

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RISING STARS

Super Lawyers®

2022

‘A FIRE IN HER TO PROTECT THE VICTIM’

Why Natalie Weatherford only takes
sex abuse cases

Talking environmentalism
and ice hockey with
Mitchell Tsai

Atticus Wegman on his
famous literary namesake

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A Few Things We Came Across



A Pandemic Positive

Growing up in Arizona, **Danielle Grabois Salice** of Salice Law in Beverly Hills loved to hike; then, as she says, “life got in the way.” During the pandemic, she got back into it—hiking alone or with family and friends: “We always made a point to go out and get fresh air.” Favorite hikes include Temescal, Skull Rock and Runyon Canyon. “I just enjoy being out in nature,” she says. “The hike doesn’t have to be extreme, but I definitely like a challenge. Temescal is one of my favorites because afterwards you can grab fresh fish along the PCH. Food tastes much better after a long hike.”

Have something to share for consideration?

Email erik.lundegaard@tr.com

CHERYL BRADLEY PHOTOGRAPHY



The Longboard of It

“You know how the character Dani Rojas on *Ted Lasso* says ‘Futbol is life?’” asks **Usama Kahf**. “Well, to me, surfing is life.” Kahf, 38, an employment attorney at Fisher & Phillips in Irvine, began hitting the waves in his early 20s when a relative who’d been surfing for half a century showed him the ropes. He goes longboard over short because “in some ways I’m an old soul, riding mellow and hanging loose.” He also says surfing isn’t bad for networking. “I met one of my clients in the parking lot at Bolsa Chica State Beach. We chatted for 15 minutes and exchanged business cards, then he reached out to me with a legal need.” But mostly surfing is a way for Kahf to find inner peace and do a mental reset. “I have fun every time I paddle out no matter the conditions and even if I don’t catch any waves. Nothing is more magical to me than jumping up on a longboard and seeing the green face of the wave to my side as I slide down the line.”

Ballroom Blitz

Greenberg Glusker’s **Sherry E. Jackman** has always enjoyed dance, but her interest skyrocketed in college after she joined a Sacramento-based dance company. “I found myself dancing six nights a week,” she says, “so I had to be disciplined with my studies.” This led to dance competitions, particularly of the ballroom variety, where she often competed in “American Rhythm,” a five-dance series consisting of cha cha, rumba, bolero, mambo and East Coast swing. She also enjoyed “Jack & Jill” competitions, in which partners are randomly assigned. “You have to coordinate with someone you don’t know. There can be no preparation.” Such skills, she says, are highly transferrable. “I do not get very nervous during court appearances. I have a ‘performance mode,’ which is helpful in high-stress situations. I am good at observing body language and verbal- and non-verbal cues. And I enjoy collaborating with others.” The competitions stopped about 10 years ago when she began working full-time, but she still took classes and danced at hole-in-the-wall salsa clubs in East LA. “My present dance outlet is weekly dance parties with my family,” she adds. “We turn down the lights, turn up the music, and dance our hearts out.”



Being Atticus

What's it like to be named for the most beloved lawyer in American literature? BY ERIK LUNDEGAARD

Atticus Wegman has heard it so often he simply calls it "the question." It's been asked by professors at law school, judges in court, fellow attorneys, prospective clients, and now by *Super Lawyers*: Were you named for Atticus Finch?

"My mother loved *To Kill a Mockingbird* and talked to my grandfather about the name," says Wegman, a plaintiff's personal injury attorney at Aitken • Aitken • Cohn in Santa Ana. "It stuck."

If it comes up in court, Wegman says, "I'll put out a disclaimer about expectations and usually get a laugh. ... I did have an attorney recently who said, 'The only problem with Atticus Finch is he should have asked for a bench trial, not a jury trial.' That was pretty funny." Then there are those who tell him, "Well, it's a great name. It's better than Boo [Radley]."

Not only was Wegman named for America's favorite fictional lawyer, but growing up in Iowa his friends often shortened it to "Atty," which looks suspiciously like an abbreviation for attorney. So you might say his career was preordained.

That said, his family background was pretty important, too. Wegman's grandfather was not just a lawyer but the first state public defender in Iowa—a governor-appointed post that he held for 10 years. "He would walk me into his office, and we would tour the capitol buildings," Wegman remembers. "Some of my mother's siblings are attorneys, too."

The first time he read Harper Lee's novel, he did it on his own in fifth or sixth grade and immediately loved how Atticus stood up for the underdog. "That's always been part of my genetic code," he says. "I wasn't the greatest athlete but I always played sports—I just tried harder. And if I was ever on the stacked team or the team that was supposed to win, I wanted to get off of it because I'd rather pull off the upset than win when I was supposed to."

An underappreciated aspect of the novel, he adds, is that it's a great story about childhood. "When Jem, Dill, and Scout play, that's some of the best writing. These kids are playing pranks, and they're worried about Boo Radley, who's really nothing to worry about, and Mrs. Dubose's flowers that Scout runs by every day. ... Where I grew up in Iowa, there were only 5,000 people in our small town, and I walked a mile and a half by myself to school. And when you're that young, and you're walking that far to school, and you're passing neighbors' houses, it's just like what you see in the novel. There was a house that we had in our small town and I was like, 'That's the spooky house. Do not go there.' Exact same thing in *To Kill a Mockingbird*."


The story keeps crossing his path. On an early date with his wife, Charlene, they visited Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, which just happens to be where Gregory Peck, who won an Oscar for playing Atticus, is buried. Wegman walked by, saw Peck's name among the interred, and "it just hit me," he says.



Atticus N. Wegman
Aitken • Aitken • Cohn; Personal Injury
- General: Plaintiff;
Santa Ana

In his practice, Wegman takes on all aspects of personal injury, "from slip-and-falls, to dog bites, to car accidents, to government entity, to product liability." Initially, he worked with more seasoned colleagues but now handles his own cases as solo lead. He estimates he's handled about a dozen jury trials throughout the state.

As for the high expectations of being a lawyer named Atticus? He sees it as a plus. "People will hold you to a high standard," he says. "And I try to maintain a high standard."

Being named for a beloved literary character has been such a positive for him he's continuing the tradition. "My wife and I have a 5-year-old daughter we named Scout. So we're doing the whole family." 

Mockingbird By the Numbers

- **40:** Languages the novel has been translated into
- **30:** The novel's sales in millions
- **8:** Oscar nominations for the film, including best picture
- **3:** Oscars, including best actor
- **1:** The rank of Atticus Finch in the pantheon of Hollywood heroes, according to a 2003 American Film Institute survey

Source: IMDb, The American Film Institute and Wikipedia



ISTOCK.COM/PICTURELAK

Brittani Jackson loves her criminal procedural dramas—just not in podcast form, please

I can't go a day without ... an enormous amount of seltzer.

My colleagues would be surprised to know that ... I never liked seltzer prior to working at a law firm.

My pre-trial routine is ... aside from the necessary prep, to make sure to take time for family and fitness. These efforts help ground and center me as I gear up for diving myself into a case 24/7.

My career high point (so far) has been ... achieving a favorable settlement in my first arbitration as a junior associate. I loved being the master of the facts and using that role to obtain a victory for my client.

If I weren't a lawyer, I'd be ... in business (I also have an MBA). I am still interested in landing a CEO role someday.

When I win a case, I celebrate by ... moving the case from the active folder in my email inbox to my prior cases (I love a clean inbox), celebrating with everyone that worked on the case, and going out for a nice dinner.

My favorite class in law school was ... Corporations.

My most bizarre talent is ... cooking extravagant meals. My go-to favorites over the past year have been salt-baked branzino, mapo tofu, jalapeno-marinated pork chops, and grilled oyster mushrooms.

The last TV show I binge-watched was ... *Succession*. Loved it!

My guilty pleasure is ... criminal procedural dramas.

If I won the lottery, I'd ... buy a house with enough land for a couple of horses.

My favorite podcast is ... I secretly hate podcasts. I much prefer to read an article.

The app I use the most is ... Instagram.

The most annoying thing about my job is ... working with unethical and/or unprofessional opposing counsel.

I'm inspired by ... people who have a deep passion for things outside the norm. I love to ask questions to learn more about what they find most interesting on the topic and how they were drawn to it.



Brittani Jackson
Huston Hennigan;
Business Litigation;
Los Angeles



Selected to Rising Stars - Up-and-Coming 100



TYLER C. VANDERPOOL
ROSEN ♦ SABA, LLP

2301 Rosecrans Ave.
Suite 3180
El Segundo, CA 90245
Tel: 310-285-1727
Fax: 310-285-1728
tvanderpool@rosensaba.com
www.rosensaba.com

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Rosen ♦ Saba, LLP would like to congratulate Tyler on his fourth consecutive year being named to Rising Stars and for also being recognized to this year's Up-and-Coming 100. After obtaining the largest personal injury verdict in California in 2020, Tyler continued this success in 2021 by recovering over \$15 million for the firm's clients. We look forward to Tyler's continued contributions to the success of the firm and its clients. Congratulations, Tyler!

Climate Goals

Environmental attorney Mitchell Tsai on how developers game the system

BY ANDREW ENGELSON

In 2005, when Mitchell Tsai went to Taiwan to study Mandarin, he wound up developing a passion for environmental activism, which has since become his area of practice. For good measure, he took one of his hobbies to another level. A longtime hockey enthusiast, he played in a semipro league at one of the few ice rinks in the subtropical island nation.

"It was a lot of Canadian expats, some American-born Taiwanese folks like me, and a few locals who got into playing the game," Tsai says. The annual fundraising tournaments were a hit with the community, too. "We brought in a crowd, sold beers. It was fun."

Tsai's Taiwanese-born parents moved to Los Angeles when they were grad students at USC. At home, the family spoke Mandarin, but when Tsai started day care he began learning another language: Spanish. It wasn't until kindergarten that he started with English. "It was a very Angelino experience," he says.

After getting a degree in international relations at USC, he moved to Taiwan. Along with his Mandarin studies and ice rink escapades, Tsai worked as a translator for an environmental organization that consulted with local governments on climate-change reduction policies. Accompanying Taiwanese officials to international climate conferences, he began to see how important lawyers were to the whole process.

"I was struck by how much more effective they could be," he says.

By then, the thick pollution in Taipei and other cities had improved significantly, thanks in part to strong environmental regulations inspired by U.S. laws. "On the books in Taiwan you literally have the original version of the Clean Water Act.



Mitchell M. Tsai

Mitchell M. Tsai,
Attorney at Law;
Environmental
Litigation; Pasadena

Tsai (lower left)
during law school in
2010, after playing
semipro in Taiwan.

They copied and pasted it and had lawyers translate," he says.

An assignment challenging a freeway expansion taught Tsai a valuable lesson that he carried into his career. An environmental-impact report commissioned by the expansion project estimated that each car on the new road would be carrying four people. The true number was less than half that, but the inflated number helped downplay the project's impact. "That taught me how they can really game the process," Tsai says.

Upon his return, Tsai attended law school at Lewis and Clark in Portland, served as managing editor of the environmental law review, and earned his J.D. in 2010. At LA's Gideon Kracov, he learned the intricacies of land use and environmental law. Occasionally, too, he took on environmental matters in the Chinese-American community, including a case in which he challenged a Walmart expanding into LA's Chinatown. "It showed me a lot about how attorneys with secondary language skills can expand access to justice in areas where communities of color are traditionally under-represented," he says.

His own law firm began in 2014 almost by happenstance. "I was in between jobs and volunteering for environmental organizations," he says. "And this group called the Arroyo Seco Foundation said, 'Would you bring a lawsuit for us?'"

That lawsuit, and two others he helmed, challenged a proposed plan to remove

2.4 million cubic yards of sediment from the reservoir behind Devil's Gate dam, located near NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. "The proposed dam maintenance was set to remove a lot of riparian habitat, which is extremely valuable and rare in Southern California," Tsai says. The final settlements, reached with LA County, significantly reduced the size of the project, the amount of habitat removed and the overall pollution impacts.

Tsai's practice focuses almost entirely on litigating environmental cases for plaintiffs on contingency. "We get paid when our clients are successful," he says.

A recent case involved a proposed \$8 billion, 63-mile freeway expansion in the Antelope Valley north of the San Gabriel Mountains. Again, Tsai says, the environmental-impact report was deeply flawed—making assumptions that the desert landscape would remain undeveloped. Tsai countered that the project would have huge biological and pollution impacts, and the project was scrapped in 2019 pursuant to a settlement.

When he can, Tsai gets out for hikes and runs on the land he helps protect. He also plays hockey in an amateur league and continues studying Chinese. Tsai admits that his 9-year-old son, who now lives in Taiwan with his ex-wife, has eclipsed him in the latter.

"His Chinese is much better than mine," Tsai says with a laugh. "It's a little awkward." **SL**

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‘A FIRE IN HER TO PROTECT THE VICTIM’

Why Natalie Weatherford
only takes sex abuse cases

BY JESSICA GLYNN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DUSTIN SNIPES

Natalie Weatherford
Taylor & Ring
Personal Injury - General: Plaintiff
Manhattan Beach



Ten years ago, when Natalie Weatherford began suing schools that failed to protect young girls from sexual abuse, she expected that her clients would be treated with a certain amount of care and respect by opposing counsel; that the trauma they suffered and their bravery in coming forward would be acknowledged.

She admits she was somewhat naïve.

"When I saw the defense attacking them, attacking their families, trying to blame the emotional injuries they had on other things—on their parents' divorces, on them watching scary movies when they were little—I was like, 'Holy shit, we have to do something here. I can't believe this happens. I thought we got past this as a society.'"

That realization about the revictimization of survivors empowered her to not only win for her clients but protect them.

"I hate bullies," says Weatherford, a partner at Taylor & Ring in Los Angeles, whose jury verdicts and settlements on behalf of sex abuse victims total more than \$60 million. "Especially in depositions or in court, I take a protector role. I'm not going to just let some defense lawyer dig through their personal history or try to make them feel bad about the fact that they were abused. Because abuse is never their fault."

Holly N. Boyer, an appellate attorney at Esner Chang & Boyer who also represents sex abuse victims and works with Weatherford on appeals, says some lawyers can lose sight of their client amid the legal issues. But Weatherford, she says, has a "fire in her to protect the victim" while documenting the ways others failed to do so.

"She tells the story of those children who have been unseen by the school districts, by the entities," Boyer says. "She highlights the failure to protect [them]. She digs in to find out how this happened—how the school didn't see the warning signs, how clearly it was in front of them, and how, for whatever reason, they looked the other way."

"As society accepts that sex abuse is as prevalent as it is, she's shining a light on the damage it does and what these victims deserve."

WHEN WEATHERFORD LEFT the Bay Area to go to college, she lacked direction. She'd been working full-time since she was 14 but had no idea what she wanted in a career. At Cal State Long Beach, she switched majors three or four times, and after college she worked as a manager at high-end stores like Burberry and Bloomingdale's. Turning toward the law was some mix of happenstance and common sense. "I just wanted a stable career," she says. "I thought, 'What's a job that will always be around?'"

At Southwestern, she tried entertainment law classes and interned for a civil defense firm. Nothing fit—until she had an internship with personal injury lawyer Ronald M. Papell. "That was the first job that really made sense," she says. "You have one person who has an injury and who needs help, and you come in as the lawyer and fight for that single person. ... It seemed like a good life's purpose."

As she neared the end of law school, she began researching firms and became interested in Taylor & Ring because of its focus on sex abuse cases.

"We weren't even looking to hire," recalls David M. Ring. But he received the most glowing recommendation letter he'd ever read and decided he needed to interview the candidate. A few years later, over beers, Weatherford admitted that, with the signer's blessing, she'd actually written the letter herself.

"That's why she's great," Ring says. "It shows initiative and risk-taking. She's willing to do whatever it takes to get a job. She believes in herself. She knew she wanted to represent victims of abuse, and she's been absolutely amazing. She's compassionate with them but at the same time confident. ... It's one thing to be compassionate; you also want someone who is going to kick some butt."

Early in Weatherford's tenure, Ring remembers receiving a phone call from a defense firm, asking if he could tell her to back off a little. Basically they had tried to take advantage of her inexperience, asking improper questions at depositions, and failed.

"Defense lawyers make the deposition as uncomfortable as possible as a way to intimidate the plaintiff out of wanting to pursue the litigation further, and Natalie is extremely good at knowing what is fair and how to control the questioning so the client has the confidence and courage to continue," says John C. Taylor, Weatherford's mentor and co-lead in several multimillion-dollar cases. "She's tried as many sex abuse and molestation cases as anyone in the state of California. She knows this area of law so well and it's such an advantage—and that's coupled with a tremendous empathy for our clients. She's got this ability to relate to them and then communicate the damage that's been done and how it manifests in a victim's life."

Those strengths came into play in Taylor and Weatherford's 2018 case against Scott Durzo and the Westerly School of Long Beach—an unusual case because the plaintiff was suing a school he hadn't attended.

Durzo owned a youth sports camp that the plaintiff, Stephen W., attended when he was 8 years old. Weatherford says that Durzo spent years grooming him, acting as a mentor, and began sexually abusing Stephen at age 13. Two years later, Durzo was hired to run Westerly's after-school program and brought 15-year-old Stephen with him to the K-8 school as an employee. Stephen, who went to his regular school online, was allowed to spend his days on the Westerly campus, working on his classes from the library and as a recess supervisor for the school.

Taylor and Weatherford were confident the law was on their side—that even though Stephen was never enrolled at Westerly, the school still had a legal obligation to supervise and protect him that it failed to fulfill, just as it failed to properly train employees to report their suspicions. Still, they were concerned that the jury might be prejudiced against a male victim abused in his teens.

Stephen shared those worries. "Throughout the whole case, he was saying, 'This is never going to work out. They're never going to believe me. I waited too long. I should have said something,'" Weatherford remembers. "So even after all that time, after therapy and the police arresting the perpetrator, he still felt like no one was going to believe him."

At the time, Stephen was living out of state and struggling with drug addiction, causing him to miss important court appointments. It was Weatherford who gained his trust and got

"I HATE BULLIES," SAYS WEATHERFORD. "I TAKE A PROTECTOR ROLE. I'M NOT GOING TO JUST LET SOME DEFENSE LAWYER DIG THROUGH THEIR PERSONAL HISTORY OR TRY TO MAKE THEM FEEL BAD ABOUT THE FACT THAT THEY WERE ABUSED."



him the help he needed to continue with the litigation. She even picked him up from rehab to come to trial; and when he took the stand, she was the one tapped to examine him.

"It's really hard, when you put someone on who's been hurt, for them to talk about it without sounding like they're feeling sorry for themselves, or making the jury feel uncomfortable, or that you're exploiting them," Taylor says. "To walk that line takes skill. You want the jury to fully understand the damage. ... She's very good at that."

Ring says when he works on a case with Weatherford, she maps a meticulous plan for getting from point A to B that juries appreciate. "As we get closer to trial, I'll say, 'Let's see what you got,' and she'll lay out the whole case in front of me and boom, there it is. She's gotten all the key documents, which they didn't just give to her. She had to battle for them."

In the Stephen W. case, that included the testimony of the school employee who quickly suspected that Durzo—her supervisor—was abusing Stephen but didn't know what to do. In the end, the case resulted in a \$25 million jury verdict.

"I think she has an instinct for where to look and where to find that smoking gun," Boyer says. "She will track down texts or email exchanges that really tell the story of what was going on ... and why this perpetrator was able to molest this child."

Those smoking guns often tell the stories of her cases.

In one of Weatherford's first trials, *Antonia M v. Pomona Unified School District*, it was a file on the principal's computer documenting her suspicions about an eighth grade teacher. "She was keeping her own personal notes about this perpetrator, about weird things that she saw him do, specifically related to my plaintiff, and she never reported or did anything about it," Weatherford says. "That went on for years." The case resulted in an \$8 million verdict.

In an ongoing case against a San Jose school district, the smoking gun is the personal text messages middle school administrators knew their band teacher was sending young girls shortly after he got the job. The teacher abused multiple girls for nine years and is now serving a 56-year prison sentence.

In another case, an elite private school testified that it had no knowledge that its track coach was taking the team on a trip to Nevada—a trip during which Weatherford's client, a former foster

child, was allegedly raped by the coach. "She'd been through so much, and she was just coming out of it. She gets this new family and great new school, and the first thing that ever happens to her at the school is the worst thing that ever happened in her whole life," Weatherford says. "They're a top-tier school with all of the credentials, and their supervision was just garbage. They claimed they had no idea this track trip was even happening, which defies logic. He's your head coach, driving these kids to a meet in a school van, picking them up from school.

"They have all kinds of excuses for what happened," she adds, "other than taking responsibility."

TODAY, WEATHERFORD TAKES only sex abuse cases; and while the majority of her trials fit the pattern of teachers or coaches grooming and abusing her clients while school staff look the other way, she's also begun exposing wrongdoing in the trucking industry.

In 2021, she represented a woman who tried to pursue her dream of driving a truck in her 50s, and during training was allegedly raped by her lead driver during a cross-country trip. After she reported the attack, the company called the perpetrator to ask for his side of the story. When he denied it, saying the victim "wasn't his type," he was allowed to keep working. Meanwhile, the plaintiff found her career destroyed; she could no longer stomach being alone in a truck with a male driver, and since there were no women to pair her with, she was left with an \$8,000 bill for her unfinished training. The case settled for \$5 million.

Though Weatherford says there are industry changes like inward-facing cameras that could deter sexual abuse or substantiate claims, she's not particularly optimistic about her cases inspiring those protections. Instead, she measures success in a much more singular way: helping one client at a time.

Which brings her back to Stephen W.

She'd gotten to know him well and knew he looked at the lawsuit as his last shot of having a normal life. "That's a huge part of sex abuse—where it's not a violent rape by someone you don't know, where you knew your perpetrator and were groomed," Weatherford says. "Those victims blame themselves. A lot of my plaintiffs look at the case as the final word on whether this was their fault. I don't take that lightly." **SL**

SELECTION PROCESS

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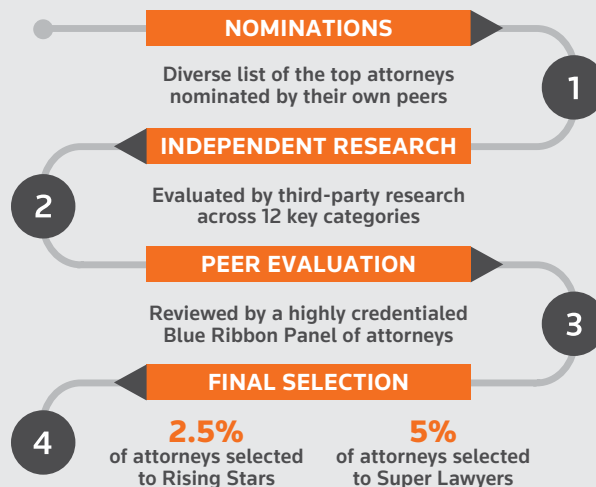
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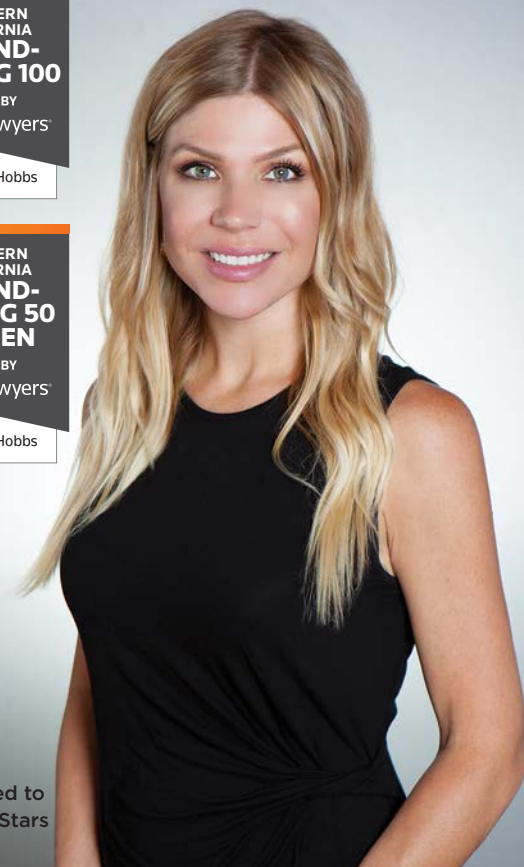
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Agazanof, Asaf , Asif Law, Los Angeles	Ikuta, Benjamin , Ikuta Hemesath, Santa Ana	Poulter, Brian L. , Stalwart Law Group, West Hollywood
Aiwazian, Arby , Lawyers for Justice, Glendale	Jackson, Kirsten C. , Latham & Watkins, Los Angeles	Qassim, Setara , Geragos & Geragos, Los Angeles
Alwill, Julian F. , Rothschild & Alwill, Santa Barbara	Jass, Jeremy , Jass Law, Newport Beach	Ricotta, Nicole , Anticouni & Ricotta, Santa Barbara
Andrews, Ryan M. , Venable, Los Angeles	Jenkins, C. Genevieve , Excelsis Law, Burbank	Rodriguez, Griselda S. , G-Rod Law, Thousand Oaks
Argos, Jason , Argos Law, Laguna Beach	Katz, Corinne B. , Katz Law Firm, Los Angeles	Rothberg, Joseph M. , Levene Neale Bender Yoo & Golubchik, Los Angeles
Bekas, Zoe J. , Akerman, Los Angeles	Kim, Helen U. , Helen Kim Law, Los Angeles	Saghian, Robin , Omega Law Group, Beverly Hills
Braun, Nathaniel S.G. , Sinclair Braun, Encino	Kleindienst, Katherine , Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump Holley, Santa Monica	Savin, Adam J. , Savin Bursk, Encino
Bui, Thy B. , Constangy Brooks Smith & Prophete, Los Angeles	Lee, Sharlene D. , Nevers Palazzo Packard Wildermuth & Wynner, Westlake Village	Scheideman, Erika , Lagerlof, Pasadena
Casey, Ryan , Panish Shea Boyle Ravipudi, Los Angeles	Liu, Lisa Z. , Law Offices of Lisa Z. Liu, Alhambra	Schein, Joshua D. , Schein Law Group, Los Angeles
Chang, Hazel S. , Wilshire Law Firm, Los Angeles	Lucich, Clare H. , Bentley & More, Newport Beach	Schulman, Allison M. , Law Offices of Allison M. Schulman, Los Angeles
Chen, Stephen , The Law Office of Stephen Chen, Los Angeles	Mahoney, Patrick R. , The Law Offices of Patrick R. Mahoney, Beverly Hills	Seropian, Jacob H. , Seropian Law, Pasadena
Cole, Marshall R. , Nemecek & Cole, Encino	Manalo, Christina R. , JML Law, Woodland Hills	Shahriari, Cyrus , Pietz & Shahriari, Culver City
Crosner, Zachary , Crosner Legal, Beverly Hills	Marks, Kyle B. , Richard D. Marks, Westlake Village	Shirvanian, Narbeh , The Shirvanian Law Firm, Glendale
Davis, Michael W. , DTO Law, Los Angeles	McAllister, Aaron P. , Law Office of Aaron P. McAllister, Los Angeles	Shu, Lily Tielle , Lavi & Ebrahimi, Beverly Hills
DeSantis, Daniel S. , Wilshire Law Firm, Los Angeles	McArthur, Stephen C. , The McArthur Law Firm, Beverly Hills	Sinclair, Kevin S. , Sinclair Braun, Encino
Douglass, Jake , Jacoby & Meyers, Los Angeles	McCall, Lisa R. , Law Offices of Lisa R. McCall, Santa Ana	Smith, Gregory M. , The Maloney Firm, El Segundo
Duel, Jasmine A. , Berokim & Duel, Beverly Hills	McKibben, Molly M. , Greene Broillet & Wheeler, El Segundo	Solmer, Lilit , Solmer, Huntington Beach
Dunn, Kelly G. , Rutan & Tucker, Irvine	Mohamadi, Ashkahn , Sweet James, Newport Beach	Soltman, Nicholas , Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump Holley, Santa Monica
Easton, Matthew D. , Easton & Easton, Costa Mesa	Moradi-Brovia, Roksana D. , Resnik Hayes Moradi, Encino	Subramaniam, Tagore O. , Matern Law Group, Manhattan Beach
Eison, Owili , BD&J, Beverly Hills	Mossavar-Rahmani, Shahab , Omega Law Group, Beverly Hills	Teller, Jon C. , Wilshire Law Firm, Los Angeles
Elsea, Zachary , Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump Holley, Santa Monica	Munyer, Lindsey F. , Keystone Law Group, Los Angeles	Tran, Derek T. , The Tran Firm, Huntington Beach
Fisher, Alexander J. , Fisher & Fisher, Beverly Hills	Nguyen, Anthony , Shegerian & Associates, Los Angeles	Trejo, Beatriz A. , Chain Cohn Stiles, Bakersfield
Fund, Cathryn G. , JML Law, Woodland Hills	Nickerson, Christian , Greene Broillet & Wheeler, El Segundo	Usahacharoenporn, Proud , Rutan & Tucker, Irvine
Gaglio, Ryan , Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth, Newport Beach	Nielson, Samuel P. , Sessions & Kimball, Mission Viejo	Vanderpool, Tyler C. , Rosen Saba, El Segundo
Gamliel, Amir , Perkins Coie, Los Angeles	Nogle, Megan F. , Greenberg Glusker, Los Angeles	Vartanian, Lucy A. , Hahn & Hahn, Pasadena
Gehlawat, Neil K. , Taylor & Ring, Manhattan Beach	Nowels, Sarah Jane , SJN Law, San Clemente	Vilendrer, Ellie K. , Vilendrer Law, Irvine
Gharibian, Art , Gharibian Law, Glendale	O'Hanlon, Matthew B. , Barnes & Thornburg, Los Angeles	Wang, Philip X. , Russ August & Kabat, Los Angeles
Girvan, Gregory A. , Feinberg Mindel Brandt & Klein, Los Angeles	Palyan, Tigran , Storm Palyan, Glendale	Ward, Shannon H.P. , The Aarons Law Firm, Calabasas
Glassman, Robert , Panish Shea Boyle Ravipudi, Los Angeles	Parkins Johnson, Christine , Davis Wright Tremaine, Los Angeles	Weatherford, Natalie , Taylor & Ring, Manhattan Beach
Gordon, Jessica , Gordon Trust Law, Los Angeles	Passman, Josh , Law Office of Josh Passman, Los Angeles	Weg, Adam , Wolf Rifkin Shapiro Schulman & Rabkin, Los Angeles
Granberry, Vincent , Lavi & Ebrahimi, Beverly Hills	Payton, Chantal McCoy , Payton Employment Law, Los Angeles	Wegman, Atticus N. , Aitken • Aitken • Cohn, Santa Ana
Habes, Heather W. , Covington & Burling, Los Angeles	Perkins, Rebecca , Law Offices of Rebecca Perkins, Rancho Cucamonga	Weiss, Jonathan M. , KTBS Law, Los Angeles
Hinojosa, Kelly L. , Hinojosa & Forer, Los Angeles		Wellman, Max N. , Venable, Los Angeles
Hobbs, Kristin E. , Shernoff Bidart Echeverria, Claremont		
Holmquist, Marc A. , Holmquist Law, Valencia		

UP-AND-COMING 50 WOMEN

AN ALPHABETICAL LISTING OF THE WOMEN LAWYERS WHO RANKED TOP OF THE LIST IN THE 2022 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RISING STARS NOMINATION, RESEARCH AND BLUE RIBBON REVIEW PROCESS.

Bekas, Zoe J., Akerman, Los Angeles

Bricken, Hilary, Harris Bricken, Los Angeles

Bui, Thy B., Constangy Brooks Smith & Prophete, Los Angeles

Burns King, Julian, King & Siegel, Los Angeles

Chang, Hazel S., Wilshire Law Firm, Los Angeles

Cohen, Ellen E., Jackson Lewis, Los Angeles

Duel, Jasmine A., Berokim & Duel, Beverly Hills

Dunn, Kelly G., Rutan & Tucker, Irvine

Fund, Cathryn G., JML Law, Woodland Hills

Gordon, Jessica, Gordon Trust Law, Los Angeles

Habes, Heather W., Covington & Burling, Los Angeles

Hinojosa, Kelly L., Hinojosa & Forer, Los Angeles

Hobbs, Kristin E., Shernoff Bidart Echeverria, Claremont

Jackson, Kirsten C., Latham & Watkins, Los Angeles

Jenkins, C. Genevieve, Excelsis Law, Burbank

Kalunian, Monica M., Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith, Los Angeles

Katz, Corinne B., Katz Law Firm, Los Angeles

Khanna, Nitasha, Harris • Ginsberg, Los Angeles

Kim, Helen U., Helen Kim Law, Los Angeles

Kleindienst, Katherine, Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump Holley, Santa Monica

Lee, Sharlene D., Nevers Palazzo Packard Wildermuth & Wynner, Westlake Village

Liu, Lisa Z., Law Offices of Lisa Z. Liu, Alhambra

Lucich, Clare H., Bentley & More, Newport Beach

Manalo, Christina R., JML Law, Woodland Hills

McCall, Lisa R., Law Offices of Lisa R. McCall, Santa Ana

McKibben, Molly M., Greene Broillet & Wheeler, El Segundo

Moradi-Brovia, Roksana D., Resnik Hayes Moradi, Encino

Moser, Jana M., Moser Legal, Los Angeles

Munyer, Lindsey F., Keystone Law Group, Los Angeles

Nogle, Megan F., Greenberg Glusker, Los Angeles

Nowels, Sarah Jane, SJN Law, San Clemente

Parkins Johnson, Christine, Davis Wright Tremaine, Los Angeles

Payton, Chantal McCoy, Payton Employment Law, Los Angeles

Perkins, Rebecca, Law Offices of Rebecca Perkins, Rancho Cucamonga

Podruski, Morgan E., Call & Jensen, Newport Beach

Proctor, Amy E., Irell & Manella, Los Angeles

Qassim, Setara, Geragos & Geragos, Los Angeles

Ricotta, Nicole, Anticouni & Ricotta, Santa Barbara

Rodriguez, Griselda S., G-Rod Law, Thousand Oaks

Scheideman, Erika, Lagerlof, Pasadena

Schulman, Allison M., Law Offices of Allison M. Schulman, Los Angeles

Shu, Lily Tielle, Lavi & Ebrahimian, Beverly Hills

Solmer, Lilit, Solmer, Huntington Beach

Trejo, Beatriz A., Chain | Cohn | Stiles, Bakersfield

Usahacharoenporn, Proud, Rutan & Tucker, Irvine

Vartanian, Lucy A., Hahn & Hahn, Pasadena

Vilendrer, Ellie K., Vilendrer Law, Irvine

Wagner, Lindsey, Scott Wagner and Associates, Burbank

Ward, Shannon H.P., The Aarons Law Firm, Calabasas

Weatherford, Natalie, Taylor & Ring, Manhattan Beach

UP-AND-COMING 25 ORANGE COUNTY

AN ALPHABETICAL LISTING OF THE LAWYERS WHO RANKED TOP OF THE LIST IN THE 2022 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RISING STARS NOMINATION, RESEARCH AND BLUE RIBBON REVIEW PROCESS.

Alizadeh, Arash, Alizadeh Employees Law, Irvine

Argos, Jason, Argos Law, Laguna Beach

Bardwell, Eric R., Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell, Irvine

Brooks, Samuel G., Call & Jensen, Newport Beach

Camuti, Nathan, Camuti Law Group, Aliso Viejo

Dunn, Kelly G., Rutan & Tucker, Irvine

Easton, Matthew D., Easton & Easton, Costa Mesa

Gaglio, Ryan, Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth, Newport Beach

Ibey, Jason, Kazerouni Law Group, Costa Mesa

Ikuta, Benjamin, Ikuta Hemesath, Santa Ana

Jamal, Suliman, Jamal Injury Law, Newport Beach

Jass, Jeremy, Jass Law, Newport Beach

Kahf, Usama, Fisher & Phillips, Irvine

Lucich, Clare H., Bentley & More, Newport Beach

McCall, Lisa R., Law Offices of Lisa R. McCall, Santa Ana

Mohamadi, Ashkahn, Sweet James, Newport Beach

Nielson, Samuel P., Sessions & Kimball, Mission Viejo

Nowels, Sarah Jane, SJN Law, San Clemente

Odell, Robert, Odell Law, Irvine

Polischuk, Wesley K., Robinson Calcagnie, Newport Beach

Solmer, Lilit, Solmer, Huntington Beach

Tran, Derek T., The Tran Firm, Huntington Beach

Usahacharoenporn, Proud, Rutan & Tucker, Irvine

Vilendrer, Ellie K., Vilendrer Law, Irvine

Wegman, Atticus N., Aitken • Aitken • Cohn, Santa Ana

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THE ANNUAL LIST BY PRIMARY AREA OF PRACTICE

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Names and page numbers in **RED** indicate a profile on the specified page. Phone numbers are included only for attorneys with paid Super Lawyers or Rising Stars print advertisements.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Bishop, John D., Ray & Bishop, Newport Beach

Cauley, Kevin D., Kevin Cauley, Los Angeles

Harrison, Matthew Sean, Prometheus Civic Law, Aliso Viejo

Johnson, Lindsay M., Ray & Bishop, Newport Beach

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Baron, Lani L., Alternative Divorce Solutions, Newport Beach

ANTITRUST LITIGATION

Carrillo, Filemon, Mulcahy, Irvine

Ceglia, John, Strange, Los Angeles

Wilberforce, Nana, Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Orr, Los Angeles

APPELLATE

Ahrony, Orly, Ahrony Appeals, Santa Monica

Barhoma, Matthew, Barhoma Law, Los Angeles

Davenport, Cassidy, Cole Pedroza, San Marino

Hua, Jing (Jenny), Snell & Wilmer, Costa Mesa

Meeker, Jennifer L., Nossaman, Los Angeles

Tamaddoni, Kian, Benedon & Serlin, Woodland Hills

Williams, Evan, The Law Office of Evan Williams, Riverside

Williams, Jeffrey N., Wargo French, Los Angeles

AVIATION AND AEROSPACE

Rahban, Michelle, Condon & Forsyth, Los Angeles

BANKING

Masterson, Christopher P., Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth, Newport Beach

BANKRUPTCY: BUSINESS

Bagdanov, Jessica, BG Law, Woodland Hills

Davis, Michael W., DTO Law, Los Angeles Pg. 13

Gamliel, Amir, Perkins Coie, Los Angeles Pg. 13

Gurvitz, Sasha, KTBS Law, Los Angeles

Haberbush, Vanessa M., Haberbush, Long Beach

Iskander, Brandon J., Goe Forsythe & Hodges, Irvine

Izakelian, Razmig Y., Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, Los Angeles

O'Dea, Ryan D., Shulman Bastian Friedman & Bui, Irvine

Simon, Michael L., Smiley Wang-Ekvall, Costa Mesa

Smith, Lindsey L., Levene Neale Bender Yoo & Golubchik, Los Angeles

Sposato, Rachel M., Mintz, Los Angeles

Weiss, Jonathan M., KTBS Law, Los Angeles Pg. 13

Zur, Royce, Elkins Kalt Weintraub Reuben Gartside, Los Angeles

BANKRUPTCY: CONSUMER

Afari, Carolyn, Law Office of Carolyn Afari, Beverly Hills

Agai, Danny Khen, Law Offices of Danny K Agai, Valley Village

Karadjian, Karine, Karine Karadjian, Van Nuys

Moradi-Brovia, Roksana D., Resnik Hayes Moradi, Encino Pg. 13, 14

Youkstetter, W. Sloan, RHM LAW, Los Angeles

BUSINESS LITIGATION

Adraneda, Anna Karenina P., Blake & Ayaz, Santa Ana

Ahn, Jihee, Harris Bricken, Los Angeles

Akopchikyan, Karine, Stubbs Alderton & Markiles, Sherman Oaks

Allender, Daniel, Robins Kaplan, Los Angeles

Al-Sarraf, Amin H., Locke Lord, Los Angeles

Amin, Anum, Foley & Lardner, Los Angeles

Asher, Amy E., Raymond L. Asher, Woodland Hills

Avery, Alexander, Steptoe & Johnson, Los Angeles

Becerra, Carlos A., Nixon Peabody, Los Angeles

Bedigian, Andrew J., Larson, Los Angeles

Beral, Arash, Blank Rome, Los Angeles

Bisconti, Anthony, Bienert Katzman Littrell Williams, Los Angeles

Bisharat, Nabil, Orsus Gate, Pasadena

Bloch, Elan, CSReeder, Los Angeles

Bolling, Jesse K., Enenstein Pham & Glass, Costa Mesa

Bowman, Ashley D., Bird Marella Boxer Wolpert Nessim Dooks Lincenberg & Rhow, Los Angeles

Braun, Nathaniel S.G., Sinclair Braun, Encino Pg. 13

Brethen, Geoffrey C., Musick Peeler & Garrett, Costa Mesa

Buchner, Teanna L., Goldberg Segalla, Los Angeles

Cammiso, Kevin J., Kibler Fowler & Cave, Los Angeles

Caplan, Matthew D., Cooley, Santa Monica

Chan, Jonathan, CTK Law Group, Irvine

Chang, Witt W., Venable, Los Angeles

Chau, Stephanie, Carlton Fields, Los Angeles

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RISING STARS 2022

BUSINESS LITIGATION
CONT'D FROM PAGE 15

Chen, Chad, Yoka | Smith, Los Angeles,
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Chen, Sheila Z., Troutman Pepper Hamilton
Sanders, Irvine

Cherlow, Julia, Bird Marella Boxer Wolpert Nessim
Drooks Lincenberg & Rhaw, Los Angeles

Culley, Elizabeth A., Andre Morris & Buttery,
San Luis Obispo

Dalton, Taylor R., Hall Griffin, Santa Ana

Daneshrad, Ryan, LA Century Law, Los Angeles

De La Merced, John, Stubbs Alderton & Markiles,
Sherman Oaks

Dominguez, Stacy M., Sheppard Mullin Richter &
Hampton, Costa Mesa

Dowdall, Tyler R., Epport Richman & Robbins,
Los Angeles

Du, Tommy, Robins Kaplan, Los Angeles

Dunn, Gordon V., Klein & Wilson, Newport Beach

Etemadi, Shaheen 'Shawn', Spach Capaldi &
Waggaman, Newport Beach

Fair, Jason R., Robins Kaplan, Los Angeles

Fernandez, Alexandra S., Robins Kaplan,
Los Angeles

Fisher, Alexander J., Fisher & Fisher, Beverly Hills
Pg. 13

Foltyn-Smith, Kyle, Hawxhurst Harris,
Los Angeles

Fowler, John D., Kibler Fowler & Cave, Los Angeles

Gelbart, Sharon G., Hawxhurst Harris,
Los Angeles

Grace, Brian, Waymaker, Los Angeles

Grochow, Lauren, Grochow Law, Aliso Viejo

Guido, Cristina, DLA Piper (US), Los Angeles

Gurvitz, Matthew M., Willkie Farr & Gallagher,
Los Angeles

Gutenplan, Daniel R., Enenstein Pham & Glass,
Costa Mesa

Haji, Sara, Hueston Hennigan, Los Angeles

Hart, Alan J., Ropers Majeski, Los Angeles

Hart, Kirsten A., ArentFox Schiff, Los Angeles

Harvey Schatmeier, Elliot, Bird Marella Boxer
Wolpert Nessim Drooks Lincenberg & Rhaw,
Los Angeles

Headman, Brian J., Theodora Oringher,
Los Angeles

Heidtke, Daniel, Duane Morris, Los Angeles

Hembd, Bret, Herrera Kennedy, Burbank

Hill, James W., Greenberg Glusker, Los Angeles

Holmes, Lesley Swanson, Norton Rose Fulbright,
Los Angeles

Jackson, Brittani, Hueston Hennigan, Los Angeles

Jayadevan, Tala Toufanian, McDermott Will &
Emery, Los Angeles

Jones, Leilani L., Payne & Fears, Irvine

Kadomatsu, Kari C., Seki Nishimura & Watase,
Los Angeles

Kargher, Alex, Sinclair Braun, Encino

Kashfian, Ryan D., Kashfian & Kashfian,
Los Angeles

Kelly, Brian M., Klein & Wilson, Newport Beach

Kelly-Kilgore, Sarah, Greenberg Gross,
Los Angeles

Khan, Adil M., Greenberg Traurig, Los Angeles

Kimble, Leticia, Raines Feldman, Los Angeles

Klaeb, Justin, Mortenson Taggart Adams, Irvine

Kleindienst, Katherine, Kinsella Weitzman Iser
Kump Holley, Santa Monica Pg. 13, 14

Kohrs, Anthony C., Kohrs & Fiske, Malibu

Kovash, Tyson W., The Law Offices of Tyson W.
Kovash, Huntington Beach

Kussman, Ben, Blackstone Law, Beverly Hills

Kutlay, Claire-Lise, Greenberg Gross, Los Angeles

Lee, Christopher J., Bird Marella Boxer Wolpert
Nessim Drooks Lincenberg & Rhaw, Los Angeles

Lee (née Chen), Grace, Meylan Davitt Jain
Arevian & Kim, Los Angeles

Levin, Jesse B., Glaser Weil, Los Angeles

Logoluso, Jenna, Roll Law Group, Los Angeles

Ma, Rick, The Ma Law Group, San Marino

Mallord, Joel M., Halpern May Ybarra Gelberg,
Los Angeles

Manglinong, Alexander, Stubbs Alderton &
Markiles, Sherman Oaks

Maralan, Sam, Maralan Law, Costa Mesa

Matsuishi, Robert T., Payne & Fears, Irvine

McGarry, Bryan M., Dorsey & Whitney, Costa Mesa

Mehdian, Ben, Mehedian Law, Los Angeles

Menger, Scott L., Carlton Fields, Los Angeles

Meyer, Abby, Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton,
Costa Mesa

Millard, Michelle, Fayer Gipson, Los Angeles

Miller, Corey A., Miller Miller Gerber, Irvine

Morrow, Xinlin Li, The Morrow Firm,
Newport Beach

Nair, Pooja S., Ervin Cohen & Jessup, Beverly Hills

Nguyen, Amy H., Klein & Wilson, Newport Beach

Nikias, Georgiana A., Murchison & Cumming,
Los Angeles

Nuno, Jose R., Waymaker, Los Angeles

Ogle, Shawn M., Atkinson Andelson Loya Ruud &
Romo, Irvine

Olson, Alyssa, Quinn Emanuel Urquhart &
Sullivan, Los Angeles

O'malley, Blaine, Stubbs Alderton & Markiles,
Sherman Oaks

Prout, Andrew G., Ross Wolcott Teinert & Prout,
Costa Mesa

Randhawa, Amtoj, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner,
Irvine

Rapore, James A., Mintz, Los Angeles

Reich, Adam M., Paul Hastings, Los Angeles

Rokita, Amanda, Rokita Law, Beverly Hills

Rosen, Jessica Wynette, Lewitt Hackman, Encino
Rothberg, Joseph M., Levene Neale Bender Yoo &
Golubchik, Los Angeles Pg. 13

Rottman, Caelan D., The Boesch Law Group,
Santa Monica

Rubin, Daniel, Reif Law Group, Los Angeles

Russell, Bridget, Sheppard Mullin Richter &
Hampton, Los Angeles

Safyan, Alexander R., Michelman & Robinson,
Los Angeles

Saint, Lauren E., Ulwelling Law, Costa Mesa

Sambhwani, Anand, Keller/Anderle, Irvine

Sanchez, Tyler E., Salisian | Lee, Los Angeles

Sardaryan, Mane, Skiermont Derby, Los Angeles

Schwartz, Eric B., Sidley Austin, Los Angeles

Sedy, Margaret A., Law Office of Margaret A.
Sedy, Los Angeles

Sifers, James S., Madison Law, Irvine

Sinclair, Kevin S., Sinclair Braun, Encino Pg. 13

Smith, Gregory M., The Maloney Firm, El Segundo
Pg. 13

Smith, Jason K., MK Smith, Irvine

Solomon, Naomi S., Bird Marella Boxer Wolpert
Nessim Drooks Lincenberg & Rhaw, Los Angeles

Soo, Chassica, Squire Patton Boggs, Los Angeles

Speare, Nick, Susman Godfrey, Los Angeles

Stetson, Hannah, Klein & Wilson, Newport Beach

Strauss, Benjamin E., Manatt Phelps & Phillips,
Los Angeles

Sypek, Casey B., Miller Barondess, Los Angeles

Takaloo, Saam, Blank Rome, Los Angeles

Taylor, Brett Nicole, Cozen O'Connor, Los Angeles

Thakor, Neil P., Norton Rose Fulbright,
Los Angeles

Thomas, Justin L., Zimmer & Melton, Bakersfield

Tsyline, Victoria, Lurie Zepeda Schmalz Hogan &
Martin, Los Angeles

Usahacharoenporn, Proud, Rutan & Tucker, Irvine
Pg. 13, 14

Vernick, Ashley, Rutan & Tucker, Irvine

Vescera, Katherine, TALG - The Amin Law Group,
Irvine

Wallis, Jenifer, Munck Wilson Mandala,
Los Angeles

Wang, Fanxi, Bird Marella Boxer Wolpert Nessim
Drooks Lincenberg & Rhaw, Los Angeles

Weg, Adam, Wolf Rifkin Shapiro Schulman &
Rabkin, Los Angeles Pg. 13

Wellman, Max N., Venable, Los Angeles Pg. 13

Werner, Joseph, Hagan Denison, Bakersfield

Westlund, Eric, Ellis George Cipollone O'Brien
Annaguey, Los Angeles

Wheeler, Brian M., Atkinson Andelson Loya
Ruud & Romo, Cerritos

Won, Jen, Larson, Los Angeles

Woodland, Lauren, Novian & Novian, Los Angeles

Woods, Anjali B., Holland & Knight, Irvine

Worth, Michael J., Buchalter, Los Angeles

Zakhary, Patrick, Seyfnia & Zakhary, Los Angeles

BUSINESS/CORPORATE

Ajalat, David Mitry, Latham & Watkins,
Los Angeles

Antani, Manish S., Loeb & Loeb, Los Angeles

Armitage, Brent, Gunderson Dettmer,
Los Angeles

Barseggyan, Shushan, Full Circle Business Law,
Glendale

Bricken, Hilary, Harris Bricken, Los Angeles Pg. 14

Cheuvront, Tiffany D., Michel & Associates,
Long Beach

Cragg, Greg, Holland & Knight, Los Angeles

Davaie, Sherry, TroyGould, Los Angeles

de Zwart, Keren, Not Your Father's Lawyer, Irvine

Doyle, Lauren, Tredway Lumsdaine & Doyle (TLD
Law), Irvine

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RISING STARS 2022

BUSINESS/CORPORATE
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Erskine, Andrew H., Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe, Santa Monica

Fazio, Sara, Freedman Fazio, Westlake Village

Feldman, Nick C., Gunderson Dettmer, Los Angeles

Freedman, Darren T., TroyGould, Los Angeles

Frey, Jessica N., Salisbury Group, Irvine

Gaynor, Justin M., Gaynor Law Group, Los Angeles

Geisser, Lauren, Russ August & Kabat, Los Angeles

Goldshteyn, Yan, Spartan, Woodland Hills

Haga, Ian, Miller Haga Law Group, Calabasas

Hata, Torrey, Nevers Palazzo Packard Wildermuth & Wynn, Westlake Village

Hurdle, Jr., Steven E., Loeb & Loeb, Los Angeles

Imam, Nadira T., Law Offices of Lawrence H. Jacobson, Beverly Hills

Jahangard, Sanaz, Brown & Streza, Irvine

Jalali-Bidgoli, Sharmin, Jalali Law, Newport Beach

Karama, Adnan, Gaynor Law Group, Los Angeles

Khinda, Sarbpreet S., Bridge Law, Anaheim

Kirchner, Celina C., Stubbs Alderton & Markiles, Sherman Oaks

Laffey, Kelly S., Stubbs Alderton & Markiles, Sherman Oaks

Lau, Benson K., Satnick Lau, Los Angeles

Ling, James R., Ling Law Group, Irvine

Miller, Adam, Pivotal Law Firm, Costa Mesa

Miller, Adam I., Miller Miller Gerber, Irvine

Moultrie, III, James L., Haysbert | Moultrie, Marina del Rey

Narain, Sabrina, Sanders Roberts, Los Angeles

Parsa, Mohsen, Mohsen Parsa Inc., Irvine

Proos, Eric J., The Law Office of Eric J. Proos, West Hollywood

Razzouk, Jay N., Attorney at Law, San Bernardino

Reep, Sam, Brown & Streza, Irvine

Roven, Ian, Law Office of Ian Roven, Malibu

Santon, Kate, Santon General Counsel, Costa Mesa

Saryan, Michael, Structure Law Group, Los Angeles

Smith, Almuhtada, ARS IP Law Firm, Los Angeles

Smith, Robert J., KTBS Law, Los Angeles

Sohn, Andrew, Avodah Law Group, Brea

Srinath, Vikas, Prospera Law, Los Angeles

Steinberg, Alexa, Greenberg Glusker, Los Angeles

Sulahian, Amy L., Sulahian Law, Pasadena

Tieman, Taylor M., Taylor M. Tieman Esq., Redondo Beach

Tong, Hansen Chia-Heng, Hansen Tong Esq., West Hollywood

Urien, Kurtis R., Merhab Robinson & Clarkson, Santa Ana

Vahedy, Keian, Mortenson Taggart Adams, Irvine

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Vilendrer, Ellie K., Vilendrer Law, Irvine Pg. 13, 14

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Zhang, Cheyenne, Zhang & Zhang Law Office, Anaheim

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Caligiuri, Jeffrey W., Yukevich | Cavanaugh, Los Angeles

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Cristal, April, Law Offices of Stratman & Williams-Abrego, Los Angeles

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Evenstad, Amy, McCune & Harber, Los Angeles

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Grochow, Kevin J., Kutak Rock, Irvine

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Hopstone, Joshua S., Ferguson Case Orr Paterson, Westlake Village

Huber, Alessa, Cooper & Huber, Torrance

Hussein, Yasmine, Larson & Gaston, Pasadena

Jaafari, Armand, Grand Park Law Group, Los Angeles

Jafari, Kiarash, C&K Law Group, Costa Mesa

Jinnah, Ahmed, Jinnah Law, Los Angeles

Khan, Mohammad N., MNK Law, Cerritos

Kort, Jason, Berkes Crane Santana & Spangler, Los Angeles

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Lowe, Derrick, Baker Keener & Nahra, Los Angeles

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Marks, Kyle B., Richard D. Marks, Westlake Village Pg. 13

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Mejia, Matthew R., DeSimone & Huxster, Westlake Village

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Parviz, Kianna, Law & Stein, Irvine

Peatman, Stephanie, DLA Piper (US), Los Angeles

Rambis, Alexandra Rachel, Lagasse Branch Bell & Kinkead, Los Angeles

Reynolds, Christine D., Evans Fears & Schuttert, Newport Beach

Rose, Ashley D., Prindle Goetz Barnes & Reinholtz, Long Beach

Sachs, Chelsee M., MVP Accident Attorneys, Irvine

Safarian, Mellania E., Bradley Gmelich + Wellerstein, Glendale

Sample, Katherine C., Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton, Costa Mesa

Sampson, Benjamin, Bordin Semmer, Los Angeles

Satnick, Adam M., Satnick Lau, Los Angeles

Schneider, Timothy A., Houser, Irvine

Tehrani, Negar, Tehrani Law Firm, Los Angeles

Vo, Tina H., Murchison & Cumming, Los Angeles

Zuberi, Nabeel M., McCalla Raymer Leibert & Pierce, Long Beach

CIVIL LITIGATION: PLAINTIFF

Ackerman, Whitney D., The Law Office of Whitney D. Ackerman, Encino

Azaryan, Arnak, Azaryan Law, Glendale

Brandlin, Christopher, Christopher P. Brandlin, Torrance

Burtchaell, Blake E., Burtchaell Law, Bakersfield

Cha, Daniel S., Greenberg Gross, Costa Mesa

Chudleigh, Daniel W., Chudleigh Law, Laguna Beach

Elan, Neil H., Stubbs Alderton & Markiles, Sherman Oaks

Evans, Drew, Ball Bonholtzer & Evans, Pasadena

Garcia, Christy M., Alvarez-Glasman & Colvin, City of Industry

Glassman, Robert, Panish | Shea | Boyle | Ravipudi, Los Angeles Pg. 13

Hagopian, Shant, Hagopian Law Firm, Encino

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Hashemi, Tannaz, LegalAxxis, Los Angeles

Kashani, Jacob K., The Law Office of Jacob K. Kashani, Van Nuys

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California Employment & Consumer Law Firm



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Adolph*



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10th and 11th Floors
San Francisco, CA 94111

SACRAMENTO

Capitol Mall
500 Capitol Mall
Suite 2350
Sacramento, CA 95814

OAKLAND

1330 Broadway
Suite 428
Oakland, CA 94612

FRESNO

516 West Shaw Ave
Suite 200
Fresno, CA 93704

DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES

US Bank Tower
633 West Fifth St
Suite 2818B
Los Angeles, CA 90017

NEWPORT BEACH

West Tower
5000 Birch Street
Suite 3000
Newport Beach, CA 92660

PH: (855) 888-2577

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CONT'D FROM PAGE 18

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Lehman, Brent J., Gerard Fox Law, Los Angeles
Lototsky, Alexandra, Sanders Roberts, Los Angeles
Markarian, Jon O., Markarian Law Firm, Beverly Hills
Marquez, Melissa M., Tressler, Los Angeles
McConnell, Mariana, Kiesel Law, Beverly Hills
McGee, Amanda D., Boren Osher & Luftman, El Segundo
Medioni, Daniel M., Wolf Rifkin Shapiro Schulman & Rabkin, Los Angeles
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Ofili, Mykhal N., Law Office of Mykhal Ofili, Los Angeles
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Rosenberger, Elliot, Rosenberger + Kawabata, Los Angeles
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Simoudis, Thanos, Culver Legal, Los Angeles
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Toor, Puneet K., Toor Law, Costa Mesa
Van, Myrna, Cadden & Fuller, Irvine
Wyman, Brandon, Wyman Law Group, Los Angeles
Yakobian, Dan B., DBY Law, Los Angeles
Yu, Katrina N., The Hurricane Law Firm, Encino
Zhang, Nancy, The Lemon Law Experts, Los Angeles

CIVIL RIGHTS

Bush, Brian M., Attorney at Law, Costa Mesa
Carter, Corey, Carter Law Firm, Valencia
Chandoo, Hanna, Hadsell Stormer Renick & Dai, Pasadena
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Cossart-Daly, Elise, Cossart-Daly Law, Santa Barbara
Frank, Alexander A., Michel & Associates, Long Beach
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Olney, Brian, Hadsell Stormer Renick & Dai, Pasadena
Pearson, Nicole C., Law Offices of Nicole C. Pearson, Newport Beach
Ricketts, Morgan E., Ricketts Law, Los Angeles
Seabaugh, Thomas C., The Law Office of Thomas C. Seabaugh, Los Angeles
Yoka, Nicholas W., Panish | Shea | Boyle | Ravipudi, Los Angeles
Zabetian, Arash, The Zabetian Firm, Los Angeles

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Aiwazian, Arby, Lawyers for Justice, Glendale Pg. 13
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Boyer, J. Randall, Nossaman, Irvine
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Branscome, Kimberly Olvey, Dechert, Los Angeles
Bridgford, Allan L., McNicholas & McNicholas, Los Angeles
Brown, Harrison, Blank Rome, Los Angeles
Cleofe, Cherisse H., Kiesel Law, Beverly Hills
Coelho, Thiago, Wilshire Law Firm, Los Angeles
Dagostino, Paul, Robinson Calcagnie, Newport Beach
Esensten, Jordan S., Esensten Law, Los Angeles
Esfandiary, Pedram, Baum Hedlund Aristei & Goldman, Los Angeles
Foster, Adam M., Baum Hedlund Aristei & Goldman, Los Angeles
Ghosh, Joanna, Lawyers for Justice, Glendale
Granade, II, George V., Reese, Beverly Hills
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Karbassi, Nilofar, Lathrop GPM, Los Angeles
Lebe, Jonathan M., Lebe Law, Los Angeles
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Cade, Nate, The Green Law Group, Simi Valley
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Hannifan, Kevin M., Cox Castle & Nicholson, Los Angeles
Khalilpour, Mike M., The Green Law Group, Simi Valley
Koeller, Douglas C., Koeller Nebeker Carlson & Haluck, Irvine
Kraus, Matthew J., Lester Cantrell & Kraus, Riverside
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Mott, Garrett M., Hennigh Law Corp., Los Angeles
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Sharifi, Maryam, Sharifi Defense, Tustin
Stec, Charles, W&D Law, Irvine
Stec, Lauren Brittney, Lanak & Hanna, Orange

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Amini, Mona, Kazerouni Law Group, Costa Mesa
Fok, Devin H., DHF Law, San Marino
Gurwell, Kyle N., Law Office of Kyle Gurwell, Huntington Beach
Hart, Yana, Clarkson Law Firm, Malibu
Ibey, Jason, Kazerouni Law Group, Costa Mesa Pg. 14
Jacobson, Kevin, Quill & Arrow, Los Angeles
Khoubian, Alexander, Attorney at Law, Beverly Hills
Kim, Eleazar, The Lemon Law Experts, Los Angeles
Kirnos, Roger, Knight Law Group, Los Angeles
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Manning, Danielle L., Zimmerman Reed, Los Angeles
Margarian, Shushanik, The Margarian Law Firm, Glendale
Meiselas, Ben, Geragos & Geragos, Los Angeles
Morse, Amy, Knight Law Group, Los Angeles
Pang, Natalie, Glancy Prongay & Murray, Los Angeles
Swanson, Christopher, Knight Law Group, Los Angeles
Ungs, Lauren A., Knight Law Group, Los Angeles
Valero, Joshua, Valero Law, Los Angeles
Weitz, Maria L., Boucher, Woodland Hills
Wood, Carey, The Lemon Law Experts, Los Angeles

CREDITOR DEBTOR RIGHTS

Charity, Garrett, McCarthy Law, Los Angeles
Tran, Tai Dinh, Law Office of Tai Tran, Garden Grove

CRIMINAL DEFENSE

Abuershaide, Mohammad, A.L.L., Trial Lawyers, Orange
Akobyan, Arno, Ocean View Legal, Montrose
Arana, Jesse A., Law Office of Jesse A. Arana, Downey
Ayala, Christopher J., Ayala Law Group, Santa Ana
Bernstein, Whitney, Bienert Katzman Littrell Williams, San Clemente
Blaylock, Christopher W., Law Offices of C.W. Blaylock, Santa Monica
Burkley, D. Shawn, Werksman Jackson & Quinn, Los Angeles
Castonovo, Nicole R., Rains Lucia Stern St. Phalle & Silver, Encino
D'Ambrosio, Ryan, D'Ambrosio | Ross, Los Angeles
Edel, Adam, Manshoory Law Group, Los Angeles
Erlich, Ross, Ross Erlich Law, Encino
Garcia, Joel G., Garcia Law Group, Los Angeles
Gres, Kevin D., Law Offices of Kevin Gres, Los Angeles
Kaiserman, Brad, The Law Office of Brad K. Kaiserman, Los Angeles
Kuyumjian, Hagop, The Kuyumjian Firm, Los Angeles
Lavitch, Action, Action Defense Law, Los Angeles
Lin, Paul L., The Lin Law Office, Riverside

Liu, Lisa Z., Law Offices of Lisa Z. Liu, Alhambra Pg. 13, 14
Loncar, Nicholas M., Law Offices of Nicholas M. Loncar, Los Angeles
Manalo, Leonard, Law Offices of Leonard Manalo, Pasadena
McAllister, Aaron P., Law Office of Aaron P. McAllister, Los Angeles Pg. 13
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Mines, Jasmine, The Mines Law Firm, Beverly Hills
Moghtanei, Kevin, DCD Law, San Fernando
Pourshalimi, David, Perlmutter & Pourshalimi, Beverly Hills
Ranjha, Mehrunisa, Werksman Jackson & Quinn, Los Angeles
Reiffman, Noam, The Kaufman Law Group, Los Angeles
Renslo, Eric M., Renslo Law, Los Angeles
Rogers, John D., Law Offices of John D. Rogers, Newport Beach
Rudolph, Allyson, Karagozian & Rudolph, Woodland Hills
Scaffidi, Megan E., Law Offices of Michael A. Scaffidi, San Bernardino
Shaaya, Emily R., Shaaya Law Group, Beverly Hills
Singh, Neeraj, Law Office of Neeraj D. Singh, Orange
Tamir, Danielle, Ridley Defense, Ventura, 805-208-1866 Pg. 33

Vadgama, Shakti, Vadgama Law, Cerritos
Villagomez, Zaira, VillaMont Law Firm, Burbank

CRIMINAL DEFENSE: DUI/DWI

Donaldson, Mike, Bartell Hensel & Gressley, Temecula
Fard, Kevin, Attorney at Law, Los Angeles
Komaili, Ali, Law Offices of Ali Komaili, Tustin
Seyb, II, Spencer L., Seyb Law Group, Irvine

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Culver Wasserman, Christa L., Spertus Landes & Umhofer, Los Angeles
Goldstein, Anya, Summa, Los Angeles
Kochsiek, Blythe G., King & Spalding, Los Angeles
Lieser, Jennifer, Kaplan Marino, Los Angeles
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Crownover, Cara, Garcia & Artigliere, Long Beach

Gharibian, Art, Gharibian Law, Glendale Pg. 13

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O'Neill, Sean, Stalwart Law Group, West Hollywood

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Barbato, Jason J., BDG Law Group, Los Angeles

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Wu (Diaz), Katrina R., DeFrenza Lee, Costa Mesa

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Murray, Brian D., Trucker Huss, Los Angeles

Prestegard, Kirk M., Bush Gottlieb, Glendale

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Agazanof, Asaf, Asaf Law, Los Angeles Pg. 13

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Alvarez, Amelia, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, Irvine

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Azadian, Ani, Azadian Law Group, Pasadena

Azizi, Steven I., Miracle Mile Law Group, Los Angeles

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Botros, Samantha, The Maloney Firm, El Segundo

Brown, Daniel J., Stansbury Brown Law, Marina del Rey

Bushra, Ali I., The Bushra Law Firm, Irvine

Cadry, Ryan, Cadry Law Group, Encino

Camilleri, Judith L., Donahoo & Associates, Tustin

Cantor, Zachary, Cantor Law, Santa Monica

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Castro, Matias N., Employee Justice Legal Group, Los Angeles

Christenson, Sarah, Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak & Stewart, Los Angeles

Cohen, Ellen E., Jackson Lewis, Los Angeles Pg. 14

Crosner, Zachary, Crosner Legal, Beverly Hills Pg. 13

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Declue, Christopher J., Employee Justice Legal Group, Los Angeles

Diggs, Rodney S., Ivie McNeill Wyatt Purcell & Diggs, Los Angeles

Dillion, Blake A., Payne & Fears, Irvine

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Eghbali, Benjamin, Eghbali Firm, Los Angeles

Ehsani-Nia, Sara, Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath, Los Angeles

Eldessouky, Mohamed, Eldessouky Law, Bellflower

Eshaghian, Michelle, Eshaghian Law, Los Angeles

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Ferguson, Jordon R., Locke Lord, Los Angeles

Freiman, Michael J., Employ Legal, Santa Monica

Gangitano, Patrick, Gangitano Law, Seal Beach

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Genish, Jonathan M., Blackstone Law, Beverly Hills

Ghandilyan, Gayane, Lewitt Hackman, Encino

Gill, Jasmin K., J Gill Law Group, Los Angeles

Golper, Matthew B., Ballard Rosenberg Golper & Savitt, Costa Mesa

Grinstein, Nicole, Gilbert & Sackman, Los Angeles

Guerra, Ruben, Guerra & Casillas, Los Angeles

Gupta, Tilak, Law Offices of Tilak Gupta, Arcadia

Haddad, Kristel B., Jackson Lewis, Los Angeles

Hajjar, Nicol E., Wilshire Law Firm, Los Angeles

Hale, Matthew T., Attorney at Law, North Hollywood

Hershey, Brennan M., Hershey Law, Los Angeles

Hosseini, Kaveh, Jackson Lewis, Irvine

Hsu, Chialei (Ray), Law Offices of Ray Hsu & Associates, Alhambra

Iradjpanah, Kayvan, Littler Mendelson, Los Angeles

Johnson, Amy A., Rains Lucia Stern St. Phalle & Silver, Encino

Kahf, Usama, Fisher & Phillips, Irvine Pg. 14

Kazandjian, Haig B., Haig B. Kazandjian, Glendale

Keshishyan, Romina, RK Legal, Glendale

Kizirian, Armand, Kizirian Law Firm, Glendale

Koulloukian, Nazo L., Koul Law Firm, Los Angeles

Kring, Tyler D., Kring & Chung, Irvine

LaCour, Jonathan P., Employees First Labor Law, Pasadena

Ladan, Roya S., Cohen Williams, Los Angeles

Lee, Maximilian, Law Office of Maximilian Lee, Santa Ana

Lee, Sharlene D., Nevers Palazzo Packard Wildermuth & Wynner, Westlake Village Pg. 13, 14

Love, Calvin, Love Law, Covina

Macaraeg, April T., Macaraeg Law, El Segundo

Madjidi, Mahru, Shegerian & Associates, Los Angeles

Manukyan, Edgar, Manukyan Law Firm, Glendale

Marksbury, Brittane A., Boren Osher & Luftman, El Segundo

Marquez-Avila, Mitzi, Gilbert & Sackman, Los Angeles

Martin, Ricardo M., Angel City Law, Los Angeles

Martirosyan, Edgar, Martirosyan, Burbank

Marvazy, Azad M., Light Law Group, Los Angeles

Melmed, Jonathan, Melmed Law Group, Los Angeles

Misetich, Jennifer M., Best Best & Krieger, Los Angeles

Moen, Matthew K., Haines Law Group, El Segundo

Moon, Alis M., Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak & Stewart, Costa Mesa

Moorhead, Samuel, Employee Justice Legal Group, Los Angeles

Munro, Mia, Genie Harrison Law Firm, Los Angeles, 213-805-5301 Pg. 7

Napper, David A., Chapman Glucksman Dean & Roeb, Los Angeles

Nava, Jr., Alfredo, Law Office of Alfredo Nava Jr., Montebello

Nguyen, Anthony, Shegerian & Associates, Los Angeles Pg. 13

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Nielson, Samuel P., Sessions & Kimball, Mission Viejo Pg. 13, 14

Orchid, Oshea, Public Employees Legal, Los Angeles

Panosian, Sylvia, Employee Justice Legal Group, Los Angeles

Pate, Matthew, Raines Feldman, Los Angeles

Payton, Chantal McCoy, Payton Employment Law, Los Angeles Pg. 13, 14

Pizarro, Antony R., McCune & Harber, Los Angeles

Pourati, David, Law Office of David Pourati, Beverly Hills

Prager, David M., Nixon Peabody, Los Angeles

Rahman, Rabiah A., Rabiah at Law, Ventura

Raney, Kelly M., Greenberg Glusker, Los Angeles

Razani, Mona, Reed Smith, Los Angeles

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Rodriguez, Griselda S., G-Rod Law, Thousand Oaks Pg. 13, 14

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Rosenkranz, Andrea, O'Hagan Meyer, Newport Beach

Ruddell, Howard D., Moore Ruddell, Torrance

Savoy, Grant J., Solouki | Savoy, Los Angeles

Sezgin, Arthur, Sezgin Khouadian, Glendale

Shaker, Della, West Hollywood Law Group, Beverly Hills

Sigall, Michael, Wolf Rifkin Shapiro Schulman & Rabkin, Los Angeles

Silverman, Justin, Law Offices of Justin Silverman, Sherman Oaks

Sohn, David, Cole Pedroza, San Marino

Solouki, Shoham J., Solouki | Savoy, Los Angeles

Stein-Manes, Alysha, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, Los Angeles

Sterling, Sarah, Frontier Law Center, Calabasas

Strowhiro, Michelle S., McDermott Will & Emery, Los Angeles

Tashroudian, Mona, Tash Law Group, Studio City

Ter-Astvatsatryan, Lilit, Moon & Yang, Los Angeles

Termechi, Bobby, Termechi Employment Law Group, Woodland Hills

Thorne, Harrison, Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton, Los Angeles

Treger, Benjamin J., Hirschfeld Kraemer, Santa Monica

Triplett, Pamela, Mancini & Associates, Sherman Oaks

Tumanyan, Gloria, Tumanyan Law Firm, Los Angeles

Wagner, Lindsey, Scott Wagner and Associates, Burbank Pg. 14

Waldrop, Brooke W., Schneider Wallace Cottrell Konecky, Los Angeles

Wallin, Alexander D., LOYR, Los Angeles

Webb, Kristin, Sessions & Kimball, Mission Viejo

Weinstein, Hannah S., Rothner Segall & Greenstone, Pasadena

Westmoreland, Dominique N., The Westmoreland Law Firm, Rolling Hills Estates

White, III, Patrick E., Srourian Law Firm, Los Angeles

Wilson, Atoy H., Mahoney Law Group, Long Beach

Witte, Alexandria, Littler Mendelson, Los Angeles

Yadegaran, Michael Y., Avenue Law, Santa Monica

Yang, Simon L., Diversity Law Group, Los Angeles

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Cho, Karen Y., Morgan Lewis & Bockius, Los Angeles

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Aframian, Payam, Employment Rights Law Firm, Los Angeles

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MAKING SUPER LAWYERS A FAMILY TRADITION



Sitting L-R: Mani Navab, Travis Easton†, Matt Easton†, Gabriel Mendoza*
Standing L-R: Steven Dominguez, Brian Easton**, Doug Easton*, Brenda Kocaj
*Chosen to 2009-2022 Super Lawyers **Chosen to 2016-2022 Super Lawyers †Chosen to 2014-2022 Rising Stars
‡Chosen to 2019-2022 Rising Stars †Chosen to 2021-2022 Rising Stars

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- Orange County Up-and-Coming 25: Matt Easton (2016-2022)
- Southern California Up-and-Coming 100: Matt Easton (2016-2018, 2020-2022)
- Martindale-Hubbell® AV Preeminent® Rating: Doug, Brian and Matt Easton
- The Best Lawyers in America®: Doug, Brian, Matt and Travis Easton
- Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum® - The Top Trial Lawyers in America®: Brian, Matt and Travis Easton
- American Board of Trial Advocates (Orange County chapter): Brian Easton
- 10 Best Personal Injury Attorneys in California (AIOPIA): Doug, Brian, Matt and Travis Easton
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Kim, Helen U., Helen Kim Law, Los Angeles Pg. 13, 14

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Luna, Silvia E., Luna Legal Firm, Encino

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Boroda, Cara L., Feinberg Mindel Brandt & Klein, Los Angeles, 310-447-8675

Chazan, Alana T., Chazan Family Law, Pasadena

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Combs, Jacqueline, Blank Rome, Los Angeles

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Donovan, Elisabeth, Law Office of Elisabeth A. Donovan, Irvine

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Labrum, Michael, Law Office of Michael Labrum, Westlake Village

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Laufer, Michael B., Laufer at Law, Beverly Hills

Le, Tin, Feinberg Mindel Brandt & Klein, Los Angeles, 310-447-8675

Markarian, Alleen, Feinberg Mindel Brandt & Klein, Los Angeles, 310-447-8675

Marquez, Phyllicia F., McPherson & Marquez, Torrance

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McMorrow, Jack J., Harris • Ginsberg, Los Angeles

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Miller, Matthew, The Miller Family Law Group, Fullerton

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Mojabi, Sam, Norman Dowler, Ventura

Morales, Marcus, Morales Law, Santa Barbara

Murphy, Terrence R., Law Office of Ann M. Coleman, Orange

Nguyen, Khoa Q., Khoa Q. Nguyen Esq., Newport Beach

Novik, Allison S., Novik Family Law, Encino

Nunez, Tyrrell Marie, Feinberg Mindel Brandt & Klein, Glendale, 818-500-0511

Nuzzo, Nicole, Farzad & Ochoa Family Law, Santa Ana

Oxman, Marissa, Core Law Group, Orange

Paluch, Nathalie E. A., Lauzon Paluch, Los Angeles

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Rettenmaier, Yihe (Echo), Law Offices of Robert Rettemaier, Santa Ana

Revy, Laura, Webster Kaplan, Encino

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Saltz, Natasha M., Law and Mediation Office of Natasha M. Saltz, Santa Monica

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Simkins, Dallas C., Law Office of Cameron M. Fernandez, Santa Maria

Spatz, Jenna Charlotte, Leichter Leichter-Maroko, Beverly Hills

Stevens, Chelsea, Feinberg Mindel Brandt & Klein, Los Angeles, 310-447-8675

Swisher, Lindsay L., The Law Offices of Saylin & Swisher, Newport Beach

Tabatabaie, Leyla S., Minyard Morris, Newport Beach

Teplinsky, Michael E., FamilyFirst Law, Westlake Village

Tibshraeny, Alexa, Alexa Tibshraeny, Los Angeles

Torunyan, Collette, Willkie Farr & Gallagher, Los Angeles

Trabanino, Stephanie, Schweitzer Law Partners, Pasadena, 626-683-8113 **Pg. 21**

Tsuda, Serine, Salisbury Lee & Tsuda, Pasadena

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Warner, Taylor B., Law Office of Taylor B. Warner, Ontario

Weaver, Mikita A., Seastrom Tuttle & Murphy, Irvine

Weissman, Samantha L., Stegmeier Gelbart Schwartz & Benavente, Irvine

Wolff, Alexa S., Brot Gross Fishbein, Sherman Oaks

Yarnal, Kathryn, Law Office of Kathryn Yarnal, Costa Mesa

Youngman, Lauren O., Youngman Reitshtein, Los Angeles

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Brandon M. Delpasand is the founder of Ultimate Law Firm, a Los Angeles-based law firm serving the entire state of California, recovering benefits and compensation for injured Californians, aggressively and creatively.

Brandon serves, and has served, as counsel on cases ranging from those making their way to the California District Court of Appeal, to those submitted to trial and everything in between. He advocates for benefits and compensation for all, including undocumented workers. Brandon was the applicant attorney in *Meadowbrook Insurance Co. v. WCAB (Gamez)* (2020) 85 CCC 871 (writ denied), obtaining a favorable result and compensation for an agricultural worker who was wrongfully denied the same.

Brandon and the staff speak Spanish, Farsi and Armenian and routinely handle complex and difficult cases such as brain injury, achieving outstanding results. The firm achieved a 5 Star Google and AVVO rating. Other attorneys trust Brandon and Ultimate Law Firm with their referrals, knowing that cases will be ethically handled with experienced representation and clients will get the service and compensation expected from a reputable law firm.



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theultimatelawfirm.com

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King, Justin H., The Law Offices of Justin H. King, Rancho Cucamonga

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Krieger, Wesley J., Baer Treger, Los Angeles

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Medler, Ryan A., Wilshire Law Firm, Los Angeles

Mehdipour, Alexander D., Mehdipour Law, Los Angeles

Melik-Stepanyan, Katherine K., Law Offices of Haytham Faraj, West Hollywood

Melkonian, Lena, Lena Law, Pasadena

Mendez, Giancarlo J., Mendez & Sanchez, Los Angeles

Mendoza, Gabriel M., Easton & Easton, Costa Mesa, 714-850-4590 Pg. 23

Mesrobian, Krikor, Beverly Hills Attorney Group, Beverly Hills

Miller, Daniel B., Wilshire Law Firm, Los Angeles

Miran, Aria M., RMD Law, Irvine

Modarelli, III, Anthony C., DiMarco | Araujo | Montevideo, Santa Ana

Moghadam, Robert, Moet Law Group, Irvine

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MEYLIN P. ALFARO

**PERSONAL INJURY
GENERAL: PLAINTIFF
EMPLOYMENT LAW**

Selected to Rising Stars

Meylin Alfaro is an associate at the Law Offices of Victor L. George and represents clients in all areas of personal injury and employment law. Ms. Alfaro grew up in Southern California, the proud daughter of hardworking immigrant parents, is bilingual in Spanish, and has significant experience with the Latin culture and its people, including their needs, struggles and difficulties here in California. She has served in the legal field for over 14 years as an attorney, law clerk, paralegal and legal assistant. As an attorney, she has zealously represented her clients in obtaining numerous seven-figure jury verdicts and settlements. As a young attorney, Ms. Alfaro has already taken four cases through jury trial, including successfully obtaining a \$3.3 million verdict in April of 2018. Most recently, she obtained a settlement in a personal injury car accident case for \$5.25 million in March of 2022. Ms. Alfaro shows her clients care, compassion and, most importantly, trust in her ability to obtain justice. She has been selected to the Rising Stars list for four consecutive years in 2019-2022. Ms. Alfaro is an integral part of the trial team at the Law Offices of Victor L. George, and the firm is honored to have her as part of the team.

LAW OFFICES OF VICTOR L. GEORGE

20355 Hawthorne Blvd., First Floor, Torrance, CA 90503
PH: (310) 698-0990 | FX: (310) 698-0995 | malfaro@vgeorgelaw.com
vgeorgelaw.com

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RISING STARS 2022

PERSONAL INJURY
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Mohamadi, Ashkahn, Sweet James,
Newport Beach Pg. 13, 14

Monfared, Golnar, Dordick, Beverly Hills,
818-808-9188 Pg. 17

Moore, Corbin, MVP Accident Attorneys, Irvine

Morgan, Edward M., Downtown L.A. Law Group,
Los Angeles

Morris, Marcellis E., The Cochran Firm - California,
Los Angeles

Mossavar-Rahmani, Shahab, Omega Law Group,
Beverly Hills Pg. 13

Munro, Elizabeth, Vaziri Law Group, Los Angeles

Nabati, Michelle, Nabati Law, Encino

Naimi, Oliver, Citywide Law Group, Los Angeles

Naysan, Gabriella, Omega Law Group,
Beverly Hills

Nazi, Negin, Makkabi Law Group, Beverly Hills

Nghiem, Phillip, Hess & Nghiem, Santa Ana

Nguyen, Jim, Law Office of Jim T. Nguyen,
Westminster

Nickerson, Christian, Greene Broillet & Wheeler,
El Segundo Pg. 13

Nikfarjam, Parham, Jacoby & Meyers, Los Angeles

Novik, Erick, Novik Law Group, Encino

O'Hara, Kevin W., O'Hara Law, West Covina

Okhovat, Anna, Okhovat Law Firm, Sherman Oaks

Okhovat, Sasan M., Priority Law Group,
Sherman Oaks

Oknyansky, Mark, Davidovich Stein Law Group,
North Hollywood

Omidfar, Delavar, Makkabi Law Group,
Beverly Hills

Ortiz, Natalie, Sweet James, Newport Beach

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Parris, Khail A., Parris Law Firm, Lancaster

Patzkowski, Blaise, Patzkowski Law, Costa Mesa

Peck, Christopher, Law Offices of Christopher
Peck, Orange

Pedram, Nima, Pedram Law, Beverly Hills

Perez, Anthony J., Avrek Law Firm,
Newport Beach

Perez, Jonathan, Asvar Law, Los Angeles

Phillips, Dalton, Robinson Calcagnie,
Newport Beach

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Phillips, Shaun M., Benchmark Injury Law, Irvine

Pollard, Tim J., The Pollard Firm, Diamond Bar

Poulter, Brian L., Stalwart Law Group,
West Hollywood Pg. 13

Pourshalimy, Joseph, Law Office of Joseph
Pourshalimy, Los Angeles

Pruitt, Andrew, Booth Law, Torrance

Radnia, Isaac, Law Offices of Burg & Brock Inc.,
Sherman Oaks

Raiszadeh, Shelly, TorkLaw, Irvine

Ramadan, Kareem A., Kareem Law, Upland

Ramirez, Kenny S., Law Office of Kenny S.
Ramirez, San Bernardino

Ravan, Ted, Ravan Law, Los Angeles

Razavi, Ali, Razavi Law Group, Santa Ana

Reid, Darren, Cohen Law Partners, Los Angeles

Reiz, Jennifer D., Wilshire Law Firm, Los Angeles

Reutskiy, Daniel, Law Office of Daniel Reutskiy,
West Hills

Rill, Geoff B., Kerr & Sheldon, Fountain Valley

Rineer, Allegra, Kubota & Craig, Irvine

Roca, Jenna, Prevail Law, Glendale

Rogal, Justin R., Mann Rogal, Los Angeles

Rosal, Krystale, Fiore Legal, Monrovia

Rosensweig, Mitchell E., Schwimer Weinstein,
Santa Monica

Roven, Jonathan, Jonny Law, Van Nuys

Rubinstein, Michael E., Law Office of Michael E.
Rubinstein, Beverly Hills

Ruby, Emily, Greenberg and Ruby, Los Angeles

Sachs, Brett, MVP Accident Attorneys, Irvine

Sadighim, Ramtin R., Law Offices of Ramtin
Sadighim, Encino

Saeedian, Michael, Saeedian Law Group,
Beverly Hills

Saghian, Robin, Omega Law Group, Beverly Hills
Pg. 13

Samson, Ian, Panish | Shea | Boyle | Ravipudi,
Los Angeles

Sanchez, Carly L., Booth Law, Torrance

Sanchez, Michael A., Mendez & Sanchez,
Los Angeles

Sanvictores, Marguerite S., Panish | Shea | Boyle |
Ravipudi, Los Angeles

Saperstein, Lisa, Citywide Law Group,
Los Angeles

Sarapinian, Arsen, Law Offices of Arsen
Sarapinian, Beverly Hills

Sasooness, Shawn, Sasooness Law Group,
Los Angeles

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Sayaghi, Houman, West Coast Trial Lawyers,
Los Angeles

Saylor, Jefferson, The Saylor Firm, Los Angeles

Schwalbach, Jon, ElDabe | Ritter, Los Angeles

Sears, Kaitlin, MVP Accident Attorneys, Irvine

Seber, Jonathan, Seber Bulger, Beverly Hills

Selarz, Daniel E., Selarz Law Corp., Los Angeles

Seropian, Jacob H., Seropian Law, Pasadena
Pg. 13

Shahbazian, Melina, JT Legal Group, Glendale

Shahriari, Cyrus, Pietz & Shahriari, Culver City
Pg. 13

Shaller, John, Panish | Shea | Boyle | Ravipudi,
Los Angeles

Shapiro, Sutton A., Wilshire Law Firm,
Los Angeles

Shin, Jonathan Y., Shin Law Group, Irvine

Shirvanian, Narbeh, The Shirvanian Law Firm,
Glendale Pg. 13

Silverthorne, Ian, Silverthorne, Ladera Ranch

Skinner, Troy, Skinner Law Corp., Marina del Rey

Sohal, Kiran, Bridge Law, Anaheim

Soleimani, Nathan, Gould & Jefferson,
Beverly Hills

Soliman, Steven, The Soliman Firm, Costa Mesa

Spano, Evan, Harris Personal Injury Lawyers,
San Luis Obispo

Spitzer, Daniel A., Spitzer Legal, Calabasas

Stanley, Ryan, Stanley Law, Woodland Hills

Steele, Alexandra T., Steele Cooper Law,
Pasadena

Steele, JT, Montgomery Steele, Upland

Steelhead, Amelia A., Rose Klein & Marias,
Los Angeles

Sterin, Pavel, The Law Offices of Pavel Sterin,
Encino

Stuck, Gregory, Stuck Law Firm, Los Angeles

Talaie, Roxanna, Beverly Hills Attorney Group,
Beverly Hills

Talebi, Andrew A., The Javid Trial Firm,
Los Angeles

Tehrani, Itamar B. (Eddie), State Law Firm, Encino

Teller, Jon C., Wilshire Law Firm, Los Angeles
Pg. 13

Thomassian, Vache A., KJT Law Group, Glendale

Thompson, Randi L., Jacoby & Meyers,
Los Angeles

Tran, Derek T., The Tran Firm, Huntington Beach
Pg. 13, 14

Traut, Taylor T., Traut Firm, Santa Ana

Trotter, James M., Panish | Shea | Boyle | Ravipudi,
Los Angeles

Twomey, Jeff, Law Offices of Brian Breiter,
Los Angeles

Valero, Kyle H., Southwest Legal Group,
Woodland Hills

Vardanyan, Ruben, Vardanyan Law Firm,
Pasadena

Walker-Dupler, TC, The Law Brothers,
Beverly Hills

Weatherford, Natalie, Taylor & Ring,
Manhattan Beach Pg. 13, 14

Wegman, Atticus N., Aitken • Aitken • Cohn,
Santa Ana Pg. 13, 14

Weinberg, Yoni, Weinberg Law Offices,
Los Angeles

Weintraub, Jackie Leibl, Ardalan & Associates,
Newbury Park

Whibley, Matthew, The Vartazarian Law Firm,
Calabasas

Williams, Aric, Law Offices of Aric N. Williams,
Los Angeles

Wilson, Eric N., Parris Law Firm, Lancaster

Wood, Lauren R., Omega Law Group, Beverly Hills

Woolf, David, Woolf Legal, Van Nuys

Yaghoobian, Ashley, Omega Law Group,
Beverly Hills

Yamini Kohanbash, Shayda, Sharifi Firm,
Los Angeles

Yasin, Alaa A., Dordick, Beverly Hills,
310-551-0949 Pg. 17

Yebri, Alexander M., Hillcrest Law, Los Angeles

Yedidsion, Jonati, Yedidsion Seber Yedidsion,
Beverly Hills

Yektafar, Talia, Jacoby & Meyers, Los Angeles

Yerushalmi, David, Yerushalmi Law Firm,
Beverly Hills

Younes, Joseph Georges, BD&J, Beverly Hills

Younglove, Phillip, Younglove Law Group,
Newport Beach

Yovanovich, Peter, Law Offices of Preston Easley,
San Pedro, 310-832-5315

Zargar, Kaaveh K., Chris and Frank Accident
Attorneys, Costa Mesa

Zavala, Matthew A., Zavala Law, Ventura,
805-667-0398 Pg. 35

Zeesman, Alex, Accident Fighters, Porter Ranch

Zeesman, Diana, Accident Fighters, Porter Ranch
Zerbib-Berda, Nathan, The Law Office of Nathan Zerbib-Berda, Burbank

PERSONAL INJURY MEDICAL MALPRACTICE: DEFENSE

Chortanian, James A., Doyle Schafer McMahon, Irvine

Costa, Kaytee V., Kjar McKenna & Stockalper, Huntington Beach

Greco, Sara M., LaFollette Johnson DeHaas Fesler & Ames, Glendale

Grossman, Valarie C., Beach Law Group, Oxnard

Rezai, Mercedes, Carroll Kelly Trotter & Franzen, Long Beach

Velazquez, Danielle Corkhill, Kjar McKenna & Stockalper, Huntington Beach

PERSONAL INJURY MEDICAL MALPRACTICE: PLAINTIFF

Argos, Jason, Argos Law, Laguna Beach Pg. 13, 14

Hemesath, Michelle B., Ikuta Hemesath, Santa Ana

Ikuta, Benjamin, Ikuta Hemesath, Santa Ana Pg. 13, 14

Lopez, Amorina P., Lopez McHugh, Aliso Viejo

Van Allen, Brian, Belgium Fry & Van Allen, Glendora

Weiss, Lee, Hodes Milman Ikuta, Irvine

PERSONAL INJURY PRODUCTS: DEFENSE

Ayad, Sarah M., Snell & Wilmer, Costa Mesa

Bray, Kendra, Walsworth - WFBM, Irvine

Empting, Erin N., Jamison Empting Cronin, Los Angeles

Giaquinto, Michael, Hawkins Parnell & Young, Los Angeles

Hoffman, Nicholas J., McGuireWoods, Los Angeles

Moore, Ryan, Berkes Crane Santana & Spangler, Los Angeles

Nitoff, Christine V., Dykema Gossett, Los Angeles

Solorio, Chariese, Snell & Wilmer, Costa Mesa

Weiss, Nicholas A., David Weiss Law, Los Angeles

PERSONAL INJURY PRODUCTS: PLAINTIFF

Ammirato, Vincent S., Ammirato Legal, Aliso Viejo

Gamble, Tyson Brannan, MVP Accident Attorneys, Irvine

Kagan, Leah, Simon Greenstone Panatier, Long Beach, 562-590-3400 Pg. 27

Kanne, Christopher A., Engstrom Lipscomb & Lack, Los Angeles

Oganesyan, O. Hovik, Ness Law, Burbank

Stupak, Kseniya Y., MLG, Costa Mesa

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY: DEFENSE

Cole, Marshall R., Nemecek & Cole, Encino Pg. 13

Falcioni, Jonathan A., Poliquin & DeGrave, Laguna Hills

Verdon, Ashley H., Chapman Glucksman Dean & Roeb, Los Angeles

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY: PLAINTIFF

Mueller, Carl I. S., The Maloney Firm, El Segundo

REAL ESTATE

Ayar, Anna S., Pircher Nichols & Meeks, Los Angeles

Balali, Shideh N., Balali & Associates, Newport Beach

Blumenstein, Laura L., Blumenstein Law, Irvine

Brinton, Matthew L., The Brinton Firm, Los Angeles

Burton, Anthony W., AWB Law, Orange

Chaudhry, Rabia P., Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton, Costa Mesa

Cohanghadosh, Justin, Cohanghadosh Law, Calabasas

Daghbandan, Nema, Geraci, Irvine

Davidovits, Daphna R., Akerman, Los Angeles

Davis, Michael H., Greenberg Traurig, Los Angeles

Disposto, Anthony, Law Office of Anthony J. Disposto Esq., Irvine

Edlinger, Jason, Ezer Williamson Law, Torrance

Gomez, Mark, Gomez Law, Los Angeles

Greene, David R., Dignity Law Group, Van Nuys

Halford, Morgan M., Carlson & Cohen, Encino

Hamill, Julie, Hamill Law & Consulting, Rolling Hills Estates

Hammond, Whitney V., Goodwin Procter, Los Angeles

Howard, Elmira R., Anderson McPharlin & Conners, Los Angeles

Kellener, Joseph W., Dignity Law Group, Van Nuys

Keyes, Bradley A., Narvid Scott, Encino

Kodavardian, Shaunt, Goodwin Procter, Los Angeles

Kohanim, Aaron, Law Office of Aaron Kohanim, Los Angeles

Loeb, Joshua, Ervin Cohen & Jessup, Beverly Hills

Martinez, Mark S., The Law Offices of Mark S. Martinez, Santa Ana

Martorella, Melissa, Geraci, Irvine

Miller, Christine M., Law Offices of Christine Miller, Huntington Beach

Morgan, Cole F., Stuart Kane, Newport Beach

Nader, Nader A., Law Office of Nader A. Nader, Van Nuys

Nozar, Joshua B., Roseman Law, Woodland Hills

Reccius, Benjamin, Kimball Tirey & St. John, Los Angeles

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Shakouri, Michael A., Goodkin, Los Angeles
Snell, Shannon I., Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis, Los Angeles
Solomon, Hila, Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, Los Angeles
Stein, Charlie Z., Davidovich Stein Law Group, North Hollywood
Stone, Jason M., Stone & Sallus, El Segundo
Szczurek, Michael, Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, Los Angeles
Taran, David, Russ August & Kabat, Los Angeles
Teitelbaum, Daniel, Blackacre, Manhattan Beach
Tierney, Sean K., Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, Los Angeles
Tokar, Paul, Beitchman & Zekian, Encino
Wiesel, Daniel, Wolf Rifkin Shapiro Schulman & Rabkin, Los Angeles
Wilbert, Bryan A., Rutan & Tucker, Irvine
Wilke, Marshal P., Raines Feldman, Los Angeles
Zweig, Jonathan N., Cox Castle & Nicholson, Los Angeles

SCHOOLS & EDUCATION

Adams, Jackie-Lynn, Law Offices of Jackie Adams, Santa Monica
Becker, Michelle A., Law Office of Michelle Becker, Pasadena
Chang, Jennifer, Law Office of Jennifer S. Chang, Los Angeles
Patel, Sarita, Parker & Covert, Tustin

SECURITIES & CORPORATE FINANCE

Gertler, Matthew A., Zuber Lawler, Los Angeles
Reinus, Justin S., Winston & Strawn, Los Angeles

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Canape, Kendra S., Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, Irvine
Impellitteri, Ashley, Keesal Young & Logan, Long Beach
Kawabata, B. Makoa, Rosenberger + Kawabata, Los Angeles
Mahoney, Patrick R., The Law Offices of Patrick R. Mahoney, Beverly Hills Pg. 13
Mazingo, Andi, Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe, Los Angeles
Solish, Leanne Heine, Glancy Prongay & Murray, Los Angeles
Steinfeld, Jeffrey L., Winston & Strawn, Los Angeles
Walsh, Ryan, Latham & Watkins, Costa Mesa
Weitzman, Rachel A., Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, Irvine

STATE, LOCAL & MUNICIPAL

Guiboa, Ryan, Best Best & Krieger, Los Angeles

TAX

Amitrano, Jonathan, Law Office of A. Lavar Taylor, Santa Ana
Bitton, Gary, Greenberg Bitton, Beverly Hills
Broege, Gregory R., Ajalat Polley Ayooob Matarese & Broege, Glendale
Cable, Laura L., Cox Castle & Nicholson, Los Angeles
Gaglio, Ryan, Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth, Newport Beach Pg. 13, 14
McNaughton, Shaun, Brown & Streza, Irvine
Rospotnyuk, Irina, Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell, Irvine
Schwartz, Daniel C., Schwartz & Schwartz, Calabasas
Shirazi, Omid J., K&S Law Group, Newport Beach
Song, Ike, Sky Professional, Newport Beach
Teleoglou, Heather (Shelly), Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth, Newport Beach
Yen, Aaron C., Ascendant, Glendale

TECHNOLOGY TRANSACTIONS

Civalleri, Jason, The Internet Law Group, Beverly Hills
Craft, Senami, Gonsowski Law, Los Angeles
Li, Lily, Metaverse Law, Newport Beach
Worden, Brandy, Robins Kaplan, Los Angeles

TRANSPORTATION/MARITIME

Mahoney, Samantha, Peacock Piper Tong + Voss, Long Beach

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Adler, Jamie S., Law Office of Jamie S. Adler, Los Angeles
Andrade, Laura, Rossi Law Group, Simi Valley
Asseraf, Nir, Asseraf Law, Beverly Hills
Asuka, Dana, Berger & Michelena, Los Angeles
Bruner, Brant H., Windsor Troy, Los Angeles
Chakrian, Michael, C&B Law Group, Burbank
Chan, Timothy, Michael Burgis & Associates, Sherman Oaks
Chin, Daniel, Chin Law Group, Los Angeles
Cooper, Alan J., Dietz Gilmore & Chazen, Encino
Delasand, Brandon M., Ultimate Law Firm, North Hollywood, 818-821-8777 Pg. 29
Der-Grigorian, Leanna T., ODG Law Group, Glendale
Dodart, Jon, Perona Langer Beck Serbin and Harrison, Long Beach
Ewert, Elizabeth, Rossi Law Group, Simi Valley
Garabedi, Harbiks, Stander Reubens Thomas and Kinsey, Woodland Hills
Hamideh, Belal, Belal Hamideh Law, Long Beach

Heisler, Jeremiah A., Goldman Magdalin & Krikes, Woodland Hills

Izakelian, Carina, Michael Burgis & Associates, Sherman Oaks

Kantz, Evan S., Savin Bursk, Granada Hills

Khanuja, Neelu K., Khanuja Law Firm, Los Angeles, 310-861-2625 Pg. 35

Kropach, William H., Kropach & Kropach, Encino

Larson, Mark V., Larson Larson & Dauer, Mission Hills, 818-830-1910 Pg. 35

Lloyd, Caroline Song, Defense Advocacy Law Firm, Ontario

Lounsbury, Joseph E., Law Offices of Joseph E. Lounsbury, Santa Maria

Lucero, George, Lucero Law, Los Angeles

Mobassernia, Joseph, Law Office of Joseph Mobassernia, Los Angeles

Nakao, Jeff, Nakao Law, Lakewood

Portman, Stanislav, Albert & Mackenzie, Encino

Retter, Leonard V., Goldberg Segalla, Los Angeles

Roberts, Joshua D., Straussner Sherman, Van Nuys

Savin Kantz, Lonnie, Savin Bursk, Granada Hills

Singh, Pravin A., Michael Burgis & Associates, Sherman Oaks

Solimon, Peter, Solimon | Rodgers, Pomona

Takarlekian, Vatche, Work Injury Law Group, Lawndale

Tchoukadarian, Vahe, Stander Reubens Thomas Kinsey, Corona

Trejo, Beatriz A., Chain | Cohn | Stiles, Bakersfield Pg. 13, 14

Vassigh, Ali, Rossi Law Group, Simi Valley

Vego, Ryan J., Glauber Berenson Vego, Glendale

You, Samuel Sung H., Ro & You, Sherman Oaks

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Selected to Rising Stars

CHANTELLE AMELI

AMELI LAW GROUP
 12100 Wilshire Boulevard
 Suite M-50
 Los Angeles, CA 90025
 Tel: 323-655-1133
 Fax: 323-655-0441
 Chantelle@AmeliGroup.com
 www.AmeliGroup.com



ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS PERSONAL INJURY GENERAL: PLAINTIFF BUSINESS LITIGATION

Attorney Chantelle Ameli specializes in civil litigation, particularly the areas of contracts, including entertainment and music law, intellectual property, business and business litigation, personal injury, and workers' compensation. With her father, Mark K. Ameli, Esq., the Ameli Law Group was created. Chantelle has worked in the entertainment industry both in front of the camera and behind it. She also spent nearly a decade representing talent as an agent in Hollywood, CA and New York, NY. Attorney Ameli enjoys her time in front of the judge and jury, but also realizes that many issues can be resolved without the need for litigation. The Ameli Law Group can handle either route with absolute professionalism and ease.

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BRENDAN S. BURNS

BURNS LAW GROUP
17901 Von Karman Avenue
Suite 600
Irvine, CA 92614
Tel: 949-610-0680
Fax: 949-627-8115
Burns@bsbattorney.com
www.bsbattorney.com



PERSONAL INJURY GENERAL: PLAINTIFF
WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Representing the people of Southern California in the specialties of personal injury and workers' compensation, Brendan S. Burns is the founder and principal of Burns Law Group. Prior to forming Burns Law Group, Mr. Burns spent several years working for a prestigious Orange County insurance defense firm. Having worked for the "other side", Mr. Burns has a unique understanding of the inner workings of insurance companies and their tactics. In his practice, he skillfully employs this knowledge to obtain multiple high-dollar settlements and dispositions for his clients. Mr. Burns is recognized as a Top 10 Attorney by *Attorney and Practice Magazine* and the American Institute of Legal Counsel and is named a Top 100 Trial Attorney by the National Trial Lawyers Association.

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CHRISTOPHER M. ENGELS

ENGELS LAW APC
600 Anton Boulevard
Floor 11
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Tel: 949-269-7709
chris@engelslaw.com
www.engelslaw.com



FAMILY LAW
CIVIL LITIGATION: PLAINTIFF

Christopher Engels is an experienced, dedicated and thorough attorney with a passion for his clients. One of his greatest strengths is bringing real-life experience to his family law practice. Chris is a victim of Domestic Violence, divorced, and can relate to all of his clients that are suffering through these hard times. This compassion, caring and empathy that Chris has with his clients makes him more than a lawyer, it makes him personally invested in his clients' cases. Chris has also been through the minor's counsel training course so that he empowered himself with the training needed to help children navigate through these confusing times. This is very important, the children, they come first, and you won't find anyone that fights harder for the children than Chris.

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MARK V. LARSON
LARSON, LARSON & DAUER,
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15545 Devonshire Street
Suite 205
Mission Hills, CA 91345
Tel: 818-830-1910
Fax: 818-830-6966
mark@larsondauer.com
www.larsondauer.com



WORKERS' COMPENSATION
EMPLOYMENT & LABOR

Mark Larson is a partner at the workers' compensation firm, Larson, Larson & Dauer, ALC and the employment law firm, McIntyre & Larson, ALC. His law firms have obtained close to a billion dollars for their clients. Mark's practice is primarily focused on workers' compensation and employment law litigation. He is also one of the more well known "go-to" 3rd party cross-over attorneys in Los Angeles. Due to the success in his fields, Mark has been interviewed and discussed by Forbes and many other news and media outlets. Mark is from a family of attorneys and has grown up watching insurance companies repeatedly deny benefits to those that have been injured by their insured. This is how Mark began to develop a passion for the law and fighting against insurance companies.

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CHAD CHEN

YOKA | SMITH, LLP
445 South Figueroa Street
38th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90071
Tel: 213-427-2300
Fax: 213-427-2330
cchen@yokasmith.com
www.yokasmith.com



BUSINESS LITIGATION
CIVIL LITIGATION: DEFENSE
BUSINESS/CORPORATE

Chad Chen represents national and multinational clients in both litigation and non-litigation matters. Chad's litigation practice includes representing corporate clients in commercial and business disputes, product liability defense, and class action defense. Chad has represented small and large companies in commercial matters, as both plaintiff and defendant, involving breach and/or termination of complex contracts, misappropriation, patent and trademark infringement, breach of warranties, unfair competition, and fraud. Chad also routinely counsels corporate clients in pre-suit investigations, pre-suit demands and advises clients on liability and damage exposure analysis in pre-litigation matters.

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SHAFIEL A. KARIM

LAW OFFICE OF
SHAFIEL A. KARIM, P.C.
1150 East Wardlow Road
Long Beach, CA 90807
Tel: 562-653-6850
Fax: 562-285-9990
shafiel@skarimlaw.com
www.skarimlaw.com



EMPLOYMENT LITIGATION: PLAINTIFF
EMPLOYMENT & LABOR
CLASS ACTION/MASS TORTS

Shafiel A. Karim represents workers and small business employers throughout Southern California. Mr. Karim's practice is almost entirely dedicated to litigation and focuses on individual and class action employment law matters involving wrongful termination, harassment, retaliation, and wage and hour claims. Prior to law practice, he was a senior executive at a 150-person manufacturing company in Los Angeles. Mr. Karim earned a J.D. from Southwestern Law School, an MBA from the Claremont Colleges, an M.A. from CSU Long Beach, and a B.A. from CSU Fullerton. He is admitted to practice in California and the District of Columbia.

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ILANA P. SCHAUER

LAW OFFICE OF
ILANA P. SCHAUER
16133 Ventura Boulevard
Suite 700
Encino, CA 91436
Tel: 323-612-5153
Fax: 323-978-6157
ilana@lawofficeofips.com
www.lawofficeofips.com



FAMILY LAW

Ilana Schauer is the founder of the Law Office of Ilana P. Schauer. Ilana has successfully represented a wide range of clients since 2013 in cases with varying levels of conflict and complexity, including international issues. While Ilana encourages cooperation and settlement, she is a fierce litigator when necessary. Before becoming a lawyer, Ilana worked as a therapist with special needs children, preparing and implementing customized programs for her clients. Ilana attended Pepperdine Law School's Los Angeles and London campuses, earning her J.D. degree and criminal law certificate in 2013. Ilana was a Dean's Scholar while at Pepperdine and clerked for the Los Angeles County Public Defender and non-profit organizations in Los Angeles and the UK.

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WILLIAM COLLINS

THE LAW OFFICE OF
MARSHALL SILBERBERG
3333 Michelson Drive
Suite 710
Irvine, CA 92612
Tel: 949-718-0960
Fax: 949-266-5811
wcollins@silberberglaw.com
www.silberberglaw.com



PERSONAL INJURY GENERAL: PLAINTIFF
PERSONAL INJURY MEDICAL MALPRACTICE: PLAINTIFF

William Collins is a partner with The Law Office of Marshall Silberberg, which has office locations in Irvine and Los Angeles, California. A top ranked trial lawyer and emerging leader in his field, Mr. Collins provides exceptional counsel and support to clients throughout California who have suffered a serious injury or lost a loved one as a result of someone else's negligent, careless, or unlawful actions. Mr. Collins handles general personal injury and medical malpractice cases, including cases involving birth injury, stroke, brain injuries, and spinal cord injuries, among other areas. A 2008 graduate of the University of Southern California, Mr. Collins began his legal career in 2013 after obtaining his Juris Doctor from Loyola Law School Los Angeles.

Selected to Rising Stars

NEELU K. KHANUJA

KHANUJA LAW FIRM
645 West 9th Street
110-147
Los Angeles, CA 90015
Tel: 310-861-2625
neelu@khanujalaw.com
www.khanujalaw.com



WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Neelu K. Khanuja, Esq. is the founding partner of Khanuja Law, a California Workers' Compensation Law firm that puts people first. Ms. Khanuja obtained her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Southern California and her Juris Doctor from a Tier 1 law school in Arizona, Sandra Day O' Connor College of Law. She zealously advocates for injured workers in all areas of California state Workers' Compensation Law. Ms. Khanuja is a respected and published author in the industry. Her published articles have addressed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on workers' compensation and the implications of new case law. Outside of the office, Ms. Khanuja serves on the Board for the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles and for the 5 Rivers Foundation, a non-profit, scholarship organization.

Selected to Rising Stars

MATTHEW A. ZAVALA

ZAVALA LAW, PC
674 County Square Drive
Suite 207-A
Ventura, CA 93003
Tel: 805-667-0398
matt@zavalalawoffice.com
www.ZavalaLawOffice.com



PERSONAL INJURY GENERAL: PLAINTIFF

Matthew A. Zavala owns and operates the Ventura, CA law firm, Zavala Law, PC. He represents clients throughout Southern California involved in personal injury matters including motor vehicle accidents, slip-and-fall accidents, premises liability and wrongful death. After working for insurance companies and large corporations for nearly a decade, Mr. Zavala understands how these entities can manipulate accident victims to avoid paying full compensation, and he is able to employ appropriate countermeasures to maximize results. He started his firm in 2018 and in his spare time, serves as a part-time adjunct professor at The Santa Barbara & Ventura Colleges of Law.



Eli V.
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Claery and Hammond, LLP is an award-winning family law firm with a client-focused approach. Now in its third decade, partners Lance Claery and Eli V. Hammond have carefully selected a group of empathetic attorneys to build a powerhouse California divorce and family law firm. Experience and dedication are “must have qualities” for joining the successful team. Collectively, the firm’s attorneys have a century of experience in the family law space, with services that include move-away, child custody, support, domestic violence and divorce matters.

Claery became interested in family law while at the University of Maryland. When there, he helped families in poverty-stricken areas of Washington, D.C., build educational programs for their children. “I saw that they really needed help with their legal issues, and that’s what turned me on to the law,” he notes. The same holds true today. “When clients come to us, they’re going through a rough period in their life, and they deserve to have someone on their side.” He has worked with a diverse client base ranging across the economic spectrum. Claery is an active member of the University of Maryland Alumni Association and Johns Hopkins University Carey Business School.

Hammond’s educational background is diverse and omnipresent, beginning with the comprehensive foundation he received through the University of California, Santa Cruz. “A strong education is critical,” he emphasizes. From the start, family law interested Hammond the most, so he became certified as a Family Law Specialist through The State Bar of California. “A desire to help others has always been a strong inner voice for me,” says Hammond, “and I have happily done the work it takes to be the best attorney possible.” Over the years he has handled thousands of family law, civil litigation and federal matters and represented A-list celebrities, reality stars, chart-topping musicians, business owners, and NFL and NBA athletes with multimillion-dollar endorsements. He has been featured on “E! Entertainment” as a divorce expert. Hammond is proud to be active in the University of California, McGeorge School of Law and Johns Hopkins University communities.

“Our clients both expect and deserve results. ... And they should. We are passionate about our clients’ causes, and quite frankly, we want to prevail.”

CLAERY & HAMMOND, LLP

Los Angeles

Brentwood/Santa Monica
12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90025

P: 310.362.2273
TF: 877.756.4111

San Diego

Mission Valley
8880 Rio San Diego Drive
Suite 370
San Diego, CA 92108

P: 619.299.2008

claeryhammond.com

