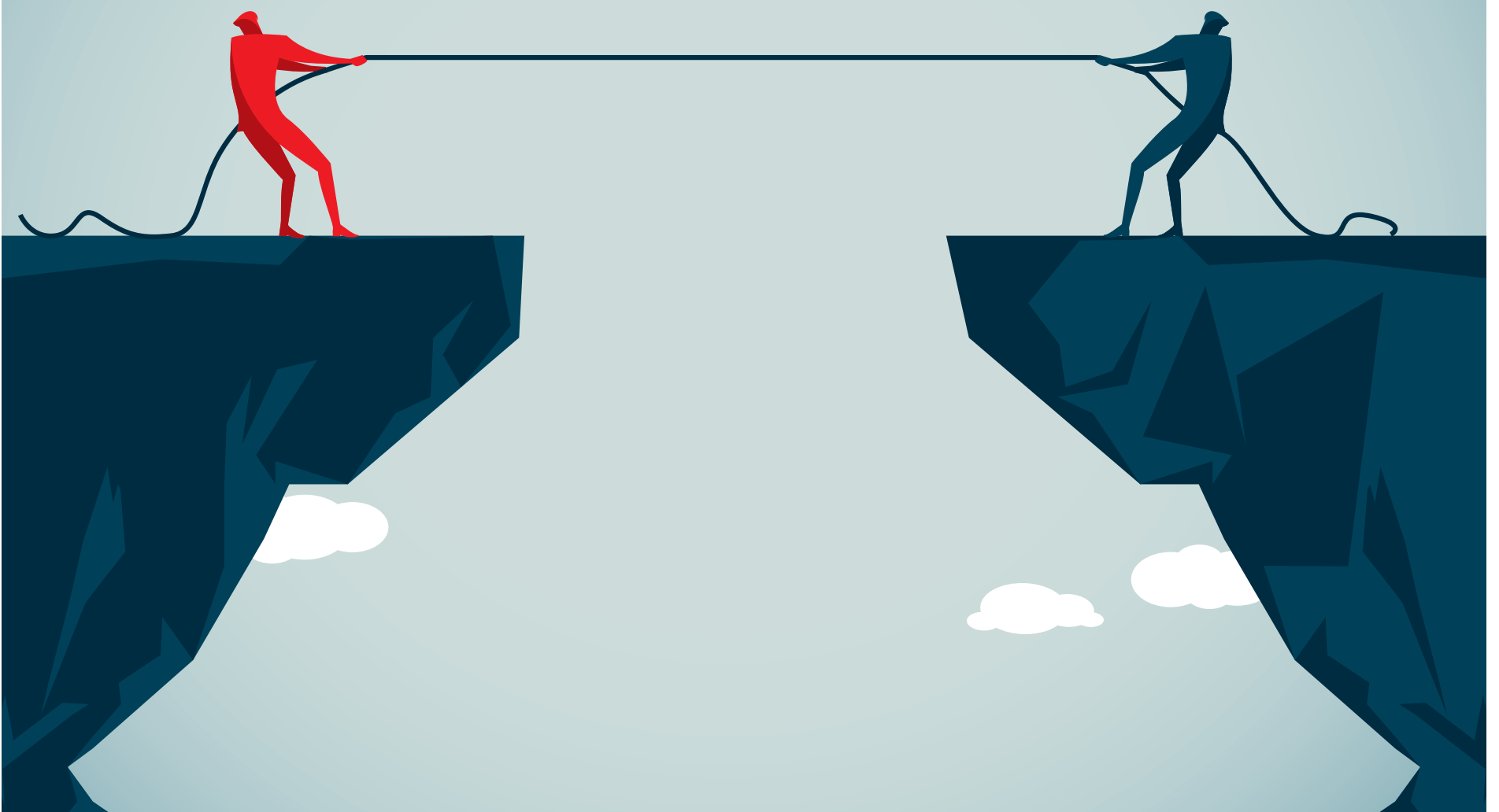


CUSTOM CONTENT

JULY 13, 2020

# LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS



**T**HERE ARE MANY BRILLIANT LAWYERS IN LOS ANGELES – MASTERS OF THEIR CRAFT THAT CAN PREPARE INDIVIDUALS and businesses for any legal issue that should come up – while expertly writing the documents designed to protect their clients’ assets and livelihoods. But there is a very special breed of attorney that needs to transcend expert comprehension of the legal system – the litigator. Attorneys who go to the proverbial mat to fight for their clients before judges and jury have their own unique sets of skills. In this special section we have gathered some of the very best litigators in the business. These are the lawyers you want in your corner in court. We’ve alphabetically listed this lineup of superb litigation specialists, along with some basic information about their careers, practice and some relevant recent successes they’ve achieved. Congratulations to the attorneys who made this prestigious list.

## Letter from the Publisher



**W**ith the obstacles we all currently face (as individuals, families, communities and businesses) during this challenging time battling the coronavirus, we certainly find ourselves relying on our trusted advisors more than ever. In times of uncertainty, lawyers are particularly needed to help our businesses respond and react to issues at hand. And when serious crises arise, it's key to have an expert litigator in your corner.

Those of us living and working in Los Angeles are fortunate to have access to an impressive and diverse, selection of legal professionals made up of some of the most experienced and talented litigators in the country, if not the world.

Our special section, "Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Lawyers in Los Angeles," featured in this issue, contains an alphabetical list of some of the region's most outstanding litigators, along with some basic information about their careers, practices and some relevant recent accomplishments.

Congratulations to the trailblazing courtroom stewards who made this list and thank you for working to keep the people and businesses of Los Angeles on track.

Best regards,

Josh Schimmels  
Publisher & CEO

# LATHAM & WATKINS<sup>LLP</sup>



## Congratulations

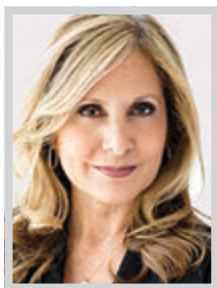
*to all the Los Angeles Business Journal Leaders of Influence:  
Litigators & Trial Lawyers including our colleague Marvin Putnam.*

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LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS



**ANGELA AGRUSA**

Partner  
DLA Piper

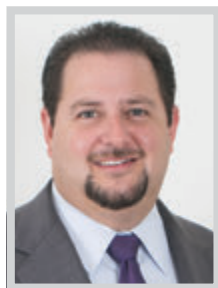
DLA Piper partner Angela Agrusa is the go-to attorney for high-profile individuals and corporations facing a brand crisis, helping shape public perception of her clients in what are often provocative and headline-making accusation cases and saving her clients more than \$100 billion in the last five years alone. Her unique approach has resulted in long-term partnerships with such iconic brands as Dannon, Motel 6, Chipotle and Hilton. As co-chair of DLA Piper’s Business and Commercial Litigation group, co-chair of its Food and Beverage sector, and managing partner for the firm’s Century City and downtown Los Angeles offices, Agrusa is focused on expanding the firm’s footprint in California and beyond. Outside the office, Agrusa has a strong commitment to the community, serving on the board of Public Counsel, the largest pro bono law firm in the nation.



**JOSEPH N. AKROTIRIANAKIS**

Partner  
King & Spalding

Joseph N. Akrotirianakis is an accomplished trial lawyer who has first-chaired or co-chaired more than 30 trials and arbitrations. He has never lost a jury trial or bench trial. He represents both plaintiffs and defendants across a broad spectrum of industries, including among others technology; pharmaceuticals and life sciences; and international shipping, transportation, and logistics. A seasoned commercial litigator, and a decorated former federal prosecutor, Akrotirianakis has litigated matters of the most complex and difficult caliber throughout his more than 21-year career. Akrotirianakis regularly practices before federal and state courts through California and nationally in matters involving complex commercial litigation, unfair competition, business torts, intellectual property, government contracts, civil rights, and federal and state regulatory investigations and defense. His clients have included Fortune 500 companies and other private entities, corporate officers, public entities throughout the State of California, and high-ranking public officials.



**SEAN ANDRADE**

Founding Partner  
Andrade Gonzalez LLP

Sean Andrade, founder and managing partner of Andrade Gonzalez, authored the amicus brief in Texas v. United States after the state of Texas sued the United States following then President Barack Obama’s executive action to protect the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or “Dreamers” program. Andrade and his team were given only a few days to author the brief that gave a voice to 33 mayors of major national cities (L.A., N.Y.C., Chicago, Philadelphia, Seattle, Houston, Atlanta, Baltimore, St. Louis and many others) supporting the program that would offer work permits and a path to legalization for certain qualifying undocumented immigrants. Earlier this month, SCOTUS ruled 5-4 to block the Trump administration’s attempt to rescind. Andrade is also known for his ongoing representation of the largest school district in the nation, Los Angeles Unified.



**JAMES AZADIAN**

Member  
Dykema Gossett PLLC

Jimmy Azadian leads Dykema’s West Coast appellate practice. He specializes in complex federal and state court commercial litigation raising cutting-edge and core business issues, the First Amendment to the Constitution, Article I of the California Constitution, and the application of California’s anti-SLAPP statute in federal court. Azadian has served as counsel in more than 250 appeals and writ proceedings covering a wide variety of industries and subjects throughout the country. He recently served as embedded appellate counsel in two major cases, helping guide both trial teams to jury verdicts in favor of Dykema clients. Over the past 18 months, he has been a part of some of the most impressive litigation victories not only in the State of California, but from across the nation. He also makes it a priority to meaningfully contribute and lead from a mentoring and community capacity as well.



**BRAD D. BRIAN**

Partner and Chair  
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

With a litigation career spanning four decades, Munger, Tolles & Olson chair Brad D. Brian advises clients on their most important and complex cases. He has represented numerous Fortune 500 corporations in multibillion-dollar trials that have shaped entire industries. Since joining the firm in 1981 after serving as an assistant U.S. attorney in Los Angeles, Brian’s unwavering focus on understanding his clients’ businesses has established him as one of the leading trial lawyers in the country. He recently represented PG&E, as lead trial counsel, in the multibillion-dollar case that was set for trial in San Francisco in January 2020 – which settled two weeks before trial. He also served as lead counsel in all criminal investigations arising from the massive 2017 and 2018 wildfires in Northern California, and just recently negotiated the plea agreement that ended those investigations.



**WILLIAM BRIGGS, II**

Partner, Litigation  
Venable LLP

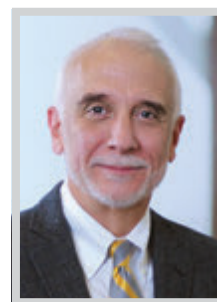
William Briggs has handled a number of high-profile matters within the entertainment industry over the last year. Most notably, in a groundbreaking ruling, a California Appellate Court affirmed the decision of a trial court to dismiss a lawsuit against actor and comedian Marlon Wayans alleging harassment and discrimination over a tweet comparing a movie extra to a cartoon character. In a 50-page opinion, the court examined the intersection between racial harassment and speech, and ruled on whether the word “nigga” is a racial epithet when spoken by a black man to another black man. The court resoundingly ruled that the word was not an epithet but instead was a term of endearment in the context in which it was used. This case has significant implications for the entertainment industry, allowing greater freedom in the writers’ room and on set.



**JOSHUA BRIONES**

Managing Member - Los Angeles  
Mintz

Joshua Briones, a litigation Member at Mintz and managing member of its Los Angeles office, is a highly experienced trial lawyer with a national practice. He has received awards and national recognition for his innovative approach to the defense of bet-the-company litigation. He has represented clients in such industries as financial services, building products, retail, pharmaceuticals, automotive, professional sports, food and beverage, petroleum, chemical manufacturing, health care, high technology, and higher education. He frequently publishes and lectures before national and local bar and industry organizations. Briones has served as lead defense counsel on over 400 alleged class actions in state and federal courts across the country. He has successfully defended class actions on behalf of Sabre Inc., The Los Angeles Lakers, Cavaliers Operating Company, Pay Pal, eBay, CVS Pharmacy, Wal-Mart, Styles for Less, Yelp, Hendrick Automotive Group and many others.



**RALPH CAMPILLO**

Member  
Mintz

Ralph Campillo is a nationally renowned trial attorney whose specialty includes mass torts and all forms of complex litigation, including product liability, commercial disputes, and class actions. He often assumes lead roles in high-stakes cases, federal multidistrict litigations, and bellwether product liability cases. He draws on more than four decades of experience to regularly represent life sciences, pharmaceutical, medical device, and manufacturing companies in federal and state courts around the country. Currently he is a member at Mintz in their dynamic Los Angeles office and heads the Products Liability Team in Los Angeles. Campillo has an unparalleled track record of success in high-profile cases involving product liability, mass torts, class actions, and other complex litigation matters. He also has considerable experience handling commercial matters. Campillo has defended prominent pharmaceutical and medical device companies and other top-tier enterprises in bet-the-company litigation.

## LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS &amp; TRIAL LAWYERS

**SUSAN E. COLEMAN**

*Partner*  
Burke Williams & Sorensen

Susan Coleman is a partner at Burke, Williams & Sorensen LLP with 24 years' litigation experience and a strong background in constitutional law/civil rights litigation and employment law. Coleman has defended individuals and officials, governmental entities and corporations in over 45 civil jury trials in federal and state courts throughout California, with very successful results (over 95% defense verdicts). She is an associate of the American Board of Trial Advocates. Coleman also has extensive experience with class action litigation, including several class actions on behalf of the Department of Corrections, and she represented the Board of Parole Hearings in a lengthy bench trial involving the Americans with Disabilities Act. In the last few years, she has defeated class certification in cases for various clients. Coleman has specialties in unique areas of law including officer-involved shootings and other uses of force, alleged wrongful conviction cases and ankle-monitor related litigation.

**MARK T. CRAMER**

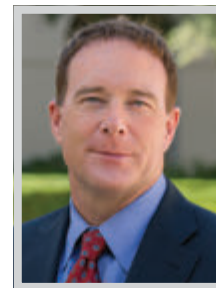
*Shareholder*  
Buchalter

Mark T. Cramer is a shareholder in the Los Angeles office and chair of the firm's Class Action Practice Group. Cramer advises clients ranging from Fortune 50 corporations to start-up companies about how to manage actual and potential business disputes in the context of their overall business goals. He works to formulate and implement customized litigation strategies. For example, where the client's primary business interest was to resolve litigation to make the company more attractive to a prospective buyer, he negotiated a quick and favorable settlement to eliminate the exposure associated with the lawsuit. By contrast, when a large company was concerned that it was developing the reputation of being an easy mark for frivolous litigation, Cramer engineered a hard-nosed and aggressive defense that resulted in a complete victory for the client and sent a message that the company would rather pay its attorneys than settle meritless claims.

**ROBYN CROWTHER**

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

Robyn Crowther, who serves as co-managing partner of Steptoe's Los Angeles office, has considerable first-chair trial and arbitration experience across a variety of litigation fields. Her arrival to Steptoe in January 2019 has strengthened the firm's presence on the West Coast and added depth to the litigation capabilities the firm has in the Los Angeles office. Since 2018, Crowther has first-chaired five different arbitration and trial proceedings. In each proceeding, she led a team of all women, with all team members gaining stand-up experience with direct and cross examinations, arguing motions and making the opening statement. Moreover, she was the only repeat attorney on each team, meaning that she assembled five different teams of women to handle substantive civil litigation. Last year, she was asked to step in to first chair a jury trial in a personal injury case following an accident at LAX airport.

**JOHN DARLING**

*Senior Shareholder*  
Hunt Ortmann Palffy Nieves Darling & Mah, Inc.

John Darling is an effective senior commercial litigator with a nationwide practice focused on the resolution of construction and commercial real estate conflicts and on complex business litigation across numerous industry groups and business sectors. A seasoned courtroom veteran, Darling has tried more than 50 cases throughout California and the United States. Clients benefit from his keen understanding of what it takes to win at trial, whether in front of a judge or an impaneled jury. Darling is equally adept at alternative dispute resolution, with a significant portion of his clients' success coming from either mandatory or elective arbitration proceedings. Among Darling's recent successes was his work representing Mallcraft, Inc. against the Glendale Community College District. He achieved a significant settlement on behalf of the general contractor. Darling also recently successfully represented a general contractor at trial in a contract interpretation dispute with its rebar subcontractor.

**MICHAEL DE VRIES**

*Partner*  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Mike De Vries is among a handful of go-to patent/IP trial lawyers who handle the most complex, high-stakes matters – many of which go to trial – for multi-national companies like Motorola Solutions, Cisco, Intel and Oracle. Described as “thorough and focused on ensuring decisions are made that support the long-term view of a case,” he is known for his trial skills (particularly before juries), creative litigation strategies and superior work ethic. De Vries has particularly represented plaintiffs in some of the largest IP competitor cases in high-tech in recent years, as well as high-profile patent and trade secret litigation involving technology companies, where cases are often litigated on multiple fronts simultaneously in and outside of the United States. His recent victories on behalf of clients Motorola Solutions and EagleView Technologies also earned recognition in the “Litigator of the Week” feature by American Lawyer.

**DANIEL DECARLO**

*Partner, Chair of the Intellectual Property & Technology Practice*  
Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith

Since 1992, Dan Decarlo, chair of the Intellectual Property & Technology Practice at Lewis Brisbois, has focused his practice on complex business litigation concentrating on trademark and Lanham Act claims, and related intellectual property claims. He has served as lead counsel in numerous jury and bench trials and has extensive experience in all aspects of Federal Court litigation including preliminary injunctions, summary judgments, and appeals to the 9th Circuit and Federal Circuit Courts of Appeal. Decarlo ascribes to a litigation philosophy that stresses comprehensive early analysis and evaluation to plan an aggressive and result-oriented approach. He frequently lectures to business groups on intellectual property issues. Among his recent successes have been obtaining a trial victory and sanctions in the form of all attorneys' fees for his client, a martial arts studio franchisee; and winning a unanimous jury verdict for his client Harbor Breeze Corporation.

**DANA DELMAN**

*Partner*  
Delman Vukmanovic LLP

Dana Delman is highly respected by her peers in the Los Angeles community due to her meticulous and relentless approach to tackling complex legal disputes. She is known as a hands-on attorney, fighting for individuals and businesses of all means and sizes. Over her 25-plus year career, Delman has produced a number of persuasive briefs and motions that have resulted in many successful dispositive motions and successful appellate briefs to the California and United States Courts of Appeal. Some of her work presented before the Ninth Circuit United States Court of Appeal has resulted in a shift of legal standards applied in that circuit. Moreover, she has had success on her clients' behalf in often very contentious mediations and binding arbitrations, as well as civil jury trials in courtrooms all over Southern California.

**ERIC P. EARLY**

*Managing Partner*  
Early Sullivan Wright Gizer & McRae LLP

Eric Early recently won the California primary and will be the lone challenger to Congressman Adam Schiff in California's 28th Congressional District election in November 2020. Early successfully advanced from the primary election, securing enough votes to advance over six other candidates. He was previously a candidate for California Attorney General and, although a first-time candidate for political office, received almost one million votes and secured endorsements from former Congressman Darryl Issa, former Los Angeles County D.A. Steve Cooley, former Secretary of State George C. Schultz and former State Senate Leader Pat Bates. He is also Early Sullivan Wright Gizer & McRae's managing partner, regularly representing Fortune 500 real estate companies and entertainment industry players, and has built one of the fastest growing law firms in California. He continues to represent major national title insurance companies, Fidelity National Title, First American Title, and Commonwealth Land Title Insurance Company, among others.

Los Angeles Business Journal Honors  
Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Lawyers

**Congratulations to our partners and their team**



**Skip Miller**



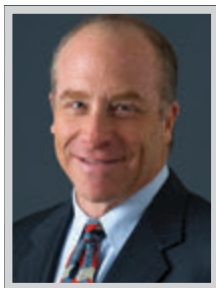
**Amnon Siegel**

Miller Barondess, LLP is a 40-lawyer firm in Los Angeles handling high-stakes litigation, including trial work and appeals. Our reputation is built on the depth and strength in our ranks, exemplary client service, and outstanding case results. We represent clients ranging from entertainment to government to Fortune 500 companies, as well as provide pro bono assistance to our local community.

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## LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS &amp; TRIAL LAWYERS

**SCOTT A. EDELMAN**

Partner and Co-Chair of the Media, Entertainment & Technology Practice Group  
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

During his tenure as a partner with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, Scott A. Edelman has first-chaired numerous jury trials, bench trials and arbitrations, including class actions, taking well over 20 cases to final verdict or decision. He has substantial experience trying high stakes cases and has a broad background in commercial litigation, including antitrust, class actions, employment, entertainment, intellectual property, real estate and product liability. Edelman co-leads AMC's defense team on three of the largest and most significant profit participation cases in television history. The cases concern AMC's blockbuster television series, "The Walking Dead." He is also representing Universal Music Group in a putative class action brought by artists related to master recordings allegedly destroyed in a fire on the Universal Studios backlot. Last year, on behalf of MGM Studios Inc., he successfully opposed class certification in *Buck v. MGM Studios*.

**MILES J. FELDMAN**

Founding Partner; Co-Chair of Trials, Litigation & Dispute Resolution Department  
Raines Feldman LLP

Miles Feldman is a founding partner of Raines Feldman LLP. With more than 50 lawyers, Raines Feldman LLP is one of the preeminent business law firms in Los Angeles. Feldman runs the Trials, Litigation and Dispute Resolution department of the firm overseeing more than 20 litigators. A seasoned trial lawyer, Feldman has over two decades of experience handling hard fought and often high-profile cases through trial and appeal, as well as in numerous arbitration forums. Prior to launching Raines Feldman LLP more than 10 years ago, he was a partner with two of Los Angeles' most prominent business litigation firms. Feldman regularly gets results in cutting-edge litigation disputes for some of LA's most forward-thinking and vanguard businesses in technology, media and finance. These include Belkin International, Uproxx, MedMen, United Talent Agency, Julien's Auctions, Haymaker Content, Twentieth Century Fox Television, FilmTools and Westwood Financial Corporation.

**AMBER S. FINCH**

Partner  
Reed Smith LLP

Amber Finch is a partner in Reed Smith's Los Angeles office and currently is the diversity chair leading diversity and inclusion efforts for the Reed Smith downtown Los Angeles office. Finch is also the partner chair of the firm's African American Business Inclusion Group STAARS (Sustaining and Training African Americans at Reed Smith) which works to increase and support the growth of black lawyers and administrative staff at our firm across all ranks. A member of the firm's Insurance Recovery Group, Finch has quickly become a go-to lawyer for creating effective risk management solutions. Most recently, she has been providing risk analysis and mitigation advice and counsel to several companies in various industries faced with actual and potential economic losses arising out of the Coronavirus. With her litigation background, she has helped her commercial policyholder clients recover hundreds of millions of dollars in insurance proceeds.

**ADAM FOX**

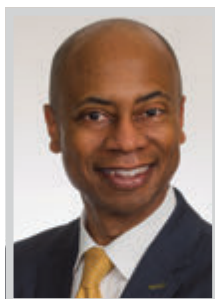
Partner  
Squire Patton Boggs

Adam Fox is a gifted trial lawyer, trailblazer and community leader who exemplifies what it means to be a partner at Squire Patton Boggs, a leader within the firm, dedicated mentor and community servant. Fox is "homegrown," having spent his entire career at Squire Patton Boggs after serving as a judicial clerk for the late Honorable Robert B. Krupansky of the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. After rising through the ranks to become a partner, Fox eventually became the managing partner of the firm's Los Angeles office, and later, a member of the firm's 12-person Global Board, which oversees the strategic direction of the firm's international practice spanning 45 offices in 20 countries. Fox leads the firm's False Advertising Litigation & Protection Practice and Food & Beverage Litigation Practice. As part of the firm's litigation practice, Fox regularly handles high-stakes controversies across a wide range of subject matters.

**DEBORAH J. FOX**

Principal  
Meyers Nave

Deborah Fox is a principal in the Los Angeles office of Meyers Nave. She is a member of the firm's three-person Executive Committee and is chair of the First Amendment Practice and Trial & Litigation Practice. The cases that Fox handles confirm her reputation as a go-to attorney for a specialty area of legal expertise – high impact litigation and crisis management for complex and controversial matters that play out in state, national and international news. What sets her apart is her reputation for handling precedent-setting matters that are often both first-of-their kind for her clients and first-of-their kind for local communities and society at large. Fox is currently defending counties, cities and public officials throughout California in a new wave of federal litigation that challenges Shelter In Place Orders and Reopening Plans related to the coronavirus pandemic.

**TERRENCE FRANKLIN**

Partner  
Sacks, Glazier, Franklin & Lodise LLP

Terrence Franklin has developed a reputation as a leading trusts and estates attorney in his 30 years of practice, handling the most complex cases involving significant dollar amounts. Franklin is responsible for several published appeals and the landmark *Moeller v. Superior Court* case, which was brought before the California Supreme Court and established a fiduciary exception to the attorney-client privilege for successor trustees. In the past 18 months alone, he has successfully represented beneficiaries, trustees, individuals and institutional clients in matters involving substantial assets. For example, he recently represented multiple siblings as co-trustees against their sibling co-trustee's attempts to improperly prevent the sale of a closely-held family business for her personal benefit at the expense of the trust, resulting in the successful sale of that business and resignation of the rogue co-trustee. Continued litigation resulted in discounted "buyout" of remaining beneficiary.

**DAVID GINDLER**

Partner; Head of Intellectual Property Litigation & Licensing Group  
Milbank LLP

David Gindler's practice focuses on intellectual property litigation and licensing, with an emphasis in complex patent litigation. While nationally recognized by *Chambers USA* for his expertise in life sciences matters, Gindler's work spans a broad array of industries and technologies. Gindler has achieved extraordinary trial outcomes for both plaintiffs and defendants, including a \$302 million verdict for breach of a research and license agreement, as well as defeating a \$217 million damages claim where liability had already been established in an earlier trial handled by a different law firm. Throughout the past few years, Gindler achieved successful outcomes for his clients in numerous high-profile and significant cases. One example has been his work representing the world's third largest manufacturer of base station antennas, China-based Rosenberger Asia Pacific, and related companies in defending against a trade secret misappropriation lawsuit filed by its competitor, U.S.-based CommScope.

**TOM V. GIRARDI**

Founding Partner  
Girardi Keese

Widely regarded by his peers as one of the nation's top trial lawyers and with nearly 50 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. Girardi has defeated pharmaceutical giants Merck, Vioxx, the Los Angeles Dodgers, just to name a few. He has obtained more than 30 verdicts of \$1 million or more and has handled more than 100 settlements of \$1 million or more. Girardi is also the first trial lawyer to be appointed to the California Judicial Council, the policymaking body of the state courts. He has received numerous distinctions for his knowledge and experience as a trial attorney. Last year he was selected as Business Innovator of the Year, Top Attorney of the Year, and Top National Consumer Trial Attorney of the Year by the IAOTP.

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# HUESTON HENNIGAN LLP

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**Congratulations**



## **JOHN C. HUESTON MOEZ M. KABA**

**Leaders of Influence: Top Litigators & Trial Lawyers**  
*—Los Angeles Business Journal*

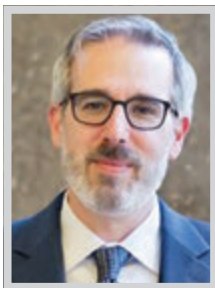
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## LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS &amp; TRIAL LAWYERS

**KATE GOLD**

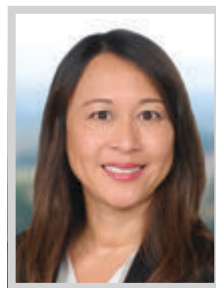
Partner  
Proskauer Rose LLP

**K**ate Gold has over 25 years of experience representing well-known Southern California industry clients and prominent global companies facing daily challenges as well as cutting edge and novel issues across all areas of employment law. Her clients -- household names such as CBS Broadcasting Inc., Valence Media (Billboard/Hollywood Reporter; Media Rights Capital; Dick Clark Productions Inc.); FremantleMedia, Refresco, The Aerospace Corporation, City of Hope, Boston Consulting Group and Arrowhead Products -- turn to Gold as their go-to for California labor and employment needs. Her work has earned her a reputation as a trusted advisor and litigator from day-to-day compliance with California's ever-changing legislative landscape to high profile investigations and lawsuits. Among her recent highlights has been her work as lead counsel for Arrowhead Products, a Southern California critical sector infrastructure manufacturer of components for the aerospace industry, in a wage and hour class action.

**JUSTIN M. GOLDSTEIN**

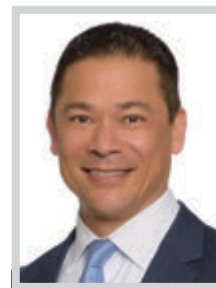
Partner; Chair of the Litigation Practice Group  
Sklar Kirsh LLP

**J**ustin M. Goldstein has extensive trial and appellate experience handling a wide range of business, entertainment, and intellectual property disputes in state and federal courts, as well as in arbitration. Goldstein has spent more than two decades successfully counseling and representing some of the Fortune 500's and entertainment industry's most prominent entities. His litigation experience includes handling disputes that involve unfair competition, partnership and shareholder claims, right of publicity and privacy, First Amendment, accounting and profit participation, fiduciary duties, personal service contracts, and infringement of copyright, trademark, trade dress, and trade secret interests. He has represented clients in industries including media and entertainment, technology, marketing and communications, retail, apparel, energy, manufacturing, finance, and real estate. Among his recent highlights has been his work representing Southern California Edison Company against fraud claims by medical device manufacturer.

**VALERIE GOO**

Partner  
Crowell & Moring LLP

**V**alerie Goo has been practicing for nearly 25 years. After graduating from UCLA Law School in 1996, she has spent her career specializing in intellectual property and commercial litigation. Over the years, Goo has seen an uptick in intellectual property claims -- in particular, trade secrets and trademark cases. She currently represents several large companies in the computer and aerospace fields, in complex, technical trade secrets cases and fiercely fought trademark cases between competitors. A recent example of her successes includes her work as lead counsel for Similasan Corporation, a homeopathic products maker, in a "bet-the-company" Lanham Act false advertising and trademark infringement case against competitor TRP Company over the right to use the product name "Pink Eye Relief." Goo recently won summary judgment on all claims brought against her client and counterclaims for cancellation of the plaintiff's federal trademark registrations.

**DAVID GRAELER**

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

**D**avid Graeler serves as chair of Nossaman's Litigation Department and co-chair of its Real Estate Practice Group. With over 20 years of litigation and trial 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, he has honed his ability to communicate and connect with judges and juries, as well as with clients, witnesses, and other attorneys. He focuses his practice on the representation of public and private sector clients principally in the areas of real estate, eminent domain, construction, and commercial disputes. Graeler currently serves on the Judicial Appointments Committee for the Los Angeles County Bar Association, which assists the California Governor in evaluating judicial candidates for the Los Angeles County Superior Court.

**GABRIEL G. GREEN**

Shareholder  
Buchalter

**G**abriel G. Green is a shareholder and a co-chair of the Los Angeles office's Litigation Department. He focuses his practice on intellectual property, franchise, real estate, and commercial litigation. He represents corporations and public personalities encountering infringement claims involving musical compositions, video game graphics, sculptural works, jewelry design and literary works. Green also assists clients with registering and protecting their valuable copyrighted material as well as their trade and service marks. Green's franchise litigation practice derives from his representation of nationally and internationally renowned franchisors with brands in a range of industries. Understanding the valuable aspects of a franchised system, Green has obtained affirmative relief for franchisors against third-parties misappropriating a brand mark and/or a franchised trade secret. In addition, Green also frequently litigates infringement claims involving trademarks, service marks, and trade dress, as well as claims for trademark dilution and unfair competition.

**DAVID M. HALBREICH**

Partner  
Reed Smith

**D**avid Halbreich is widely recognized for his considerable expertise in representing policyholders in a range of complex coverage disputes and is particularly noted for assisting clients in the financial services space. A partner in the Los Angeles office of Reed Smith, he is the practice group leader and chair of Reed Smith's Global Insurance Recovery Group, with more than 80 exclusively policyholder-focused attorneys in offices throughout the United States, as well as around the world, including Europe and Singapore. Ranked in Tier 1 of the 2020 Legal 500, the practice group that Halbreich leads has collectively recovered billions of dollars for policyholders in matters involving the entire range of commercial insurance products. Halbreich represents clients in a variety of industries including manufacturing, oil and gas, financial services, real estate development, electronics, telecommunications, construction and others.

**JOHN D. HANOVER**

Partner  
Alston & Bird

**J**ohn Hanover is a partner in Alston & Bird's Construction & Government Contracts Group. He has almost 34 years of experience as a construction litigator working on complex, high-visibility matters ranging from contract disputes involving scope changes, delay, and interruption claims to enforcement of payment remedies and recovery for defective work. His clients include general contractors, subcontractors, developers, design professionals, construction managers, owners, and financial institutions. Hanover has served as lead counsel in approximately 20 jury and nonjury trials and many hundreds of arbitrations and mediations. He serves as lead counsel for Lendlease (U.S.) Construction, Inc., in 20 litigation matters now pending in Los Angeles Superior Court and one pending before the Court of Appeal related to the \$1.5 billion mixed-use Oceanwide Plaza construction project that consists of three high-rise residential towers above a five-story parking and retail podium located across from the Staples Center in Downtown Los Angeles.

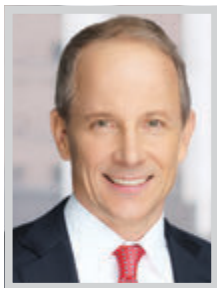
**THOMAS HILL**

Partner  
Holland & Knight

**T**homas Hill is a highly accomplished national class action defense attorney, and a skilled trial and appellate lawyer. He has served as lead counsel for some of the largest employers in the country, and done so in more than 600 civil lawsuits filed in 30 states. Hill has also first-chaired more than 250 adversarial proceedings to decision, including jury, bench and administrative trials, as well as private arbitration. Hill recently secured a significant U.S. District Court victory for NCR Corporation in a nationwide collective action for unpaid overtime under the federal FLSA. Thanks to Hill and the Holland & Knight team's efforts, the U.S. District Court granted NCR's motion for decertification of a collective of more than 1,600 opt-in plaintiffs. It is estimated that the combined overtime claims of the 1,600-plus opt-in plaintiffs who were dismissed from the suit posed aggregate potential liabilities to NCR of more than \$75 million.



LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS



**JOHN C. HUESTON**

*Partner*

Hueston Hennigan LLP

John Hueston continues to serve California in key leadership positions. He currently serves as chair of Sen. Kamala Harris' Central District of California Judicial Commission, where he assists Senator Harris in vetting candidates for the U.S. Court of Appeals and the U.S. District Court. Hueston previously served as a Central District of California Merit Selection Panel member to assist the U.S. District Court with the appointment and reappointment of magistrate judges. Under his leadership, and in just over five years, Hueston Hennigan has gained a reputation for a creative and often disruptive approach to litigation with clients that include Amazon, Allergan, Caltech, Broadcom, the Houston Astros, IMDb, T-Mobile, Tesla, Taco Bell, SpaceX, Walt Disney Company, Sumner Redstone, Alec Baldwin, Western Digital, and PwC, to name a few. High-profile and leading business icons such as Elon Musk, Sumner Redstone, and Bill Koch are increasingly seeking his assistance on their most pressing matters.



**CHAD HUMMEL**

*Partner*

Sidley Austin LLP

Chad Hummel is a co-leader of Sidley Austin LLP's national trial practice. Based in the firm's Century City office, he is a member of Sidley's Commercial Litigation and Disputes, Antitrust and White Collar practices. Throughout his three decades in private practice, Hummel has tried some of the nation's highest profile civil and criminal cases in federal and state courts throughout the country – including the antitrust case that established IMAX as the legitimate industry leader in large format film exhibition; the Anthony Pellicano criminal RICO case; the landmark case by retired NFL players against their own union for violation of fiduciary duties by failing to pay royalties for using player images in commercial products; and in the petition to end the decades-old Roman Polanski criminal case. He regularly wins for clients in "bet-the-company" matters and achieves multi-million-dollar verdicts that are among the top defense- and plaintiff-side matters in California.

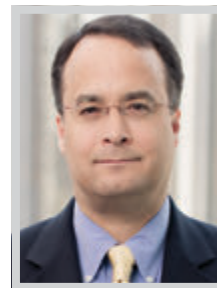


**ROY JIMENEZ**

*Managing Partner*

TLD Law

Roy Jimenez, a partner at TLD Law since 2006, has over 23 years of experience in business and real estate litigation. Jimenez has extensive experience in resolving or litigating large, small, and complex business disputes involving: collections, breach of contract, unfair competition, fraud, intellectual property disputes, ownership and partnership disputes, shareholder disputes, purchase and sale disputes, unfair business practices and misappropriation of trade secrets. He is successful in economically and favorably settling real estate disputes affecting title, transfer, and use of real property, and in lending issues. In this capacity he works with agents, buyers, sellers, lenders and escrow officers. Real estate matters he handles include: breach of contract, broker and lender misrepresentations, commercial lease disputes, construction defect, landlord-tenant disputes, mechanics liens, mortgage lender disputes and wrongful foreclosure, ownership and partnership disputes, partition actions, shareholder disputes, purchase disputes, quiet title actions, fraud, slander of title and unfair business practices.



**ROLAND M. JUAREZ**

*Partner*

Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

Some of California's largest and most high-profile employers turn to Hunton Andrews Kurth's Roland Juarez for their high-stakes labor and employment cases, including the protection of company trade secrets and competitive advantage. Juarez's employment law practice is focused on complex employment litigation and problem solving. He has led class, collective and other complex employment litigation, as well as dockets of single plaintiff employment cases. Among his many accomplishments is that he has developed a highly-successful unfair competition practice in California. Juarez has successfully defended clients against the most challenging claims facing employers in California and across the nation. In the last year, he has secured impressive victories, including using creative arguments concerning jurisdiction to substantially limit client exposure in a matter concerning a California military base and protected a client's competitive advantage by applying California's "trade secret exception" for a manufacturer of well-known personal hygiene products.

**Covington**

congratulates our colleagues

**Mitch Kamin and Ashley Simonsen**

Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Lawyers



**Mitch Kamin**  
mkamin@cov.com



**Ashley Simonsen**  
asimonsen@cov.com

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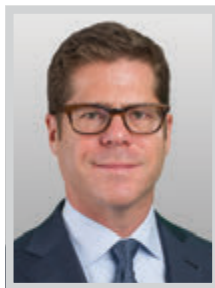
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## LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS &amp; TRIAL LAWYERS

**MOEZ M. KABA**

Partner  
Hueston Hennigan LLP

**M**oez Kaba is a co-founder of Hueston Hennigan LLP. His practice encompasses an array of general complex civil litigation, including, securities, trade secrets, intellectual property, entertainment, and antitrust, and white collar defense and investigations. He has practiced in state, federal, trial, and appellate courts in California, New York, Delaware, and around the country. Kaba has had many recent, high-profile successes in the last year alone. For example, recently, Kaba obtained a preliminary injunction for Freedom for Immigrants (FFI) in an important, closely watched, First Amendment case, ordering U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement to restore FFI's National Immigration Detention Hotline, which was featured in the popular Netflix show *Orange is the New Black*. Kaba also recently obtained dismissal in a precedent-setting False Claims Act suit for Bausch Health and obtained dismissal of a lawsuit filed against Caltech alleging statutory and tort claims.

**MITCH KAMIN**

Partner, Co-Chair of Communications and Media Industry Practice Group, Co-Chair of Commercial Litigation Practice Group  
Covington & Burling LLP

**M**itch Kamin is a trial lawyer and co-chair of Covington's Communications and Media Industry and Commercial Litigation Practice Groups. He helps global media and entertainment companies such as Universal Music, Disney, Fox and Sony Music handle some of their most complex and high-profile disputes. His practice focuses on civil litigation involving copyright and trademark, contract disputes, class actions, and business torts, and has significant experience with litigation concerning content creation and distribution. His clients include major companies in film, television, music, sports, and gaming. Kamin has advised major record labels and publishers in copyright infringement cases against ISPs. He is currently leading a team of Covington lawyers representing all the major record labels and publishers in major copyright infringement cases against the ISPs Charter Communications and Bright House Networks.

**ALEXANDRA SLOAN KELLY**

Partner  
Barnes & Thornburg LLP

**A**lex Kelly's white collar and European services practice includes defending clients against government investigations, conducting internal investigations, and advising on export control and foreign bribery compliance matters. She is serving on the team assisting the Special Compliance Coordinator (SCC) appointed by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) to monitor, assess and report on the export control compliance of a major Chinese telecommunications company as part of an historic \$1.4 billion settlement agreement. She leads the Subsidiaries sub-team, which focuses on the operations and export control risks of the telecommunications company's several hundred subsidiaries and affiliates. In this role, Kelly manages a team of around 30 lawyers of all levels of seniority, in addition to a team of forensic accountants and due diligence experts. She creates and monitors assignments to assess the corporate structure of, and collects and analyzes data about the company's affiliates.

**GREG KNOPP**

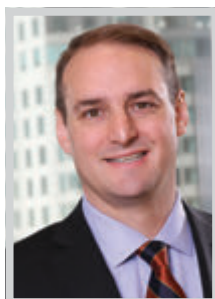
Partner  
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

**A**kin Gump partner Greg Knopp is among the upper echelon of labor and employment practitioners nationwide and considered a pioneer in Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) law — a relatively new form of action that has some similarities to class actions, as well as some significant differences. Knopp serves as partner in charge of Akin Gump's Los Angeles office, spearheads the office's labor and employment work and serves as a member of the firm's management committee. With 20+ years of experience in California labor and employment litigation — a plaintiff-friendly state with some of the most stringent labor regulations in the country — he regularly helms many of the nation's most closely watched employment disputes involving class action and PAGA claims for industry giants — including longstanding firm clients Starbucks, Ernst & Young and Tapestry — the outcomes of which hold important implications for future case law not only in California but nationwide.

**MICHAEL KUMP**

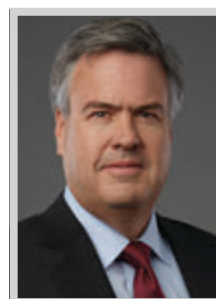
Partner  
Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump & Aldisert LLP

**M**ichael Kump of Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump & Aldisert LLP is constantly in the press for his representation of high-profile clients such as the Kardashians and Jenners, Sandra Bullock, LiveNation and TMG, among others. He is representing Kim, Kourtney and Khloe Kardashian in three related state and federal actions and a JAMS arbitration against the hedge fund Hillair Capital Management LLC and its subsidiary Haven Beauty, Inc. concerning the operation of a cosmetics company to whom the Kardashians licensed their names and images. In 2019, the three-member arbitration panel, after two weeks of live testimony, entered their Final Award, which held that: the Kardashians recover approximately \$12 million in damages and interest; and rejected Hillair's claims for \$180 million in damages. The Kardashians thereafter filed their motion to confirm the arbitration award, which was granted by the Los Angeles Superior Court.

**ALLEN L. LANSTRA**

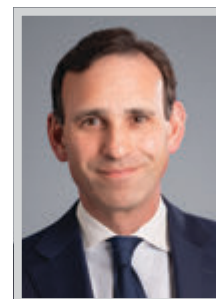
Partner  
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

**O**ver the course of two decades, Skadden partner Allen Lanstra has built a powerhouse litigation practice focused on high-stakes cases for some of the world's most sophisticated companies — Toyota, Bank of America, MGA Entertainment, among many others. While litigating mega-class actions and pivoting nimbly from constitutional law to shareholder derivative actions to commercial disputes, Lanstra has maintained an impactful pro bono practice that earned him the State Bar of California's Wiley W. Manuel Award for Pro Bono Legal Services in 2011. His many contributions to the Los Angeles community include his service on the Board of Directors of the Western Center on Law & Poverty, and prior service on the Board of Directors of the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, the Board of Directors of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers, and as an adjunct professor at Loyola Law School.

**STEPHEN G. LARSON**

Partner  
Larson O'Brien LLP

**A** former U.S. District Judge and co-founding partner of Larson O'Brien, Stephen G. Larson has been a national trial lawyer for high-stakes civil, commercial, and white collar matters. Since returning to private practice in 2009, he continues to receive recognition from publications nationwide for his achievements as lead trial counsel in his broad white collar and complex commercial litigation practice. With over 30 years of trial and appellate experience, Larson has been lead counsel in scores of jury trials in the federal and state courts and appeals, including before the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the California Supreme Court, and the California Court of Appeal. He serves as a trusted adviser to senior executives and prominent domestic and international businesses. Throughout his career, Larson has represented individuals and public and private companies of all sizes as plaintiffs and defendants in high-stakes disputes.

**SCOTT LEIPZIG**

Partner  
Allen Matkins

**S**cott Leipzig is a partner in Allen Matkins' Century City office, and is a go-to lawyer for the most hotly contested and difficult litigation matters Allen Matkins handles. Leipzig has a reputation for embracing any case, no matter the difficulty, and for welcoming the challenge of any trial against any adversary. His many trials and arbitrations have included prosecuting and defending complex real estate disputes on behalf of commercial and residential developers; representing major telecommunications companies in regard to network real estate disputes; representing financial institutions, mortgage companies and real estate businesses in a wide range of real estate and consumer finance disputes; handling complex entertainment industry disputes; handling complex franchise matters on behalf of substantial franchisors and franchisees; handling complex product warranty claims; and handling complex insurance disputes. Leipzig loves the art of trying cases to juries and has done so year after year with an amazing record of success.

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS



**MARGARET LODISE**

*Partner*

Sacks, Glazier, Franklin & Lodise LLP

In her 30-plus year career, Margaret Lodise has established an impressive reputation for handling some of the most complex and high-dollar trusts and estates disputes. Among her high-profile representations, Lodise was appointed by the Probate Court as Guardian Ad Litem for the minor children of entertainer Michael Jackson, a responsibility she carried out soon after Jackson's death in 2009 and concluded in February 2020 with his youngest child, Prince Michael Jackson II ("Blanket" or "Biji") turning 18. In this role, Lodise initially advocated for the best interests of the performer's two sons and daughter due to disputes over Jackson's affairs, including the resolution of certain contracts proposed by the estate's Special Administrators, but opposed in part by Jackson's mother, Katherine. Lodise continued to represent the interests of the children after the initial dispute in connection with the ongoing administration of the estate.

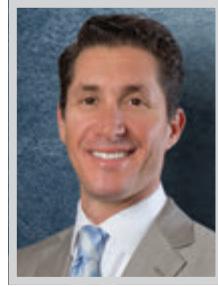


**NEAL MARDER**

*Partner*

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Akin Gump partner Neal Marder is a highly accomplished trial lawyer and one of the leading class action litigators in the country, obtaining favorable verdicts, decisions and settlements for clients across myriad industries and international borders. He also helms the firm's class action efforts nationwide. Marder is a recognized trailblazer in the area of complex litigation – known for employing compelling case presentation and experience gained from more than 33 years of practice – who has amassed a track record of success in consumer, antitrust and securities class actions. He has also had tremendous success trying bet-the-company cases and achieving winning results for both plaintiffs and defendants. Recently, Marder led an Akin Gump team representing Crunch gyms in a high-stakes consumer class action litigation matter. In February 2019, Marder negotiated a highly favorable settlement for the client, thereby mitigating enormous potential exposure and removing a litigation overhang that was holding up the sale of the company.

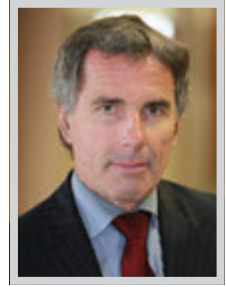


**SANFORD MICHELMAN**

*Partner & Chairman*

Michelman & Robinson, LLP

Sanford L. Michelman is a powerhouse litigator who, in many ways, has revolutionized the way midsize law firms approach the practice of law and business. Just over 21 years ago, Michelman co-founded Michelman & Robinson, LLP, then a two-person shop in the San Fernando Valley. Fast forward, and the firm now has scores of employees operating out of five offices in three states – California, Illinois, and New York – and is sought after by companies, large and small, in the advertising and digital media, banking and financial services, cannabis, entertainment and music, health care, hospitality, and insurance spaces, to name a few. Having handled countless, noteworthy class action cases and "bet the company" litigation matters considered the most challenging, Michelman has, over the years, become a formidable presence in courtrooms nationwide, representing insurers, broker/agents, underwriters, private equity groups, banks, and advertising and media companies.



**SKIP MILLER**

*Partner*

Miller Barondess, LLP

Skip Miller is a top litigator with over 100 trials under his belt. He has tried cases in state and federal courts in California and around the country. His versatile practice includes securities, sports, corporate takeover, energy, investment banking, defamation, First Amendment, entertainment (motion pictures, television and music), employment, copyright, toxic tort, civil rights, real estate, contracts, partnerships, unfair competition, technology, administrative, environmental, energy, and extensive governmental and public litigation. Skip has accomplished a lot in his career, but could not have done it without the great team of 40 lawyers, and the outstanding paralegals and staff at Miller Barondess, LLP. Miller has represented clients ranging from entertainment to government to Fortune 500 companies. His entertainment clients include Rod Stewart, Elton John, Nick Nolte, Bob Dylan, Sean Connery, Steven Tyler, Lionel Richie, Axl Rose, the Tupac Shakur Estate and many others.

**Lewis Brisbois congratulates Dan DeCarlo on being named among LA's Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Lawyers!**

This honor reflects the outstanding work that Dan has performed on behalf of his clients for more than 23 years. Dan's passionate advocacy and unwavering commitment to his clients' best interests is unparalleled. Lewis Brisbois is proud to have one of the strongest trial benches in the nation and to provide clients with the highest level of representation, as exemplified by Dan and our other elite trial attorneys throughout the country.

LewisBrisbois.com

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS

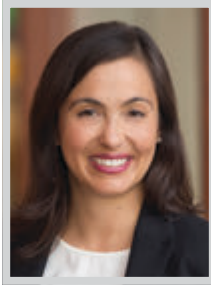


**JAMES I. MONTGOMERY JR.**

*Partner*

Gibbs Giden Locher Turner Senet & Wittbrodt

James I. Montgomery is a partner and a civil litigation trial lawyer with nearly 40 years litigation experience in the practice areas of civil trial and appellate law, insurance defense, products liability, and commercial law. Montgomery specializes in the analysis, negotiation, and defense of civil litigation matters, including automobile accidents, premises liability, construction defects, land subsidence, landlord-tenant habitability, toxic torts, construction accidents, personal injury, professional liability, products liability, and major losses. His experience in the litigation of toxic tort matters includes the involvement of exposures to asbestos, benzene, rodent allergens, and mold. His insurance defense experience includes cases arising out of commercial, homeowners, and automobile policies. Montgomery also has a significant amount of trial experience with a high success rate, including a case where he was called upon by a client to replace ineffective counsel in a wrongful death action just prior to trial.



**MARISOL MORK**

*Partner*

Squire Patton Boggs

Marisol Mork is a talented litigator, counselor and community leader who is a rising leader within Squire Patton Boggs, dedicated mentor and community servant. She regularly serves as trial counsel in high-stakes controversies across a wide range of subject matters. Her experience spans complex business litigation and counseling, including data privacy class actions, unfair competition and false advertising suits, cross-border commercial disputes, intellectual property and employment matters. Mork has served as lead counsel in cases throughout the United States and has arbitrated commercial disputes in both Europe and Asia. She has been selected as a Southern California Rising Star, a distinction that recognizes the top 2.5% of lawyers in the region under the age of 40 or those in practice for 10 years or fewer. She currently serves as the firm's 2020 LCLD Pathfinder Facilitator, mentoring participating early career lawyers in critical career development strategies.



**ANN MARIE MORTIMER**

*Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office;*

*Co-Head of Commercial Litigation Practice*

Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

When the stakes are high and legal matters seem almost insurmountable, clients turn to Hunton Andrew Kurth's Ann Marie Mortimer to navigate novel and cutting-edge litigation. As an accomplished litigator and strategic problem solver focused on achieving positive business results in complex cases, Mortimer is one of the premier attorneys in Los Angeles and nationwide, handling an impressive volume of high-profile complex business, data security, false advertising, unfair competition, environmental tort claims and related litigation risk from regulatory investigations for some of the nation's largest public and private companies. Mortimer also has a reputation for helping tech giants and well-known global brands navigate multifaceted, high-profile litigation that threatens their fundamental business. At the cutting edge of class action litigation and data security matters, Mortimer serves as lead counsel of one of the largest data breach incidents in history.



**DALE ORTMANN**

*Owner and Senior Shareholder*

Hunt Ortmann Palffy Nieves Darling & Mah, Inc.

Dale Ortmann is a senior shareholder and co-founder of Hunt Ortmann, with 40 years' experience in construction and real estate law. He works with construction industry clients from project inception, including contract preparation and negotiations, to project conclusion, including the resolution of construction claims and disputes in mediation, arbitration and litigation. His clients include public agencies, developers, contractors, subcontractors, material suppliers, design professionals, homeowner's associations and sureties in such matters. Ortmann has successfully represented clients in jury and court trials, arbitrations, mediations before Dispute Resolution Boards. He is also a frequent speaker before numerous construction industry organizations. Recently, Ortmann successfully represented the largest water district in California in a dispute with a general contractor who asserted a \$10 million claim for extra work and project delays and disruptions on a water filtration plant retrofit project. On the eve of jury trial, the contractor waived approximately 90% of its claim.



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[RMOLawyers.com](http://RMOLawyers.com)

Congratulations to our Managing Partner **Scott Rahn** on being named a 2020 Los Angeles Business Journal Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Lawyers.

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS



**TIMOTHY L. PIERCE**

Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office  
K&L Gates LLP

Timothy Pierce’s practice focuses on construction industry matters, representing clients from the inception of a project and the formation of contracts to the resolution of claims in litigation. He has had extensive trial experience in construction matters, having tried more than 15 construction and engineering cases to a jury verdict totaling more than 100 weeks in front of juries. He has obtained two verdicts in excess of \$30 million and has recovered more than \$100 million for clients in judgments and settlements. Pierce has also participated in more than a dozen arbitrations that have gone to a final award, and he is a AAA arbitrator. He also represents clients in international disputes that are governed by international arbitration tribunals. Pierce recently concluded a successful 10-week jury trial for Suffolk Construction in a breach of contract claim against LAUSD.



**HILARY POTASHNER**

Partner  
Larson O’Brien LLP

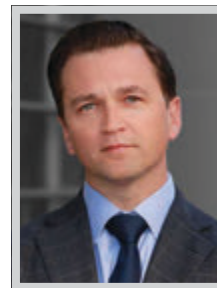
A Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, the twice-selected former Federal Public Defender for the Central District of California, Hilary Potashner has been continuously recognized throughout her 25-year career as being among the top trial lawyers in California and the nation. After years of service as the Federal Public Defender for the Central District of California, Potashner joined Larson O’Brien in 2019 in her first private sector position. Since then, she has taken on many of the firm’s top white collar defense and investigations, complex commercial and civil, intellectual property, and appellate cases. Over the past 18 months, she has served as counsel for the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services and Riverside County Office of County Counsel in connection with grand jury subpoenas, represented a business owner in federal investigations related to a catastrophic boat fire, and defended several multimillion-dollar fraud cases.



**MARVIN PUTNAM**

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

Marvin Putnam leads the national litigation team in Latham’s Entertainment, Sports & Media practice, and is chair of the firm’s Litigation & Trial practice in Los Angeles. Putnam has been recognized as a go-to for studios and networks that need to conduct an internal investigation. He offers clients an exceptional combination of litigation experience with keen insight on the entertainment and media industry. With numerous successes at trial and appellate courts, he represents clients ranging from leading entertainment companies and investors, to individual producers and talent, in high-profile matters with true market impact. Currently, Putnam remains center stage in one of the biggest entertainment disputes in a decade – the ongoing battle over packaging fees between Hollywood agents and the Writers Guild of America – in which he represents the Association of Talent Agents.



**SCOTT E. RAHN**

Founding Partner and Co-Managing Partner  
RMO LLP

Scott Rahn resolves contests, disputes and litigation related to trusts, estates and conservatorships, creating a welcome peace of mind for clients. He represents heirs, beneficiaries, trustees and executors and utilizes his experience to develop and implement strategies that swiftly and cost-effectively address the financial issues, fiduciary duties and emotional complexities underlying trust contests, estates conflicts and probate litigation. Rahn collaborates closely with clients, pursuing and defending claims involving incapacity, incompetence, undue influence, breach of fiduciary duty, and other similar areas of dispute. His advice and counsel includes prevention and remediation of financial elder abuse. He recently won a petition for conservatorship of the estate on an emergency basis during Covid to protect a client’s sister from fraudsters who had infiltrated, isolated, defrauded and unduly influenced her into sending them in excess of \$2 million, leaving her destitute. She is now stable, secure and protected.

CONGRATULATIONS

Gabriel G. Green & Mark T. Cramer

Leaders of Influence:  
Litigators & Trial Lawyers

Los Angeles Business Journal

Gabriel G. Green  
Shareholder

Mark T. Cramer  
Shareholder



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## LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS &amp; TRIAL LAWYERS

**ARJUN RAO**

Partner

Stroock &amp; Stroock &amp; Lavan LLP

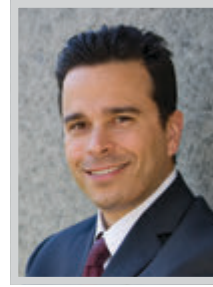
**A**rjun Rao has built a national reputation for handling high stakes consumer class actions and financial services litigation including regulatory matters and government investigations, as well as defending companies in a wide range of actions. This past year he has worked with JPMorgan Chase, HSBC, Discover, Capital One, American Express and BMW Financial Services in a range of individual and class actions relating to various consumer protection statutes and alleged unfair business practices, with many of the issues in question at the cutting edge of law. One of many recent examples is Rao's work for Capital One, who was served with a lawsuit alleging that it recorded a telephone call it placed to plaintiff regarding a credit card account without disclosing that the call would be recorded. Rao was able to work quickly to have plaintiff's individual claim dismissed with prejudice within two months of its filing.

**GEOFFREY S. SHELDON**

Partner

Liebert Cassidy Whitmore

**A**s chair of the firm's Public Safety practice, partner Geoffrey Sheldon is a top advisor to police chiefs, fire chiefs and public safety departments throughout California, guiding them through complex internal affairs investigations and discipline matters to help departments maintain the highest quality personnel (which is an especially important task in this time of heightened tensions between safety departments and the communities they serve). Sheldon is advising police agencies throughout California on new laws requiring the disclosure of police records in cases of officer shootings and misconduct, and how to respond to requests for records. Sheldon is a recognized expert on the Public Safety Officers Procedural Bill of Rights Act and the Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights Act, and has an impressive track record of success in representing public employers in trial court and appellate litigation, as well as in prosecuting disciplinary actions involving police officers, firefighters and civilian employees accused of workplace misconduct.

**AMNON SIEGEL**

Partner

Miller Barondess, LLP

**A**mnon Siegel is an experienced trial lawyer with success and victories on both sides of the "v." Although his recent successes have been in high-stakes plaintiffs' cases, Siegel has a robust defense practice as well. He has prevailed as lead trial counsel in high-profile cases opposite some of the largest corporations in the world with hundreds of millions of dollars at stake. Siegel's practice focuses on complex civil litigation matters in the automotive, entertainment, technology, real estate, consumer products and financial services industries. He has become the go-to lawyer for automobile dealership groups in conflict with their manufacturers or lenders and has had significant trial victories against the largest automakers in the world. In 2017, Siegel obtained one of the Top 10 Verdicts in the country, a \$256 million verdict against Nissan.

**ASHLEY SIMONSEN**

Partner

Covington &amp; Burling LLP

**A**s a partner in Covington's Class Action practice in Los Angeles, Ashley Simonsen has successfully represented clients in the financial services, consumer brands, technology, and sports industries – including Facebook, Navient, the Los Angeles Dodgers, JPMorgan Chase, and Tootsie Roll – through all stages of litigation, including trial, with a strong track record of success on early dispositive motions. Simonsen has become one of the nation's leading experts on "true lender" issues and the related "valid when made" doctrine, having won a complete defense victory for a bank in what is believed to be the first time a bank has ever defeated "true lender" claims following an evidentiary hearing. In addition to successfully defending several of the firm's financial services clients against putative "true lender" class actions, Simonsen is also a sought-after speaker and writer on these issues.

Leaders of Influence:  
Litigators & Trial Lawyers

James J. Yukevich

**YC** YUKEVICH | CAVANAUGH

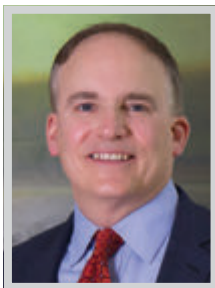
Yukevich | Cavanaugh congratulates Managing Partner **James J. Yukevich**, for his 2020 selection by *Los Angeles Business Journal* to **Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Lawyers**.

For over 25 years, the lawyers of **Yukevich | Cavanaugh** have been proudly delivering on our founding promise: To provide each client a special level of service and outstanding results.

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LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS

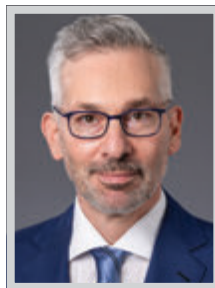


**MATTHEW E. SLOAN**

Partner

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Matthew Sloan has built a formidable white collar and civil litigation practice at Skadden, focusing on defending companies and executives in government investigations, criminal trials, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) enforcement actions and complex commercial litigation. Over the past 20 years in private practice and as a federal prosecutor, Sloan has conducted numerous investigations involving allegations of insider trading, securities fraud and violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) and the False Claims Act (FCA). During the last 18 months alone, Sloan has defended individuals and corporations in all phases of complex civil, criminal and regulatory matters involving allegations of securities fraud and violations of the Food Drug and Cosmetics Act, the FCA and the FCPA. He also has a busy pro bono practice, including representing Everytown for Gun Safety, one of the leading gun-control organizations in the country.



**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, and Alan Thicke among others), and is the lawyer who rescued both local NBA teams. Streisand's trial victory for former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer against Donald Sterling resulted in Ballmer's \$2 billion purchase of the Clippers. Streisand also went to court for Jeanie Buss, and in one quick, preemptive strike, defeated a threatened coup of the Los Angeles Lakers by Jim and Johnny Buss. Streisand not only won the case but also walked away with Jim and Johnny Buss' resignations from all four Buss family trusts as a guarantee against any threat in the future.



**JULIA B. STRICKLAND**

Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP

As co-chair of Stroock's national Litigation Department, a member of Stroock's Executive Committee and chair of its Financial Services Litigation, Regulation and Enforcement Group, Julia Strickland is often the first attorney called when a financial services company needs anything from practical guidance to a fierce defense of a contentious and high-stakes litigation matter, as well as for counseling on federal or state regulatory compliance and the full range of matters arising from lending and servicing, retail banking, real estate and unfair and deceptive practices. She has amassed a client list that includes titans of their industries, including American Express, Citigroup, Discover, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, HSBC, Synchrony and OneWest/CIT Bank. In addition to Strickland's significant professional accomplishments, she is a leader in non-profits with a focus on the performing arts, particularly dance, and community outreach through the arts.



**PETER STRIS**

Founding Partner

Stris & Maher LLP

Based in Los Angeles, Peter Stris represents clients in complex business cases before trial and appellate courts nationwide, including the U.S. Supreme Court. He is a founding partner of Stris & Maher LLP, a litigation boutique. Stris leads the firm's Supreme Court and Appellate practice. An elected fellow of both the American and California Academies of Appellate Lawyers, Stris has represented parties in dozens of high-stakes and high-profile business appeals throughout the nation. Chambers USA calls him "a tactical genius and a great leveler," ranking him among top appellate specialists both nationally and in California. The National Law Journal, which profiled him on its Appellate Hot List in 2016, 2017 and 2019, highlighted his ability "to win even when conventional wisdom held that he barely had a shot." And Reuters has identified him as one of the most influential advocates before the U.S. Supreme Court, where he has argued nine cases.

Congratulations to our Managing Partner **Eric Early** for being named to *Los Angeles Business Journal's* "**Leaders Of Influence: Litigators & Trial Lawyers.**"



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**Well Deserved!**

## LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS &amp; TRIAL LAWYERS

**PETER A. STROTZ**

Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office  
King & Spalding

**P**eter A. Strotz is a senior litigation partner, the founding and managing partner of King & Spalding's Los Angeles office and a seasoned trial lawyer in Los Angeles and San Francisco. He practices in the Tort Litigation and Product Liability practices. Strotz's practice focuses on complex litigation involving novel medical, scientific, and legal issues for global manufacturing companies, including pharmaceutical, oil, gas, engineered and specialty materials, paints, and coatings companies. In his representation of these Fortune and Global 1000 companies, Strotz acts as national, regional and local trial counsel in a variety of pharmaceutical, products, commercial, antitrust and toxic tort matters. King & Spalding's Product Liability Practice was recognized as a North America Global Elite Thought Leader by in 2019. The Tort Litigation Practice was selected by The American Lawyer in 2012 as one of the top three in the United States.

**VIVIAN LEE THOREEN**

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

**H**olland & Knight's Private Wealth Services practice is among the largest such practices in the United States. Vivian Lee Thoreen is the executive partner of Holland & Knight's Los Angeles office and chairs the firm's national Private Wealth Services Dispute Resolution Team. She has been first chair in numerous high-value and high-profile estate and fiduciary disputes. Thoreen represented the late actor Mickey Rooney and his court-appointed conservator and executor in an elder abuse action against Rooney's stepson and stepson's wife that garnered national media attention. Currently, Thoreen is prosecuting two separate petitions against a successor trustee for the settlor's breach of promise to make a will and provide an inheritance and for breach of fiduciary duty in a \$1 billion estate. An active member of the community, Thoreen is a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel.

**TODD C. TORAL**

Partner  
Jenner & Block

**C**lients turn to Todd C. Toral when the stakes are high and the facts complex. His trial and investigation experience cuts across industries, practice areas and international borders, giving him a broad perspective that helps him anticipate and address issues before they arise and gives him insight into how best to efficiently resolve disputes that cannot be avoided. Toral has handled cutting-edge and high-stakes cases throughout his career and has earned recognition for his work. Last fall, Toral led a team that prevailed in a cross-border arbitration held in Montreal in which the arbitrators upheld and renewed a trademark license agreement in favor of his clients, petitioners 79411 USA Inc. (which does business as Fix Auto USA) and FUSA, Inc., against respondent Mondofix. This win protected the clients' auto collision repair franchise system in the United States, which consists of 140+ franchisees and a reported nearly \$300 million in annual revenue.

**RHONDA TROTTER**

Partner  
Arnold & Porter

**A**n experienced trial lawyer with Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer in Los Angeles, Rhonda Trotter has broad trial experience in intellectual property, product liability, and other commercial disputes. Regularly prosecuting and defending high-stakes trademark, false advertising, and copyright lawsuits, Trotter's track record and experience have garnered significant recognition and praise from World Trademark Review, which noted that she "enjoys the patronage of a diverse range of clients who describe her as an "excellent trial lawyer" with "a real knack for communicating complicated concepts to a judge or jury." Trotter uses this skill to secure outstanding results for a diverse array of clients, including a November 2019 multi-million dollar federal court verdict for Planned Parenthood. Trotter has also served as lead outside IP counsel for Experian in trademark, copyright, and false advertising matters since 2005.

## A Leader of Influence: Litigators & Trial Lawyers

Raines Feldman LLP  
proudly congratulates our partner  
**Miles Feldman**  
for being selected as one of the  
Los Angeles Business Journal's  
2020 Leaders Of Influence:  
Litigators & Trial Lawyers



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**Milbank**

We congratulate our colleague  
David I. Gindler on being named a  
**Leader of Influence:  
Litigator & Trial Lawyer**  
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LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS & TRIAL LAWYERS



**BRIAN P. WALTER**

Partner  
Liebert Cassidy Whitmore

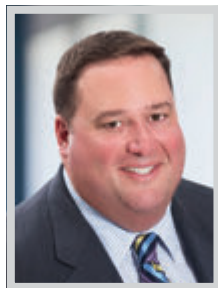
**B**rian Walter is one of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore’s most experienced litigators and has successfully tried several cases to verdict. He represents a diverse group of the firm’s clients, including police departments, not-for-profit hospitals, and independent schools against complex employment and parent/student claims, and he is often asked to defend high-profile matters involving elected officials, police chiefs, city attorneys and high-level administrators. Walter is a focused and strategic litigator, and positions the matters he defends for summary judgment. He has obtained complete summary judgments in numerous cases, including an age discrimination claim brought by the chair of the Radiology Department of an academic teaching hospital, and in a federal whistleblower violation lawsuit brought by the former Independent Assessor of the Los Angeles Fire Department against the City of Los Angeles, Mayor Garcetti and the City’s Fire Commissioners, among others.



**PERRIE WEINER**

Partner  
Baker McKenzie

**P**errie Weiner is the partner in charge of Baker McKenzie’s Los Angeles office and chair of the firm’s North America Securities Litigation Group. With over 30 years of experience, Weiner’s practice focuses on securities litigation and enforcement matters and complex business litigation. He advises private equity funds, including hedge funds, broker-dealers, underwriters, placement agents and issuers in SEC and FINRA enforcement proceedings, and in white collar criminal proceedings. In addition, he defends both underwriters and issuers in securities class actions, shareholder derivative actions, and takeover defense litigation. Weiner also has an active complex business litigation practice, including representing a broad spectrum of clients in consumer class actions involving claimed violations of the Right to Privacy (including TCPA and CIPA), Automatic Renewal Law, false and deceptive advertising, Section 17200 and RICO. Since joining Baker McKenzie, Weiner has made incredible strides in growing the securities litigation team in Los Angeles.



**ALEX WEINGARTEN**

Partner, Litigation  
Venable LLP

**A**lex Weingarten is the preeminent trial attorney specializing in the litigation of trust and estate disputes involving celebrities. With decades of experience in both entertainment and probate litigation, Weingarten has become one of the leading litigators in both fields and has been recognized for his skill in the courtroom for celebrity clients. Clients look to Weingarten to handle “bet the company” cases, to protect their integrity during the very public litigation process, to provide a fresh approach, and to suggest novel and overlooked strategies. He is aggressive in optimizing results and prides himself on finding the most direct route to victory. Alex is known for his trademark tenacity and his creative and zealous advocacy on behalf of his clients. Recently, he represented the adult children of musician Tom Petty in a dispute with their stepmother for control of his music catalogue.



**BART WILLIAMS**

Partner  
Proskauer Rose LLP

**B**art Williams is one of the nation’s most sought-after trial lawyers. A strategic, diligent and dignified litigator with a wealth of experience across commercial litigation, white collar criminal defense and internal corporate investigations, he is frequently called in just weeks before a case in order to deliver the win. He is a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers and has an impressive list of victories under his belt in jury and bench trials throughout the United States. For the past three years, Williams has taken a lead role for Johnson & Johnson in large-scale litigations. During that time, he has secured several important victories for Johnson & Johnson in widely publicized jury trials. Additionally, Williams is a member of the small management team that coordinates Johnson & Johnson’s talc litigation efforts nationwide.

**Baker  
McKenzie.**

Baker McKenzie congratulates  
**PERRIE M. WEINER**  
on being named a Leader of Influence  
by the Los Angeles Business Journal.

Perrie chairs Baker McKenzie’s securities litigation  
practice in North America.



**PERRIE M. WEINER**  
PARTNER-IN-CHARGE, LOS ANGELES

Baker McKenzie helps clients overcome the challenges of competing in the global economy. We solve complex legal problems across borders and practice areas. Our unique culture, developed over 70 years, enables our 13,000 people to understand local markets and navigate multiple jurisdictions, working together as trusted colleagues and friends to instill confidence in our clients.

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## LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: LITIGATORS &amp; TRIAL LAWYERS

**JACK S. YEH**

Partner  
Sidley Austin LLP

Based in Sidley's office in Century City, Jack Yeh is a seasoned trial lawyer and key member of Sidley's Complex Commercial Litigation practice. He regularly represents both publicly traded companies and emerging businesses in a wide range of industries, including energy, oil and gas, real estate, media and entertainment, advertising and technology. He is considered a "go-to" trial lawyer for disputes involving environmental issues, governmental regulations, the California Environmental Quality Act, conflicts of interest, political contributions and similar governmental-related matters. Yeh's track record and courtroom prowess has been demonstrated in a number of high-profile wins in California and across the country. In February 2019, Sidley successfully defended ASICS and its executives in a jury trial in the Los Angeles County Superior Court against fraud claims initiated by plaintiffs Size-It, LLC and Mickey Segal.

**STEPHANIE YONEKURA**

Partner  
Hogan Lovells

Stephanie Yonekura leads Hogan Lovells' Investigations, White Collar, and Fraud practice for the Americas. She is a member of the firm's Crisis Leadership Team and regularly advises clients on corporate compliance issues and policies. Previously, she was Acting United States Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California, the largest U.S. Attorney's office outside Washington, D.C. She brings a unique perspective to any internal investigation. Having served as a federal prosecutor for 14 years and as the Acting U.S. Attorney in Los Angeles, she knows the hot-button issues that are considered in every stage of any government investigation. As the Acting U.S. Attorney of the largest office outside of Washington, D.C., she was an active participant in the larger U.S. Department of Justice community, serving on nationwide committees in connection to white collar fraud, cybercrime, and intellectual property matters.

**JAMES J. YUKEVICH**

Founding Partner, Managing Partner  
Yukevich | Cavanaugh

With over 30 years of courtroom experience as a trial lawyer in jurisdictions across the United States, James Yukevich has developed a reputation as a skilled negotiator who understands how cases are settled. With every client, he leverages his extensive experience to customize legal strategies that are unique to each situation and matter, employing tactics that result in fair resolutions. Recognized among the Top 20 Defense Verdicts each year from 2009-2015 and 2017, Yukevich is a frequent speaker on issues involving civil litigation, trial practice, mass tort, and products liability. In his most recent trial win, Yukevich secured a unanimous defense verdict in favor of his client, Ferrari North America, Inc.; the verdict took jurors less than 25 minutes to deliberate. The 2019 verdict secured Mr. Yukevich his 11th Daily Journal Top Defense Verdicts designation.

Congratulations to all the honorees on *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2020 list of Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Lawyers, including our own Justin Goldstein.



## Leading Trial Lawyers



Congratulations to **Joe Akrotirianakis** and **Peter Strotz** on being named 2020 Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Lawyers.

We salute them and our deep roster of 40 experienced trial lawyers in Los Angeles.

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