical litigation, often relying on his extensive legal knowledge. Clients regard him as “a tireless worker and a fierce litigator,” with one client saying, “He is very strategic, very knowledgeable about securities law and very effective.” In 2012, he co-authored, along with Delaware colleagues, Mergers and Acquisitions Deal Litigation under Delaware Corporation Law, a treatise outlining the process by which stockholder lawsuits arising from mergers and acquisitions are litigated.

YC YUKEVICH | CAVANAUGH
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CONGRATULATIONS TO
JAMES YUKEVICH & TODD CAVANAUGH
FOR BEING SELECTED BY
THE LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL AS
2019 TOP LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS



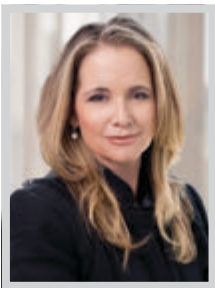
JAMES J. YUKEVICH



TODD A. CAVANAUGH



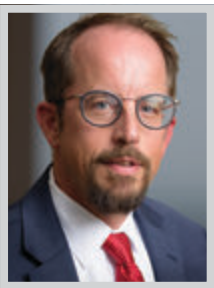
TOP LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS



ANN MARIE MORTIMER
*Managing Partner of the Los Angeles office
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP*

Since joining Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP in 2006, Ann Marie Mortimer has become one of the premier class action litigation attorneys in the Los Angeles region and statewide, handling an impressive volume of complex, high profile cases. She is one of only a handful of female managing partners in California and has an outstanding track record as an elite litigator, with successive courtroom wins under her belt. More often than not, she is acting as lead counsel in cases involving exceptional complexity and multiple jurisdictions. Mortimer is a member of her 1,000-lawyer firm's Executive Committee and is managing partner for the firm's booming Los Angeles office. She co-chairs the firm's commercial litigation practice and previously headed its prestigious energy and environmental litigation practice.

At the cutting edge of class action litigation, Mortimer's practice focuses on complex business claims, environmental tort claims and litigation risk from regulatory investigations.



MICHAEL MURPHY
*Partner
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP*

Michael Murphy has extensive experience in litigation and matters involving corporate governance disputes, breaches of fiduciary duty, fraud, defamation, the anti-SLAPP statute, trademark and trade dress litigation, trade secrets, real estate litigation, among others. He also has experience counseling clients on various types of contract negotiations, including Operating Agreements, asset purchase agreements, and management contracts. He also has experience prosecuting trademark applications before the United States Patent and Trademark Office, as well as the Trademark, Trials, and Appeal Board.

Murphy has experience in a variety of industries including real estate development, venture capital, the gaming industry (including gaming regulation), the apparel industry, software development, market research, printing, food and beverage, international music licensing, nursing homes, franchises, nursing homes and long term care facilities, the semiconductor industry, as well as startup ventures in an also diverse array.



DALE ORTMANN
*Co-Founder and Senior Shareholder
Hunt Ortmann*

Dale Ortmann is a senior shareholder and co-founder of Hunt Ortmann, with 40 years of experience in construction and real estate law. He works with construction industry clients from project inception, including contract preparation and negotiations, to project conclusion, including the resolution of construction claims and disputes in mediation, arbitration and litigation. His clients include public agencies, developers, contractors, subcontractors, material suppliers, design professionals, and homeowners associations. Ortmann has successfully represented clients in jury and court trials, arbitrations, and mediations before Dispute Resolution Boards. He is also a frequent speaker before numerous construction industry organizations on current legal trends.

Recently, Ortmann successfully represented the largest water district in California in a dispute with a general contractor who asserted a \$10 million claim. On the eve of jury trial and after multiple rulings on pretrial motions in favor of his client, the contractor waived approximately 90% of its claim.



ROBERT W. PERRIN
*Partner, Local Chair, Litigation
& Trial Department (Los Angeles)
Latham & Watkins LLP*

Robert Perrin has led Latham & Watkins' Los Angeles Litigation Department for over 12 years as its Co-Chair. He handles complex business litigation, securities litigation and professional liability matters, with a client roster that includes Fortune 500 companies, financial institutions, and major accounting firms.

Recently, Perrin has served as the lead attorney representing PG&E in connection with all shareholder litigation related to the devastating October 2017 Northern California wildfires and the November 2018 Camp fire. At last count, the fires have led to the filing of two federal securities class actions (now consolidated), and eight separate derivative lawsuits in state and federal court. This has put Perrin at the forefront of devising defenses to the recent wave of 'event-driven' securities litigation, where natural disasters, accidents and mass tort events are now giving rise to shareholder claims across the country.

Congratulations to our partners

Angela Agrusa and Michael Garfinkel

Top Litigators & Trial Lawyers Honorees



Angela Agrusa
Partner



Michael Garfinkel
Partner



TOP LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS



TIMOTHY L. PIERCE

Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office
K&L Gates LLP

Timothy Pierce’s practice focuses on construction industry matters, representing clients from the inception of a project and the formation of contracts to the resolution of claims in litigation. He has had extensive trial experience in construction matters, having tried 15 construction cases to a jury verdict totaling more than 85 weeks in front of juries.

Pierce has obtained two verdicts in excess of \$30 million and has recovered more than \$100 million for clients in judgments and settlements. Pierce has also participated in another dozen or so arbitrations that have gone to a final award. Most recently, he represented KHS&S, a drywall and interior finishes subcontractor, in a suit concerning construction of the San Francisco General Hospital Rebuild Program. The parties reached a settlement agreement on the first day of trial, where the City of San Francisco and Webcor agreed to pay KHS&S \$15.25 million in total.

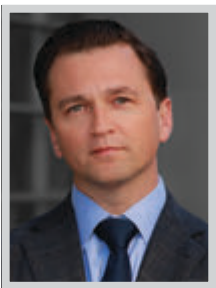


MARVIN S. PUTNAM

Partner, Chair of Litigation
& Trial Department in Los Angeles
Latham & Watkins, LLP

During the past two years, Marvin Putnam has been tapped as a go-to lawyer in cases connected to the #MeToo Movement, representing high-profile entertainment and media clients to conduct internal investigations, assist with government inquiries, and manage crises responses.

Prominent among these matters is the defense of Miramax and former board member of The Weinstein Company, Tim Sarnoff in the US-based Harvey Weinstein-related litigation. In less than 18 months, Mr. Putnam defeated every single Weinstein-related lawsuit filed against Miramax and Sarnoff in the US, an impressive feat given the media frenzy around the cases. These high-profile matters involve issues ranging from the ongoing viability of non-disclosure agreements to the creation of new exceptions from long-accepted Statutes of Limitations. Complementing his trial work, Putnam also often advises on complex entertainment and media transactional matters with an eye to limiting clients’ potential litigation or exposure.



SCOTT RAHN

Managing Partner
RMO LLP

Scott Rahn is the Founding and Managing Partner of RMO LLP. A seasoned “big firm” litigator, Rahn focuses on four specific areas of litigation: (1) representing beneficiaries, professional and corporate fiduciaries in contested trust, estate and probate litigation matters, as well as related estate administration issues; (2) representing individual and institutional investors and financial institutions in investment fraud investigations and securities litigation; (3) representing financial industry employees in employment litigation and investigations, CRD expungement matters, registration and reporting disputes, and regulatory/enforcement/white collar investigations; (4) and business litigation.

Among Rahn’s recent successes was his representation of a wealthy middle-eastern family for whom he investigated and addressed a decades-long, eight-digit fiduciary fraud by a family member and community leader. He also unwound the financial elder abuse of an elderly woman whose daughter evicted mom from her own home and took it for herself and her husband.



EUGENE P. RAMIREZ

Founding Partner
Manning & Kass, Ellrod, Ramirez, Trester LLP

Eugene P. Ramirez is a founding partner of Manning & Kass and leads the Governmental Entity Liability; Military and Veterans Law; and School Civil Liability Teams. Ramirez is a frequently quoted national expert in police use of Body Worn Cameras. He is also a member of the 2019 POST (Peace Officer Standards and Training) SWAT Guidelines Committee where they are currently updating the original SWAT Guidelines for use by California SWAT teams. He was on the original group that developed the original state SWAT guidelines. He serves as general counsel for both the California Association of Tactical Officers (CATO) and United States Police Canine Association.

Ramirez is an experienced trial attorney, starting as a Los Angeles County deputy district attorney. In the past three years alone he has tried six cases to verdict in state and federal courts.



Congratulations to our partners
**Barry MacNaughton &
Michael Murphy** named
Los Angeles Business Journal’s
2019 Top Litigators

ERVIN COHEN & JESSUP LLP
ecjlaw.com

TOP LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS

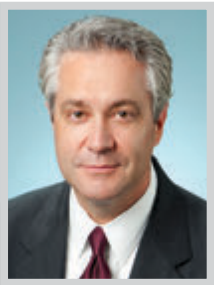


ARJUN RAO

Partner
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP

Arjun Rao has built a national reputation for handling high stakes consumer class actions and financial services litigation including regulatory matters and government investigations, as well as defending companies in a wide range of actions. This past year he has worked with JPMorgan Chase, HSBC, Discover, Capital One, American Express and BMW Financial Services in a range of individual and class actions relating to various consumer protection statutes and alleged unfair business practices.

Rao is lead defense counsel and nationwide coordinating counsel for multiple financial services companies in cases involving the Telephone Consumer Protection Act. The cases have been filed throughout the country asserting that lenders improperly contacted their customers on their cellular telephones using autodialers and/or artificial or pre-recorded messages. In these cases, Rao is litigating cutting-edge issues regarding the statute's construction and the consequences of various implementing regulations.



RICK RICHMOND

Partner
Jenner & Block

Rick Richmond is a commercial litigator and founding partner of Jenner & Block's Los Angeles office, serving as its managing partner for nearly a decade. He has been instrumental in growing the firm's top-tier reputation in California. Jenner & Block's Los Angeles office opened its doors in the depth of the recession with just Richmond and one other lawyer. Under Richmond's leadership as office managing partner from 2009 until the end of 2018, the office grew to more than 40 lawyers.

In his litigation practice, Richmond represents clients in matters ranging from misappropriation of trade secrets and other forms of intellectual property infringement to commercial cases of all kinds, including breach of contract, fraud and class actions. His extensive experience as a trial and appellate lawyer includes representing clients in state and federal courts, in federal and local administrative proceedings, and before arbitration panels.



NICHOLAS ROWLEY

Trial Lawyer & Partner
Carpenter Zuckerman & Rowley

Many consider Nicholas C. Rowley, founder of Trial Lawyers for Justice and Partner at Carpenter, Zuckerman, & Rowley, to be the most accomplished trial lawyer of his generation, having won more than \$1.5 billion in verdicts and settlements for injury victims and families across the country. He has extensive courtroom experience representing victims of serious injuries and medical malpractice, especially those who have suffered traumatic brain injuries, spinal injuries, and chronic pain.

Some of Rowley's recent successes include a record setting \$131,000,375 verdict for the victim of a car accident after the driver was over-served at a bar; a record setting \$74,525,000 verdict for a victim of medical malpractice; \$40,000,000 for two parents whose 33-year-old son was negligently killed due to corporate negligence; and \$38,600,000 verdict for a young man who fell from a hotel balcony while intoxicated.



JASON D. RUSSELL

Partner, Head of the Los Angeles Litigation Group and Co-head of the West Coast Litigation Practice
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

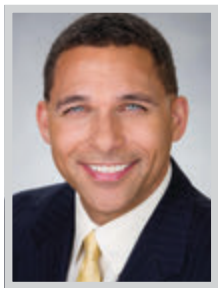
Jason Russell is the leader of the Los Angeles Litigation Group and co-head of the West Coast litigation practice where he has garnered widespread recognition. Russell has extensive experience in and takes an innovative approach to all aspects of commercial litigation matters, ranging from jury trials and appellate arguments to mediation and arbitration. He represents a wide variety of clients and has earned a reputation as an adept litigator with particular experience litigating some of the most high-profile cases in the sports and entertainment field, as well as complex class actions. Russell is also actively involved in Skadden's pro bono efforts.

Recently, while continuing to secure victories for Skadden clients, Russell has led numerous high-profile matters and provided diverse litigation and counseling services to organizations facing their most formidable disputes. As a renowned litigator, Russell serves as lead counsel on numerous matters.



Lewis Brisbois congratulates our Partner
CRAIG HOLDEN
on being named one of *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2019 Top Litigators & Trial Lawyers.

TOP LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS



TONY M. SAIN
Partner
Manning & Kass, Ellrod, Ramirez, Trester LLP

Tony M. Sain is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Manning & Kass, where he practices on the Governmental Entity Liability Team protecting public agencies and officers in civil rights actions and employment cases, as well as other clients in general litigation, including the defense of public and private entity tort cases, and the counseling of entertainment-related transactional matters and entertainment-related litigation, primarily on behalf of artists.

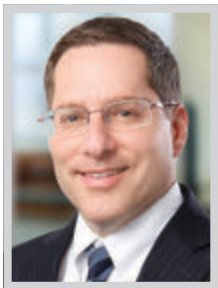
Sain has successfully defended his clients as a lead trial attorney in multiple high-profile jury and administrative trials on police/civil rights or employment cases, and he has also served as a pro bono prosecutor at trial for the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office. In the past nine months alone, Sain has achieved two unanimous defense jury verdicts for large public entity clients in federal civil rights jury trials.



CHRISTIAN SCALI
Managing Partner
Scali Rasmussen, PC

Christian Scali has a diverse automotive industry practice that includes advice and counsel and complex and high stakes litigation, involving franchise disputes, lender liability, reinsurance and flooring disputes, consumer finance, consumer and wage and hour class actions, high stakes employment litigation, trade secret misappropriation and corporate shareholder and partnership disputes.

Scali is known throughout the state of California for his work on behalf of the retail automotive industry in a series of advertising lawsuits brought against it under California's Unfair Competition Law resulting, among other things, in the disbarment of consumer advocates, Trevor Law Group, and for his work on the Defense Steering Committee in the massive automobile consumer leasing lawsuit against the California retail automotive leasing industry. Recent matters include successfully resolving a franchise dispute with a luxury automobile manufacturer for \$1B; and drafting the Advertising Law Manual published by the California New Car Dealers Association.



DAVID K. SCHULTZ
Principal
Polsinelli LLP

David Schultz is a distinguished litigation and appellate attorney at the very top of his field. He has a reputation for handling some of the toughest corporate cases and must-win situations at the appellate level in California. For example, Schultz was brought in after trial on a case that involved a \$200 million punitive damage award and \$5 million compensatory damage award. He was responsible for the drafting of post-trial motions that resulted in the trial judge vacating the entire verdict, which was affirmed on appeal.

Schultz is certified by the State Bar of California as an appellate specialist, a credential that fewer than 350 attorneys in the state hold. His extensive experience as a litigation and trial attorney shape his approach to handling cases on appeal. He is known for presenting a compelling factual story along with well-crafted legal arguments that protect the client's best interests.



MICHAEL A. SHERMAN
Partner
Stubbs Alderton & Markiles, LLP

Michael A. Sherman left a career as a business trial lawyer in "big law" in 2014 to start the business litigation practice at the market-leading tech law firm headquartered in Sherman Oaks and Santa Monica, Stubbs Alderton & Markiles, LLP. At SAM, Sherman has grown the business litigation practice from a practice of "one" to its present size — 15 business and IP litigators.

Recently, Sherman guided SAM litigation clients in successfully resolving at trial, arbitration and in settlement, complex business disputes such as a drug development company's claims for theft of its IP by a collaborating research institution (Auritec v. OakCrest, favorable arbitration award); and another drug development company's recovery of many millions of dollars against a brand-name "Big Pharma" company for unfair business practices in the taking of a valuable business opportunity; among others.



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TOP LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS



MATTHEW STEINBERG

Member
Cozen O'Connor

Matthew Steinberg has been a fixture in the Southern California litigation community for the past 40 years. He has achieved significant trial and appellate victories in state and federal courts. Over the course of his career, Steinberg has won significant jury verdicts for plaintiffs including three in excess of \$4 million. On the defense side, he won a defense judgment after trial in a consumer class action in which the plaintiff class sought more than \$200 million in restitution. Steinberg's outstanding achievement in 2019 thus far was winning a \$5 million judgment following a five-week jury trial in Orange County Superior Court. He represented two Mexican investment companies in a breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty case. In addition to a large compensatory award, the jury awarded Steinberg's clients a large punitive damages as well.



JULIA B. STRICKLAND

Managing Partner of the Los Angeles Office, Member of
National Executive Committee, and Chair of National
Class Action/Financial Services Practice Group
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP

As chair of Stroock's national Financial Services Litigation, Regulation and Enforcement Group managing 36 attorneys, Julia Strickland is often the first attorney financial services companies call when they need anything from practical guidance to a fierce defense of a contentious and high stakes litigation matter, as well as for counseling on federal or state regulatory compliance or matters arising from lending and servicing, retail banking, real estate, unfair and deceptive practices. In addition to managing Stroock's Los Angeles office and sitting on the firm's executive committee, she has amassed a client list that includes titans of their industries such as American Express, Citigroup, Discover, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, HSBC, TransUnion, Synchrony and OneWest/CIT Bank. Strickland is currently representing Chase in two putative class actions and 11 individual cases, and CIT Bank in 43 individual cases and in connection with multiple putative class actions pending in Hawaii.



JEFFREY S. HORTON THOMAS

Partner
Akerman LLP

From Fortune 500 corporations to mid-market employers, Jeffrey Horton Thomas focuses his practice on representing employers and management in all aspects of California and federal employment law before courts and administrative agencies. He regularly defends employers on issues involving discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wrongful termination, disability accommodation, wage and hour, and PAGA lawsuits and administrative actions. His clients span various sectors including hospitality, technology, retail, professional services, manufacturing, and apparel. Recently, Thomas has been successful representing a "big box" retailer, Haliburton International Foods, Disruptive Visions, a top Hollywood producer, Dollar Tree and the largest LGBTQ publishing house. In one recent case, Thomas led a litigation team defending his longtime client, Hugo's Restaurant Group. The original complaint pled a putative class action for wage and hour claims and unfair competition. Thomas successfully downgraded the lawsuit from a putative class action to a PAGA action.



VIVIAN LEE THOREEN

Executive Partner, Chair of Private Wealth Services
Dispute Resolution Team
Holland & Knight

Holland & Knight's Private Wealth Services practice is among the largest in the United States. Vivian Lee Thoreen is the executive partner of Holland & Knight's Los Angeles office and chairs the firm's national Private Wealth Services Dispute Resolution Team. She has been first chair in numerous high-value and high profile estate and fiduciary disputes. Thoreen successfully represented Tyler Korff, who is the grandson of former CBS and Viacom Chairman Sumner Redstone and the son of Shari Redstone, in multiple litigation matters spanning courtrooms across the country. The primary litigation in California, which took place in civil court, the probate department, and the federal courts, concerned the future of the media mogul's corporate empire and the eventual disposition of Redstone's estate. In the process, Thoreen played a pivotal role in achieving multiple settlements, resolving each matter entirely in the Redstone family's favor.



Bird Marella is proud to congratulate
our friend and colleague

Mark T. Dooks

on being named among the
Top Litigators in Los Angeles
by the Los Angeles Business Journal

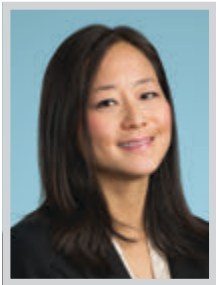
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Bird Marella litigates complex civil and white collar criminal matters in state and federal courts across the United States. For more than 35 years, we have built our reputation on the quality of our lawyers and the outstanding results we achieve for our clients.

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TOP LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS



CAROLYN TOTO
Partner
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman

Carolyn Toto, a Pillsbury Intellectual Property litigation partner in Los Angeles, advises technology industry leaders on all aspects of IP litigation, strategic prosecution and portfolio management, and licensing. She has successfully resolved patent, trademark, trade secret and copyright infringement cases through jury trial, on appeal and by negotiated settlement.

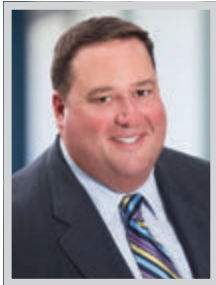
Toto has obtained patent and trademark protection for clients in various industries, including healthcare, robotics, consumer products, chemical manufacturing, and restaurant services, in jurisdictions worldwide. Well-versed in the legal issues involving social media, content distribution and advertising, Toto co-leads the firm's Internet and Social Media team. She led a Pillsbury team on behalf of In-N-Out Burgers against Smashburger in a trademark infringement and false advertising suit. She also represents King Taco Restaurant, Inc., a long-established Mexican restaurant chain founded in 1974, in a federal trademark and unfair competition suit against a competing restaurant.



PERRIE WEINER
Partner in Charge
Baker McKenzie LLP

Perrie Weiner is the Partner in Charge of Baker McKenzie's Los Angeles office and Chair of the Firm's North America Securities Litigation Group. With over 30 years of experience, Weiner's practice focuses on securities litigation and enforcement matters and complex business litigation. He advises private equity funds, including hedge funds, broker-dealers, underwriters, placement agents and issuers in SEC and FINRA enforcement proceedings, and in white collar criminal proceedings. In addition, he defends both underwriters and issuers in securities class actions, shareholder derivative actions, and takeover defense litigation.

Weiner also has an active complex business litigation practice, including representing a broad spectrum of clients in consumer class actions involving claimed violations of the Right to Privacy, Automatic Renewal Law, false and deceptive advertising, Section 17200 and RICO. Weiner joined Baker McKenzie earlier this year, coming from DLA Piper, where he served as managing partner of the Century City office.



ALEX WEINGARTEN
Partner, Litigation
Venable LLP

Alex Weingarten is the preeminent trial attorney specializing in the litigation of trust and estate disputes involving celebrities. With decades of experience in both entertainment and probate litigation, Weingarten has become one of the leading litigators in both fields and has been recognized for his skill in the courtroom for celebrity clients.

In the past year, he has represented the adult children of musician Tom Petty in a dispute with their stepmother for control of his music catalogue; Brooke Shields in a suit against Charlotte Tilbury, Inc. and related retailers and their attempt to profit from Brooke's signature look; Wiz Khalifa in a dispute with his former manager; Woodstock 50 LLC, producers of the Woodstock 50th anniversary concert, in various disputes concerning production of the iconic music festival; and production and entertainment management company Anonymous Content as outside counsel for all litigation, ethics, and employment matters; among others.



BART WILLIAMS
Partner
Proskauer Rose LLP

Bart Williams is one of the nation's most sought after trial lawyers. A strategic, diligent and dignified litigator with a wealth of experience across commercial litigation, while collar criminal defense and internal corporate investigations, Williams is frequently called in just weeks before a case in order to deliver the win. He is a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers and has an impressive list of victories under his belt in jury and bench trials throughout the United States.

For the past two and half years, Williams has been working in a lead role on behalf of Johnson & Johnson in connection with large-scale litigations. He is a member of the four-person management team that coordinates the company's efforts nationwide. During that time, Williams secured two victories for Johnson & Johnson in widely publicized product liability trials.

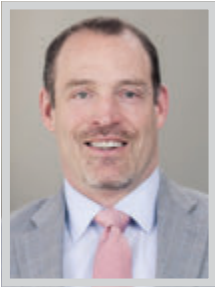


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Eric Early
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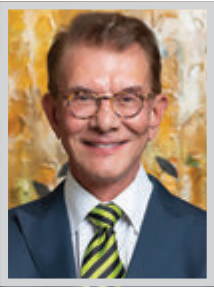
TOP LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS



DAVID WILLINGHAM
Partner
Boies Schiller Flexner LLP

Clients regularly turn to Boies Schiller Flexner's David Willingham to litigate their most complex, high-stakes matters. He represents clients across the country as plaintiffs and as defendants in head-line-grabbing matters and uses his extensive expertise in trial and appellate proceedings to prevail when the odds are longest and the stakes are highest.

Willingham is a seasoned litigator with a long history of successful representations both in general commercial matters and white-collar criminal matters. Among his recent high-profile matters listed below, Willingham is currently representing a parent charged in the widely-publicized "Varsity Blues" college corruption prosecution; achieved a groundbreaking ruling in the SDNY for client RD Legal Funding LLC; and prevailed on behalf of Molina Healthcare in Los Angeles Superior Court. Among his other matters, Willingham led the BSF team that successfully took on the Court in the NFL Concussion litigation earning a resounding victory for client NFL.



JAMES J. YUKEVICH
Partner
Yukevich | Cavanaugh

James J. Yukevich is the founding partner of Yukevich | Cavanaugh, a Firm that consistently delivers on its mission; to give each client a special level of service and outstanding results in Civil Litigation defense. Yukevich specializes in Civil Litigation, Product Liability Litigation, Toxic Tort Litigation, Commercial Litigation. With over 30 years of courtroom experience, Yukevich has earned a win rate over 90% in contested liability cases. Yukevich is trusted by Fortune 500 companies to present customized legal strategies that are unique to each situation and matter, and employ tactics that result in fair resolutions.

Recently, Yukevich secured a unanimous defense verdict in favor of his client, Ferrari North America, Inc.; the verdict took jurors less than 25 minutes to deliberate. During the trial, Yukevich proved that the vehicle's seatbelt was not defective in any respect and that it performed exactly as its ordinary consumers would expect.

New Book Examines Legal Implications of AI

Artificial intelligence (AI) and the use of smart machines are shaking up law and society. Companies, governments and universities implement AI without a full understanding of its legal and regulatory threats. A new book by the ABA Business Law Section, "The Law of Artificial Intelligence and Smart Machines," provides a comprehensive overview of how this new technology has evolved, how it will affect the legal profession and how the law will be reformed to meet the new realities created by AI.

Beginning with a history of AI, this guide explores the special legal problems such as intellectual property development and labor replacement, and discusses risks imposed by AI and how to mitigate those risks. It covers:

- Regulations managing autonomous flying drones, biologically-base robots and other thinking machines that operate in our streets and companies
- AI's impact on healthcare, workplace procedures and basic business management
- AI and intellectual property, cybersecurity and consumer privacy
- The transactional law practice and AI
- International privacy laws and global regulations and their effect on development of AI
- The future of AI and mapping the law
- Unique traits of AI decision-making

that already conflict with laws and regulations

Included are charts, graphs, glossary of terms, framework for trustworthy AI and an appendix with examples of opportunities and critical concerns raised by artificial intelligence.

Artificial intelligence (AI) and the use of smart machines are shaking up law and society.

The guide is edited by Theodore F. Claypoole and is a compilation written by industry leaders who specialize in this area of the law.

Claypoole leads the Womble Bond Dickinson IP Transaction Team, its FinTech Team and its Privacy and Cyber Security Team. He serves clients in managing risk and making money with data, internet and electronic technologies. Claypoole is immediate past chair of the ABA Business Law Section's Cyberspace Law Committee and serves on the section's Leadership Council. He has co-authored two books with Theresa Payton published by Rowman & Littlefield titled, "Privacy in the Age of Big Data" and "Protecting Your Internet Identity: Are You Naked Online?"

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TOP LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS

New Book Explores Forensic Experts’ Role in Construction Litigation

A recently published book by the American Bar Association, “The Effective Use of Forensic Experts in Construction Litigation” will help a litigation or arbitration team become more persuasive in telling the story about each construction issue or problem in a way that makes the complex case easier to understand, makes the truth more self-evident and exposes the fallacies of any attempt to conceal the truth.

The book seeks to examine the issues surrounding expert witnesses or consultants who help present or defend a claim or case. There are many complexities involved in a construction project. Problems can result from many causes, including design mistakes, poor quality of workmanship, unexpected cost overruns or late completion. When these problems and frustrations are not settled among the parties and they have no choice but to pursue legal remedies, forensic technical experts are asked to provide their expertise.

Filled with beneficial information from a wide variety of authors, “The Effective Use of Forensic Experts in Construction Litigation” is a helpful guide that aims to assist those who aspire to become a forensic expert witness in construction, assist those who already are a forensic expert witness and assist those who engage forensic expert witnesses so that they may become more effective in the way they utilize the services of an expert witness.



There are many complexities involved in a construction project. Problems can result from many causes, including design mistakes, poor quality of workmanship, unexpected cost overruns or late completion.

The book is edited by Thomas L. Rosenberg, Robert H. Pratt, Kerry L. Kester and Michael A. Branca.

Rosenberg is a partner with the law firm of Roetzel & Andress, LPA, in Columbus, Ohio, where he leads the construction law practice. Roetzel & Andress has been consistently recognized as one of the best law firms nationally and locally for construction and construction litigation by U.S. News & World Report.

Pratt, executive vice president of Demand Construction Services, Inc., in Denver, Colo., is responsible for professional services in the

fields of forensic schedule analysis, forensic cost estimating and damages.

Kester practices law at Woods & Aitken in Denver, where he focuses on construction contracting; construction dispute resolution; and counseling of general and specialty contractors, owners, subcontractors, sureties, design professionals and suppliers.

Branca, a partner in the Washington, D.C., office of Peckar & Abramson, PC, focuses his practice on construction and government contract law.

This book was published in conjunction

with the ABA Forum on Construction Law.

With more than 400,000 members, the American Bar Association is one of the largest voluntary professional membership organizations in the world. As the national voice of the legal profession, the ABA works to improve the administration of justice, promotes programs that assist lawyers and judges in their work, accredits law schools, provides continuing legal education, and works to build public understanding around the world of the importance of the rule of law. Learn more at americanbar.org.



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CHARLES W. COX

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TOP LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS

Los Angeles County Bar Association Offers 40-Hour Mediation Training Program

Participants who complete the program will have fulfilled the requirements to lead mediations throughout California

The Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA), one of the largest voluntary metropolitan bar associations in the country, late last year introduced a new 40-Hour Mediation Training program with a curriculum designed to fulfill the training requirements of the California Dispute Resolution Programs Act. Upon completion of the program, attendees will have met the mediator training and educational requirements to serve as panelists throughout California.

The first installment of the 40-Hour Mediator Training program occurred in January. Registration for the training program is now open. Those interested in registering for the program can visit www.lacba.org/40-hour for more information.

“LACBA’s 40-Hour Training program is important because it helps attorneys interested in incorporating mediations into their practice obtain the necessary credentials to serve as effective mediators,” said Seth Chavez, director of LACBA’s Attorney-Client Mediation and Arbitration Service, which will oversee the

program. “The program has been designed to be inclusive and would be particularly relevant for business leaders and others in the community without law degrees who would like to acquire the skills and fundamentals of mediation so they can put them to practice in their businesses or communities.”

“The Los Angeles County Bar Association has been at the forefront of providing the preeminent mediation training programs for years,” said Jack Goetz, a lecturer in law at USC Gould School of Law specializing in mediation and academic director of LACBA’s 40-Hour Mediator Training program. “LACBA’s 40-Hour Training program is impactful and practical for today’s evolving field of mediation because it was developed to meet the California Dispute Resolution Programs Act requirements while incorporating real-world experience of mediation experts.”

The training program introduces those who are interested in mediation to the core principles and methods of alternative dispute resolution and provide a strong foundation in mediation skills through lecture, small group exercises, and role-playing.

Each attendee who successfully completes the training program will receive a certification reflecting this education and training. Lawyers attending the training program will receive 40 hours of Continuing Legal Education credit, including four hours of Ethics credit.



Rich in both theory and practice, the training will cover the nature of conflict, history of mediation, structure and management of the mediation process, intake and convening, mediation models, cultural awareness and diversity, legal requirements and ethics, maintaining neutrality, communication skills, negotiation, breaking impasse, closure and drafting agreements.

LACBA, under its then existing Dispute Resolution Services and Center for Civic

Mediation, had previously operated the region’s popular 30-Hour Mediator Training Program from the 1990’s through 2016.

The Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA) is one of the largest voluntary metropolitan bar associations in the nation and has nearly 20,000 members. LACBA is engaged in advancing the administration of justice and meeting the professional needs of lawyers. For more information on LACBA, visit lacba.org.

We congratulate
Dale Kinsella, Larry Iser and Mike Kump
on being named
“Top Litigators and Trial Lawyers”
by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*



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TOP LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS

Data Reveals Changes in Student Performance on the California Bar Exam

ate last year the State Bar released the fourth report in a series of studies designed to examine the decline in pass rates on the California Bar Exam.

The report, “Performance Changes on the California Bar Examination,” uses detailed data on over 7,000 students who took the Bar Exam in July 2013, 2016, and 2017. Between 2013 and 2016, the pass rate on the exam fell from 56 percent to 43 percent. In 2017, the pass rate rebounded slightly, to 50 percent; it declined again in July 2018 to 40.7 percent.

This report is unique in that it utilized individual data on student characteristics to explore the causes of, or contributors to, the decline in the pass rate on the California Bar Exam. Individual data included information on students’ undergraduate grade point average (GPA), undergraduate major, LSAT score, final law school GPA, course work in law school, and basic demographic information. The study examined these characteristics in relation to Bar Exam performance—both pass/fail outcomes and scores—and found that:

- Changes over time in the characteristics of exam takers accounted for only some of the decline in Bar Exam performance during the study



period. The study found that these changes accounted for between 20 and 50 percent of the decline in Bar Exam performance during the study period, depending on the performance metric chosen and year compared;

- The two student characteristics that

most strongly predicted performance on the California Bar Exam were a student’s GPA in the final year of law school and a student’s LSAT scores;

- Changes over time in entering credentials (undergraduate GPA and LSAT) and law school credentials (final law school cumulative GPA)

contributed roughly equally to that portion of the decline in Bar Exam performance attributable to changes in student characteristics during the study period;

- The proportion of test takers who were ethnic minorities or female grew slightly over the study period, but the study found no correlation between these demographic characteristics and pass/fail outcomes, among students with similar abilities; and
- Ultimately, the study was unable to account for a substantial amount of the decline in pass rates, concluding that other unexamined factors have contributed to the decade-long decrease in Bar Exam performance.

The State Bar undertook this and the other studies in response to the California Supreme Court’s direction to conduct a “thorough and expedited” study of the California Bar Examination.

The State Bar also recently launched a year-long study of practicing attorneys to document the work that lawyers currently do and ensure that the Bar Exam aligns with the modern practice of law.

RLC: Burglary Law Should Apply to Serial Shoplifters

This term, the Tennessee Supreme Court will decide whether the state of Tennessee can use its burglary statute to prosecute serial shoplifters who have been issued no-trespass warnings, banning them from re-entering retail stores. This decision would have national implications. Leading retailers are encouraging the court to uphold this practice, arguing that habitual shoplifters should face more stringent consequences to deter them from re-victimizing the same retail establishment.

“Retailers are doing all they can to combat the growing problem of shoplifting. But their efforts cannot succeed unless they are backed up by serious legal consequences, including the use of a felony burglary charge for shoplifters who return to stores after they’ve been issued a trespass warning by the retail establishment,” said Deborah White, president of the Retail Litigation Center (RLC) and general counsel of the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA).

The RLC, along with the National Association for Shoplifting Prevention (NASP) and the Tennessee Retail Association (TRA), filed a friend-of-the-court brief asking the Tennessee Supreme Court to permit the enforcement of felony burglary statutes to cover habitual shoplifters who ignore no-trespass notices and then re-enter retail establishments to try to steal more products.

Shoplifting costs retailers billions of dollars each year. And worse than the financial harm, is the risk to physical safety. Shoplifting frequently escalates into violent encounters that put bystanders, store workers, and first responders at risk. Each year retail workers are killed or gravely injured during shoplifting apprehensions that turn violent.

Retailers collectively invest billions in preventing and deterring shoplifting. No-trespass letters are critical to retailers’ efforts to com-



bat shoplifting, because they directly target repeat offenders—and specifically address the need to deter serial shoplifters from returning to the same store.

“Shoplifters who re-enter a store to steal, again, after having been barred from that store have committed a serious crime, which should carry serious penalties,” said White. “Permitting the enforcement of burglary statutes is well within the state’s prerogative and constitutional bounds. Retaining this arrow in the enforcement quiver is good public policy to help stem the tide of serial shoplifting.”

The case before the court is State of Tennessee v. Abbie Leann Welch.

Shoplifters who re-enter a store to steal, again, after having been barred from that store have committed a serious crime, which should carry serious penalties.

Directed by the chief legal officers of the country’s leading retail companies, the Retail Litigation Center (RLC) is the only organization dedicated to advocating for the industry’s top priorities in the federal and state judiciary. The RLC also works with leading law firms and retail corporate

counsel to develop forward-thinking strategies to combat meritless mass action litigation. Founded by the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA) in 2010 as an independent organization, the RLC is a 501(c)(6) membership association open to all retailers and select law firms.