

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE:
Labor & Employment
Attorneys



THERE ARE MANY BRILLIANT ATTORNEYS IN LOS ANGELES – MASTERS OF THEIR CRAFT THAT CAN PREPARE individuals and businesses for any legal issue that might arise while expertly providing counsel as needed and writing and overseeing the documents designed to protect their clients’ assets and livelihoods.

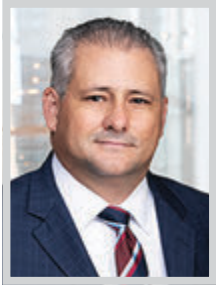
There is also a special breed or attorney that needs to transcend expert comprehension of the legal system – the litigator. Attorneys who go to the proverbial mat to fight for their clients before judges and jury have their own unique sets of skills. In this special section we have gathered some of the very best litigators and trial attorneys in region. These are the lawyers you want in your corner in court.

We’ve alphabetically listed this lineup of superb litigation specialists, along with information about their careers, practice and some of the relevant recent successes they’ve achieved.

Congratulations to the attorneys who made this prestigious list.

Methodology: The professionals featured in these pages did not pay to be included. Their profiles were drawn from nomination materials submitted to the Los Angeles Business Journal. Those selected for inclusion were reviewed by the editorial department and chosen based on a demonstration of impact made on the profession and on the Los Angeles community.

LOI: LABOR & EMPLOYMENT ATTORNEYS

**ADAM ABRAHMS**

Member of the Firm, Board of Directors
Epstein Becker Green

Trusted and pragmatic advisor, Adam Abrahms is frequently called upon by employers from across the nation to provide strategic guidance and representation on their most complicated labor relations issues. Despite this breadth, the core of his practice remains committed to California with specific focus on California health care labor relations.

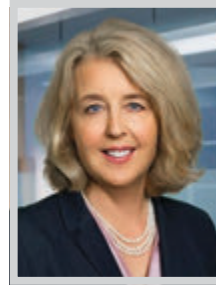
Abrahms is one of California's leading hospital-side labor attorneys and has successfully managed more than 100 union avoidance campaigns in dozens of states with a success rate of more than 95%. Recently, these matters have been particularly complex and sensitive in nature given a national nurse shortage and other complexities arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, Abrahms continues to work on groundbreaking labor management relations projects for employers across varied industries. Abrahms and his team continue to achieve consequential victories for a waste collection and recycling client in connection with continued disputes with its union.

**CLIFTON W. ALBRIGHT**

President and Founding Partner
Albright, Yee & Schmit, APC

Clifton Albright is the president of Albright, Yee & Schmit. Based in downtown Los Angeles, Albright specializes in labor and employment law. He was the first attorney to win a lawsuit against the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) regarding its Public Health Service Training Program. In December 2010 and March 2014, President Barack Obama appointed Albright to the International Trade Advisory Committee (ITAC 11). Albright was reappointed to (ITAC 9) in February 2018 by President Donald Trump. Albright is currently being considered for reappointment by President Biden.

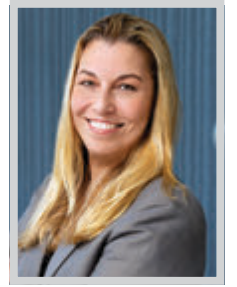
A sought-after speaker, Albright conducts continuing education programs for attorneys, executives, and employees in such areas as employment and labor law, business management, and complex litigation. The National Institute of Trial Advocacy awarded Albright a diploma and a master's degree in its Master Advocates Program. He is licensed to practice before United States Supreme Court.

**DAPHNE ANNEET**

Partner
Burke, Williams & Sorensen LLP

Daphne Anneet is an experienced litigator, labor negotiator, and investigator. Anneet is chair of Burke, Williams & Sorensen's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee and vice-chair of the firm's Labor and Employment Practice Group. She has also served as a member of the firm's Management Committee.

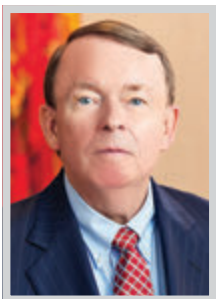
Anneet has achieved excellent litigation results for clients in state and federal court, as well as in arbitrations and administrative proceedings. She represents public and private entities in matters ranging from class actions, discrimination, harassment, whistleblower retaliation, wage and hour, worker misclassification, pension, civil rights, unfair labor practice disputes, false claims, and disciplinary appeals. As lead defense counsel in class actions and complex litigation, Anneet has a track record of successful results in a variety of creative and cost-effective ways. A team builder and team player, Anneet brings together superior litigation skills and subject matter expertise within the firm to develop winning litigation strategies.

**SABRINA A. BELDNER**

Partner and Department Chair
McGuireWoods

Sabrina Beldner is the driving force behind McGuireWoods' highly successful California employment law practice and has served as chair of the 60-plus-lawyer national Labor & Employment Department since 2020. Beldner's recent successes show why clients nationwide seek her out as go-to counsel to navigate high-stakes discrimination, wage-and-hour, and traditional labor litigation.

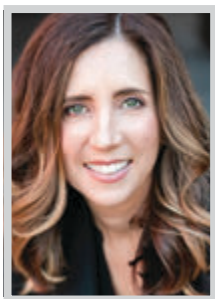
In August 2022, Beldner helped defeat class certification for a Fortune 500 retailer in a putative wage-and-hour class action. After reviewing the retailer's opposition to class certification, the plaintiff voluntarily abandoned six of her proposed seven subclasses. The district court then denied certification on the grounds that the plaintiff couldn't meet FRCP 23's typicality and adequacy of representation requirements because, unlike the majority of putative class members he sought to represent, the plaintiff wasn't bound by the retailer's arbitration agreement and had no standing to challenge its enforceability or validity on behalf of other putative class members.

**JAMES H. BERRY**

Partner, Los Angeles Office
Munck Wilson Mandala

James (Jim) H. Berry is a partner practicing in Munck Wilson Mandala's employment and labor law and litigation groups. He brings to his clients several decades of experience in employment law, including both litigation and counseling on the wide variety of challenges for employers created by California and federal law. His employment litigation and counseling experience includes advising and representing clients on discrimination, harassment, wrongful termination, disability compliance, whistleblower claims, and wage and hour issues.

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**STEPHANIE COLLINS**

Assistant General Counsel for Litigation,
Labor and Employment
The Aerospace Corporation

Stephanie Collins is the assistant general counsel for litigation, labor, and employment at the Aerospace Corporation, an El Segundo-based non-profit with \$1 billion in revenue and more than 4,200 employees nationwide. As a federally funded research and development center, Aerospace provides critical technical expertise and objective analysis that solve the hardest problems facing our nation's space programs.

As Aerospace's lead on matters related to litigation, labor, and employment, Collins often plays the role of helping the organization avoid troubling legal issues. But as Aerospace is a forward-looking organization – in the booming industry of space – Collins is also tasked with reimagining how the organization can deliver its objective of “mission assurance” in a quickly changing landscape such as personnel. Collins has helped Aerospace leadership restructure the organization so that Aerospace keeps pace with the democratization and commercialization of space.

**MARA CURTIS**

Partner
Reed Smith LLP

Mara Curtis is a partner in the Labor & Employment Group of Reed Smith. Her practice focuses on counseling and litigating wage and hour matters. At only 38, Curtis has already distinguished herself as one of the nation's leading lawyers in wage and hour law for cutting-edge industries, particularly the gig-economy, transportation, health care and retail sectors. She has played a lead role in many of the most significant wage and hour cases of the recent past – many of which involve high-risk operational, classification and/or business model challenges that make them fundamentally different from other employment litigation – including obtaining the first published decision by the Ninth Circuit.

Overall, Curtis has handled more than 100 class/representative actions over her young career, and she is currently lead counsel on more than 25 class/representative action lawsuits in California, including nine in the transportation industry.

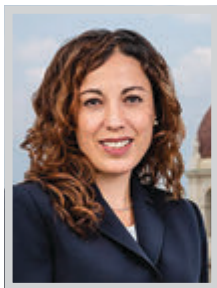
**DAVID deRUBERTIS**

Sole Shareholder and Lead Trial Lawyer
The deRubertis Law Firm, APC

David deRubertis heads one of Los Angeles' leading boutique contingency-fee trial law firms, handling employment disputes on behalf of employees, catastrophic personal injury and wrongful death matters, contingency business litigation, consumer class actions and insurance bad faith matters.

During the last few years, deRubertis has been lead counsel in single-plaintiff employment settlements totaling well over \$55 million, with an average settlement of over \$2 million for individual employment cases. He is also a leader in class action recoveries. deRubertis has continued to secure sizeable confidential pre-litigation resolution in matters such as #metoo cases or high-level-executive whistleblowing cases. He has also continued his aggressive pursuit of changing the workplace for the better for AT&T and Walmart workers. In one of his most high-profile cases, he represented Oscar-winning actress and famed comedian Mo'Nique in her quest for equal pay against Netflix.

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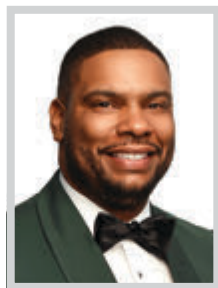


RITA DIAZ

Partner, Chair of Litigation Department
Hahn & Hahn LLP

Rita Diaz is a member of Hahn & Hahn LLP's litigation, employment, and trust and estates practice groups. She has significant experience handling contentious trust and estates litigation, as well as advising trustees and beneficiaries through trust administration issues. She is also skilled at advising companies on employment matters, including discrimination, leaves of absence, and wage and hour issues, and reviewing and drafting employee handbooks.

Very involved in the surrounding community and with a passion for giving back, Diaz is also on the board of Union Station. She is on the planning committee for the USC Trust & Estate Conference and on the planning committee for the USC Tax Institute. She is also a member of the Pasadena Bar Association and Los Angeles County Bar Association.

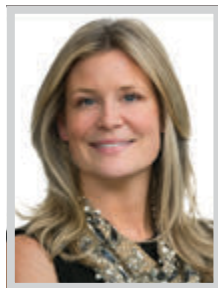


RODNEY S. DIGGS

Director
Ivie McNeill Wyatt Purcell & Diggs

Rodney Diggs became a partner at Ivie, McNeill & Wyatt in 2016, and in 2019, he became a named partner when the firm changed its name to Ivie McNeill Wyatt Purcell & Diggs. Diggs has obtained over \$200 million in verdicts and settlements on behalf of his clients in his eleven years of being an attorney. Diggs also has had notable successes with assisting individuals in need of representation.

Diggs' significant achievements include recently obtaining a \$25 million verdict as lead counsel in an employment retaliation lawsuit. He also obtained a \$9.1 million verdict in a wrongful death case against the City of Long Beach. This was the largest verdict in history against the City of Long Beach and the second largest verdict in a wrongful death case in the Central District of California. Diggs has obtained over \$200 million in verdicts and settlements on behalf of his clients.

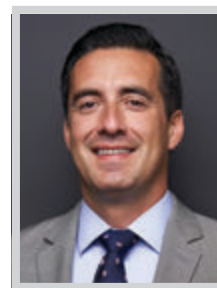


CAROLINE POWELL DONELAN

Partner, Labor & Employment
Blank Rome LLP

Caroline Donelan counsels and defends businesses of all sizes in all areas of employment law compliance and litigation, including wage and hour class and representative actions, wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment, trade secret disputes and data protection, competitive hiring, and alleged fiduciary breaches. Beyond litigation and counseling work, Donelan also routinely provides transactional support and advice on stock and asset purchase agreements.

As her clients will attest, Donelan's practice transcends a typical employment lawyer's. As "inside-outside" counsel, she becomes a trusted advisor in multiple areas of client operations including HR, legal compliance, and employee relations. Given her transactional experience, Donelan has business, not just legal, acumen which she leverages for clients in litigation and her proactive risk-management practice. She spends countless hours studying California litigation trends, particularly regarding wage and hour matters, and speaks on and attends expert panels on cutting-edge employment issues.



ALFONSO ESTRADA

Partner; Labor & Employment Section Vice Chair
Hanson Bridgett, LLP

A client-base built from the ground up and a practice committed to equitable treatment for all, Alfonso Estrada, Hanson Bridgett's vice chair of the Labor & Employment Section, attributes his passion for the pursuit of justice to community, grit, and heart. Consistent with these values is his recent career move to Hanson Bridgett where he brings a powerful skillset in litigation, labor and employment law, regulatory enforcement and white-collar defense.

As an active member of the community and a top-flight litigator at the forefront of issues including, most notably, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and First Amendment violations, Estrada is a widely respected lawyer with deep, substantive and industry-leading experience, who has been at the forefront of representing clients in high-stakes litigation throughout his career. He is also affiliated with several professional organizations and regularly presents his expertise at conferences.



Fisher Phillips Congratulates our 2022 Leaders in Labor & Employment Law



Lonnie Giamela

Partner
Los Angeles/Irvine



Hannah Sweiss

Partner
Los Angeles/Woodland Hills



With more than 500 attorneys in 37 offices across the United States, Fisher Phillips is a national labor and employment firm providing practical business solutions for employers' workplace legal problems.

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**THEANE EVANGELIS**

Partner and Co-Chair, Litigation Practice Group
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

In the last year alone, Theane Evangelis has played a lead role in a wide range of high-profile, groundbreaking litigation matters and has been a leading lawyer who has helped shape how companies serving the “gig economy” operate. Evangelis has emerged as a go-to litigator for businesses whose business models are under attack.

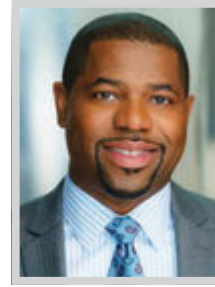
In July 2022, Evangelis continued her winning streak on Section 1 of the Federal Arbitration Act by scoring a huge victory for Grubhub in the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in *Archer v. Grubhub*. The unanimous decision is the first appellate case on the applicability of Section 1 in the gig economy since the U.S. Supreme Court’s recent Section 1 decision in *Southwest Airlines v. Saxon*. The decision reversed the trial court’s ruling and held that workers who use Grubhub’s app to make deliveries are not “engaged in interstate commerce” within the meaning of Section 1.

**MIA FARBER**

Principal
Jackson Lewis P.C.

Mia Farber is a principal in the Los Angeles office of Jackson Lewis P.C. and a co-leader of the Class Actions and Complex Litigation practice. She is a former member of the firm’s Board of Directors and the former office managing principal of the Los Angeles office. She has extensive experience in all facets of employment and labor litigation, with a focus on representing employers in wage and hour class action litigation.

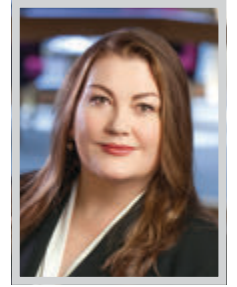
Farber has represented employers in all types of employment litigation, including sexual harassment, discrimination, retaliation, and wrongful termination. She also has vast experience with wage and hour class actions. Farber has defended a significant number of wage and hour class actions over the course of her impressive career. Additionally, she regularly provides advice and counsel, conducts training seminars on a myriad of topics related to employment issues and frequently speaks on employment law issues.

**MELVIN L. FELTON, II**

Partner
Sanders Roberts LLP

Melvin Felton, II represents corporations and individuals in a wide range of employment and business litigation matters. He has extensive experience advising in all stages of litigation, mediation, and arbitration, having successfully resolved more than 250 matters in a variety of different industries, including construction, professional services, retail, finance, healthcare, manufacturing, and real estate.

Felton takes a client-centered approach to litigation and advice, focusing on each client’s particular sensitivities, culture, and bottom line. He serves as outside general counsel for multiple clients and a lead outside counsel for numerous Fortune 500 companies and large municipalities. Very active within the legal community, Felton is the treasurer of the John M. Langston Bar Association of Los Angeles, serves on the Executive Committee of the Litigation Section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, and is co-chair of the National Employment Law Council/American Bar Association Labor and Employment Section Trial Institute.

**KATHERINE FORSTER**

Partner
Munger, Tolles & Olson, LLP

Katherine Forster assists clients with class action defense, disputes involving independent contractor classification, and countless behind-the-scenes crises. But her most recent success – and an example of what sets her practice apart – was a pro bono representation that resulted in desperately needed legislation. Forster took up *Does v. Washington Department of Corrections*, representing transgender, non-binary, and intersex prisoners and former prisoners whose medical information, sexual history, and history of sexual victimization were being disclosed by the Washington Department of Corrections in response to Public Records Act requests.

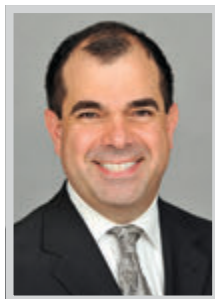
Prison intake interviews are mandated to gather sensitive information related to gender identity and sexual history. The policy of disclosing such records posed risks of harm to Forster’s clients, including threats to their physical safety and their ability to find employment and housing once free. Forster and co-counsel obtained a preliminary injunction barring the Department of Corrections from disclosing the sensitive information.

**JEANNE FUGATE**

Partner
King & Spalding

Jeanne Fugate is a trial lawyer focusing on employment and intellectual property litigation, and complex civil litigation. She is currently lead counsel in multiple employment matters. She frequently advises on issues regarding employee mobility, restrictive covenants, and separation and litigates matters relating to the enforcement of restrictive covenants. She frequently litigates regarding the protection of trade secrets and IP.

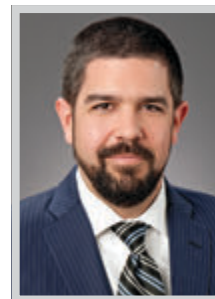
Fugate’s recent successes includes her work recently achieving a dismissal with prejudice at the 12(b)(6) stage on behalf of internet company and several of its employees in the defense of a suit alleging various business torts (including violation of Russian employment law) and copyright infringement that claimed more than \$750 million in damages. She also recently preserved a settlement agreement in a suitable seating PAGA action against a major retailer, defeating a motion for sanctions. In another recent case, she secured the dismissal of a suitable seating action against major retailer.

**LONNIE GIAMELA**

Partner
Fisher Phillips

A partner in Fisher Phillips’ Los Angeles office, Lonnie Giamela is a “go-to” resource for his clients. Drawing on his experience working in his family’s chain of sandwich shops in Los Angeles, Giamela can relate to his clients’ business pressures and helps them find practical solutions to their everyday employment law concerns.

Giamela partners with a variety of clients – businesses with 20 employees or 20,000 employees – in all types of labor and employment matters. He works side-by-side with employers, guiding them through various employment disputes, and he has been at the forefront of class action and PAGA litigation. Within the past approximate year, Giamela and the litigation teams he has led have: 1) defeated class certification on three occasions; 2) obtained summary judgment in multiple cases; 3) obtained jury trial defense verdict; and 4) enforced pre-dispute arbitration agreement with class and representative waivers.

**BEN GIPSON**

Partner
DLA Piper

Ben Gipson serves as a trusted advisor for clients’ employment needs, with a special focus on the technology, media, sports and entertainment sectors. Gipson helps his clients effectively manage their workforce and maintain their focus on successfully operating the business. He defends employers in wage-and-hour class actions, WARN class actions, sexual harassment, wrongful termination, discrimination, breach of employment contract, unlawful business practices, state and federal whistleblowing, traditional labor disputes and other employment-related cases before state and federal tribunals, achieving early summary judgment and other motion practice victories at the trial and appellate levels.

Gipson also conducts sensitive, high-stakes investigations to address clients’ most sensitive and urgent workplace matters. Working with a cross-practice team including former prosecutors and other employment attorneys, Gipson investigates allegations of misconduct, assesses and advises clients on internal and external statements and develops practices and procedures.

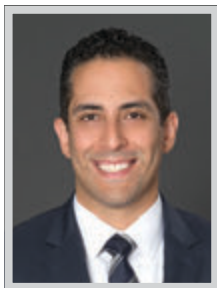
**MIRA HASHMALL**

Partner
Miller Barondess, LLP

Mira Hashmall is an accomplished trial lawyer who employers call when they face high-stakes litigation involving claims of harassment, discrimination, retaliation, wage and hour violations, wrongful termination, disability discrimination, and family and medical leave rights. Representing the County of Los Angeles, Hashmall has secured favorable rulings that have set precedents statewide.

In December 2021, Hashmall won summary judgment on behalf of LA County in an action filed by an employee against the County, and other employees and supervisors of the County, alleging whistleblower retaliation, discrimination, harassment, and FEHA retaliation. Plaintiff’s motion for reconsideration was denied. In a ruling recognized as a Daily Journal Top Defense Verdict 2020, she won a summary judgment ruling on behalf of LA County in a FLSA class action lawsuit relating to the State of California’s IHSS program, in which plaintiffs sought nearly \$50 million.

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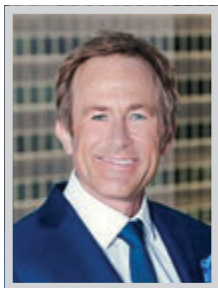


STEVE L. HERNANDEZ

Of Counsel
DLA Piper

Steve L. Hernandez advises clients in a broad range of industries, from representing production companies and studios in the entertainment space to restaurants, concessionaires, warehouses, and hospitality industry, real estate, and trucking companies. He devotes his practice to assisting clients with a variety of labor and employment-related issues, including advising on labor-management relations, on all areas of California employment law, litigating before state and federal agencies, and litigating individual and class action cases in state and federal court.

A bilingual child of Mexican immigrants, Hernandez brings a valuable perspective to his work. Not only does he come from a working-class background, but his non-traditional legal career has also given him a broad perspective that he uses in guiding his clients. Hernandez spent the first four years of his career at Region 21 of the National Labor Relations Board, investigating and prosecuting unfair labor practice cases, as well as handling representation-election cases.



ROBERT HUDOCK

Managing Attorney
Hudock Employment Law Group

Robert Hudock founded Hudock Employment Law Group in 2015 to deliver tailored legal services to California companies that thrive in vibrant, creative work environments. His clients are often companies looking at new markets and competitive opportunities, that want to recruit the best talent available, while avoiding distracting workplace issues or lawsuits. Hudock is a deeply experienced litigator with over 21 years of practice and has devoted his career to employment law for businesses for the last 16 years.

Hudock spent several years in “big law” and has experience managing large litigation teams. He was drawn to the “human side” of employment law, helping clients overcome challenges presented by difficult issues. Known for his careful case analysis and preparation, thoughtful counsel, and leadership skills, Hudock is a disciplined advocate and tenacious litigator for his clients, and regularly finds creative solutions for legal problems.



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 in the temporary staffing, service, manufacturing, and retail industries, successfully defending clients against the most challenging wage and hour, discrimination, non-compete and anti-raiding claims facing employers in California and across the nation. He is currently leading class, collective and other complex employment litigation and has developed a highly successful unfair competition and employee raiding practice in California.

Juarez has been at the helm helping companies navigate the uncharted challenges brought on by the pandemic and by regulation keeping up with technology. He is representing several companies in cases that implicate COVID issues, including a novel question about whether masks and COVID-19 testing via temperature checks can be considered compensable time and reimbursement issues related to work at home.



LAUREN KATUNICH

Chair, Labor & Employment Department
Raines Feldman

Lauren is the chair of Raines Feldman’s Labor & Employment Department. She represents businesses and individuals in all types of labor and employment matters, including wage and hour class and PAGA actions, trade secret misappropriation, wrongful termination, employment discrimination and harassment, including sexual harassment, FEHA and whistleblower retaliation, as well as wage and hour claims and advice. She regularly counsels human resources professionals and business owners on navigating the complexities of California’s wage and hour laws and applicable leaves of absence from the workplace.

Katunich is a seasoned litigator with extensive litigation and dispute resolution experience. She has tried more than two dozen cases to their successful conclusion in front of juries, judges, arbitrators, and various state and federal administrative agencies, including the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, and the California Labor Commissioner.

M&R congratulates its exceptional Firm Managing Partner and Leader of Influence: Labor & Employment Attorneys

DANA KRAVETZ



Where bona fide industry expertise meets unsurpassed advisory and practice area know-how

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LETICIA KIMBLE
Partner
Raines Feldman

Leticia Kimble, a partner at Raines Feldman, is an experienced litigator with a practice that focuses on complex business and intellectual property litigation, business and entertainment contract disputes, and all aspects of employment and labor law, including the defense of employment-related lawsuits involving wrongful termination, harassment, discrimination, and wage and hour issues.

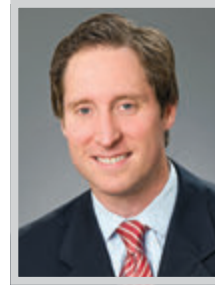
Kimble handles every stage of litigation, from inception to finish, including extensive motion practice, discovery, depositions, trial, and settlement. In addition, she also has transactional experience obtaining, protecting, and exploiting copyrights and trademarks, negotiating distribution agreements, and counseling start-up companies on their corporate formation, employment issues, and corporate governance. She is also active in various alumni groups for the University of Southern California and University of Michigan.



HOWARD M. KNEE
Partner, Labor & Employment
Blank Rome LLP

Howard Knee has handled over 100 trials, appearing before the United States Supreme Court, the California Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and various state courts of appeal. Knee has handled jury and bench trials in both federal and state courts, arbitrations, labor arbitrations, NLRB cases, and various administrative proceedings.

Knee represents high-profile companies in complex and high-stakes cases, including defending against discrimination and sexual harassment cases as well as wage and hour class actions and PAGA representative actions. He is known for the professional and intelligent way he approaches cases and innovative strategies he uses to defend clients. In 1978, he represented a class of women in a landmark sex discrimination case in the U.S. Supreme Court, *Manhart v. City of Los Angeles*, Dept. of Water & Power. Ruth Bader Ginsburg filed an amicus brief on behalf of Knee's clients in the case.



GREGORY KNOPP
Partner
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Greg Knopp is a recognized leader not only within his firm, but also in his practice area of labor and employment. He has been instrumental in clients' success in many of the nation's most closely watched employment disputes involving class actions and PAGA claims involving industry giants – including long-standing clients Starbucks, the NFL and Tapestry – the outcomes of which hold important implications for future case law nationwide.

Within the firm, Knopp spearheads Akin Gump's labor and employment practice in the firm's Los Angeles office, was formerly the office's partner in charge and served on its partnership admissions committee, and currently serves as a member of the firm's management committee. Additionally, Knopp co-leads Akin Gump's interdisciplinary retail initiative. Launched in January 2019, the retail initiative, which has received national attention, is focused on the representation of retail industry clients across the full suite of legal and regulatory matters.



BRIAN KOEGLE
Partner
Brian Koegle, Greenspoon Marder LLP

Brian Koegle currently serves over 300 California businesses as an employment law advisor and counselor. Employment law compliance can easily ensnare even the most cautious business in California, but Koegle prides himself on diagnosing the "whole body." In other words, when a client presents an acute problem or issue, Koegle takes the time to review ancillary concerns, issues, and other loose ends, which can result in exposure to other scenarios.

Additionally, with an ever-changing employment compliance landscape, due to an active legislative and judiciary, staying abreast of the latest legal changes, trends, and best practices is a key component to the advice provided. In this role, Koegle assists employers in designing, drafting, modifying, and implementing personnel policies, procedures, and employee handbooks, and conducts personnel policy audits. He also guides employers with respect to all aspects of wage and hour compliance.



Burke proudly celebrates partner

DAPHNE M. ANNEET

being named to the Los Angeles Business Journal's Inaugural

2022 LEADERS OF INFLUENCE LABOR & EMPLOYMENT ATTORNEYS



A dynamic team builder and player, Daphne brings superior litigation skills and subject matter expertise to develop winning legal strategies.

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Congratulations to Jim Berry and Kate LaQuay

Our 2022 Leaders of Influence Labor & Employment Attorneys



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**DANA KRAVETZ**

Firm Managing Partner
Michelman & Robinson, LLP

Dana Kravetz is a sought-after employment lawyer who represents some of the most innovative and admired companies in L.A., such as Riot Games, AECOM, and the Gersh Agency, to name a few. He is also the firm managing partner of Michelman & Robinson, LLP.

Kravetz's accomplishments on behalf of his vast clientele are many, but what he views as the high-water mark of his career is his successful run at the helm of M&R. During his 10 years as the firm managing partner, M&R has realized impressive internal expansion, strategic and measured, in its four states of operation (California, Texas, Illinois and New York). Likewise, under Kravetz's decade-long leadership, the firm has been recognized time and again for its excellence. But the pièce de résistance for Kravetz is the fact that he led M&R through the pandemic without a single layoff and both top- and bottom-line growth.

**KRISTINE KWONG**

Partner
Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP

Kristine Kwong is a partner in Musick, Peeler & Garrett's Los Angeles office and advises and counsels clients on a wide range of business, corporate, operational, and employment issues, including business counseling, contract negotiation and preparation, restrictive covenant and non-compete agreements, executive mobility issues, due diligence in connection with mergers and acquisitions, and range of employment matters.

Kwong represents both public and private sector entities in retail, manufacturing, finance, healthcare, hospitality, real estate, and charitable and tax-exempt organizations, including religious entities, federally qualified health centers, educational institutions from K-12 districts, colleges to charter schools, and public sector agencies, municipalities, commissions, and special districts in both litigation and transactional matters. She has defended single-plaintiff and class action wage and hour matters, claims under PAGA, discrimination, harassment, retaliation claims, non-compete and trade secrets.

**KATE LaQUAY**

Principal Attorney – Employment & Labor
Munck Wilson Mandala

Kate LaQuay is a principal attorney in the labor and employment and litigation/dispute resolution practice groups at Munck Wilson Mandala. She has extensive experience in business litigation, regulatory matters, and resolving employment disputes on behalf of employers, defending clients on matters related to wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment, wage/hour disputes, and whistleblower claims.

LaQuay has had successful resolution of numerous claims asserting discrimination, retaliation, and harassment based on sex, sexual orientation, race, national origin, age, pregnancy, and disability, as well as alleged failure to make reasonable accommodation, to engage in the interactive process, and interference with, or retaliation based on, right to family or medical leave, pursuant to written dispute resolution program requiring mediation/arbitration of claims. In addition, she has defeated all claims asserted by a former employee against a Fortune 500 company by successful motion to dismiss based on plaintiff's discovery abuses and failure to prosecute.

**ELIZABETH LEVY**

Partner
Seyfarth Shaw LLP

Elizabeth Levy devotes her practice to federal, state and local laws that impact California employers. She represents clients in industries ranging from retail to manufacturing and healthcare. She counsels clients and litigates issues regarding leaves and sick pay, terminations, payment of wages, reasonable accommodations and employee exemptions, and is well versed in the nuanced limits of non-disclosure and confidentiality provisions.

Throughout the past two years, Levy has been a consistent and invaluable resource for her clients in regard to the quickly changing legal landscape involving COVID-19. As employers struggled to cope with shelter-in-place orders and loss of workforce issues, her relentless authorship of more than 30 articles since March 2020 (and half a dozen webinars) provided guidance for employers navigating the convoluted environment of COVID-19 related sick leave, restrictions, workplace safety revisions, vaccination mandates and stay-at-home orders.

ERVIN COHEN & JESSUP LLP

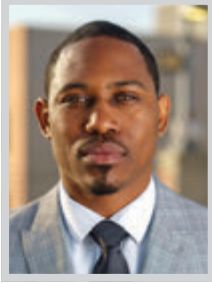
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Kelly Scott

for his nomination to the Los Angeles Business Journal's - 2022 Leaders of Influence: Labor & Employment Attorneys.



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**BRYAN E. LUTHER***Associate*

Albright, Yee & Schmit, APC

After graduating from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, Bryan Luther joined the employment law firm Albright, Yee & Schmit, APC as an associate attorney where he represents individuals, businesses, corporations, and government entities in most aspects of employment and general litigation. Luther zealously advocates for his clients from inception to resolution or dismissal.

As his clients continue to be faced with the broad-sweeping challenges accompanying the COVID-19 pandemic and now Monkeypox State of Emergency, Luther provides counselling and guidance to his clients on an ongoing basis as legislation surrounding these issues is constantly evolving. Luther is also heavily involved in the firm's employment counseling division and routinely conducts employment investigations. He also spearheads the firm's plaintiff's employment, and catastrophic injury division. Luther also recently successfully defended a multimillion-dollar employment discrimination claim which settled for nuisance value.

**RYAN McCOY***Partner*

Norton Rose Fulbright

A first-generation college graduate with a bachelor's degree in microbiology and molecular genetics, Ryan McCoy was well on his way to a career with the Los Angeles Police Department. But a sudden course reversal, inspired by his future wife, brought a new dream to become a lawyer.

Today, at Norton Rose Fulbright, McCoy is considered a rising star among the firm's top brass. In his employment and labor law practice, McCoy has found a passion for righting wrongs and making a positive impact in the lives of his clients. His practice focuses on wage and hour class actions, private attorney general claims, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and wrongful termination suits. He has worked hard to grow a diverse and active arbitration practice, having defended before the American Arbitration Association in wage and hour violations, sexual harassment, pregnancy discrimination and disability discrimination.

**JOSHUA MIZRAHI***Shareholder*

Buchalter

Joshua Mizrahi is a shareholder in Buchalter's Los Angeles office and chair 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, including hiring, terminations, disciplinary matters, labor audits and classification, resolution of employee disputes, wage and hour compliance, implementation of work place policies, employee handbooks and policies, alternative work schedules, WARN and state mini-WARN Acts, compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations. 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 works closely with the firm's corporate practice group.

**RYNE POSEY***Counsel*

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Ryne Posey is a sought-after and well-regarded labor and employment attorney who has been on a rapid ascent within Skadden since joining the firm as a 1L summer associate in 2012. In 2022, he was promoted to counsel based on his gifted legal acumen, his versatility working with a wide array of clients and his tenacity for up-lifting others on his team, in the office and in the community, especially those from under-represented backgrounds.

Posey has a unique and broad practice that includes compliance and counseling, litigation and alternative dispute resolution, and transactional matters. His compliance and counseling work includes advising on domestic and global pay equity reviews; conducting workplace investigations; mitigating unfair competition and trade secret misappropriation; planning and implementing reductions in force; developing, implementing and enforcing personnel policies and procedures; and advising on pre-litigation matters. He also leads Skadden teams in litigation and alternative dispute resolution matters.

Glaser Weil

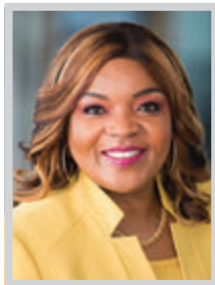
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A special
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**Kerry
Garvis
Wright**

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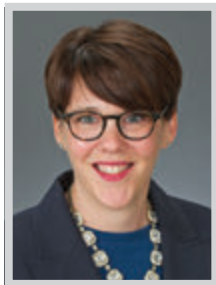


ANGELA REDDOCK-WRIGHT

*Employment Mediator, Arbitrator, Investigator
Reddock Law/Judicate West*

Recently inducted into the prestigious College of Labor & Employment, Angela Reddock-Wright is an employment mediator, arbitrator, workplace, and Title IX investigator. She has practiced as an employment and labor law attorney for 25 years. After working as an employment litigator for 15 years, in 2011, she opened the Reddock Law Group and transitioned to becoming a full-time neutral.

In addition, Reddock-Wright joined Judicate West in January 2020 as one of its neutrals. This is of particular significance as she is one of the only African American women to be on a top mediation panel. She has mediated and investigated some of the most sensitive and high-profile cases involving private, public, and non-profit sector employers. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and the civil and political unrest of the last two years, she handled several race discrimination, sexual harassment and other claims in the gaming, technology, and other industries.

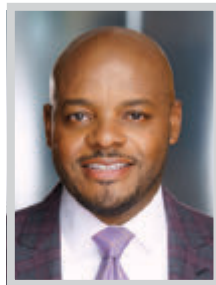


KATHERINE ROBERTS

*Partner and Co-Chair of the Labor, Employment and Immigration Group
Sidley Austin LLP*

Kate Roberts has an unusually wide range of accomplishments, including her team's recent complete victory at trial in a major employment wage and hour lawsuit and her work leading the employment and labor team on numerous major transactions and union negotiations. This record of achievement combined with her leadership of one of the nation's top employment practices and her high-level pro bono and philanthropic work make her a strong candidate for this honor.

The recent trial win came when Roberts served as trial counsel for Liberty Mutual Insurance Company in one of the very few misclassification cases to go all the way to trial. Working with co-counsel Mark Campbell and William Martucci of Shook Hardy, the team won a complete defense verdict in November 2021 against nine plaintiffs in a wage/hour action in which Liberty Mutual argued it had correctly classified its adjusters as administratively exempt under California law.



REGINALD ROBERTS, JR.

*Co-Founding Partner and Co-Managing Partner
Sanders Roberts, LLP*

Reginald Roberts, Jr., a co-founding partner and a co-managing partner of Sanders Roberts LLP, has been handling complex employment and business litigation issues for over 15 years, relentlessly defending public and private clients in matters that stand to critically impact their lives and livelihoods: from discrimination and harassment to wrongful termination, breach of contract to insurance coverage disputes, premises liability to wrongful death.

Roberts is a leading employment defense trial lawyer and a persuasive advocate for his clients who range from global corporations and financial institutions to municipalities and individuals. He handles cases from pre-litigation all the way through trial, in both state and federal courts. He assists his clients in navigating complex and sometimes challenging employment scenarios that may garner public attention while simultaneously minimizing risk and addressing concerns beyond just monetary impact. Roberts also has an excellent track record when it comes to defending cases at trial.



GARY SCALABRINI

*Partner
Gibbs Giden Locher Turner
Senet & Wittbrodt LLP*

Gary Scalabrini represents employers in all aspects of labor and employment law, including employment discrimination, harassment, wrongful termination, and wage and hour claims. He has extensive experience in employment litigation, including defending against class action lawsuits. He has served as lead counsel in all phases of litigation, from pre-litigation counseling through trial and appeal, including first chair in jury trials.

Scalabrini counsels clients in various aspects of human resource management, including employee discipline, employee handbooks, policy review, and claims prevention. He has conducted numerous investigations pertaining to claims of discrimination and sexual harassment. He has lectured extensively on employment issues. With respect to traditional labor matters, Scalabrini advises clients in collective bargaining, existing union relations, trust fund obligations, labor disputes, picketing, strikes, and grievances.

Los Angeles Business Journal

2022 Leaders of Influence:
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**MIRA
HASHMALL**

Partner

MILLER | BARONDESS LLP



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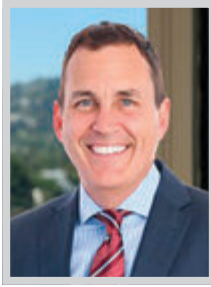


CHRISTIAN SCALI

Founder & Managing Shareholder
Scali Rasmussen

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 entire California retail automotive leasing industry, In re Vehicle Lease Document Cases. He regularly assists auto dealers and auto dealer groups with their mergers and acquisitions. Scali also creates effective corporate compliance and ethics programs for his clients.



KELLY SCOTT

Partner
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP

Kelly Scott is a partner and head of the Ervin Cohen & Jessup's Employment Law Department. Scott is also a member of the Litigation Department and has practiced law since 1987. His areas of practice include representation of employers in all types of employment matters, including class actions, wrongful termination, sexual harassment, employment discrimination and harassment, retaliation, wage and hour claims and advice and/or training for compliance.

Scott is also an experienced investigator in various types of employment law-related complaints and problems, including, but not limited to, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, workplace violence, wage and hour issues, overtime exemptions, employee theft and various allegations of employee misconduct. He is well-versed in pre-employment investigations and background checks, and is frequently active in the interviewing and review process for hiring, terminating and improving the performance of employees. Scott has authored numerous published articles on employment law topics.

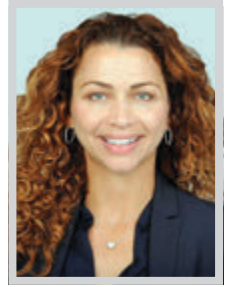


KATHERINE V.A. SMITH

Partner and Co-Chair of the Labor and Employment Practice Group
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

As co-chair of Gibson Dunn's Labor and Employment Practice Group, Smith has extensive experience representing employers in individual, representative and class action litigation at both the trial court and appellate level. Smith is also in demand by clients needing guidance regarding nearly all aspects of employment law, including government investigations, enforcement of non-solicitation and non-competition covenants, and independent contractor/common law employee status.

Among her recent successes, Smith obtained a significant victory on behalf of Amazon when the Eastern District of California recommended denial of class certification of a putative class of more than 200,000 former and current non-exempt Amazon associates. The Court rejected six of plaintiffs' eleven proposed classes. Smith also scored a significant victory for Lowe's Home Centers by obtaining an order in arbitration.



HANNAH SWEISS

Partner
Fisher Phillips

As a partner at Fisher Phillips, Hannah Sweiss serves as a key advisor to employers. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sweiss was an integral member of the firm's COVID-19 Taskforce – a cross-disciplinary team of attorneys dedicated to advising employers on the many workplace law aspects of the global coronavirus pandemic. As a critical member of the team, Sweiss continued to stay up-to-speed on the ever-changing legal landscape employers have faced during this uncertain time. She worked with countless employers across the country to implement and navigate COVID-19 safety protocols and vaccine policies.

Not only has Sweiss risen as a leader on the firm's COVID-19 team, but Sweiss has also continued to represent employers as lead counsel in a variety of industries, with a particular focus on defending employers in complex class action wage and hour lawsuits, as well as representative lawsuits brought under California's Private Attorneys General Act.

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EMILY BURKHARDT VICENTE

Partner, Co-Chair Labor and Employment
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

Emily Vicente is co-chair of the Hunton Andrews Kurth’s national labor and employment team and diversity and inclusion committee. She was selected as co-chair of the national labor and employment practice of an American Lawyer 100 firm after only eight years as a partner. This is no small feat and a testament to her leadership abilities. Vicente has defended some of the largest Fortune 100 companies in high-stakes employment litigation and is one of few lawyers to take hybrid class and collective action cases to jury trial.

Vicente has helped clients navigate sexual harassment claims fraught with legal and public relations challenges in the #metoo era, equal pay challenges, implementation of AI and emerging technologies in the workplace, and most recently COVID-19 related employment issues. She has also helped Fortune 100 companies develop and implement ESG programs around diversity and inclusion that balance legal, business and social interests.



KERRY GARVIS WRIGHT

Partner and Chair of the Employment Practice Group
Glaser Weil LLP

Kerry Garvis Wright, partner and chair of Glaser Weil’s Employment Practice Group, has emerged as an accomplished trial attorney and “go-to” employment counsel. She is a fierce and committed advocate who represents significant employers in the business, entertainment, and tech industries. Although her practice is chiefly defense-oriented, she also represents exiting or former employees in select cases.

When the #metoo and #TimesUp movements took hold in late 2017, because of the nature of her practice, Wright found herself perfectly positioned to handle significant claims made against high-profile individuals. Due to the nature of these claims, however, many of Wright’s successes never see the light of day – they are handled swiftly and quietly, often behind the scenes, and involve an extremely coordinated approach involving contingency press and other strategies in the event a particular matter cannot be resolved before a lawsuit is filed or the matter otherwise goes public.



NANCY YAFFE

Partner; Co-Chair, Women’s Initiative;
Member, Executive Committee
Fox Rothschild LLP

Nancy Yaffe is a go-to attorney for labor and employment guidance in California, providing critical advice to employers regarding issues ranging from wage-and-hour compliance, to ever evolving COVID-19 workplace guidelines, to providing practical advice for issues relating to harassment, discrimination and retaliation. A practice lead for the employment group in Fox Rothschild’s Los Angeles office, Yaffe not only defends clients against employee claims and lawsuits but educates other attorneys and HR professionals on the ins-and-outs of California employment law.

Yaffe focuses her practice on counseling and litigation with a particular emphasis on problem prevention and resolution. She defends all types of businesses against employee claims and lawsuits involving discrimination, harassment, retaliation and wage-and-hour. With the goal of helping her clients prevent employment issues, Yaffe provides pre-litigation counseling and advice to clients nationwide.



JASON YU

Partner
Snell & Wilmer

Jason Yu is a labor and employment and commercial litigation partner in the Los Angeles office of Snell & Wilmer, a full-service business law firm with more than 450 attorneys practicing in 16 locations throughout the United States and in Mexico, including three offices in California. His practice focuses on a broad spectrum of employment liability, commercial litigation, intellectual property, and transactional work. He has significant experience in cases involving debt collection, labor and employment law matters and trade secret misappropriation.

Yu’s clients are individuals and corporations, including major manufacturers, banking and financial institutions, transportation and shipping companies, import and export logistics companies, clothing manufacturers and retail clothing businesses, professional partnerships and technology companies. As a labor and employment litigator, Yu offers his clients comprehensive advice relating to labor and employment law matters. He counsels clients regarding state and federal regulations affecting employers.

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