

CUSTOM CONTENT

AUGUST 13, 2018

Top Litigators

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 or 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 selected 50 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

ANGELA AGRUSA

Partner
DLA Piper



ANGELA Agrusa tries high-stakes complex commercial, class action and civil cases on behalf of international brands, major companies and

prominent individuals. She has earned a premier reputation as a brand crisis litigator with quantifiable success defending clients in marketing practices and branding litigation in a range of industries, including entertainment, food and beverage, retail and hospitality. In the last five years alone, she has successfully defended brand holders in over 50 putative class actions with combined potential exposure over \$100 billion.

Over the last eighteen months, Agrusa lead the defense of one of the most closely followed cases in the world. Under circumstances which many lawyers might view as daunting and unwinnable, Agrusa, a long time feminist and former ACLU law clerk, accepted the challenge to take on the Bill Cosby trial. As a lifelong believer in the protections uniquely important to the US legal system – the rights to be presumed innocent and to be able to confront one's accuser – Agrusa defended Cosby's rights to a trial.

WAYNE BARSKY

Intellectual Property Practice Group Co-Chair
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP



WAYNE Barsky is a trial lawyer and national co-chair of Gibson Dunn & Crutcher's Intellectual Property Practice Group, where he

focuses on high-stakes, high-profile patent litigation for clients in the biotechnology, pharmaceutical, and medical device industries. Barsky's practice regularly takes him to district courts around the country, as well as to the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the International Trade Commission.

In February, Barsky was lead counsel in a five-week trial where a nine-person federal jury unanimously rejected Biogen's \$5.4 billion damages claim and invalidated Biogen's patent, thus handing Barsky's clients Merck-Serono and Pfizer a complete victory after eight years of litigation. For nearly five weeks, the parties presented witnesses. After deliberating for a day and a half, the jury found that the Gibson Dunn team met its burden of proving, with clear and convincing evidence, that Biogen's patent is invalid. Consequently, the jury unanimously invalidated all of the claims and precluded Biogen from obtaining any of the damages it sought.

OREN BITAN

Shareholder
Buchalter



OREN Bitan has an extensive legal background that includes business, real estate, banking, receivership law, consumer product, and commercial

litigation. Bitan is known for his ability to solve complex business disputes for his clients in a strong but practical manner. He is a trusted advisor who guides his clients through their day-to-day legal concerns, and has particular expertise in disputes involving real estate, banking and mortgage fraud, creditors' rights, film finance, and intellectual property.

Representative clients include banks and financial institutions, state and federal receivers, private investors and investment funds, private equity groups, real property developers, apparel manufacturers, breweries, consumer products companies, and corporate entities large and small. In the recent *Crossroads Investors v. Federal National Mortgage Assn.* case, Bitan successfully reversed denial of anti-SLAPP following the California Supreme Court granting petition for review that resulted in an order striking nearly all claims under the anti-SLAPP statute, including claims for wrongful foreclosure and fraud.

WILLIAM J. BRIGGS, II

Partner, Litigation
Venable LLP



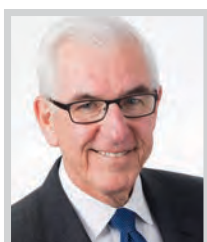
WILLIAM J. Briggs, II, Partner with Venable LLP in Los Angeles, is recognized as a leading trial lawyer and civil litigator, with

extensive experience in the entertainment industry. He provides counsel to some of the most recognizable names in the film, television, music and sports industries. His clients include actors, musicians, comedians, producers, high net worth individuals, celebrities, athletes and entertainers.

Because of his substantial courtroom experience, clients turn to Briggs for representation in disputes that involve trademarks, copyrights, the First Amendment, defamation, invasion of privacy, right of publicity, guild disputes, profit participation, royalty payments, violations of the Talent Agencies Act, and interpretation and enforcement of talent, executive, distribution, film and recording contracts. He 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.

MICHAEL K. BROWN

Partner
Reed Smith LLP



MICHAEL K. Brown is a Partner with Reed Smith and is a nationally recognized trial lawyer and a strategist for large litigations, whose

practice focuses on complex product liability and commercial matters, including class actions, Multi-District Litigations, mass torts, and claims for unfair competition and false advertising. Brown is considered one of the top product liability lawyers in the country with a focus on prescription drugs and medical devices. He is also an acknowledged authority in the area of federal preemption for medical devices in both trial and appellate courts.

Brown is also the Founding Chair of Reed Smith's Life Sciences Health Industry Group, and in 2008, he received Reed Smith's Shaw's Lion Award, given annually to the firm's outstanding lawyer. He joined Reed Smith as part of the combination between Reed Smith and the California-based firm of Crosby Heafey Roach and May. His clients have included, among others, C. R. Bard Inc.; Medtronic, Inc.; Pfizer Inc.; Merck & Co. Inc.; Eli Lilly and Company; and GlaxoSmithKline, Inc.

KIM BUFFINGTON

Managing Partner
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP



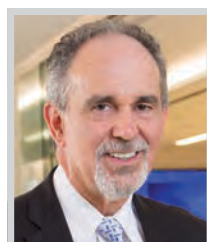
NAMED as one of the most influential women lawyers in 2017 and one of the most influential minority attorneys in 2018 by the Los Angeles

Business Journal, Kim Buffington is known for both her leadership and track-record in complex intellectual property, commercial class actions and insurance coverage matters. At the beginning of 2017, she became Managing Partner of the Pillsbury's 85-lawyer Los Angeles office upon her return from maternity leave. She represents leading media and entertainment companies in IP and class action litigation. Buffington is co-leader of the firm's Internet & Social Media team, which is highly regarded for its blog posts. It has attracted over 15K page views in the past year, and some of the posts have been picked up major news outlets.

In one example of her success, Buffington recently led a team in securing a complex and financially significant victory on behalf of Fluidmaster when a judge denied a motion to certify a class of homeowner plaintiffs.

EDWARD J. CASEY

Partner, Environment, Land Use & Natural Resources
Practice Group
Alston & Bird LLP



ALSTON & Bird partner Ed Casey is recognized as one of California's top land use litigators, with his litigation practice focusing almost exclusively

on land use and matters arising under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). He represents a variety of residential, retail and commercial developers in land use litigation challenging their development projects. His practice also extends to the permitting and entitlement process since land use and CEQA litigation is primarily based on the evidence introduced during the entitlement process. Casey also handles water rights litigation for both private landowners and major public agencies.

In the past decade, Casey, as the lead litigator for Alston & Bird, has secured 25 wins at the trial and appellate levels in defending projects against CEQA and other litigation challenges to those projects, far ahead of other practitioners in this area of law. His success rate has solidified him as a leader in the land use world.

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 in Chambers as "beyond doubt the most gifted trial lawyer in the USA" who "delivers staggering results for clients."

Chu's recent wins include securing a \$506-million judgment against Apple Inc. in July 2017 for infringing a computer microarchitecture patent owned by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF), an affiliate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The infringing products included Apple's A7, A8 and A8X processors that have powered its iPhones and iPads since 2013. The judgment included \$234 million a jury awarded to WARF following a two-week trial in October 2015, which the court more than doubled post-trial by awarding ongoing royalties, supplemental damages, pre- and post-judgment interest, and costs.

Bird Marella proudly congratulates
Gary S. Lincenberg and **Ekwan E. Rhow**
on their inclusion in
Los Angeles Business Journal's
2018 Top Litigators



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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.

TOP LITIGATORS

MICHAEL DE VRIES*Partner*
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

MICHAEL De Vries is a go-to patent and intellectual property trial lawyer who handles complex, high-stakes matters for companies like

Cisco, Intel and Motorola Solutions. Known for his trial skills, creative litigation strategies and superior work ethic, De Vries has led some of the largest competitor cases in high tech in recent years, as well as high-profile trade secret litigation involving technology companies, and often handles cases on various fronts simultaneously in and outside the United States.

De Vries achieved victories for Cisco against Arista in multiple proceedings and trials. In two separate investigations, the ITC issued exclusion orders finding multiple Cisco patents infringed and prohibiting Arista from importing products into the United States. Kirkland also convinced the ITC that Arista engaged in widespread copying of Cisco's technology, and was an intentional infringer. The Federal Circuit affirmed the ITC's decision in September 2017 in the first case; appeals from the second are ongoing.

JACK DICANIO*Litigation Partner*
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

SKADDEN, Arps partner Jack DiCanio has built a formidable civil litigation and white collar practice at Skadden, serving some of Southern

California's most prestigious companies and executives and securing consistent, award-winning results.

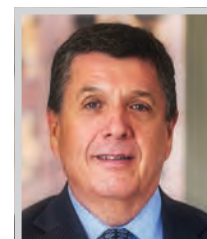
Recently, in a high-profile case with its nexus at the Port of Long Beach, DiCanio achieved a win that had a profound effect on the country's railcar industry. Railcar companies nationwide had become increasingly suspicious that United Industries LLC, a unit of Caterpillar, had been defrauding them by performing millions of dollars in unnecessary repairs to their railcars. Much of the country's critical railcar industry was impacted, as United Industries was charged with inspecting upwards of 10,000 railcars a month as they rolled through Terminal Island at the Port of Long Beach, as well as other parts of the country. DiCanio devised a strategy and developed evidence that eventually would show that United Industries had defrauded the railcar companies to the tune of \$20 million dollars and dumped incriminatory evidence into the Long Beach port.

E. MARTIN ESTRADA*Partner*
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

DURING his career, E. Martin Estrada has developed a reputation as a top-flight litigator, first as a federal prosecutor trying dozens of complex

cases, including obtaining convictions in one of the nation's largest RICO organized crime prosecutions, and more recently representing corporate clients in litigating their most complicated cases as a partner with Munger, Tolles & Olson. He currently represents many of the firm's most significant clients, including Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation, Southern California Edison, Amgen, Inc., BNSF Railway Company, and the Norton Simon Museum. He is widely regarded for his sound legal counsel and track record of success, particularly in high-stakes trials, and he is often brought in to prepare high-level executives, including presidents and CEOs, for testifying at trial or deposition.

Among his recent successes, Estrada co-led a team that obtained a trial win on behalf of Jay Froberg, co-founder of entertainment management company ROAR LLC, in a contentious fight in Los Angeles Superior Court over control of the company.

JAMES R. EVANS, JR.*Partner in Alston & Bird's Labor & Employment Practice Group*
Alston & Bird LLP

JAMES (Jim) Evans is a highly skilled trial attorney with decades of experience handling complex cases in state and federal courts.

His expertise offers clients his thoughtful avoidance strategy counsel as a preventive measure and his substantial courtroom experience when high-stakes litigation is unavoidable.

Evans represents clients across a broad spectrum of industries and focuses his practice primarily on class action matters, including claims of wage-and-hour violations and employee misclassification, unfair competition, the validity of advertising and marketing claims, privacy violations under California's Song-Beverly Act, violations of the ADA, intentional torts, and violations of the California Franchise Investment Law. His specialty is civil trial work with an emphasis in class action work (employment and consumer). Because of his long-standing work in the area of arbitration agreements and class action waivers, Evans crafted arbitration agreements for numerous employers well before the U.S. Supreme Court ruled last month that such agreements are enforceable.

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**CONGRATULATES OUR
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TOP LITIGATORS OF 2018
BY THE LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL**

**OREN BITAN****MATT SEROR**

TOP LITIGATORS

MILES J. FELDMAN*Founding Partner
Raines Feldman LLP*

MILES Feldman is a founding partner of Raines Feldman LLP. Feldman heads the Trials, Litigation and Dispute Resolution Department of

the firm with more than 22 litigators. A seasoned trial lawyer, he 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.

Over the last 18 months, Feldman obtained victories in complex litigation disputes for some of Los Angeles' most cutting-edge businesses in technology, media and finance. These include Belkin International, Uprox, MedMen, United Talent Agency, Julien's Auctions, Haymaker Content, FilmTools and Westwood Financial Corporation. Earlier this year, Feldman successfully represented Mackenzie Ziegler, an internationally known reality TV star and YouTube phenomenon, in a litigation regarding a production and 360 rights agreement. The court dismissed her as a defendant and held that the contract was void, and thus Ziegler owed the plaintiff no obligations.

RICHARD J. FREY*Member of the Firm
Epstein Becker & Green, P.C.*

RICHARD Frey is a seasoned and sought-after litigator who focuses his practice on the unique and oftentimes significant and headline-grabbing

labor and employment challenges faced by employers and general and complex commercial litigation and business matters. His clients include Fortune 500 companies, prominent hospitals and health care groups, sports and entertainment agents, movie studios and independent film producers, communications companies, government contractors, and nonprofit organizations, among others. Frey joined Epstein Becker & Green earlier this year from Venable where he served dual leadership roles as both the Chair of the West Coast Commercial Litigation Practice Group and the Chair of the West Coast Labor and Employment Practice Group.

Frey specializes in trade secrets and employment mobility, advising clients in a range of industries on these matters. Within the health care industry specifically, he has also handled traditional labor work and dispensed day-to-day advice.

DALE J. GIALI*Co-Leader, Consumer Litigation & Class Actions Practice
and Food False Advertising Group
Mayer Brown LLP*

As co-leader of Mayer Brown's Consumer Litigation & Class Actions practice and co-leader of its Food False Advertising group, Giali has

distinguished himself as the country's go-to defense lawyer for defending food companies in consumer class actions alleging that products have misleading labels. In this kind of litigation, largely brought under California consumer protection laws, enterprising plaintiffs' lawyers attack the veracity of just about any statements on products, such as "natural," "organic," "probiotic," "non-GMO," "healthy," "sugar free," "0 grams trans fat," and "antioxidant."

These suits began to explode beginning in 2008 and more than a thousand have been filed against the food industry since then. The leading attorney helping clients in response to these lawsuits is Giali, who has notched more than 100 favorable results. His clients include some of the most recognizable names in the consumer food business, including Nestle USA, Tyson Foods, Purina, Campbell Soup Co., Gerber, Ferrara Candy Co., KIND LLC, and California-based Foster Farms, Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream and Amy's Kitchen.

THOMAS V. GIRARDI*Founding Partner
Girardi Keese*

WIDELY regarded by his peers as one of the nation's top trial lawyers and with nearly fifty years of experience representing victims, Thomas

V. Girardi has obtained numerous multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements, handling claims involving wrongful death, commercial litigation, products liability, bad faith insurance, and toxic torts. He has been inducted into the Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame by the California State Bar.

A few recent and significant examples of Girardi's achievements as a litigator include a \$785 million verdict for Toxic Tort personal injuries suffered by employees in Lockheed's Skunkworks facilities; and a \$45.5 million verdict against Ford Motor Company for defective seatbelt that caused a 6-year-old child to become paralyzed. Girardi has obtained more than 30 verdicts of \$1 million or more and has handled more than 100 settlements of \$1 million or more. He has tried more than 100 jury cases, winning the first California medical malpractice verdict of \$1 million or more, back in the 1970s.

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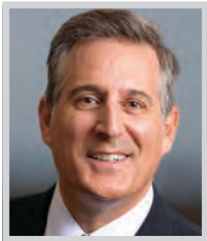
for their recognition as 2018 Top Litigators

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TOP LITIGATORS

GEOFFREY GOLD

Partner
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP



GEOFF Gold is a trial lawyer specializing in business and real estate matters. Clients appreciate his ability and track record in obtaining significant

arbitration awards, favorable mediation results and settlements, grants of summary judgment and trial victories. He frequently acts as outside general counsel for small business clients and special counsel for large companies. He has expertise working with developing businesses and assisting individual and corporate clients with everyday legal affairs. He has substantial experience negotiating, documenting and closing difficult real estate transactions, and counseling clients on how not only to win, but to avoid litigation.

For one recent matter, in a 45-day bench trial, Gold won a multi-million dollar judgment arising from a limited partnership dispute against Pacific Medical Plaza Ltd. Partnership in a financial elder abuse and derivative lawsuit. Gold also successfully negotiated the resolution of a highly complex lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles and Kaiser Permanente, and just recently filed an eight-figure lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles.

DAVID GRAELER

Chair, Litigation Practice Group;
Co-Chair, Real Estate Practice Group
Nossaman



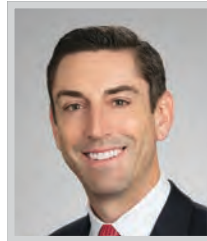
DAVID Graeler serves as Chair of Nossaman's Litigation Practice Group and Co-Chair of its Real Estate Practice Group – he also

serves on the Firm's executive committee. With nearly 20 years of experience representing both plaintiffs and defendants, Graeler excels at partnering with his clients to identify their goals and to develop and execute winning strategies to effectively resolve complex business disputes both inside and outside the courtroom. 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. Graeler 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 California Governor in evaluating judicial candidates for the Los Angeles County Superior Court.

JOSHUA HAMILTON

Partner
Latham & Watkins LLP



Alitigation partner in the Los Angeles and Century City offices of Latham & Watkins, Joshua Hamilton is a first-chair trial lawyer with

jury trial, bench trial, and arbitration experience, representing companies and senior executives in securities and corporate governance-related litigation and investigations, defense of class actions, and other high-stakes commercial disputes. His clients run the gamut, from emerging growth through public companies and investment firms, and many of his cases involve claims arising out of public offerings, disclosure obligations, proxy contests, alleged insider trading, accounting practices, or allegations of breaches of fiduciary duties.

Hamilton is the Immediate Past Chair of the Executive Committee of the Litigation Section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, the largest such section of the LA Bar at 1,300+ members, and is one of the youngest to hold the position. A further example of his exemplary standing in the LA community stems from the work he does to support local nonprofits, including the Independent School Alliance for Minority Affairs.

J. MIRA HASHMALL

Partner
Miller Barondess, LLP



MIRA Hashmall is an exceptional litigator with a broad range of experience litigating complex civil matters. She has represented

healthcare companies, commercial banks, government agencies, apparel companies, non-profits, beverage brands, entertainment companies, individuals, and others. In addition to being a top trial attorney, Hashmall is also a Certified Appellate Specialist and has handled over 50 appeals. Her unique appellate experience helps provide specialized knowledge from pre-trial through trial that helps lock down verdicts if or when an appeal arises.

Hashmall continues to use her legal expertise to stand up publicly for people who have been wronged. She 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.

Congratulations to our
Litigation Partner
Geoff Gold
and to all those named
*Los Angeles Business
Journal's 2018
Top Litigators*

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**2018
TOP
LITIGATOR**



TOP LITIGATORS

NEAL HERSH

Founding Partner
Hersh Mannis LLP



NEAL Raymond Hersh is a founding partner of the firm, Hersh Mannis LLP. With 40 years of professional practice in the area of Family Law,

Hersh is nationally known for litigating on behalf of public figures, celebrities and high asset individuals. Hersh and the firm have exceptional expertise in international matrimonial law matters involving cross border wealth protection of the international elite.

Notable cases in the past 12-18 months include crafting a deal for TV producer after extensive behind the scenes talks involving vengeful ex-girlfriend's social media hacking scheme. He was also recently successful in arguing a complex support claim involving the ex-wife of one of Hollywood's top talent agents in connection with husband's business partner's financial interest in a multimillion dollar talent agency. Among his other recent successes, Hersh prevailed on a high visibility case of celeb parents working in different and multiple locations across the globe, and kept the talks out of the tabloids.

MARK HOLSCHER

Partner
Kirkland & Ellis LLP



MARK Holscher started his career as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Los Angeles. While at the U.S. Attorney's office, Holscher prosecuted the

highly publicized case against Hollywood Madam, Heidi Fleiss, who was convicted in 1993 and served a three-year sentence. Later, Holscher moved to O'Melveny & Myers, where he was lead trial counsel on a number of high-profile criminal and civil matters including his high-stakes representation of Wen Ho Lee on espionage charges. This nationally publicized case further established Holscher as a go-to attorney in high-stakes white collar criminal litigation.

In 2006, Holscher joined Kirkland & Ellis LLP where he has handled countless notable matters. In the past 18 months, he has been lead trial counsel in a number of key cases, including his work representing Bill Ackman's Pershing Square Capital Management in a \$2 billion securities class action lawsuit initially commenced by an employee of Botox-maker Allergan, which was the target of Pershing Square's and Valeant's over \$50 billion unsolicited offer.

MARC R. JACOBS

Partner
Michelman & Robinson, LLP



MARC Jacobs is, quite simply, a superior litigator. It is no wonder, then, that the most difficult cases that come through the door at Michelman &

Robinson, LLP seem to land on his desk. A longtime partner at the firm, which is headquartered in Los Angeles, with branches in Irvine, San Francisco, Chicago and New York, Jacobs represents clients across a range of industries – Advertising & Digital Media, Banking & Financial Services, Insurance and Real Estate, among others – in disputes involving the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA), the California Invasion of Privacy Act (CIPA), trade secret misappropriation, wrongful termination and discrimination claims, property rights and so on.

Most recently, Jacobs has spent much of his time handling headline-worthy cases involving the USA Gymnastics/Larry Nassar scandal. Of note, he has also counseled some of the largest gymnastics clubs in the U.S. on a breadth of business and legal issues, a number of which find their way into the courtroom, where Jacobs shines.

GREG KNOPP

Partner
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP



RECENTLY named as partner in charge of Akin Gump's Los Angeles office, Greg Knopp is a recognized leader not only within the firm but throughout

the area of labor and employment. He regularly helms many of the nation's most closely watched employment disputes involving class action and Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) claims for industry giants – including long-standing firm clients Starbucks, Ernst & Young and Michaels – the outcomes of which hold important implications for future case law not only in California but nationwide.

In addition to being partner in charge of the firm's Los Angeles office, Knopp also serves as a member of the firm's management committee and was formerly on its partnership admissions committee. Among his recent work, Knopp is representing Starbucks in two PAGA actions seeking to recover civil penalties on behalf of all California employees in connection with various alleged improper pay practices.

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TOP LITIGATORS

MICHAEL KUMP

Partner
Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump & Aldisert



MICHAEL Kump of Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump & Aldisert has been at the forefront of several high profile entertainment and intellectual

property matters that have and will continue to impact Hollywood.

For example, in one of the highest profile cases in the entertainment business, Kump is representing The Management Group (TMG) and its principals Joel and Rob Mandel, who provide business management services to many high-profile individuals and companies in the entertainment business. When TMG started to foreclose on a secured loan to its former long-time client, actor Johnny Depp, he filed a lawsuit in January 2017 in state court in Los Angeles concerning TMG's representation of him. Kump later filed a highly publicized cross-complaint against Depp for fraud and breach of contract. The matter has generated an enormous amount of worldwide press and the case is currently set for trial in Los Angeles in August 2018, and is exposing and could redefine talent and manager deals.

STEPHEN G. LARSON

Partner
Larson O'Brien LLP



STEPHEN G. Larson is co-founder of Larson O'Brien LLP and one of California's top litigators and trial attorneys. A former US District

Judge and US Magistrate Judge, as well as a former federal prosecutor, Larson has been one of California's "go-to" trial lawyers for high-stakes civil and white-collar criminal matters since returning to private practice in 2009. Larson has nearly 30 years of trial and appellate experience, having been lead counsel in scores of jury trials in state and federal courts as well as lead appellate counsel in matters before the US Supreme Court, the US Court of Appeal for the Ninth Circuit, the California Supreme Court, and all four districts of the California Court of Appeal.

Larson's civil litigation practice involves representing individuals, public and private companies, and both state and local governments as plaintiffs and defendants in high-stakes disputes – at the investigative, pre-complaint, trial, and appellate levels.

LUIS LI

Partner
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP



LUIS Li is a leading general commercial litigator who focuses his practice on corporate crisis management, internal corporate investigations,

complex business litigation, art law, international enforcement matters and white-collar criminal defense. A former chief of the criminal branch of the Los Angeles city attorney's office and an assistant U.S. attorney for the Central District of California, he has tried nearly 30 cases for which he has received several awards and recognitions.

Li currently plays a leading role representing Plains All American Pipeline, LP in multiple actions stemming from a May 2015 oil spill near Refugio State Beach in Santa Barbara County. Li is also currently representing Patterson UTI Energy in a privileged internal investigation that stemmed from an accident that occurred in January. In the past year, Li, along with Munger, Tolles & Olson litigators E. Martin Estrada and Eric P. Tuttle, obtained a trial win in a contentious fight over control of entertainment management company ROAR LLC.

GARY LINCENBERG

Principal
Bird, Marella, Boxer, Wolpert, Nessim, Drooks, Lincenberg & Rhaw, P.C.



GARY Lincenberg concentrates his practice on the defense of white-collar criminal prosecutions, government investigations and

complex civil litigation. He is considered among the most experienced, trial-tested and skilled trial attorneys in the state. He has handled a wide variety of cases, including False Claims Act, FCPA, securities, investment, tax, real estate, banking, money laundering, money remitting, government contractor, economic espionage, export, health care, environmental, public corruption, program fraud, and intellectual property cases. Prior to joining Bird Marella 25 years ago, he served over six years as an Assistant United States Attorney.

Lincenberg is best known for his strategic approach to avoiding charges against his clients and for his superior skills at trial. Many white-collar defense attorneys rarely try a criminal case, and have never defeated the government at trial. Lincenberg has an extraordinary record of success at trial, including complete victories, or hung juries resulting in dismissals, in five of his last six criminal trials.

navigating the way



Polsinelli applauds **Mary McKelvey** for being named one of the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2018 Most Influential Litigation Attorneys.

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Polsinelli PC, Polsinelli LLP in California.

TOP LITIGATORS

NEAL MARDER

Partner
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP



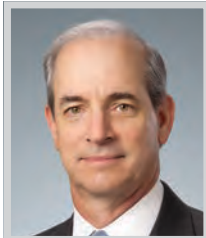
AKIN Gump partner Neal Marder is one of the leading class action litigators in the country, obtaining favorable verdicts, decisions and settlements for

clients across industries and international borders. A recognized trailblazer in the area of litigation – known for employing innovative strategies and compelling case presentation and experience gained from more than 30 years of practice – Marder has amassed an enviable track record of success in consumer and securities class actions. He has also had tremendous success trying bet-the-company cases and achieving winning results for both plaintiffs and defendants.

A recent example of his successful engagements, after a series of courtroom and deposition victories, a team led by Marder obtained a highly favorable settlement of a securities class action filed by Avenue Capital alleging misstated financials by Korean company MagnaChip, which ended an eight-year saga involving, at one point, over \$350 million in potential damages exposure for client and controlling shareholder Avenue Capital.

STEVE MARENBERG

Partner, Head of Media & Entertainment
Irell & Manella LLP



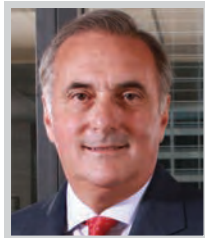
As head of Irell & Manella's Media & Entertainment Litigation practice, Steven Marenberg has spent his career litigating some of the

industry's most impactful matters on behalf of its biggest players. He handles a wide range of commercial litigation matters with an emphasis on entertainment-related litigation, intellectual property litigation, and antitrust and business tort disputes. Widely recognized as one of entertainment's top litigators, his clients have included some of the nation's leading motion picture studios, television networks, independent production companies, music companies, interactive game companies and entertainers, as well as prominent high-technology firms.

During the last year, Marenberg represented clients including the Walt Disney Company, Warner Bros. Entertainment, NBCUniversal Media, Legendary Entertainment, United Talent Agency, William Morris Endeavor, Activision Blizzard, Fremantlemedia and HBO, in significant matters in federal and state courts and arbitration. In addition to his high-profile cases, a large portion of his practice includes representing clients in contentious disputes behind the scenes or in non-public forums.

RICHARD MARMARO

Partner
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP



FOR more than 40 years, Richard Marmaro has earned the highest praise from clients, judges and peers for his substantial expertise in trying headline-

grabbing cases on behalf of individuals and corporations, both nationally and internationally, in their most complex matters. He is the head of Skadden's West Coast SEC enforcement and white-collar defense practice and a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

Marmaro has tried numerous cases in federal and state courts around the country. He has defended individuals and corporations in all phases of complex civil, criminal and regulatory matters involving allegations of, among other things, insider trading, accounting and disclosure irregularities, violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, stock options backdating, tax fraud, federal and state health care law violations and corporate opportunity issues. Marmaro has represented Big Four accounting firms and their executives in civil, regulatory and criminal litigation, and has conducted internal investigations for accounting firms in SEC and Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) matters.

MARY T. MCKELVEY

Principal
Polsinelli LLP



MARY McKelvey is a principal of Polsinelli, an AmLaw 100 law firm with over 850 attorneys in 21 offices. She is a highly respected

trial attorney who is influential in every aspect of her career, including litigating difficult cases for national and global clients, engaging in high profile litigation for pro bono clients and in successfully assuming leadership positions at the state and local bar levels. As a trial attorney, McKelvey is one of very few women litigation attorneys in the country who have risen to the top of their field in complex, high-risk mass tort and products liability actions. Her clients are highly visible national and global manufacturing companies that are at risk for claims involving millions of dollars in claimed damages.

In addition to trying cases, McKelvey has extensive experience in all stages of litigation including trial preparation, taking and defending percipient and expert witness depositions, developing innovative case handling strategy during discovery, and drafting complex pleadings and arguing dispositive motions in both state and federal court.

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TOP LITIGATORS

SANFORD L. MICHELMAN

Chairman
Michelman & Robinson, LLP



SANFORD L. Michelman is a trailblazing attorney and outstanding litigator known for his work on the most challenging of cases. Nearly

20 years ago, he co-founded Michelman & Robinson, LLP, then a two-person shop in the San Fernando Valley. The firm now has nearly 150 employees operating out of five offices in three states and is sought after by companies, large and small, in the Advertising & Digital Media, Banking & Financial Services, Healthcare, Hospitality, Insurance, Real Estate and Retail & Apparel spaces, to name a few.

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. During his tenure as Chairman of M&R, Michelman has been responsible for precedent-setting legal work, particularly in the insurance space, a practice/industry subcategory that he is most renowned for.

LOUIS R. “SKIP” MILLER

Partner
Miller Barondess, LLP



Atrial lawyer, with 30 lawyers overall in his firm, Skip Miller’s practice is diverse and includes, securities, employment, corporate takeover,

energy, investment banking, defamation/First Amendment, entertainment, copyright, toxic tort, civil rights, real estate, contract, partnership, inverse condemnation, unfair competition, administrative, energy, government, and other areas of law. His firm is a one-stop-shop for litigation.

Miller represents clients from celebrities to Fortune 500 companies to government. Among entertainers, Miller has represented Rod Stewart, Sean Connery, Axl Rose, Steven Tyler and many others. Miller is versed in business disputes, but also is passionate about litigating cases that benefit people who have faced hardship. He has litigated many cases in the public arena. He is representing the County of Los Angeles in the Aliso Canyon gas leak litigation to require SoCal Gas to abate the nuisance caused by the leak. He is also defending the City of Inglewood against Madison Square Garden in regard to the new Clippers arena.

ANN MARIE MORTIMER

*Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office;
Co-Head, Commercial Litigation Practice*
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP



WHEN Yahoo! suffered the two largest data breaches in history, it trusted Ann Marie Mortimer to defend the wave of class-action lawsuits

that followed. When the world’s largest spirits producer was accused of misleadingly labeling a popular product, it trusted Mortimer to fight the charge. And when a major oil company faced a novel theory seeking to hold it responsible for impacts of climate change, it trusted Mortimer to act as its lead trial lawyer.

Reading about her latest work on groundbreaking litigation, you could be excused for believing that Mortimer specializes in data breaches, food labeling, and environmental law. But that is incorrect. She specializes in winning trust – and few are better at the craft. Over her career, she has displayed a powerful ability to earn the trust of her clients, her fellow lawyers, and the judges and juries that decide her cases.

ROBERT C. O’BRIEN

Partner
Larson O’Brien LLP



ROBERT C. O’Brien is a co-founder of Larson O’Brien LLP. He is an accomplished trial lawyer, having served as lead trial and appellate

counsel in high-profile complex commercial litigation matters and international arbitrations. O’Brien’s litigation practice focuses on complex commercial litigation in state and federal courts and domestic and international arbitrations, in class action, entertainment, intellectual property, environmental, business torts, and complex contractual matters. He represents individuals and companies in the entertainment, oil and gas, technology, finance and real estate industries.

O’Brien is frequently appointed by federal and state courts to serve as a Special Master and discovery referee. He served in these capacities in several of the largest recent cases in the Central District of California, including MGA v. Mattel (“Barbie v. Bratz”), United States v. Standard & Poors and In re Allergan Securities Litigation. O’Brien has also been appointed as an arbitrator in over two dozen domestic and international cases.

NOMINATION DEADLINE AUGUST 16

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL LEADERS in Law

The *Los Angeles Business Journal* is proud to present the **2018 Leaders in Law Awards**, recognizing general counsel and firm attorneys within the Los Angeles business community.

To nominate individual attorneys or general counsel, please visit our website, labusinessjournal.com/bizevents.

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TOP LITIGATORS

KURT PETERSON*Partner*
Reed Smith LLP

KURT Peterson is a Partner at Reed Smith and has guided many of the largest health plans in California and the nation through their most complex litigation,

regulatory and business challenges for three decades. With a long track record of trial court and appellate wins, Peterson leads Reed Smith's industry leading Managed Care Practice Group and is recognized by Chambers as one of America's Leading Healthcare Attorneys.

Peterson's practice focuses on matters related to health care insurance and managed care plans as well as more generally on complex business disputes, false advertising, and unfair competition issues. He has defended health insurers and health plans against a variety of class action and individual claims, including unfair competition, fraud, bad faith, breach of contract, and ERISA issues. In addition, he has assisted health insurers and health plans with internal investigations, compliance with government subpoenas, and responses to government investigations. He has successfully handled hundreds of complex cases involving managed care and health insurance issues.

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 14 construction cases to juries totaling more than 75 weeks in front of juries, and has been lead trial counsel in cases from Seattle to San Diego. He has obtained two verdicts in excess of \$30 million and has recovered more than \$100 million for clients in judgments and settlements.

Recently, Pierce represented a joint venture of Shimmick Construction and Obayashi Corporation (SOJV) as plaintiff in an eight-figure damage claim against the San Diego County Water Authority for construction by SOJV of a dam in San Diego County. The project was 14 months late and the parties disputed responsibility for that delay. In January, after a 12-week jury trial, the jury awarded a verdict in excess of \$30 million for SOJV.

MARVIN S. PUTNAM*Partner; Local Chair of Litigation & Trial Department*
Latham & Watkins LLP

MARVIN Putnam is a trial lawyer who leads the national litigation team in Latham's Entertainment, Sports and Media practice, and he is

local Chair of Latham's Litigation & Trial practice in Los Angeles. He offers clients a combination of litigation experience with keen insight on the entertainment industry. He has successfully represented clients ranging from individual authors and producers, to leading entertainment companies and investment banks. His accomplishments at trial and appellate courts, both state and federal, as well as internationally, have earned Putnam a reputation as a market-leading entertainment litigator.

Recently, 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 crisis responses. A notable recent victory came for client MGM Studios, when a federal judge in Los Angeles dismissed a lawsuit brought by an entertainment lawyer who had claimed employment misconduct and defamation after he was fired following his arrest for sexual assault of a child.

EKWAN E. RHOW*Principal*
Bird, Marella, Boxer, Wolpert, Nessim, Drooks,
Lincenberg & Rhow, P.C.

EKWAN E. Rhow is a name principal at Bird Marella. A Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, he is a graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Law

School. Chambers & Partners has recognized Ekwon as a "trial expert" who is often called upon to "undertake high-profile work" and "bet-the-farm litigation," and has described him as "articulate, brilliant in court and very hard-working." He has first-chaired over 30 cases that were tried to verdict or award in courts and venues throughout California and nationwide.

As a result of his successful jury trial track record and his focused cost-effective approach to case management, clients from varied industries have retained Rhow to represent them in their complex business disputes. His regular roster of clients includes Fortune 500 companies (Xerox, Western Digital and Aramark), large private companies (Vizio, Prospect Medical and Newegg), international conglomerates (Samsung, CJ and LG), prominent Hollywood financiers and production companies (Relativity Media, Ryan Kavanaugh and Roy Lee) and other national and local corporations.

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William J. Briggs, II and Alex Weingarten

2018 Top Litigators

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TOP LITIGATORS

NICHOLAS ROWLEY

Trial Lawyer & Partner
Carpenter, Zuckerman & Rowley



NICHOLAS Rowley has won more than 100 jury verdicts and is widely considered to be one of the best personal injury attorneys in the

country. He has won over \$1 billion in jury verdicts and settlements for his clients and fights tirelessly to make insurance companies do what's right. He is also well known for being compassionate and he personally attends to the needs of each and every client to fight for their legal rights when they are injured.

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 a \$38,600,000 verdict for a young man who fell from a hotel balcony while intoxicated.

BLAKE RUMMEL

Shareholder
Weinstock Manion



BLAKE Rummel, Litigation Chair at preeminent estate planning and probate law firm Weinstock Manion, is widely considered to be one of the leading probate

litigators in Southern California. From disputes over conservatorships to estates and trusts, Rummel aggressively represents the best interests of her clients while simultaneously treating every case with sensitivity and compassion. After cutting her teeth on basic civil litigation and insurance defense, Rummel spent five plus years assisting the Children's Services Division of the Los Angeles County Counsel's office defend the Department of Children and Family Services in Dependency Court matters (child abuse and neglect). She has spent the last twenty years of her practice at Weinstock Manion, the preeminent estate planning and probate firm in Los Angeles.

Among her many accomplishments in court, Rummel was recently (in February of this year) successful in a complex trial involving the joint estate plan of a couple involved in a long-term marriage.

CHRISTIAN SCALI

Managing Partner
Scali Rasmussen LLP



CHRISTIAN Scali has a diverse automotive industry practice that includes advertising, consumer finance, consumer product safety,

data security, employment advice and counsel and litigation, employee mobility, franchise, privacy, trade secret protection, entertainment litigation and intellectual property litigation. In addition to regularly advising clients in the automotive, transportation and logistics, retail, internet marketing, media and technology and entertainment industries on these issues, he litigates regulatory and civil matters.

In 2013, Scali launched his own firm, now called Scali Rasmussen, and has grown to 20 attorneys in five offices throughout California. The hallmark of Scali's practice has been to recognize the "pressure points," which can be brought to bear against the opponent early in the litigation in order to seize a litigation advantage and then leverage that advantage to forge a favorable resolution for the client to avoid the substantial expense and risk associated with trial.

MATTHEW L. SEROR

Shareholder
Buchalter



MATTHEW L. Seror's practice includes all aspects of litigation, with particular emphasis on intellectual property matters, complex

commercial matters, and real estate litigation. Seror has represented clients in matters involving copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets, trade dress, and unfair competition. He regularly counsels clients on effective means of protecting intellectual property assets and frequently represents clients in the apparel industry with regard to licensing and infringement claims. He also specialized in cybersecurity law, internet, e-commerce and social media law.

Seror represents a number of companies, start-ups, financial institutions, receivers and other court appointed fiduciaries in complex commercial and real estate matters. His extensive experience includes matters involving contractual disputes, secured transactions, fraud, securities violations, mechanic lien litigation, partnership disputes, real estate disputes, and securities violations.

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ED CASEY
AND
JIM EVANS

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

www.alston.com

Nossaman congratulates our Partner David Graeler on being named to the Los Angeles Business Journal's "Top Litigators" list.

David Graeler | Partner | Nossaman LLP

Nossaman congratulates **David Graeler**, Chair of Nossaman's Litigation Department and Co-Chair of our Real Estate Group, on this well-deserved recognition.

We also congratulate our attorneys who have recently been honored by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*—Water Practice Chair **Alfred Smith** and Water Practice Partner **Byron Gee** (Most Influential Minority Attorneys), Infrastructure Chair **Patrick Harder** (Leading Lawyers) and Infrastructure Partners **Yukiko Kojima** (Most Influential Minority Attorneys, Most Influential Women Lawyers) and **Nancy Smith, Andrée Blais** and **Elizabeth Cousins** (Most Influential Women Lawyers). We thank each of them for the depth and breadth of their legal knowledge and skills and for their dedication to Nossaman's clients and the Los Angeles community.

NOSSAMAN LLP
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TOP LITIGATORS

RICHARD L. STONE

Co-Chair, Antitrust and Competition Law Practice; Partner, Content Media & Entertainment Practice Jenner & Block LLP



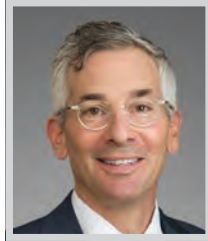
Rick Stone is co-chair of Jenner & Block's Antitrust and Competition Law Practice and a partner in the Content, Media & Entertainment

Practice. He is recognized as a leading trial lawyer, concentrating on antitrust, intellectual property, and complex commercial litigation with an emphasis on the media and entertainment industries. Few lawyers around the country can claim the sheer depth of experience and impact of work like Stone. He stands out among his peers because of his track record of success and for his experience in innovative, groundbreaking cases, and his work on matters that have had a significant impact on law and society.

Among the many significant cases Stone has recently worked on include Fox Television Stations v. BarryDriller Content Systems. The reversal, a monumental win for broadcasters, and ensuing settlement put an end to this and other similar litigation pending in the DC and Seventh Circuits.

ADAM F. STREISAND

Partner Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP



Adam Streisand is widely regarded as one of the nation's top trial attorneys, particularly in high profile litigation involving private wealth disputes,

fiduciary litigation, business succession and partnership disputes and litigation involving trusts, estates and conservatorships. Streisand is best known for his victories in courtroom battles over celebrity estates (currently including the estates of Tom Petty, Hugh Hefner, Alan Thicke among others).

The Los Angeles Business Journal presented Streisand with its Leaders in Law Award as "Litigation Attorney of the Year" last year, and it's no surprise. Streisand has transitioned into a nationally recognized trust and estate litigator. His practice is unique in that he is the rare lawyer in the field with an expertise in disputes involving entertainment and intellectual property issues. He's been in courtroom battles over the estates of Michael Jackson, Ray Charles, Marlon Brando, Michael Crichton, Anna Nicole Smith, Rodney Dangerfield, Dennis Hopper, William Randolph Hearst and many more.

ANA TAGVORYAN

Partner & Chair of the Consumer Privacy and TCPA Class Action Defense Group Blank Rome LLP



Ana Tagvoryan has more than a decade of experience defending complex consumer individual and class action claims in and out

of the courtroom across the nation. Her multifaceted corporate litigation practice concentrates on consumer fraud, data privacy, online and telephone marketing, false advertising, e-commerce, and regulatory and statutory compliance issues. She is also the Chair of the consumer privacy and TCPA (Telephone Consumer Protection Act) class action defense group, which handles privacy-related class actions involving autodialing, telemarketing, call recording, data sharing, and other consumer privacy matters.

Her team routinely advises clients with respect to data privacy and compliance with federal and state consumer laws across various industries. Her clients regard her as strategic and creative; they trust her common sense approach to problem solving and appreciate her professional dedication. On the litigation front, Tagvoryan has extensive experience defending companies in a multitude of complex consumer class actions in both state and federal courts across the nation.

ROBERT WALLAN

Partner Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP



Robert Wallan joined Pillsbury in 1990, serving numerous management roles including office managing partner for six years and head of the Los

Angeles Litigation group for a decade. He is a commercial litigator who also represents clients seeking insurance coverage under their D&O, cyber and other liability insurance policies. Wallan founded and co-chairs the firm's insurance policyholder practice, which has now grown to nearly 50 lawyers worldwide, and has achieved numerous practice group of the year awards from Law 360, Legal 500, as well as a national Chambers ranking.

Wallan has represented In-N-Out Burger for decades, and represents a range of financial institutions, manufacturers, and food companies. Among many other matters, Wallan represented In-N-Out in its trademark suit against DoorDash which resolved by settlement. During the last two years, he also represented The Broad in federal insurance coverage litigation after the museum's insurer Hartford denied coverage for underlying litigation relating to the design and construction of the museum. The case settled favorably last year.

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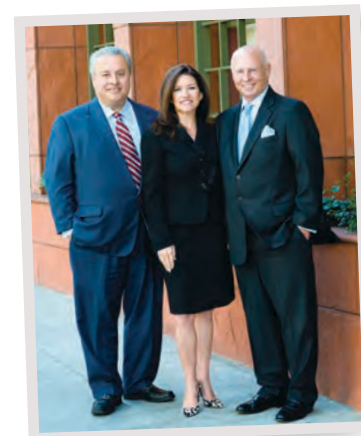
Epstein Becker Green congratulates our very own Richard J. Frey for being recognized as one of the Los Angeles Business Journal's "Top Litigators"



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All of us at Girardi | Keese congratulate our **TOM** for being named among the **Top Litigators of Los Angeles** by the Los Angeles Business Journal



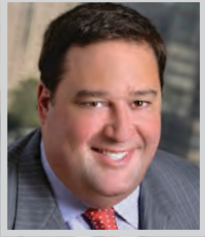
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TOP LITIGATORS

ALEX WEINGARTEN
Partner, Litigation
Venable LLP



ALEX Weingarten represents clients in all facets of business litigation, with a particular emphasis on entertainment and trust litigation. He does not merely

litigate cases and settle; he has a strong track record of picking juries and winning verdicts. Clients look to Weingarten to handle high-profile cases, protect their integrity during the very public litigation process, provide a fresh approach, and suggest novel and overlooked strategies. He is aggressive about optimizing results and prides himself on finding the most direct route to victory. Sometimes that means finding a creative solution around a difficult problem; sometimes it means bowling through it.

Over the past 18 months, Weingarten has tried and won four cases, and orchestrated favorable settlement outcomes in countless others. He is also a leader in the Los Angeles legal community. After previous service as the chair of the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles' Legal Division, he now serves as chair of the Federation's Community Engagement Division and is a member of the Federation's board of directors.

JAMES ZELENAVY
Partner
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP



IN his burgeoning False Claims Act and government-facing litigation practice, Jim Zelenay has represented clients across the nation, in various district

and appellate courts, and has represented clients in the educational, financial, medical, pharmaceutical, constructing, accounting, telecommunication, insurance, and other industries. His practice focuses on government-facing litigation and investigations, and he has particular experience in whistleblower and False Claims Act litigation.

Recently, Zelenay's leadership helped secure the dismissal and affirmance of the then-longest running False Claims Act case in history (pending for 20 years) only eight months after Gibson Dunn was retained, based upon a theory the Gibson Dunn team developed and had not been advanced in the prior history of the case. The Gibson Dunn team with Zelenay's guidance secured the dismissal of a contentious whistleblower case filed against a member of a management entity of a hospital, setting a defense-positive trend for litigants in government-facing litigation based upon what types of statements may be actionable in whistleblower litigation.

The State Bar Will Implement Nearly 70 New Rules of Professional Conduct

THE California Supreme Court recently issued an order approving 69 Rules of Professional Conduct for California attorneys, and rejecting one. The rule changes will go into effect Nov. 1, 2018, and will apply to the more than 250,000 attorneys licensed in California.

"This marks the first overhaul of ethics rules for attorneys licensed in California in nearly 30 years," said Leah T. Wilson, Executive Director of the State Bar of California. "The State Bar appreciates the work of the Commission on the Revision of the Rules of Professional Conduct and the Board of Trustees, as well as the Supreme Court, for bringing about these fundamental changes to attorney ethics rules."

After extensive review by the State Bar's Commission on the Revision of the Rules of Professional Conduct, the State Bar Board of Trustees approved the proposed rules in March 2017. The proposed rules, whose creation focused in large part on protecting the public, were then submitted to the Supreme Court.

Highlights of the new rules include: Expansion of the ban on harassment and discrimination to allow the State Bar to open an investigation without a previous civil finding and to include express prohibitions on harassment and retaliation. The rule would

also require an attorney facing discipline charges related to such misconduct to notify the federal and state agencies that enforce anti-discrimination laws.

A stricter rule against sex with clients, banning it unless there was a prior consensual relationship. The current rule prohibits sex as a quid pro quo for representation or if the lawyer employed "coercion, intimidation, or undue influence."

In 2017 the Court approved another key ethics rule change regarding prosecutorial misconduct, which gives clear guidelines for prosecutors in criminal cases around discovery and disclosure of exculpatory evidence. Such evidence can often impact a defendant's innocence or guilt.

The California Rules of Professional Conduct are intended to regulate professional conduct of attorneys licensed by the State Bar through discipline. They have been adopted by the Board of Trustees and approved by the California Supreme Court pursuant to statute to protect the public and to promote respect and confidence in the legal profession. The rules and any related standards adopted by the Board are binding on all attorneys licensed by the State Bar.

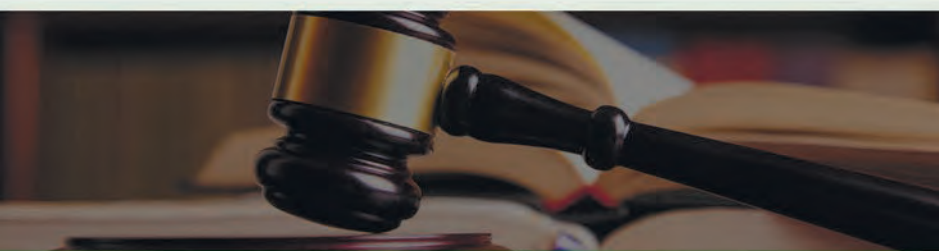
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to our Founder and Managing Partner

Christian Scali

and to all of 2018's
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