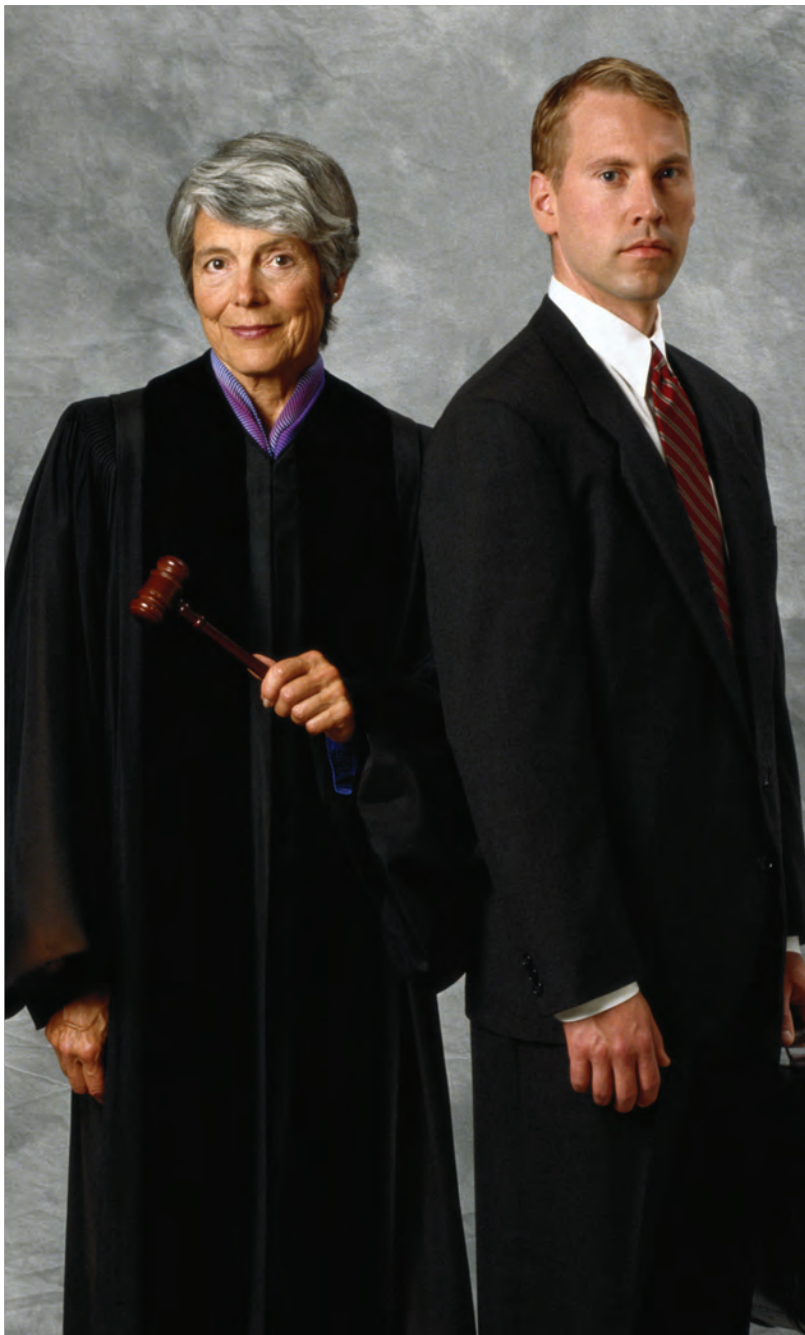


SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

BEST OF THE BAR 2014



SUPPLEMENT TO THE SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

“Now, gentlemen, in this country, our courts are the great levelers. In our courts, all men are created equal. I’m no idealist to believe firmly in the integrity of our courts and of our jury system—that’s no ideal to me. That is a living, working reality!”

— Atticus Finch, *To Kill a Mockingbird*



San Diego’s legal community is as committed to the spirit and philosophy of the law as Harper Lee’s enduring hero, attorney Atticus Finch. Throughout the years the *San Diego Business Journal* has honored and showcased our local firms and individuals and has championed those who have made a significant impact.

In this, our inaugural Best of the Bar issue, 201 lawyers were chosen as the most outstanding in San Diego. Legal professionals throughout the metro area cast votes and were urged to consider not only colleagues at their firms, but also those outside their walls. No one could make the list based solely on votes from others at the same firm.

The final list of attorneys represents a range of practice areas that reflect the diversity of our local economy from intellectual property, mergers and acquisitions, to mediation and family law. More than 1,000 votes were cast from 146 firms and solo practices throughout the area. Honorees are listed in alphabetical order with their vital information, and many included comments about the best advice they’ve received or who has inspired them in their careers.

We hope this section will showcase the area’s top attorneys and will be used as a resource for anyone needing legal services. Thanks to all who participated, and congratulations to all the honorees.

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Congratulations Frederick Schenk, Gayle Blatt, Thomas Penfield, Wendy Behan and Angela Jae Chun on being selected by their peers for inclusion in the *San Diego Business Journal* Best of the Bar 2014 list.

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BEST OF THE BAR

**Anders Aannestad****Firm:** Morrison & Foerster LLP**Areas of Practice:** Patent Litigation and Patent Counseling**Law School:** University of Arizona**Website:** www.mofo.com**Comments:** "Moderation in all things, including moderation."**Alison Adema****Firm:** Sweeney Greene & Roberts LLP**Areas of Practice:** Employment and Business Litigation**Law School:** University of San Diego 1990**Website:** www.sgrlawfirm.com**Comments:** "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" holds true in reducing workplace legal risks and improving morale.**Ben Aguilar****Firm:** Law Offices of Ben Aguilar**Areas of Practice:** Family Law and Immigration Law**Law School:** Thomas Jefferson School of Law**Website:** www.benaguilarlaw.com**Comments:** I am humbled and honored by this recognition. My deepest thanks to my mentors, professors, colleagues and those who over the years have given me their wisdom, support and generosity. I look forward to continue learning and serving the San Diego community.**Bing Ai****Firm:** Perkins Coie LLP**Areas of Practice:** Intellectual Property, Patent Law, Post Grant Proceedings**Law School:** University of San Diego School of Law,**Website:** www.perkinscoie.com**G. Peter Albert, Jr.****Firm:** AlbertDhand LLP**Areas of Practice:** Intellectual Property Law, Technology Law**Law School:** The John Marshall Law School**Website:** www.albertdhand.com**Comments:** I have an undergraduate degree in electrical engineering and spent almost seven years working as an engineer designing analytic systems for options and commodities traders and other financial professionals trading in the derivative markets. My systems were

based primarily on the Black-Scholes options pricing model which won its authors the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1997.

John Alessio**Firm:** Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP**Areas of Practice:** Commercial Litigation, Class Action Litigation**Law School:** University of San Diego School of Law**Website:** www.procopio.com**Comments:** It is an honor to be selected by my peers for this accolade.**Olga Alvarez****Firm:** Heisner Alvarez, APC**Areas of Practice:** Trusts and Estates, Probate**Law School:** University of San Diego School of Law**Website:** www.heisneralvarez.com**Comments:** My favorite quote: "To those whom much is given, much is expected." Best Advice: Your word is your honor.**Kerry Armstrong****Firm:** Law Offices of Kerry L. Armstrong, APLC**Areas of Practice:** Criminal Defense, Juvenile**Law School:** Thomas Jefferson School of Law**Website:** www.sandiegodefenselawfirm.com**Comments:** I went to law school because my father was a land developer and wanted me to become a business lawyer so I could help him with legal issues. He would kill me if he knew I ended up becoming a criminal defense attorney. Haha.**Courtney Baird****Firm:** Duane Morris LLP**Areas of Practice:** Business / Commercial Litigation, Class Actions**Law School:** University of San Diego School of Law**Website:** www.duanemorris.com**Comments:** I work with a great group of individuals and enjoy having the opportunity every day to help clients with and solve their legal issues.**Vincent J. Bartolotta, Jr.****Firm:** Thorsnes Bartolotta McGuire**Areas of Practice:** Eminent Domain, Catastrophic Injuries**Law School:** Pittsburgh School of Law, JD 1970**Website:** www.tbmlawyers.com**Comments:** I have been recognized annually by Woodward/White as one of the Best Lawyers in America — a recognition received for the past 20 years. There's really no secret about what I do. I really do care for my clients; each case gets a piece of my soul.**David C. Beavans****Firm:** Law Offices of David C. Beavans, APC**Areas of Practice:** Family Law, Civil Litigation**Law School:** Thomas Jefferson School of Law**Website:** www.thesdlawyers.com**Teresa Beck****Firm:** Lincoln Gustafson & Cercos**Areas of Practice:** General Civil Litigation and Employment Defense**Law School:** University of San Diego School of Law, Magna Cum Laude**Website:** www.lgclawoffice.com**Comments:** Very honored! Little known facts: I come from a mixed racial family, through adoptions. Also, I am very involved in my church and encourage others to pursue similar outside interests as a foundation for their lives and careers.**Wendy Behan****Firm:** Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield, LLP**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury and Product Liability**Law School:** California Western School of Law**Website:** www.caseygerry.com**Comments:** "You can do anything, but not everything."**Richard H. Benes****Firm:** Richard H. Benes, Attorney at Law**Areas of Practice:** Civil Appeals and Writs**Law School:** University of Southern California**Website:** NA**Comments:** "Laws are a dead letter without courts to expound and define their true meaning and operation," Hamilton, The Federalist Papers, No. 22.**Harvey Berger****Firm:** Pope, Berger & Williams, LLP**Areas of Practice:** Employment Law, Civil Litigation**Law School:** University of San Diego**Website:** www.popeberger.com**Comments:** My associates and I counsel people from minimum wage workers, to middle management, to CEO's of billion dollar corporations, and represent companies, large and small.**Nadia Bermudez****Firm:** Garcia Hernandez Sawhney & Bermudez, LLP**Areas of Practice:** Employment and Business Litigation**Law School:** Stanford University School of Law**Website:** www.ghsblaw.com**Comments:** My older and younger sisters also pursued careers in the law. My younger sister is an attorney at my firm and my older sister is a Superior Court Commissioner in the Imperial County. People always want to know what that's like. It's wonderful, until we play Scrabble.**Matthew Bernstein****Firm:** Perkins Coie LLP**Areas of Practice:** Patent Litigation and Intellectual Property Litigation**Law School:** George Washington University**Website:** www.perkinscoie.com**Comments:** Favorite quote: "The best executive is the one who has sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done, and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it," Theodore Roosevelt.**Christina Bernstein****Firm:** Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz PC**Areas of Practice:** Commercial Litigation and Personal Injury**Law School:** George Washington University Law School**Website:** www.pettitkohn.com**Comments:** "Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can," Arthur Ashe.**Charles Bird****Firm:** McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP**Areas of Practice:** Appellate, Business Litigation.**Law School:** U.C. Davis**Website:** www.mckennalong.com**Comments:** One of the deep rewards of appellate practice is participating in developing the law. Events in other societies regularly demonstrate how much our prosperity depends on the rule of law. Appellate lawyers and courts keep the rule of law vibrant and relevant.**Dorn Bishop****Firm:** The Law Offices of Dorn G. Bishop, APC**Areas of Practice:** Insurance Coverage Litigation and Gaming Law**Law School:** University of Chicago Law School**Website:** www.dornbishoplaw.com**Comments:** I have always excelled at games of skill and bring that type of strategic thinking to bear in successfully representing my clients. I have won the United States Internet Backgammon Championship and served as captain of the United States team that placed third among 42 countries in the Nation's Cup World Championships. Before starting my own firm in 2004, I was a partner at a major international law firm and a federal criminal prosecutor.**Rebecca Blain****Firm:** Thorsnes Bartolotta McGuire**Areas of Practice:** Real Property and Business Litigation**Law School:** University of San Diego School of Law**Website:** www.tbmlawyers.com**Comments:** I represent plaintiffs in all manner of real estate and business disputes, including litigation regarding owners' and developers' land use and

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development rights; eminent domain and inverse condemnation 'takings' claims; claims for lost business profits and trade secret or brand infringement; and insurance claims related to extensive real property and business damage.

Gayle Blatt

Firm: Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield, LLP

Areas of Practice: Personal Injury, Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Litigation

Law School: California Western School of Law

Website: www.cgllaw.com

Comments: One of my favorite quotes: "The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why," Mark Twain.

**Melissa Bobrow**

Firm: Law Office of Melissa Bobrow

Areas of Practice: Criminal Defense, Federal Criminal Defense

Law School: California Western School of Law

Website: www.melissabobrow.com

Comments: Always walk into a room with a smile.

**Theresa Bowen**

Firm: Carpenter, Zuckerman & Rowley, LLP

Areas of Practice: Personal Injury

Law School: University of Baltimore

Website: www.czrlaw.com

Comments: I devote my practice solely to plaintiff's personal injury cases, with an emphasis on catastrophic personal injury, product liability, medical malpractice and brain injury. Before pursuing a career in law, I worked as a print and broadcast writer for the Associated Press and as a television news reporter in Baltimore and San Diego.

**David Brisco**

Firm: Cozen O'Connor

Areas of Practice: Subrogation and Product Liability Litigation

Law School: Pepperdine University

Website: www.cozen.com/people/bios/brisco-david

Comments: The best advice I have received as a plaintiff's lawyer is that nobody likes to pay money to someone they don't like. So not only is it ok to be a lawyer who is nice/professional, but it is in your client's best interest.

**Steven Bronson**

Firm: The Bronson Firm APC

Areas of Practice: Personal Injury, Consumer Class Action

Law School: California Western School of Law

Website: www.thebronsonfirm.com

Comments: "A community is democratic only when the humblest and weakest person can enjoy the highest civil, economic, and social rights that the biggest and most powerful possess," A. Philip Randolph.

**Juanita Brooks**

Firm: Fish & Richardson PC

Areas of Practice: Complex Intellectual Property Litigation.

Law School: Yale Law School

Website: www.fr.com/juanita-brooks

Comments: I have a paper weight on my desk that was given to me by a client with the inscription "It Can Be Done." It is my favorite quote and words I try to live by. Too often people, and especially women, become convinced that they cannot accomplish something and therefore they don't even try. If you don't try, then you are guaranteed to fail. But if you tell yourself "It Can Be Done" and that you can accomplish anything and everything you set out to do by making



your best efforts, you'll be amazed at what you can accomplish.

Mike Brown

Firm: Stradling

Areas of Practice: Corporate and Securities, Mergers and Acquisitions

Law School: University of Virginia

Website: www.sycr.com

Comments: I am thankful to practice corporate law in the San Diego community. It affords me an opportunity to make an impact serving emerging life science and technology companies and to work alongside top San Diego innovators and leaders.

**Martin Buchanan**

Firm: Law Offices of Martin N. Buchanan

Areas of Practice: Civil Appeals

Law School: Harvard Law School

Website: www.martinbuchanan.com

Comments: Little known facts about me:

1. I am a dual citizen of Canada and the United States.
2. I am related to President James Buchanan.
3. I was in the same law school class and section as Justice Elena Kagan and worked on the law review with her.
4. I have biked across country and run a marathon in 3:15.
5. I once had to be rescued on the swim leg of a triathlon.
6. I like birds.



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- Commercial Litigation • Litigation—Construction • Litigation—Real Estate • Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions—Plaintiffs • Personal Injury Litigation—Plaintiffs • Product Liability Litigation—Plaintiffs

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Benjamin Bunn**Firm:** Hulburt & Bunn, LLP**Areas of Practice:** Wrongful Death and Serious Personal Injury**Law School:** University of San Diego**Website:** www.superlawyers.com**Comments:** I am fortunate to be in a position where we can make a difference for people whose lives have been shaken by tragedy and trauma. Developing relationships based on trust, honesty and integrity is crucial to long term success. This is a lesson taught by my Mentor Judge Steve Denton and something that has guided my career.**Gil Cabrera****Firm:** The Cabrera Firm, APC**Areas of Practice:** Business and Civil Litigation**Law School:** Boston College**Website:** www.cabrerafirm.com**Comments:** My parents taught me the importance of giving back. This city and this profession have been incredibly good to me and I look forward to giving back to my community and our profession for years to come.**Krista Cabrera****Firm:** Foley & Lardner LLP**Areas of Practice:** Employment Law, Litigation**Law School:** USD**Website:** www.foley.com**Comments:** They say lawyers are either frustrated actors or frustrated writers. I am both of these things. I feel very fortunate for this career, in which I get to write and "perform" on a daily basis.**William Caldarelli****Firm:** Caldarelli**Areas of Practice:** Intellectual Property Litigation, Real Estate Litigation**Law School:** Boalt Hall School of Law**Website:** www.chplawfirm.com**Comments:** "We know truth not only by reason, but also by the heart," Blaise Pascal.**Kurt Campbell****Firm:** Klinedinst PC**Areas of Practice:** Construction and Real Estate**Law School:** University of San Diego School of Law**Website:** www.klinedinstlaw.com**Comments:** I am truly honored by my inclusion in this distinguished list and am keenly aware that I would not be where I am today without the tireless love and support of my beautiful wife Nika and my wonderful children, Chloe and Kurt Jr. My family also is extremely patient with my traveling addiction, which has allowed me to visit 107 current countries, as well as many that no longer exist.**G. Cole Casey****Firm:** Casey & Wood, LLP**Areas of Practice:** DUI, Criminal**Law School:** Thomas Jefferson School of Law**Website:** www.duisandiego.com**Comments:** My inspiration to be the best I can be professionally comes from my wife and best friend Chelsea, and my sons Hunter and Lachlan. They amaze me on a daily basis and remind me that as important as the work I do professionally may be, my most important role in life is as husband and father.**Cecilia Chen****Firm:** Law Office of Cecilia Chen**Areas of Practice:** Business Law, Mergers and Acquisition**Law School:** American University Washington College of Law**Website:** www.cclegalgroup.com**Comments:** My favorite quote is "Goals are dreams with deadlines." I often set goals to keep myself on track with the bigger picture of what I am trying to achieve and continually better both myself and my practice.**Lesa Christenson****Firm:** ABC&K Family Law**Areas of Practice:** Family Law**Law School:** University of San Diego**Website:** www.abcklaw.com**Comments:** I was the first female partner at my former law firm, Hillyer & Irwin.**John Cleary****Firm:** Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP**Areas of Practice:** Corporate and Securities**Law School:** University of Missouri**Website:** www.procopio.com**Comments:** The most influential person to my career is my father, who taught me how to handle the stresses of law practice without bringing them home to the family.**Carey Cooper****Firm:** Klinedinst PC**Areas of Practice:** Civil Litigation and Environmental Law**Law School:** Washington and Lee University**Website:** www.klinedinstlaw.com**Comments:** Abraham Lincoln and General George Marshall most eloquently expressed the concept that has rung true for me. General George Marshall stated, "It is not enough to fight. It is the spirit which we bring to the fight that decides the issue." And, Abraham Lincoln said, "Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other thing."**Julie Corbo-Ridley****Firm:** Hurst & Hurst**Areas of Practice:** Complex Civil Litigation / Class Actions**Law School:** University of San Diego School of Law**Website:** www.hurst-hurst.com**Comments:** "There must be some kind of way out of here," said the joker to the thief..." Bob Dylan I am most gratified professionally when I partner with other attorneys on cases in which they have a desire to maximize recovery and obtain the best possible outcome. Like the Dylan reference, no matter the status of the case, there is always a functional solution that may surprise you.**Chrissa Corday****Firm:** Corday & Hartney, PLC**Areas of Practice:** Trusts and Estates**Law School:** University of San Diego, School of Law**Website:** www.chplc.com**Comments:** When they asked me for a comment for this article, my first thought was, "I love my practice." I am not sure many attorneys can say that nor could I have necessarily said that every day when I was a litigator. Trusts and Estates is a positive, helpful area of law. Although the necessary discussions can be difficult, I strive to make it as positive and painless an experience as possible. No client ever hugged me when I litigated. Now I get hugged all the time.**Benjamin Coughlan****Firm:** Gomez Trial Attorneys**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury**Law School:** University of San Diego School of Law**Website:** www.thegomezfirm.com/ben-coughlan**Comments:** Before pursuing a career in law, I worked in the media relations department of the San Diego Padres, focusing on team publications, player and team public relations, and media relationships.**Michael Daly****Firm:** Daly Law Firm**Areas of Practice:** Employment and Business Litigation**Law School:** University of San Diego School of Law**Website:** www.dalylawfirm.co**Comments:** Everyday is a new day.**Matthew Deen****Firm:** Kehr Law, APC**Areas of Practice:** Business Law, Estate Planning**Law School:** California Western School of Law**Website:** www.kehrlaw.com**Comments:** Outside general counsel for entrepreneurs from start up to exit.**Melissa Deleon****Firm:** Gilliland & Burgess**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury Litigation, Civil Rights**Law School:** California Western School of Law**Website:** www.gillilandburgess.com**Comments:** I chose law as a career because I wanted to be a trial lawyer. I represent plaintiffs and consumers who are the victims of injuries and civil rights violations. The best part of what I do is this great opportunity to champion for those who have been injured and face challenges through no fault of their own. The most influential people to my career have been my mentors, James "Mac" McElroy, Randy Rechs and Doug Gilliland. Besides advocacy skills, they have taught me to always take the high road and make time for pro bono and public service.**Matt Dente****Firm:** The Dente Law Firm**Areas of Practice:** Labor and Employment**Law School:** Boston College Law School**Website:** www.dentelaw.com**Comments:** I love being a solo practitioner because it provides me the freedom to choose the cases and clients who matter—regardless of whether that means representing employees or employers. It also gives me the freedom to work with talented co-counsel of my choosing.**Kevin DeSantis****Firm:** Butz Dunn & DeSantis**Areas of Practice:** Professional Liability

Defense (Attorneys, Design Professionals, Accountants, Financial and Insurance Professionals) and Business Litigation (Including Employment and Class Action Matters)

Law School: University Of San Diego**Website:** www.butzdunn.com**Comments:** Favorite quote is from John Wooden, "Failure to prepare is preparation to fail."**Deborah Dixon****Firm:** Wingert Grebing**Areas of Practice:** Business and Employment**Law School:** California Western School of Law**Website:** www.wingertlaw.com**Comments:** I am fortunate to work in the San Diego legal community, especially with my colleagues at Wingert Grebing Brubaker & Juskie. My diverse practice provides me the opportunity to advocate for my clients in different areas of business and employment settings. It is rewarding to work with people to better understand their business needs and to develop creative solutions during litigation or to avoid claims altogether.

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Damian Dolin**Firm:** Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz PC**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury, Business Litigation**Law School:** California Western School of Law**Website:** www.pettitkohn.com**Comments:** I enjoy representing both plaintiffs and defendants in personal injury cases. I believe representing parties on both sides makes me a better counselor, advocate and trial attorney.**John E. Edwards****Firm:** Law Offices of John E. Edwards**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation**Law School:** Boston College Law School**Website:** na**Noel Egnatios****Firm:** IP Legal Advisors, P.C.**Areas of Practice:** Trademarks, Intellectual Property**Law School:** University of Michigan Law School**Website:** www.ipla.com**Comments:** Let's work together to create and protect brands that reach consumers' hearts as well as their minds.**William Eigner****Firm:** Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP**Areas of Practice:** Mergers and Acquisitions, Corporate, Business Transactions**Law School:** University of Virginia School of Law**Website:** www.procopio.com/attorneys/william_eigner.htm**Comments:** Go-to guy for mergers and acquisitions and corporate/business transactions.**Jon Epstein****Firm:** Epstein Grinnell & Howell APC**Areas of Practice:** Community Association Law, Construction Defect Law**Law School:** Thomas Jefferson School of Law**Website:** www.epsten.com**Comments:** I have been blessed with wonderful clients and dedicated firm colleagues for over 30 years. While the practice of law is difficult and challenging, the satisfaction of winning a case or resolving a complex problem makes the effort all worthwhile.**Jeremy Evans****Firm:** California Sports Lawyer**Areas of Practice:** Sports and Entertainment Law**Law School:** Thomas Jefferson School of Law**Website:** www.cslllegal.com**Comments:** One of my favorite quotes: "Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any one thing," Abraham Lincoln. I am proud of the fact that I come from a large family, eight brothers and sisters, 40 nephews and nieces, and growing. I love my family and friends. Thank you for the support.**Justin Evenson****Firm:** Fredrickson, Mazeika & Grant, LLP**Areas of Practice:**

Construction Defect and Personal Injury

Law School: California Western School of Law**Website:** www.finglegal.com**Comments:** I chose law as a profession to help others. I continue to further this goal by putting my clients first and providing them with excellent representation without compromise.**Jillian Fairchild****Firm:** Fredrickson, Mazeika & Grant, LLP**Areas of Practice:**

Construction and General Litigation

Law School: Thomas Jefferson School of Law**Website:** www.finglegal.com**Comments:** I decided to attend law school in order to help people. I am thankful that I am now in a position to assist my clients with the difficult process of litigation. My goal is always to resolve the matter quickly and in the most cost-effective manner.**Brian Findley****Firm:** Mulligan, Banham & Findley**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury and Medical Malpractice**Law School:** Thomas Jefferson School of Law**Website:** www.janmulligan.com**Comments:** I represent people. I aim to bring them hope. Every opportunity and resource I have is put to that purpose.**Kenneth Fitzgerald****Firm:** Chapin Fitzgerald LLP**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation, Intellectual Property Litigation**Law School:** UCLA School of Law**Website:** www.cftriallawyers.com**Comments:** I was fortunate to learn the craft of lawyering from my mentors and bosses Joseph J. ("Jay") Wheeler, and Hon. Howard B. Turrentine. Both have passed, but I think about their examples every day I practice law.**Sean Foldenauer****Firm:** Foldenauer Law Group, APLC**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation, Personal Injury Litigation**Law School:** Thomas Jefferson School of Law**Website:** www.foldenauerlaw.com**Comments:** If you argue right, you're never wrong.**Christian Fonss****Firm:** Klinedinst PC**Areas of Practice:** Corporate and Securities Law**Law School:** George Washington University**Website:** www.klinedinstlaw.com**Comments:** I was very fortunate early in my career to have a number of attorneys, both at the associate level and the partner level, who took an interest in my career. They not only showed me the ropes with respect to the substantive aspects of corporate and securities law, but also taught me the proper way to treat clients and co-workers. Their guidance has been invaluable to my career.**Eric Freeberg****Firm:** Law Offices of Eric O. Freeberg, APLC**Areas of Practice:** Complex Real Estate Transactions**Law School:** UC Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, 1979**Website:** www.freeberglaw.com**Comments:** One of Southern California's preeminent real estate transaction attorneys who has over the last 36 years specialized in commercial real property related transactions totaling over \$1 billion in transactional value. As an attorney I take pride in cost effectively assisting individuals and companies in their real estate transactions with dispatch and integrity.**Jenn French****Firm:** The Leventhal Law Firm, APC**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation and White Collar Criminal Defense**Law School:** University of San Diego School of Law**Website:** www.leventhallow.com**Comments:** "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," Martin Luther King, Jr.**Koji Fukumura****Firm:** Cooley LLP**Areas of Practice:** Securities Litigation**Law School:** Temple

University School of Law

Website: www.cooley.com**Comments:** What makes me most proud is to represent some of the most innovative companies in the world ranging from those creating lifesaving drugs and therapies to those transforming how we communicate with one another.**Ian Fusselman****Firm:** Thorsnes Bartolotta McGuire**Areas of Practice:** Complex Litigation and Insurance Litigation**Law School:** University of Southern California**Website:** www.tbmlawyers.com**Comments:** I enjoy litigation because I get the opportunity to learn something new nearly everyday. From clients, experts,

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Kirby Noonan Lance & Hoge congratulates partners Michael L. Kirby and David J. Noonan for being named to the inaugural "Best of the Bar." This recognition confirms our firm's continued success within the legal community.

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BEST OF THE BAR

colleagues and even opposing counsel, I am constantly exposed to nuances in the law, medicine, engineering, and in many cases, I am reminded of the importance of our health, families and even life itself. While litigation can be cutthroat, the San Diego legal community is relatively small and congenial, making it a great town to work in.

Renee Galente**Firm:** Galente Ganci, APC**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury and General Plaintiff's Civil Litigation**Law School:** Thomas Jefferson School of Law**Website:** www.gandgttriallawyers.com

Comments: Favorite quote: "How people treat you is their karma, how you react is yours," Wayne Dyer. I fell into the practice of law by accident. I had no idea that it would turn out to be one of the great loves of my life. I'm very lucky now to be able to help people every day and I am especially grateful to be able to do it with my incredible business partner; my husband, Eric Ganci.

**Eric Ganci****Firm:** Galente Ganci, APC**Areas of Practice:** DUI, Criminal Law**Law School:** Thomas Jefferson School of Law**Website:** www.gandgttriallawyers.com

Comments: I am an owner and DUI trial lawyer with Galente Ganci, APC. I am the only attorney in San Diego trained on DUI blood testing by the American Chemical Society. I have hands-on training with several breathalyzers, and I train police on DUI field sobriety tests. I have authored updates and chapters for Thomson West Publications regarding DUI science and law.

**Gregory Garbacz****Firm:** Klinedinst PC**Areas of Practice:** Employment / Labor**Law School:** Washington & Lee University School of Law**Website:** www.klinedinstlaw.com

Comments: "The end of law is not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom. For in all the states of created beings capable of law, where there is no law, there is no freedom," John Locke.

**Melissa Garcia****Firm:** Paul Hastings, LLP**Areas of Practice:** Securities, Mergers and Acquisitions**Law School:** UCLA**Website:** www.paulhastings.com

Comments: I represent both privately held and public companies in a number of different industries, including the telecommunications, entertainment, retail, and biotechnology industries, in a wide-range of corporate transactions, including public offerings and private financings of equity securities, mergers and acquisitions, securities filings and general corporate matters.

**Valerie Garcia Hong****Firm:** Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz PC**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation, Appellate**Law School:** Chicago-Kent College of Law**Website:** www.pettitkohn.com

Comments: "We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone," Ronald Reagan. I apply this philosophy to my legal practice and finding the best solutions for my clients, my commitment to community service, and my family, especially my one-year-old daughter, Ilana.

**Charles Gavrilovich****Firm:** Gavrilovich, Dodd & Lindsey, LLP**Areas of Practice:** Intellectual Property**Law School:** The John Marshall Law School**Website:** www.gdllawfirm.com**Ehud Gersten****Firm:** Gersten Law Group**Areas of Practice:** Real Estate Litigation and Probate Litigation**Law School:** Boston University School of Law**Website:** www.gerstenlaw.com

Comments: "Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow," Isaiah 1:17.

**Brett Geruntino****Firm:** Liljegren Law Group**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury, Estate Planning**Law School:** California Western School of Law**Website:** www.liljegrenlaw.com

Comments: The most effective advocates never lose sight of their client's goals.

**Alexander Giannetto****Firm:** Bremer Whyte Brown & O'Meara LLP**Areas of Practice:** Construction and Environmental Litigation**Law School:** Thomas Jefferson School of Law**Website:** www.bremerwhyte.com

Comments: "Ad hominem is a logical fallacy." Keith Bremer and Vik Nagpal have been very influential to my career as a litigator.

**David B. Gibbs****Firm:** Law Offices of David B. Gibbs**Areas of Practice:** Estate Planning and Small Business Law**Law School:** Thomas Jefferson School of Law**Website:** www.dbgibbslaw.com

Comments: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover," Mark Twain.

**Daniel Gilleon****Firm:** Gilleon Law Firm**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury, Employment**Law School:** California Western School of Law**Website:** www.mglawyers.com

Comments: Personal injury and employment cases pay the bills, but my passion is fighting for the "little guy" against the many bullies and predators out there. When I find a case to do both, all the better.

**Mary Gillick****Firm:** McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP**Areas of Practice:** Trusts and Estates Litigation**Law School:** University of San Diego School of Law, magna cum laude, 1984**Website:** www.mckennalong.com/professionals-MaryGillick.html

Comments: As a litigator, I am my clients' champion in court and against opposing parties, and that never wavers. Still, as human beings, we should also strive to keep what we do in the perspective of our humanity and common interests. The following quote from Maya Angelou is something that has helped me, on occasion, to keep things in that perspective: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

**Douglas Gilliland****Firm:** Gilliland & Burgess**Areas of Practice:** Plaintiff Personal Injury and Criminal Defense**Law School:** University of Oregon School of Law**Website:** www.gillilandburgess.com

Comments: There is no better place to live and practice law than San Diego.

**Jeremy Glaser****Firm:** Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo P.C.**Areas of Practice:** Securities and Mergers and Acquisitions**Law School:** Harvard University**Website:** www.mintz.com

Comments: I became a corporate attorney because I get to work with creative business people and learn about cutting edge products and technology. Helping clients achieve their dreams is my ultimate goal and gives me great satisfaction.

**Benny Goodman, III****Firm:** Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP**Areas of Practice:** Securities and Derivative Law**Law School:** University of San Diego School of Law**Website:** www.rgrdlaw.com

Comments: We will not yield in our efforts to give shareholders a powerful voice against faithless fiduciaries.

**Bruce Grant****Firm:** Grant IP, Inc.**Areas of Practice:** Patent Procurement and Analysis**Law School:** University of San Diego**Website:** www.grantip.com

Comments: Helping life sciences companies successfully advance products that improve quality of life has been truly rewarding.

**Stephen Grebing****Firm:** Wingert, Grebing, Brubaker & Juskie, LLP**Areas of Practice:** General Civil Litigation, including Real Estate and Business**Law School:** California Western School of Law**Website:** www.wingertlaw.com

Comments: My area of expertise is civil litigation, with an emphasis on real estate development and business matters. I have been designated a San Diego Super Lawyer since 2013, and am an active member of the San Diego Chapter of ABOTA. I have served as the firm's managing partner since 2011.

**Daniel Greene****Firm:** Law Offices of Kerry L. Armstrong, A.P.L.C.**Areas of Practice:** Criminal and DUI**Law School:** California Western School of Law**Website:** www.greenecriminaldefense.com

Comments: I take pride in my work and fight each day to defend my clients and their rights to the best of abilities. To be recognized for this commitment is very special, especially because the recognition is based on the successful representation of those who have but only their lawyer to stand by them during what is often the worst moments of their lives. I thank the San Diego Business Journal for including me in this group of fine and dedicated attorneys.

**Samantha Greene****Firm:** Sevens Legal, Inc.**Areas of Practice:** Criminal Defense**Law School:** University of San Diego School of Law**Website:** www.sevenslegal.com**Dana Grimes****Firm:** Grimes & Warwick**Areas of Practice:** State and Federal Criminal Defense**Law School:** University of San Diego School of Law**Website:** www.grimesandwarwick.com

Comments: I represent individuals and corporations accused of state and federal crimes.

**Douglas Guy****Firm:** Gates O'Doherty Gonter & Guy, LLP**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury, Product and Warranty Liability, General Litigation, Construction Defect**Law School:** Southwestern University School of Law**Website:** www.goggglaw.com

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BEST OF THE BAR

Robert Hamparyan

Firm: Law office of Robert Hamparyan
Areas of Practice: Personal Injury and Insurance Bad Faith

Law School: Western State School of Law
Website: www.yourcalifornialawfirm.com

Comments: I am fortunate to have an occupation that I am passionate about. The ability to help others and make a positive difference in their lives, keeps me focused and happy.

**Nicole Heeder**

Firm: Law & [M]ocean
Areas of Practice: Employment and Business Litigation
Law School: Atlanta's John Marshall Law School

Website: www.lawandmocean.com

Comments: Create a client centric practice. Although attorneys can be the conduit for justice, we are often too focused on the black letter law and minimize the role of the people affected by it. The most important part of our job is to empower our clients in their pursuit of equality and engage them in the process. At the end of the day, not only will you have improved the particular circumstances, you will have made a beneficial impact on the life of your client and our profession.

**Jerry Hemme**

Firm: Goode, Hemme & Peterson, APC

Areas of Practice: Real Estate and Business Litigation

Law School: University of San Diego School of Law

Website: www.sandiego.attorney.com

Comments: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel," Maya Angelou.

**Michael Hoisington**

Firm: Higgs, Fletcher & Mack LLP

Areas of Practice: Trademarks, Internet Related

Law School: California Western School of Law

Website: www.higgslaw.com

Comments: I practice in the area of copyrights and I have a small entertainment law practice representing musicians, artists, writers, film and television people and musical instrument manufacturers. I am a musician with an undergraduate degree in music composition from UC San Diego—a rare undergrad degree for a lawyer!

**Patricia Hollenbeck**

Firm: Duane Morris LLP

Areas of Practice: Business Litigation, Franchise Litigation

Law School: University of Colorado

Website: www.duanemorris.com

Comments: I feel fortunate to have chosen law as my career. I was trained by outstanding lawyers who taught me about the dedication necessary to practice well, and to represent clients to the very best of your ability and with the highest of ethical standards. I am



passionate about professional integrity, teaching and mentoring others, equal opportunity in the profession, and giving back to the community.

Duane Horning

Firm: California Business Law Group, PC

Areas of Practice: IP Litigation, Real Estate Litigation

Law School: University of San Diego School of Law

Website: www.cblg.biz

Comments: "There is a vague popular belief that lawyers are necessarily dishonest. I say vague, because when we consider to what extent confidence and honors are reposed in and conferred upon lawyers by the people, it appears improbable that their impression of dishonesty is very distinct and vivid. Yet the impression is common, almost universal. Let no young [person] choosing the law for a calling for a moment yield to the popular belief—resolve to be honest at all events; and if in your own judgment you cannot be an honest lawyer, resolve to be honest without being a lawyer," Abraham Lincoln.

**Lawrence Huerta**

Firm: Huerta Mediation

Areas of Practice: Mediation, Arbitration

Law School: University of Michigan

Website: www.huertamediation.com

Comments: "Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value," Albert Einstein.

**R. Christian Hulburt**

Firm: Hulburt & Bunn, LLP

Areas of Practice: Personal Injury, Medical Malpractice

Law School: University of San Diego

Website: na

Comments: There is nothing quite as satisfying as knowing we made a difference in another person's life.

**Thomas Ingrassia**

Firm: Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz PC

Areas of Practice: Labor and Employment Law

Law School: Boston

University School of Law

Website: www.pettitkohn.com

Comments: The most valuable professional advice I've received was, "Take care of your clients and everything else will take care of itself."

**Tara Jacobson**

Firm: Brown Law Group

Areas of Practice: Employment Litigation / Counseling, and Business Law

Law School: University of San Diego

Website: www.brownlawgroup.com

Comments: My mother's mantra was the best advice: "It wasn't a waste of time if you learned something."

**Angela Jae Chun**

Firm: Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield, LLP

Areas of Practice: Personal Injury, Products Liability

Law School: California Western School of Law

Website: www.caseygerry.com

Comments: I believe the practice of law requires faith, determination and hard work. I love what I do because I have the opportunity and honor to help people who are suffering and in need of an advocate obtain the justice they deserve.

**Ariel Javier**

Firm: Ariel A. Javier, A Professional Corporation

Areas of Practice: Tax and Business

Law School: Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Website: www.ajtaxlaw.com

Comments: The greatest satisfaction about being a lawyer occurs when I am able to successfully assist a client to resolve a tax problem.

**Ken Jenkins**

Firm: Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

Areas of Practice: My practice focuses on patent counseling and patent litigation, primarily in the health and life sciences and the oil and gas-petrochemicals industries.

Law School: University of California, Hastings College of the Law



Website: www.kilpatricktownsend.com

Comments: "The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor," Vince Lombardi.

D. Milie Joshi

Firm: Joshi Law Group

Areas of Practice: Elder Abuse and Bankruptcy

Law School: Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Website: www.joshilawgroup.com

Comments: "First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win," Mahatma Gandhi.

**Grace Jun**

Firm: Iredale & Yoo, APC

Areas of Practice: Criminal Defense and Civil Litigation.

Law School: Hastings College of the Law

Website: www.iredalelaw.com

Randall Kay

Firm: Jones Day

Areas of Practice: Intellectual Property Litigation, Business Litigation

Law School: Michigan Law School

Website: www.jonesday.com

Comments: The California Superior Court has approved me as an expert witness regarding trade secret litigation. My work ranges from pre-filing investigations to injunction hearings, trial and appeal. I served as a member of the California State Bar Intellectual



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WINGERT GREBING

WINGERT GREBING BRUBAKER & JUSKIE LLP

Wingert Grebing Brubaker & Juskie congratulates its "Best of the Bar" attorneys, Stephen Grebing, Andrew Servais, Deborah Dixon and Colin Walshok.



For over 52 years Wingert Grebing has provided exceptional legal services to its clients, including litigating and resolving business disputes, professional liability claims, employment issues and personal injury cases. Our attorneys are trained trial lawyers and are honored to be recognized as the Best of the Bar.

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BEST OF THE BAR

Property Section's Executive Committee and am a charter member and master of the bench in the J. Clifford Wallace chapter of the American Inns of Court.

John Kim

Firm: IP Legal Advisors

Areas of Practice: Trademark Law

Law School: Santa Clara University School of Law

Website: www.ipla.com

Comments: My greatest influence and mentor in the TM field is Morley Drucker, who is still practicing in his 80s. He has represented some of the most famous entertainment brands in the world, including Michael Jackson, The Beach Boys and Prince. One thing I learned from him that I keep with me to this day is to enjoy your practice and the money and accolades will come naturally.

**George Kindley**

Firm: Law Offices of George R. Kindley

Areas of Practice: Personal Injury and Nursing Home Abuse and Neglect

Law School: California Western School of Law

Website: www.kindleylawyers.com

Comments: We chose our practice area to make a difference—to stop the abuse and neglect of the elderly one case at a time.

**John Kinton**

Firm: Jones Day

Areas of Practice: Patent Litigation, Patent Opinions

Law School: Saint Louis University School of Law

Website: www.jonesday.com/jkinton

Comments: Patents are fundamentally business tools, not technical merit badges. When representing a client in patent litigation or managing a patent portfolio, a lawyer must take the time to understand the client's business objectives.

**Michael Kirby**

Firm: Kirby Noonan Lance & Hoge

Areas of Practice: Business Litigation, Securities Litigation

Law School: University of Iowa

Website: www.knlh.com

Comments: The best advice I was given was by Ed Luce of the Luce Forward firm when I started there. He said the most important thing you will ever have as a lawyer will be your reputation for high quality legal work, for professionalism and high ethical standards, and if you lose that reputation, you will never get it back. Great advice for all young lawyers.

**John Klinedinst**

Firm: Klinedinst PC

Areas of Practice: Commercial Litigation and Intellectual Property Litigation

Law School: Washington & Lee University School of Law

Website: www.klinedinstlaw.com

Comments: I am fortunate enough to be a third generation lawyer. My grandfather practiced law in York, Pennsylvania while my father practiced in Washington, D.C. I spent a good deal of time in a law office



or in various court houses, including the U.S. Supreme Court before entering high school. After I earned my MBA and worked in the commercial banking industry, I obtained my JD, ultimately launching my own law firm in 1983.

Andrew Kohn

Firm: Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz PC

Areas of Practice: Personal Injury and Business Litigation

Law School: University of Arizona

Website: www.pettitkohn.com

Comments: Best advice: Be prepared. Work hard.

**David Kohn**

Firm: Lewis Kohn & Fitzwilliam, LLP

Areas of Practice: Intellectual Property, Litigation

Law School: California Western School of Law

Website: www.lewiskohn.com

Comments: "Law is nothing else but the best reason of wise men applied for ages to the transactions and business of mankind," Abraham Lincoln.

**Frederick Kosmo Jr.**

Firm: Wilson Turner Kosmo LLP

Areas of Practice: Business Litigation, Class Action

Law School: University of Southern California

Website: www.wilsonturnerkosmo.com

Comments: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character," Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Michael Lane**

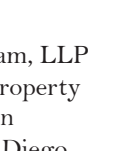
Firm: Lewis Kohn & Fitzwilliam, LLP

Areas of Practice: Intellectual Property Litigation, Business Litigation

Law School: University of San Diego School of Law

Website: www.lewiskohn.com

Comments: "Be soft on the people and hard on the problem." Roger Fisher, et al., *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In*.

**Joseph Leventhal**

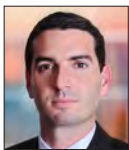
Firm: The Leventhal Law Firm APC

Areas of Practice: Business Litigation

Law School: Georgetown University Law Center

Website: www.leventhallaw.com

Comments: Business litigation shouldn't be some mystery that the client never understands. As lawyers, we owe it to our clients to provide legal advice that is clear and that aligns the legal goals with our client's business goals.

**Ramon Lewis**

Firm: Law Offices of Ramon E. Lewis

Areas of Practice: Elder Abuse and Neglect, Serious Personal Injury

Law School: University of San Diego



Website: www.raylewislaw.com

Comments: Helping protect those who cannot protect themselves.

Marty Lorenzo

Firm: Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo P.C.

Areas of Practice: Corporate and Securities, Mergers and Acquisitions

Law School: University of San Diego

Website: www.mintz.com

Comments: Why Law as a Career: Three of the best things about this job are: (1) I get to tell my kids about all the cool companies I help grow: companies that are innovating, creating jobs, solving problems and changing lives. (2) I am honored to be able to guide fellow Marines and other veterans as they transition from serving our nation to growing their businesses and (3) I am fortunate enough to work with companies all over the world.

**Jennifer Lutz**

Firm: Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz PC

Areas of Practice: Employment Law - Litigation and Counseling

Law School: University of Arizona

Website: www.pettitkohn.com

Comments: I love practicing employment law — my days consist of keeping California employers compliant with the ever changing patchwork of laws and handling litigation in a strategic and efficient manner.

**Rose F. Luzon**

Firm: Shepherd, Finkelman, Miller & Shah, LLP

Areas of Practice: Consumer Protection Practice, False Claims, Whistleblower and Qui Tam Practice

Law School: U.C. Hastings

Website: www.sfmslaw.com

Comments: "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened," Dr. Seuss

**Jeffrey Mach Jr.**

Firm: Mach Law

Areas of Practice: Family Law and Entertainment Law

Law School: Mississippi College School of Law

Website: www.mach-law.com

Comments: At Mach Law, I have dedicated myself to assisting my clients during some of the most challenging times in their lives. Being able to help people when they need it the most has inspired me to pursue family law, while my passion for music has encouraged me to assist clients with entertainment law needs.

**Susana Mahady**

Firm: Law Offices of Susana M. Mahady

Areas of Practice: Business Law, Civil Litigation

Law School: University of San Diego School of Law

Website: www.mahadylaw.com

**Josh Maxwell**

Firm: Hone Maxwell LLP

Areas of Practice:

Tax Controversy, International Tax

Law School: University of San Diego

Website: www.honemaxwell.com

Comments: I have been very fortunate because in my chosen fields of tax controversy and international tax I have had the opportunity to work for and be mentored by two of the best in both of these fields—Richard Carpenter and Bruce Stelzner. Both are very different in their styles and approach, but both taught me many lessons and gave me invaluable information that I use everyday.

**Daral Mazzarella**

Firm: Mazzarella & Mazzarella LLP

Areas of Practice: Business and Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property Litigation

Law School: University of San Diego

Website: www.mazzarellalaw.com

Comments: Nobody can master everything. Clients with expertise in all manner of endeavors benefit from recognition that the special knowledge and expertise of a good lawyer may be essential to their objectives. Nothing makes me happier than helping a client achieve an important goal that may have been unattainable without my participation.

**Mark Mazzarella**

Firm: Mazzarella & Mazzarella LLP

Areas of Practice: Commercial Litigation / Real Estate Litigation

Law School: UCLA

Website: www.mazzarellalaw.com

Comments: Albert Einstein noted: "Everyone is a genius but if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it is stupid." I have been fortunate to have stumbled into a career as a trial lawyer, because as it turned out, the job suits me well; well enough in fact, that the idea of giving it over to retirement is frightening. Take the law away from me and I'm afraid I'll be just another fish trying to climb trees. And that is a very scary thought.

**John McCarthy**

Firm: Law Offices of John F. McCarthy

Areas of Practice: Labor and Employment Law

Law School: Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Website: www.californiaemploymentlawfirm.com

Comments: "As long as the world shall last there will be wrongs, and if no man objected and no man rebelled, those wrongs would last forever," Clarence Darrow.

**Monty McIntyre**

Firm: Mediation and Law Office of Monty A. McIntyre

Areas of Practice: Mediator, Arbitrator and Referee

Law School: University of San Diego School of Law

Website: www.montymcintyre.com



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BEST OF THE BAR

Comments: I serve as a mediator, arbitrator and referee with ADR Services, Inc. As a mediator my mission is to bring peace into the lives of people by helping them resolve disputes. I am the 2014 President of the San Diego Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. I served as 2002 President of the San Diego County Bar Association.

Kevan McLaughlin**Firm:** McLaughlin Legal**Areas of Practice:** Tax**Law School:** Golden Gate University & University of San Diego School of Law**Website:** www.mclaughlinlegal.com**Comments:** "In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock," Thomas Jefferson.**Susan Meter****Firm:** Gordon & Rees LLP**Areas of Practice:** ERISA / Employment Law**Law School:** California Western School of Law**Website:** www.gordonrees.com**Comments:** "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel," Maya Angelou.**John Milikowsky****Firm:** Law Offices of John D. Milikowsky**Areas of Practice:** Tax Controversy, International Taxation**Law School:** University of San Diego School of Law, LL.M.; California Western School of Law, J.D.**Website:** www.caltaxadviser.com**Comments:** The most exciting thing about my work is the resulting happiness my clients feel when the matter concludes and my pure satisfaction because I have done the best job and achieved the right result. I owe this moment to my mentor, Stuart Hurwitz, Esq.**George Miller****Firm:** Shustak & Partners, P.C.**Areas of Practice:** Securities Arbitration, Business Litigation**Law School:** Thomas Jefferson School of Law**Website:** www.shufirm.com**Comments:** "I can't imagine a person becoming a success who doesn't give this game of life everything he's got," Walter Cronkite.**Kimberly J. Miller, Ph.D.****Firm:** Knobbe Martens Olson and Bear, LLP**Areas of Practice:** Intellectual Property and Licensing**Law School:** University of San Diego**Website:** www.knobbe.com**Comments:** I support my clients across a variety of technical disciplines, including pharmaceuticals, polymers, industrial chemistry, biotechnology and ornamental designs. Additionally, I have conducted patent prosecution in more than 45 foreign jurisdictions. I represented Alios BioPharma, Inc., in

the development and implementation of a licensing deal with Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Inc., said to be the largest preclinical licensing deal in history.

William Miller**Firm:** Higgs, Fletcher & Mack LLP**Areas of Practice:** Healthcare, Litigation**Law School:** University of San Diego**Website:** www.higgslaw.com**Comments:** Favorite quote: "Argue your limitations and sure enough they're yours."**Paul Mirowski****Firm:** Mirowski & Associates**Areas of Practice:** Corporate Transactional, Intellectual Property**Law School:** University of San Francisco**Website:** www.mirlaw.com**Comments:** The "law" is a demanding profession, but over the years, I feel it is my ability to maintain a balance in my life that allows me to succeed. That balance includes co-owning a winery (Treasure Island Wines) and occasionally playing in a band.**David Mitchell****Firm:** Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP**Areas of Practice:** Securities Litigation, Antitrust Litigation**Law School:** University of San Diego**Website:** www.rgrdlaw.com**Comments:** "Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs even though checkered by failure, than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much because they live in that gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat," Teddy Roosevelt.**Jeffrey Miyamoto****Firm:** Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz PC**Areas of Practice:** Legal Malpractice Defense and Business Litigation**Law School:** University of San Diego School of Law**Website:** www.pettitkohn.com**Comments:** The best advice that I was given early in my career is to always be mindful of civility and integrity in dealing with opposing counsel and appearing in court. San Diego is a relatively small legal community. One's reputation is extremely important and word travels fast.**Candace Moon****Firm:** The Craft Beer Attorney, APC**Areas of Practice:** Business, Trademarks**Law School:** Thomas Jefferson School of Law**Website:** www.craftbeerattorney.com**Comments:** Favorite quote: "The universe tends to unfold as it should," Adam Siska.**Danielle Moore****Firm:** Fisher & Phillips LLP**Areas of Practice:** Employment Law and Litigation**Law School:** George Washington University Law School**Website:** www.laborlawyers.com**Comments:** I am a Trojan football fan to a fault. I even took my daughter to her first USC game at 6 weeks old. Fight on!**Art Moreau****Firm:** Klinedinst PC**Areas of Practice:** Real Estate and Construction**Law School:** Pepperdine University**Website:** www.klinedinstlaw.com**Comments:** "Make your bed." See Admiral William McRaven commencement address at UT Austin 2014.**Haley Morrison****Firm:** Paul Hastings, LLP**Areas of Practice:** Labor and Employment**Law School:** University of San Diego School of Law**Website:** www.paulhastings.com**Comments:** The most influential person in my career has been Paul Hastings partner Mary Dollarhide. Her mentorship and belief in me has had an immeasurable impact on my career. This quote reminds me of her approach: "Few things can help an individual more than to place responsibility on him, and to let him know that you trust him," Booker T. Washington.**James Mullen****Firm:** Morrison & Foerster LLP**Areas of Practice:** Patent Prosecution and Litigation**Law School:** UC Hastings**Website:** www.mofo.com**Comments:** San Diego is a great place to practice patent law.**Kevin Murphy****Firm:** Murphy Jones LLP**Areas of Practice:** Administrative Law and Personal Injury**Law School:** California Western School of Law**Website:** www.murphyjoneslaw.com**Comments:** Thank you!**Fred Muto****Firm:** Cooley LLP**Areas of Practice:** Corporate**Law School:** University of California, Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall)**Website:** www.cooley.com**Comments:** Proud to be a part of Cooley.

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RJS LAW



RJS LAW congratulates Ronson Shamoun for being named the Best of the Bar 2014.

We are proud of your dedication to the tax law profession and the compassion you show to all our clients!

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BEST OF THE BAR

Todd Neal**Firm:** Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation, White Collar Criminal Defense**Law School:** John Marshall Law School**Website:** www.procopio.com**Comments:** When I was a young associate, a senior partner told me to always remember that “your future is on your desk.” That advice impressed upon me that doing great work is the most important marketing we ever do.**Virginia Nelson****Firm:** Law Offices of Virginia C. Nelson**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury and Medical Malpractice-Plaintiffs**Law School:** University of San Diego School of Law**Website:** www.vcnlaw.com**Comments:** “The quality of a person’s life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor,” Vince Lombardi.**Timothy Noon****Firm:** Noon & Associates**Areas of Practice:** Business and Commercial Litigation and Professional Liability Litigation**Law School:** California Western School of Law**Website:** www.noonlaw.com**Comments:** As a business owner or principal, you understand that business disputes can have a negative impact on your operations if not handled in a timely, efficient manner. We understand the risks associated with prolonged business disputes, and work with clients to formulate and implement business and commercial litigation strategies to attempt to achieve your objectives quickly, effectively and at a reasonable cost.**David Noonan****Firm:** Kirby Noonan Lance & Hoge LLP**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation, Professional Liability**Law School:** Syracuse University College of Law**Website:** www.knlh.com**Comments:** No such thing as being too prepared.**Christopher Olmsted****Firm:** Barker Olmsted & Barnier APLC**Areas of Practice:** Labor and Employment Law**Law School:** Loyola Law School Los Angeles**Website:** www.barkerolmsted.com**Comments:** I am honored by this nomination. Thank you to all of the San Diego businesses that I have had the privilege to represent. Start with Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smook & Stewart PC July 7, 2014**Gary Osborne****Firm:** Osborne & Nesbitt LLP**Areas of Practice:** Coverage litigation**Law School:** The University of Chicago Law School**Website:** www.onlawllp.com**Kirra O'Toole****Firm:** The Law Office of Kirra O'Toole**Areas of Practice:** Criminal Defense, DUI Defense**Law School:** Thomas Jefferson School of Law**Website:** www.otoolecriminaldefense.com**Comments:** Being charged with a crime, and experiencing an encounter with our criminal justice system, is a traumatic event for most people. For many, it can impact their lives in a very significant way. Fines, jail time and other serious consequences can result from most criminal charges. As a criminal defense lawyer, it is always my number one goal to protect my clients' rights and defend their freedom and their pocketbooks at all stages of the criminal process.**Gabriel Ozel****Firm:** Houser & Allison, APC**Areas of Practice:** Business and Real Estate Litigation**Law School:** University of San Diego School of Law, LL.M.; Texas Southern University - Thurgood Marshall School of Law, J.D.**Website:** www.houser-law.com**Comments:** “Adapt, improvise and overcome.” That is the phrase my college baseball coach preached everyday. That phrase has helped me develop personally and professionally. Having lived in many cities and being from Toronto, Canada, I had to adjust to different surroundings and cultures. As a (relatively) young attorney, I realize just how important it is to adapt, improvise and overcome obstacles associated with this profession. Law, like life, is an ongoing lesson.**Maria Palmieri****Firm:** Palmieri Law, APLC**Areas of Practice:** Civil Litigation, Personal Injury**Law School:** California Western School of Law**Website:** www.palmierilawfirm.com**Comments:** I devote my entire practice to helping victims of serious injuries. Before becoming the first female attorney in my family, I earned a degree in chemical engineering from Florida State University. After graduation, I accepted a fulltime volunteer position with AmeriCorps Program at the Children's Home Society of Florida, where I counseled neglected and abused children. I have been honored by my peers and an a recipient of 2013 Consumer Attorney of San Diego President's Award.**Thomas Penfield****Firm:** Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield, LLP**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury, Class Action**Law School:** California Western School of Law**Website:** www.cgllaw.com**Comments:** Judge Marshall Hockett was my first mentor, way back when he worked for Legal Aid Society of San Diego. My partners have mentored me for the last 26 years.**David Peters****Firm:** Peters & Freedman, L.L.P.**Areas of Practice:** Homeowners Association Law and Construction Defect Law**Law School:** Hastings School of Law**Website:** www.hoalaw.com**Comments:** Little known fact about me, I was a rugby referee for the United States.**Douglas Pettit****Firm:** Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz PC**Areas of Practice:** Professional Liability, Business Litigation**Law School:** Washington & Lee University School of Law**Website:** www.pettitkohn.com**Comments:** Most influential person in my career: My grandfather was probably the most influential person. He was elected Justice of the Peace in West Virginia without ever taking a college class. He helped teach me that working hard, having common sense and treating people right could go a long way. His stories led to me to want to be a trial lawyer from the time I was in sixth grade.**Lukas Pick****Firm:** Berman & Riedel**Areas of Practice:** Elder Abuse / Neglect and Personal Injury**Law School:** University of San Diego**Website:** www.bermanlawyers.com**Comments:** My practice focuses on the representation of victims of elder abuse/neglect in skilled nursing facilities, residential care facilities (RCFEs) and in-home care.**Stephanie Poli****Firm:** Gomez Trial Attorneys**Areas of Practice:** Complex Litigation, Mass Torts**Law School:** University of California Hastings College of the Law**Website:** www.gomezlawfirm.com**Comments:** I advocate, fight, and resolve cases with my clients needs always at the forefront and I am very dedicated to my clients.**Jessica Pride****Firm:** The Pride Law Firm**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury, Sexual Assault Litigation**Law School:** University of San Diego Law School**Website:** www.pridelawfirm.com
www.victimlawyer.com**Comments:** Every week I ask myself, “If you died tomorrow, what difference will you have made in your community? Is the world a different place because you lived in it?” I am dedicated to making a difference in San Diego by fighting for justice for my clients. I want to leave a positive imprint on this community so that when I die my epitaph will read, “She fought for justice in a great pair of heels.”**Grant Puleo****Firm:** Duane Morris LLP**Areas of Practice:** Real Estate and Finance**Law School:** University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law**Website:** www.duanemorris.com**Comments:** While I remain very busy as a partner at Duane Morris, the most rewarding part of my practice is my work as an adjunct professor of law at California Western School of Law, where I lecture on real estate transactions.**Anne-Marie Rabago****Firm:** Rabago Business & Tax Law, APC**Areas of Practice:** Tax and Business Law**Law School:** California Western School of Law**Website:** www.rabagolaw.com**Comments:** Favorite Quote: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has,” Margaret Mead.**Why Law?:** The practice of law is at once a great privilege and a great service. **Little know facts:** I am a triple threat—singer, actress, and dancer.**Kelly Richardson****Firm:** Latham & Watkins LLP**Areas of Practice:** Environmental Regulatory and Environmental Litigation**Law School:** Georgetown University Law Center**Website:** www.lw.com**Comments:** I am a partner in the San Diego office of Latham & Watkins LLP and global Co-chair of the firm’s Chemical Regulation and Contaminated Properties Practice. I have more than 21 years of experience, including nine years as a chemical and environmental engineer for a major oil company, handling a variety of environmental compliance, transactional and litigation matters.**Joshua Richman****Firm:** IP Legal Advisors**Areas of Practice:** Trademarks**Law School:** University of San Diego School of Law**Website:** www.ipla.com**Comments:** Work hard; strive to understand; be resourceful; never forget to be grateful.

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BEST OF THE BAR

Brian Robbins

Firm: Robbins Arroyo LLP
Areas of Practice: Shareholder Litigation and Employment Law

Law School: Vanderbilt School of Law (J.D.) and Georgetown University Law Center (LL.M.)

Website: www.robbsarroyo.com

Comments: On why law as a career: I identified pretty early on that shareholders' interests needed to be protected. Corporations' resources seemed endless when compared to those of individuals who invest their savings, and I wanted to go to bat for them.

**Kimberley Robidoux**

Firm: Larrabee Albi Coker LLP

Areas of Practice: Immigration

Law School: Albany Law School

Website: www.larrabee.com

Comments: One of my favorite quotes: "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts," Winston Churchill.

**Eddie Rodriguez**

Firm: Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC

Areas of Practice: Mergers and Acquisitions and Venture Capital

Law School: Stanford Law School

Website: www.mintz.com

Comments: I'm a huge fan of John Wooden. You can learn many life lessons from Coach Wooden's legendary quotes. There are two particular quotes that I try to live by: "Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do." "Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are."

**Elaine Rogers**

Firm: Elaine A. Rogers Lawyer

Areas of Practice: Business, Nonprofit Organizations

Law School: University of San Diego

Website: na

Comments: Excellence every time—is how I describe my practice and firm commitment to assist my clients, whether large entities or individuals, in meeting their business goals.

**Parisima Roshanzamir**

Firm: Gomez Trial Attorneys

Areas of Practice: Personal Injury / Wrongful Death Cases

Law School: California Western School of Law

Website: www.thegomezfirm.com

Comments: I'm a first generation Iranian-American. I've been working with John Gomez and the Gomez Trial Attorneys for almost two years. I'm a strong advocate for female litigators and young lawyers. I'm also the San Diego Regional Captain for the Consumer Attorneys of California NLD Division. I got into this area of law because I find reward in fighting for the rights of consumers and the underdog. In my spare time, I like to hike and swim.

**Heather Rosing**

Firm: Klinedinst PC

Areas of Practice: Professional Liability

Law School: Northwestern University School of Law

Website: www.klinedinstlaw.com

Comments: It was been a true pleasure to serve in the legal professional. My dad was a lawyer and strongly encouraged me to consider law school. He always taught me to be above-the-board in all I do, and never compromise my ethics. As a result, perhaps, I actually ended up becoming a professional ethicist, advising attorneys and other professionals! It has been a lot of fun, and I have a lot of people to thank—my firm of 18 years, my family, and my clients, in particular. I am grateful every day.

**Luke Ryan**

Firm: Shinnick & Ryan LLP

Areas of Practice: Construction Defect, Habitability Law

Law School: University of San Diego

Website: www.ssslplaw.com

Comments: In my career, I'm often reminded of John Lennon's quote: "Life is what happens when you are busy making other plans." As the legal profession becomes tighter and harder to break into, remember to take advantage of every opportunity that passes by, especially the ones that you didn't plan for.

**Hass Sadeghi**

Firm: Sadeghi Legal

Areas of Practice: Business Law and ADR

Law School: Thomas Jefferson School of Law & Pepperdine University School of Law

Website: www.sadeghilegal.com

Comments: "Discourage litigation. Persuade your neighbors to compromise whenever you can. As a peacemaker the lawyer has superior opportunity of being a good man. There will still be business enough," Abraham Lincoln.

**Gabriela Salazar Burns**

Firm: Claro Consulting Services

Areas of Practice: Employment Law and Workplace Investigations

Law School: University of San Diego School of Law

Website:

www.claroconsultingservices.com

Comments: A recent favorite quote: "What is the recipe for successful achievement? To my mind there are just four essential ingredients: Choose a career you love, give it the best there is in you, seize your opportunities, and be a member of the team," Benjamin F. Fairless.

**Carla Sanderson**

Firm: Simpson Delmore Greene LLP

Areas of Practice: General Civil Litigation

Law School: California Western School of Law

Website: www.sdgllp.com

Comments: As fellow Canadian Wayne



Gretzky said, "You miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take," which rings true in life and the legal profession.

James Sarnecky

Firm: Gavrilovich, Dodd & Lindsey, LLP

Areas of Practice: Intellectual Property and Commercial Litigation

Law School: University of San Diego School of Law

Website: www.gdllawfirm.com

Frederick Schenk

Firm: Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield, LLP

Areas of Practice: Asbestos and Products Liability

Law School: University of San Diego

Website: www.caseygerry.com

Comments: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel," Maya Angelou.

**John Schnurer**

Firm: Perkins Coie LLP

Areas of Practice: IP Litigation, Patent Litigation/Due Diligence

Law School: University of California, Berkeley School of Law, (formerly Boalt Hall)

Website: www.perkinscoie.com

Comments: "Treat others in the profession how you expect to be treated, hopefully with respect and courtesy."

**Dennis Schoville**

Firm: Dennis A. Schoville, APC

Areas of Practice: Personal Injury, Products Liability

Law School: JD-Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology, LLM, Northwestern University

Website: na

Comments: I was extremely fortunate to work closely with and mentored by three great trial lawyers: Rudi M. Brewster, Reaves Elledge, and Sterling Hutcheson. All three of these gentlemen were inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers and were members of the American Board of Trial Advocates. My admission into both of those bar groups speaks to the foundation and trial experience instilled by their example and mentorship.

Peter Schulz

Firm: Greco Traficante Schulz & Brick

Areas of Practice: Insurance and Litigation

Law School: California Western School of Law

Website: www.gtlaw.cc

Comments: At the core of every lawsuit you will find people who want a voice or who have an opinion. Take the time to listen and understand what those people have to say. Only through that process can you achieve the desired result.



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BEST OF THE BAR

Dina Segal

Firm: Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP
Areas of Practice: Corporate Transactional, Real Estate Transactional

Law School: University of Washington School of Law

Website: www.sheppardmullin.com

Comments: Love what you do, always keep learning and respect those on all sides of the table and you will find joy and success in your career.

**Andrew Servais**

Firm: Wingert, Grebing, Brubaker & Juskie, LLP

Areas of Practice: Defense of Attorneys in Civil Litigation and State Bar Investigations, Business Litigation

Law School: California Western School of Law

Website: www.wingertlaw.com

Comments: Having the privilege to practice law has given me the opportunity to meet, work with and have personal and professional relationships with interesting, dynamic, smart and good people. Lawyer jokes aren't made from whole cloth, but attorneys are bound by a strict code which has only inspired me based on my interactions with fellow attorneys.

**Bill Shaffer**

Firm: Kilpatrick Townsend

Areas of Practice: Patent Law, Intellectual Property

Law School: Southern Methodist University

Website: www.kilpatricktownsend.com



Comments: I moved to San Diego from the Bay Area last year and I really enjoy the people, the community and the outdoor activities that are available year round here.

Ronson J. Shamoun

Firm: RJS LAW

Areas of Practice: Tax Law, Real Estate Law

Law School: University of San Diego

Website: www.rjsLawfirm.com

Comments: A big part of my success and motivation is my parents. They are both a tremendous inspiration to me and my desire to make them proud fueled me throughout school and in my career. Since I was little it has been their love and support that has given me the foundation for what I am today.

**David Shapiro**

Firm: The Law Office of David P. Shapiro, APLC

Areas of Practice: Criminal Defense, DUIs

Law School: Tulane University

Website: www.sandiegocriminalattorneyatlaw.com

Comments: Although each case you handle may not be the most important one to you, it is to your client. We, as attorneys, are reflections and representations of those who we represent. We always need to behave, and prepare, accordingly.

**Kristan Shepard**

Firm: Goodwin Brown Gross & Lovelace LLP

Areas of Practice: Estate Planning, Trust and Estate Administration

Law School: California Western School of Law

Website: www.goodwinbrownlaw.com

Comments: Practicing in trusts and estates has allowed me to work with some really wonderful people, from those in my own firm to the many clients I have interacted with. I enjoy all facets of this practice area and appreciate the opportunity to be a trusted advisor to fiduciary and non-fiduciary clients.

**Erwin Shustak**

Firm: Shustak & Partners, P.C.

Areas of Practice: Securities Litigation, Business Litigation

Law School: New York University School of Law

Website: www.shufirm.com

Comments: "Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful individuals with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent." My father gave me this quote from Calvin Coolidge when I was a young boy. I have carried it with me ever since and never forgotten it.

**Edward Sikorski**

Firm: DLA Piper LLP (US)

Areas of Practice: Patent Litigation, Intellectual Property Acquisition

Law School: The American University, Washington College of Law

Website: www.dlapiper.com

Comments: There is great satisfaction in helping companies develop and protect their intellectual property assets, be it locally, nationally or across the globe.

**Sean Simpson**

Firm: Simpson-Moore, LLP

Areas of Practice: Civil Litigation and Jury Trials

Law School: Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology

Website: www.simpson-moore.com

Comments: Our focus is on helping people rebuild their lives after being knocked off track by someone's carelessness or intentional acts.

**Whitney Skala**

Firm: Whitney M. Skala, APC

Areas of Practice: Real Estate/Business Transactions, Entity Formation

Law School: Georgetown University Law Center

Website: www.skala-apc.com

Comments: Our office aims to render advice for clients to move boldly, not watch timidly.

**Spencer Skeen**

Firm: Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smook & Stewart PC

Areas of Practice: Labor and Employment (Defense), Class Action (Defense)

Law School: University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law

Website: www.ogletreedeakins.com

Comments: I chose the law because it was an opportunity to serve others. I also love the courtroom. I feel blessed to have an opportunity to earn a living, helping others navigate their legal problems. My favorite quote is some sage advice that came from my father. He often told me, "don't be in a hurry to make a mistake, because you will." I have heeded this advice. I find it is often apropos in the attorney-client setting. So I share it with clients when appropriate. In essence, it means slow down. Think things through. Weigh all options thoughtfully. This is generally the best approach regardless of the situation.

**John Smaha**

Firm: Smaha Law Group

Areas of Practice: Chapter 11 Bankruptcy/Asset Preservation Strategies

Law School: University of San Diego

Website: www.smaha.com

Comments: When dealing with a potential business failure or judgment it is always advisable to seek advice long before the event actually happens. A year or longer is best. By doing so you or your business will be in the best shape to weather the storm and stay in business without interruption. Taking action too late often results in unfavorable results and a fire drill.

**Matthew Sperdelozzi**

Firm: Law Office of Matthew J. Sperdelozzi

Areas of Practice: Criminal

Law School: Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Website: www.handslegal.com

Comments: As a criminal defense attorney, my job is to enforce the laws that govern how law enforcement and the state can investigate and prosecute crimes.

**Bryn Spradling**

Firm: Duckor Spradling Metzger & Wynne

Areas of Practice: Mergers and Acquisitions Corporate/Transactional

Law School: University of San Diego

Website: www.dsmw.com

Comments: Favorite quote: "Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence; Talent will not; nothing in the world is more common than unsuccessful men with talent; Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb; Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent," Calvin Coolidge.





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BEST OF THE BAR

Nancy Stagg**Firm:** Foley & Lardner LLP**Areas of Practice:** Business and IP Litigation, Class Action Defense**Law School:** California Western School of Law**Website:** www.foley.com**Comments:** Chair of the Litigation Department for Foley & Lardner's San Diego Office.**Beni Surpin****Firm:** Paul Hastings, LLP**Areas of Practice:** Corporate and IP Transactional**Law School:** University of Cambridge**Website:** www.paulhastings.com/professionals/details/benisurpin**Comments:** Lived in four continents and speak five languages. Love to dance—won two national championships in the UK in the university circuit for Latin American ballroom dancing; trained by some of the big names in “Dancing with the Stars.” Thrive on being a deal maker. “You have to learn the rules of the game. And then you have to play better than anyone else,” Albert Einstein.**Genevieve Suzuki****Firm:** Law Office of Genevieve A. Suzuki**Areas of Practice:** Family Law, General**Law School:** California Western School of Law**Website:** www.sdlawyersuzuki.com**Comments:** I am shocked and completely humbled by this honor. My colleagues are amazing people and I am honored to serve alongside and continue to learn from them. This special recognition inspires me to work harder to meet their expectations. As for my field, once you're an attorney, it's like being a parent—responsibility never ends. You are responsible for your actions, decisions and your client's best interests. As Alice Walker said, “We are the ones we have been waiting for.”**Susan Swan****Firm:** Gruenberg Law**Areas of Practice:** Employment Discrimination, Sexual Harassment**Law School:** University of California, Hastings College of the Law**Website:** www.gruenberglaw.com**Comments:** “Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?” Poet Mary Oliver. “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice,” Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., citing abolitionist Theodore Parker. As an employee rights lawyer, I am privileged to spend my time fighting to bend the moral universe quicker, and further, toward justice.**Jonah Toleno****Firm:** Shustak & Partners, P.C.**Areas of Practice:** Securities, Business Litigation**Law School:** University of California Hastings College of the Law**Website:** www.shufirm.com**Comments:** Favorite quote: “Have some initiative. Don't wait for someone to ask for your help,” my mother, a retired court clerk who singularly influenced

my career by teaching me about respect for our judicial system, civility toward adversaries, and effective advocacy.

Rebeca Valenzuela**Firm:** Manning & Kass, Ellrod, Ramirez, Trester LLP**Areas of Practice:** Employment Law and Personal Injury**Law School:** Thomas Jefferson School of Law**Website:** www.manningllp.com**Comments:** “I have never had to face anything that could overwhelm the native optimism and stubborn perseverance I was blessed with,” Justice Sonia Sotomayor.**Julie Vogelzang****Firm:** Duane Morris LLP**Areas of Practice:** Employment Law - Defense**Law School:** University of San Diego School of Law**Website:** www.duanemorris.com**Comments:** The most influential person in my career was my first boss, the Honorable William B. Enright. He is a District Judge for the Southern District of California. He showed me, every day, what it means to act with integrity no matter what the circumstance or consequence, and to respect not only the law, but the people who are affected daily by those laws.**Kent Walker****Firm:** Lewis Kohn Fitzwilliam LLP**Areas of Practice:** Intellectual Property, Litigation**Law School:** Loyola Law School**Website:** www.lewiskohn.com**Comments:** Do your work for clients as if you are doing it for yourself.**Colin Walshok****Firm:** Wingert Grebing Brubaker & Juskie, LLP**Areas of Practice:** Insurance Defense and Personal Injury**Law School:** California Western School of Law**Website:** www.wingertlaw.com**Comments:** I practice law because I hope to make a difference in people's lives. I enjoy trying to find efficient and effective solutions to disputes.**Tamera Weisser****Firm:** Jones Day**Areas of Practice:** Intellectual Property, Life Sciences**Law School:** Georgetown University**Website:** www.jonesday.com**Comments:** I parlayed my experience as a Ph.D. research scientist into a successful legal career where I represent a wide range of biotech and pharmaceutical companies. As well as being a wife and mother, I am passionate about “giving back” to the community in an effort to facilitate the advancement of women in the legal and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.**William Whelan****Firm:** Solomon Ward**Seidenwurm & Smith, LLP****Areas of Practice:** Employment and Litigation**Law School:** University of California Los Angeles**Website:** www.swsslaw.com**Jon Williams****Firm:** Williams Iagmin LLP**Areas of Practice:** Appellate**Law School:** California Western School of Law**Website:** www.

williamsiagmin.com

Comments: I am a partner at Williams Iagmin LLP, where I specialize in the handling of civil appeals and writs at both the state and federal court levels. I am certified as a “appellate specialist” by the California State Bar Board of Legal Specialization, and in that capacity, regularly partner with other law firms and trial counsel to handle their complex appellate matters.**Joseph Willmore****Firm:** Willmore Law Firm**Areas of Practice:** Family Law and Criminal Defense**Law School:** Thomas Jefferson School of Law**Website:** www.willmorelawfirm.com**Comments:** I chose a career in law and to venture into solo practice for a genuine, hands-on approach to providing quality legal services to underrepresented communities. “Hustle makes it happen.”**Amy Wintersheimer****Firm:** Allen Matkins**Areas of Practice:** Labor and**Employment, Litigation****Law School:** University of**Michigan****Website:** www.allenmatkins.com**Comments:** I am frequently asked whether I would be a lawyer again if I could do it all over, and my answer is an emphatic, “yes.” Being a lawyer is an incredibly fulfilling job, but one that comes with significant responsibility, requiring a lot of hard work. More than anything, you need passion for what you do, or the long hours will become a burden not worthy of the paycheck. The idea of a lawyer being a “counselor” is one that I learned at an early age, and is the most rewarding part of what I do.**Kyle Yaege****Firm:** Hickman & Robinson, LLP**Areas of Practice:** Real Estate, Business**Law School:** California Western**School of Law (2006)****Website:** www.hickmanrobinsonlaw.com**Comments:** As a finalist for the “Best of the Bar” list, I am very honored to be recognized by my peers in the legal community. I look forward to continuing in my effort to make San Diego a better place to live and work.

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Manager, Client Services
San Diego Chargers



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