
CHAMBERS USA 2026

The Leading Lawyers and Law Firms in the USA

California

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Antitrust

Antitrust
Leading Firms
Band 1
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
Band 2
Jones Day
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Band 3
Axinn
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Covington & Burling LLP
Crowell & Moring LLP
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Band 4
Alston & Bird LLP
Dechert LLP
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Farmer Brownstein Jaeger Goldstein Siegel
Morrison Foerster
Pillsbury
Vinson & Elkins LLP
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Alston & Bird LLP**What the team is known for**

Alston & Bird LLP is a well-known recognized antitrust practice, drawing praise for its litigation work. The firm is particularly well known for considerable expertise in pharmaceutical sector antitrust cases. The team is equally capable of representing large corporations as defendant or plaintiff.

Antitrust
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Warren Phillip Covington & Burling LLP
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Bitton Daniel S Axinn
Brass Rachel Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Cary George S Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Lee Belinda S Latham & Watkins LLP *
Lynch Niall Latham & Watkins LLP *
Nyong'o Heather Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Pfeiffer Alfred Latham & Watkins LLP *
Pomerantz Glenn D Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
Swanson Daniel G Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Tubach Michael O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Band 2
Byrne Brian Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
LeVee Jeffrey A Jones Day *
Yates Christopher S Latham & Watkins LLP *
Band 3
Enson Eric P Crowell & Moring LLP
Kiernan David C Jones Day
Murray Jason C. Crowell & Moring LLP
Polidora Roxane A Pillsbury
Rocca Brian C Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Scarborough Michael Vinson & Elkins LLP
Sessions Justina Freshfields US LLP (ORL) ◇
Singla Rohit Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
Srinivasan Jay P Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Band 4
Farmer William Farmer Brownstein Jaeger Goldstein
Goldstein David M Farmer Brownstein Jaeger Goldstein
Lau Bonnie Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Liversidge Sam Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Patchen Kate Covington & Burling LLP
Shah Sujal Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Siegel Marc Farmer Brownstein Jaeger Goldstein Siegel
Snyder Brent Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Sorensen Jacob R. Pillsbury
Ullman Howard Dechert LLP *
VanHooreweghe Jeffrey Wilson Sonsini Goodrich
Williams Valerie C Alston & Bird LLP *
Band 5
Adelson Eliot Morrison Foerster
Ballard Dylan Vinson & Elkins LLP
Bauer Ashley Latham & Watkins LLP *
Brownstein David Farmer Brownstein Jaeger Goldstein
Cohen Russell Dechert LLP *
Dearborn Meredith Dunn Isaacson Rhee LLP (ORL) ◇
Dusseault Christopher Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Kahn Lin W Jones Day
Lannin Cortlin Covington & Burling LLP
Lowery Michelle S. McDermott Will & Schulte (ORL) ◇ *
McIntyre Stephen Paul Hastings LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Olasa Kuruvilla Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
Paris Adam S Sullivan & Cromwell LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Park Chiu Michelle Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Raphael Justin P Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
Sandroek Ryan Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP (ORL) ◇
Ward Margaret A Jones Day
Up-and-coming individuals
Kleinbrodt Julian Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Ludwig Jordan Crowell & Moring LLP
Naranjo Minna Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP *
Solh Chahira Crowell & Moring LLP

Antitrust: Mainly Plaintiff	
Leading Firms	
Band 1	
Hausfeld	
Saveri Law Firm, LLP	
Susman Godfrey LLP	
Band 2	
Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy	
Girard Sharp	
Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP	
Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP	
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP	
Zelle LLP	
Band 3	
Berman Tabacco	
Crowell & Moring LLP	
Gaw Poe LLP	
Kesselman, Brantly & Stockinger LLP	
Pearson Warshaw, LLP	
Scott+Scott Attorneys at Law LLP	
Senior Statespeople	
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	
Cotchett Joseph Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy	
Leading Individuals	
Band 1	
Bonn Amanda Susman Godfrey LLP	
Jones Megan E Hausfeld LLP	
Saveri Joseph R Saveri Law Firm, LLP	
Scarlett Shana Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP	
Seltzer Marc Susman Godfrey LLP	
Sharp Dena C Girard Sharp	
Srinivasan Kalpana Susman Godfrey LLP	
Weaver Lesley Stranch, Jennings & Garvey, PLLC (ORL) ◇	
Williams Steven Steven Williams Law, P.C. (ORL) ◇	
Wolfson Adam Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP*	
Zahid Judith Zelle LLP	
Zapala Adam Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy	
Band 2	
Chan Lin Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP	
Coughlin Patrick Scott+Scott Attorneys at Law LLP	
Davis Joshua P Berger Montague (ORL) ◇	
Glackin Brendan P. Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein	
Harvey Dean Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP	
Kesselman David Kesselman, Brantly & Stockinger LLP	
Lebsack Christopher Hausfeld	
Micheletti Christopher Zelle LLP	
Mogin Dan Mogin Law LLP (ORL) ◇	
Sasse Daniel A Crowell & Moring LLP	
Seaver Todd Berman Tabacco	
Warshaw Daniel Pearson Warshaw, LLP*	
Up-and-coming individuals	
Grzenczyk Scott Girard Sharp	
Harrington Ben Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP	
T. Rankie Heather Zelle LLP	
* Indicates individual with profile.	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

Strengths

"The team is responsive, high value and skilled at anticipating future areas of antitrust litigation."

Work highlights

Alston & Bird LLP represented Microsoft as lead trial counsel in a private merger challenge filed by ten gamers in the Northern District of California attempt to block its \$69 billion proposed acquisition of gaming company Activision Blizzard.

Notable practitioners

Valarie Williams manages a wide range of antitrust litigation for clients in the technological, financial and food industries. **Strengths:** "Valarie's approach is pragmatic, she understands business needs as well as the legal needs."

Axinn

What the team is known for

Axinn houses a distinguished antitrust team. The group is well versed in merger clearance, litigation and government investigations. The firm is particularly active in the technology industry. The team has significant experience in international cases, regularly appearing before US and international regulatory bodies.

Notable practitioners

Daniel Bitton assists clients on agency investigations, civil and criminal litigation and merger control issues, often with an international dimension. **Strengths:** "Daniel is incredibly practical, he ensures advice can be used in a practical, business-forward way."

Berman Tabacco

What the team is known for

Berman Tabacco is a distinguished antitrust team, respected for its plaintiff representation. The firm has considerable experience in class action cases. The group is active in a wide range of industries, including financial services and automotive.

Work highlights

Berman Tabacco represented SBCERA in an action alleging conspiracy to restrain trade in violation of section 1 of the Sherman Act in connection with an alleged conspiracy by certain banks to fix prices of sovereign debt.

Notable practitioners

Todd Seaver is an experienced antitrust practitioner with expertise handling matters for plaintiffs. He frequently acts for clients in the financial and pharmaceutical sectors.

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

What the team is known for

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP has a growing practice in California offering expertise across antitrust litigation, M&A and agency investigations. The team is also regularly called upon for compliance counseling. The group has noted experience pertaining to a wide range of industries including technology and healthcare.

Strengths

"The team at Cleary are first-rate lawyers and deep subject matter experts. They have seen it all and posses immense pattern recognition skills."

Work highlights

Cleary Gottlieb served as antitrust counsel to Tempur Sealy, in a vertical merger challenge brought by the FTC.

Notable practitioners

George Cary is recognized as one of the industry's foremost experts in antitrust matters, with clients benefiting from his tremendous depth of expertise in complex transactional matters and in litigation. He is dually resident in the firm's DC and San Francisco offices. **Strengths:** "George has great experience, insight and has a perspective that you can't just pick up from reading cases." **Heather Nyong'o** is a prominent antitrust practitioner who handles

governmental investigations and international cartel disputes. **Strengths:** "Heather is a zealous advocate, very sharp and has great credibility with the Department of Justice." "Heather is very good tactically, particularly on litigation matters." **Brian Byrne** is a highly rated antitrust specialist with a broad array of expertise in transactional and litigation matters. He is based in both the firm's Palo Alto and Washington, DC offices. **Strengths:** "Brian provides clear guidance and is a great advocate for his clients."

Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy

What the team is known for

Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy is a highly regarded firm dedicated to the representation of plaintiffs in significant antitrust class actions. The team deftly manages anticompetitive behavior cases in the energy, transportation and consumer electronics sectors.

Notable practitioners

Joseph Cotchett has decades of experience practicing in the space and is renowned for his abilities at trial. **Adam Zapala** has considerable expertise in the representation of large plaintiff classes in antitrust disputes. He is regularly instructed in high-profile claims. **Strengths:** "Adam is brilliant and has a great economic mind."

Covington & Burling LLP

What the team is known for

Covington & Burling LLP is a strong antitrust practice with an increasing presence in California. The group advises clients such as software, electronics and life sciences companies on regulatory compliance and high-value transactions. The firm also has considerable expertise in the financial sector and represents a number of clients in the energy industry. The antitrust team frequently appears in criminal and civil litigation and is held in high regard for its work on cartel cases and white-collar crime cases with antitrust implications.

Notable practitioners

Phillip Warren is recognized for his years of experience in criminal antitrust matters. Clients benefit from his decades-long career in the DOJ Antitrust Division. He is well placed to advise on internal compliance investigations. **Strengths:** "Phil is a very thoughtful individual who has many years of experience in criminal antitrust matters." **Kate Patchen** regularly handles high-stakes cartel proceedings. She is particularly recognized for her work on behalf of clients in the tech sector. **Strengths:** "Kate understands the importance of providing practical business advice." **Cortlin Lannin** is a distinguished attorney recommended for his broad antitrust practice. He regularly appears before US and international regulatory bodies in complex investigations and litigation.

Crowell & Moring LLP

What the team is known for

Crowell & Moring LLP is recognized for its broad practice which covers defense-side criminal and civil litigation as well as plaintiff-side opt-out litigation. The firm works with a broad range of clients in the telecommunications, technology and healthcare industries. The team also provides advice on regulatory compliance and the antitrust aspects of M&A transactions and handles cases concerning price-

fixing conspiracies, monopolization claims and anti-competitive contracting.

Strengths

"Crowell has the antitrust expertise to provide excellent advice but also understands business needs." "The team at Crowell & Moring were absolutely amazing, both nationwide and on specific local knowledge."

"The Crowell team has particularly deep experience in the healthcare industry."

Work highlights

Crowell & Moring advised RTX Corporation in a punitive class action that alleged that RTX, and five engineering companies, entered an illegal 'no-poach' agreement to refrain from recruiting from each other's aerospace workers.

Notable practitioners

Daniel Sasse is particularly noted for his astute representation of corporate plaintiffs in recovery actions. He is further commended for his handling of antitrust investigations and litigation as well as the merger clearance process. **Strengths:** *"Dan combines an incredible knowledge of antitrust law with a deep understanding of his client's business and needs."* Eric Enson is recognized for his handling of litigation on behalf of clients in the technology and manufacturing industries. **Strengths:** *"Eric is an outstanding advocate and he has a great demeanor in trial."* Jason Murray co-chairs the firm's antitrust practice and has extensive experience litigating monopolization and price-fixing cases. **Strengths:** *"Jason has a great way of distilling complex issues down and also keeping in mind the client's ultimate needs in a case."* Jason has a great presence in the courtroom. He is amiable and likeable while at the same time effective.

Jordan Ludwig is an up-and-coming practitioner noted for his representation of clients in antitrust litigation. He is particularly skilled in handling matters in the healthcare sector. **Strengths:** *"Jordan is one of the brightest up and coming partners in our field. He is someone with deep antitrust expertise and a work ethic that is off the charts."* **Chahira Solh** handles a broad range of antitrust work including class action litigation and agency investigations. She is well placed to advise clients on matters involving allegations of no-poach agreements. **Strengths:** *"Chahira is pleasant to work with, knowledgeable, practical and sophisticated in thinking strategically."* *"Chahira is an absolutely amazing, whip smart, intelligent strategic thinker and knows everyone in the industry which is super helpful."*

Dechert LLP

What the team is known for

Dechert LLP is highly regarded for capabilities across all aspects of antitrust work. The firm offers clients notable strength in high-stakes antitrust litigation. It acts for a broad client roster including food and healthcare sector companies.

Strengths

"Dechert knows our business exceptionally well. The firm is extremely responsive and is very strategic in its advice and guidance. We receive excellent counsel and all-round work from this team." *"Dechert is brilliant academically. It brings a really strong knowledge of antitrust principles which can be a really thorny and esoteric area of law. Its attorneys are strong at outside-the-box thinking."*

"Dechert has a deep understanding of our business model, as well as of the applicable law. It is therefore uniquely positioned to provide meaningful and accurate guidance. Dechert's advice is never abstract or general, it is always given with our very specific situation in mind."

Work highlights

Dechert LLP represented CMC in the defense against Pacific Steel Group's claims under California's Cartwright Act and common law alleging unfair competition and below cost and loss leader pricing.

Notable practitioners

Howard Ullman is recognized for his expertise at the intersection of antitrust and IP law. He regularly represents technology companies in complex litigation.

Strengths: *"Howard stands out, he is just terrific. He is thoughtful, brilliant and extremely responsive."*

"His work is very thorough and thoughtful." *"Howard is fantastic. His advice is always grounded in the law while carefully balanced against practical business concerns and our unique position in the marketplace."* *"Howard is informative, communicative and explains the pros and cons of whatever positions he is describing so we always feel fully informed and up to speed on the risks."* **Russell Cohen** is especially adroit at tech-related antitrust matters, alongside displaying notable acumen in other unfair competition disputes. **Strengths:** *"Russell is excellent in all domains. He is a strategic, effective litigator and negotiator. He is a master of the facts and details."*

"Russell is a deep strategic thinker and is adaptive and responsive." *"Russell brings an unusual ability to cut through dense legal and economic issues and frame them in a way that keeps strategy and execution aligned. In high-stakes antitrust disputes, particularly in tech, he combines intellectual rigor with a collaborative style that inspires confidence."*

DLA Piper LLP (US)

What the team is known for

DLA Piper LLP is particularly recognized for strong capabilities in the cartel space. The antitrust team also demonstrates notable expertise in complex civil antitrust litigation. The firm represents multinational clients in the technology, healthcare and insurance sectors.

Farmer Brownstein Jaeger Goldstein Siegel & Shepard LLP

What the team is known for

Farmer Brownstein Jaeger Goldstein Klein & Siegel LLP is a go-to antitrust shop highlighted for its broad expertise. The group regularly advises on criminal and civil antitrust disputes such as cartel investigations, price-fixing claims and large class actions. The team is also able to provide compliance counseling.

Strengths

"Farmer Brownstein is fantastic. Substantively, the firm has excellent lawyers."

"Farmer Brownstein has fantastic attorneys."

"Farmer Brownstein punches so high above its weight for a boutique law firm."

Notable practitioners

William Farmer is a noted litigator in the California Bar, well placed to advise on complex antitrust disputes. **Strengths:** *"William is a great lawyer. He is savvy and concise; he is the real deal."* David Goldstein is highlighted for his broad litigation practice

and his abilities at the intersection of antitrust and IP. He is well placed to handle significant litigation concerning allegations of monopolistic conduct, price-fixing and cartel behavior. **Strengths:** *"David is a great thought partner."* **Marc Siegel** brings previous DOJ experience to bear when advising clients on criminal antitrust matters. **Strengths:** *"Marc also worked for the DOJ and is extremely experienced. He is highly regarded in the criminal antitrust space."* **David Brownstein** acts for clients across a wide range of industries in complex litigation. He offers notable expertise in antitrust disputes involving allegations of price-fixing and monopolization. **Strengths:** *"David is a smart antitrust lawyer and has deep expertise."*

Gaw | Poe LLP

What the team is known for

Gaw Poe represents plaintiffs in antitrust disputes, with particular experience in price discrimination matters under the Robinson-Patman Act and California's Unfair Practices Act. The firm is well regarded for handling claims involving unfair pricing practices and related competition issues.

Strengths

"Gaw Poe's understanding of both the more traditional and technical straightforward price discrimination analysis sets them apart from other firms."

Work highlights

Gaw Poe represented Pitco Foods and a group of other general goods wholesalers that sued Prestige Brands for illegal price discrimination under the federal Robinson-Patman Act and the California Unfair Practices Act.

Notable practitioners

Mark Poe is a key contact at the firm.

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

What the team is known for

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP has a renowned group with a deep bench of talented antitrust practitioners. The group offers expertise in private litigation and government reviews of M&A activity, as well as general antitrust counseling. The firm's leading cartel practice frequently acts for industry giants on complex external investigations involving multiple regulators. The team increasingly acts for technology industry clients on antitrust matters which cross over with IP issues, and regularly handles large class actions relating to alleged price fixing and anticompetitive behavior. Gibson Dunn is able to draw on a network of national and international offices to manage multijurisdictional and multinational matters.

Strengths

"Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher have high level of expertise in antitrust law."

"The team at Gibson Dunn have unparalleled expertise, leadership in the field and strategic thinking."

Work highlights

Gibson Dunn represented Matson Navigation Company, in an antitrust action related to cargo container shipping in the close-knit Guam shipping community.

Notable practitioners

Rachel Brass co-chairs the firm's antitrust and competition group. She is highly regarded for her work across complex merger clearances as well as high-stakes investigations and enforcement

proceedings. She is noted for her adroit handling of sophisticated class action litigation. **Strengths:** “Rachel is insightful, responsive and pleasant to work with.” “Rachel is commercially extraordinarily aware and is also very prompt.” “Rachel is one of the best and most savvy attorneys; her expertise combined with her top-level client service make her stand out above her peers.” Daniel Swanson is a prominent antitrust practitioner noted for his decades of experience leading high-stakes civil and criminal litigation. He deftly manages price-fixing, monopolization and exclusive dealing allegations and is at home tackling large multidistrict class actions. He also lends his expertise to transactional clearance work and follow-on litigation. **Strengths:** “Dan is an academic antitrust guru.” Jay Srinivasan is a litigator noted for his experience in the antitrust space. He often handles price-fixing disputes. **Sam Liversidge** is noteworthy for guiding clients through complex multidistrict class action, deftly managing allegations of monopolization, predatory pricing and conspiracy. **Strengths:** “Sam has very sound judgment.” “Sam is great in terms of thinking of the bigger picture.” **Christopher Duseault** is a litigator with notable expertise in antitrust class actions. He regularly handles price-fixing disputes on behalf of clients in the real estate and sport industries. **Strengths:** “Christopher is excellent and responsive.” “Christopher is really great at managing complex litigation as well as massive sprawling class actions.” **Julian Kleinbrodt** is an up-and-coming attorney who advises clients on sophisticated antitrust litigation. He is particularly recognized for his work on behalf of corporate clients in the technology sector. **Strengths:** “Julian is also incredibly knowledgeable on the economics side and he really understands how to break down issues that can be complicated.”

Girard Sharp

What the team is known for

Girard Sharp is a San Francisco-based firm offering sophisticated plaintiff representation in antitrust disputes. It is particularly known for handling complex class actions. The group is also noted for its expertise in the healthcare space.

Notable practitioners

Dena Sharp is commended for her strong plaintiff-side antitrust practice. She provides deft representation to large plaintiff classes in litigation against multinational companies. **Strengths:** “Dena is great, he is really dynamic and an effective litigator.” “Dena is dedicated, smart and well spoken.”

Scott Grzenczyk is an up-and-coming practitioner noted for his representation of plaintiffs. He regularly advises clients in class and individual actions. **Strengths:** “Scott is smart, dependable and good to work with.”

Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP

What the team is known for

Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP is commended for deft handling of high-stakes antitrust litigation on behalf of large plaintiff classes. The firm is well known for handling large pharmaceutical, financial services and computer hardware cases.

Notable practitioners

Shana Scarlett is highly regarded for her representation of plaintiffs in multidistrict class action

litigation. She regularly works with groups of participants in the IT component space, often securing multimillion-dollar settlements. **Ben Harrington** is recognized for his work managing class and individual action litigation. He is especially adept at representing plaintiffs in antitrust matters. **Strengths:** “Ben is like the nuts and bolts of writing; he is a core member of every antitrust case of the firm.”

Hausfeld

What the team is known for

Hausfeld LLP demonstrates considerable expertise leading antitrust class actions on behalf of plaintiffs from a plethora of industries. The group regularly pursues significant cartel damages cases.

Strengths

“Hausfeld is a powerhouse plaintiff practice in complex litigation, predominantly in the antitrust realm.”

Work highlights

Hausfeld represented a class of consumers, for the District of Utah, who purchased archery products. The lawsuit alleges that leading archery equipment manufacturers and major national retailers conspired to fix prices through the enforcement of Minimum Advertised Pricing policies.

Notable practitioners

Megan Jones is commended for her expertise in representing corporate plaintiffs in cartel recovery actions. She is further noted for her work leading large class action cases. **Strengths:** “Megan is cool on her feet, very rapid at processing and responding to critical information and acts with sufficient confidence.” “Megan is really exceptional at aggressive discovery and managing experts.” **Christopher Lebsock** is recognized for his work representing plaintiffs in the antitrust space. He frequently acts for clients in sophisticated class actions.

Jones Day

What the team is known for

Jones Day houses an accomplished California antitrust team that employs its global reach to tackle complex and multijurisdictional antitrust issues. The team regularly acts on merger clearance matters for major transactions before global competition authorities. The firm also advises clients during criminal investigations and litigation relating to price fixing, monopolization and other anticompetitive behavior. Its client base includes leading healthcare providers, manufacturers and technology companies.

Strengths

“Jones Day do an excellent job of briefing the complex issues in an accessible way.”

“The team at Jones Day are very good at curating the info we need so we don’t get a 20-page memo with lots of footnotes; we get what we need to know how to make good decisions.”

Work highlights

Jones Day represented Google in a Ninth Circuit appeal of an order dismissing an antitrust class action against the company.

Notable practitioners

Jeffrey LeVee is an accomplished antitrust litigator who acts for healthcare, pharmaceutical and technology companies. David Kiernan is an experienced antitrust practitioner who frequently acts on large-scale class actions. Among his clients he can count

major corporations in technology, healthcare, and gas and oil. **Strengths:** “David is an extraordinarily well seasoned trial litigator who is outstanding at simplifying complex litigation.” “David is extraordinary, he is tough but extremely judicious and pragmatic.” Lin Kahn is an up-and-comer noted for her handling of agency investigations and significant litigation. She is particularly well placed to lead clients through antitrust matters in the tech sector. **Strengths:** “Lin does an excellent job of briefing the complex issues in an accessible way.” “Lin is a rising star. She knows how agencies think and is able to provide this perspective to her clients which makes her guidance sharper.” Margaret Ward acts for clients in merger clearance proceedings, regularly presenting before government competition agencies. She also handles antitrust compliance counseling and conducts investigations. Her clients are drawn from the IT, finance and healthcare industries. **Strengths:** “Margaret is savvy, observant and picks up a lot of subtlety quickly.” “Margaret is a good issue-spotter and she has got a business-savvy approach.”

Kesselman, Brantly & Stockinger LLP

What the team is known for

Kesselman, Brantly & Stockinger LLP is a boutique highlighted for its strong plaintiff-side representation. The team is especially well-versed in handling class and individual action litigation. The firm is further well known for its ability to handle litigation involving monopolization claims.

Strengths

“Kesselman Brantly have deep connections within both the state of California and federal enforcement departments that allows for more candid conversations and ability to resolve challenges to M&A deals.”

Work highlights

Kesselman, Brantly & Stockinger represented AIDS Healthcare Foundation in litigation against pharmacy benefits manager Express Scripts.

Notable practitioners

David Kesselman has considerable experience as a litigator. He is particularly noted for his representation of plaintiffs in high-stakes antitrust class actions. **Strengths:** “David has an encyclopedic knowledge of antitrust law, a professors erudition and the ability to communicate.” “David brings great substantive depth to all of his cases; he is who you want for complex and sophisticated work.”

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for

Latham & Watkins LLP is a highly respected antitrust practice with recognized strength in its San Francisco and Los Angeles offices. The team excels in merger clearances and cartel defense and offers particular expertise in matters involving IP issues, especially for technology companies. The antitrust group is frequently retained in large scale class actions and investigations, acting for clients such as major pharmaceutical, life science and electronic manufacturing companies. It also has noted capability handling highly complex antitrust litigation at both trial and appellate levels. Latham & Watkins offers accomplished DOJ and FTC-facing representation aided by several team members offering former governmental experience.

Strengths

"Latham & Watkins provides a very integrated approach."

"Latham is incredibly responsive and is able to provide high-quality advice, with little to no advanced warning."

"The firm's breadth of knowledge and global coverage, alongside their deep understanding of the regulators, sets them apart from other firms in this space."

Work highlights

Latham & Watkins defended Michelin in class actions filed by direct and indirect purchasers of replacement tires. The case alleges Michelin and other leading tire manufacturers conspired to fix prices throughout the global pandemic.

Notable practitioners

Belinda Lee handles a broad range of antitrust work including cartel defense, private and class action litigation and agency investigations. She appears before US and international regulatory bodies. **Strengths:** *"Belinda is super practical, very strategic and misses nothing."* **Niall Lynch** skillfully manages cartel matters including high-stakes DOJ investigations. He also leads clients through follow-on civil litigation. **Strengths:** *"Niall is profoundly knowledgeable on the criminal side."* *"Niall knows the players, knows how it works and knows the law inside-out."* **Alfred Pfeiffer** leads complex antitrust trials for prominent companies in the healthcare, agricultural and telecommunications sectors. Christopher Yates offers leading technology and sports industry clients expert representation across a wide range of anticompetitive behavior lawsuits. **Strengths:** *"Christopher's experience and knowledge of this sector make him stand out."* *"Christopher does an amazing job at distilling it down so that it's understandable by lay individuals."*

Ashley Bauer handles complex antitrust matters, including government investigations and follow-on civil litigation. She is particularly regarded for coordinating multi-jurisdictional cases relating to price-fixing and damages actions. **Strengths:** *"Ashley is able to explain complicated antitrust class-action principles and present them in a way anyone could understand."*

Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP**What the team is known for**

Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP is a recognized plaintiff-side firm known for its representation of corporates and consumers. The team is particularly noted for its expertise in employee litigation including no-poach agreements.

Notable practitioners

Lin Chan is a talented practitioner noted for her representation of plaintiffs in issues including, challenging M&A activity, price fixing and monopolization matters. **Strengths:** *"Lin presents things clearly and boils them down to their main components."* **Brendan Glackin** represents large purchaser classes in multidistrict class action litigation in commodities, property and pharmaceutical sectors. **Strengths:** *"Brendan is highly intelligent and knowledgeable in this practice area."* **Dean Harvey** is well regarded for his handling of significant antitrust litigation. He regularly handles a broad range of disputes including allegations of price-fixing and

no-poach agreements. **Strengths:** *"Dean is smart, has quality ideas and he has an original way of looking at things."*

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP**What the team is known for**

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP is a well-regarded group that regularly appears in antitrust litigation and cartel investigations. The team also counsels clients on antitrust concerns arising from transactions. Morgan Lewis's impressive client base includes major technology companies and beverage distributors. The firm is also recognized for its ability to provide cross-border antitrust counseling. The group has further expertise in matters concerning no-poach agreements. Its wide client roster additionally includes those in the energy, sport and telecommunications spaces.

Strengths

"Morgan Lewis is very sensitive to businesses desires. The team is interested not only thinking about litigation, but being attuned to business interests as a whole and able to give legal advice that supports those interests."

"Morgan Lewis builds strong client relationships across product areas and delivers strategic counsel for emerging changes in the tech industry."

"Details are important and Morgan Lewis & Bockius were able to find case law and break it down for lay clients."

Work highlights

Morgan Lewis & Bockius represented Takeda Pharmaceutical Company in putative direct-purchaser and end-payer class actions brought by Actos Antitrust Litigation, alleging that Takeda monopolized a market for the diabetes drug Actos by improperly listing certain patents in the Food and Drug Administration's Orange Book in violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Act and analogous state laws.

Notable practitioners

Brian Rocca is an experienced antitrust litigator who represents large clients in monopolization, price-fixing and anticompetitive contracting disputes. **Strengths:** *"Brian is a top-notch communicator; he is extremely responsive, patient and works well with other partners from other firms handling companion matters."* **Sujal Shah** is particularly recommended for his representation of clients in litigation. He also provides business antitrust counseling. **Strengths:** *"Sujal is a top-notch lawyer who always strives to find pragmatic solutions to complex problems."* *"Sujal is someone you want with you in the trenches."* **Michelle Park Chiu** is a highly regarded antitrust lawyer who handles complex antitrust and commercial disputes across federal and state courts. She is noted for her work on cases involving price fixing and monopolistic practices. **Strengths:** *"Michelle provides clear strategy and knowledgeable advice in a complicated area of law."* *"Michelle is an extremely strategic thinker and has great courtroom awareness."* **Minna Naranjo** is an up-and-comer noted for her expertise in litigation. She handles a broad range of disputes including allegations of price-fixing. Naranjo has notable strength in the technology markets. **Strengths:** *"Minna does a great job with managing complex document and discovery disputes."* *"Minna is a very strategic attorney and has an ability to think about the case from the big-picture point of view*

and strategize." *"Minna gives practical advice, is extremely responsive and is savvy to the latest developments in industry and law."*

Morrison Foerster**What the team is known for**

Morrison Foerster houses a well-regarded antitrust group adept at handling investigations, government enforcement actions and litigation in the technology, telecommunications and life sciences sectors. Boasting a global footprint, the firm's California-based practitioners work closely with offices throughout the USA and worldwide. The firm is particularly well known for its close relationships with leading Japanese corporates and frequently represents these clients in US antitrust matters.

Strengths

"The firm has experienced lawyers who identify the relevant issues and suggest the best course of action for clients. The team is good and responsive."

"Morrison Foerster is responsive and has a good bench. Its attorneys are very experienced in their respective areas."

Work highlights

Morrison Foerster represented Teradata in a suit against SAP America for trade secret misappropriation, copyright infringement and antitrust violations.

Notable practitioners

Eliot Adelson acts for clients across a wide range of industries in complex antitrust disputes. He offers notable expertise in cartel defense. **Strengths:** *"Eliot is an experienced and sophisticated lawyer. He understands the issues and needs of clients and provides quick responses."* *"Eliot is brilliant. He is practical, efficient, smart and helpful."* *"Eliot is a good attorney who is methodical in going through whatever the situation is and what the litigation is about."*

Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP**What the team is known for**

Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP is a respected practice that advises clients from a broad range of industries on all aspects of antitrust law. It has a strong litigation bench that frequently appears in class actions, anticompetitive suits and criminal proceedings. The firm has notable expertise in the media and entertainment space, as well as handling matters regarding patents and reverse payments in the pharmaceutical sector. The team has further experience representing clients in the transport industry and has additional proficiency in managing antitrust aspects of joint ventures and M&A.

Strengths

"The team at Munger, Tolles & Olson are very strategic thinkers."

"The California team were exceptional with the litigation, they have a real expertise."

"The team at Munger Tolles were knowledgeable and able to assemble a team who had all the skills necessary to do the job."

Work highlights

Munger, Tolles & Olson acted as lead counsel for BNSF Railway and co-lead a joint defense team for the four largest railroads in the US on more than 100 antitrust price-fixing cases.

Notable practitioners

Glenn Pomerantz skillfully manages antitrust disputes for clients in the media, technology and enter-

tainment industries. His skills extend to litigating merger challenges on behalf of government bodies. He also turns his hand to transactional antitrust advice. **Strengths:** *"Glenn is a top-notch lawyer who always strives to find pragmatic solutions to complex problems."* **Rohit Singla** is particularly noted for his expertise at the intersection of antitrust and IP law. He clients are chiefly drawn from the technology and healthcare industries. **Strengths:** *"Rohit is a thoughtful litigator on the types of arguments to make with the court."* *"Rohit is skilled and experienced in tech and antitrust issues."* **Kuruvilla Olasa** has a growing practice in litigation in the antitrust space. He also regularly provides advice to clients regarding compliance matters. **Strengths:** *"Kuruvilla is a top-notch lawyer who always strives to find pragmatic solutions to complex problems."* *"Kuru is good at recognizing what exactly is going to be important in the court."* *"Kuruvilla is an expert at dealing with the other side; he is really deft at managing relationship with the other side."* Justin Raphael is commended for his experience across a broad range of antitrust matters. He is particularly skilled in handling antitrust compliance counseling for a range of corporate clients. **Strengths:** *"Justin is extremely hard-working, a great writer and thinker. He can take an issue and look at it from all angles in order to come up with new ways to approach it."*

O'Melveny & Myers LLP

What the team is known for

O'Melveny & Myers LLP impresses with its handling of merger clearances, civil and criminal litigation and government investigations. It is a popular choice of counsel for multidistrict litigation arising from a range of industries, acting for clients such as manufacturers and technology companies. The group advises on a range of claims relating to antitrust law, including unfair competition, monopolization and price fixing.

Strengths

"The team at O'Melveny & Myers bring a wealth of knowledge to our work, they are extremely thorough and trustworthy."

"The team at O'Melveny have very good case analysis and provide strong arguments. They look at things from a business perspective and provide solid legal advice."

Work highlights

O'Melveny & Myers represented Alaska Airlines in obtaining clearance from the Department of Justice after a second request investigation for Alaska Airlines' acquisition of Hawaiian Airlines.

Notable practitioners

Michael Tubach is an accomplished litigator who turns his hand to sophisticated civil antitrust disputes and criminal cartel cases. He has tremendous experience arguing cases at both trial and appellate levels. **Strengths:** *"Michael is purpose driven and extremely knowledgeable in his craft."* *"Michael is extremely knowledgeable and does an excellent job. He is also a real trial lawyer, which is very helpful."* *"Michael is extremely intelligent and has good business acumen."*

Pearson Warshaw, LLP

What the team is known for

Pearson Warshaw LLP is recognized for considerable expertise leading class action litigation on

behalf of consumers and other plaintiff classes. The firm is home to a number of skilled trial lawyers.

Work highlights

Pearsons Warshaw acted as co-counsel for the plaintiff North American Soccer League LLC in an antitrust case against defendants United States Soccer Federation, Inc., and Major League Soccer, LLC.

Notable practitioners

Daniel Warshaw is a go-to antitrust litigator and he is particularly well known for his work in class actions. He is regularly sought out for his strong knowledge of anticompetitive conduct in a range of industries including sport.

Pillsbury

What the team is known for

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP is commended for representation of large corporations in the electronics components, energy and telecom sectors in defense of class and competitor actions. The firm is further noted for offering transactional antitrust counsel for significant corporate transactions.

Strengths

"Pillsbury is very client service-oriented."

"Pillsbury has extensive experience and strong expertise in antitrust class actions. The firm's analyses and advice are consistently precise and timely, allowing us to fully understand the case and make informed decisions during negotiations. The team demonstrates expertise, analytical capability and prompt advisory skills grounded in strong legal and economic judgment."

"Pillsbury exhibits a strong understanding of the client and the situation. The firm can cut to the chase in a lot of dialogues. I've never felt there was something beyond their capabilities."

Work highlights

Pillsbury represented The Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Junior University in a class-action lawsuit filed by two former college students against the College Board and 40 universities, including Stanford, for allegedly violating the antitrust laws with a conspiracy to increase attendance costs.

Notable practitioners

Roxane Polidora is recognized for her broad antitrust practice handling class and individual action defense for large corporates. She regularly acts for clients across a broad range of industries including hospitality and technology. Jacob Sorensen represents corporations in the healthcare, technology and energy sectors in complex antitrust litigation. He also provides general antitrust counseling.

Strengths: *"Jacob has strong commercial awareness and a solid understanding of business needs."*

"Jacob is an outstanding lawyer, extremely sophisticated, commercially aware and makes the effort to learn his client's business."

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

What the team is known for

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP houses a notable antitrust practice that is recommended for the group's representation of plaintiffs. The team is particularly adept at handling antitrust litigation for opt-out plaintiffs. It is particularly well regarded for its expertise regarding allegations of price-fixing

and no-poach.

Strengths

"Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan are very responsive to their clients – they handled the cases well, were easy to work with and were accommodating in helping with those issues."

Work highlights

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan represented Pacific Steel Group in an antitrust lawsuit against Commercial Metals Company, the jury awarded Pacific Steel \$110 million in damages.

Notable practitioners

Adam Wolfson is recognized for his abilities as a litigator. He is particularly skilled at handling antitrust litigation for opt-out plaintiffs. **Strengths:** *"Adam has a very good sense of how to position corporate clients."*

Saveri Law Firm, LLP

What the team is known for

Saveri Law Firm, LLP is a highly regarded antitrust boutique dedicated to plaintiffs' representation. The team leads complex multidistrict class action litigation on behalf of tech, pharmaceutical and sports sector participants. The firm is esteemed for securing significant victories in monopolization, price-fixing and pay-for-delay cases.

Strengths

"The team at Saveri Law firm have a deep knowledge base of antitrust law."

"The lawyers at the firm are excellent litigators who can handle all of the complex aspects of antitrust litigation from pre-complaint investigation, to drafting initial papers, to oral arguments."

Work highlights

Saveri Law Firm acted as co-lead counsel representing professional mixed martial arts fighters in an antitrust class action against Zuffa. Plaintiffs alleged UFC unlawfully obtained monopoly power by acquiring its largest rivals and locking the best MMA fighters into long-term exclusive contracts.

Notable practitioners

Joseph Saveri is an esteemed plaintiffs' attorney well known for his work leading class action litigation against industry giants in the tech, pharmaceutical and manufacturing sectors. He has market-leading expertise in price-fixing, monopolization and conspiracy claims. **Strengths:** *"Joseph is able to develop and execute case strategy that maximizes the likelihood of succeeding and ultimately maximizes recovery for the class."*

Scott+Scott Attorneys at Law LLP

What the team is known for

Scott+Scott Attorneys at Law is noted for its work in plaintiff-side competition litigation, with experience in cases involving price-fixing, bid-rigging and market allocation. The firm regularly handles claims relating to alleged monopolistic behavior and abuse of market power across industries.

Strengths

"The team at Scott+Scott provide easy to understand information and do an excellent job following up on communication."

"They are highly competent attorneys with considerable knowledge and experience in litigating large and complex antitrust cases."

Work highlights

Scott+Scott Attorneys at Law served as counsel on

behalf of the over-the-counter bond class in a case alleging price fixing conspiracy among banks to fix the price for UK government bonds.

Notable practitioners

Patrick Coughlin is based out of the San Diego office and brings experience acting in securities and derivatives linked antitrust cases. **Strengths:** "Patrick is one of the preeminent lawyers in the plaintiffs bar across disciplines. He is highly skilled and nothing fazes him."

Susman Godfrey LLP

What the team is known for

Susman Godfrey LLP is a well-known firm offering expert representation of plaintiffs in sophisticated price-fixing and monopolization claims. The firm is regularly instructed in large class actions against multinational companies in the tech, media and financial sectors.

Strengths

"The team at Susman Godfrey are expert in the various bodies of law and as litigators they are creative, innovative and pragmatic."

"Susman is an elite firm from top to the bottom."

Work highlights

Susman Godfrey represented the plaintiffs in a case against the NFL alleging the NFL engaged in a conspiracy and violated the antitrust laws through its Sunday Ticket offering. The plaintiffs were awarded \$4.7 billion in damages.

Notable practitioners

Amanda Bonn is recommended for her plaintiff-side antitrust practice. She has experience in a range of antitrust claims. **Strengths:** "Amanda is one of the most talented litigators of her generation. She's smart, sophisticated and delivers under pressure." "Amanda is an excellent strategic thinker, good writer and a good manager of the team."

Marc Seltzer is an expert litigator recognized for his considerable expertise leading huge class actions on behalf of plaintiff classes of every stripe. **Strengths:** "You couldn't get a better antitrust lawyer than Marc." "Marc is the scholar of antitrust law." **Kalpana Srinivasan** has notable expertise in antitrust cases, often handling plaintiff-side representation in large-class action litigation.

Vinson & Elkins LLP

What the team is known for

Vinson & Elkins LLP is a respected practice that advises clients across a broad range of antitrust matters. The team excels at handling both criminal and civil investigations. The lawyers are well-suited to serve clients from a number of industries including real estate and tech.

Strengths

"The team at Vinson & Elkins have specialized knowledge, strong strategic thinking that accounts for legal, organizational, reputational and other business risks."

"Vinson & Elkins has the expertise and connections in the antitrust world to provide great representation and advice."

Work highlights

Vinson & Elkins represented RB Global and Rouse Services in a putative nationwide antitrust class action. The lawsuit alleged RB Global conspired to fix the prices of construction equipment rentals through benchmarking and data analytics tools pro-

vided by Rouse.

Notable practitioners

Michael Scarborough handles a variety of antitrust litigation on behalf of technology, finance and manufacturing clients. He has expertise in both civil and criminal litigation as well as agency enforcement proceedings. **Strengths:** "Michael provides great legal support and is knowledgeable in his specialization." **Dylan Ballard** has a notable practice advising clients in large-scale antitrust class actions and investigations. He regularly handles matters with cross-border elements.

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

What the team is known for

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati offers clients full-spectrum support on antitrust matters. The antitrust team is able to assist on merger control, government investigations and litigation. The firm is particularly strong when acting for technology sector clients.

Strengths

"Wilson Sonsini is a Silicon Valley legacy legend with connections everywhere."

"The team at Wilson Sonsini are extremely well organized, they always have the details at hand and apply a level of detail in their work that creates a high level of confidence."

Work highlights

Wilson Sonsini represented Viatrix in the Generic Pharmaceuticals Pricing Antitrust Litigation.

Notable practitioners

Bonnie Lau has a deep antitrust knowledge and regularly assists clients on complex litigation as well as government investigations. **Brent Snyder** is a respected practitioner who handles investigations and international cartel disputes. He is active in the logistics, contracting, fashion and media industries. **Strengths:** "Brent's experience is invaluable in the support he provides and he constantly uses this to help decide the most suitable course of action." **Jeffrey VanHooreweghe** covers the full spectrum of antitrust mandates. He offers expertise in merger clearance, government investigations and antitrust litigation.

Zelle LLP

What the team is known for

Zelle LLP is an accomplished firm recognized for skillful representation of plaintiffs in both class and competitor actions. The team is particularly notable for expertise in cross-border matters. The firm is well placed to advise clients across a range of industries including healthcare and advertising.

Strengths

"The team at Zelle are skilled litigators."

Work highlights

Zelle represented United HealthCare in an antitrust for an alleged conspiracy to fix prices.

Notable practitioners

Judith Zahid is commended for her representation of large plaintiff classes in complex damages cases. She also lends her expertise to corporate plaintiffs in significant individual actions. **Strengths:** "Judith is at the top of the market." "Judith is top-notch." **Christopher Micheletti** is recognized for his representation of plaintiffs in class action litigation. He regularly acts for clients in price-fixing matters. **Heather Rankie** is an up-and-coming practitioner

who is commended for her representation of clients in sophisticated antitrust disputes. She often lends her expertise to counseling clients in the healthcare sector. **Strengths:** "Heather has got a tenacious reputation for digging into issues and really working hard." "Heather is extremely capable partner on ABA matters and a worthy adversary as opposing counsel."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Joshua Davis of Berger Montague has a practice which focuses on antitrust litigation, with particular expertise in appellate work and class certification issues. He is noted for his experience in procedural and ethical aspects of complex class actions. **Strengths:** "Josh is often the brains behind a case theory, and is especially skilled at boiling down a complicated case theory into terms that are accessible to a jury." "Josh is an intellectual powerhouse and a guiding influence in a large number of highly complex antitrust matters."

Meredith Dearborn of Dunn Isaacson Rhee LLP is a go-to litigator in the antitrust space. She often represents clients in the technology sector. **Strengths:** "Meredith is a brilliant strategist who synthesizes legal analysis like no one I have ever seen." "Meredith is extremely diligent and hard-working."

Michelle Lowery of McDermott Will & Schulte advises on a range of antitrust matters, including issues arising under the Sherman Act, Clayton Act and California Competition statutes. She is experienced in representing clients in civil investigations. **Strengths:** "Michelle is aware of her clients' business and what they need. She's able to connect them with people that can service those needs." "Michelle understands complex issues and articulates them in a way the business can understand and appreciate."

Stephen McIntyre of Paul Hastings is a recognized well-regarded partner due to his notable mandates defending household-name corporations in antitrust litigation. **Strengths:** "Stephen knows the law inside and out and he provides really practical advice."

Dan Mogin of Mogin Law is commended for his skills in sophisticated in antitrust proceedings. He represents plaintiffs across a broad range of industries including tech and financial services.

Adam Paris of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP is highlighted for his broad antitrust practice including high-stakes class actions. He excels in merger reviews and challenges. **Strengths:** "Adam is a talented well-respected attorney in the antitrust space, he uses critical and strategic thinking to balance litigation exposure with potential results." "Adam is an excellent antitrust defense lawyer. He is smart, practiced and effective in the courtroom."

Ryan Sandrock of Shoot, Hardy & Bacon is well versed in antitrust litigation, with a focus on matters involving the housing sector. He has noteworthy experience in class actions concerning alleged rent-setting practices and claims under the Sherman Act. **Strengths:** "Ryan is excellent, he is extremely knowledgeable about what is going on in antitrust." "Ryan is really good at connecting with clients and he has the DOJ gravitas."

Justina Sessions of Freshfields LLP is a prominent

antitrust litigator with significant expertise in representing clients in the technology sector. **Strengths:** “Justina combines her litigation background but also competition expertise creating the perfect touchpoint.” “Justina is highly intelligent, a strategic lawyer and has been wonderful in court with both

direct and cross examinations.”

Lesley Weaver of Stranch, Jennings & Garvey is a go-to plaintiff-side lawyer highlighted for her ability to handle large class actions. **Strengths:** “Lesley is great; she is a good all-around lawyer and very practical.”

Steven Williams of **Steven Williams Law, P.C.** is highly regarded for his deft representation of plaintiffs across an array of anticompetitive issues in federal and state court. He has a strong track record leading large plaintiff classes in industry-significant price-fixing litigation.

Banking & Finance

Banking & Finance	Banking & Finance	
Leading Firms	Senior Statespeople	
Band 1	Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	Weise Steven O <i>Proskauer Rose LLP</i> *
Kirkland & Ellis LLP	Benjamin Alan <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP</i>	
Latham & Watkins LLP	Leading Individuals	
Band 2	Band 1	Rosenbaum Gary B <i>McDermott Will & Schulte (ORL)</i> ◇
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP	Bell Katherine E. <i>Paul Hastings LLP</i> *	Spitzer Mark <i>Holland & Knight LLP</i>
Paul Hastings LLP	Dieck Brenda <i>White & Case LLP</i>	Zaltzman Haim <i>Latham & Watkins LLP</i> *
White & Case LLP	Montgomery Cromwell <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>	Band 4
Band 3	Montgomery Sandra Lee <i>Proskauer Rose LLP</i> *	Callobre Anthony R <i>Buchalter, LLP</i> *
Buchalter, LLP	Band 2	Cheng Andrew W <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>
Goodwin	Avram Darío D. <i>Morrison Foerster</i>	Gillison Robert <i>Buchalter, LLP</i> *
Holland & Knight LLP	Bosworth Jason <i>Latham & Watkins</i> *	Glassman Austin <i>Kirkland & Ellis LLP</i> *
McGuireWoods LLP	Finley Zachary S <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP</i>	Harris Cate Jan <i>Katten</i>
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP	Ford Brian <i>Kirkland & Ellis LLP</i> *	Kanchanapoomi Nisha <i>Kirkland & Ellis LLP</i> *
Morrison Foerster	Gregson Gabriel F <i>Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP (ORL)</i> ◇	Sayegh Leila B. <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom</i>
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP	Hildebrandt Jennifer B <i>Paul Hastings LLP</i> *	Schoenholz William <i>Buchalter, LLP</i> *
Proskauer Rose LLP	Holt Josh <i>Latham & Watkins LLP</i> *	Szurley Peter S <i>McGuireWoods LLP</i>
Band 4	Jindal Sonali Shah <i>Kirkland & Ellis LLP</i>	Willner Robert A <i>Buchalter, LLP</i> *
Alston & Bird LLP	Lim Fred N <i>Kirkland & Ellis LLP</i>	Band 5
Blank Rome LLP	Morrison Robert <i>Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP (ORL)</i> ◇ *	a Marca Gian-Michele <i>Cooley LLP</i>
Cooley LLP	Stoddard Marshall C <i>Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP</i>	Barshop Melissa <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>
DLA Piper LLP (US)	Wrynski Matthew J <i>Alston & Bird LLP</i> *	Brown Dylan <i>Goodwin</i> *
Katten	Band 3	Hutchins Laurie <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>
O'Melveny & Myers LLP	Burke Peter <i>Sidley Austin LLP</i> *	Lin David <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP</i>
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP	Exberger Chris <i>Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP</i>	Rosen Dayan <i>McGuireWoods LLP</i>
Sidley Austin LLP	Hellman Dolph <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP</i>	Schwartz Matthew <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP	Lim Glen <i>O'Melveny & Myers LLP</i>	Sparks Lindsay <i>Paul Hastings LLP</i> *
* Indicates individual with profile.	Miller Steven L <i>Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP</i>	Up-and-coming individuals
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	Namazie Hamid <i>Holland & Knight LLP</i>	Moudgil Bharat <i>Proskauer Rose LLP</i> *
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	Ring Kristopher <i>Goodwin</i> *	Ramirez Shana <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>

Band 1

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

What the team is known for

Kirkland & Ellis stands out for its high-level expertise in advising private equity funds on debt and acquisition financings. It is highly active in representing alternative investors. The firm has a go-to debt financing group acting for borrowers and lenders, while also offering experience of restructuring matters.

Strengths

“The Kirkland & Ellis team provides best-in-class service.”

“The team at Kirkland & Ellis is available whenever you need them.”

“The team at Kirkland & Ellis are the best of the best. They are extremely hard-working, top practitioners, smart and impactful.”

“Kirkland & Ellis has a great team, a deep bench and every transaction feels incredibly well-resourced.”

Work highlights

The Kirkland & Ellis team represented Stonepeak in a comprehensive liability management exercise and refinancing transaction that is valued at \$5.5 billion.

Notable practitioners

Brian Ford is a respected figure in the California market who is noted for his expertise in debt and acquisition financings. **Strengths:** “Brian has an incredible awareness of the market, is very efficient, and thoughtful and proactive.” **Sonali Shah Jindal** regularly acts for noteworthy private equity clients on a host of corporate financings. Fred Lim's client roster includes notable private equity sponsors, whom he typically acts for on leveraged financings. **Strengths:** “Fred is fantastic debt counsel.” Los Angeles-based **Austin Glassman** is praised for his ability to assist with acquisition financings

for investment firms. **Strengths:** “Austin is creative, responsive and detail-oriented.” **Nisha Kanchanapoomi** is recognized for her role on significant financing transactions. **Strengths:** “Nisha is an absolute client service star. She is always available and pushing to close the deal.”

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for

Latham & Watkins has a world-renowned finance group with an established position at the forefront of the California market. It regularly acts on behalf of top-tier clients across the whole spectrum of industries, with a concentration on emerging growth companies, providing expert representation for both borrowers and lenders in a variety of leveraged financing transactions. The firm is particularly noted for its entertainment finance capabilities.

Strengths

"The expertise and experience of the lawyers in Latham & Watkins team is world-class."

"The team at Latham & Watkins are as sophisticated as it gets."

Work highlights

The Latham & Watkins team represented Revolution Medicines in a \$2 billion financing concerning royalty and structured debt in a partnership with Royalty Pharma.

Notable practitioners

Jason Bosworth's finance practice sees him advising a range of clients, including banks and private equity sponsors, on lending transactions.

Strengths: *"Jason is even-keeled, unflappable and a total joy to work with."* **Josh Holt** counts both corporate borrowers and financial institutions as part of his client roster. **Strengths:** *"Josh brings both a wealth of commercial finance experience and knowledge with an A+ demeanor and service."*

Haim Zaltzman is held in high regard for his mid-market debt finance practice.

you from the beginning to the end."

"The team does a great job of synthesizing sophisticated matters and explaining the relevant business considerations to deal teams."

Notable practitioners

Katherine Bell is noted for her strong ABL practice, as well as her ability to act on matters across the wider financing space. **Strengths:** *"Katherine is very creative and thoughtful in structuring our deals."* *"Katherine is a true business partner and trusted resource."* Jennifer Hildebrandt advises lender-side clients on domestic and cross-border leveraged financings.

Strengths: *"Jennifer is an excellent lawyer with particularly strong knowledge of intralender dynamics."* *"Jennifer is always available and very knowledgeable."* **Lindsay Sparks** has extensive experience in all aspects of representing companies on the borrower side of matters. Her clients stem from the technology and energy sectors. **Strengths:** *"Lindsay truly goes above and beyond."*

White & Case LLP

What the team is known for

White & Case has a strong West Coast finance group with national and international experience. It counts household-name financial institutions among its clientele and is active in a diverse range of industries, including healthcare, technology and automotive.

Strengths

"The White and Case team has superb communications and always provides timely and relevant advice."

"The White & Case team offers attention to detail, responsiveness, deep understanding and creativity."

Work highlights

The White & Case team represented JPMorgan Chase in the refinancing of revolving credit facilities with aggregate value of \$4.825 billion for Xcel Energy, acting as the administrative agent and lead arranger.

Notable practitioners

Brenda Dieck boasts substantial knowledge of the banking and finance space and is highlighted for her ability to act for both traditional banks and private equity clients. **Strengths:** *"Brenda is a strong negotiator. She has outstanding knowledge of law and debt restructuring."* *"Brenda is the top in her field. She is an incredible resource and strikes the right balance of deep legal knowledge with an appropriate commercial approach."*

Band 3

Buchalter, LLP

What the team is known for

Buchalter, LLP has an extensive team of lawyers with a strong reputation on a range of transactional matters, including asset-based lending and large syndicated loans. It offers capabilities in areas such as technology finance and agricultural finance, with particular expertise on cross-border work. The team regularly acts for lenders on acquisition financing transactions, with additional sector-specific experience in manufacturing.

Strengths

"The Buchalter team is strong from top to bottom." *"The Buchalter team offers experience, knowledge*

and practical solutions."

Notable practitioners

Anthony Callobre demonstrates a wealth of experience across the banking and finance space. He is well known for his work on mid-market debt financing transactions. **Robert Gillison** has experience representing banks and organizations in acquisition financings and asset-based loan transactions. He routinely advises clients on matters concerning the energy and technology sectors.

Strengths: *"Robert is incredibly thoughtful, knowledgeable and experienced."* **William Schoenholz** is typically engaged by lending institutions for his expertise in syndicated financings. Robert Willner focuses his practice on providing counsel to banks on their commercial lending transactions. As chair of the leveraged ESOP finance practice, he is notably adept at structuring ESOP transactions. **Strengths:** *"Robert is truly an expert in the ESOP financing field."*

Goodwin

What the team is known for

Goodwin has a strong lender practice with additional expertise assisting borrowers in the middle market. It is well placed to handle acquisition finance matters in addition to working capital financings. The firm acts for a wide range of clients, including sponsors and regional corporates.

Strengths

"The Goodwin team handles their assignments perfectly."

"Goodwin are exceptional in terms of their knowledge, market awareness, structure and sophistication."

Notable practitioners

Kristopher Ring gains recognition for his work on behalf of private equity sponsors. His practice involves advising on various loan facilities.

Strengths: *"Kristopher is really responsive and is extremely knowledgeable."* *"Kristopher puts in a tremendous amount of effort into every deal."* *"Kristopher is incredibly thoughtful and knowledgeable on all things debt."* **Dylan Brown** is highly experienced in financing transaction matters and is regularly sought to advise on complex issues by private equity sponsors, public and private companies from the tech sector. **Strengths:** *"Dylan Brown is responsive, detail-oriented and pragmatic."*

Holland & Knight LLP

What the team is known for

Holland & Knight fields a well-regarded group of finance attorneys. The group is recognized for its representation of lenders and corporate borrowers in a myriad of finance transactions including, acquisition financings, asset-based loans debtor-in-possession financings.

Notable practitioners

Hamid Namazie is recognized for his comprehensive banking and finance practice, which has a particular emphasis on advising lenders. **Mark Spitzer** routinely advises his lender-side clients on corporate financings.

McGuireWoods LLP

What the team is known for

McGuireWoods has an established finance practice that has capabilities across both big-ticket syndi-

Band 2

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

What the team is known for

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher provides expert representation of corporate borrowers and private equity funds complemented by a strong lender practice. The team has eminent acquisition financing expertise, with a team of lawyers providing vast expertise across a range of high-value transactions including significant real estate deals.

Strengths

"The strength of the Gibson team is their ability to be technical and practical in providing their services."

Work highlights

The Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher team represented Brinker International in the refinancing of their revolving credit agreement.

Notable practitioners

Cromwell Montgomery is lauded for his top-notch acquisition finance capabilities. **Strengths:** *"Cromwell is an efficient and intelligent financing lawyer."* *"Cromwell is fantastic to work with. He is a trusted adviser and his responsiveness is almost real time."* Andrew Cheng is noted for his ability to handle debt financing and associated securities offerings. His client base includes a number of private equity firms. **Melissa Barshop** routinely provides counsel to lenders on highly complex transactions. She demonstrates her ability to handle a range of issues, including acquisition financings and debt restructurings.

Paul Hastings LLP

What the team is known for

Paul Hastings is a robust finance group that offers a full-service practice with nationwide capabilities and resources. It works with a broad range of clients in a variety of sectors. The firm is frequently retained to handle large-scale leveraged financing transactions. It is active in a number of industries, with a particular focus on transactions in the health-care space.

Strengths

"The team at Paul Hastings have deep knowledge of the ever-changing debt markets. They take care of

cated financings and a range of midmarket transactions. It is regularly sought by a diverse array of clients including financial institutions and corporate borrowers from different industries, including retail and manufacturing.

Strengths

"The team at McGuireWoods offers very good communication and is easy to work with."

Notable practitioners

A key component of Peter Szurley's practice is his capability to act for lenders in cross-border aviation financing. His broader practice encompasses various methods of asset-based and corporate financing. **Dayan Rosen's** clients greatly benefit from the breadth of expertise he has to offer. He's regularly sought after to assist with a variety of finance transactions including, asset-based loans, mezzanine deals and acquisition financings.

Strengths: *"Dayan is a pragmatic attorney who truly understands how to navigate the inherent conflict between legal matters and commercial resolution."* *"Dayan is extremely knowledgeable, available and commercial."*

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

What the team is known for

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius has an active financing group that is regularly sought after by premier financial institutions, most notably with respect to its asset-based lending practice. It maintains a strong corporate borrower client base and additionally highlighted for its lender-side entertainment finance practice.

Strengths

"The Morgan, Lewis & Bockius team offers experience, timeliness and thoroughness."

Notable practitioners

Los Angeles-based Marshall Stoddard is regularly sought after for his leading ABL practice. His clientele of leading financial institutions also calls upon him in the provision of acquisition financing. **Chris Exberger** is noted for his representation of high-profile commercial lending institutions. Steven Miller's practice sees him act for private equity sponsors on a range of commercial financing transactions. **Strengths:** *"Steven knows how to cut through the fat and avoid the noise."*

Morrison Foerster

What the team is known for

Morrison Foerster maintains an impressive borrower-side client roster while also offering extensive experience in acting for lenders and credit funds. It has comprehensive experience on a variety of transactions, including acquisition financings and syndicated lending. The team has a prominent presence in impact lending around socially conscious ventures, such as clean energy projects.

Strengths

"The team at Morrison Foerster is able to be on the pulse for us."

"The team at Morrison Foerster went beyond what they had to do. They answered the phones at all hours."

Work highlights

The Morrison Foerster team advised Upland Software in their \$240 million term loan and \$30 million revolving facility to refinance their existing term loan facility.

Notable practitioners

Dario Avram receives market recognition for his expert representation of private equity companies in the acquisition financing space. **Strengths:** *"Dario is a tremendous partner. He has demonstrated thoughtfulness and expertise no matter what the engagement is."* *"Dario is an extremely skilled attorney; great balance of commercial and technical."*

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

What the team is known for

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe has an extensive finance practice fielding significant national and international capabilities as well as deep relationships with California-based clients. Its broad experience includes complex venture debt financing, acquisition financing and transactions involving Native American gaming entities. The team stands out for its accomplished public finance arm and representation of states, cities, counties and public bodies. It is well positioned to act for clients operating within the direct lending space.

Strengths

"The Orrick team has an elite level of experience and availability."

"The Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe team offers expertise, practicality and efficiency."

Work highlights

The Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe team represented Trucordia in their \$2.9 billion debt refinancing.

Notable practitioners

Veteran practitioner **Alan Benjamin** has a leading reputation in the California finance market. He is especially noted for his contribution to the area of project finance. Zachary Finley's versatile corporate finance practice sees him acting on both domestic and cross-border transactions. **Strengths:** *"I appreciate his calm and level-headed approach to negotiations."* **Dolph Hellman** is regularly consulted by venture-backed clients for his expertise in debt financings. He has experience handling multijurisdictional matters. **Strengths:** *"Dolph is a wealth of information."* *"Dolph is very responsive. He offers realistic legal advice and is always diligent."* **David Lin** is a sought after practitioner, representing major financial institutions in their secured and unsecured finance transactions. He is noted for his expertise in casino gaming financing. **Strengths:** *"David Lin is incredibly responsive, thoughtful and creative."* *"David offers a high-level of service and responsiveness."* *"David demonstrates deep subject matter expertise."*

Proskauer Rose LLP

What the team is known for

Proskauer Rose is highlighted for its broad-based finance expertise which sees it act for lenders, borrowers and sponsors across a range of regulated industries. It has notable depth in leveraged financing transactions and distressed lending. It is a standalone practice complemented by firm-wide strength in areas such as tax. The lawyers have industry-specific knowledge relating to sports, healthcare, media and gaming, among others.

Strengths

"The team at Proskauer Rose are problem-solvers and they are very proactive."

Notable practitioners

Steven Weise is a preeminent authority in the finance market. He is typically sought by clients to act on structured finance matters. **Sandra Lee Montgomery** impresses commentators with her strength in acting on behalf of lenders and private equity funds. Her practice covers commercial transactions and financings. **Strengths:** *"Sandra's subject matter expertise never fails to amaze us."* **Bharat Moudgil** is recognized for his corporate finance work in which he regularly assists lender clients with a range of transactions. **Strengths:** *"Bharat is extremely thorough, highly responsive and has a strong understanding of the market and our firm's needs."* *"Bharat is always available and very knowledgeable."*

Band 4

Alston & Bird LLP

What the team is known for

Alston & Bird boasts a talented bench of partners in the banking and finance space. The team demonstrates its ability to represent both lenders and borrowers, including private equity funds and commercial banks. The group is notably adept at providing counsel on asset-based lending deals. Its practitioners also routinely assist clients on debt and high-yield bond financings.

Strengths

"The Alston & Bird team's practical experience leads to the firm being a trusted adviser that we turn to for creative structures and solutions."

Work highlights

The Alston & Bird team acted for World Acceptance Corporation in a matter related to obtaining a revolving credit facility with an aggregate amount of \$640 million.

Notable practitioners

Matthew Wrynski is sought out by private equity funds for his strong representation in acquisition financings. **Strengths:** *"Matthew's biggest strength is outlining complex, difficult concepts in an easy-to-understand way."* *"Matthew is detail-oriented, has very good business sense and has a great presence."*

Blank Rome LLP

What the team is known for

Blank Rome acts on behalf of lenders and borrowers, offering their clients expertise in the financial services sector. Their capable team is often acting on behalf of banks, public and private institutions as well as commercial finance companies.

Strengths

"The Blank Rome team brings great experience to the table and their level of service is greatly appreciated."

Cooley LLP

What the team is known for

Cooley's group offers its clients complete coverage in lender, borrower and sponsor matters. The team is renowned for its ability to handle matters arising from the technology and life sciences sectors. Its practitioners have experience in advising on complex acquisition financings and asset-based financings, as well as debt and equity restructuring.

Strengths

"The Cooley team offers deep experience, high attention to detail and quick turnaround."

Work highlights

The Cooley team represented Uber Technologies in an investment-grade revolving credit facility with a value of \$5 billion.

Notable practitioners

Mischi a Marca is frequently called upon to handle debt financing transactions for both lender and borrower side clients. He has particular expertise in the life sciences sector. **Strengths:** *"Gian-Michele is very knowledgeable and instills comfort and confidence."*

DLA Piper LLP (US)

What the team is known for

DLA Piper houses a strong team of banking and finance lawyers, with a particular focus on venture lending. The group is well-equipped to assist banks and private credit funds with various finance transactions both domestically and internationally.

Strengths

"The DLA Piper team has expertise around the interplay between corporate finance facilities and asset-based lending facilities."

Work highlights

The DLA Piper team represented Concord in a estimated \$1.8 billion securitization with the issuance of senior notes.

Notable practitioners

Laurie Hutchins is lauded for her considerable expertise in finance transactions. She is particularly well known for her work in the life sciences and technology sectors. **Strengths:** *"Laurie will move mountains to ensure you are getting the proper advice."* *"Laurie's understanding of the nuances of venture banking make her an exceptionally thoughtful partner."* **Matthew Schwartz** is held in high regard for his lender-side practice. He demonstrates considerable strength in providing counsel to clients on financing matters in the healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors. **Strengths:** *"Matthew is always available and takes time to build the relationship."* **Shana Ramirez** is an up-and-coming lawyer with experience representing banks through cross-border and complex transactions. She has experience providing counsel on syndicated credit facilities.

Katten

What the team is known for

Katten is renowned for its strong bench of distinguished practitioners in the space. The team has considerable experience acting on behalf of both lenders and borrowers across a range of deals. The group handles numerous multijurisdictional transactions, including acquisition financings and asset-based financings.

Strengths

"The Katten team is very good at sophisticated sub-lines."

Notable practitioners

Jan Harris Cate of Katten is highly adept at assisting clients with complex acquisition financing matters. She has considerable experience providing counsel on issues containing international elements. **Strengths:** *"Jan's communication is exceptional. Her breadth of experience never ceases to surprise me and she is always level-headed and clear in her guidance."*

O'Melveny & Myers LLP

What the team is known for

O'Melveny & Myers boasts a prominent banking and finance practice. The California based team offers their clients expertise in corporate finance transactions, including mezzanine debt financings, bridge loans and credit facilities.

Strengths

"The team at O'Melveny & Myers is very adept at negotiating highly complicated agreements."

Work highlights

The O'Melveny & Myers team advised Myriad Genetics in closing a five-year senior secured term loan in a \$200 million matter.

Notable practitioners

Glen Lim is noted for his skills in leveraged finance transactions. He often works with private equity firms.

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

What the team is known for

Paul Weiss offers a robust banking and finance practice, advising their clients on a broad spectrum of complex domestic and cross-border matters. The California team have notable expertise in negotiating credit facilities, leveraged buyouts and recapitalizations. Leveraging their multidisciplinary team, the firm represents a diverse clientele, with a notable presence in the healthcare and energy sectors.

Strengths

"The Paul Weiss team are excellent. They are thoughtful and creative."

Work highlights

The team advised Envestnet in relation to their \$4.5 billion take-private acquisition by Bain Capital.

Notable practitioners

Caroline Epstein is a key contact.

Sidley Austin LLP

What the team is known for

Sidley Austin boasts a renowned banking and finance practice. The California based team represents a variety of leading financial institutions in

their complex matters, including fund financing, private credit and direct lending, as well as various recapitalizations. Clients seek them for their domestic and multijurisdictional expertise.

Strengths

"The Sidley Austin team is very responsive."

"The Sidley Austin team is practical, thorough and able to simplify sophisticated issues so decisions can be made quickly and confidently."

Notable practitioners

Peter Burke of Sidley Austin comes recommended for his work with banks and institutional investors in financing transactions.

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates

What the team is known for

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom has a talented transactional practice with an enviable client following of elite lenders and corporate borrowers on significant domestic and international deals. Its experienced team of lawyers provides a plethora of expertise across a range of matters, including restructurings and exit financings as well as acquisition financing arrangements. The firm has notable experience in private equity deals across a range of industries.

Strengths

"The Skadden team do a great job of adding value by providing excellent legal advice."

Work highlights

The Skadden team represented Dole in a \$1.2 billion credit facility cross-border matter.

Notable practitioners

Leila Sayegh has a broad client base and demonstrates notable strength in acting as borrowers' counsel. She routinely provides counsel on asset-based loans and acquisition financings. **Strengths:** *"Leila is incredibly knowledgeable. She provides excellent advice and creatively solves problems."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Gabriel Gregson of Weil, Gotshal & Manges acts on behalf of corporate borrowers and private equity sponsors in credit facilities.

Robert Morrison of Davis Polk & Wardwell takes on a wide range of work across the financing space. He is experienced in handling revolving credit facilities for bank clients.

Gary Rosenbaum of McDermott Will & Schulte is highly regarded for his expertise in leveraged finance. His client list includes private equity sponsors and traditional lenders. **Strengths:** *"Gary Rosenbaum has strong capabilities and is highly recommended."* *"Gary is very responsive, thoughtful and careful in dealing with his client matters."*

Bankruptcy/Restructuring

Bankruptcy/Restructuring	
Leading Firms	
Band 1	
Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP	
Band 2	
Hogan Lovells US LLP	
KTBS Law LLP	
Latham & Watkins LLP	
Band 3	
BakerHostetler LLP	
Dentons	
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP	
Keller Benvenuti Kim LLP	
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP	
Paul Hastings LLP	
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP	
Sidley Austin LLP	
Band 4	
Greenberg Glusker LLP	
Jones Day	
Levene, Neale, Bender, Yoo & Golubchik LLP	
Milbank LLP	
O'Melveny & Myers LLP	
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP	
Band 5	
DLA Piper LLP (US)	
Fox Rothschild	
Greenspoon Marder LLP	
Perkins Coie LLP	
* Indicates individual with profile.	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

Bankruptcy/Restructuring	
Senior Statespeople	
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	Levinson Marc A. Orrick (ORL) ◇
Bennett Bruce S. Jones Day	
Leading Individuals	
Band 1	Steinberg Howard Greenberg Traurig, LLP (ORL) ◇
Bjork Jeffrey Latham & Watkins LLP *	Sweet Michael Fox Rothschild
Durrer II Van C. Dentons US LLP	Warren Steve O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Grassgreen Debra Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP	Weiss Sharon Z. Bryan Cave Leighton (ORL) ◇
Keller Tobias Keller Benvenuti Kim LLP	Band 4
Krause Jeffrey Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP *	Banner Keith Greenberg Glusker LLP
Maizel Samuel Dentons	Cho Shirley Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP
Pachulski Isaac M. Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP	Cohen Cynthia M. Brown White & Osborn LLP (ORL) ◇
Pachulski Richard M. Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP	Ehrenberg Howard M. Greenspoon Marder LLP
Pomerantz Jeffrey N. Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP	Fidler David KTBS Law LLP
Rawlins Justin Paul Hastings LLP *	Freeman William B. Katten (ORL) ◇
Stang James Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP	Gamliel Amir Perkins Coie LLP *
Tuchin Michael L. KTBS Law LLP	Gautier Scott F. Faegre Drinker (ORL) ◇
Wynne Richard L. Hogan Lovells US LLP	Goldberg Eric DLA Piper LLP (US)
Band 2	Golubchik David B. Levene, Neale, Bender, Yoo
Bender Ron Levene, Neale, Bender, Yoo & Golubchik LLP	Gurule Julian O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Goldman Seth Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP	Julian Robert A. BakerHostetler LLP *
Katz Ori Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP *	Kharasch Ira D. Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP
Kim Jane Keller Benvenuti Kim LLP	Layfield Scott DLA Piper LLP (US)
Klyman Robert DLA Piper LLP (US)	Lubic Michael B. K&L Gates (ORL) ◇
Newman Sam Debevoise & Plimpton LLP (ORL) ◇	Miller Elissa Greenspoon Marder LLP
Ordubegian Aram ArentFox Schiff LLP (ORL) ◇	Nassiri Jennifer L. Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton
Posin Kimberly Latham & Watkins LLP *	Neumeister Michael Cooley LLP (ORL) ◇
Reisner Jeffrey M. Steptoe LLP (ORL) ◇ *	Oliner Ron Duane Morris LLP (ORL) ◇
Shaffer K. John Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP *	Owens Keith Fox Rothschild *
Simonds David Hogan Lovells US LLP	Pascuzzi Paul Felderstein Fitzgerald Willoughby (ORL) ◇
Winston Eric Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP *	Richardson David BakerHostetler LLP *
Band 3	Shemano David B. ShemanoLaw (ORL) ◇
Brady Erin Hogan Lovells US LLP	Shenson Jonathan Greenberg Glusker LLP
Chenetz Sara L. Perkins Coie LLP *	Stern David M. KTBS Law LLP
D Morse Joshua Pillsbury (ORL) ◇	Weiner Genevieve Sidley Austin LLP *
Davidoff Brian L. Greenberg Glusker LLP	Welch Joseph Blank Rome LLP (ORL) ◇
Davidson Jeffrey H. Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP	Up-and-coming individuals
Dillman Ted Latham & Watkins LLP *	A Koffroth Nicholas Fox Rothschild
Garfinkle Jeffrey Buchalter, LLP (ORL) ◇ *	Gurvitz Sasha M. KTBS Law LLP
Karasik Eve H. Levene, Neale, Bender, Yoo & Golubchik	Shechtman Zev Saul Ewing LLP (ORL) ◇
Moyron Tania Dentons	Tseregounis Helena Latham & Watkins LLP *
Patterson Thomas E. KTBS Law LLP	Associates to watch
Sagerman Eric E. BakerHostetler LLP *	Gumport Anna Sidley Austin LLP *
Soref Randy Polinelli PC (ORL) ◇	McNeilly Edward Hogan Lovells US LLP

Band 1

Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP

What the team is known for

Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones maintains a market-leading presence, offering debtors, creditors' committees and trustees comprehensive bankruptcy and restructuring advice. It possesses extensive knowledge in areas such as cross-border insolvency, distressed debt investment and M&A for clients in diverse industries, including technology, healthcare and retail. The firm demonstrates notable proficiency in representing clients in both out-of-court and in-court proceedings, including expertise in contentious matters such as complex avoidance actions and claim litigation. The team is equally capable of advising individuals, small businesses and large multinational corporations.

Strengths

"Pachulski always provides solid and practical advice even in complicated cases."

"It is one of the very best in the field and should always be at the top of the list."

"It is the most responsive firm and a very strong advocate for its clients."

"Our business is complicated and I was impressed how from day one the team understood it."

Work highlights

Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP represented the LeFever Mattson Creditors' Committee and its debtor affiliates in a Chapter 11 bankruptcy in relation to one of the largest real estate schemes in Northern California.

Notable practitioners

Debra Grassgreen is noted for her expertise in Chapter 11 cases, acting on behalf of creditors, with additional experience in contentious matters.

Strengths: "Debra is a fierce advocate on behalf of her clients and can go toe to toe with the best in terms of her intellectual capacity." "Debra is smart with her clients and knows how to bring resolutions." "Debra is capable, confident and excellent in the court. She is also a good deal-maker and spectacular on delivery." "She is uniquely talented at identifying solutions and achieving outcomes where most people see zero sum equations."

"Debra Grassgreen is a multifaceted superstar who can do it all, from the courtroom to the boardroom." Isaac Pachulski is a highly regarded practitioner with experience across a range of bankruptcy and restructuring matters. He regularly advises clients on significant Chapter 11 proceedings, with notable

experience in matters concerning offshore drilling.

Strengths: "Isaac is likely the smartest person I have ever met. He is simply brilliant." Richard Pachulski acts for both debtors and creditors in Chapter 11 proceedings, and is also experienced in corporate restructurings. **Strengths:** "Richard is the dean of the practice. He's well known, very experienced and great in court." "A good leader and highly competent." "Richard is the nicest and smartest guy in the room." Jeffrey Pomerantz is widely regarded as an expert in representing creditors' committees. He has broad experience spanning an array of sectors, from retail to oil and gas. **Strengths:** "Jeffrey Pomerantz is knowledgeable, experienced, responsive and practical." "I love working with Jeff. He is a key asset to us." "Jeff has incredible peripheral vision, strategic sense and a unique ability to craft creative solutions to thorny problems." James Stang regularly acts for creditors' committees in Chapter

11 proceedings and has notable expertise in bankruptcy matters involving sexual abuse. **Strengths:** "James Stang is a consummate professional." "Jim Stang is a very good lawyer who knows the history of our cases. I was highly impressed by him." Jeffrey Davidson's practice includes bankruptcy matters in addition to out-of-court restructurings, with his clients spanning an array of industries, from energy to media. **Shirley Cho** is noted for her expert representation of companies and creditors in restructuring and insolvency cases. She is also noted for her expertise in US insolvency law in foreign proceedings. **Strengths:** "Shirley Cho is a rising star." Ira Kharasch is adept at representing debtors and creditors in bankruptcy matters, including Chapter 11 proceedings. He has experience across a range of sectors, including entertainment and technology. **Strengths:** "Ira is a terrific lawyer who handles large and complex matters." "Ira is very even keeled and thoughtful about the issues his clients are dealing with."

Band 2

Hogan Lovells US LLP

What the team is known for

Hogan Lovells has an accomplished team that acts for an array of clients, from debtors and purchasers to creditors and committees. The firm is adept at acting for companies in the financial, retail and healthcare spheres. Its expertise includes Chapter 11 cases and out-of-court restructurings.

Strengths

"Hogan Lovells provides unparalleled strategic advice."

"The team is proactive, practical and compassionate. The lawyers have been absolutely terrific counsellors and I can totally trust them with what needs to get done."

"Hogan Lovells is a full service firm. I have high regard for the people there."

"The team was informative, responsive and very good."

Notable practitioners

Richard Wynne represents both debtor and creditor clients, and has notable experience with Chapter 11 proceedings. **Strengths:** "Richard takes command. He is smart, proactive and brings resolution to cases." "Richard is high caliber and everything about him makes him my personal go-to. He has a national practice and is just excellent." **David Simonds** acts for debtors and creditors in a range of bankruptcy and restructuring matters, with recent experience in the retail and mortgage industries. He is also adept at handling cross-border insolvency matters. **Strengths:** "David is pleasant to work with, smart and a good leader." "The guy is basically an in-house counsel and provides invaluable strategic advice." **Erin Brady** acts for a range of clients, including creditors' committees and trustees. She concentrates her practice on restructurings across a range of sectors, including retail and manufacturing. **Strengths:** "Erin Brady is compassionate, devoted and proactive." "Erin is dedicated and hardworking." "Erin Brady is very talented and impressive." Senior associate **Edward McNeilly** earns praise from clients for his work across the restructuring and bankruptcy space. **Strengths:**

"Edward McNeilly's technical knowledge of bankruptcy law and how things play out is outstanding."

"Edward McNeilly's technical knowledge of bankruptcy law and how things play out is outstanding." "Edward is an extremely hard-working lawyer. He will do what it takes to get the job done correctly and is very responsive and responsible."

KTBS Law LLP

What the team is known for

KTBS Law is a standout boutique with exceptional expertise in a range of reorganizations, transactions and bankruptcies, including appellate matters. Proficient at litigating contentious cases, with strength in mass tort-related bankruptcies. The firm features an outstanding team of attorneys with deep experience in the area. It houses significant capabilities in the retail sector, frequently serving as debtor or purchaser counsel in several of the sector's major national filings. Also, the firm acts for investors and entities in the entertainment sector.

Strengths

"The team is very skilled and quickly understands complex facts relating to disparate businesses."

"KTBS Law has committed, dedicated professionals who are always accessible."

"KTBS Law is phenomenal and has excellent lawyers."

"The KTBS team is very creative, effective and incisive. It can cut through and home in on key pressure points."

Work highlights

KTBS Law LLP acted as bankruptcy counsel for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors in a Chapter 11 Bankruptcy case filed by The Roman Catholic Bishop of San Diego in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California.

Notable practitioners

Michael Tuchin is praised for his representation of both debtors and creditors in various bankruptcy matters, including Chapter 11 cases, and for his expertise in out-of-court restructurings. **Strengths:** "Michael is the best of the best." "Michael Tuchin is the dean of the LA bankruptcy Bar." "Everyone seeks Michael Tuchin out for advice in complex situations." "Michael is an analytical and brilliant lawyer. I'd put him up against anybody in the country." Thomas Patterson acts for clients in a range of industries and is particularly adept at handling Chapter 11 cases. **Strengths:** "Thomas Patterson is a very smart lawyer." "Thomas leads major multinational billion dollar restructurings." **David Fidler** is an experienced bankruptcy practitioner with notable expertise in Chapter 11 proceedings. He is called upon to represent debtors from a wide range of sectors, including entertainment, hospitality and telecommunications. **Strengths:** "David Fidler is a top lawyer and his clients love to work with him." "David is very thoughtful and technically proficient." David Stern focuses his practice on bankruptcy and restructuring matters. He offers significant experience in Chapter 11 proceedings and is noted for his litigation expertise. Sasha Gurvitz is recognized as an up-and-coming star. She represents both debtors and creditors in large Chapter 11 bankruptcies and out-of-court restructurings. **Strengths:** "Sasha Gurvitz is widely recognized as the future of the bankruptcy bar." "Sasha is smart and well

respected."

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for

Latham & Watkins has a high-quality bankruptcy and restructuring practice with notable expertise in representing clients on both the creditor and debtor sides. It boasts considerable experience in acting on Chapter 11 cases and is also proficient at handling out-of-court workouts and prepackaged bankruptcies. The team is able to draw on the firm's full-service platform and extensive network of experts when advising on complementary areas such as tax and corporate finance. It exhibits additional strength in the Chapter 11 bankruptcy auction arena.

Strengths

"Latham & Watkins is global, extremely experienced and acts on a level of the most elite law firms in the world."

"Latham & Watkins has a deep knowledge of the law and offers creative solutions."

"Fantastic professionals who are competent, caring, committed and great to work alongside."

"The firm is extremely responsive and always available."

Work highlights

Latham Watkins LLP represented The Container Store Group, Inc. in relation to its financial restructuring process and advised the retailer on the implementation of its Plan of Reorganization, which was confirmed by the US Bankruptcy Court.

Notable practitioners

Jeffrey Bjork is particularly noted for his expertise representing debtors and has additional experience acting for other stakeholders in an array of bankruptcy matters. He serves as managing partner of the firm's Los Angeles office. **Strengths:** "Jeffrey Bjork is brilliant, creative, client-focused and has incredible leadership skills." "Jeff is my go-to person for issues." **Kimberly Posin** advises both debtor and creditor clients on a broad range of matters, including Chapter 11 proceedings and out-of-court restructurings. She regularly advises debtors in mass tort-related bankruptcies. **Strengths:** "Kimberly is detail-oriented, has great responsiveness and excellent management skills." "Kim has a remarkable combination of deep knowledge, negotiating skills and goodwill." "Kimberly Posin is a very competent and diligent lawyer." "Kimberly is a rising star who handles very complex cases with multiple parties, works to achieve consensus and is also good in court." **Ted Dillman's** practice ranges from restructuring and distressed mergers and acquisitions to Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings. **Strengths:** "Ted is very strong and knows how to move a process along." "He is the ultimate professional. He has deep knowledge and firm commitment to quality execution." "Ted Dillman is a Swiss Army Knife and can do anything in a Chapter 11 case." **Helena Tseregounis** is a rising star in the bankruptcy and restructuring space. She advises clients on domestic and cross-border restructurings, with notable experience in mass tort bankruptcies. **Strengths:** "Helena Tseregounis has a very high level of legal competence, a good bedside manner and knows how to navigate fraught situations." "Helena is effective, smart and capable."

Band 3

BakerHostetler LLP**What the team is known for**

BakerHostetler has a well-regarded bankruptcy practice with substantial experience in advising creditors, debtors and trustees. The firm regularly handles restructurings and workouts, as well as litigation. It is active across a range of sectors, including energy, technology and financial services.

Strengths

"Complex and sophisticated is BakerHostetler's bread and butter."

"The team thinks big and is able to follow through."

"The firm parcels out work appropriately and uses the right sized team where needed."

Work highlights

BakerHostetler LLP represented Entrust Energy, Inc. and affiliated entities in a Chapter 11 liquidation related to the termination of Entrust's energy supply by Shell Energy North America L.P.

Notable practitioners

Eric Sagerman regularly advises clients on complex Chapter 11 proceedings across an array of sectors. He is experienced in acting for creditors' committees, among other stakeholders. **Strengths:** *"Eric Sagerman is well respected."* Robert Julian is an experienced litigator advising on complex bankruptcy-related claims. **Strengths:** *"Robert is a visionary legal thinker and strategist."* *"Robert Julian is commercial and super creative."* *"Bob really cares about doing the right thing. He delivers, people trust his work and know that when he says he will do something, he will do it."* David Richardson has a strong reputation for his work in bankruptcy litigation. His diverse client base looks to him for advice in matters arising across a broad range of industries, including consumer products and energy. **Strengths:** *"David Richardson digs into legal analysis that helps us understand the strengths and weaknesses of both sides."*

Dentons**What the team is known for**

Dentons is a respected practice, particularly noted for its expert handling of bankruptcy matters in the healthcare sector. The firm offers broad expertise spanning Chapter 11 and Chapter 9 proceedings. It is also well placed to advise on out-of-court workouts and bankruptcy litigation.

Strengths

"I was impressed with the engagement of the entire team and its ability to manage the case and provide excellent advice."

"Dentons has lean, experienced teams that deliver great results."

"The team provides the highest quality responsiveness and proactive counsel."

Work highlights

Dentons represented Global Wound Care (GWC) in a Chapter 11 bankruptcy relating to the suspensions of 100% of payments by the Medicare in 2024 which constituted approximately 90% of GWC's income.

Notable practitioners

Van Durrer has a broad practice that includes Chapter 11 and Chapter 15 cases, in addition to restructuring and recapitalization matters.

Strengths: *"Van is one of the best lawyers I've ever*

worked with." *"Van Durrer is a very capable and excellent lawyer."* *"Van is an institution himself."* *"He is an excellent bankruptcy lawyer and litigator. Van is great to work with and have as part of the team."*

Samuel Maizel is noted for his expertise in healthcare restructuring and bankruptcy matters. His expertise includes both Chapter 11 and 9 proceedings. **Strengths:** *"Sam is an icon in the healthcare field and has litigated many successful outcomes for his clients."* *"Samuel Maizel is my first recommendation on any healthcare restructuring deal."*

"Sam combines fulsome understanding of restructuring, business, healthcare and regulatory matters."

Tania Moyron is noted for her growing practice in the bankruptcy space. She acts for debtors, creditors and trustees, and is adept at handling Chapter 11 proceedings. She chairs the firm's US region restructuring, insolvency and bankruptcy group. **Strengths:** *"Tania is a trusted adviser. She understands the landscape and provides expert advice."* *"Tania Moyron is the future of the LA Bar."* *"She is a very capable lawyer."* *"Tania is strategically strong and reads the room well."*

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP**What the team is known for**

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher is a strong full-service firm with expertise covering all aspects of bankruptcy and restructuring, including out-of-court agreements and distressed financing. It boasts a considerable cross-border offering, assisting multinational clients with complex issues, in addition to featuring prowess in debt restructurings and workouts in the real estate sector. The firm has further strength in bankruptcy-related litigation, with considerable experience of acting in defense of boards of directors concerning breach of fiduciary duty and other claims. It is further noted for handling high-profile matters involving the energy and retail sectors.

Notable practitioners

Jeffrey Krause regularly acts for clients in Chapter 11 proceedings and has additional experience in bankruptcy litigation.

Keller Benvenuti Kim LLP**What the team is known for**

Keller Benvenuti Kim is a highly regarded bankruptcy boutique that offers strong representation in Chapter 11 matters, acting for private equity investors, creditors' committees and debtors. It is active in a broad spectrum of areas, including hospitality, healthcare, construction and retail. The firm possesses a depth of knowledge across a variety of in-court and out-of-court proceedings, including insolvency-related litigation, cross-border restructurings and distressed M&A.

Strengths

"It's a very strong team with a deep bench."

"When I talk to Keller Benvenuti Kim, it provides insights into the market that I'm not as up to date on."

"The team has smart and strategic attorneys that are very good at communication. It's a strong firm and I get personalised service."

"KBK's rates are significantly lower than those of large firms without a drop in quality. There was strong value for the cost."

"The firm understands business issues and has legal expertise."

Work highlights

Keller Benvenuti Kim LLP represented a class of Data Breach Claimants in the 23andMe Chapter 11 cases and has played a key role in negotiation of a stipulation with 23andMe's counsel to allow the filing of a class proof of claim and negotiating plans for the establishment of a qualified settlement fund.

Notable practitioners

Tobias Keller's practice includes out-of-court restructurings, Chapter 11 proceedings and litigation matters. **Strengths:** *"He is one of the best insolvency lawyers and problem-solvers that I work with."* *"Tobias was attentive, thoughtful and worked well with our senior team."* *"Tobias Keller is very strategic and has a really good way of approaching projects."* *"Tobias is a top notch, excellent lawyer."*

Jane Kim offers notable experience in a wide range of bankruptcy issues. Her practice spans Chapter 11 proceedings and litigation, and she acts on matters concerning a variety of industries, such as the energy sector. She serves as the firm's managing partner. **Strengths:** *"I was very pleased with Jane's depth of knowledge and responsiveness. She took the necessary time to learn about our matter and company."* *"Jane Kim is an excellent counselor and lawyer."* *"She's very practical, able to help drive us in good decision-making and is a good advocate for us in the work we do."* *"Jane brings a sophisticated understanding of the legal and business dynamics impacting the complicated set of relationships associated with a large restructure."*

Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP**What the team is known for**

Munger, Tolles & Olson has a well-regarded bankruptcy group, counting a number of household names among its clients. It frequently acts on Chapter 11 proceedings and out-of-court restructurings, as well as litigation and asset purchases relating to bankruptcy. The team has notable experience in advising clients in the retail, media and technology sectors, among others.

Strengths

"Munger, Tolles & Olson gets to know your business and the various players in your company."

"The team we worked with was very senior, experienced and provided quality advice and guidance."

"The firm was very good at working all hours when we were in crisis mode."

Work highlights

Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP represented Netflix in a Chapter 11 Bankruptcy of WOM S.A, a Chilean telecommunications provider, relating to the streaming service's rights and remedies as a creditor and contract counterparty.

Notable practitioners

Seth Goldman has broad bankruptcy experience, with particular expertise in litigation. He acts for clients from a wide range of sectors, including technology, energy and hospitality. **Strengths:** *"Seth has nothing to envy. His skills and knowledge are right up there with all the guys in the field."* *"Seth Goldman is incredibly bright and knows the law cold."* *"He is very experienced, detail-oriented and client-focused."* *"Seth is responsive, diligent and listened more than some other lawyers can."* *"Seth was an A+ from all perspectives. He is practical, tough when needed and has strong legal and financial skills."*

Paul Hastings LLP**What the team is known for**

Paul Hastings has a recently established team with notable capabilities in all manner of bankruptcy mandates, including Chapter 11 proceedings and workouts. The firm acts for a range of clients, including large financial institutions and companies from the telecommunications and aviation sectors.

Strengths

"The core team I have worked with at Paul Hastings has always done great work and we feel very confident in the team's ability to address our needs in a timely manner."

"Paul Hastings is efficient, super streamlined, very commercial and focuses on what really needs to be done."

"Paul Hastings is extremely knowledgeable on the laws and codes in the industry and creative in solving insolvable problems."

"The firm is best in class and has an extremely strong team, from associate to managing partner."

"Paul Hastings is always available regardless of the time zone."

Work highlights

Paul Hastings LLP represented Brightwood and a group of lenders in the restructuring of a credit facility to Zips Car Wash which resulted in a Chapter 11 restructuring and a successful reorganization.

Notable practitioners

Justin Rawlins has a broad bankruptcy practice, advising clients on Chapter 11 proceedings, workouts and acquisitions, among other matters.

Strengths: *"Justin is extremely responsive on all matters. He has a strong understanding of our business and what we care about when it comes to legal documentation and risk mitigation."* *"One of the best restructuring attorneys that I have worked with. He exhibits a high degree of customer service coupled with strong technical knowledge."* *"Hands down one of the best attorneys I have worked with. Justin is commercial, pragmatic, patient and always focused on doing what makes most sense for the client."* *"Justin Rawlins can really cut to the meat of the issue and is very efficient."* *"Justin is one of the best lawyers in the country."*

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP**What the team is known for**

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan offers high quality representation in bankruptcy litigation, both domestically and internationally. The firm advises major stakeholders, including creditors' committees, liquidation trusts and acquiring hedge funds, on contentious cases, as well as out-of-court restructurings and workouts. It is frequently engaged as special and conflicts counsel to handle complex and cutting-edge bankruptcy litigation in national Chapter 11 cases. The firm often advises on proceedings involving the real estate, energy and natural resources sectors.

Strengths

"Quinn Emanuel is incredibly creative, responsive and really cares about the work. The team doesn't just phone it in, it does it."

Work highlights

Quinn Emmanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP served as Special Counsel to FTX Bankruptcy debtors in an unprecedented crypto bankruptcy involving multiple

lawsuits and a series of investigations.

Notable practitioners

John Shaffer acts for a range of clients in bankruptcy matters, including bondholders, trusts and debtors.

Strengths: *"John Shaffer is very well regarded, insanely smart and I have learned a lot from him."* *"Shaffer is a very smart and really impressive guy."*

Eric Winston is well regarded for his expert handling of bankruptcy litigation. **Strengths:** *"Eric Winston is a strong and academic lawyer."* *"Eric Winston is a well respected bankruptcy lawyer."*

Sidley Austin LLP**What the team is known for**

Sidley Austin has an excellent group that acts on significant bankruptcy and restructuring cases for a wide range of domestic and international clients. Works regularly on creditor and company-side representations, in addition to advising asset purchasers. It has noted expertise in advising clients on mass tort claims and restructurings across specialized industries such as transportation, energy and manufacturing. The firm counts a number of household names in the financial sector among its clients.

Strengths

"There is not an issue that Sidley does not have experience in."

"Sidley Austin is very good and responsive."

"Sidley Austin's restructuring practice has some of the most creative and forward-thinking legal minds in US corporate bankruptcy."

Work highlights

Sidley Austin LLP represented Bracebridge Capital as a prepetition secured lender and DIP lender in a Chapter 11 restructuring.

Notable practitioners

Genevieve Weiner is a skilled adviser to debtors and lenders in Chapter 11 proceedings and out-of-court restructurings. She also advises strategic purchasers on the acquisition of distressed assets.

Strengths: *"Genevieve is very good at managing deals and clients."* *"Genevieve Weiner is a fabulous lawyer who mixes legal expertise and practical guidance seamlessly."* *"She is very focused and very dedicated."* **Anna Gumpert** is a well-regarded associate who is active in a range of in-court and out-of-court restructurings.

Band 4**Greenberg Glusker LLP****What the team is known for**

Greenberg Glusker Fields Claman & Machtinger is a strong California firm with a broad bankruptcy practice. It is experienced in acting for clients in matters ranging from involuntary bankruptcy cases to asset purchases. The firm's expertise also includes Chapter 7 and Chapter 11 proceedings, in addition to bankruptcy-related litigation.

Strengths

"The firm has a deep talent base and is very experienced in bankruptcy matters."

"Greenberg Glusker provides an excellent level of service and responsiveness on time sensitive matters."

"Worth every dollar spent. We could not have survived without its expertise."

"The team's ability to balance legal positioning with

practical, deal-driven solutions was impressive and reflected strong commercial awareness."

"The firm is innovative, hands-on and provides exceptional client service."

Work highlights

Greenberg Glusker LLP represented Oakridge Property CMBS LLC, as debtor and debtor in possession, in a Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Notable practitioners

Brian Davidoff is noted for his expertise in bankruptcy matters in the retail sector, with additional experience in technology-related matters. **Strengths:** *"Brian Davidoff is an excellent and knowledgeable bankruptcy attorney who provides honest and direct advice."* *"Brian's breadth of experience combined with his genteel personality commands respect and endears him to his clients and peers."* *"His ability to evaluate and address complex issues is outstanding."*

Brian is able to absorb highly detailed information and convert that information into a broader litigation strategy." *"He's responsive and provides thorough business advice."*

Keith Banner is praised for his developing practice and expertise in both Chapter 11 and Chapter 7 proceedings. **Strengths:** *"Keith Banner provides great service, is knowledgeable and always responsive."* *"Keith is extremely bright, has exceptional bedside manner and can exercise a degree of patience when others would disengage."*

"He's a professional, courteous attorney who does excellent work." **Jonathan Shenson** advises clients in Chapter 11 proceedings, Section 363 sales and out-of-court workouts. He is also experienced in bankruptcy-related litigation covering fraudulent conveyance and breach of duty. **Strengths:** *"Jonathan is a very sophisticated bankruptcy attorney."* *"He provides consistently high-quality advice."*

"Jonathan Shenson combines deep technical bankruptcy expertise with a pragmatic, solution-oriented mindset that keeps the focus on achieving the client's business objectives." *"Jonathan brings decades of experience which allows him to anticipate challenges, develop practical solutions and guide negotiations with remarkable skill."*

Jones Day**What the team is known for**

Jones Day regularly handles high profile Chapter 11 bankruptcies and reorganizations, utilizing the firm's extensive network of offices and nationwide capabilities. The firm also has deep experience in transactional matters, including distressed M&A, as well as offering notable capabilities in financial distress litigation. It has an enviable client list includes distressed municipalities and national companies, private equity firms and financial institutions.

Strengths

"The firm has multiple strong lawyers."

"When it comes to bankruptcy litigation matters, Jones Day is well regarded and has very good experience."

Work highlights

Jones Day represented X-Cap in relation to the Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings of Silvergate Capital Corporation.

Notable practitioners

Bruce Bennett has an exceptional reputation as a bankruptcy practitioner, with experience across industries including retail, energy and media.

Strengths: *"Bruce Bennett is really good at thorny*

litigation and has strong credibility.” “Bruce is one of the true veterans of the industry and is really good at getting through litigation.” “Bruce remains one of the absolute go-to guys for bankruptcy and litigation.”

Levene, Neale, Bender, Yoo & Golubchik LLP

What the team is known for

Levene, Neale, Bender, Yoo & Golubchik is a well-known Los Angeles firm with significant expertise in the areas of bankruptcy and restructuring, assisting all manner of clients facing financial distress, as well as secured and unsecured creditors. It is highly regarded for its strong commercial awareness and client-focused approach. The team is adept at representing clients in out-of-court workouts and negotiations, and in in-court restructurings and complex insolvency litigation.

Notable practitioners

Ron Bender is well regarded for his expert handling of bankruptcy matters, including restructurings, reorganizations and transactional matters. **Strengths:** “Ron Bender does very complicated work, presents well and does a great job leading the firm.” Eve Karasik is experienced in acting for a range of clients, including debtors, creditors and trustees. Her practice extends from Chapter 11 proceedings to bankruptcy litigation. David Golubchik is sought out for his vast experience in bankruptcy matters. He handles matters across a wide range of industries, including hospitality, construction and real estate.

Milbank LLP

What the team is known for

Milbank has an excellent insolvency group that undertakes varied Chapter 11 cases on behalf of a broad client base, including financial institutions, debtors and hedge funds. The firm is frequently engaged in out-of-court restructurings both domestically and worldwide. It is proficient in advisory work concerning insolvencies across an array of industries, with notable experience in oil and gas, media and financial services, among others.

Strengths

“Milbank did a great job. It helped deliver a win and was very knowledgeable about bankruptcy and how to navigate bankruptcy court.”

“The team gave us prudent guidance on where to spend our efforts and what arguments to make.”

“The firm has a great bench of bankruptcy and restructuring specialists.”

Work highlights

Millbank LLP represented an ad hoc group of prepetition first lien lenders in relation to Exactech’s bankruptcy proceeding.

Notable practitioners

Samir Vora is a key contact at the firm.

O’Melveny & Myers LLP

What the team is known for

O’Melveny & Myers has an adept group that offers clients a broad spectrum of capabilities on significant and complex restructuring and bankruptcy cases. Undertakes representations on behalf of both creditors and debtors. It possesses notable sector strength in energy and natural resources, in addition to skill in handling transport sector-specific

issues. The firm’s further areas of expertise include debtor-in-possession financing and distressed M&A.

Strengths

“O’Melveny’s partners are the absolutely best and its associates are all thoughtful and responsive.”

“The firm’s partners are trusted business advisers.”

“O’Melveny & Myers consistently provided an exceptionally high level of responsiveness and quality of service.”

“The team was diligent, knowledgeable and practical.”

“It has tremendous experience and knowledge of the bankruptcy process.”

Work highlights

O’Melveny & Meyers represented iCap Enterprises Inc and its affiliated debtors in several Chapter 11 bankruptcy cases.

Notable practitioners

Steve Warren regularly counsels clients on restructurings and bankruptcy litigation. He is adept at representing both debtors and creditors. **Strengths:** “Steve Warren is an excellent bankruptcy and appellate lawyer. He has a national reputation for his expertise in bankruptcy issues.” “Steve is an awesome and creative restructuring attorney.” **Julian Gurule** is recognized for his leading expertise in bankruptcy matters. He is sought by a range of clients including distressed investors, creditors and debtors. **Strengths:** “Julian is recognized for his strategic insight and calm command of complex restructuring dynamics.” “He is a great partner and legal adviser.” “Julian is an extremely well poised collaborator who will bring parties together for a solution.” “Julian is an outstanding attorney, businessman and person. His experience and knowledge of bankruptcy law is as good as it gets.”

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

What the team is known for

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton boasts a proven track record in Chapter 11 cases, representing creditors as well as creditors’ committees, with clients including major financial institutions. It is also regularly engaged in debtor-side representation, guiding companies through complex restructurings and litigation. The team draws on the firm’s full-service platform to support clients in insolvency-related issues involving ERISA, intellectual property and tax, among others. Additionally, it offers able counsel to Chapter 7 trustees.

Strengths

“The team took the time to fully grasp our unique circumstances, challenges and goals, allowing it to provide advice and solutions that were perfectly aligned with our needs.”

“Sheppard Mullin is super responsive. It is there when we need it.”

“Sheppard quickly brought in experts to help think through possible solutions.”

“The firm showed genuine care and commitment to our success. It treated our case with urgency and respect, always going above and beyond to protect our best interests.”

Work highlights

Sheppard Mullin represented the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco in a Chapter 11 Bankruptcy case with claims estimated to be in

excess of \$2 billion.

Notable practitioners

Ori Katz acts for a range of clients on bankruptcy matters, including Chapter 11 proceedings and asset purchases. **Strengths:** “Ori Katz is incredibly patient and does a great job at laying out the circumstances for the judge. He makes sure you go into court hearings with no surprises.” “Ori consistently went above and beyond to ensure our needs were prioritized while providing guidance that was both timely and highly effective.” Jennifer Nassiri offers significant experience in a wide range of bankruptcy matters, including Chapter 11 proceedings. She counts trustees and creditor committees among her clients. **Strengths:** “Jennifer Nassiri identifies a problem and fixes it.”

Band 5

DLA Piper LLP (US)

What the team is known for

DLA Piper is a key player in the California bankruptcy space. The firm leverages its global reach to effectively support clients on complex restructurings and distressed transactions, often involving cross-border elements. The team advises a wide range of clients, including both debtors and creditors, with industry expertise spanning life sciences, retail and financial services.

Strengths

“We had access to a deep bench of expertise across the global firm.”

“The firm was very accommodating and reasonable with fees.”

“DLA Piper is competent and responsive with clients.”

“The team provided clarity, thoroughness and understanding of situations. It stands up strongly for its clients.”

“It has an excellent understanding of the business issues involved and provided well analyzed suggestions and recommendations.”

Work highlights

DLA Piper advised KBS Real Estate Investment Trust, and various subsidiaries, concerning a \$2 billion out of court debt restructuring.

Notable practitioners

Robert Klyman advises a range of debtor and creditor clients, and is particularly noted for his expert representation of equityholders. His practice spans a broad array of bankruptcy matters, from transactions to litigation. **Strengths:** “Robert Klyman is responsive and very knowledgeable about restructuring and risks.” “Robert Klyman is an exceptional bankruptcy lawyer and one of the very best in the field. He’s seen it all and knows how to handle every situation, no matter how complex or high pressure.” “Robert is incredibly good at managing client relationships and has a strong command of the law.”

Eric Goldberg is recognized for his expertise in a range of transactions and bankruptcy related litigation. He has experience representing debtors and creditors in addition to hedge funds and institutional lenders. **Strengths:** “Eric Goldberg is very competent, responsive and professional.” “Eric is a high value lawyer who provides fantastic advice.” “What sets Eric apart is his judgment under pressure and his ability to simplify complexity without losing the

nuance of the case.” **Scott Layfield** has a reputation among clients for his proficiency in matters pertaining to restructurings, distressed transactions in and out of bankruptcy and mergers and acquisitions. He is also recognized for his cross-border transaction capacities. **Strengths:** “*Scott Layfield is very competent, responsive and professional.*” “*Scott is great with clients and understands bankruptcy law extraordinarily well.*” “*Scott was a pleasure to work with before, during and after the transaction.*” “*Scott Layfield was thoughtful about problem-solving and brainstorming options.*”

Fox Rothschild

What the team is known for

Fox Rothschild is noted for its expert representation of creditors in bankruptcy matters. The team is adept at handling restructuring proceedings, including Chapter 11 and Chapter 7 cases. Its expertise spans the health, transportation, fitness and construction sectors.

Strengths

“*The firm brings a lot of intellectual horsepower and can handle complex matters.*”

“*Fox Rothschild is efficient and commercially aware.*”

Work highlights

Fox Rothschild represented Mawson Infrastructure Group, Inc. as debtor counsel in an involuntary bankruptcy.

Notable practitioners

Michael Sweet is an experienced attorney with a strong profile in creditor committee representations across a range of industries, including manufacturing and technology. **Strengths:** “*Michael is very pleasant to work with, talented and always responsive.*” “*Michael is one of the very best and has a thoughtful blend of legal and commercial expertise.*” “*Michael Sweet is a thought leader in the practice.*” “*Michael is very likeable and approachable when approaching litigation or negotiations and gets great outcomes for clients.*” **Keith Owens** is recognized by clients for his extensive knowledge of bankruptcy and insolvency. He has a robust practice in Chapter 11 and Subchapter V proceedings. **Strengths:** “*Keith Owens is communicative, helpful and very cognizant of budget.*” Nicholas Koffroth enjoys a diverse practice advising clients in Chapter 9 and Chapter 11 proceedings, as well as related litigation matters. **Strengths:** “*Nick is probably the best writer on planet earth. He is smart, funny and it is exciting to watch him grow.*” “*Nicholas Koffroth is super smart and a good guy.*”

Greenspoon Marder LLP

What the team is known for

Greenspoon Marder is well recognized by an array of clients from debtors to creditors, trustees and lenders. The firm has expertise in a range of bankruptcy and restructuring matters including Chapter 7 and Chapter 11 cases.

Strengths

“*Greenspoon Marder is personable, has hands on experience and good knowledge of the law.*”

“*I always get a quick response to any questions I have.*”

“*The Greenspoon Marder team was highly competent and pragmatic.*”

“*Greenspoon Marder is exceedingly cost con-*

scious.”

Work highlights

Greenspoon Marder LLP was appointed as a Chapter 7 trustee in the liquidation of, former owner of land developer SunCal, Bruce Elieff’s real estate portfolio.

Notable practitioners

Howard Ehrenberg is a standout bankruptcy specialist whose broad client base looks to him for advice in major Chapter 7 and Chapter 11 proceedings. **Strengths:** “*Howard is a knowledgeable, highly experienced and pragmatic bankruptcy lawyer.*” “*Howard Ehrenberg is highly competent, works hard and is result-oriented.*” “*Howard is well respected as a bankruptcy trustee and is well versed in insolvency law.*” “*He is very thorough and does great work.*” **Elissa Miller** earns plaudits for her excellent bankruptcy work. She maintains a strong track record acting in sophisticated Chapter 7 and Chapter 11 matters. **Strengths:** “*I value Elissa’s judgment, legal experience and knowledge.*” “*Elissa does an excellent job.*”

Perkins Coie LLP

What the team is known for

Perkins Coie represents a broad client base, including debtors, lenders, unofficial committees and trustees, in regional and national bankruptcy proceedings. The team exhibits industry expertise in healthcare, hospitality, and media and entertainment, among others.

Strengths

“*I felt comfortable trusting the Perkins Coie team to make decisions and give us pertinent information.*”

“*Perkins takes the time and effort to understand the business I operate in.*”

“*Perkins Coie is very quick to respond. If it needs to take more time to research something it won’t leave you waiting and will let you know it is working on it.*”

“*The firm rose to the occasion and surpassed all expectations.*”

Work highlights

Perkins Coie LLP represented Deloitte Restructuring Inc., as the authorized foreign representative, in two Chapter 15 cases for SimEx Inc. and Antamex Industries ULC.

Notable practitioners

Sara Chenetz is experienced across a range of bankruptcy matters, including Chapter 11 proceedings, litigation and distressed M&A. She advises both debtor and creditor-side clients. **Strengths:** “*Sara has incredible knowledge and adeptness when facing challenges.*” “*Sara Chenetz is extremely detail-oriented. She’s also business-minded and able to focus on what matters and what doesn’t.*” **Amir Gamliel** is experienced in counseling clients on all aspects of in-court and out-of-court restructuring matters. He is adept at representing clients in the aerospace and technology industries. **Strengths:** “*Amir was very clear and diligent in his communication and his advice.*” “*Amir is an incredible bankruptcy attorney.*” “*Amir Gamliel delivers client service that will always exceed any and all expectations.*”

Other Ranked Lawyers

Cynthia Cohen of Brown White & Osborn LLP is a

highly experienced practitioner with notable expertise in bankruptcy litigation. She counts creditors, debtors and trustees among her clients.

Joshua Morse of Pillsbury is an excellent bankruptcy lawyer whose practice is strong in both in-court and out-of-court proceedings. **Strengths:** “*Joshua Morse has the ability to understand his client’s situations as a business person and guide them to their commercial goals through the legal process.*” “*Josh delivers excellent client service.*” “*Josh Morse is wicked smart and a good writer. He is also very strategic and not afraid to take a stand.*” “*He is very intelligent, quick to understand situations and provides critical insights.*” “*Josh was super responsive.*”

William Freeman is experienced in advising clients on bankruptcy matters concerning a range of industries, including retail and entertainment. His client base includes regional, national and international banks and financial institutions. **Strengths:** “*Bill is a highly trusted and valued lawyer. His legal advice is excellent and balanced with business-oriented solutions.*”

Jeffrey Garfinkle of Buchalter is a highly respected healthcare and pharmaceutical insolvency practitioner. **Strengths:** “*Jeffrey Garfinkle is well known throughout the industry for knowing just about everything about healthcare bankruptcies.*” “*Jeff Garfinkle is a strong advocate.*” “*Jeffrey is a stellar bankruptcy attorney. He anticipates our needs, has excellent communication skills and holds a wealth of knowledge and experience in his field.*”

Scott Gautier of Faegre Drinker acts for creditors and debtors on restructuring matters including Chapter 11 proceedings and litigation. He is experienced in handling matters across a broad range of sectors, from retail to hospitality.

Marc Levinson of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP acts for clients including debtors, bondholders and creditors in a range of bankruptcy matters. **Strengths:** “*Marc has unmatched experience, is always responsive and is thoughtful in his advice.*” “*Marc Levinson is an exceptional lawyer and a consummate professional. He is one of the best and brightest that I know.*” “*Marc is extremely intelligent, detail-oriented and zealous in his advocacy.*”

Michael Lubic of K&L Gates advises across the bankruptcy spectrum, representing clients in insolvency, litigation and transactional matters.

Michael Neumeister of Cooley represents debtors, lenders and equityholders in an array of complex matters including restructurings, bankruptcy and distressed debt issues. **Strengths:** “*Mike’s been a great adviser as we’ve worked through some particularly challenging times. He’s always available and provides great counsel.*” “*Michael has been amazing. He showed exceptional professionalism and clarity of communication in a very complex case.*” “*Michael Neumeister is a fantastic young partner on the rise.*”

Samuel Newman is very well regarded in the market for his expert handling of in-court and out-of-court restructurings. His expertise includes Chapter 11 and Chapter 7 proceedings, as well as bankruptcy litigation. **Strengths:** “*Sam Newman is so knowledgeable and focused on client service and delivering results in a way that is constructive and thoughtful.*” “*Samuel is very competent and has a very good demeanor with boards. He knows how*

to delegate appropriately and has expertise in and around the facts of the law." "Samuel Newman is a very well known name in the restructuring area." "Sam is a very competent company side lawyer."

Ron Oliner of Duane Morris is an established restructuring practitioner who advises clients on a broad host of complex and high profile matters.

Aram Ordubegian of ArentFox Schiff LLP regularly acts in Chapter 7 and Chapter 11 proceedings on behalf of debtors, trustees and creditors' committees. **Strengths:** "Aram Ordubegian is a creative and intelligent problem solver who is always responsive to the needs of his clients." "Aram is as good as it gets. He is super respected, smart and manages cases effectively and efficiently."

Paul Pascuzzi of Felderstein Fitzgerald Willoughby Pascuzzi & Rios LLP is experienced in acting for debtors and creditors in an array of bankruptcy matters. His expertise includes Chapter 11 proceedings and out-of-court workouts, in addition to litigation experience. **Strengths:** "Paul is an excellent practitioner." "Paul Pascuzzi is a great attorney." Jeffrey Reisner of Steptoe LLP acts for clients in a range of bankruptcy matters, including Chapter 11 cases as well as litigation. He also advises on the

acquisition of distressed companies. **Strengths:** "Jeffrey Reisner is a top closer and negotiator." "Jeffrey is extremely commercially savvy and an excellent orator. He captures the attention of judges with precise and sharp arguments." "Jeffrey is the best in his class. He's attentive, connected and passionate." "Jeff is one of the most experienced and creative bankruptcy and restructuring lawyers out there."

Zev Shechtman of Saul Ewing LLP is recognized as an up-and-comer for his high quality representation of clients in a range of in-court and out-of-court restructuring matters. **Strengths:** "Zev is very smart." "Zev Shechtman is a very strong lawyer."

David Shemano of ShemanoLaw offers broad expertise in matters relating to Chapter 11 proceedings. His clients include trustees, debtors and creditors' committees, among other stakeholders.

Randy Soref of Polsinelli PC has a respected practice advising clients on bankruptcy matters across a range of industries, including healthcare and aviation. Her experience includes Chapter 11 and Chapter 7 proceedings, in addition to litigation and out-of-court restructurings. **Strengths:** "Randy Soref was very commercial and did a

really good job." "Randy is organised, results focused and understands what it takes to get the job done in the most cost effective manner." "She is well respected in the industry, very connected and brings good results."

Howard Steinberg of Greenberg Traurig, LLP is experienced in acting for both debtor and creditor-side clients. He handles matters across a wide range of industries, including retail and oil and gas. **Strengths:** "Howard Steinberg is a great bankruptcy lawyer who can see the broader and bigger picture." "Howard is a savvy business adviser."

Sharon Weiss of BCLP is noted for her expertise in bankruptcy litigation, and has additional experience in out-of-court workouts and asset sales. Her clients include trustees, debtors and creditors' committees. **Strengths:** "Sharon Weiss is energetic, enthusiastic and driven." "Sharon is smart and nice but doesn't mind being adversarial with someone who doesn't have the best interests of the parties at heart."

Joseph Welch of Blank Rome handles a wide range of bankruptcy matters. He represents a broad range of clients and boasts notable expertise in real estate-related matters.

Capital Markets Debt & Equity

Capital Markets: Debt & Equity
Leading Firms
Band 1
Cooley LLP
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Band 2
Fenwick
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Band 3
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Goodwin
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Sidley Austin LLP
Band 4
Freshfields US LLP
O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Paul Hastings LLP

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Cooley LLP

What the team is known for

Cooley LLP has a highly regarded capital markets practice that harbors a deep bench of widely recognized experts in the life sciences and technology sectors. The firm is regularly engaged as issuer's

counsel in high-value IPOs, and houses practitioners with specialist knowledge of convertible debt, among other securities offerings. It boasts a client base of top-tier investment banks and companies, including an enviable stable of emerging businesses.

Strengths

"Cooley is very fast in handling complex situations and knowing what to do in unique situations."

"They are great at presenting advice that balances risk with commercial considerations."

Work highlights

Cooley advised Uber in its \$1.15 billion senior notes offering.

Notable practitioners

Eric Jensen is a recommended choice of counsel for issuers and underwriters on a broad range of capital markets transactions, from IPOs to debt mandates. **Charlie Kim** is co-chair of Cooley's global capital markets practice group. He is best known for his expertise in the life sciences and technology sectors, where he frequently advises underwriters and issuers on IPOs and debt offerings. **Strengths:** "Charlie is the standout attorney at the firm."

David Peinsipp is held in high esteem for his standout experience handling high-value IPOs and major debt offerings on behalf of technology and life sciences companies. **Strengths:** "David is adept at weighing the risks against the benefits." **Jon Avina** is sought after by leading tech companies, and their underwriters, for his knowledge of debt and equity transactions. **Strengths:** "Jon is incredible on cor-

porate matters." **Gian-Michele a Marca** attracts widespread praise for his debt capital markets practice, with notable expertise in convertible debt transactions. He routinely offers counsel to clients within the technology and pharmaceutical sectors.

Strengths: "He is a leading practitioner in the convertible financing space."

Denny Won regularly acts on significant capital markets transactions for a number of leading investment banks. **Strengths:** "Denny does deep diligence and is highly sophisticated to work with." "Denny is technically strong." "Denny is able to focus on the ultimate transactional goal while still representing his client's interests."

John-Paul Motley is praised for his securities law practice, which encompasses the representation of issuers and underwriters on the comprehensive range of debt and equity transactions. **Kristin VanderPas** has a strong client base of leading investment banks and companies in the tech and life sciences sectors. **Milson Yu** frequently acts on behalf of companies and investment banks in a variety of capital market transactions. **Strengths:** "Milson does exceptional work for us. He knows our business very well, always knows the answer and makes helpful recommendations."

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

What the team is known for

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP is a leading firm for capital markets transactions, sought after by both banks and companies for its stellar expertise and extensive experience. The firm regularly works with

Capital Markets: Debt & Equity	
Senior Statespeople	
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	
Bochner Steven	Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Jensen Eric	Cooley LLP
Saper Jeff	Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Sonsini Larry W	Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Leading Individuals	
Band 1	
Brentani William B	Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
Denenberg Alan	Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP *
Freese Tad	Latham & Watkins LLP *
Kim Charlie	Cooley LLP
Kline Richard A	Latham & Watkins LLP *
Noel Gregg A	Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Pavri Rezwan	Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Peinsipp David	Cooley LLP
Solum Sarah K	Freshfields US LLP
Webb Dan	Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
Band 2	
Avina Jon	Cooley LLP
Gasaway Michelle	Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
Jeffries Tony	Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Kennedy Shayne	Latham & Watkins LLP *
Martin Katharine A	Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
McDowell Stewart L	Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Payne Sarah P	Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Roberts Emily	Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP *
Savva John L	Sullivan & Cromwell LLP *
Spinner Allison	Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Stokdyk Steven B	Latham & Watkins LLP *
Weber Bradley	Goodwin *
Band 3	
a Marca Gian-Michele	Cooley LLP
Axtell Sarah	Latham & Watkins LLP *
Ben-Tzur Ran	Fenwick
Bond Pippa	Kirkland & Ellis LLP *
Brown Patrick S	Sullivan & Cromwell LLP *
Cooper Brett	Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Flanagan Sharon R	Sidley Austin LLP *
Franks Erik	Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Larson Cheston	Latham & Watkins LLP *
Mayon Heidi	Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
Murr Ryan A	Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Shilling Monica J	Kirkland & Ellis LLP *
Won Denny	Cooley LLP
Band 4	
Berns Branden C	Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP *
Cheng Calise	Freshfields US LLP
Forbess Julia	Fenwick
Hartlin Jeffrey T	Paul Hastings LLP *
Hughes Bill	Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Ivey Thomas J	Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
Kneib Lewis	Latham & Watkins LLP *
Ko Jonathan	Paul Hastings LLP *
Kondracki Jonie	Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Motley John-Paul	Cooley LLP
Ressler Alison S	Sullivan & Cromwell LLP *
VanderPas Kristin	Cooley LLP
Vetter Jeffrey R	Gunderson Dettmer Stough (ORL) ◇ *
Wong Maggie L	Goodwin *
Yu Milson	Cooley LLP
Up-and-coming individuals	
Park Julie	Pillsbury (ORL) ◇
* Indicates individual with profile.	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

managers and issuers on a range of deals, including convertible and investment-grade debt offerings. It also provides expert counsel on IPOs and equity-linked notes offerings on behalf of both well-established industry players and newer emerging companies. It has particular industry focus in technology and life sciences.

Strengths

"Davis Polk has good commercial and business instincts. The team knows how to balance risk and the need to operate commercially."

"They have deep experience in public financing. They know how to manage quick-moving financings."

"We always get excellent responsiveness from the team."

Work highlights

Davis Polk & Wardwell advised the representatives of the underwriters in connection with the USD5 billion SEC-registered offering by Cisco Systems, Inc.

Notable practitioners

Alan Denenberg impresses with his experience handling significant IPOs and other equity offerings, as well as high-profile debt transactions, ranging from high-yield bonds to convertible debt.

Strengths: *"Alan is simply the best. His counsel, judgement and experience are unmatched."* *"He is excellent at what he does, helping us grow while we navigate capital markets."* *"Alan is an excellent attorney, he is the main reason why we use the firm."* **Emily Roberts** is commended for her ability to advise household name issuers and high-profile underwriters on the full range of debt and equity transactions.

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for

Latham & Watkins LLP has a distinguished capital markets practice boasting an impressive roster of skilled practitioners, renowned for their commercial approach. The firm advises a range of banks, sovereign governments and corporate clients on all types of high-value debt and equity transactions. It frequently advises on transactions in the life sciences and technology industries.

Strengths

"They are very adept in understanding where things in negotiations really matter."

"They are excellent all the way through and have great market knowledge."

"Latham is the most responsive team I've worked with. They are client and solution oriented."

Work highlights

Latham & Watkins advised AMD in an underwritten public offering of \$1.5 billion aggregate principal amount of senior notes.

Notable practitioners

Tad Freese is especially active in the technology market, advising banks and companies on their debt and equity transactions. **Strengths:** *"He is a powerhouse."* Richard Kline is the chair of Latham's technology industry group and Bay Area corporate department. His capital markets practice covers both issuer-and underwriter-side transactions, displaying particular strengths in handling IPOs by technology companies. **Shayne Kennedy** impresses clients with his ability to handle complex debt and equity securities offerings. He is particularly experienced at advising on IPOs in

the life sciences and technology industries. Steven Stokdyk is a distinguished figure in the California legal market. He focuses his practice on the representation of issuers and underwriters in transactional securities matters, such as IPOs and debt offerings. **Sarah Axtell** handles the full range of capital markets transactions, with clients including companies in the technology market and major investment banks. **Cheston Larson** maintains a robust practice, which sees him advising issuing companies, and their underwriters, on diverse capital markets transactions. He is notably adept at providing counsel to organizations in the pharmaceutical sector. As global co-chair of the firm's REIT industry group, **Lewis Kneib** has considerable strength in the capital markets space. He is adept at handling transactions in the hospitality and real estate sectors.

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

What the team is known for

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP is highly regarded for its broad capital markets practice, consistently representing high-profile companies, private equity sponsors and underwriters across complex transactions. The firm offers expertise across the full spectrum of securities offerings, including advising major technology companies on high-value IPOs. It has experience assisting in first-time issuances from both the investor and growing-business perspectives.

Strengths

"Simpson Thacher's experience in working with PE issuers, makes them especially qualified to advise on the legal and practical elements of the transaction."

"They have the talent and expertise to perform anything requested and they are extraordinarily responsive to our needs."

"The Simpson Thacher team has decades of experience that makes their advice trustworthy."

Work highlights

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett represented the founders of ServiceTitan in connection with their \$625 million initial public offering.

Notable practitioners

Distinguished attorney William Brentani represents issuers, underwriters and private equity sponsors in a wide variety of debt and equity transactions. He is highly sought after for his expert counsel on transactions in diverse sectors, including health-care, technology and retail. **Strengths:** *"Bill is extraordinarily responsive and an incredibly practical advisor."* *"He has a deep understanding of his clients and proactively gives a heads up when he sees an issue or challenge arising."* **Dan Webb** provides counsel to industry-leading clients on a wide range of capital markets matters. His transactional skill set encompasses public and private offerings of debt and equity, including IPOs. **Strengths:** *"Dan is terrific to work with. He is smart, practical and responsive."* *"Dan is commercial and understands the business issues very well."* **Heidi Mayon** boasts notable experience in handling significant IPOs. Her clients stem from a broad range of industries including the technology and energy sectors. **Strengths:** *"Heidi is always accessible and provides expert opinions."*

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates

What the team is known for

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates has a diverse capital markets practice with expertise in the full range of securities offerings. The firm is able to provide a full-service practice in both domestic and international markets, working across practice groups to bring a range of skills to transactions. It is routinely sought out by private equity firms for advice on securities transactions. The firm boasts particularly deep experience of IPOs, including specialist knowledge of the SPAC market.

Strengths

"Skadden is a full service law firm that is able to address all issues. It has capable securities attorneys who are able to effectively execute on public and private equity offerings."

"Skadden is able to take a practical approach, looping in knowledgeable experts when needed, while making sure the primary deal team keeps track of the key business objectives."

"They are clear subject matter experts."

Work highlights

Skadden represented Intel Corporation in an \$8.75 billion equity investment by the US government.

Notable practitioners

As the head of Skadden's West Coast capital markets practice, Gregg Noel provides market-leading counsel on the thorniest capital markets transactions. His practice sees him representing global issuers and underwriters in traditional IPOs, and he has established himself as one of the foremost experts on SPACs. **Strengths:** *"Gregg's knowledge is second to none, but he also brings a business practicality to his work and thinks outside of the box."* *"Gregg is a go-to guy for SPAC practice."*

Michelle Gasaway has a comprehensive debt and equity practice, with notable capabilities in guiding clients through their IPOs, including advising special purpose acquisition companies on going public. **Strengths:** *"Michelle does an amazing job at transactions and security offerings."* *"Michelle is a solid securities lawyer."* Thomas Ivey is head of Skadden's Palo Alto M&A/corporate group. He represents a broad client base, including financial advisers, investment banks and companies in the technology industry, on a diverse array of capital markets matters. **Strengths:** *"Thomas is a top notch attorney who is incredibly responsive, knowledgeable and practical."*

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

What the team is known for

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati's standout practice offers expertise in a wide range of capital markets transactions, including all types of equity and debt offerings, representing issuers and underwriters. The firm is widely respected by clients and peers alike, seen as a premier law firm for high-value IPOs and follow-on offerings, and has specialist knowledge of convertible debt. It regularly handles deals involving some of the most well-known clients in the technology, energy and life sciences sectors, including startups and established companies.

Strengths

"Wilson Sonsini is able to bring tremendous expertise, industry connections and experience to projects."

"There has never been an issue they cannot navigate."

"Wilson Sonsini is very capable at handling complex and sophisticated matters."

"The team brings deep subject matter expertise plus responsiveness that is unmatched."

Work highlights

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati advised Cloudflare on its issuance of \$2 billion aggregate principal amount of convertible senior notes.

Notable practitioners

Steven Bochner has immense experience advising industry-leading companies and investment banks on the full panoply of capital markets matters. **Jeff Saper** maintains a distinguished practice focused on securities transactions by technology and emerging growth companies. His expertise encompasses both issuer and underwriter representation. Larry Sonsini's extensive knowledge of securities law makes him an asset to clients in the most complex capital markets transactions. He maintains a leading reputation for his seasoned counsel on debt offerings as well as IPOs and other equity transactions. **Rezwon Pavri** is head of the firm's capital markets practice, and has a wealth of experience assisting clients with a comprehensive range of capital markets matters. He dedicates a substantial portion of his practice to handling major IPOs in varied industries. **Strengths:** *"Rezwon is the best outside counsel I've worked with."* **Tony Jeffries** is chair of the firm's board of directors. He is highly regarded for his advice on capital markets transactions. He is best known for his representation of technology companies, and their underwriters, on diverse securities offerings. **Strengths:** *"Tony has deep technical skills and a practical, business-focused approach to communicating that makes him a valuable partner."* *"He is savvy and provides excellent guidance and wisdom."* *"Tony does an exceptional job for us and has become an integral part of our team."* Katharine Martin stands out for her ability to handle a range of complex capital markets transactions. She is especially gifted at handling significant equity offerings, including IPOs and private investments, on behalf of issuers, sponsors and investment banks. **Strengths:** *"Katharine consistently delivers practical legal and business advice."*

Allison Spinner is head of the firm's corporate department. She displays strength in both issuer and underwriter representation on the full range of debt and equity offerings. **Erik Franks** is co-leader of the firm's corporate finance practice. He has an impressive practice that sees him advise some of the best-known technology companies and investment banks on major offerings of debt and equity, including convertible debt. **Strengths:** *"Erik is our go-to capital markets debt attorney. He is adept at breaking down very complicated issues into simple concepts and executes deals flawlessly."* *"Erik can resolve technical complexities with aplomb and speed."* **Jonie Kondracki** is often called upon by clients in the life sciences and technology markets for her advice on debt and equity transactions.

Band 2

Fenwick

What the team is known for

Fenwick's team comprises renowned experts in the technology and life sciences sectors. The firm demonstrates strength in advising leading companies on a range of transactions and is regularly engaged as issuer's counsel in high-value IPOs as well as an array of other securities offerings, including convertible bonds. Additionally, Fenwick's attorneys represent investment banking funds, venture capital and private equity-backed companies and privately held businesses.

Strengths

"Fenwick has the experience to handle issues of any complexity."

"Fenwick's industry knowledge is standout."

"They always come with practical knowledge."

Work highlights

Fenwick represented CoreWeave in its upsized private offering of \$2 billion aggregate principal amount of senior notes.

Notable practitioners

Ran Ben-Tzur is co-head of Fenwick's capital markets and public companies group. He is recognized for his strong record advising clients, particularly in California's tech space, on initial public offerings and other equity and debt transactions. **Strengths:** *"Ran is very responsive and a good communicator."* **Julia Forbess** demonstrates a strong record advising issuer clients with a range of debt and equity offerings, with a particular aptitude in IPOs and matters pertaining to convertible debt. **Strengths:** *"Julia is excellent and a pleasure to work with."* *"Julia stands out in her responsiveness, thoughtfulness and her commercial knowledge."* *"Julia is always responsive, practical and knowledgeable."*

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

What the team is known for

Sullivan & Cromwell has an eminent capital markets practice with cross-border capabilities across a wide range of complex, high-value transactions. It is a popular choice for investment banks and issuers involved in high-value debt and equity offerings. Capital markets capabilities are bolstered by firm-wide strength in M&A. The firm is sought out for its expertise in representing syndicated groups of underwriters.

Strengths

"Sullivan & Cromwell has extensive knowledge of current and evolving market practices."

"They are very responsive, highly qualified and knowledgeable."

"That team works really well holistically, they never miss a beat."

Notable practitioners

Sarah Payne is recognized for her extensive capabilities on wide-ranging capital markets matters. She is particularly skilled at advising on IPOs and secondary offerings. **Strengths:** *"Sarah sees the bigger picture is able to apply our situations to the broader legal system."* John Savva is recommended for his expert counsel on public and private offerings of debt and equity. He is experienced in a broad array of sectors, including technology, healthcare and life sciences. **Strengths:** *"John has subject matter expertise and great leadership."* Patrick Brown is the managing partner of Sullivan & Cromwell's Los Angeles office. He regularly acts for major investment banks and corporations in a wide

variety of sectors, including technology, healthcare and real estate. **Strengths:** *"Patrick is a trusted advisor when thinking through complex securities matters."* Alison Ressler centers her practice on capital markets transactions, with an emphasis on debt- and equity-based securities offerings. Her expertise in securities law is complemented by a wider M&A and private equity-based skill set.

Band 3

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

What the team is known for

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP boasts a highly skilled team of lawyers with a wealth of experience on both sides of deals, capable of handling the most complex of transactions. The firm offers noted expertise in the technology, biotechnology and life sciences areas, advising a range of issuer and underwriter clients. Transactional strength is reinforced by experience providing SEC regulatory compliance advice.

Strengths

"Gibson Dunn provides practical, realistic guidance and helps us think through the complex issues we encounter."

"Gibson Dunn has broad expertise on a variety of topics, with particular specialty in life sciences."

"They are creative and solutions oriented."

Work highlights

Gibson Dunn represented California Water Service Group on a \$350 million 'at the market' equity offering program.

Notable practitioners

Stewart McDowell is co-chair of the firm's capital markets practice group. Her capital markets expertise encompasses the representation of issuers and underwriters on the full range of equity and debt offerings. **Strengths:** *"Stewart she is exceptional, practical and thoughtful."* *"Stewart is outstanding and I trust her as a strategic advisor."* *"She is exceptional, practical and thoughtful."* Ryan Murr is able to advise on a variety of securities offerings and business transactions, with a focus on the life sciences and technology sectors. **Strengths:** *"Ryan is a really trusted advisor who comes up with innovative solutions."* *"Ryan is a very strategic lawyer that excels at thinking about the big picture."* Branden Berns is known for his advice to leading life sciences clients in a variety of equity transactions. He has particular experience in IPOs, secondary equity offerings and PIPE financings. **Strengths:** *"Branden dedicates himself to delivering client value through providing practical advice that enables companies to succeed."* *"Branden always comes in and gives the exact advice we needed. He has been strong on every matter."*

Goodwin

What the team is known for

Goodwin's team regularly represents technology and life sciences companies in high-value IPOs and follow-on offerings. A strong West Coast offering bolsters the firm's nationwide footprint. It is also often called on to advise underwriters in equity and debt offerings, including convertible debt.

Strengths

"Goodwin has great partners and innovative thinking."

"The team is pragmatic, creative and practical."

Work highlights

Goodwin advised Pattern Group in its initial public offering of \$300 million.

Notable practitioners

Bradley Weber is co-chair of the firm's global capital markets practice. He demonstrates strength in capital markets matters and frequently represents companies and investment banks in complex securities transactions. Maggie Wong is noted for her experience in life sciences work and is a partner in Goodwin's life sciences group. She has experience handling issuer side representations for clients in this field.

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

What the team is known for

Kirkland & Ellis has an esteemed California offering in the capital markets space, bolstered by an immense skill set in private equity deals. The firm is recognized for its skillful representation of both issuers and investment banks in major transactions. It is especially noted for its ability to advise on capital markets transactions for companies in financial distress. Attorneys at the firm regularly advise on investment grade and high-yield debt transactions, as well as IPOs and follow-on offerings.

Strengths

"Kirkland has terrific lawyers that are highly responsive and absolute subject matter experts."

"The team is always available during moments of urgency."

Work highlights

Kirkland & Ellis advised Revalize on a recapitalization of its approximately \$655 million of secured debt and USD662.5 million of preferred stock.

Notable practitioners

Pippa Bond is highly commended for her work advising issuers and underwriters on the full range of debt and equity securities offerings. **Strengths:** *"Pippa is an outstanding lawyer."* Monica Shilling is noted for her expertise in capital markets law. Her experience includes handling major IPOs, follow-on offerings and investment-grade debt transactions. **Strengths:** *"Monica is a sophisticated, experienced and commercial attorney."*

Sidley Austin LLP

What the team is known for

Sidley Austin LLP has an impressive group complementing the firm's nationwide and international footprint. The firm is frequently sought after by both issuer and underwriter clients across a range of industries including technology, energy and e-commerce. It advises on the full range of securities issuances.

Strengths

"Sidley are commercial and easy to work with."

Work highlights

Sidley Austin represented DaVita in its high-yield private offering of \$1 billion aggregate principal amount of its senior notes.

Notable practitioners

Sharon Flanagan focuses her practice on securities offerings in the technology and life sciences industries. She frequently represents issuers and underwriters in IPOs and other equity offerings, as well as various debt issuances.

Band 4

Freshfields US LLP

What the team is known for

The Freshfields team is held in high regard in the capital markets space. It is relied upon by public companies, SPACs and investment banks to handle a host of matters including equity offerings and IPOs. The team has further experience of advising shareholders on securing full exit of their investments through de-SPAC transactions.

Notable practitioners

Sarah Solum is US managing partner and the global co-head of capital markets. She has market-leading experience advising underwriters and companies on stock offerings and note issuances, including advising on convertible debt transactions.

Strengths: *"Sarah is uniquely smart, creative and responsive."* *"Sarah is extremely sharp and responsive."* **Calise Cheng** is adept in matters across the spectrum of debt and equity, with particular expertise in advising issuers on equity offerings.

O'Melveny & Myers LLP

What the team is known for

O'Melveny & Myers boasts a full-service capital markets team that represents issuers and underwriters, including investment banks, REITs and multinational corporations, in a variety of debt and equity transactions. The firm harbors experience and expertise across a range of sectors including technology, healthcare and entertainment.

Strengths

"O'Melveny is capable of handling complex and sophisticated matters."

"The team is super responsive and service oriented."

Work highlights

O'Melveny & Myers represented Centrus Energy Corp. in its private offering of \$402.5 million aggregate principal amount of convertible senior notes.

Notable practitioners

Shelly Heyduk is a key contact for the firm.

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

What the team is known for

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP has an experienced team that is regularly sought after for its strengths in all manners of public equity and debt offerings. The firm is established as a key player in the technology and life sciences sectors, often representing emerging companies in IPOs. It represents both issuers and underwriters, including household-name investment banks and global corporations.

Strengths

"Orrick has deep expertise in capital markets transactions and its advice is practical, proactive and timely."

Work highlights

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe advised Varex Imaging Corporation on its \$125 million add-on offering of 7.875% senior secured notes due 2027.

Notable practitioners

Brett Cooper is noted for his experience in securities law. His expertise covers equity financing, debt offerings and SPAC transactions. **Bill Hughes** advises on an array of debt and equity offerings. His client base includes both public and private com-

panies.

Paul Hastings LLP

What the team is known for

The Paul Hastings LLP team boasts strength in the capital markets space. The group has considerable experience in the life sciences, finance and technology sectors. The lawyers are routinely called upon to provide counsel on significant IPOs and financing transactions.

Strengths

"Paul Hastings has the ability to take on large, complex matters quickly, both on the debt and equity sides."

"Paul Hastings is highly knowledgeable about all corporate and securities matters."

"The team is responsive and highly commercial."

Work highlights

Paul Hastings represented Xencor in its underwritten public offering of \$175 million in common stock.

Notable practitioners

Jeffrey Hartlin has notable experience advising clients in the biopharmaceutical industry on IPOs and debt offerings, among other issues. **Strengths:** *"Jeff is an expert in capital raising in the life sciences sector."* **Jonathan Ko** is a Los Angeles-based partner in the securities and capital markets practice of Paul Hastings. He has experience handling IPOs alongside debt and equity work for both issuer and underwriter clients. **Strengths:** *"Jonathan has been real pleasure to work with. He is incredibly responsive to us and he has a great understanding of the laws and issues."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Julie Park of Pillsbury gathers praise for her work advising companies on capital raisings of various kinds. She has experience handling both equity and debt issuances for a range of clients including those in the biotech sphere.

Jeffrey Vetter of Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve Franklin & Hachigian has established a broad practice involving the representation of both underwriters and issuers in a wide array of capital markets transactions.

Construction

Construction	Construction	Construction
Leading Firms	Senior Statespeople	Senior Statespeople
Band 1	Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	Heisse II John R Pillsbury
Alston & Bird LLP	Hanover John D Alston & Bird LLP *	Lee Bennett J Varela, Lee, Metz & Guarino
Hanson Bridgett LLP	Leading Individuals	
Ralls Gruber & Niece	Band 1	O'Donnell Neil Rogers Joseph O'Donnell
Band 2	Ashcraft Howard W Hanson Bridgett LLP	Sheridan Peter Glaser Weil Fink Howard (ORL) ◇
Jones Day	Eliopoulos William T. Rutan & Tucker LLP	Band 5
Pillsbury	Hack Marion T Cozen O'Connor	Akerman Michelle Hanson Bridgett LLP
Rutan & Tucker LLP	McMillan Daniel D Jones Day	Blanchard Philip Rutan & Tucker LLP
Watt, Tieder, Hoffar & Fitzgerald, LLP	Ralls John Ralls Gruber & Niece	Bogo Jessica Ralls Gruber & Niece
Band 3	Band 2	Campbell Robert Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP
Finch, Thornton & Baird, LLP	Barron Anthony Nixon Peabody LLP	Cohen Nathan Peckar & Abramson, P.C. *
Gibbs Giden Locher Turner Senet & Wittbrodt LLP	Diepenbrock Eileen Diepenbrock Elkin Dauer (ORL) ◇	Espinosa Hector H. Pierce Kavcioglu Espinosa *
Nixon Peabody LLP	Finch Jr. P. Randolph Finch, Thornton & Baird, LLP	Hennigh Scott Hennigh Law Corporation
Pierce Kavcioglu Espinosa & Cesar LLP	Howard Andrew Alston & Bird LLP *	Kearl Jane Watt, Tieder, Hoffar & Fitzgerald, LLP
Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP	McPherson David F. Watt, Tieder, Hoffar & Fitzgerald, LLP	Kirzner Jeffrey B Jones Day
Rogers Joseph O'Donnell	Pierce Timothy Pierce Kavcioglu Espinosa & Cesar LLP *	Klinger Marilyn SMTD Law LLP
Varela, Lee, Metz & Guarino	Silberman Aaron Rogers Joseph O'Donnell	Mason Rowan Ralls Gruber & Niece
Band 4	Thiel Clark Ralls Gruber & Niece	McCauley Michael Jones Day
Allen Matkins	Wittbrodt Richard J Gibbs Giden Locher Turner Senet	McLennon Daniel Smith Currie Oles LLP
Cozen O'Connor	Band 3	Merrell Nicholas A. Varela, Lee, Metz & Guarino
Hennigh Law Corporation	Baghdassarian Alex Hanson Bridgett LLP	Niccoli Anthony Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo
Seyfarth Shaw LLP	Foust John Ralls Gruber & Niece	Phillips Laurence R. Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP	Giacomini Andrew G Hanson Bridgett LLP	Radmacher Brenda K. Seyfarth Shaw LLP
Band 5	Gruber Aaron Ralls Gruber & Niece	Ramseyer Craig Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch
Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo	Jones-McKeown Meredith A Perkins Coie (ORL) ◇ *	Richards Matthew A Nixon Peabody LLP
Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP	McKeeman Michael T Seyfarth Shaw LLP	Salamirad Ali SMTD Law LLP
Farella Braun + Martel LLP	Niesley Robert Watt, Tieder, Hoffar & Fitzgerald, LLP	Thornton Jason Finch, Thornton & Baird, LLP
Peckar & Abramson, P.C.	Band 4	Van Duzer Richard Farella Braun + Martel LLP
Segal McCambridge Singer & Mahoney, Ltd	Contreras Erinn M Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton	Van Ornum Andrew Varela, Lee, Metz & Guarino
Smith Currie Oles LLP	Dal Gallo Lisa Hanson Bridgett LLP	Yacovelle John A Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton
SMTD Law LLP	Dulik Gregg Seyfarth Shaw LLP	Up-and-coming individuals
* Indicates individual with profile.	Dunn Jonathan SMTD Law LLP	Furst Jamie Alston & Bird LLP *
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	Eaton Luke Nicholas Cozen O'Connor	Griffin Missy Gibbs Giden Locher Turner Senet & Wittbrodt
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	Gadbois Barbara Gibbs Giden Locher Turner Senet	Lee Elaine Peckar & Abramson, P.C.
	Kavcioglu Armenak Pierce Kavcioglu Espinosa & Cesar *	Mott Garrett Hennigh Law Corporation
	Kornblatt Sara Gibbs Giden Locher Turner Senet	Shaeps Ariel Allen Matkins
	McGowan Joseph Rogers Joseph O'Donnell	

Construction: Mediators**Leading Individuals****Star individuals**

Gibbs Kenneth C. JAMS (ORL) ♦ *

Kurland Gerald (Jerry) JAMS (ORL) ♦ *

Band 1

Ballati Deborah S. JAMS (ORL) ♦ *

Diepenbrock Eileen. Diepenbrock Elkin Dauer (ORL) ♦

Hart Ross R. Hart ADR (ORL) ♦ *

Wulff Randall W. Wulff, Quinby & Sochynsky (ORL) ♦

Band 2

Brown Ernest C. ProjectNeutral (ORL) ♦

Edwards Bruce. Signature Resolution (ORL) ♦

Heisse II John R. Pillsbury

Truax Timothy. Law Offices of Timothy M. Truax (ORL) ♦

* Indicates individual with profile.

♦ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1**Alston & Bird LLP****What the team is known for**

Alston & Bird LLP offers expertise spanning the full range of construction disputes involving major private and public projects. The firm is further able to advise on the full spectrum of construction issues, including project planning and contract negotiations, through to contract claims and litigation. Its clients include engineering and design companies, contractors and subcontractors, as well as both public and private owners. The group demonstrates notable strength in infrastructure, power generation and renewable energy developments. Alston & Bird demonstrates recent activity in connection with residential, commercial and mixed-use construction projects.

Strengths

"Alston & Bird are adept at handling varied range of matters, from one-off unique claims to those that are high-value, complex and sophisticated. The size and depth of experience allow them to be nimble, creative and instructive as they provide strategic advice and counsel."

"Alston & Bird demonstrates deep expertise at both the senior associate and partner levels."

"The team at Alston & Bird is a pleasure to work with."

"Alston & Bird is practical and pragmatic, balancing reality and possibilities while putting the client's interests first."

Work highlights

Alston & Bird represented Ames Construction in a dispute with the California Department of Transportation regarding the construction of a four-mile segment of the I-10 freeway east of Downtown Los Angeles.

Notable practitioners

John Hanover is a construction litigation specialist with experience handling contract disputes, defective work complaints and interruption and delay claims. His clients include several contractors, developers, design professionals and owners, as well as sureties clients and financial institutions.

Strengths: *"John is the best lawyer I have had the pleasure of working with."* *"John Hanover is a great resource for leading the resolution of complex matters."* **Andrew Howard** advises clients involved in complex construction-related transactions and

disputes including contract terminations, ADR and litigation. His practice covers a broad range of high-stakes projects, from hospitality to education and healthcare. **Strengths:** *"Andrew Howard is extremely creative in problem-solving and excels as both a drafter and an advocate."* *"Andrew Howard is deeply knowledgeable about construction law, making him a formidable opponent."* **Jamie Furst** has a growing reputation for handling both contentious and noncontentious construction matters for a wide range of clients. Her main areas of focus include breach of contract and defective construction claims.

Hanson Bridgett LLP**What the team is known for**

Hanson Bridgett LLP maintains a strong profile for its work in Integrated Project Delivery development, structuring complex contracts across a range of construction schemes. The firm advises a broad range of clients, including general contractors, on matters such as insurance coverage disputes, default, delay and defective construction disputes. Known for advising on projects in the infrastructure, healthcare, energy and education sectors, among others. Also able to offer expertise in complex arbitration matters.

Strengths

"Hanson Bridgett is a powerhouse in construction law."

"Hanson Bridgett possesses the expertise needed to successfully guide us through complex legal matters."

"Hanson Bridgett has a wealth of experience in construction law and a ready bench of attorneys who are able to assist when issues arise."

"Hanson Bridgett knows the market and understands construction and architecture from a field level, not just a legal level. It has provided insightful comments that no other firm has been able to provide to us so far."

Work highlights

Hanson Bridgett continued to represent the University of Nebraska on a hospital project, providing project advisory services and preparing the Integrated Project Delivery Agreement.

Notable practitioners

Howard Ashcraft is noted for his strong contract negotiation and drafting skills in relation to large national and international construction projects. His extensive experience encompasses a range of technical design and infrastructure projects, including in the Energy and Transportation sectors.

Strengths: *"Howard Ashcraft is experienced in all the construction problems we have encountered and the changes insurers and parties try to make. His acumen and availability are great."* *"Howard gets in the knitty-gritty of drafting and provides invaluable business insights."*

Alex Baghdassarian frequently represents general contractors in litigation involving construction delays, terminations and defaults. He is particularly well-versed in jury trials in both State and Federal Court. **Andrew Giacomini** is a specialist trial lawyer with extensive experience resolving complex construction-related disputes at trial or through ADR proceedings. **Lisa Dal Gallo** advises designers and contractors in major projects, including the construction of healthcare, educational and assisted living facilities. She offers exten-

sive expertise concerning a variety of construction contract delivery models. **Strengths:** *"Lisa's knowledge of design and construction, coupled with her IPD and contracting experience, is a valuable resource to our team."* *"Lisa Dal Gallo embodies integrity and fiercely advocates for our interests."* *"Lisa is the lawyer you want to have on your side."* *"I look forward to whenever Lisa Dal Gallo leads a negotiation. The work flows more smoothly and balances the needs of all parties."* *"Lisa Dal Gallo leads a negotiation. The work flows more smoothly and balances the needs of all parties."* **Michelle Akerman** represents clients in a broad range of construction disputes. As a litigation attorney, she handles everything from contract negotiation and claim evaluation to litigation and arbitration, with a particular focus on private commercial and large-scale residential projects. **Strengths:** *"Michelle handles legal matters really well."*

Ralls Gruber & Niece**What the team is known for**

Ralls Gruber & Niece is a boutique firm that regularly acts for large contractors and engineering clients in a wide variety of construction matters. The firm is praised by market sources for the strength of its litigation practice.

Strengths

"Ralls Gruber do not leave any stone unturned. Their knowledge and the consultants they have retained are the best."

"The team at Ralls Gruber is experienced in complex, high-dollar matters and is also responsive and nimble."

Work highlights

Ralls Gruber & Niece represented RES System in a dispute with the City and County of San Francisco concerning unpaid change orders and contract balances, countered by claims of liquidated damages and defective construction arising from an electrical substation rehabilitation project.

Notable practitioners

John Ralls has considerable experience handling construction disputes and advising on licensing issues concerning commercial, energy and industrial projects. His clients include several owners, contractors, design professionals, construction managers and suppliers. **Strengths:** *"John Ralls is a go-to attorney for major contractors."* **Clark Thiel** advises a wide range of clients, including design professionals, developers, contractors and owners, on the drafting and negotiation of construction contracts. He also has considerable experience handling delay claim disputes and arbitrations.

Strengths: *"Clark Thiel is very experienced in working with contractors. His background in architecture is invaluable."* **John Foust** offers significant experience assisting contractors, owners and developers with the full range of construction matters. He handles contract negotiations, payments disputes and breach of contract claims. **Strengths:** *"John Foust is super smart and is deeply knowledgeable about construction law."* *"John is a great, reasonable lawyer."* **Aaron Gruber** wins praise for his representation of clients from the construction sector in a variety of disputes, ranging from breach of contract litigation to defect and delay claims. He is particularly well-versed in issues relating to energy and transport projects. **Strengths:** *"Aaron*

Gruber is really knowledgeable and embedded in the construction industry." **Jessica Bogo** has an active practice in contentious construction claims focused on representing owners and contractors. She appears in federal court litigation, insurance-related matters and arbitrations. **Strengths:** "Jessica Bogo is a very good attorney and knows construction law in depth. Her greatest strength is how hard she works to get the expected results." "Jessica's work and response times are excellent." "Jessica Bogo is smart and responsive." **Rowan Mason** is highly regarded in the market for his practice in construction litigation. He has significant experience acting in breach of contract disputes and handling defect claims as well as contract formation and the review of bid documents. **Strengths:** "Rowan Mason is an excellent attorney."

Band 2

Jones Day

What the team is known for

Jones Day is home to a celebrated construction practice that attracts an impressive client base on major transactions and litigation. The team receives praise for its work on infrastructure projects both in the United States and abroad, with experience of significant matters in Asia, Australasia and Europe. Its experience includes significant energy, healthcare and transportation projects. The attorneys offer noted expertise in cases concerning completed projects, including those involving defective designs and structural failures.

Strengths

"Jones Day is extremely agile and capable of handling complex and sophisticated matters."

"The team at Jones Day provided excellent service and is available when needed."

"Jones Day has excellent, collaborative partners who help clients achieve successful outcomes."

"Jones Day attorneys are excellent in all phases of litigation. They excel in developing creative solutions, analyzing complex issues and trial advocacy."

Work highlights

Jones Day represented Jacobs in defending against a lawsuit over cost increases and delays on a Los Angeles Valley College construction project, successfully obtaining dismissal of most claims and an anti-SLAPP fee award before the plaintiffs dropped the case.

Notable practitioners

Daniel McMillan has experience handling complex construction litigation and contract negotiations. His diverse client list includes contractors, owners and design professionals. **Strengths:** "Daniel McMillan is my go-to lawyer for bet-the-company construction matters. He is at the top of his game, and he is truly one of the best in the country." "Daniel is an all-around excellent attorney." "Daniel McMillan has deep industry knowledge, is highly effective in negotiations and understands the nuts and bolts of both our industry and construction law." Jeffrey Kirzner leads the firm's construction practice in Irvine and is particularly noted for his transactional expertise in the construction space. He regularly advises clients on procurement as well as EPC, design-build and other contracting matters. **Strengths:** "Jeff Kirzner is an excellent lawyer." "Jeff is business-oriented

and a pleasure to work with." **Michael McCauley** represents a variety of clients in construction disputes, including both public and private owners, contractors and design professionals. He is experienced in trials and arbitrations.

Pillsbury

What the team is known for

Pillsbury is recognized for its full-service construction offering, housing particular expertise in high-stakes contentious construction matters, such as litigation stemming from delays, defective construction and change order issues. Recommended for its work on construction contracting, including EPC contracts, the firm advises clients on issues such as engineering, procurement and public-private partnerships. It is also noted for its expertise in areas such as government contracts and insurance recovery.

Notable practitioners

John Heisse is skilled in the handling of contentious construction matters involving projects across the education, healthcare and energy sectors. He is particularly noted for his expertise in arbitrations and mediations. **Strengths:** "John Heisse is excellent in arbitration and a reasonable, proactive mediator."

Rutan & Tucker LLP

What the team is known for

Rutan & Tucker LLP is an established construction group that advises on project delivery relating to public-private partnerships and major infrastructure developments. The team enjoys extensive experience in construction contract and design-build contract drafting and negotiations. It demonstrates additional capacity for handling claims management and procurement issues. The firm's clients include contractors, developers, public bodies and design professionals.

Strengths

"Rutan & Tucker are able to smoothly manage very complex issues on complex projects with complex contracts. They are sophisticated and flag the right risks and opportunities for our business."

"Rutan & Tucker provides extremely sophisticated counsel with state-of-the-art systems."

Work highlights

Rutan & Tucker represented Webcor Builders in litigation arising from the Oceanwide Plaza project in Los Angeles.

Notable practitioners

William Eliopoulos is well regarded in the market for his handling of complex construction litigation matters. He has notable expertise in design-build and PPP construction projects. **Strengths:** "Bill Eliopoulos consistently provides excellent advice tailored to our needs." "Bill has been our trusted partner for a number of years and has earned the trust of our company, from the legal department to the executives." **Philip Blanchard** has over 20 years' experience in the construction space and maintains an active practice across a variety of construction matters. His recent work includes complex delay and defective construction litigation. **Strengths:** "Philip is a sharp attorney."

Watt, Tieder, Hoffer & Fitzgerald, LLP

What the team is known for

Watt, Tieder, Hoffer & Fitzgerald, LLP is recognized for its notable construction litigation capabilities, maintaining an active presence in disputes arising from major public projects. The team also frequently advises on contract negotiation and administration. It has significant experience advising insurance companies in their roles as sureties for construction projects. The firm offers particular strength in the south of the state from its Irvine office.

Strengths

"Watt Tieder has excellent legal strategists who take the time to learn their client's needs and tailor their services to attain the best possible results."

"The team demonstrates subject matter expertise, excellent judgment and integrity."

"The firm is excellent all around."

Work highlights

Watt Tieder represented Travelers in a \$35 million dispute arising from the default termination of general contractor Jokake Construction on a hospital project.

Notable practitioners

David McPherson is the managing partner of the firm's Irvine office and is well regarded for his construction practice, regularly handling disputes relating to significant infrastructure projects. He advises on contract disputes and has notable experience sitting as an arbitrator. **Strengths:** "David is insightful and has our best interest at heart." "I personally feel fortunate to work with Dave McPherson, and everyone at my organization feels the same way." **Robert Niesley** frequently acts for construction sureties in major disputes, including those involving delays, extra costs and contract terminations. He offers significant experience in both state and federal court litigation as well as ADR. **Strengths:** "Robert Niesley provides great counsel, is deliberate in his approach and is always focused on the big picture." **Jane Kearl** represents developers, owners, and contractors nationwide in both transactional and litigation construction matters. She is regarded for drafting construction, consultant, and trade agreements for mixed-use, commercial, and residential projects, with a particular emphasis on multifamily developments and solar-related issues. **Strengths:** "Jane Kearl has an incredible wealth of knowledge and experience." "Jane is a phenomenal attorney and legal asset to our company." "Jane Kearl always makes herself available."

Band 3

Finch, Thornton & Baird, LLP

What the team is known for

Finch, Thornton & Baird, LLP is a San Diego-based construction boutique that concentrates on the representation of owners and contractors in construction-related litigation at trial or in ADR proceedings. The firm has deep expertise in both public and private project disputes arising in California.

Strengths

"Finch, Thornton has experts in resolving complex construction disputes and leverages this capability to achieve strong, efficient results."

"Finch Thornton is a well-oiled machine."

Work highlights

Finch, Thornton & Baird successfully represented a

general contractor and its sureties in a dispute with a subcontractor on a public works construction project.

Notable practitioners

Randolph Finch represents a diverse list of clients, including owners, contractors and sureties in breach of contract and other complex disputes. He also offers expertise in arbitration matters. **Strengths:** “Randy Finch is an effective advocate for his clients.” “Randy’s oral and written advocacy are top-notch, and his ability to try facts is exceptional.” “I would recommend Randy Finch to any friend or colleague.” “Randy Finch is very knowledgeable and focused on results.” “Randy Finch is subtle in his approach to litigation and presents facts fantastically. He does the right thing for his clients.” **Jason Thornton** is a construction litigation specialist with over two decades’ experience advising on cases arising out of private and public projects. He appears at trial and in ADR proceedings. **Strengths:** “Jason Thornton is responsive at any time. I ping him and get an answer straight away.”

Gibbs Giden Locher Turner Senet & Wittbrodt LLP

What the team is known for

Gibbs Giden Locher Turner Senet & Wittbrodt LLP is a strong presence in construction disputes, offering clients extensive experience in litigation and international arbitration. The firm displays further expertise in risk management, in addition to bid protests and procurement issues. It advises clients on a broad range of construction projects, and has a continued focus on healthcare projects. The group demonstrates particular strength in Southern California, with offices in Los Angeles and Irvine, alongside one in Las Vegas, Nevada. It is able to draw on additional expertise in related areas such as fidelity and surety law, tort defense and real estate.

Strengths

“Gibbs Giden provides a high level of knowledge and expertise.”

“Gibbs Giden has a solid group of construction litigators with experience handling a variety of matters. They are always responsive.”

“Gibbs Giden embodies competence, expertise, dedication and loyalty.”

Work highlights

Gibbs Giden continued to represent Myers Power Products in a dispute over electrical upgrades to the Los Coyotes Water Reclamation Center in Southern California.

Notable practitioners

Richard Wittbrodt is an exceptionally experienced construction law practitioner based in Los Angeles with a focus on the resolution of complex construction disputes. He is regularly instructed by both contractors and subcontractors. Wittbrodt’s recent work includes disputes relating to major healthcare and transportation projects. **Strengths:** “Richard Wittbrodt is highly incisive on complex matters and excels at managing multi-party, high-stakes litigation.” “Richard Wittbrodt brings strategic thinking and solid relationships with many experienced litigators in Los Angeles.” **Barbara Gadbois** is skilled in the handling of both public and private construction projects in healthcare, hospitality and entertainment. She frequently advises owners and contractors on

a range of issues including contract formation and bid protests. **Strengths:** “Barbara Gadbois always provides great service.” **Sara Kornblatt** maintains a strong disputes practice and is particularly adept at handling claims relating to financial and contractual issues. Her recent work includes construction issues stemming from mixed-use and infrastructure projects. **Strengths:** “Sara Kornblatt is smart and practical.” “Sara Kornblatt is highly responsive and creative, and her writing is consistently excellent. Her attitude toward the work is excellent by nature, and her natural optimism shines through.” “Sara Kornblatt is responsive and an excellent lawyer.” **Missy Griffin** has experience working on construction claims and litigation for both private and public clients, as well as transactional work, such as contract drafting and analysis and mechanic liens. **Strengths:** “Missy Griffin is always responsive and up to speed on applicable law, as well as the nuances of discovery and litigation matters.”

Nixon Peabody LLP

What the team is known for

Nixon Peabody LLP’s San Francisco and Los Angeles-based practice advises contractor and owner-side clients including public entities throughout the life-cycle of a construction project. The firm advises clients on contract formation, project management and litigation arising in court or ADR forums.

Strengths

“Nixon Peabody provides guidance that addresses key issues in a practical way.”

“Nixon Peabody handles complex matters with ease.”

“I am very pleased with the depth and breadth of Nixon Peabody’s team.”

Notable practitioners

Anthony Barron leads the firm’s litigation department and is noted for his representation of owners and contractors in a wide range of construction disputes, from defective work to termination and delay claims and change order issues. He is also regularly called upon to assist with contract negotiations. **Strengths:** “Anthony Barron provides excellent guidance, is always ready to engage with every party and communicates smoothly and calmly.” **Matthew Richards** is a specialist litigator with considerable experience representing both public and private owners and general contractor clients in state and federal court litigation as well as arbitration. He has additional expertise in appellate court litigation. **Strengths:** “Matthew’s legal acumen, commitment to delivering high-quality legal services and integrity make him an excellent legal counsel.” “Matthew Richards has great legal skills and a calm demeanor.”

Pierce Kavcioglu Espinosa & Cesar LLP

What the team is known for

Pierce Kavcioglu Espinosa & Cesar LLP is a Los Angeles-based construction boutique with a focus on the resolution of construction disputes at trial as well as through ADR. The team deftly represents, owners, contractors and subcontractors on the full range of construction issues.

Strengths

“Pierce Kavcioglu offers exceptional depth of

knowledge and experience.”

“The team at Pierce Kavcioglu quickly grasps the intricacies of our specialty construction work, knowledge of relevant law and maintains a focused approach in pursuit of our claim.”

“The Pierce Kavcioglu team is thorough and prepared whenever they have represented us at any level, including contract negotiations, mediations, arbitrations and court trials.”

Work highlights

Pierce Kavcioglu Espinosa & Cesar represented Webcor and Obayashi JV in contract and statutory claims valued at \$20 million arising from a public works project in the City of San Francisco against Fisk Electric.

Notable practitioners

Timothy Pierce is the managing partner of the firm. He is an experienced litigator who is regularly called upon to act for his clients in disputes concerning contracts and construction defects. **Strengths:** “Tim’s superior legal and technical knowledge ensures the focused, efficient and practical prosecution of our claim.” “Tim Pierce is a seasoned construction attorney. He is a truly professional advocate.” **Armenak Kavcioglu** has a strong disputes practice handling issues relating to a range of both public and private construction projects. His particular areas of focus include delay, disruption and change order litigation. **Strengths:** “Armenak provides outstanding advice and service in all legal matters and business strategies. He is a pleasure to work with.” **Hector Espinosa** acts for and advises owners, general contractors and subcontractors on a wide range of contentious and noncontentious construction matters. His broad expertise encompasses contract formation and negotiation, as well as delay and defect claims. **Strengths:** “Hector Espinosa is reasonable and great to work with.”

Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP

What the team is known for

Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP is highlighted for its impressively broad construction practice, advising on areas such as contract preparation and litigation. The team draws on additional capabilities in environmental regulatory matters and OSHA investigations. Its clients include general contractors, subcontractors and sureties.

Strengths

“Procopio provides high level of competence and attention to detail. I am very satisfied with the work they perform.”

“Procopio has an excellent understanding of the business, technical and legal issues we face.”

“I find the Procopio attorneys to be excellent. They are very knowledgeable about subject-matter law, construction means and methods, as well as insurance coverage issues. They also have the bench strength to staff up cases as the work requires.”

“The attorneys at Procopio are prompt and communicative, and show a genuine interest in our company and people.”

“The results with Procopio have far exceeded our expectations.”

Work highlights

Procopio represented Del Mar Hotel Partners in a jury trial, prevailing on its \$373,000 claim and defeating a multimillion-dollar cross-complaint.

Notable practitioners

Laurence Phillips leads Procopio's construction and infrastructure practice, representing contractors, developers and public agencies across private and public works contracting. His work spans contract drafting and negotiations as well as complex claims and disputes, including bid protests, prevailing wage issues and litigation through trial and arbitration. **Strengths:** "Laurence Phillips is always ahead of the curve." "Laurence Phillips is terrific to work with." **Craig Ramseyer** is a popular choice for clients seeking advice on various construction matters. He has experience in a wide range of construction disputes, including delay claims and breach of contract disputes for both public and private clients. **Strengths:** "Craig Ramseyer is smart and concise."

Rogers Joseph O'Donnell

What the team is known for

Rogers Joseph O'Donnell is a boutique construction firm with notable expertise in advising on public sector projects such as transport and energy infrastructure developments. Acts in a variety of construction disputes, including contract award controversies, design contract claims and bid protests. Clients include major national and international contractors and designers, as well as subcontractors and suppliers.

Strengths

"RJO manages complex work for us and helps us win."

Work highlights

Rogers Joseph O'Donnell represented DRS in a series of appeals to the ASBCA involving claims under Navy contracts to manufacture and test ship systems and related equipment.

Notable practitioners

Aaron Silberman is co-chair of the firm's construction law practice group. He has substantial experience in construction law and routinely handles delay claims, change order litigation and arbitrations. He is particularly noted for his expertise in contract and public procurement matters. He represents general and specialty contractors, subcontractors, design professionals and suppliers. **Strengths:** "Aaron Silberman is extremely knowledgeable in construction law and well connected within the industry." **Joseph McGowan** is co-chair of the firm's construction law practice group. He is a specialist construction law practitioner highly capable of advising major contractor clients in public works, government contracts and construction-related disputes. **Strengths:** "Joseph McGowan is pragmatic and reasonable in his approach to litigation." **Neil O'Donnell** maintains an active construction practice and routinely handles mediations, delay claims and contract matters. He is particularly noted for his expertise in government contracts work. **Strengths:** "Neil O'Donnell is integral to our business and corporate success."

Varela, Lee, Metz & Guarino

What the team is known for

Varela, Lee, Metz & Guarino is home to an experienced team with a large presence in Northern California. The group handles the full gamut of construction law matters, from contract drafting to project management and dispute resolution. It has

a particular focus on public work projects, often acting for state, federal and local governments. The firm also acts for major energy, transportation and engineering corporations.

Strengths

"The team at Varela Lee is experienced and mighty, and they definitely understand how the construction industry works."

"Varela Lee offers outstanding responsiveness and a practical approach to solving problems."

"Varela Lee has a strong construction litigation team, with a very nuanced knowledge of all facets of construction law."

Work highlights

Varela, Lee, Metz & Guarino successfully represented Webcor in a dispute with a subcontractor regarding severe performance issues and project delays on a major construction project, ultimately securing full recovery of Webcor's claims from insurers and resolving the matter through settlement.

Notable practitioners

Bennett Lee advises his clients on the full gamut of matters relating to construction contracts, including delay claims and breach of contract litigation. He is also regularly called upon to act as an arbitrator in complex construction disputes. **Strengths:** "Bennett Lee is a fantastic attorney with a strong understanding of our business and specific needs. He takes a strategic approach to litigation, ensuring our strategy is aligned with the goal." Nicholas Merrell focuses his practice on construction disputes and federal government contracts. He represents general contractors, owners, designers and sureties on a variety of disputes. **Strengths:** "Nicholas Merrell is articulate, hard-working and a great trial advocate."

"Nicholas Merrell provides well-reasoned, practical advice that fits the needs of our business." **Andrew Van Ornum** has extensive experience representing contractors, owners and engineers in construction transactions and disputes. His practice spans contract drafting, procurement and dispute resolution across various industries. **Strengths:** "Andrew Van Ornum has a great depth of knowledge and experience."

Band 4

Allen Matkins

What the team is known for

Allen Matkins' work includes drafting and negotiating design and construction contracts for a range of projects, including mixed-use, residential and retail developments. The firm has the capacity to handle construction issues arising from each stage of a project, encompassing bid protests, delay and insurance claims. It is noted for its experience in both private and public projects. The group has particular strength in the south of the state, with construction practitioners resident in the firm's Los Angeles, Century City, San Diego and Orange County offices.

Strengths

"Allen Matkins is savvy about market positions and internal business considerations and is able to provide advice that takes these factors into account."

"Allen Matkins has great subject-matter expertise in construction agreements, especially for large com-

plex projects."

"The team at Allen Matkins is efficient and practical." "Allen Matkins offers top-tier responsiveness."

Work highlights

Allen Matkins continued to serve as construction counsel to Associate Capital for the development of a \$628 million, seven-story hospital and life sciences complex at San Francisco's Potrero Power Station.

Notable practitioners

Ariel Shaeps is the co-chair of the firm's construction group, specializing in design and construction transactions. His advices a large variety of institutional developers, publicly traded REITs, limited partners and financial institutions. **Strengths:** "Ariel Shaeps is outstanding." "Ariel Shaeps is a great resource in advising us through multiple construction contract negotiations, as well as disputes arising from those contracts." "Ari is responsive and takes the time to explain his position regarding the provisions in the agreements he drafts. He also respects our feedback and adjusts as needed."

Cozen O'Connor

What the team is known for

Cozen O'Connor provides counsel on disputes predominately relating to large infrastructure and commercial real estate projects. These disputes revolve around issues such as delays, design defects, payment matters, bid protests and contract breaches.

Strengths

"Cozen O'Connor can promptly identify the key legal issues to help me make the best strategic choices for the company."

Work highlights

Cozen O'Connor represented Ellerbe Becket in a multi-party dispute involving design, construction and product defect claims arising from a San Leandro hospital project that required full floor replacement after completion.

Notable practitioners

Marion Hack is an experienced litigator who is noted for her expertise in high-value construction disputes concerning breach of contract, delays and defective work issues. **Strengths:** "Marion Hack is the best construction lawyer for complex construction disputes. I can't imagine retaining another lawyer for a critical construction dispute." "Marion is an exceptional lawyer." "Marion is a very strong advocate in court." Luke Eaton is a construction litigator with a growing presence in high-value disputes involving contract breaches, interference claims as well as product and design defects. **Strengths:** "Luke's intellectual breadth and curiosity, along with his mastery of the facts, make him valuable to everybody."

Hennigh Law Corporation

What the team is known for

Hennigh Law Corporation is highly regarded for representing construction-sector clients in complex litigation, regularly taking matters trial. The team is noted for managing contentious matters connected to many of California's largest infrastructure projects.

Strengths

"Hennigh focuses on excellent legal work combined with a motivation to win."

"The team at Hennigh is responsive, diligent and

always willing to think outside the box."

Work highlights

Hennigh Law Corporation continued to represent the Village of Schaumburg in a defect case involving fraud allegations.

Notable practitioners

Scott Hennigh focuses his practice on construction litigation and is well regarded for his handling of high-value matters involving heavy civil infrastructure projects and disputes concerning design professionals. **Strengths:** *"Scott Hennigh is a fierce advocate for his clients." "Scott is an excellent, trustworthy lawyer."* **Garrett Mott** is a trial attorney with experience handling matters related to damages to property, project delays and performance failures. He represents general contractors, private clients, owners and developers.

Seyfarth Shaw LLP

What the team is known for

Seyfarth Shaw LLP has offices located in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Sacramento from which they represent contractors and owners, including public entities, in construction drafting, mechanics' liens and construction-related disputes. The firm's construction expertise in the state is bolstered by a strong real estate department.

Strengths

"Seyfarth Shaw has a strong construction team that offers more than just construction law expertise, including responsiveness, good follow-through and knowledge of the market."

"Seyfarth Shaw makes a normally difficult process more streamlined and less complicated."

Work highlights

Seyfarth Shaw advised DesertXpress on the development of a multibillion-dollar high-speed rail project between Los Angeles and Las Vegas.

Notable practitioners

Michael McKeeman is co-chair of the firm's national construction practice and co-chair of the San Francisco commercial litigation practice. His practice encompasses both contract review and formation as well as complex construction disputes for owners, prime contractors and subcontractors. He is particularly well-versed in litigation arising from public and private projects. **Strengths:** *"Michael McKeeman is a great lawyer in every way." "Michael has a tremendous amount of experience in construction law and disputes involving large projects. He is also responsive, meets our deadlines and works well with diverse parties."* **Gregg**

Dulik is a San Francisco-based construction lawyer with over three decades' experience representing contractors, engineers and owners in a variety of construction contracts and disputes. **Strengths:** *"Gregg is extremely responsive."* **Brenda K. Radmacher** has an extensive construction practice, representing developers, general contractors, and design professionals in both litigation and transactional matters. She brings experience in dispute resolution, supported by her background as a mediator. Brenda advises clients across both public and private projects on mechanic's liens, payment disputes, bid protests, and contract-related claims. **Strengths:** *"Brenda is communicative and always thinks about the best strategies." "Brenda is a great partner to work with." "Brenda is responsive and provides solid support."*

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

What the team is known for

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP is able to advise on all aspects of major local, national and international projects. It assists clients from the start of a project to completion on everything from contract negotiations to high-stakes litigation. The firm acts for clients from across the construction space, including developers, design professionals and lenders. The group displays notable expertise in renewable energy and healthcare matters.

Strengths

"Sheppard Mullin has a very practical, pragmatic approach to resolving disputes."

"The Sheppard Mullin team are highly professional, responsive and always available to answer questions or concerns. They provide excellent value to our business."

"Sheppard Mullin has great construction lawyers who consistently keep a finger on the pulse of the industry. They are my go-to firm."

Work highlights

Sheppard Mullin represented Signature and its affiliate Pasadena Oaks Life Properties in defending breach of contract, fraud and statutory claims brought by contractor Jokake.

Notable practitioners

Erinn Contreras continues to develop a notable reputation handling both contentious and non-contentious construction issues. Her main areas of focus include defect and design disputes as well as contract drafting and negotiation, primarily representing owners and developers. **Strengths:** *"Erinn Contreras has an exceptional understanding of the industry and provides excellent service."*

"Erinn Contreras focuses on the core of the client's interests and delivers on that." John Yacovelle is a construction litigator with vast experience representing developers, owners and contractors. He is particularly notable for his complementary knowledge of Native American law and the energy sector. **Strengths:** *"John does an excellent job explaining approaches and positions." "John Yacovelle is an effective construction litigator."*

Band 5

Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

What the team is known for

Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo handles a variety of public and private construction projects on behalf of general contractors, private companies and public agencies. The group fields expertise in projects-related labor relations, transactions and dispute resolution.

Notable practitioners

Anthony Niccoli has a full-service construction practice, advising clients on contract drafting and negotiation as well as providing representation in high-stakes litigation and ADR.

Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP

What the team is known for

Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP advises clients at every stage of the construction process, from contracting licensing to contract drafting to dispute

resolution. The lawyers represent a wide range of clients, including developers, owners, contractors, subcontractors, design professionals and more in both private and public projects.

Strengths

"The attorneys at Cox Castle and their relevant experience are excellent."

"Cox Castle balances in-depth expertise with nimbleness and responsiveness."

Work highlights

Cox Castle represented Forest Lawn Memorial-Park Association in a dispute arising from a large-scale construction project at its Hollywood Hills location, involving claims of breach of contract and fraud by a terminated contractor.

Notable practitioners

Robert Campbell's practice primarily focuses on construction litigation for a range of clients, from project owners to subcontractors. These disputes include delays, defective works and change orders.

Strengths: *"Robert is one of the most experienced attorneys I have worked with."*

Farella Braun + Martel LLP

What the team is known for

Farella Braun + Martel is home to an impressive construction practice, attracting clients such as design professionals, contractors and suppliers involved in major projects across the state. It has extensive transactional capabilities and notable litigation strength enhanced by its experience in mediation and arbitration proceedings. The team benefits from significant know-how in relation to renewable energy, utility and infrastructure projects, while also offering experience of commercial, mixed-use and residential projects.

Strengths

"Farella Braun's advice is thorough, direct and succinct in both written and oral communications. Having their legal counsel when weighing up decisions is great."

Notable practitioners

Richard Van Duzer is skilled in the handling of construction delay and professional malpractice litigation arising out of a wide range of projects. He also chairs the firm's construction practice.

Peckar & Abramson, P.C.

What the team is known for

Peckar & Abramson, P.C. advises on construction litigation such as negligence claims, contract disputes and lease issues. It also offers day-to-day advice on a range of projects including infrastructure, residential buildings and manufacturing facilities. It is recognized for its extensive experience in representing contractors and construction managers.

Strengths

"The team at Peckar & Abramson is sophisticated, smart and personable."

"Peckar & Abramson's services are on point, timely and comprehensive."

"Peckar & Abramson never shy away from complex matters and do not waste time."

Notable practitioners

Nathan Cohen is the managing partner of the firm's Los Angeles office and is noted for his expertise at the intersection of construction and government contracting. He has particular knowledge of

construction contracting and project agreements.

Strengths: “Nate Cohen provides great client service, solid depth of knowledge and experience in construction law.” “Nate Cohen is always thoughtful and readily perceives the critical risks and opportunities in a given commercial setting.” **Elaine Lee** is a construction litigator whose work is largely focused on representing owners, general contractors, engineers and design professionals. Lee’s most significant disputes have arisen from infrastructure and data projects. **Strengths:** “Elaine is very diligent, responsive and easy to work with.” “Elaine is excellent and has provided fantastic guidance across multiple legal issues. She doesn’t tell us what we want to hear; she gives us real information and honest feedback and, as a result, helps us improve as a company.” “Elaine Lee is responsive and great at pushing for a resolution.”

Segal McCambridge Singer & Mahoney, Ltd

What the team is known for

Segal McCambridge Singer & Mahoney is known for representing a broad range of construction businesses and individuals, with particular experience acting for owners and developers, general contractors, construction managers and design professionals. The team handles matters of varying size and complexity arising from residential, industrial and commercial projects across California. Its work commonly involves construction defect claims, mechanic’s liens, breach of contract and delay claims, as well as risk management issues, including matters connected to ADA compliance, solar panels and catastrophic losses.

Strengths

“The team at Segal McCambridge Singer & Mahoney is reliable, hard-working and creative.”

Smith Currie Oles LLP

What the team is known for

Smith Currie Oles is a national construction-focused firm with a growing reputation in San Francisco. It advises on private, public, residential and commercial projects. The firm represents clients in a range of construction disputes, including delay and payment claims. It is also capable of handling a variety of construction-related insurance coverage disputes.

Strengths

“Smith Currie Oles are fully aware of our business model and the legal risks involved in our industry. They are also very responsive to my requests.”

Notable practitioners

Daniel McLennon has expertise in both transactional and litigation matters. He has experience representing a broad range of clients such as owners, general contractors, prime contractors and corporations.

SMTD Law LLP

What the team is known for

SMTD Law LLP advises owners, developers, contractors and suppliers on a wide range of construction and government contracts matters. It is noted for its expertise in public works and in commercial and private construction projects. The firm represents its clients in complex contract negotiations, as well as disputes concerning payment, design and delays.

Strengths

“I have a lot of respect for SMTD Law. I have nothing but positive experiences with them.”

Notable practitioners

Jonathan Dunn is noted for his expertise in construction disputes involving both public and private projects, as well as sureties matters. He is regularly called upon to represent his clients in litigation arising from delays, errors, disruptions and bid protests. **Strengths:** “Jonathan is really smart and a great litigator.” **Marilyn Klinger** is the managing partner of the Los Angeles office and has a broad practice encompassing both construction litigation and transactional work. She represents a wide range of parties, including owners, contractors and sureties. She also has extensive experience in alternative dispute resolution, including mediation and arbitration. **Ali Salamirad** practices in the area of construction and surety law, advising on a myriad of claims arising from both public and private construction projects. **Strengths:** “Ali is sharp and does a great job for his clients.”

Other Ranked Lawyers

Deborah Ballati of JAMS focuses her practice on construction and insurance coverage mediation and arbitration. She has experience mediating disputes involving surety, payment and contract interpretation. **Strengths:** “Deborah Ballati invests considerable time and energy in working to get cases settled and will not give up trying to get a deal in place.” “Deborah is a great mediator and arbitrator.”

Ernest Brown of ProjectNeutral is able to draw on his engineering expertise when handling a wide range of construction disputes. He has extensive experience acting as a mediator at both a national and international level. **Strengths:** “I have great respect for Ernest.”

Eileen Diepenbrock of Diepenbrock Elkin Dauer McCandless LLP is well-versed in both construction and government contract matters and regularly represents her clients in contract negotiations and construction-related disputes, including mediations. She has experience acting for contractors and public owners. **Strengths:** “Eileen Diepenbrock brings a very high level of preparation to mediation and does not give up on settling a case.” “Eileen is an incredibly skilled lawyer who has an encyclopedic understanding of the law.” “Eileen is a first-rate lawyer. I think highly of her.”

Bruce Edwards of Signature Resolutions is a seasoned mediator and arbitrator with over 35 years of experience. He is well-versed in a variety of construction defect matters, insurance coverage and class action cases.

Kenneth Gibbs of JAMS has considerable experience handling construction mediations involving large commercial projects and transport systems. He is regularly involved in very high-value and complex cases. **Strengths:** “Ken Gibbs is a tried-and-true expert.” “Ken Gibbs is excellent.”

Ross Hart of Arbitration Mediation Conciliation Center wins praise for his experience sitting as an arbitrator and a mediator. He is noted for his extensive expertise in construction disputes. **Strengths:** “Ross Hart is excellent at what he does.” “Ross is a brilliant attorney.”

Meredith Jones-McKeown of Perkins Coie LLP is noted for her strong construction litigation practice. She acts for both defendants and plaintiffs in a wide range of cases. **Strengths:** “Meredith is calm under pressure and handles everything exceptionally well.” “She is a creative thinker with high attention to detail and an ability to explain complex issues easily.” “Meredith Jones-McKeown is an exceptional trial attorney. She has a very sophisticated understanding of the industry she serves, and she is a strategic thinker.” “Meredith is our quarterback and our steward, guiding us through a wide range of complicated business issues and opportunities. We regard her as an incredibly smart, effective lawyer.”

Gerald Kurland of JAMS wins praise from across the market for his mediation practice. He offers notable expertise in matters concerning large construction projects in the healthcare and sports sectors. **Strengths:** “On top of being a talented mediator, Gerald Kurland is extremely knowledgeable and personable.” “Jerry Kurland is one of the best in construction defect cases and an excellent mediator overall.” “Jerry Kurland is simply the best in the industry. He settles the most complex and entrenched matters, bringing creative frameworks and tested experience.” “If I have a complex, high-value lawsuit, Jerry Kurland the first mediator I would reach out to.”

Peter Sheridan of Glaser, Weil, Fink, Howard, Avchen & Shapiro, LLP is a construction litigator noted for his deft representation of developers, owners and architects. Sheridan is chair of the firm’s construction practice group. **Strengths:** “Peter’s expertise in construction litigation is fantastic.” “Peter Sheridan is my trust factor.” “I would retain Peter Sheridan for any matter, whether business-related or personal.” “Peter Sheridan for any matter, whether business-related or personal.”

Timothy Truax assists his clients with the drafting and negotiation of construction contracts. He is also regularly called upon to handle litigation and arbitration arising from construction disputes. **Randall Wulff** of Wulff, Quinby & Socynsky is renowned for his expert handling of high-value disputes arising in the construction sector and has decades of mediation experience.

Corporate/M&A

Corporate/M&A
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Layne Jonathan K Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP *
McCarthy Brian J Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Ressler Alison S Sullivan & Cromwell LLP *
Ruck Charles K Latham & Watkins LLP *
Band 3
Krautheimer Eric M Sullivan & Cromwell LLP *
Masuda Kevin Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Band 4
Hernand David Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Ku Katherine Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Lieberman Anne Cooley LLP
Niemeyer David Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
Patay Christopher H Pillsbury
Ross Benyamin S Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP *
Silvera Jason H Latham & Watkins LLP *
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

A&O Shearman

What the team is known for

A&O Shearman is home to an accomplished M&A team with experience in complex M&A and joint venture matters for buyers and sellers. The firm is active in the technology, software, consumer products and financial adviser spaces, among others.

Strengths

"A&O Shearman has a keen sense of the commercial dynamics of a given transaction, excellent client service and the ability to leverage significant resources across the firm as needed."

"The firm has an excellent depth and breadth of knowledge, especially in M&A."

Work highlights

A&O Shearman represented Sanmina in its \$3 billion acquisition of the data center infrastructure manufacturing business of ZT Systems.

Notable practitioners

Daniel Mitz possesses deep expertise in M&A, especially in the technology sector. He is additionally experienced in corporate governance matters.

Strengths: "Daniel has an excellent and sophisticated understanding of M&A, and he is very responsive."

Arnold & Porter

What the team is known for

Solid destination for the handling of complex mid-market M&A in the technology, life sciences and financial services industries, among others. Represents a diverse client base ranging from startups to large multinationals.

Strengths

"They provide very practical advice and are extremely responsive and available."

"They are the gold standard."

"The team has good business judgment."

Work highlights

Corporate/M&A: Deals in Asia
Leading Firms
Band 1
Covington & Burling LLP
Hogan Lovells US LLP
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Morrison Foerster
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Kimoto Taisuke Covington & Burling LLP
Yamaguchi Nancy Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP *

Arnold & Porter represented The Wine Group in the acquisition of several wine brands and production assets from Constellation Brands.

Notable practitioners

William Choe concentrates his practice on domestic and cross-border M&A deals in the technology space.

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for

Strong corporate group leveraging an extensive international network of offices to handle substantial multijurisdictional transactions, with particular industry expertise in the technology and telecommunications sectors. It acts for a roster of public and private companies, investment banks and venture capital funds.

Strengths

"Baker McKenzie has strong industry knowledge, strategic leadership and the ability to close deals."

"What truly distinguishes this department is the combination of deep technical expertise and an exceptionally practical, business-minded approach."

"Baker McKenzie has bright minds that help get complex transactions over the finish line."

"I appreciate the Baker team's responsiveness, attention to detail and overall knowledge."

"Baker McKenzie's strengths are technology deal expertise, seamless global coordination and dedication."

Work highlights

Baker McKenzie advised Western Digital Corporation in connection with the separation of its HDD and Flash businesses into two independent, public companies.

Notable practitioners

Leif King provides quality counsel in M&A and corporate governance matters. His clientele consists of well-known public and private companies.

Strengths: "He is calm and able to describe issues clearly." "Leif had a way of supporting our team that was exactly what we needed. He is a pleasure to work with and so helpful in moving things forward. He is also a very clear communicator who was knowledgeable in the areas where we needed support." Lawrence Lee is experienced in advising clients on M&A across a range of industries, with particular expertise in technology. **Strengths:** "Lawrence has a great understanding of what we're looking for. He's very commercial and has backbone." "Lawrence is incredibly responsive and a creative thinker."

Corporate/M&A
Senior Statespeople & Eminent Practitioners
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Sonsini Larry W Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Eminent Practitioners
McCrath Eric Morrison Foerster
Leading Individuals
Star individuals
King Kenton J Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
Band 1
Climan Richard Hogan Lovells US LLP
Cogen Douglas N Fenwick
Flaum Keith A Hogan Lovells US LLP
Korman Martin W Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Ringler Michael Sullivan & Cromwell LLP *
Ross Jane Hogan Lovells US LLP
Band 2
Bekheit Mark Latham & Watkins LLP *
Dubofsky Josh Latham & Watkins LLP *
Leigh Jamie Cooley LLP
Razzak Amr Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Band 3
Camahort Steve L Paul Hastings LLP *
Diz Michael Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP *
Flanagan Sharon R Sidley Austin LLP *
Ishii Robert Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Band 4
Bergstrom Luke J Latham & Watkins LLP *
Choe William Arnold & Porter
Chu Lawrence Goodwin *
Denenberg Alan Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP *
Dorf Michael DLA Piper LLP (US) *
Fisher John Covington & Burling LLP
King Leif Baker McKenzie
Krpata Kyle C Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
Lee Bomi Fenwick
Lee Lawrence C Baker McKenzie
Love Alessandra Freshfields US LLP
Mitz Daniel R. A&O Shearman
Moore Christopher R Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton *
O'Reilly Benet Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP *
Parris Brandon C Morrison Foerster
Tonsfeldt Steven Cooley LLP
Wagner Partin Sally Sidley Austin LLP *
Withrow Kris S Fenwick
Up-and-coming individuals
Amin Jalpit White & Case LLP (ORL) ◇
Jones Peter Sullivan & Cromwell LLP *
Mullen Rich Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

What the team is known for

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP demonstrates deep expertise in advising clients across a great many sectors on sophisticated corporate transactions. Clients benefit from the firm's extensive international footprint.

Strengths

"Cleary's responsiveness and work product distinguish it. Cleary has extremely bright people who are able to both guide and perform at the highest level."

"The team is able to provide practical advice that is understood and welcomed by the business."

Work highlights

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton represented Asahi

Corporate/M&A: Highly Regarded
Leading Firms
Band 1
Arnold & Porter
Covington & Burling LLP
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Fox Rothschild
Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve Franklin
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Pillsbury
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

Kasei in its \$1.1 billion acquisition of Calliditas Therapeutics.

Notable practitioners

Christopher Moore is a prominent corporate attorney with strength in public and private M&A deals. **Strengths:** "Chris is a trusted adviser who goes above and beyond to think through my issues as if they were his." "He manages to be incredibly responsive. He is so deep in the details and the technical elements and knows the answer to any question off the top of his head." Benet O'Reilly is recognized for his high-quality work in public and private M&A in the technology, healthcare and pharmaceuticals spaces. Additional capabilities can be seen in his experience in restructurings and private equity investments. **Strengths:** "Benet has good, sensible judgment." "He is very caring and responsive against the backdrop of sophisticated, excellent advice." "Benet is strategic and able to handle enormous volume." "He has an ability to describe complex issues in a way which is easy to understand." "Benet is an excellent M&A attorney and adviser. He is incredibly pragmatic and able to distill complex issues into comprehensible bites for our business leaders."

Cooley LLP

What the team is known for

Well-regarded corporate practice with significant strengths in the life sciences and technology industries. Statewide coverage includes formidable offerings in Palo Alto, San Francisco and San Diego. Acts for clients of all sizes, from emerging companies to multinational corporations, in a variety of transactions, including M&A and joint ventures. Also has significant experience acting for financial advisers in complex transactions.

Strengths

"They combine deep technical knowledge with practical, strategic advice."

"All aspects of the transaction were handled seamlessly and efficiently."

"They are highly responsive and solution-oriented."

"Commercial awareness is perhaps Cooley's greatest strength. They provide a stellar work product, outstanding business acumen, efficiency, responsiveness and creativity."

Work highlights

Cooley advised Castle Biosciences on its acquisition of Capsulomics.

Notable practitioners

Thomas Coll offers top-quality advice to public and private company clients on domestic and cross-border M&A. He works with prominent life sciences and technology clients. **Strengths:** "He is very responsive and broadly knowledgeable about our industry." "Tom brings a seasoned understanding

Corporate/M&A: The Elite
Leading Firms
Band 1
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Band 2
Fenwick
Hogan Lovells US LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Band 3
Cooley LLP
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
Goodwin
Morrison Foerster
Sidley Austin LLP
Band 4
A&O Shearman
Baker McKenzie
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Freshfields US LLP
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Paul Hastings LLP
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

of the company's business and has a very practical approach." **Jamie Leigh** is the chair of the firm's global mergers and acquisitions group. She has extensive experience representing clients in the technology sector. **Strengths:** "Jamie is brilliant at what she does. She is very smart and results-oriented, and brings a lot to the table to get the deal done." "Jamie is outstanding. She is very sophisticated and commercial, and a real adviser in tough situations." "She is very good at handling complex issues that are on a fast timeline." "She is extremely responsive, commercial and practical. She is great all-round." **Rama Padmanabhan** is recognized for her diverse corporate practice, which includes deep expertise in life sciences and biotechnology M&A. She regularly assists her clients with cross-border deals, especially those involving Asia. **Strengths:** "Rama is an outstanding lawyer and person. She has deep M&A expertise, is always responsive and gives trusted advice." "She is knowledgeable and a great pleasure to work with." "Rama is very experienced and cares deeply for her clients." **Rowook Park** focuses his practice on advising clients through public and private M&A, venture capital financings and securities offerings, with particular expertise in cross-border transactions in the technology and biotech sectors. **Strengths:** "Ro always maintains a very calm demeanor, even when issues inevitably arise. He is pleasant to work with and able to knowledgeably address complicated issues with professionalism and a can-do attitude." "He is very committed to the transaction, but, more importantly, to the client and making sure that they are well represented." "Ro is a great balance of highly experienced and capable with client service. He is excellent at communicating with the client and ensuring everyone is up to speed." "What makes him unique is not only his client-centric approach but also his ability to guide clients on the strategic considerations they need to keep in mind to align with the corporate vision." "I give him credit for his ability to balance high-level strategic guidance with a practical approach." **Anne Lieberman** is a growing talent in the M&A market who is experienced rep-

Corporate/M&A: Highly Regarded
Leading Firms
Band 1
Greenberg Glusker LLP
Massumi + Consoli LLP
Pillsbury
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP
Stubbs Alderton & Markiles, LLP

resenting public and private companies. She has particular expertise in life sciences and technology transactions. **Strengths:** "Anne is extremely hard-working and has an ability to manage very complex deals and difficult parties on the other side." "She is hyper-responsive, very detailed and always available and willing to help." "Anne is technically excellent, super smart and really good at managing her clients." "Anne is tenacious, very confident and very knowledgeable. She is extremely motivated to guide her clients towards the right outcome." "She knows her craft, works incredibly hard and is very diligent." **Steven Tonsfeldt** is sought out by public and private companies to handle a wide range of domestic and cross-border transactions.

Covington & Burling LLP

What the team is known for

Covington & Burling is an excellent corporate group offering counsel to a clientele of public and private companies and financial institutions. It is particularly active in deals in the life sciences and technology spaces.

Strengths

"They are a deep and skilled team."

"This firm has a team of experts, making it a reliable choice for handling complex and challenging cases with confidence."

"They are detail-oriented, practical, responsive and client-savvy. They are very attuned with market practice and what position would be good for us."

Work highlights

Covington & Burling advised Pan Pacific Retail Management on its \$77.3 million acquisition of Mikuni Restaurant Group.

Notable practitioners

Taisuke Kimoto comes highly recommended for the quality of his counsel in M&A deals. He is especially active in deals that involve Japanese entities and clients benefit from his dual qualification in Japan and California. **Strengths:** "He works hard and communicates well with Japanese clients." "He understands internal process of Japanese corporations well and is reliable." "He has a strong understanding of Japanese clients' businesses, circumstances and legal needs, as well as the insight to anticipate what Japanese clients require." **John Fisher** is a highly regarded corporate attorney who counts a number of prominent companies among his clientele. He is well-versed in M&A and joint ventures.

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

What the team is known for

Well-established corporate practice with notable expertise in acting for technology companies on complex and high-value M&A. Enjoys a fine reputation for its work with early-stage companies and is also regularly called upon to provide counsel to major multinationals. Significant experience

Corporate/M&A: The Elite
Leading Firms
Band 1
Latham & Watkins LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Band 2
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Band 3
Baker McKenzie
Cooley LLP
Paul Hastings LLP
Sidley Austin LLP
* Indicates individual with profile.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

handling corporate financing transactions, and is particularly noted for its strong cross-border capabilities.

Strengths

"The team is very responsive, easy to get a hold of and quick to deliver advice."

"They have an expansive footprint, are very comprehensive and have a good communication style."

"They understand our rationale for deals and help us prioritize the terms that matter most to us. They even help us identify critical pain points in negotiations that we might otherwise overlook."

Work highlights

Davis Polk & Wardell advised Altair Engineering on its \$10.6 billion acquisition by Siemens.

Notable practitioners

Michael Diz serves as counsel to major companies and private equity firms, particularly in connection with technology, media and telecommunications deals. **Strengths:** *"He is incredibly responsive, anticipates our questions and takes a 360-degree view."* **Michael is responsive, client-friendly and has good judgment."** **Alan Denenberg** maintains a highly respected practice that sees him frequently engaged in large public and private transactions in a broad variety of industries. **Strengths:** *"He is extremely knowledgeable and helpful in M&A matters."* *"He is an excellent partner and collaborator."* *"Alan is fantastic."* *"He is very experienced, responsive and willing to be creative to come to the best solutions."* *"Alan is an incredible talent. He is thoughtful, practical and approaches issues with an understanding of where both sides are coming from."*

DLA Piper LLP (US)

What the team is known for

Respected corporate team noted by sources for its global reach and high-quality service. Handles large-scale M&A across a range of industries, including retail, technology and life sciences. Acts for companies of all sizes in strategic and financing transactions, and has extensive experience in public offerings.

Strengths

"They provide incredibly strong customer service. They are always responsive and available."

"They are extremely responsive."

"They have incredible technical and market knowledge of M&A and breadth of coverage on ancillary areas of law."

"DLA Piper has sophisticated lawyers around the globe."

Corporate/M&A
Leading Firms
Band 1
Cooley LLP
Band 2
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC
Paul Hastings LLP
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Waters Martin J. <i>Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati</i>
Band 2
Coll Thomas A. <i>Cooley LLP</i>
Glaser Jeremy <i>Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo</i>
Padmanabhan Rama <i>Cooley LLP</i>
Park Rowook <i>Cooley LLP</i>
Spiridonov Deyan P. <i>Paul Hastings LLP</i> *

"The global scope and full range of expertise is remarkable."

Work highlights

DLA Piper advised Agilent Technologies on its \$925 million acquisition of BioVectra.

Notable practitioners

Eric Wang is a key contact.

Notable practitioners

Michael Dorf maintains a broad transactional practice which includes M&A, joint ventures, carve-outs and venture capital matters. He handles domestic and cross-border transactions across a range of sectors. **Strengths:** *"Michael is a strong technical lawyer. He is extremely user-friendly and able to connect with both legal and business professionals."*

Fenwick

What the team is known for

Accomplished corporate group experienced with handling complex M&A and financing transactions on behalf of domestic and global clients. Demonstrates significant strength in the technology and life sciences sectors. Sought after by a stable of significant public and private companies as well as startups.

Strengths

"The Fenwick team is excellent. I've been consistently impressed with its analytical and communication strength."

"Fenwick was able to scale to the complete needs of our business, pulling in domain experts in different areas as needed."

Work highlights

Fenwick advised Wiz on its \$32 billion acquisition by Google.

Notable practitioners

Douglas Cogen represents companies and boards of directors in significant corporate transactions and governance issues, and sits as co-chair of the firm's M&A practice. **Strengths:** *"Doug is a legend in the business. His knowledge of trends and players in the market is among the best."* *"His expertise is second to none."* *"He is responsive and a subject matter expert."* *"Doug is really responsive and knows the market really well."* **Bomi Lee** is a talented attorney whose practice is utilized by a clientele of prominent companies and their boards. She exhibits skills in M&A, divestitures and corporate governance issues, among other matters. Kris Withrow draws praise for his high-quality corporate

practice. He advises clients in domestic and cross-border M&A across an array of industries.

Fox Rothschild

What the team is known for

Sought after by prominent public company clients from a variety of industries including professional services firms. Routinely advises on mid-market M&A, ownership transitions and financings, among other matters.

Strengths

"They have an ability and willingness to balance business considerations with legal recommendations."

"They identify key focal points early in the process and are able to quickly and efficiently adjust how resources are used and allocated during M&A."

"Fox Rothschild is very responsive. The firm has been thorough in its support to our needs."

"They are just terrific."

Freshfields US LLP

What the team is known for

Freshfields houses a corporate team that has experience advising clients in public and private M&A, carve-outs and joint ventures, among other transactions. The firm is active on both the domestic and cross-border stages.

Strengths

"They have global reach and coverage and have been seamless across the globe."

Work highlights

Freshfields advised Google on its \$32 billion acquisition of Wiz.

Notable practitioners

Alessandra Love advises companies of all sizes in M&A and corporate governance matters and is especially active in the technology sector. **Strengths:** *"She is incredibly responsive and knowledgeable and brings a really great point of view."*

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

What the team is known for

Corporate powerhouse with an established presence in California, due in part to its four offices located in Orange County, Palo Alto, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Exhibits broad corporate, drawing on an extensive roster of highly adept counsel of all levels of seniority. Proficient at handling cross-border M&A transactions and complex joint ventures. Broad-ranging industry sector strength covering energy, consumer products, technology and entertainment, among others.

Strengths

"They have a very pragmatic approach."

"The team is very thoughtful, innovative and comfortable with complex transactions."

"We have complete trust in the guidance they provide."

"They give very commercial advice and always come up with multiple solutions."

"They are very aware of what is happening in the market."

Notable practitioners

Jonathan Layne impresses interviewees with his deep expertise in M&A and corporate governance issues. **Strengths:** *"Jon is extremely calm, always listens and is very strategic."* *"He has extensive experience advising corporate clients and has seen*

around nearly every corner imaginable, enabling him to give practical, real-world guidance. He is uniquely skilled in cutting through noise to focus on the crux of an issue." "Jon is just exceptional in every way. He is one of the most knowledgeable and empathetic individuals I have ever worked with in any capacity." **Kevin Masuda** serves as cochair of the firm's media, entertainment and technology group, as well as the betting and gaming group, and is routinely involved in M&A deals in those sectors. **Strengths:** "Kevin is a brilliant lawyer." "He is cool under pressure." "He has an ability to understand a wide variety of issues and simplify the solutions for non-legal experts." Benjamin Ross is a widely respected corporate attorney. He regularly handles transactions in the technology, media and entertainment industries. **Strengths:** "Ben is an excellent corporate lawyer." "We could not be happier with his services." "Ben is creative, very client-friendly and a serious advocate."

Goodwin

What the team is known for

Experienced team with notable expertise in the life sciences and technology sectors. Advises on a variety of transactions, including M&A, spinoffs and divestitures. Has significant experience acting for startups on their IPOs.

Strengths

"Goodwin has deep expertise across disciplines, each of which work together seamlessly."

"One of the things that makes them stand out is the practical advice that they provide. The support they offer is clear and actionable."

"They leave no detail unattended and they can cover a lot of ground in short order."

"We get near-instant response times. We feel as though we are their only client."

Work highlights

Goodwin advised LoveFrom in its \$6.5 billion merger with OpenAI.

Notable practitioners

Lawrence Chu is a talented corporate lawyer who is known for his strength in the technology arena, among other industries.

Greenberg Glusker LLP

What the team is known for

Strong corporate group active across a swath of transactions, including M&A, spinoffs and joint ventures. Public and private companies look to the firm for counsel in complex matters.

Strengths

"The team is communicative, readily accessible and extremely knowledgeable."

"They understand the needs of the business when giving us legal advice and have done an amazing job with our complex issues."

"It is a very experienced and sophisticated firm."

"They provided a personal touch and were very thorough in answering our many questions which gave us confidence throughout a difficult process. I felt as though I could call them anytime and trust their advice."

"They have an expert for every matter that we present to them and they always take the time to assist."

Work highlights

Greenberg Glusker represented Formation Nation in

its \$92 million acquisition by LegalZoom.

Notable practitioners

Richard Sweet is a key contact.

Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve Franklin & Hachigian

What the team is known for

Leverages impressive M&A deal flow from its market-leading venture capital and startup practices. Particularly active in deals in the life sciences and technology sectors.

Strengths

"They jumped in and understood the business on a very fast timeline."

"The team is super attentive."

"Gunderson Dettmer handles complexity well and is very collaborative."

"They are extremely responsive."

Work highlights

Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve Franklin & Hachigian advised Ripple on its \$1.25 acquisition of Hidden Road.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Luh is a key contact.

Hogan Lovells US LLP

What the team is known for

Strong bench of well-regarded attorneys offering impressive experience in the technology and life sciences sectors. Regularly advises on cross-border M&A, as well as complex joint ventures. Noted for its particular prowess in representing companies in the technology sector. Particularly prominent in international deals involving Asian entities.

Strengths

"Hogan Lovells is one of our go-to firms. We are extremely satisfied with the overall assistance they bring to all of our matters."

"Hogan Lovells has an expertise that makes it an absolute powerhouse."

"The team offers deep expertise, excellent timeliness and practical advice."

"The team is exceptionally strong in M&A, putting real forethought into strategies for advocating for their client."

Work highlights

Hogan Lovells advised Walmart on its \$2.3 billion acquisition of VIZIO.

Notable practitioners

Richard Climan retains an enviable position in the upper echelon of the corporate market. He has an impressive track record of acting in transformative transactions in the technology and life sciences sectors. **Strengths:** "Rick knows the intricacies of an M&A deal better than anyone." "He really understands the law, has a very strong presence in the boardroom and a strong commitment to his clients." "Rick Climan is a legend in the M&A legal industry." Keith Flaum focuses his practice on the representation of major public and private companies in high-end domestic and international M&A. **Strengths:** "Keith is our secret weapon. He is always there when we need him and he really brings to bear all of his ability, experience and commerciality." "He understands the nuances of M&A, with the ability to bring all the pieces together and negotiate persuasively." "Keith is outstanding. He is extremely well-versed in the law and knows both sides of every argument." "He is an outstanding

M&A lawyer." **Jane Ross** is sought after by a host of significant technology and pharmaceutical companies for counsel in high-value M&A. **Strengths:** "Jane has an incredible amount of horsepower. Her corporate and deal acumen is very good." "She is simply the best." "She thinks through what matters for the deal."

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for

Market-leading capability in representing sophisticated multinational companies, particularly those in the life sciences industry, in the full range of corporate and transactional matters. Also offers high-level representation to clients in the technology and clean energy sectors, among others.

Strengths

"Latham provides confidence and reassurance to our teams that we're in very experienced and capable hands."

"They are responsive, catch mistakes and avoid pitfalls."

"The firm has deep technical expertise and global reach."

"Latham is top of its class. It is impressive how fast and cohesive the firm is."

Work highlights

Latham & Watkins advised Fidelity National Information Services on the sale of Worldpay to Global Payments.

Notable practitioners

Charles Ruck is a renowned practitioner whose excellent reputation stems from his experience in transformative corporate transactions. **Strengths:** "Charles is one of the finest attorneys that I've worked with. He is a true leader in the M&A space, who provides calm but certain direction, even under very challenging conditions." "Charles is a master in the boardroom."

Mark Bekheit advises leading companies on M&A, joint ventures and investment deals. He has particular experience in the life sciences and technology sectors. **Josh Dubofsky** has a broad transactional practice that includes the representation of public and private companies in M&A and governance matters. **Strengths:** "He's a tough negotiator, he's very experienced and he gives good advice in navigating M&A complexities." Luke Bergstrom is active on deals in the technology, life sciences and consumer products industries. **Strengths:** "He is commercial and gets things done." Jason Silvera advises public and private companies and private equity firms on M&A across a wide range of industries, including media and entertainment, technology and real estate.

Strengths: "He is super pragmatic and, at the same time, understands needs of companies." "Jason is smart, calm and creative."

Massumi + Consoli LLP

What the team is known for

Massumi + Consoli LLP is a boutique firm recognized for its talented, mid-market-focused M&A team. The department offers expertise in a range of corporate and transactional matters, with supplementary in-house capabilities across tax, private equity and venture capital. The team is active across a broad spectrum of industries, with recent experience in manufacturing and software deals.

Strengths

"Massumi + Consoli are incredibly responsive. They are always available and always provide top client service."

"They are practical, responsive and sophisticated."

"They have handled very difficult situations with supreme professionalism."

"The team is very capable of focusing on the important issues, tackling the critical points and structuring commercial solutions."

Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC

What the team is known for

Advises clients on complex transactions across a range of industries, with a focus on those in the life sciences space. Acts for a diverse client base, including startups and public companies.

Strengths

"They've been available and responsive every time we've reached out."

"Not only do they handle complex scenarios but they also make them easy. That is usually by having a full understanding of the situation and laying out a plan to accomplish desired outcomes."

"They are extremely responsive and detail-oriented."

"They are practical and solution-focused."

Work highlights

Mintz represented Sid R. Bass Associates in the sale of WineDirect's SaaS division to Commerce7.

Notable practitioners

Jeremy Glaser offers strong M&A advice as part of a broad practice that exhibits a deep understanding of venture capital matters. He routinely works with technology and life sciences clients. **Strengths:** *"He is very good at helping analyze the transaction documents in a quick and efficient manner."* *"Jeremy is an exceptional attorney. He is skilled in all areas of law important to me and excellent at conceptualizing the situation in business terms."* *"He understands business needs and provides pragmatic advice."* *"He never treats an issue as small or unimportant and works to get to the client's best interest always."*

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

What the team is known for

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius handles M&A in a broad range of industries, including technology, energy and financial services. It is well placed to handle cross-border deals, particularly those between US and Asian entities.

Strengths

"They provide a comprehensive, yet commercial, approach to complex and sophisticated matters."

"Morgan Lewis is highly responsive and, more importantly, very proactive. The lawyers do not wait to advise us when we have an issue; they help us identify potential issues before they arise so we can mitigate risks."

"They respond with exceptional speed."

"They have the expertise and the staff to handle complex and fast-paced multijurisdictional matters on tight timelines."

"Morgan Lewis has the great strength of wide coverage and deep expertise across many areas, which is outstanding for clients."

Work highlights

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius represented Metallicus in its \$20 million acquisition of Bonifii.

Notable practitioners

Nancy Yamaguchi offers excellent counsel to clients on a broad range of corporate transactions, with particular prominence in cross-border deals involving Japanese interests. She is active in deals in the financial services, automotive and technology industries, among others. **Strengths:** *"She is an exceptional professional and is very supportive of our organization. Her advice is highly valuable and I have strong confidence in the solutions she provides."* *"She combines cross-border M&A expertise with cultural fluency, coordinating seamlessly with Japanese and Asia-based counsel and leading global teams across jurisdictions and time zones."* *"She is thoughtful, responsive and experienced in cross-border M&A."* *"We received not only deliverables, but also close communication and generous support according to the situation."*

Morrison Foerster

What the team is known for

Distinguished corporate practice with significant strength in cross-border deals between US and Asian companies. Represents clients across a wide range of corporate matters, including strategic investments and M&A. Significant expertise advising corporates, investors and financial institutions operating in the technology, media and telecommunications sectors.

Strengths

"Without overlooking critical points, they provide practical guidance on which issues require deeper consideration."

"The firm provides practical advice and creatively works to reach positive outcomes."

"They are very good at knowing our business objective and translating that to real solutions."

"Morrison Foerster is a one-stop shop for very complicated matters."

Work highlights

Morrison Foerster advised SoftBank Group on its \$6.5 billion acquisition of Ampere Computing Holdings.

Notable practitioners

Eric McCrath counts a number of leading technology corporations among his stable of clients. He serves as chair of Morrison Foerster. **Strengths:** *"He provides practical advice tailored to our requirements and position."* *"Eric is good at simplifying complex structures and has an impeccable reputation among others."* Brandon Parris has extensive experience handling domestic and cross-border M&A transactions. **Strengths:** *"Brandon understands the business and works to accomplish our objectives. He is extremely knowledgeable and always available to consult and work through issues."* *"He is a phenomenal partner in executing business transactions and agreements."* *"He is always available and able to bring in required resources. He is a great sounding board and our board of directors has confidence in him."* *"He is an expert M&A and governance adviser."*

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

What the team is known for

Orrick offers an experienced corporate practice which attracts praise for its international capabilities. It frequently counsels clients on strategic M&A transactions and corporate governance. The team

has notable strengths in the technology, energy and infrastructure sectors.

Strengths

"Orrick specializes in practical and actionable advice and an outcome-oriented approach to matter management."

"We've not encountered an issue that Orrick has not quickly responded to with multiple options and clear and concise legal advice."

"They know us and our strategic needs and blend that with their depth and expertise in the subject matter."

"Orrick provides impressive service and responsiveness."

Work highlights

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP advised Weights & Biases on its acquisition by CoreWeave.

Notable practitioners

Mark Seneca is a key contact.

Paul Hastings LLP

What the team is known for

A well-respected international firm with capabilities across California. Maintains a fine track record for its work on behalf of corporations and other stakeholders on M&A, and offers wide-ranging industry expertise across healthcare, technology, and media and entertainment. Provides counsel on a variety of corporate transactions and leveraged financings. Particularly highly regarded for its capabilities on complex cross-border transactions.

Strengths

"Paul Hastings has very experienced, practical M&A lawyers."

"They do a good job balancing the corporate considerations alongside legal considerations."

"They have deep understanding of the law across jurisdictions and wide industry knowledge."

"What distinguishes this firm is its business acumen and a deep and detailed understanding of the relevant legal issues."

Work highlights

Paul Hastings advised Vantage Discovery on its sale to Shopify.

Notable practitioners

Deyan Spiridonov has extensive experience in joint ventures and complex transactions. He represents clients in the financial services, consumer products, and technology industries, among others.

Strengths: *"Deyan is such a great business partner. I can go to him with any question and he will give me a pragmatic response. He is my secret weapon."*

"He is an outstanding attorney." Steve Camahort handles an extensive range of corporate transactions, with a particular focus on technology and life sciences M&A. **Strengths:** *"He is unflappable, cool and level-headed in negotiation style."* *"He is an amazing lawyer who seamlessly blends expertise and industry knowledge to provide practical advice."*

"He has an excellent understanding of the business side, is a rational thinker and is always available."

Pillsbury

What the team is known for

Pillsbury is a strong corporate firm with a compelling offering in both Northern and Southern California. A number of prominent public companies look to the group for counsel in M&A transactions in

the technology, media and financial services industries, among others.

Strengths

"Pillsbury is superb in all manners of legal work."

"The team is skillful in their M&A work and very talented."

"Pillsbury is strong in technical skills, negotiating postures and in giving pragmatic advice."

"Pillsbury was incredibly responsive at every stage of the acquisition. I could always get quick and thoughtful guidance."

Work highlights

Pillsbury advised Henlius on its strategic partnership with SVAX.

Notable practitioners

Christopher Patay assists domestic and international clients with M&A and joint venture deals across a broad array of industries. **Strengths:** *"He is very helpful and his guidance is practical."*

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

What the team is known for

A strong team with an established reputation for its transactional work, covering a broad range of deal types in various market sectors, including technology and healthcare. Excels in the purchase and sale of stock and assets and recapitalizations. Regularly represents buyers, target companies, investors and financial advisers.

Strengths

"Service and responsiveness is prompt and consistent throughout."

"They are highly detail-oriented and communicate flawlessly at every level."

"They are able to rapidly respond to complex issues."

Work highlights

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP represented Pathward, N.A. in the sale of its commercial insurance premium finance business to Honor Capital Corporation.

Notable practitioners

Jeralin Cardoso is a key contact.

Sidley Austin LLP

What the team is known for

Life sciences, biotechnology and healthcare are key areas of strength for the team, which also possesses deep expertise in technology and media-related M&A. Well versed in a wide variety of matters, including mergers of equals, divestitures and spinouts of business units. Acts for a broad spectrum of clients from startups to multinational Fortune 500 companies, and offers expertise in cross-border M&A.

Strengths

"They have a deep bench and committed partners."

"The resources they can bring to bear on any complex matter instils their clients with confidence."

"They are very responsive and flexible."

"I am always impressed at how responsive, clear and thorough their work is."

Work highlights

Sidley Austin represented Stryker in its \$4.9 billion acquisition of Inari Medical.

Notable practitioners

Sharon Flanagan demonstrates particular strength in M&A in the technology and life sciences industries.

Strengths: *"Sharon is extremely experienced and has a deep understanding of complex issues and ability to explain them accessibly. She provides clear, practical advice that balances legal precision with commercial sense."* *"She is extremely strategic and thinks through complex issues well."* *"Sharon is responsive, has deep knowledge and is current on all M&A and corporate trends. She is a clear and effective communicator with lawyers and board members alike."* *"She is smart and a super client manager."* **Sally Wagner Partin** is a highly regarded partner who routinely assists public and private companies in M&A transactions. Her industry knowledge is particularly strong in life sciences, financial services and technology. **Strengths:** *"Sally is an amazing lawyer with in-depth legal and business knowledge. She is an absolute pleasure to work with."* *"Sally is very experienced and has high standards of professionalism and attention to detail."*

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates

What the team is known for

Exceptionally well-resourced corporate group at the forefront of global M&A capability. Boasts the capacity to handle the largest and most complex transactions on behalf of domestic and international clients. Features deep expertise in all aspects of corporate transactional law. Broad-ranging industry expertise covering technology, media and entertainment, healthcare, retail, energy, and food and beverages, among others. Envious client base includes multinational public and private companies.

Strengths

"Skadden provides deep expertise across multiple disciplines, effective stakeholder management and a strong client-service culture."

"The firm has incredible responsiveness and a deep bench for different areas of expertise, with both domestic and international experience."

"The firm's partners are among the best in business. Skadden's team demonstrates great creativity in deal structuring."

"Skadden has strong communication skills and a dedication to client service."

"Skadden has the scale, substance and experience to deliver."

Work highlights

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom represented Intel in the sale of a majority stake in its Altera business to Silver Lake for \$8.75 billion.

Notable practitioners

Brian McCarthy offers top-flight representation to a client base consisting of major investment banks and corporate entities in connection with M&A, corporate governance and financings. **Strengths:** *"Brian McCarthy is a wizard in M&A. He has seen everything in the space and is able to find solutions to all of our problems."* Kenton King is universally viewed as a luminary of the corporate market. A roster of household-name clients seeks out his expertise in high-end M&A, particularly in the technology space. **Amr Razzak's** practice includes expertise in M&A, corporate governance and investments. **David Niemeyer** is recognized for his work in heavyweight corporate transactions. He regularly represents clients in international deals and is active across a broad range of industries.

Strengths: *"David is a superb lawyer. He is technically excellent, very hands-on and is commercially savvy."* *"He is an extremely hard worker. He's very responsive at and finds commercial solutions to complicated problems."* *"David is commercially savvy and a great technical lawyer. He is also great at client management and knows which issues are big issues."* *"David is good at navigating very complex transactions with speed of execution and making complex legal points feel simple to deal teams."* *"He has very deep knowledge on deals with cross-border aspects."*

Stubbs Alderton & Markiles, LLP

What the team is known for

Respected firm offering high-quality advice to a client base of public and private companies in M&A, joint ventures and restructurings, among other transactions. Diverse sector expertise includes deals in the entertainment, technology and life sciences arenas.

Strengths

"They are super responsive. Our calls are immediately answered and matters are addressed promptly."

"They are great communicators and do a great job discussing the practicality of business matters."

"The partners at Stubbs have deep levels of expertise in each of their respective areas of focus and do an incredible job of providing comprehensive coverage across a broad range of matters in a very cohesive way."

"Their wise counsel, availability and attention to detail are their strengths."

Work highlights

Stubbs Alderton & Markiles acted as legal counsel for GameBeat in connection with its spinout from VentureBeat.

Notable practitioners

Scott Galer and Jonathan Hodes are key contacts.

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

What the team is known for

A high-quality offering for M&A and corporate work in California, covering a variety of market-leading deals and transformative transactions. Well known for advising on corporate governance issues as well as representing financial institutions and private equity investors in cross-border transactions. Handles transactions in the transportation, telecommunications, semiconductor, retail, healthcare and life sciences sectors.

Strengths

"They are very responsive and bring the right expertise to advise us. I trust their judgment, which is consistently accurate and insightful."

"The team is exceptionally strong across the board."

"They have a national and international practice and great resources across the firm."

"If we need to get things done fast, they just make it happen. They are very responsive."

"Complex and sophisticated matters are where Sullivan & Cromwell shines."

Work highlights

Sullivan & Cromwell represented AT&T in Level-Blue's acquisition of Aon's cybersecurity and intellectual property litigation consulting groups.

Notable practitioners

Alison Ressler enjoys a formidable reputation in the

market for her strong command of M&A in both the corporate and private equity context. **Strengths:** “I consider myself fortunate to have worked with Alison. Her excellence is unmatched.” “She is a fantastic lawyer and at the top of her game.” “She has really good attention to detail and is in the weeds on matters. She is exceptional on strategy.” **Michael**

Ringler operates a highly respected corporate practice which encompasses expertise in complex M&A, joint ventures and divestitures, as well as experience in proxy contests and hostile takeovers. He is particularly active in technology transactions.

Strengths: “He is extremely responsive, very business-oriented and explains complex transactions in straightforward terms.” “Mike has done so many deals that he has a really good understanding of the landscape.” “He provides a high level of guidance on complex matters and very practical advice.”

“Mike expertly advised us every step of the way, providing knowledgeable, clear and concise advice from beginning to end.” Eric Krautheimer represents companies, private equity firms and financial advisers in M&A in a range of industries. **Strengths:**

“Eric is an exceptionally strategic M&A lawyer. He brings a rare combination of deep deal expertise, sound judgment and big-picture thinking to every transaction.” “Eric is a brilliant problem-solver and gives extremely well-balanced advice. He is highly practical, incredibly responsive and reliable.” **Peter**

Jones focuses his practice on the representation of technology clients of all sizes in a wide range of corporate transactions. **Strengths:** “He’s very dynamic and proactive.” “Peter is very pragmatic, knows what is market and understands our goals and business. He makes it a very efficient process, but doesn’t leave anything on the table.” “Peter is an expert at running complex M&A transactions. He catches every issue, rolls up his sleeves and tackles complicated problems.”

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Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

What the team is known for

Offers high-quality counsel in M&A and private equity transactions. Caters to large corporates and financial advisers, in addition to private equity sponsors. Experienced with equity investments and leveraged buyouts. Displays deep expertise in deals in the technology sector.

Strengths

“They are very thorough, responsive and beat deadlines.”

“They are able to act as thought partners to help dissect and figure out ways to navigate complex M&A.”

“The team understand and explain agreements very clearly. They know the law and have seen everything.”

“The attorneys are very creative people when it comes to problem-solving. Weil is my go-to firm for anything complicated or unusual.”

“It is the team to guide your entire M&A strategy.”

Work highlights

Weil, Gotshal & Manges advised Micron Technology on its acquisition of equipment and assembly lines at facilities in Xi’an, China, from Powertech Technology.

Notable practitioners

Kyle Krpata comes recommended for his adroit handling of corporate transactions in the technology space. His expertise also includes private equity, venture capital investments and corporate governance. **Strengths:** “Kyle is a trusted partner on deals. I am always able to reach him, get his feedback and move the deal forward.” “He really does a deep dive on the commercial aspects to inform how we think about the legal questions, which results in a really clear path.” “He provides really great client service.”

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Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

What the team is known for

Features a deep bench of highly experienced counsel especially well-versed in advising technology and life sciences clients on a diverse range of transactions. Advises entrepreneurial startups as well as multinational corporations on corporate governance, financing and M&A. Leverages its network of offices in Asia and Europe in its handling of international deals. Excellent statewide reach with offices in San Diego, Palo Alto and Los Angeles.

Strengths

“They are extremely responsive and great communicators.”

“They have deep transactional knowledge.”

“They are wonderful thought partners, pragmatic drafters and always focused on the right things.”

“Wilson Sonsini has a keen awareness of internal and external business dynamics, and provides practical, actionable guidance. I can rely on them to add value far beyond legal technical expertise.”

“They are innovative, creative lawyers who know how to deliver client outcomes.”

Work highlights

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati represented Ampere Computing in its \$6.5 billion acquisition by SoftBank Group.

Notable practitioners

Larry Sonsini continues to enjoy an esteemed reputation as a foremost Silicon Valley lawyer. His robust track record includes handling landmark M&A deals in the technology space. Martin Korman provides expert advice to public and private companies on corporate transactions and governance issues.

Strengths: “Marty took the time to really under-

stand our objectives and helped us craft a deal that fully aligned with our goals. He is as good as it gets.”

“He is a masterful strategist and sharp negotiator who understands how to navigate high-stakes deal dynamics more than anyone. Above all, Marty was deeply invested in our success, and we absolutely could not have done this without him.” “Marty is a legend. No one understands tech M&A, evolving trends and the future landscape better than Marty.”

“He stands out from his peers because he combines technical excellence with calm judgment and practical wisdom.” “Marty is excellent on all fronts. I’ve been really impressed with his deal making skills. He knows how to navigate complexity while making it seem easy.” Martin Waters is highly respected for the superlative quality of the corporate counsel he offers corporate clients. He demonstrates particular expertise in life sciences and technology transactions. **Strengths:** “Marty is a force of nature. He is an amazing business lawyer.” “He is very sophisticated and experienced.” “Marty has a very good, practical mindset to help advise in-house counsel.”

“He has a tremendous track record of deal-making and provides strategic guidance, in addition to legal services.” **Robert Ishii** represents both public and private companies on various M&A matters. He has particularly strong experience in the technology and life sciences spaces. **Strengths:** “He is fantastic.”

Katherine Ku is a talented attorney whose excellent practice is utilized by public and private companies. She routinely handles M&A, joint ventures and financings. **Strengths:** “She is an experienced deal lawyer.” **Rich Mullen** represents clients across a broad range of M&A and corporate governance matters. He has particular expertise in representing technology and life sciences companies. **Strengths:** “He deeply understands all aspects of the transactions.” “Rich is extremely helpful to us across the board.”

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Other Ranked Lawyers

Jalpit Amin is a rising star in M&A who routinely advises clients on both domestic and cross-border transactions. **Strengths:** “Jalpit is able to move fast and is also very commercial and responsive.” “He is an excellent lawyer.”

David Hernand of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett handles public and private M&A in the media, entertainment and technology sectors. He acts for companies, investment banks and private equity sponsors. **Strengths:** “He is a strategic thinker.”

“David provided sage legal counsel. He truly sought to understand our business and priorities and let that guide his legal counsel.”

Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation

Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation
Leading Firms
Band 1
Baker McKenzie
Latham & Watkins LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Band 2
Cooley LLP
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Fenwick
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Trucker Huss APC
Band 3
Goodwin
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve Franklin
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Fackler Stephen W. <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>
Yaffe Joseph M. <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom</i>
Band 2
Banuelos Julianio <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP</i>
Brown Tristan <i>Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP (ORL) ♦</i>
Galligan Lynda <i>Goodwin *</i>
Huss R. Bradford <i>Trucker Huss APC</i>
Kelly Sinead M. <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Klementz Barbara <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Metz James <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>
Moore Wendy <i>Perkins Cole (ORL) ♦ *</i>
Mort Marshall <i>Fenwick</i>
Murata Alessandra <i>Cooley LLP</i>
Nafday Rohit <i>Kirkland & Ellis LLP (ORL) ♦</i>
Stapel Julie <i>Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP</i>
Thomas David S. <i>Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati</i>
Band 3
Chen Nancy <i>Fenwick</i>
Fealk Dean <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>
Gantus Brandon <i>Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati</i>
Glagau Denise M. <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Griffin Page <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP</i>
Hendricks Sharon J. <i>Gunderson Dettmer Stough *</i>
Johnson Yana <i>Faegre Drinker</i>
Kirk Jennifer <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Martell Blake <i>Cooley LLP</i>
McCall Scott <i>Cooley LLP</i>
Nolt Kevin E. <i>Trucker Huss APC</i>
Palao-Ricketts Cisco <i>Goodwin Procter LLP *</i>
Powell Mary <i>Trucker Huss APC</i>
Ray Magan P. <i>Greenberg Traurig, LLP</i>
Richardson Christine L. <i>Pillsbury (ORL) ♦</i>
Stellenberg Dan <i>Paul Hastings LLP *</i>
Thompson Scott <i>Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP (ORL) ♦ *</i>
Vaseghi Maj <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>
Wilkes Stephen <i>Wagner Law Group (ORL) ♦</i>
Up-and-coming individuals
Nardali Ali <i>K&L Gates (ORL) ♦ *</i>
Wiesner Michael <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP</i>
Associates to watch
Macaluso Nick <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
<i>* Indicates individual with profile.</i>
<i>♦ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.</i>
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation
Leading Firms
Band 1
Latham & Watkins LLP
Band 2
Cooley LLP
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Paul Hastings LLP
Proskauer Rose LLP
Band 3
Faegre Drinker
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Feller Sean C. <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>
Harris Stephen H. <i>C-Suite Law (ORL) ♦</i>
Hart Colleen <i>Proskauer Rose LLP *</i>
Mirza Barbara <i>Cooley LLP</i>
Seymour Laurence <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>
Taub David <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>
Band 2
Carpenter Michelle L.C. <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>
Gartland Elizabeth <i>Fenwick</i>
Lara Michelle <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>
Reish Fred <i>Faegre Drinker</i>
Schachter Robin M. <i>Robin M. Schachter Law (ORL) ♦</i>
Walbridge Jeffrey <i>O'Melveny & Myers LLP (ORL) ♦</i>
Band 3
Aspinwall Marla <i>Loeb & Loeb LLP (ORL) ♦</i>
Conley Summer <i>Faegre Drinker</i>
Crisp Julie <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>
Jones Mark <i>Pillsbury (ORL) ♦</i>
Schonholz Matthew <i>Baker McKenzie</i>

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for

Baker McKenzie comprises unchallenged experts in global equity services, providing some of the largest companies with services worldwide at the highest level. The team handles the full spectrum of employee benefits, executive compensation and ERISA matters, domestically and internationally. The group ranks highly for the scale and sophistication of equity granting and other compensation work handled regionally for both a Californian and a global clientele. The practitioners also have significant expertise in global tax and compliance issues.

Strengths

"Due to their extensive global network, Baker McKenzie can coordinate advice across multiple jurisdictions worldwide."

"Baker McKenzie are knowledgeable, diligent and professional. They have a good grasp on the business trends of big corporations."

"What distinguishes Baker McKenzie is their responsiveness to taking on new projects, proper setting of expectations regarding work completion and overall availability during the project."

Work highlights

Baker McKenzie advised both HPE and Juniper Networks on employment and compensation integration issues across 58 countries related to the \$14 billion acquisition of Juniper Networks.

Notable practitioners

Sinead Kelly handles an array of transactional employee benefits and executive compensation matters, including those arising out of corporate spin-offs and IPOs. **Strengths:** "Sinead is an incredibly thoughtful adviser. We value her advice greatly, both on routine matters and ad hoc situations." "She is extremely sharp, pragmatic, thoughtful, and responsive. She understands our business and offers practical solutions that we can implement and administer." **Barbara Klementz** is well-versed in handling equity plans and compensation issues for multinational clients. **Strengths:** "Barbara is tremendously helpful to keep complex topics under control. Her honest opinion is always valuable." Denise Glagau frequently acts on the employee benefits and executive compensation aspects of mergers, acquisitions and sales. She regularly represents clients in the technology sector on cross-border transactions. **Jennifer Kirk** advises public and private companies on EBEC matters, including complex tax and regulatory compliance. With a focus on global equity services, she has a proven record of supporting clients across the globe. **Matthew Schonholz** of Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP provides expert advice on a variety of executive compensation and tax matters relating to corporate transactions. **Strengths:** "Matt is responsive and client-focused." **Nick Macaluso** is recognised for advising clients on the tax implication of employee equity plans in connection with corporate transactions. He has significant experience assisting with extensive cross-border needs. **Strengths:** "Nick is detail-oriented. We don't need to be experts in every country and can rely on him to be so."

Cooley LLP

What the team is known for

Cooley LLP is able to advise on a variety of executive compensation and employee benefits issues. The team provides counsel on all aspects of retirement, health and welfare, and incentive plans. The group offers particular expertise in compensation and benefits matters involved in corporate transactions including IPOs. The members represent a diverse roster of clients ranging from startups to multinational companies.

Strengths

"They are highly responsive. I am able to get very quick feedback, especially if urgent. The team delivers practical guidance and their industry experience is also exceptional."

"They are knowledgeable and have the ability to share information in a way that is digestible and friendly."

"They are highly technical with a deep understanding of common practices and trends in tech company compensation and governance."

Work highlights

Cooley advised Longboard Pharmaceuticals on its \$2.6 billion sale to Lundbeck.

Notable practitioners

Barbara Mirza has a wealth of expertise in employee benefits and executive compensation matters and regularly represents startups and private companies. **Strengths:** "Barbara is highly

experienced and has an exceptional understanding of our industry and business.” *“Barbara is diligent and gets back to us immediately. Her expertise is beyond excellent.”* **Alessandra Murata** is a strong choice to advise companies on executive compensation and employee benefits issues involved in M&A, IPOs and other corporate transactions.

Strengths: *“Alessandra provides timely and relevant advice. She has a keen understanding of tax authorities and their procedures.”* **Blake Martell** acts on the employee benefits and executive compensation aspects of M&A for his clients. He is experienced in equity and pension plans and related corporate governance matters. **Scott McCall** is recognized for his ability to handle employee benefits and compensation issues on behalf of high-profile clients. His experience includes advising clients on matters related to IPOs and acquisitions. **Strengths:** *“Scott has seen some extremely complex transactions and comes up with reasonable advice. He is very realistic and his business judgment is ideal.”* *“He is very business-savvy. He understands what businesses need, not just the legal aspect of it. I think of him as business partner and someone I can rely on with quick, efficient, correct responses.”*

DLA Piper LLP (US)

What the team is known for

DLA Piper houses a strong bench of practitioners who are held in high regard in the space. The team demonstrates notable strength in providing counsel on regulatory requirements and tax issues. The members are also adept at assisting clients with matters arising from acquisitions and expansion. The firm’s client base covers a range of sectors including technology and manufacturing.

Strengths

“DLA is extremely knowledgeable, experienced and responsive. It provides access to specialists, great customer service and have global reach.”

“The team provides services within the time needed and help navigating complex challenges.”

“With a wide range of experts, DLA can handle sophisticated, multi-jurisdiction matters.”

“The team has an international presence and keep up to date on the latest laws in various jurisdictions worldwide. It is able to deliver quick turnarounds and have been an invaluable partner to us.”

Work highlights

DLA Piper represented Ripple Labs in multiple \$1 billion+ share buybacks.

Notable practitioners

Michelle Lara has notable strength advising on transactional employee benefit and executive compensation matters. This includes designing and implementing equity plans and retention bonus programs. **Strengths:** *“Michelle offers relevant, sophisticated and pragmatic advice on tight timelines. We highly value our partnership with her.”* *“She is pragmatic when addressing issues, recognizing that not everything is black or white.”* **Dean Fealk** routinely advises clients on the tax and regulatory implications related to complex equity and incentive arrangements. He is adept at handling matters with cross-border elements.

Faegre Drinker

What the team is known for

Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP is noted for its

wealth of expertise in employee benefits issues. The team handles a variety of matters on behalf of plan sponsors, service providers and fiduciaries. The members offer expertise in ERISA compliance as well as ESOP transactions. They regularly represent plan sponsors and fiduciaries in relation to IRS and Department of Labor investigations and audits.

Strengths

“The firm is very knowledgeable about both cash and equity-based executive compensation plans.”

“The firm understands their clients and tailors their advising to our unique needs.”

Work highlights

Faegre Drinker represented Tetra Tech as ERISA counsel for the company’s 401(k) plan.

Notable practitioners

Fred Reish is noted as a strong ERISA specialist in the employee benefits and executive compensation space. **Summer Conley** is leader of the firm’s benefits and executive compensation group. She advises her clients on a variety of employee benefits matters including 401(k) and health and welfare plans, as well as COBRA and HIPAA-related issues. **Strengths:** *“She is responsive, knowledgeable of our organization and a great partner.”* **Yana Johnson** is sought out for her skillful handling of executive compensation matters for public clients.

Strengths: *“Yana makes herself available on an ongoing basis to help support our team when complex questions arise.”*

Fenwick

What the team is known for

Fenwick provides counsel to technology companies, Fortune 500 businesses and high-net-worth executives in connection with the full range of employee benefits and executive compensation matters, including corporate governance and proxy disclosure. The team plays a significant role handling the compensation of executives during large transactions as well as IPOs.

Strengths

“Fenwick has an experienced team that we will always approach for compliance and other challenging matters.”

“Fenwick is responsive, nimble and practical.”

“Fenwick can anticipate the impacts of industry or regulatory changes and the team’s expertise has never disappointed us.”

Work highlights

Fenwick represented cloud security company Wiz in its \$32 billion acquisition by Google.

Notable practitioners

Elizabeth Gartland is experienced in handling the employee benefit and executive compensation aspects of corporate transactions, including acquisitions and IPOs. **Marshall Mort** is routinely called upon to provide counsel on employee benefits and executive compensation issues following complex transactions. He demonstrates notable strength in advising clients on complex tax and securities issues. **Strengths:** *“With Marshall we are confident that we are in good hands.”* *“Marshall provides critical and strategic legal advice to help you manage complicated matters. He delivers outcomes that exceed expectations.”* *“Marshall thoroughly understands each client’s unique challenges and delivers actionable guidance. His creative solutions and commitment to stay current on emerging issues*

ensure invaluable results.” **Nancy Chen** advises both startup and public clients on a range of benefits and executive compensation matters, often in connection to significant acquisitions.

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

What the team is known for

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP houses an accomplished group of executive compensation and employee benefits attorneys, who provide the full range of representation and subject matter expertise in both Northern and Southern California. The team is noted for its experience handling the benefits implications of corporate transactions. The practitioners often advise hedge funds and private equity firms on ERISA matters.

Strengths

“Gibson Dunn’s response time is exceptional. The team consistently delivers exceptional service that exceeds expectations.”

Work highlights

Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP advised KLDisclosure on all employee benefits and executive compensation aspects of a refinancing matter, which included the exchange of \$270 million convertible debentures for new common stock.

Notable practitioners

Stephen Fackler is adept at acting on employee benefits and executive compensation matters relating to corporate transactions. He counts companies, boards of directors and private equity firms among his clients. He also splits his time between the firm’s Palo Alto and New York offices. Sean Feller has broad experience in employee benefit matters, and is knowledgeable of qualified and non-qualified benefit plans and equity-based compensation programs. **Strengths:** *“Sean truly has it all; he is tenacious but smart, with excellent judgment.”* *“Sean is a trusted and practical adviser.”*

Goodwin

What the team is known for

Goodwin’s team has broad expertise encompassing a variety of employee benefits and executive compensation matters. The group has considerable experience in the design, operation and termination of retirement plans, as well as tax and corporate governance issues associated with the full gamut of executive compensation arrangements. The team has particular strength in advising investment advisers, trustees and other fiduciaries on their ERISA obligations.

Strengths

“Goodwin have a great sense of the market.”

“Their creativity is a huge strength; they are really willing to partner with us on issues of first impression.”

Work highlights

Goodwin represented Harness on the employee benefits and executive compensation aspects of its merger with Traceable.

Notable practitioners

Co-chair of the firm’s business law department, Lynda Galligan is an experienced executive compensation attorney who acts on behalf of employers and executives, and is particularly active in the technology and life sciences sectors. **Strengths:** *“Lynda brings thorough knowledge of all the requirements needed to be considered on complex projects.”*

Cisco Palao-Ricketts demonstrates considerable strength in handling benefits and executive compensation matters arising from high-profile M&A and SPAC transactions.

Greenberg Traurig, LLP

What the team is known for

Greenberg Traurig, LLP has a comprehensive employee benefits practice, which includes notable expertise in health and welfare plans in addition to retirement plans. The firm is a go-to adviser for significant clients in the technology sector. Its capabilities also include complex executive compensation provisions.

Strengths

"They deliver guidance in a practical and easily understandable manner."

"The firm demonstrates a combination of deep subject matter expertise and timely response."

Work highlights

Greenberg Traurig, LLP advised Amazon on a variety of ERISA disputes.

Notable practitioners

Magan Ray advises a premier client base on the design and implementation of health and welfare, retirement and other employee benefits plans. **Strengths:** *"Magan is a highly valued partner and her insights are vital to our success."* *"Magan is great at understanding. She knows about the business and provides tailored responses and practical advice."*

Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve Franklin & Hachigian

What the team is known for

Gunderson Dettmer's team provides sophisticated counsel to a range of startups and public companies regarding their compensation, equity and incentive plans. The group plays a key role during IPOs and M&A, particularly in the technology space.

Notable practitioners

Sharon Hendricks is widely recognized for her representation of startups and public technology companies in the Silicon Valley area in executive compensation matters.

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for

Latham & Watkins LLP is recognized as a powerhouse in the employee benefits and executive compensation market. The team offers strength across its Northern and Southern California offices. The practitioners provide comprehensive advice and representation to their clients and play a key role in big-ticket corporate transactions. The firm possesses impressive national and cross-border capabilities.

Strengths

"Latham deliver integrated, cross-disciplinary advice that works on a global level. They not only provide legal opinions but also strategic counsel to our management team."

"Latham's approach is creative. They are responsive and extremely well informed on what is going on in the space, with the ability to come up with new ideas on employee benefit structuring."

"Latham helps us understanding gray areas and works with us to build a path forward. When urgent issues arise, it's always able to meet our timeline."

"Latham's approach is integrated and delivers impressively fast and cohesive advice. It has an amazing team that speaks with one voice."

Work highlights

Latham & Watkins LLP advised Bunge Global on the employment, benefits and compensation aspects of its \$8 billion merger with Viterro Limited.

Notable practitioners

Laurence Seymour acts on the implementation of compensation arrangements for public and private company clients, as well as on benefits arrangements connected with corporate transactions.

Strengths: *"Larry is always aware of the market and what the next thing will be, with the ability to see around corners."*

David Taub is highly respected for his specialist handling of the employee benefit and executive compensation elements of corporate transactions. **Strengths:** *"David really understands the business side of things."*

Michelle Carpenter has a strong track record of handling high-value M&A and IPOs, assisting with the full range of employee benefits and executive compensation issues. **Strengths:** *"She is a subject matter expert and goes beyond that, knowing how to navigate people and different personalities to get to a good result."*

"Michelle is supremely knowledgeable and presents information in a way that is approachable for clients. She is always willing to answer any question, big or small."

James Metz is skilled at representing clients in the employee benefits and executive compensation aspects of M&A transactions. **Julie Crisp** has a burgeoning practice in the space. She is held in high regard for her ability to provide counsel on a wide spectrum of employee benefits and executive compensation matters. **Strengths:** *"Julie is a trusted adviser to both management and the board, bringing technical sophistication and ability to anticipate issues."* *"Julie combines strong grasp of the law and knowledge of similar situations. Her clear and concise advice cuts through the noise. She is pragmatic, insightful and action-oriented."*

"She provides practical and timely counsel in high-stakes, fast-paced matters."

Maj Vaseghi is an accomplished lawyer specializing in employee benefits and executive compensation issues and is particularly active in handling sizable corporate transactions. **Strengths:** *"Maj is knowledgeable about what is happening across the executive compensation landscape."*

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

What the team is known for

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP has a diverse and impressive caseload handled by a strong team in the employee benefits and executive compensation area. The team is active on compensation and benefits aspects of company spin-offs, as well as advice on cross-border deals. The practitioners advise the firm's client base of multinational corporations on compensation governance across a number of jurisdictions.

Strengths

"The firm always comes through with business-oriented solutions."

Notable practitioners

Julie Stapel is a well-regarded employee benefits lawyer, especially well-versed in ERISA matters. She frequently advises on fiduciary issues as well as drafting and negotiating collective investment

trusts. **Strengths:** *"Julie shows true commercial awareness."* *"Julie is an essential piece of our employee benefits puzzle. Her investment expertise helps us navigate complex situations."*

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

What the team is known for

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP has strong coverage of the full spectrum of executive compensation and employee benefits work, from M&A support to advising on global equity compensation and retirement plans. Its group represents Fortune 500 as well as technology and financial services companies. The firm offers clients strong cross-border capabilities. The team is particularly strong on proxy disclosure issues.

Strengths

"They understand our business, are able to guide us through complex issues and are highly responsive."

Work highlights

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP represented SAP on its \$1.5 billion acquisition of WalkMe.

Notable practitioners

Juliano Banuelos regularly provides counsel on compensation and benefit plans for technology companies among other clients. **Strengths:** *"Juliano has excellent response times."*

Michael Wiesner is a partner in the firm's executive compensation and benefits team. He regularly assists clients in connection with technology-industry acquisitions.

Paul Hastings LLP

What the team is known for

Paul Hastings LLP boasts a respected ERISA and benefits group with an excellent track record in both contentious and noncontentious proceedings. The team possesses a robust transactional practice that handles related aspects of various high-value deals. The practitioners regularly act on the benefits and compensation aspects of mergers and acquisitions, including cross-border matters. They also advise clients on fiduciary responsibility.

Strengths

"Paul Hastings gives clear and actionable advice I can use immediately, balancing legal requirements with commercial realities and delivering quick turnarounds, without sacrificing accuracy."

Work highlights

Paul Hastings advised Genesis Energy on the employee benefits and executive compensation aspects of a \$1.425 billion sale of soda ash manufacturing operations.

Notable practitioners

Dan Stellenberg advises clients on executive compensation and employee benefits issues pertaining to corporate transactions and restructurings. He regularly instructed by clients in the technology sector. **Strengths:** *"Dan's counsel is clear, tailored, and grounded in experience. He handles matters personally end-to-end, quickly understanding the context and making complex issues feel straightforward."* *"Dan is patient, responsive and handles the most sophisticated matters with ease. He is strategic, has strong commercial awareness and knows how to overcome roadblocks."* *"Dan is extremely bright and knowledgeable in all areas of executive compensation and creates practical solutions to solve complex problems for sophisticated clients."*

Proskauer Rose LLP

What the team is known for

Proskauer Rose LLP has a dedicated team which is well-versed in all aspects of employee benefits and executive compensation law. Its members have strong expertise in advising on benefits plans such as equity arrangements in transactions. Their clients include Fortune 500 companies and organizations from the retail, healthcare and financial services sectors.

Strengths

"They understand our business and can deliver practically and dynamically under time pressure."

Work highlights

Proskauer Rose LLP assisted the Los Angeles Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games on their compensation and benefit plan arrangements.

Notable practitioners

Colleen Hart advises on the drafting and negotiation of compensation and benefits plans pertaining to corporate transactions, counting private equity firms and their portfolio companies among her stable of clients. **Strengths:** *"Colleen is up on the latest trends and has a strong securities background."* *"Colleen is precise, responsive, collaborative and patient."*

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates

What the team is known for

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom has a talented bench with particular strength in the field of executive compensation. The team consistently handles compensation and benefits arrangements arising from big-ticket transactions for large businesses in California, including those in the technology and entertainment sectors. The practitioners also serve as personal counsel for high-profile executives.

Strengths

"Skadden's main strength is their practicality; they are business-oriented and have learnt our business."

Work highlights

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates advised Intel Corporation on the executive compensation and benefits aspects of the sale of a 51% stake in Altera Corporation to Silver Lake.

Notable practitioners

Joseph Yaffe frequently acts on executive compensation arrangements for high-profile individuals and boards of directors as well as public and private companies in connection with major transactions.

Strengths: *"Joseph's advice is comprehensive because of his experience working on many different types of issues."* **Page Griffin** has extensive experience advising companies on the employee benefit and executive compensation aspects of corporate transactions. He also advises clients on the SEC regulations governing executive compensation matters. **Strengths:** *"Page gives good, practical executive compensation advice and he is always available."*

Trucker Huss APC

What the team is known for

Trucker Huss is a highly rated employee bene-

fits and ERISA boutique offering expert advice on Fortune 500 companies, small businesses and plan service providers. The group has wide-ranging knowledge in all aspects of employee benefit work.

Notable practitioners

Bradford Huss has a wealth of expertise in ERISA among other employee benefits and executive compensation issues. He has notable experience in DOL investigations. Kevin Nolt advises clients on all aspects of pension plan administration, including 401(k) plans. **Mary Powell** handles a broad array of employee benefits and executive compensation matters, including tax and ERISA issues.

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

What the team is known for

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati has a highly experienced team of experts with demonstrable capabilities in employee benefits and executive compensation. It is a multitalented group with knowledge not only of incentive and compensation matters, but also of related tax, securities and employment law. It is regularly called upon to advise on the benefits and compensation aspects of high-value M&A.

Strengths

"The firm has a fantastic understanding of our business and provides great, practical advice."

"The service levels are phenomenal – they are always available and always top-notch."

Work highlights

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati advised Ampere Computing in connection to its \$6.5 billion acquisition by SoftBank Group Corp.

Notable practitioners

David Thomas provides expert counsel on employee benefits and executive compensation issues which arise in the context of M&A and IPOs.

Strengths: *"David is an exceptional lawyer and invaluable partner, both creative and thoughtful."*

"David is pragmatic and willing to dig into issues."

"David has excellent commitment to client service making himself immediately available. He understands the specific business context and delivers strategic solutions that exceeded expectations."

Brandon Gantus is the co-leader of the firm's employee benefits and compensation practice. He has experience assisting a range of technology-centered companies in connection with mergers and acquisitions. **Strengths:** *"Brandon is responsive and knowledgeable."* *"He is very good at distilling a lot of complex matters into business-minded advice."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Marla Aspinwall of Loeb & Loeb LLP handles a wide array of employee benefits and executive compensation matters, including related tax issues.

Tristan Brown of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett is adept at handling the employee benefits and executive compensation aspects of M&A. His broad stable of clients includes public companies and private equity funds. **Strengths:** *"Tristan is thoughtful, responsive and strategic."*

Stephen Harris is well regarded for his key expertise in IRS compliance and handles the employee ben-

efit and executive compensation aspects of corporate transactions. **Strengths:** *"Stephen offers the complete package. He is extremely knowledgeable about the law and deeply connected to his clients and the market."*

Mark Jones is noted for his expertise in compensation and equity matters. His clients include public companies, with a particular focus on cross-border equity. **Strengths:** *"Mark stands out for his deep subject matter expertise. He offers practical solutions for our business that reflect sound legal judgment and are in alignment with our risk tolerance."*

Wendy Moore of Perkins Cole LLP has experience advising on the employee benefit and executive compensation aspects of transactions on behalf of a client base of public and emerging growth companies. **Strengths:** *"Wendy is able to apply legal knowledge in combination with extensive experience with market norms to help find creative solutions to complicated situations."* *"Wendy is very technical and practical."*

Rohit Nafday of Kirkland & Ellis garners praise for his vast executive compensation expertise. He is skilled at navigating compensation issues arising out of M&A transactions. **Strengths:** *"Rohit is responsive, knows all the issues and can explain the shortcomings of our plan."*

Ali Nardali is recognized as a strong management compensation attorney, with good regulatory expertise. **Strengths:** *"Ali always responds to our requests with practical advice. He is accommodating to our business needs and highly responsive."* *"Ali is responsive, thoughtful, proactive and remembers important details about our company."*

"He is incredibly client-focused."

Christine Richardson provides compliance and strategic advice on the range of employee benefits and compensation issues. She is noted for her expertise in retirement, health and welfare plans. **Strengths:** *"Christine is a professional, courteous and engaging attorney with a strong level of subject matter expertise."* *"Christine supports us from a lot of angles. She is my outside expert for employment and benefit matters. I consider her extremely diligent and a true expert in her field, great to work with."*

Robin Schachter maintains a broad practice that includes proficiency in benefit compliance, health-care plans and ESOP matters.

Scott Thompson regularly advises emerging companies on executive compensation, equity arrangements and employee benefits. **Strengths:** *"Scott is responsive, knowledgeable and diplomatic with counterparties."*

Jeffrey Walbridge is well regarded for his extensive expertise in the employee benefits and executive compensation elements of corporate transactions. His practice exhibits strength across a range of sectors, including telecommunications, media and technology.

Stephen Wilkes is noted for his experience handling a range of executive compensation and employee benefits work. He leverages expertise in ERISA and securities law to support a range of clients. **Strengths:** *"He is diligent and careful with his guidance and takes time to understand our business and our needs."* *"Steve is terrific and has a great approach with clients."*

Energy State Regulatory & Litigation

Energy: State Regulatory & Litigation	
Leading Firms	
Band 1	
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP	
Downey Brand LLP	
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP	
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP	
Band 2	
Latham & Watkins LLP	
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP	
Stoel Rives LLP	
Band 3	
BRB Law LLP	
Buchalter, LLP	
Keyes & Fox LLP	
Leading Individuals	
Star individuals	
Weissmann Henry <i>Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP</i>	
Band 1	
Cragg Brian <i>Downey Brand LLP</i>	
Day Michael <i>Downey Brand LLP</i>	
Karp Joseph <i>Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP</i>	
Kissinger William D <i>Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP</i>	
Prabhakaran Vidhya <i>Davis Wright Tremaine LLP</i>	
Band 2	
Cottle Lisa A <i>Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP *</i>	
Ferguson Patrick <i>Kirkland & Ellis LLP (ORL) ◇</i>	
Hilton Seth <i>Stoel Rives LLP</i>	
Sheriff Nora <i>Buchalter, LLP *</i>	
Band 3	
Brill Thomas <i>Greenberg Traurig, LLP (ORL) ◇</i>	
Brown Andrew <i>Biering & Brown LLP (ORL) ◇</i>	
Campopiano Marc <i>Perkins Cole LLP (ORL) ◇</i>	
Gibson Jedediah <i>Downey Brand LLP</i>	
Goldman Seth <i>Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP</i>	
Harris Jeffery <i>Climate Edge Law Group (ORL) ◇</i>	
Jorrie Katie E <i>Davis Wright Tremaine LLP</i>	
Kolosov Christine A <i>Sheppard, Mullin, Richter</i>	
McKenna Lilly <i>Stoel Rives LLP</i>	
Saarman González Giovanni <i>Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP</i>	
Solomon Thomas <i>Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton</i>	
Somogyi Megan <i>BRB Law LLP *</i>	
Stoddard F. Jackson <i>BRB Law LLP *</i>	
Up-and-coming individuals	
Neumyer Samantha <i>Climate Edge Law Group (ORL) ◇</i>	
Associates to watch	
Sultan Tahiya <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP (ORL) ◇</i>	
* Indicates individual with profile.	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

Band 1

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

What the team is known for

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP possesses a wealth of experience representing utilities before the California Public Utilities Commission. The firm represents a large number of renewable energy companies across the state, as well as clients in the oil and gas industry, and offers guidance on project development, including financing, power purchase agreements and permitting through to dispute resolution. Davis Wright demonstrates noted activity across the Western United States and knowledge-

able on issues relating to community choice aggregators.

Strengths

"The team at Davis Wright Tremaine has a lot of relevant experience handling complex transactions with utility companies."

"The firm is highly commercial. It understands what is important to the client."

"The team demonstrates a thorough and nuanced understanding of California energy regulatory matter, and offers pragmatic and sensible strategies for addressing complex issues and transactions."

Work highlights

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP has represented Calpine Corporation before state agencies including the CPUC, in relation to safety and reliability audits.

Notable practitioners

Vidhya Prabhakaran appears before the CPUC, CEC and other regulatory bodies on behalf of a host of sector clients including electric utilities, IPPs and energy service providers. He is particularly skilled in ratemaking and procurement matters. **Strengths:** "Vidhya has a good balance of regulatory and commercial sense. He can take into account our objectives and accomplish what we're trying to get to. He's very creative in the formatting of deals."

"Vidhya is smart and sensitive to client needs." Katie Jorrie is noted for her work advising clients on regulatory matters, transactions and new developments in the energy industry. She has experience acting for clients before the California Public Utilities Commission. **Strengths:** "Katie Jorrie is strong on all regulatory work. She's reliable, consistent and she has been incredibly dedicated. She is easy to work with and is highly commercial."

Downey Brand LLP

What the team is known for

Downey Brand LLP is a market-leading firm that offers expertise across a host of energy matters, with extensive experience practicing before the CPUC. The firm is further notable for significant capabilities in the energy storage and transmission space.

Notable practitioners

Brian Cragg is noted for his CPUC advocacy on behalf of independent power producers. He possesses considerable knowledge of energy storage-related matters. **Michael Day** is an accomplished attorney noted for his expertise in CPUC ratemaking proceedings. He is further noted for guiding clients through the transmission siting process. **Jedediah Gibson** regularly advises on California energy regulatory policy and provides representation before CPUC and CEC. His client base includes utilities and developers of renewable generating facilities.

Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

What the team is known for

Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP is regarded as a strong litigation group dealing with complex and high profile disputes in defense of energy clients. Also available for a range of energy work encompassing regulatory and transactional matters. Acts for a number of well-known energy companies, including

oil and electricity clients. Recognized for assisting utilities on strategy and regulatory work pertaining to wild fires.

Strengths

"Munger, Tolles & Olson is the absolute expert on CPUC regulatory law. Its lawyers are incredibly knowledgeable, creative and thorough."

"The team stands out for its strategy, critical thinking, writing and knowledge of the commission and the subject matter."

"The firm possesses an excellent team with deep understanding that allows them to truly understand the risk and provide sound advice."

"Munger, Tolles & Olson provides excellent advice, is cogent, to the point and always timely."

"The whole team is exceptionally smart, provides incredible quality output, and really good service too. They handle anything for us that needs intellectual horsepower."

Work highlights

Munger, Tolles & Olson represents Liberty Utilities in an application to the CPUC to recover costs recorded in the Wildfire Event Memorandum Account, arising from the 2020 Mountain View Fire. The application seeks recovery of approximately \$78.2 million in costs.

Notable practitioners

Henry Weissmann is a highly esteemed energy lawyer with considerable experience acting for clients in government agency proceedings. He represents household-name electric power companies and pipeline operators. **Strengths:** "Henry Weissmann is a superior litigation, regulatory and legislative strategist, who demonstrates superior communication skills. He is a trusted and candid advisor." "Henry is great. He is diplomatic and always pleasant to talk with." "Henry is in the top tier of knowing the utility industry and energy regulatory law for gas and electric issues. He has been instrumental while working with us." **Seth Goldman** is noted for his practice assisting energy sector clients with securitizations, restructuring and insolvency. He regularly acts in both regulatory proceedings and bankruptcy litigation. **Giovanni Saarman Gonzalez** is an up-and-coming lawyer noted for his abilities in commercial and regulatory litigation in the energy sector. **Strengths:** "Giovanni is very smart and detail-oriented. He is an excellent writer and has strong financial acumen." "Giovanni showed a lot of diligence and analytical expertise in his work with us."

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

What the team is known for

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP has a strong California-based team with longstanding experience before the CPUC, CEC and CAISO, providing representation to a range of market participants. The firm's expertise includes permitting, rate cases and regulatory compliance, with additional capabilities in PPAs.

Strengths

"Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton perform well in answering questions very promptly, meeting our timelines, and making sure we are managing expect-

tations. They're thorough, supportive in our needs and supportive on calls with counterparties."

Work highlights

Sheppard Mullin represent Golden State Water Company in multiple proceedings before the California Public Utilities Commission. The proceedings will establish the client's rates and ability to expand its service footprint.

Notable practitioners

Joseph Karp is a CPUC expert and has a long history of representing clients before the agency in ratemaking and transactional mandates. He notably assists power generation and retail electricity providers, alongside public utilities. Lisa Cottle is recognized for her expertise in the projects space, regularly working with clients on PPA negotiations and permitting proceedings before the CPUC. Christine Kolosov is noted for her practice focused on regulatory matters before the CPUC. She also handles energy project development, sales and acquisitions, and financing. **Strengths:** "Christine Kolosov is a trusted and dedicated adviser."

Thomas Solomon is highly knowledgeable of the issues facing electric utilities, drawing on previous in-house experience. He represents generation owners, developers and industry groups in a host of regulatory and transactional matters. **Strengths:** "Thomas Solomon was always very in tune with our risks and how to mitigate those, so we got a great outcome in managing those risks and making sure the structures worked for the project."

Band 2

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for

Latham & Watkins LLP is experienced in all matters pertaining to energy infrastructure for prominent clients in both the renewables space and the oil and gas industry. Frequently assists clients with first-in-kind projects. Also offers strength in handling matters before agencies such as the CPUC, CEC and the US Department of Energy. Deftly manages trial and appellate litigation resulting from agency decisions. Notable for its involvement in rulemaking proceedings affecting clients in the energy sector.

Strengths

"The team at Latham & Watkins is technically competent, demonstrates excellent attention to detail, is hard-working, strategic and what distinguishes them for me is how much they support beyond the purely legal aspect. They think about the project in its totality."

Work highlights

Latham & Watkins LLP has assisted Delfin LNG in the development and equity and debt financing of a multi-vessel floating LNG project.

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

What the team is known for

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP is a notable group of energy practitioners with extensive experience handling CPUC proceedings and approvals relating to major projects. The firm is also well versed in state and federal litigation, as well as breach of contract claims.

Strengths

"Morgan, Lewis & Bockius was extremely knowl-

edgeable, prepared to help us in all of our needs and timely with communications."

"They provide excellent understanding, guidance and recommendations."

Notable practitioners

William Kissinger has considerable experience in the energy space, representing a host of major clients in regulatory matters before California and federal agencies. In addition to his regulatory expertise, he is noted for his skills as a litigator. **Strengths:** "William Kissinger is particularly good at finding creative solutions to complex regulatory hurdles."

Stoel Rives LLP

What the team is known for

The team at Stoel Rives LLP is noted for its extensive experience handling CPUC proceedings and approvals relating to major projects. The team provides strategic advice to energy sector clients across a range of different issues, demonstrating a particular strength in rate cases and interconnection mandates.

Strengths

"The counsel at Stoel Rives are exceptionally aware of industry developments and quick to seek advantages for their clients."

"Two things distinguish Stoel Rives; the depth of their expertise in regulatory law, and their collegial and highly focused work ethic."

"The lawyers at Stoel Rives have a proven record of handling very complex regulatory matters in a focused and successful manner, by working collaboratively with their clients and aligned counsel and parties."

"Throughout our cases, the firm has demonstrated a strong command of California regulatory requirements, tight project management, and the ability to align legal, technical, and policy elements into a cohesive and effective filing strategy."

"Energy work requires an understanding of a variety of disciplines, including economics, finance, engineering, and policy. It is hard to find experienced attorneys capable of working with such complex matters. This firm has those types of attorneys."

Work highlights

Stoel Rives LLP has represented Air Products and Chemicals in an endeavour to prevent monopolisation within the natural gas utility space, via challenging other entities' applications for regulatory approvals before the CPUC.

Notable practitioners

Seth Hilton is recognized for his practice advising energy and technology companies on a diverse range of issues, notably regarding interconnection matters. He regularly appears before the CPUC and CEC. **Strengths:** "Seth Hilton is highly intelligent, convivial and acutely aware of regulatory and legal developments affecting his clients. He is a professional's professional and an extreme pleasure with whom to work." "Seth Hilton has exceptional abilities as an advocate and adviser, a strong work ethic and tremendous loyalty to his clients. He also has a wonderful commercial sense that makes him invaluable to business clients." "Seth is very attentive to our needs and helps facilitate our decision-making process with timely updates and pertinent pros and cons." **Lilly McKenna** is noted for her work representing eminent energy sector clients before the CPUC across a range of issues. She further assists

them in ensuring compliance with state energy policies.

Band 3

BRB Law LLP

What the team is known for

The team at BRB Law LLP possesses a broad base of experience which makes it well placed to represent clients before the CPUC in a variety of regulatory matters, and possesses further experience in negotiating commercial agreements. They are well known for representing utilities, community choice aggregators, municipalities and regularly assist clients in the water, electric and natural gas sectors.

Notable practitioners

Megan Somogyi regularly appears before the CPUC on behalf of her clients in energy regulatory proceedings. She provides representation to various utility companies and California municipalities. Jackson Stoddard of BRB Law LLP has an active regulatory practice, frequently advising clients in proceedings before the CPUC. He expertly handles regulatory approvals related to the licensing and development of various energy projects.

Buchalter, LLP

What the team is known for

Buchalter LLP is commended for its strong energy regulatory and litigation practice, through which it regularly represents clients such as industrial and advocacy organisations and coalitions before the CPUC. The firm has demonstrated competency in representing clients in a range of litigation, from commercial disputes to wildfire-related cost recovery.

Notable practitioners

Nora Sheriff of Buchalter, focuses her practice on the energy space and advises on both regulatory support and administrative proceedings, the latter of which includes representation before the CPUC. Her clients include large customers and other market participants. **Strengths:** "She's easy to work with and breaks complex issues into easy to understand language, and builds great relationships with key players." "Nora Sheriff is a knowledgeable and experienced attorney. She has a good grasp of our industry and advocates effectively."

Keyes & Fox LLP

What the team is known for

Keyes & Fox LLP has gained recognition for its focussed energy regulatory practice. The firm is well known in the market for its municipal work, representing community choice aggregators, and has experience representing clients before various regulatory bodies in multiple states.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Thomas Brill of Greenberg Traurig, LLP is noted for his strength in the California regulated energy market. His practice covers advisory work as well as proceedings before the CPUC, and he has a strong record of representing entities which operate in the oil and natural gas sectors. **Strengths:** "Thomas Brill's commercial awareness is absolutely

outstanding, just 10 out of 10." "Thomas Brill's commercial awareness is absolutely outstanding, just 10 out of 10."

Andrew Brown regularly appears before the CPUC in a variety of market design and ratemaking issues. He also handles regulatory approvals for transactions and operational compliance.

Marc Campopiano is commended for his expertise in matters affecting residential and community power generation projects. He regularly appears before the CPUC and other government agencies, guiding clients through approval proceedings and managing energy regulatory compliance.

Patrick Ferguson of Kirkland & Ellis LLP is sought out by energy companies for his expert regulatory and commercial advice as well as his strength in proceedings before the CPUC. He is experienced across a range of assets including solar and geothermal power plants and transmission lines.

Jeffery Harris at Climate Edge Law Group advises clients on regulatory compliance with energy policy, as well as energy-adjacent environmental provisions. He also manages siting and permitting for renewable and conventional power projects.

Samantha Neumyer at Climate Edge Law Group is noted for her work advising energy sector clients

on a range of regulatory matters before the California Energy Commission and CPUC. **Strengths:** "Samantha Neumyer has a lot of expertise before the California energy commission. She is very savvy and knowledgeable in this field."

Tahiya Sultan of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP is an up and coming practitioner, who is noted for her work on energy regulatory compliance. She has further demonstrated her ability in commercial negotiations relating to renewable projects.

Strengths: "Tahiya is extremely smart, gets things done quickly, can get up to speed on technical and business issues, and work at the speed of light."

Environment

Environment
Leading Firms
Band 1
Alston & Bird LLP
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Paul Hastings LLP
Band 2
Allen Matkins
Farella Braun + Martel LLP
Holland & Knight LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
Band 3
Cermak & Inglin LLP
Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Greenberg Glusker LLP
Hogan Lovells US LLP
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
King & Spalding LLP
Perkins Coie LLP
Band 4
Arnold & Porter
Beveridge & Diamond PC
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Norton Rose Fulbright
Nossaman LLP
Pillsbury
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP
Band 5
Baker Botts L.L.P.
Bell Kearns
Best Best & Krieger LLP
Bick Law LLP
Downey Brand LLP
Edgcomb Law Group
Miller Nash LLP
Stoel Rives LLP
WilmerHale

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Alston & Bird LLP

What the team is known for

Alston & Bird LLP has a combined land use and environmental group that focuses on guiding clients through high-stakes trial and appellate litigation and regulatory matters, both locally and nationally. Key areas of focus for the firm include Superfund cases, enforcement actions and civil suits related to the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. The team fields a number of attorneys who have previously held senior experience of state and federal environmental agencies.

Strengths

"Alston & Bird provides responsive and practical counsel."

"What makes the department stand out is its intelligence, experience and deep bench strength."

"The firm has a deep bench of knowledgeable attorneys with significant litigation experience."

Work highlights

Alston & Bird defended Five Point Holdings in a putative class action alleging a failure to disclose the presence of radioactive substances at a former naval shipyard that is the subject of San Francisco's largest development project.

Notable practitioners

Jeffrey Dintzer has an excellent reputation for representing oil and gas clients in environmental litigation. He has notable expertise in CEQA, toxic tort and cost recovery issues. **Strengths:** "Jeffrey is a master strategist and business person." Greg Christianson specializes in environmental litigation. He regularly acts for clients in defending federal and state enforcement actions and has particular expertise in matters concerning Superfund sites. **Strengths:** "Greg is excellent. He communicates very well." **Matthew Wickersham** has a strong reputation for his representation of oil companies, with particular strength in CEQA proceedings. **Strengths:** "Matthew is an outstanding attorney with great depth of knowledge in his areas of practice."

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

What the team is known for

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP remains a powerhouse in litigation, regularly handling complex and headline-grabbing cases and investigations. It has deep experience in toxic tort, hazardous waste and contamination disputes, particularly those arising from major environmental incidents. The firm often acts on regulatory compliance and permitting matters for large-scale development, energy and infrastructure projects. The team is also known for its abilities acting in enforcement actions and investigations brought by state agencies, as well as the environmental aspects of corporate bankruptcies.

Strengths

"The firm has great depth and the ability to pull together a team to handle very large matters in a well-coordinated and efficient fashion."

Notable practitioners

James Dragna's environmental practice covers the energy, aerospace and manufacturing sectors, with a focus on hazardous waste, wastewater and water infrastructure litigation. He has represented clients in complex multi-party matters and class action suits. **Ella Foley Gannon** handles a broad range of environmental law as well as natural resource permitting and land use matters. She is particularly prominent for her entitlement defense work. Rick Rothman has an expansive environmental law practice covering enforcement defense, litigation and compliance. He has notable expertise in air emissions from stationary and mobile sources, water quality, hazardous substances and Proposition 65 matters. **Strengths:** "Rick is smart, proactive and efficient." **Denise Fellers** offers clients representation in complex groundwater contamination and Superfund matters. **Strengths:** "Denise is fantastic. She is one of the sharpest lawyers in the state." "I'm incredibly impressed with her ability to manage and navigate complex viewpoints, but continue to deliver recommendations and results that everyone is happy and onboard with."

Environment	
Senior Statespeople	
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	Howard Robert Latham & Watkins LLP *
Dennis Patrick W Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP	Weiner Peter H Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP
Dragna James J Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP *	
Leading Individuals	
Band 1	Weaver Elizabeth Norton Rose Fulbright
Carr Christopher Paul Hastings LLP *	Welti Tyler Venable LLP (ORL) ◇
Cermak John F Cermak & Inglin LLP	Band 4
Dintzer Jeffrey D Alston & Bird LLP *	Baas Adam BakerHostetler LLP (ORL) ◇
Hernandez Jennifer L Holland & Knight LLP	Brooks Preston Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP
Hsiao Peter King & Spalding LLP *	Bruner Marc R Perkins Coie LLP *
Nichols Sandi Allen Matkins	Cranston David Greenberg Glusker LLP
Norris Trenton H Hogan Lovells US LLP	Donnelly Thomas M Jones Day (ORL) ◇
Poloncarz Kevin Covington & Burling LLP (ORL) ◇	Drapalski Joseph Norton Rose Fulbright
Schmall Deborah J Locke Law Group (ORL) ◇	Ellis Clare Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP *
Schussman Barbara J Perkins Coie LLP *	Fayne Zachary Arnold & Porter
Band 2	Fellers Denise Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Boer J. Tom Hogan Lovells US LLP	Hudson Abbey Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Broome Shannon Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP *	Javandel Kamran Allen Matkins
Chen Patricia J PC Law Group (ORL) ◇	Jones Julie Perkins Coie LLP *
Elliott Mark E Pillsbury	Jones Roy Whitney Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton
Foley Gannon Ella Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP	Lazerwitz David Bell Kearns
Gorsen Maureen F Sidley Austin LLP (ORL) ◇ *	Manakides Thomas Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Hedgpath Tiffany R Edgcomb Law Group	Margulies Jeffrey Brian Norton Rose Fulbright
Hines Robert L Farella Braun + Martel LLP	Marsh Christian Stoel Rives LLP
Nyquist Pete Greenberg Glusker LLP	Moskal Brian Greenberg Glusker LLP
Otum Peggy O WilmerHale *	Perch-Ahern Noah Greenberg Glusker LLP
Rosegay Margaret Pillsbury	Perez Trajan Miller Nash LLP *
Band 3	Potash Aron Latham & Watkins LLP *
Andes Pamela Allen Matkins	Praitis Judith Faegre Drinker (ORL) ◇
Bell Sarah Farella Braun + Martel LLP	Pujari Davina Mayer Brown LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Brown Samuel L. Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP *	Richardson Kelly E Latham & Watkins LLP *
Chinn Lily Hogan Lovells US LLP	Smith Gary J Beveridge & Diamond PC
Christianson Greg A Alston & Bird LLP *	Targ Nicholas Holland & Knight LLP
Coffee Mary Lynn K Nossaman LLP	Thornton Robert D Nossaman LLP
Dhillon Navi Paul Hastings LLP *	van Aelstyn Nicholas Sheppard, Mullin, Richter *
Edgcomb John D. Edgcomb Law Group	Wickersham Matthew Alston & Bird LLP *
Gigounas George DLA Piper LLP (US)	Zagar Laura Godfrey Perkins Coie LLP *
Gilhuly Morgan Beveridge & Diamond PC	Zovod Shawn Troutman Pepper Locke LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Inglin Sonja Cermak & Inglin LLP	Up-and-coming individuals
Leslie Michael R King & Spalding LLP *	Bowlin Tyler Miller Nash LLP *
Locke Chris Locke Law Group (ORL) ◇	Gibson Benjamin D. Latham & Watkins LLP *
Modlin Peter Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP	Klein Ira Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP
Parker Jeffrey Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP	McLaughlin Nicole Miller Nash LLP *
Rothman Rick R Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP	Steinfeld Amy M Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
Tarantino William Morrison Foerster (ORL) ◇	Wagner Will Greenberg Traurig, LLP (ORL) ◇
* Indicates individual with profile.	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

Paul Hastings LLP

What the team is known for

Paul Hastings LLP offers a versatile regulatory practice with a deep bench experienced in dealing with environmental agencies. The firm is acknowledged for its strength in regulation, policymaking and project development, and it offers top quality expertise in land use permitting, as well as in hazardous material and air quality matters. The team has specialist knowledge of wildlife law surrounding renewable energy projects. It also highly recommended for brownfield transactions and climate change issues.

Strengths

"Paul Hastings' work product is consistently excellent. It understands and incorporates our practical and business necessities into its analysis and recommendations."

"The Paul Hastings team provides in-depth knowledge of the law and years of practical experience. It also has keen insight into the business needs of its clients."

"Paul Hastings has great customer service."

"Paul Hastings has a very deep bench with numerous specialty experts."

"Paul Hastings team combines deep knowledge of the law with significant experience on high-stakes and complex projects."

Work highlights

Paul Hastings represented Ecobat in multiple litigation and regulatory matters concerning its lead-acid battery recycling facility.

Notable practitioners

Christopher Carr handles environmental permitting proceedings for energy and projects companies,

regularly defending clients in project approval disputes, with particular expertise in the Endangered Species Act. **Strengths:** *"He provides thoughtful strategic advice and demonstrates deep knowledge on a range of environmental and land use matters."* *"He is highly skilled lawyer. He is always helpful in finding out of the box solutions to issues and has been instrumental in helping us navigate some complex regulatory issues."* *"Christopher is an excellent attorney."* **Navi Dhillon's** commendable practice spans regulatory approvals on renewable energy projects, as well as high-stakes litigation. He also demonstrates notable expertise in ESA and CEQA, representing private clients, as well as local municipalities in California. **Strengths:** *"He provides thoughtful strategic advice and demonstrates deep knowledge on a range of environmental matters."*

Band 2

Allen Matkins

What the team is known for

Allen Matkins maintains a strong reputation for the full range of environmental regulatory, transactional and dispute resolution work. It boasts a strong litigation team with significant experience in both trial and appeals, particularly in relation to CERCLA cases and contaminated sites. The firm frequently advises clientele on high-value projects and developments requiring environmental due diligence. Has a wealth of experience in water rights and quality matters. Clients include Silicon Valley tech companies, major developers and public sector bodies.

Strengths

"The team is supportive and accessible."

"Allen Matkins is smart and responsive."

"Allen Matkins has extraordinary advocates, who are respected among its peers. The lawyers write with clarity on matters that are very messy and technical."

"Allen Matkins stands out for its ability to integrate deep regulatory knowledge with practical, outcome-oriented strategy."

"Allen Matkins consistently exhibits the ability develop and implement strategies that integrate long-term and short-term thinking. It sees the big picture clearly and get the details right."

Work highlights

Allen Matkins defended Myers Industries and Buckhorn in connection with the New Idria Mercury Mine, a federal Superfund Site.

Notable practitioners

Sandi Nichols leads Allen Matkin's environmental and natural resources practice group. She has wide-ranging experience of environmental litigation and remediation, administrative proceedings and compliance. She regularly leads clients through citizen suit cases. **Strengths:** *"Sandi is an extraordinary advocate."* *"Sandi is an extremely capable attorney who is very knowledgeable regarding environmental matters."* **Pamela Andes** is particularly noted for lending environmental support to transactions in the real estate space. She regularly advises on site contamination, covering soil, groundwater and vapor issues. **Strengths:** *"Pamela is the consummate professional. She is smart and interfaces well with all; even if they are on the other side of*

the issue.” “She is one of the most sophisticated and experienced practitioners I have encountered.”

Kamran Javandel is cochair of the firm’s land use, environmental & natural resources Group. He has expertise in matters that deal with environmental contamination and compliance. **Strengths:** “Kamran is extremely knowledgeable and responsive.” “Kamran is an outstanding attorney who consistently delivers superior performance. I have been extremely impressed by his ability to quickly grasp and address the key issues in a complex matter.”

Farella Braun + Martel LLP

What the team is known for

Farella Braun + Martel LLP has a well-respected environmental practice with impressive experience in regulatory and compliance counsel covering a wide range of areas, including product liability, water quality and CERCLA matters, among others. Has a strong litigation team with the capacity to handle mass tort actions, site investigations and Proposition 65 defenses. Regularly engaged by clients in the renewable energy industry to handle matters such as project permitting, environmental review and land use entitlements.

Strengths

“It is refreshing to be able to reach out to them when new or continuing issues arise. Invariably, Farella offers germane and sound suggestions and counsel.”

“Farella does an excellent job of balancing both legal risk and understanding our business needs.”

“Farella is business-savvy and brings a wealth of experience in different markets and fields.”

Work highlights

Farella Braun + Martel represent FMC Corporation regarding a multi-decade environmental cleanup of the Portland Harbor Superfund Site in Oregon.

Notable practitioners

Robert Hines handles a broad range of state and federal environmental matters for energy, manufacturing and pharmaceutical companies. He is particularly looked to for compliance advice and Proposition 65 matters. **Strengths:** “It is so helpful and beneficial to be able to rely on Robert’s perspective and support when needed.” **Sarah Bell** regularly advises clients involved in Superfund and environmental litigation matters. Her practice includes enforcement actions, toxic torts and water quality suits. **Strengths:** “Sarah is great with balancing both the explanation of legal risk and our company’s business needs. She is great with breaking down complex issues and also providing experience with potential outcomes.”

Holland & Knight LLP

What the team is known for

Holland & Knight LLP is celebrated for its impressive record in CEQA compliance and litigation, which is enhanced by its expertise in land use matters. Additionally, the firm possesses an established practice in brownfield redevelopment and natural resource protection, particularly in relation to water quality issues and the Endangered Species Act. Other areas of strength include matters at the intersection of environmental and tribal law, as well as environmental health and safety matters. It caters to a variety of industries, including renewable energy, manufacturing, biotechnology and oil and gas.

Strengths

“Holland & Knight is a fantastic firm.”

Work highlights

Holland & Knight represents California Forever on an environmental review in connection with the development of a new community in Solano County.

Notable practitioners

Jennifer Hernandez is a market-leading CEQA attorney who is highly commended for her work at the intersection of land use and environmental work. She has particular expertise in brownfield redevelopment and matters pertaining to wetlands and the Endangered Species Act. **Strengths:** “Jennifer is a great lawyer.” **Nicholas Targ** co-chairs Holland & Knight’s national environmental team. He represents public, private and nonprofit coalition clients on a variety of environmental issues, including Superfund compliance and brownfields redevelopment. **Strengths:** “Nicholas gives really practical advice. He has a lot of experience working with agencies and helps navigate from a strategic standpoint.”

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for

Latham & Watkins handles the full range of environmental issues, with a top reputation in air quality and climate change concerns. It is also recommended for toxic tort litigation, as well as white-collar criminal defense matters. Their expertise extends to insurance cases and the environmental implications of corporate transactions. It regularly represents clients before state agencies such as the California Air Resources Board, California Public Utilities Commission and California Energy Commission. Client base includes large utilities, refineries, manufacturers and cleantech companies.

Strengths

“Latham & Watkins is very pragmatic, very keen and has deep insider knowledge of what is going on in the industry.”

Work highlights

Latham & Watkins represented Montrose Chemical Corporation in litigation and administrative proceedings regarding the Montrose Superfund Site, which combined, encompass allegations by the government of more than USD1 billion in damages.

Notable practitioners

Robert Howard acts in prominent environmental litigation, including both civil and criminal proceedings in federal and state court. He also has expertise in contaminated property matters and public nuisance cases. **Aron Potash** offers broad expertise handling regulatory compliance, climate change and Superfund matters. **Strengths:** “Aron is an excellent lawyer. He takes the time to really understand the issues we face and develop solutions.” “Aron is a strong negotiator on technical terms. He really gets into the details and understands the nuances.” Kelly Richardson is noted for his work on Superfund sites, handling both compliance and litigation pertaining to stormwater, wastewater and hazardous waste. **Strengths:** “Kelly has vast experience.” “Kelly is the smartest environmental lawyer I know.” Benjamin Gibson has notable expertise matters concerning contaminated sites and superfunds, as well as other environmental law issues.

Strengths: “Benjamin is an excellent lawyer.”

Band 3

Cermak & Inglin LLP

What the team is known for

Cermak & Inglin LLP has a notable environmental law offering in California with a national scope. It is equipped to handle complex proceedings under a broad range of federal and state statutes including TSCA, RCRA and CERCLA. The team is further able to counsel on complex litigation regarding contamination under CWA and CAA, as well as Proposition 65 challenges. It frequently represent a variety of clients in compliance and agency enforcement actions.

Notable practitioners

John Cermak advises on the environmental aspects of real estate and corporate transactions. He also litigates a variety of CERCLA, Proposition 65, toxic tort and Superfund cases. **Strengths:** “John is an absolute joy to work with. He is very patient as he walks us through some complex issues.” “John is an excellent environmental attorney. He has deep environmental expertise. He provides strategic and practical advice, even with the most complex cases.” “John is fantastic. He is one of the smartest environmental lawyers I’ve seen in LA. He is a master at understanding the environmental laws and working with me to get to a common goal.” **Sonja Inglin** is recognized for her expertise in advising clients on matters on site cleanups and remediation. She is particularly noted for her record on complex cost recovery actions and litigation related to Superfund sites. **Strengths:** “Sonja is the first attorney we call when we have a compliance issue in California.” “Sonja is very skilful.”

Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP

What the team is known for

Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP offers expertise in a broad range of environmental law including environmental risk management, cost recovery and brownfield redevelopment. The firm is also capable of advising on environmental aspects of M&A and real estate transactions. The team commonly represents clients involved in development projects notably in the energy, industrial and commercial sectors.

Strengths

“The team is always quick to respond.”

“The firm has deep experience and expertise.”

“The lawyers are very knowledgeable, confident, thorough, and adaptable.”

“The firm has good ability to handle complex litigation matters.”

“Their subject matter expertise in land use and environmental law is broad, exceptional and deep.”

Work highlights

Cox, Castle & Nicholson acted for Emeryville, a San Francisco Bay Area municipality, in connection with its efforts to clean up a formerly industrial property and to recover taxpayer funds used in the cleanup process.

Notable practitioners

Peter Weiner has a highly regarded environmental practice which covers contaminated site cleanup, development and environmental law-related OSHA issues. He has especially extensive knowledge of environmental issues facing solar projects. **Strengths:** “Peter is an excellent attorney and advo-

cate." **Preston Brooks** is chair of the Cox, Castle & Nicholson's environmental team. He is highlighted for his broad environmental expertise, such as in environmental clean-ups and recovery matters.

Strengths: "Preston is smart, knowledgeable and responsive." "He is super knowledgeable." "He is a consummate professional and an expert." **Ira Klein** adeptly handles a range of regulatory proceedings. He acts for clients in hazardous waste, site remediation and land use enforcement and compliance matters.

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

What the team is known for

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP has a litigation-focused environmental group experienced in toxic tort defense, cost recovery actions and regulatory challenges. Its significant transactional practice providing diligence, compliance and regulatory counsel in a variety of matters, including those raising Superfund or air and water quality permitting issues. The group is also noted for its handling of insurance coverage disputes involving environmental matters, and continues to represent a number of prominent oil and gas industry clients in defense of hydraulic fracturing litigation. The firm is capable of handling criminal environmental litigation in state and federal courts. It also has experience representing major clients in the food and beverage industries in Proposition 65 matters.

Strengths

"The lawyers are excellent partners. Their writing and research skills are very strong, and they have deep knowledge of environmental law."

"The lawyers have decades of experience. Gibson Dunn not only identifies environmental issues in deals; they solve them. Problem solving is one of their greatest strengths."

Work highlights

Gibson Dunn is defending General Electric Company in a mass tort litigation in Taiwan, whereby nearly 2,000 plaintiffs are seeking more than USD300 million in damages for alleged exposure to chlorinated solvents.

Notable practitioners

Patrick Dennis is commended for his representation of a wide range of clients in toxic tort and CERCLA litigation. He also manages the defense of public and private enforcement actions pertaining to a number of environmental statutes. **Strengths:** "Patrick is simply the best environmental lawyer I have dealt with. He has decades of experience in all facets of environmental law. He is incredibly responsive and is a practical problem-solver." "Patrick has decades of experience and is one of the leaders in the environmental contamination space."

Peter Modlin has developed a strong practice focusing on environmental litigation, including toxic tort litigation, CEQA litigation and regulatory challenges. Key clients include major traditional energy companies. **Strengths:** "He is an excellent lawyer."

Abbey Hudson is an up and coming attorney with commendable experience in contamination and remediation litigation. She also counsels clients in regulatory compliance. **Thomas Manakides** is noted for his experience in defending companies in high-stakes environmental litigation. He has particular expertise in matters concerning toxic tort and negligence claims.

Greenberg Glusker LLP

What the team is known for

Greenberg Glusker LLP is noted for its considerable environmental law expertise covering brownfield developments, CERCLA cost recovery and CEQA matters. The firm is further able to advise on general environmental issues including air quality, water quality and energy-related law.

Strengths

"This firm offers experience and expertise across a broad range of matters to provide clients with comprehensive legal support."

"The lawyers are highly responsive and accessible from the outset."

"Greenberg Glusker is able to navigate a tricky, complex issues and works out a creative solution."

"Greenberg Glusker has an ability to combine knowledge and experience of our business with regulations and conflict resolution."

"The team consistently demonstrates deep legal expertise, sound judgment, and an ability to navigate nuanced issues with clarity and precision. They approach challenges strategically."

Work highlights

Greenberg Glusker LLP represented Central Coast Agriculture in enforcement matters arising under air quality laws.

Notable practitioners

Chair of the firm's environmental practice group Peter Nyquist handles environmental litigation and regulatory compliance that covers Superfund, contaminated site and CERCLA cost recovery issues. He also has expertise in water and air quality issues at both the state and federal level. **Strengths:** "Pete is knowledgeable about the law and is up to date on recent developments in relation to their climate laws. He is also very responsive." **David Cranston** offers substantive expertise in matters relating to Superfunds and broader environmental litigation.

Brian Moskal is increasingly noted for his capabilities in environmental litigation, including cost recovery claims. He provides counsel on an array of issues, including wastewater and contaminated sites cases. **Noah Perch-Ahern** has a broad environmental practice working with clients engaged in a range of projects in California. He is knowledgeable of all major environmental statutes, regularly advising clients on permitting matters. He is particularly expert in Superfund-related work and regularly represents clients in administrative proceedings. **Strengths:** "Noah provides sophisticated, responsive, thoughtful, strategic and well informed counsel. He also draws upon the expertise of colleagues to provide additional value." "Noah is a great advocate for our business." "Noah is an exceptional partner. His professionalism stands out — he approaches every interaction with integrity, clarity, and a genuine commitment to achieving the best possible outcome."

Hogan Lovells US LLP

What the team is known for

Hogan Lovells enjoys a strong reputation for its environmental law practice, acting for an array of national and multinational clients on state and federal regulatory matters, litigation claims and environmental issues arising in transactional work. The firm benefits from extensive resources across its national network, with a strong pool of environ-

mental law experts in California and beyond.

Strengths

"The team is extremely detail-oriented."

"Hogan Lovells has a strong grasp of the technical issues and has significant experience litigating."

"They understand the uniqueness of our business and are very understanding and adaptable to our needs."

"Hogan Lovells provides a high level of experience and expertise that distinguish them from others. The knowledge related to environmental issues and regulatory statute is extensive."

"The Hogan Lovells attorneys have an outstanding grasp of the complex legal and regulatory frameworks. They also understand the technical details."

Work highlights

Hogan Lovells represented Pirelli in litigation under the Endangered Species Act in the Northern District of California.

Notable practitioners

Trenton Norris excels in challenges to environmental regulations, particularly concerning Proposition 65. He also has notable experience providing broad advice on toxics and labeling laws.

Strengths: "Trenton is very good. He knows the law inside out and he is a very trusted advisor." "Trenton is a powerhouse." Tom Boer is noted for his work in agency enforcement defense and site cleanup proceedings. His clients include major energy companies. **Strengths:** "Tom is great to work with. He provides an immense level of detail while also providing us information in a way that is easily digestible to non-litigators. He is forward-looking in his approach." "He is very knowledgeable and has extensive experience in environmental law. In addition, he is very proactive in anticipating potential issues." **Lily Chinn** is a trial attorney notable for her handling of enforcement defense. She also manages incident response. **Strengths:** "Lily is excellent. She is an amazing researcher and writer, who can explain complex issues in various simplified ways." "She is really creative in her problem solving. Lily develops well thought out strategic decisions that strike the right balance between adhering to the law and making sure its implementable."

Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

What the team is known for

Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP offers a full range of environmental capabilities to high profile clients from a variety of backgrounds, including the chemicals, manufacturing, automotive, oil and gas, natural resource and agricultural sectors. The firm is able to utilize the strength of its impressive national environmental law practice to represent and advise clients on the highest-stakes matters.

Strengths

"Hunton Andrews take a creative approach with deep research and background to support our matters."

"Its very strong California and federal environmental law practice make Hunton a top choice for large projects in California that require substantial state, local and federal experience."

"The firm has excellent knowledge of the Clean Air Act, its history and the impact of various policy positions on the industry. The lawyers are easy to work with."

Work highlights

Hunton Andrews Kurth defended Turn 14 Distribution, an aftermarket auto-parts distributor, against enforcement actions by US EPA and the California Air Resources Board.

Notable practitioners

Shannon Broome comes highly commended for her work with oil and gas companies. She has particular expertise in emergency response and CAA issues. **Strengths:** *"Shannon is one of the best Clean Air Act lawyers in the state and country and brings knowledge for her diverse client background to help our industry in its advocacy and legal strategies."* Samuel Brown has an acclaimed environmental practice, complemented by prior experience at the EPA. He is recognized for his representation of public and private sector clients on permitting and compliance proceedings, as well as for his experience on CWA and CAA matters. **Strengths:** *"Samuel has substantial state and federal expertise, particularly in matters of water law concerns."* *"He's a real expert at dealing with the EPA. He's very responsive, knowledgeable, and good to work with."* **Clare Ellis** has notable skills in a range of environmental issues, including greenhouse gas emissions regulation and climate change litigation. She also has experience in CWA and CAA proceedings. **Strengths:** *"Clare is a very talented attorney with substantial expertise."*

King & Spalding LLP

What the team is known for

King & Spalding LLP is recognized for its strong capabilities in environmental litigation covering groundwater, soil and air contamination disputes. The team is further noted for expertise in climate change matters, regularly assisting with engine emission investigations and pollution spills. The firm acts for an impressive range of clients, including chemical and energy companies and automobile and engine manufacturers.

Strengths

"The firm is deeply knowledgeable about our goals and needs."
"They are responsive and efficient, demonstrating solid subject-matter knowledge, providing pragmatic, business-focused advice, and delivering excellent client service throughout."
"King & Spalding is always one step ahead of any of our needs."
"They're experts in the field and show a great understanding of the issue we are dealing with."

Work highlights

King & Spalding LLP continue to represent Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District in a range of litigation and regulatory issues under the Clean Air Act, the State Air Pollution Control Law, the Renewable Energy goals and the California Environmental Quality Act.

Notable practitioners

Peter Hsiao is a noteworthy trial lawyer with experience handling disputes pertaining to a wide range of state and federal environmental statutes. **Strengths:** *"Peter provides exceptional legal counsel in representing our best interests throughout. His deep understanding of the technical aspects allows him to navigate the complexities with precision."* *"Peter is such a great lawyer. He is very timely, prompt, strategic, and business savvy."* *"Peter is super responsive and capable."* Michael

Leslie is recognized for his litigation-focused environment practice. He has extensive experience in Proposition 65, CERCLA and CEQA-related disputes.

Perkins Coie LLP

What the team is known for

Perkins Coie LLP has an established group engaged in environmental counseling and litigation for clients across a range of industries. Experienced in handling permitting matters and environmental impact reports for private developers. The firm has additional capacity to assist with air and water quality issues, as well as on environmental torts and contaminated sites. The lawyers regularly handle matters pertaining to the development of energy industry projects, including both traditional and renewable energy matters.

Strengths

"The lawyers at Perkins are responsive and knowledgeable, but also practical and strategic in their approach in tackling tough issues. They definitely feel more like an extension of the internal team."
"Perkins Coie has a very thorough understanding and analysis of issues."
"The lawyers pay attention to detail. They understand client needs and strategy. The firm is outcome focussed."
"The lawyers have strong strategic thinking and are able to logically dissect complex issues to make a recommendation for favorable path forward."
"Perkins has a depth of technical expertise on critical issues."

Work highlights

Perkins Coie represents Stanford University in environmental review and permitting for the Searsville Watershed Restoration Project.

Notable practitioners

Barbara Schussman's practice covers environmental issues affecting development projects including CEQA, NEPA and endangered species issues. **Strengths:** *"She provides excellent service, possesses exceptional commercial awareness and sophistication."* *"Barbara is always well-informed and helpful."* *"Barbara is top notch."* Marc Bruner regularly advises on compliance and permitting issues for private companies and public agencies. His environmental expertise covers the CWA, NEPA and endangered species challenges and related proceedings. **Julie Jones** obtains and defends environmental permits for development projects. She handles CEQA, land use and natural resources issues. **Strengths:** *"Julie provides excellent analysis."* *"Julie is bright. She stays on top of the issues and is a pleasure to work with."* Laura Zagar is adept at handling complex energy and infrastructure matters such as offshore wind projects. Her capabilities extend to environmental litigation for notable clients. **Strengths:** *"She provides excellent service, commercial awareness, and sophistication."*

Band 4

Arnold & Porter

What the team is known for

Arnold & Porter offers high quality advice on transactional due diligence and the redevelopment of contaminated sites. It is additionally skilled at

assisting clients with high-stakes toxic tort and Proposition 65 litigation. The lawyers are experienced in handling disputes and investigations brought by activist groups as well as by state and federal agencies, the firm is also distinguished for its focus on toxics law and California's Green Chemistry initiative. The firm's clients include major multinationals and educational establishments. The team is well known for its work on greenhouse gas emissions and the CAA for the automobile industry.

Strengths

"They are responsive to feedback and thoughtful about managing impact to the business. They add immense value."
"The firm is well-versed in environmental regulations and California-specific requirements."

Work highlights

Arnold & Porter assist Ford in counseling on EPA Green Housegas rulemakings, litigation of challenges to GHG rules, and various related regulatory and compliance issues.

Notable practitioners

Zachary Fayne has notable skill in matters involving environmental litigation. He has notable expertise in the Clean Air Act and is recognized for his representation of clients from the automobile industry before regulators such as EPA and CARB. **Strengths:** *"Zach is an exceptional problem solver. He does a very good job of gauging the impact on the business without me asking. He is one of the most responsive partners that I have worked with."* *"His regulatory knowledge and guidance is first-rate."*

Beveridge & Diamond PC

What the team is known for

Beveridge & Diamond PC is a national environmental boutique firm with a team based in San Francisco. The firm offers toxic tort litigation expertise and is also active on waste, air quality, Superfund and brownfield matters. It frequently represents clients from the industrial, transport and waste industries.

Strengths

"The firm has deep subject matter expertise combined with a high level of client responsiveness."

Work highlights

Beveridge & Diamond is outside counsel to BNSF Railway Company in several matters related to investigation, remediation, and litigation arising from historic abandoned uranium mines in the Southwest.

Notable practitioners

Morgan Gilhuly has a reputable environmental law practice with notable experience handling litigation and compliance for oil and gas clients. His expertise extends to Superfund and brownfield issues. **Strengths:** *"We greatly appreciate his responsiveness. He has strong subject matter expertise."* Gary Smith covers complex litigation on groundwater contamination and Superfund sites. He has notable expertise in wetlands issues, Proposition 65 work and environmental permitting for telecommunications systems. **Strengths:** *"Gary is phenomenal."* *"He is tremendous."*

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

What the team is known for

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck has a dedicated water law practice group, equipped to handle the

full spectrum of matters, including water rights, quality and distribution for a range of clients, from government agencies to suppliers. The firm also offers deep legislative and lobbying expertise.

Strengths

"This firm has very high caliber attorneys, who are well-respected and have a breadth of knowledge and experience."

"They think outside the box and think holistically."

"Brownstein's work rises above many other firms based upon its professionalism, responsiveness, and expertise in the relevant subject matter."

"They can both be a legal advisor regarding risk, but also a strategic advisor in how we may be most effective in developing value propositions."

"They have such a sophisticated legal team that can solve any legal issues we have."

Work highlights

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck represented Hidden Trails in an appeal in the City of Goleta and neighboring landowners, challenging a proposed cannabis cultivation and processing project.

Notable practitioners

Amy Steinfeld is recommended for her expertise in environmental land use and water law matters. She is also noted for her adroit representation of cannabis and industrial hemp clients. **Strengths:** *"She is incredibly smart."* *"Amy is an exemplary attorney. She's extremely savvy and knowledgeable. She impresses me on a daily basis."*

DLA Piper LLP (US)

What the team is known for

DLA Piper LLP offers a strong environment law practice in California. The team has broad experience across transactional and regulatory work in the space as well as in handling environmental litigation. Its attorneys are particularly notable for their expertise in emerging contaminants, notably PFAS and microplastics.

Strengths

"DLA Piper's work quality is top notch. Its responsiveness is superb."

"What makes the firm stand out is its breadth of knowledge about a nuanced litigation, excellent responsiveness, and its practical approach."

Work highlights

DLA Piper represented three defendants in the tire industry, Michelin, Hankook, and Kumho, in litigation relating to the Endangered Species Act and the alleged environmental impacts of 6PPD, a chemical used in tires.

Notable practitioners

George Gigounas is a California based environmental lawyer who has particular expertise in sediment cleanup and toxic substances work. His clients include manufacturers, products, and industrial businesses in government actions, as well as food and beverage companies. **Strengths:** *"George is very savvy and is very experienced in representing clients in regulatory and environmental matters. He has a very practical approach that cuts to the heart of the matter."*

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for

Norton Rose Fulbright has a substantial offering in environmental law proceedings including Proposition 65 litigation, due diligence and consumer

product safety matters. The team has experience providing counsel on a range of regulatory statutes such as CWA, CAA and pesticide regulation. Attorneys in the Los Angeles office frequently represent utilities, industrial and hospitality clients in climate change issues including carbon capture and sequestration projects.

Strengths

"The lawyers have strong business acumen."

"Norton Rose Fulbright has a deep bench."

Work highlights

Norton Rose Fulbright advised ExxonMobil on potential environmental claims and liability regarding BKK Superfund Site in West Covina, California.

Notable practitioners

Elizabeth Weaver is an experienced practitioner with considerable expertise in Superfund and CWA-related issues. She ably handles citizen suits, as well as environmental nuisance and trespass cases. **Strengths:** *"Elizabeth serves her clients extremely well and is very responsive."* *"Elizabeth is excellent."* **Joseph Drapalski** is noted for his expertise advising clients in California environmental regulations. He has particularly noteworthy strengths in chemical exposure and CERCLA-related matters. Jeffrey Margulies is recognized for his capabilities in Proposition 65 compliance and enforcement defense. Clients benefit from his additional expertise in consumer product-related litigation. **Strengths:** *"Jeffrey is very knowledgeable and practical."*

Nossaman LLP

What the team is known for

Nossaman LLP has a robust environment group able to handle an array of environmental and natural resource matters. The firm has notable strength lies in CWA and Endangered Species Act issues. Additionally, it handles a wide spread of litigation and regulatory compliance matters, as well as land use and environmental permitting. The team represents clients in connection with legislative matters, working closely alongside the firm's public policy group to promote interests before state and federal government. Known for representing public agencies, water utilities, renewable energy companies and real estate developers.

Strengths

"Nossaman has strong experience in water and environmental law. It understands how policy will impact its client specifically."

"The firm has a broad practice group to respond to a wide variety of challenges."

Work highlights

Nossaman served as special environmental counsel for the Tejon Ranch Company, providing state and federal environmental compliance counsel and representation in administrative proceedings with respect to the development of its 270,000-acre ranch.

Notable practitioners

Mary Lynn Coffee is well versed in environmental regulatory proceedings. She offers counsel on permitting applications and regularly advises a range of clients on compliance and enforcement actions. She has particular experience acting for clients in the water industry. **Strengths:** *"Mary is a very knowledgeable environmental lawyer."* Robert Thornton's expertise extends to managing the environmental

aspects of infrastructure developments, frequently guiding clients through disputes. He is also recommended for his experience on matters pertaining to the Endangered Species Act. **Strengths:** *"Robert has a deep understanding of the law. He is a real partner to us as we navigate complex legal issues."*

Pillsbury

What the team is known for

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP offers a well-rounded team that provides a broad range of environmental services. Their notable experience lies in CEQA, hazardous waste and emissions regulatory matters. It is strengthened by a significant litigation team which handles a range of toxic tort claims and enforcement actions. Noted recent activity in connection with climate change matters and air quality regulatory matters. The firm advises a range of clients, with particular insight into the transportation and energy sectors.

Strengths

"Pillsbury has a large team of very experienced attorneys in environmental litigation."

Work highlights

Pillsbury represented Aremco Products in connection with litigation brought by the Village of Nyack, New York alleging Aremco, in addition to numerous defendants, caused or contributed to PFAS contamination of the Hackensack River.

Notable practitioners

Mark Elliott is highly regarded for his work in the Superfund, toxic tort, Proposition 65, CWA and CEQA areas. He often represents clients in the transportation sector. He leads the firm's environmental and natural resources team. **Strengths:** *"Mark is a great lawyer."* **Margaret Rosegay** has a prominent environmental practice, covering the full range of state and federal environmental statutes. She advises on compliance, permitting and regulatory issues affecting a wide range of industries, with demonstrable experience in hazardous waste matters.

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

What the team is known for

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP is a respected environmental practice that can handle a wide range of matters across environmental law. Of note is its environmental litigation team, which is particularly known for CERCLA litigation and associated Superfund matters. Additionally, it covers a range of environmental permitting and regulatory work alongside Proposition 65 work.

Strengths

"The firm provides practical and reasonable solutions and helps with resolving litigation swiftly."

"Sheppard Mullin is highly responsive, consistently delivering timely and thoughtful communication. Its team excels at providing well-researched, strategic guidance tailored to our specific needs."

"The lawyers provide detailed responses and very prompt answers that respond well to both legal questions and business perspectives."

Work highlights

Sheppard Mullin defended Soco West in a water contamination case alleging that releases of various volatile organic compounds at the sites have contaminated groundwater in the area and threatened

drinking water.

Notable practitioners

Jeffrey Parker is co-leader of the firm's environment group. He is a trial lawyer with notable experience litigating in the environment space with particular knowledge of environmental toxic tort matters.

Strengths: *"Jeffrey is outstanding. He is responsive, he listens and he provides practical solutions."* *"Jeffrey is an outstanding professional. He demonstrates a strong commitment to client service by providing timely and comprehensive responses."* *"Jeffrey demonstrates an exceptional understanding of the evolving regulatory landscape."* **Whitney Jones**

Roy is a well-regarded litigator with deep environmental expertise. She handles a variety of cases, ranging from alleged contamination to CERCLA matters. **Strengths:** *"Whitney is great. She is a standout lawyer."* *"Whitney is one of the best environmental attorneys. She is keenly aware of the procedural and factual issues and important details. She is always a pleasure to work with."* *"She is fantastic."* San Francisco-based **Nicholas van Aelstyn** has significant experience handling a broad range of environmental matters including rulemaking, compliance and enforcement. He has notable expertise in the California Cap-and-Trade program.

Band 5

Baker Botts L.L.P.

What the team is known for

Baker Botts is recognized for its strong California environmental practice based in San Francisco. The firm leverages its strong Texas roots to regularly advise clients from the energy sector in California on federal and state regulatory compliance, CERCLA claims and incident response. Attorneys from the firm are particularly skilled in handling air permitting matters and regulatory compliance with the Clean Air Act.

Strengths

"They handle very complex and sophisticated matters with positive results."

"Their ability to plain English a situation and provide practical legal advice is second to none."

Work highlights

Baker Botts represent five owners of the Colstrip power plant, located in eastern Montana, in a mass tort lawsuit brought by more than 100 individuals claiming property damage to their homes.

Notable practitioners

Julie Cress is a key contact.

Bell Kearns

What the team is known for

Bell Kearns is recommended for its experience as state and federal permitting counsel in large-scale renewable energy and storage projects. The team has further experience in legislative matters and administrative proceedings. The firm services noteworthy clients in the energy sector.

Strengths

"The firm is very responsive."

Work highlights

Bell Kearns represented SB Energy in the permitting of the Pelican's Jaw Hybrid Solar Project, a 3,300-acre solar and battery energy storage project in Kern County, California.

Notable practitioners

David Lazerwitz's practice covers environmental permitting and compliance proceedings. He regularly works on issues concerning renewable energy projects. **Strengths:** *"David demonstrates excellent capability in handling complex work with exceptional depth and understanding of issues that arise in land use and environmental matters."*

Best Best & Krieger LLP

What the team is known for

Best Best & Krieger LLP has a strong environmental team. It is recognized for its work in water law alongside the CAA. It has particular expertise in regulatory matters and in political advisory matters, and often works with municipal and governmental clients.

Strengths

"The firm is a go-to for water law."

Work highlights

Best, Best & Krieger represented the City of San Buenaventura and Calleguas Municipal Water District as defendants and respondents in a groundwater adjudication case in California's Las Posas Valley Basin.

Notable practitioners

Eric Garner is a key contact.

Bick Law LLP

What the team is known for

Bick Law LLP is a specialist boutique firm recognized for its wide-ranging experience in environment matters. The team adeptly handles environmental litigation alongside providing clients with transactional and compliance support.

Strengths

"Bick Law can handle any environmental matter sent it's way. It handles complex matters and has years of relevant experience, offering customized and personal services."

"Bick Law does high end litigation, they what they're doing."

"They are very talented folks with a lot of ingenuity. I have the upmost respect for them."

"It's a respected firm in the area."

"No matter what type of matters we were involved in, Bick law either knew the answer or if they didn't they would do research to provide the input that was required to solve the issue."

Work highlights

Bick Law LLP represented Owens Corning in a suit filed by the Los Angeles Waterkeeper alleging violations of stormwater regulatory and general permit requirements.

Notable practitioners

Co-founders Alan Bick and Kimberly Bick are key contacts at the firm.

Downey Brand LLP

What the team is known for

Downey Brand LLP has an impressive environment and natural resources group skilled in handling a broad range of land, air, surface and groundwater matters for public and private corporations. The firm often appears before regulatory agencies in sophisticated litigation and enforcement actions under state and federal environmental statutes, including CWA, CAA, CERCLA and Proposition 65. Downey Brand is recognized for its water work and for its

agricultural and municipal clients.

Notable practitioners

Robert Soran is a key contact.

Edgcomb Law Group

What the team is known for

Edgcomb Law Group is a boutique firm with a strong environmental offering. Its expertise covers contaminated properties and related impacted groundwater proceedings. The firm regularly handles agency enforcement actions and due diligence for a range of clients, including municipalities, landowners and chemical manufacturers. It is also experienced in site remediation projects and complex litigation under a range of regulatory statutes such as CWA.

Notable practitioners

Tiffany Hedgpeth manages Superfund-related disputes for a range of public bodies and private clients. She has notable expertise in groundwater contamination and waste water issues. John Edgcomb founded the Edgcomb Law Group in 1995. John has long-standing expertise in CERCLA matters, as well as in contaminated site cleanup and hazardous material matters.

Miller Nash LLP

What the team is known for

Miller Nash has noteworthy expertise in complex Superfund matters, guiding clients through the remediation process. It also advises on contamination issues and potential liabilities stemming from remediation sites.

Strengths

"Miller Nash's lawyers are top notch and are always responsive."

"The firm has very strong expertise in California and federal environmental law issues."

Notable practitioners

Trajan Perez is recommended for his representation of clients in administrative and trial proceedings against federal, state and local agencies. He has extensive expertise in Superfund and in clean air and water statutes. He also obtains permits on behalf of clients and advises on environmental response. **Strengths:** *"Trajan is fantastic. He takes a practical approach to litigation."* *"Trajan is one of the most responsive attorneys I've encountered in my career. He is a strong litigator with expertise in complex legal issues."* *"Trajan is fantastic, he is really good at helping navigate discussions with adverse opponents."* **Tyler Bowlin** is an up-and-coming lawyer with broad expertise in the environment space. He is particularly knowledgeable of matters related to contaminated sites. **Strengths:** *"Tyler has a keen business sense with an ability to quickly discern the relevant issues and how to address them in an efficient manner."* *"Tyler has great communication skills and legal knowledge of complex environmental issues."* *"Tyler is a great lawyer. It is a pleasure working with him."* **Nicole McLaughlin** is an up-and-coming attorney commended for her skills as an environment lawyer. She is notable for her comprehensive Superfund practice.

Stoel Rives LLP

What the team is known for

Stoel Rives LLP has an impressive environmental team based in California. Attorneys regularly act for

clients in the energy, logistics and food and beverage sectors with a wide array of environmental issues including CEQA, regulatory compliance and contamination disputes. The firm is particularly noted for its ability to handle complex permitting disputes pertaining to oil and gas exploration and extraction.

Strengths

"They are excellent advocates in court, and represent us very skillfully and effectively in environmental challenges."

"It never ceases to amaze me in its breadth of practice, California has so many complex environmental rules and Stoel has always got someone who has dealt with it before."

"The firm has local and extensive industry experience to bring to the table."

"Stoel Rives attorneys are extremely involved in understanding the data and the science in a deeper capacity than I have seen with other environmental attorneys. They also consistently seek to find the truth in a matter so they can best support their clients."

"The Stoel attorneys have knowledge that spans many areas, yet they listen first to see how they can best support the client."

Work highlights

Stoel Rives represent the City of Suisun City in connection with the City's planned consideration of the potential annexation and development of approximately 15,740 acres pursuant to the proposed California Forever Specific Plan.

Notable practitioners

Christian Marsh has significant experience at the intersection of land use and environment law. He is commended for his knowledge of the regulatory landscape and expertise in water, wastewater and wetlands matters. **Strengths:** *"Christian is a knowledgeable and experienced attorney, who is quick to respond and willing to provide whatever service is necessary. He is practical and can effectively guide our decision making."*

WilmerHale

What the team is known for

WilmerHale helps leading corporates navigate all manner of environmental investigations and litigation. The team also advises clients on regulatory requirements, environmental risk and third-party liability. The team is staffed with lawyers who have extensive prior experience working for federal and state regulatory agencies.

Notable practitioners

Peggy Otum is especially active advising clients on Superfund matters, hazardous waste issues and enforcement proceedings. She offers adroit counsel across environmental compliance, transactional support and complex litigation.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Adam Baas is recommended for his expertise in high-stakes environmental contamination disputes concerning PFAS. He has further experience in CERCLA-related matters. **Strengths:** *"Adam is fantastic. He has incredible subject matter expertise, but he is also practical and savvy."* *"Adam is a quality litigator who is good to work with."*

Patricia Chen of PC Law Group is a respected practitioner who covers entitlement and contamination issues, as well as Proposition 65 compliance. She regularly represents local government bodies.

Strengths: *"Patricia is very knowledgeable, experienced, goal-oriented, and a pleasure to work with."*

"Patricia provides an extraordinarily high level of client services and demonstrates a level of sophistication. She provides exceptional representation while maintaining a human touch." *"Patricia is truly a gem in her field. She delivers top-notch service and excellent results through smart and practical strategies. She is an extremely adept communicator with both counsel and non-lawyers."*

Thomas Donnelly of Jones Day has notable experience managing Superfund-related issues and enforcement proceedings. He also advises on general environmental compliance.

Maureen Gorsen of Sidley Austin LLP has notable experience in public policy litigation as well as advocating for clients on a range of regulatory matters. She regularly acts for product manufacturers, industrial facilities and landowners. **Strengths:** *"She is a very strong and responsive lawyer with superb knowledge."* *"Her expertise is one of the best."* *"Maureen is an excellent lawyer."*

Chris Locke is particularly noted for his enforcement action defense work as well as his expertise in cost recovery cases. **Strengths:** *"Chris is very knowledgeable, very careful, and also very pragmatic. He is great to work with."*

Kevin Poloncarz of Covington & Burling LLP is highly commended for his handling of state and federal air quality issues. His expertise extends into emerging climate change matters, frequently acting for prominent utilities and power companies.

Judith Praitis of Faegre Drinker is particularly noted for her work on safe drinking water and Proposition 65 cases. She also advises on internal environmental compliance strategies.

Davina Pujari of Mayer Brown has a strong environmental practice focused on litigation, bolstered by years working at various governmental organizations including the EPA and the US Attorney's Office. She regularly works on complex contaminated sites and on toxic torts. **Strengths:** *"Davina is incredible to work with. She is very good at getting good results for clients."*

Deborah Schmall has significant experience in brownfield redevelopment projects as well as other

environmental regulations affecting construction projects. She is further noted for providing environmental support to large corporate transactions.

Strengths: *"She is as smart as a whip and treats her clients with care."* *"Deborah is a fantastic lawyer with deep subject matter expertise in the matter she is handling for the company."*

William Tarantino of Morrison Foerster leads the firm's environmental litigation and regulatory practice. He is particularly knowledgeable on consumer product safety, mass torts and hazardous substances. As well as litigation and administrative proceedings, he also advises on due diligence and environmental risk in transactional negotiations.

Strengths: *"William is savvy. He is a great communicator, who makes it easy for me to understand, navigate and make decisions during a complicated and challenging matters."* *"William provides very sophisticated and practical advice and insight. He is very enjoyable to work with."* *"What distinguishes William is his deep understanding of our industry and business context. He brings not only legal expertise but also practical insight that reflects years of collaboration."*

Will Wagner of Greenberg Traurig, LLP is very well versed in consumer product defense and regulatory compliance matters, showcasing significant experience with Proposition 65 and PFAS litigation. He frequently represents household name clients from the food and cosmetics industries. **Strengths:** *"Will has good industry knowledge."* *"Will is experienced, skilled and has an ability to manage complex subjects and support multiple clients with the same objective to produce results."* *"Will is great partner to us. He provides terrific advice and expertise."*

Tyler Welti of Venable LLP showcases a wide-ranging environmental practice, assisting clients with matters ranging from water rights and remediation to regulatory compliance for space exploration companies. **Strengths:** *"Tyler is an exceptional partner to my company. His representation combines technical mastery with practical judgment. His guidance has proven invaluable across a range of matters."* *"Tyler is excellent. He provides well-written briefs and creative approaches."* *"Tyler is outstanding."*

Shawn Zovod of Troutman Pepper Locke LLP offers broad experience in environmental matters, with noteworthy expertise advising on CWA and CESA topics. She is also skilled at representing clients with natural resource permitting matters.

Strengths: *"Shawn makes a measurable difference in projects. She is able to work with project teams and then translate their work into regulatory efficiency."* *"Shawn provides valuable advice, maintains continuity on the various elements of the project, and is helpfully adaptable to the changing circumstances inherent in a large project."* *"Shawn is very knowledgeable and responsive."*

Healthcare

Healthcare		Healthcare	
Leading Firms		Senior Statespeople	
Band 1		Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	
Hooper Lundy & Bookman PC		Bookman Lloyd A. Hooper Lundy & Bookman PC	Hooper Patric Hooper Lundy & Bookman PC
McDermott Will & Schulte		Brown Lowell C. ArentFox Schiff LLP	Lundy Robert W. Hooper Lundy & Bookman PC
Band 2		Leading Individuals	
Foley & Lardner LLP		Band 1	Sékarán Raja Epstein Becker & Green PC (ORL) ◇
Jones Day		Klein Eric A. Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP	Shankar Anil Foley & Lardner LLP *
Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP		Landsberg Barry S. Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP	Shlesinger Amir Crowell & Moring LLP
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP		Pimstone Gregory Husch Blackwell LLP (ORL) ◇	Smersfelt Kenneth Crowell & Moring LLP
Band 3		Reagan Mark E. Hooper Lundy & Bookman PC	Solomon Glenn King & Spalding LLP *
ArentFox Schiff LLP		Waltz Judith A. Foley & Lardner LLP *	Sze Felicia Athene Law LLP (ORL) ◇
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP		Band 2	Tooch Daron King & Spalding LLP *
Reed Smith LLP		Gertler Gary B. McDermott Will & Schulte	Band 5
Ropes & Gray LLP		Lucas Carol Buchalter, LLP *	Adipat Ranee Ropes & Gray LLP
Band 4		Maizel Samuel Dentons	Andrews Trey McGuireWoods LLP
Crowell & Moring LLP		Pitts Paul Reed Smith LLP	Bair Caitlin O'Melveny & Myers LLP
King & Spalding LLP		Band 3	Baldwin Gary Epstein Becker & Green PC (ORL) ◇
Latham & Watkins LLP		Albin-Riley Debra ArentFox Schiff LLP	Carr-Rollitt Paul A. Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP
Nixon Peabody LLP		Castles Claire Jones Day	Cavalier Gina Arnold & Porter (ORL) ◇
O'Melveny & Myers LLP		Cody Daniel Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo	Curtis Tom Nossaman LLP (ORL) ◇
Band 5		Cook Emily J. McDermott Will & Schulte	Dahukey Aytan Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP
Buchalter, LLP		Deaton David O'Melveny & Myers LLP	Drummy Kathleen Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
Dentons		Ehrgott Catherine Jones Day	Hargreaves Amy Latham & Watkins LLP *
Hanson Bridgett LLP		Gomez Paul A. Polsinelli PC	Hayes-Kibreab Amanda King & Spalding LLP *
Holland & Knight LLP		Jackson Travis McDermott Will & Schulte	Jeffry Thomas ArentFox Schiff LLP
Leech Tishman		Keville Terri D. Davis Wright Tremaine LLP	Keshavarzi Moe Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton *
McGuireWoods LLP		Lawrence Paul F. McDermott Will & Schulte	Lenahan Poth James Jones Day
Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC		Levy-Biehl Hope Davis Wright Tremaine LLP	Medina Damaris Buchalter, LLP *
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP		Maddigan Michael Hogan Lovells US LLP (ORL) ◇	Nicholson Dayna Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
Polsinelli PC		McClary Torrey Ropes & Gray LLP	Pagonis Katrina Hooper Lundy & Bookman PC
* Indicates individual with profile.		Oppenheim Charles B. Hooper Lundy & Bookman PC	Retzinger Jonah Nixon Peabody LLP
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.		Romano Jennifer Crowell & Moring LLP	Selesnick Andrew Buchalter, LLP *
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.		Yood Kenneth Polsinelli PC	Sullivan Stephen O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Band 1		Band 4	Weiner Nathaniel Polsinelli PC
Hooper Lundy & Bookman PC		Chang Lee Annie ArentFox Schiff LLP	Wells Vanessa Hogan Lovells US LLP (ORL) ◇
What the team is known for		Hepworth Adam Foley & Lardner LLP *	Up-and-coming individuals
Hooper Lundy & Bookman is an outstanding health-care boutique, with significant capability in acting for both providers and suppliers across a range of complex and cutting-edge matters. It excels in Medicare and Medicaid regulatory matters and in litigation against payors, including notable strengths in fraud and abuse claims. The firm is also well-versed in transactional issues, with an impressive market share of hospital acquisitions in the state.		Johnson Mark Hooper Lundy & Bookman PC	Groden Samantha Dentons
Strengths		Kiepen Scott Hooper Lundy & Bookman PC	Hennessy James Reed Smith LLP
"Hooper Lundy has deep knowledge and experience with state and federal healthcare regulations. The firm has a strong capability for reviewing highly complex matters and providing real-world options for implementation."		Lane Molly M. Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP	Parikh Harsh Nixon Peabody LLP
Work highlights		Marblestone Claire Foley & Lardner LLP	Thornton Leslie Ropes & Gray LLP
Hooper Lundy & Bookman PC represented the Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida, Inc. in a precedent-setting case challenging Florida's interpretation of "change in scope of services" under the Medicaid FQHC payment statute.		Peterson Kurt Reed Smith LLP	Associates to watch
Notable practitioners		Richardson Heather Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher (ORL) ◇	Watkins Shalyn Holland & Knight LLP
Lloyd Bookman is a highly regarded leader in the healthcare field who counsels clients on both litigation and regulatory compliance matters. Strengths: "Lloyd is an exceptionally talented attorney with an impressive breadth of experience and ability		Rifenbark Richard Sheppard, Mullin, Richter *	

to analyze complex legal and regulatory matters."

Patric Hooper retains his standing as a leading healthcare litigator. He frequently acts on large-scale class actions, reimbursement disputes and licensing issues on behalf of both for-profit and non-profit entities. Robert Lundy is held in high regard for his longstanding industry expertise. He has extensive experience advising clients on a range of transactions, including joint ventures, acquisitions and financings. Mark Reagan advises clients such as hospitals, physician groups and home health agencies on regulatory compliance and disputes, including reimbursement matters. Charles Oppenheim has considerable knowledge in Stark Law, which forms part of his extensive regulatory and legislative compliance capabilities. **Strengths:** "Charles is knowledgeable of the area. I appreciate his accessibility and his responsiveness. He will give me an answer on the spot or within a short timeframe. He knows and stays up to date

on the relevant regulations." **Mark Johnson** represents a variety of clients such as skilled nursing facilities and post-acute healthcare providers in litigation, offering notable fraud and abuse strength. He specializes in areas of post-acute healthcare.

Strengths: "Mark is well known as an expert in our industry relating to licensing, regulatory issues and general advising of skilled nursing facilities." **Scott Kiepen** is noted for his extensive contentious and regulatory practice, which includes fraud and abuse disputes, licensing issues and malpractice claims in the long-term care and senior housing markets. **Katrina Pagonis** is recommended on the strength of her knowledge of the Affordable Care Act, payment for and the delivery of hospital services, and the interplay of public policy and the wider law.

McDermott Will & Schulte

What the team is known for

McDermott Will & Schulte is full-service powerhouse

with incredible depth of knowledge in the healthcare space, as well as complementary expertise in the life sciences and IP sectors. Market-leading capabilities across the full range of issues, including regulatory matters and both commercial and white-collar litigation. Standout experience in complex transactions and government investigations, calling upon a formidable roster of healthcare experts.

Strengths

"The firm is highly responsive and deeply knowledgeable in the realm of healthcare law. They have the expertise to manage matters from start to finish and are extremely organized, practical and solution-oriented."

Work highlights

McDermott Will & Schulte represented the County of Santa Clara in its acquisition of Regional Medical Center from HCA Healthcare.

Notable practitioners

Gary Gertler has considerable knowledge in regulatory compliance, including advising on matters arising from transactions. He advises clients such as hospitals and healthcare systems on a range of corporate and financing deals. Emily Cook is recognized for her expertise in the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program. She often represents clients in areas of federal healthcare program compliance and reimbursement. **Strengths:** *"Emily is a powerhouse in healthcare regulatory law with deep expertise and ability to quickly identify and address issues across various regulatory domains."* **Travis Jackson** focuses on transactions arising from the healthcare industry, including joint ventures and M&A. He is particularly experienced in advising nonprofits. Paul Lawrence is routinely called upon to handle sophisticated transactions such as acquisitions, joint ventures and dispositions. His clients include private equity firms, for-profit and nonprofit organizations and pharmaceutical companies. **Strengths:** *"Paul is an excellent lawyer with a wonderful disposition."*

Band 2

Foley & Lardner LLP

What the team is known for

Foley & Lardner LLP is recommended for a range of healthcare work including transactions, reimbursement and fraud and abuse advice, with strengths acting for county public health systems, medical staff, hospitals and health systems. Also regularly advises on white-collar criminal defense matters, calling upon a highly regarded litigation practice with strengths in regulatory investigations and defending enforcement. Offers niche expertise in the telehealth space, advising on a full range of state law matters in this area.

Strengths

"They distinguish themselves through their ability to anticipate downstream impacts of state and federal policy changes and communicate complex Medicaid and regulatory guidance in a clear and actionable way. This combination of institutional knowledge, responsiveness, and practical problem-solving sets them apart within the industry."

Work highlights

Foley & Lardner LLP represented multiple California-based tele-behavioral health companies as they go to market locally and across the country.

Notable practitioners

Judith Waltz maintains an excellent reputation for her sophisticated work in offering regulatory counsel to providers, physicians and local counties. Her practice includes fraud and abuse compliance and government investigations. **Strengths:** *"She is highly available, a great communicator and excellent at listening to my needs. Helps me get the answers I need to get to a good result."* **Adam Hepworth** represents clients in a range of healthcare matters, including reimbursement issues, transactional work and internal audits. **Strengths:** *"Adam has a deep level of technical expertise across a range of issues, is super responsive and offers solutions that are sound and creative."* **Claire Marblestone** regularly works with hospitals and health systems on transactions and regulatory compliance matters. **Strengths:** *"Claire is very knowledgeable on a plethora of items. Her guidance has always been top notch."* **Anil Shankar** is recommended for his advice to healthcare systems on matters of reimbursement, operational restructuring and broader regulatory compliance. **Strengths:** *"Anil has a deep level of technical expertise, and offers helpful perspectives across complicated and nuanced issues."*

Jones Day

What the team is known for

Jones Day is a full-service practice with national strengths, leveraging its extensive network of US offices to advise on major healthcare mandates. It is notable for its work for a variety of healthcare players, including hospitals, academic medical centers and life sciences organizations. The firm offers counsel across the range of healthcare concerns, including sophisticated transactions and state and federal regulations. Additional strength in ancillary areas such as US and foreign privacy laws.

Work highlights

Jones Day represented Ascension in parallel regulatory investigations by over 35 state attorneys general and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Notable practitioners

Claire Castles advises clients on regulatory compliance issues arising from transactions, as well as handling reimbursement litigation and administrative proceedings. **Strengths:** *"Claire knows the legal lay of land and is hard-working, personable and easy to work with."* **Catherine Ehrgott** represents a range of healthcare clients such as hospitals, health systems and medical centers in complex transactions, including M&A, joint ventures and affiliations. **James Lenahan Poth** is held in high regard for his ability to handle a wide spectrum of issues for large hospitals and other health providers. He has notable strength in handling complex litigation, as well as advising clients on reimbursement strategies and regulatory compliance.

Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP

What the team is known for

Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP routinely represents an impressive roster of provider and payor clients in complex litigation, transactions and regulatory matters, alongside wider strengths in policy issues. The firm calls upon a well-resourced bench of healthcare attorneys in California, leveraging its wider US offices to offer strengths in nationwide issues.

Strengths

"Manatt has deep healthcare experience which impacts every aspect of legal matters whether its M&A, governance, regulatory, employment law or real estate. The lawyers are trusted advisers both from a legal and a business perspective. They are excellent in quickly identifying issues and coming up with practical solutions."

Work highlights

Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP represented Renown Health in a major joint effort that will introduce Kaiser Permanente's (Kaiser) health plan model to Nevada by 2027.

Notable practitioners

Barry Landsberg is highly regarded for his provider-side healthcare litigation practice. He is frequently sought out for defense against large-scale class actions as well as single-plaintiff discrimination claims and policy issues. **Strengths:** *"Barry is the best in the business for complex Medical Staff litigation."* **Paul Carr-Rollitt** has a multifaceted healthcare practice, which includes transactions such as acquisitions and joint ventures. He also advises on regulatory compliance and licensing issues. **Strengths:** *"Paul is an amazing healthcare attorney and can quickly spot legal issues. He has experience handling highly complex transactions. He is responsive and provides excellent client service."*

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

What the team is known for

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP is a respected healthcare group known for its skill across transactional matters, including joint ventures and physician group acquisitions. Demonstrates wider strengths in areas including regulatory compliance, reimbursement and fraud and abuse claims. Draws from related practice areas, including antitrust, tax and employment law, to offer an integrated healthcare service.

Strengths

"Sheppard has outstanding lawyers in all the relevant practice areas needed for healthcare acquisitions and other large healthcare transactions. The lawyers can handle all aspects of complex healthcare transactions."

Work highlights

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP represented Ascension Health in its acquisition of AMSURG for a media-reported price of \$3.9 billion.

Notable practitioners

Eric Klein is held in high regard for his expert representation of hospitals and physician groups in high value transactional matters such as joint ventures and acquisitions. He also has experience in regulatory compliance, reimbursement disputes and antitrust-related issues. **Richard Rifenbark** often advises clients on fraud and abuse issues, as well as broader regulatory concerns. His practice also includes transactions such as hospital acquisitions. **Strengths:** *"Rick is a terrific lawyer with a sophisticated understanding of healthcare fraud and abuse matters."* **Aytan Dahukey** is noted for his work on acquisitions and strategic partnerships in healthcare transactions. **Moe Keshavarzi** is a litigator with a focus on healthcare and insurance disputes. He is also well placed to provide counsel on

regulatory enforcement actions. **Strengths:** “*Moe is knowledgeable, creative and personable. He is effective and strategic.*”

Band 3

ArentFox Schiff LLP

What the team is known for

ArentFox Schiff LLP is recognized for its strength in representing prominent healthcare providers in medical peer review, long-term care and data security matters. Also houses strong transactional, litigation and regulatory expertise, with particular strengths in EMTALA compliance. Offers growing capabilities in the telehealth space.

Strengths

“*ArentFox Schiff provided dedicated, available and practical advice.*”

Work highlights

ArentFox Schiff LLP defended Tenet Healthcare in all aspects of the litigation Dr. Williams brought against a Doctors Medical Center.

Notable practitioners

Lowell Brown has a strong reputation for his representation of nonprofits, hospitals and health systems, advising on matters such as peer review, licensing and disputes. **Strengths:** “*Lowell is the true captain of the ship in so many ways. Imagine someone with the experience and insight of Yoda and Obi-Wan mixed together with the storytelling ability of that favorite uncle of yours; that is what he is to so many of us.*” **Debra Albin-Riley** has significant experience representing clients in a range of contentious matters, including medical staff peer review hearings and qui tam actions. **Strengths:** “*Debra is truly insightful about any issues that come up and always has great advice. A total pleasure to work with and makes clients feel very well taken care of.*” **Annie Chang Lee** handles a variety of issues on behalf of healthcare providers, including in litigation and regulatory compliance. **Strengths:** “*Annie is very knowledgeable and excellent with people. She brings a very human side to the field and gets tremendous buy-in because she is so trusted and highly regarded. She has tons of energy that keeps the team going in a truly positive and productive way.*” **Thomas Jeffry** advises healthcare providers on all manner of transactional, operational and regulatory issues, and has expertise in privacy and data security with regard to patient information.

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

What the team is known for

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP represents major providers and university health systems across the gamut of healthcare work. Dedicated practitioners can also advise on specialist areas, including privacy, joint ventures and reimbursement. Particularly noted for its strength in healthcare M&A, alongside growing strengths in governmental investigation and disputes work.

Strengths

“*Davis Wright Tremaine LLP has a deep understanding of the healthcare regulatory landscape in California. They are very good at providing practical advice and creative solutions.*”

Work highlights

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP assisted various hos-

pitals throughout California in responding to and addressing findings from state and federal licensure and certification surveys.

Notable practitioners

Terri Keville is an impressive performer in the healthcare industry, offering experience in privacy mandates, peer reviews and EMTALA issues.

Strengths: “*Terri is known for her expertise in medical staff and other provider operations matters, including bioethics. She is among the most experienced and highly regarded lawyers in California in this area of law.*” **Hope Levy-Biehl** represents healthcare suppliers and providers in a wide range of matters, including regulatory compliance, operational concerns and reimbursement disputes. **Strengths:** “*Hope is a phenomenal attorney. She is smart, practical, creative and experienced.*” **Kathleen Drummy** is respected for her handling of a range of matters, including reimbursement disputes and transactions. Her practice demonstrates strength in both complex regulatory compliance and contentious mandates, including at appellate stage. **Dayna Nicholson** is noted for her ability to advise a range of medical providers, including medical staff, medical device retailers and hospitals. Her broad practice involves providing counsel on regulatory, operational and corporate governance issues. **Strengths:** “*Dayna is known for her expertise in medical staff matters.*”

Reed Smith LLP

What the team is known for

Reed Smith LLP houses notable healthcare regulatory compliance expertise, including in government investigations, regulatory due diligence in transactions and fraud and abuse. It acts for a broad range of healthcare providers, including hospitals, pharmacies and physician groups. The firm offers niche expertise in advising managed care facilities on disputes work.

Strengths

“*The teams service levels are very comprehensive and collaborative in terms of understanding both the business requirements and legal requirements.*”

Notable practitioners

Paul Pitts handles a broad caseload that includes transactional work and regulatory compliance. He also works on fraud and abuse disputes and privacy concerns. **Strengths:** “*Paul is an expert in the field and provides well-reasoned and thoughtful advice that measures risk and opportunity extremely well.*” **Kurt Peterson** is an experienced industry expert who frequently defends against class actions and ERISA litigation. He also handles external investigations and regulatory compliance. **James Hennessy** draws particular praise for his expertise in handling matters connected to radiology operations. He has experience advising on various acquisitions and healthcare transactions. **Strengths:** “*James is a great corporate and deal lawyer who gets things done efficiently and expertly.*”

Ropes & Gray LLP

What the team is known for

Ropes & Gray LLP is highly regarded for its expert assistance to healthcare clients across an array of matters, including transactions and regulatory compliance. Possesses notable experience in specialist areas such as HIPAA law, tax and public finance.

Clients include academic medical centers, pediatric hospitals and community health systems.

Strengths

“*Ropes & Gray is excellent at discerning, synthesizing and tackling complicated and sophisticated issues.*”

Notable practitioners

Torrey McClary comes recommended for her transactional capabilities, which see her act for a range of major health systems and hospitals in innovative deals. **Ranee Adipat** has a robust transactional practice, handling M&A work and joint venture deals among other negotiations. Her client list includes hospitals and health systems. **Strengths:** “*Ranee exhibits excellence in the areas of client service, sophistication, commercial vision and awareness.*” **Leslie Thornton** is recognized for her broad healthcare practice, handling both transactional deals and regulatory compliance arrangements for healthcare entities.

Band 4

Crowell & Moring LLP

What the team is known for

Crowell & Moring LLP is noted for its provision of a full range of regulatory, transactional and litigation services to hospital systems, healthcare plans, physicians and life sciences companies. Particular areas of strength include Affordable Care Act matters, fraud and abuse law and antitrust matters pertaining to healthcare M&A. Also advises in connection with government investigations and offers expertise in privacy and data security laws.

Strengths

“*Crowell & Moring is distinguished by its deep experience, solid client relationships and willingness to be fierce advocate as well as counselor. The team is client-oriented.*”

Work highlights

Crowell & Moring LLP represented Humana in its defense of a qui tam lawsuit brought in the US District Court for the District of Massachusetts alleging violations of the Anti-Kickback Statute and the FCA.

Notable practitioners

Jennifer Romano is an experienced healthcare litigator whose practice includes class actions, privacy disputes and arbitration. **Amir Shlesinger** comes recommended for his expertise in healthcare litigation. He represents clients in the managed care space. **Kenneth Smersfelt** is highlighted for his strong managed care practice, which sees him regularly defend payors against single plaintiff and class action claims, as well as advising on regulatory matters.

King & Spalding LLP

What the team is known for

King & Spalding LLP is a respected healthcare team with the full range of capabilities, including litigation and transactional work. The firm is experienced in assisting clients with M&A, joint ventures and due diligence. It also provides advice in relation to government reimbursement matters. It also boasts an increasing bench of dedicated healthcare attorneys, drawing on notable firmwide litigation capabilities.

Strengths

“*They make us feel like we are their only clients.*”

The service level is white glove, whenever we need them they are available. They truly dig in and understand our business sometimes even better than our internal folks."

Work highlights

King & Spalding LLP represented the California Hospital Association in a lawsuit against Anthem Blue Cross, in an action filed this year under California's Unfair Competition Law.

Notable practitioners

Glenn Solomon represents healthcare providers and entities in dispute resolution, including class action defense and other lawsuits. **Strengths:** "Glenn Solomon differentiates himself through his specialization in commercial and government managed care. His holistic approach to arbitration, mediation, and high-stakes matters enables sophisticated handling of overlapping regulatory and commercial issues. He is definitely the lawyer you want covering your six." **Daron Tooch** is noted for his plaintiff-side representation of healthcare providers in litigation and arbitration against health plan practices, with an emphasis on the managed care field. **Amanda Hayes-Kibreab** has a broad healthcare litigation practice, representing providers in both plaintiff-side litigation and defense cases, with a focus on managed care litigation. **Strengths:** "Amanda is a really good attorney and a really smart, very skilled litigator."

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for

Latham & Watkins LLP has an esteemed practice offering capabilities across the spectrum of healthcare matters, including high value transactions, litigation, regulatory compliance and governmental enforcement. Noted expertise in a broad range of matters including Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, tax exemption and whistle-blower actions. Regularly called upon by a wide range of clients, including hospitals, payors and biotechnology companies, for expertise in sophisticated healthcare matters.

Strengths

"The team provides deep expertise and up-to-date knowledge of the legal and regulatory landscape."

Work highlights

Latham & Watkins LLP advised Omada Health on multiple healthcare regulatory matters.

Notable practitioners

Amy Hargreaves leads major investigations for FCA matters. In addition to extensive Stark and kickback expertise, she has developed expertise in the Medicare advantage space and works with clients on consulting, evaluation of risk advantage programs and internal reviews.

Nixon Peabody LLP

What the team is known for

Nixon Peabody LLP is a well-respected healthcare practice with expertise representing hospitals and health systems. It has a particular strength in digital health, telemedicine and healthcare transactions. The team has further experience of representing clients facing complex litigation.

Strengths

"They take a client-centric approach, using practical business acumen in providing guidance aligned with supporting the day to day operations."

Work highlights

Nixon Peabody LLP represented Fresno Community Hospital and Medical Center in a False Claims Act investigation involving allegations of violations of the Stark Law and the Anti-Kickback Statute.

Notable practitioners

Jonah Retzinger is noted for his representation of a variety of healthcare providers in investigations and disputes. He is adept at handling issues concerning allegations of violations of the Stark Law and Anti-Kickback Statute. **Strengths:** "Jonah is extremely helpful, responsive and a good thought partner." **Harsh Parikh** is an up-and-coming attorney assisting healthcare clients with a range of compliance, regulatory, corporate and transactional matters. **Strengths:** "Harsh is a great legal partner and someone I feel comfortable turning to when requiring complex analysis."

O'Melveny & Myers LLP

What the team is known for

O'Melveny & Myers LLP has a strong healthcare litigation practice, known for its handling of investigations, administrative proceedings and courtroom disputes. Frequently defends clients against actions brought under the False Claims Act. Also possesses significant regulatory expertise.

Strengths

"O'Melveny & Myers has a great team of litigators with right combination of legal skills and business strategy."

Work highlights

O'Melveny & Myers LLP represented Elevance Health, Inc. in United States of America v. Anthem, Inc. and related Department of Justice civil investigative demands into Elevance Health's Medicare Advantage risk adjustment practices that preceded this lawsuit.

Notable practitioners

David Deaton is a go-to attorney for contentious healthcare matters, including enforcement proceedings and litigation, as well as advising on internal investigations. He is particularly noted for his representation of payors. **Strengths:** "David is an excellent lawyer who is an expert in the field." **Caitlin Bair** is held in high regard for her strength in handling internal and government investigations, as well as FCA and Anti-Kickback Statute issues. Her clients include healthcare providers and insurers. **Strengths:** "Caitlin is an expert in the field who provides great service and is always available for her clients." **Stephen Sullivan** handles both regulatory, compliance and enforcement work for healthcare clients, with a focus on Medicare. **Strengths:** "Stephen is spectacular, deeply experienced and knowledgeable."

Band 5

Buchalter, LLP

What the team is known for

Buchalter's healthcare practice is respected for advising on a wide range of healthcare matters. The team has notable experience of handling M&A and joint venture. The practitioners also routinely assist clients in reimbursement disputes. The group's clients include a range of healthcare providers and billing companies, among others.

Strengths

"The partners and associates I have worked with are very knowledgeable regarding health plan litigation tactics and have been able to efficiently and effectively handle the work provided."

Work highlights

Buchalter, LLP represented Seaview IPA in defending a suit brought by the plaintiff over SeaView's utilization management practices.

Notable practitioners

Carol Lucas focuses her practice on corporate transactions such as M&A, joint ventures and securities offerings. Her clients include public and private companies within the healthcare industry. **Strengths:** "Carol is very knowledgeable about a variety of topics and has taken the time to understand the needs of our business. I appreciate her direct communication and the guidance she provides." **Damaris Medina** is noted for her work in breach of contract claims, investigations and other litigious matters. **Strengths:** "Damaris is a tremendous resource for her firm and her clients." **Andrew Selesnick** is known for his representation of healthcare entities in litigation and regulatory compliance. **Strengths:** "Andrew can see the big picture and anticipate five years in advance. He is efficient and moves at the speed of business."

Dentons

What the team is known for

Dentons is a well-regarded team with substantial experience advising hospitals and health systems on regulatory matters at both federal and state levels. It is noted for its capabilities in handling bankruptcy cases for healthcare clients.

Work highlights

Dentons served as outside counsel to Cloud Nine Sedation for health care regulatory matters.

Notable practitioners

Samuel Maizel has extensive experience handling bankruptcy and restructuring cases within the healthcare market. He is held in high regard for his longstanding practice in this space. **Strengths:** "Samuel is a star healthcare bankruptcy attorney who is client-focused and responsive." **Samantha Groden** advises clients through various regulatory matters and concerns in healthcare law. **Strengths:** "Samantha is extremely knowledgeable and analytical. I call her when I have nuanced and difficult questions in this area. She is very efficient and able to identify really key factors and issues within my questions."

Hanson Bridgett LLP

What the team is known for

Hanson Bridgett LLP has a highly regarded healthcare practice, frequently called on for representation in senior housing and long-term care matters. The firm offers an array of services, including litigation and dispute resolution, regulatory work and real estate transactional support. It is also noted for its strength in matters pertaining to the Affordable Care Act.

Notable practitioners

Deidre Schönfeldt is a key contact at the firm.

Holland & Knight LLP

What the team is known for

Holland & Knight LLP has a well regarded health-

care practice which frequently assists clients with a broad range of matters from transactional to corporate as well as regulatory compliance advice. It also offers litigation representation to healthcare providers.

Strengths

"Holland & Knight have a very experienced healthcare team. They have been working in our industry for decades. It is hard to replicate that history and experience."

Work highlights

Holland & Knight LLP represented Surgery Partners, Specialty Surgical Center of Thousand Oaks, and members of its governing board in a case in the California state court in Los Angeles.

Notable practitioners

Shalyn Watkins is an associate to watch, noted for her strong practice assisting healthcare providers and companies with regulatory compliance, corporate, transactional and data privacy advice.

Leech Tishman

What the team is known for

Leech Tishman is highlighted for its broad based expertise across the healthcare industry. The team has substantial experience in complex transactional and regulatory mandates. It counts hospital systems, life sciences sector clients and individual practitioners among its client base.

Strengths

"Leech Tishman have demonstrated a deep and nuanced understanding of healthcare law and related regulatory frameworks. They exhibit confidence in their legal analysis. Their depth of knowledge in the areas for which we have engaged them has consistently provided clarity and actionable guidance, reinforcing their role as a trusted advisor."

Work highlights

Leech Tishman advised on and managed SkinSpirit Essential, LLC's multi-state and multi-entity restructuring project.

Notable practitioners

Harry J. Nelson is a key contact at the firm.

McGuireWoods LLP

What the team is known for

McGuireWoods LLP is recognized for its robust practice, centering around transactional, regulatory and compliance advice. The team is particularly noted for its strengths in representing clients in private equity transactions in the healthcare sphere.

Strengths

"McGuireWoods provides clear feedback and insight on what matters from a diligence and structuring perspective. The team doesn't get bogged down in the minutia and sees the bigger picture. It is not an obstacle to closing the deal and identifies solutions to any problems."

Work highlights

McGuireWoods LLP provided Corporate Practice of Medicine (CPOM) regulatory guidance and restructuring advice and acquisitions assistance to FloMed Infusion.

Notable practitioners

Trey Andrews is recognized for his broad healthcare practice, assisting clients with transactional, regulatory and corporate matters. **Strengths:** *"Trey is a super strong healthcare regulatory attorney with a strong commercial business sense who gets deals*

done. He is practical and business-oriented."

Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC

What the team is known for

Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC regularly provides regulatory advice and analysis for healthcare clients, as well as work in the healthcare data privacy sphere. It has further strength in conducting internal investigations and representation in civil investigations for healthcare clients.

Strengths

"Mintz were able to bring deep subject-matter expertise with a practical understanding. Their strengths lie in their ability to translate complex and evolving legislative and regulatory requirements into understandable insights."

Work highlights

Mintz provided strategic industry insight, federal regulatory analysis and federal legislative analysis for the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association.

Notable practitioners

Daniel Cody is recommended for his strong regulatory compliance capabilities, which sees him act for a range of providers as well as entities such as technology companies. **Strengths:** *"Daniel Cody was exceptional to work with. He was thoughtful, calm and highly knowledgeable. He listened carefully to our priorities, advocated effectively and provided steady guidance throughout."*

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

What the team is known for

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP is a highly regarded group that represents a wide range of healthcare clients, including health systems, hospitals, payors and academic medical centers. Its broad practice includes regulatory, transactional and contentious matters. The group is particularly noted for its strength in privacy mandates, as well as insurance disputes.

Notable practitioners

Molly Lane regularly assists clients with healthcare-related litigation, including class actions. Her practice also includes advising on regulations, privacy issues and ERISA matters. **Strengths:** *"Molly is very effective at building rapport with other lawyers. She is a good advocate and pragmatic in the advice she provides."*

Polsinelli PC

What the team is known for

Polsinelli PC has a well-regarded healthcare practice with a growing West Coast profile. The firm offers an impressive breadth of services across areas such as M&A, consolidations, peer review issues and fraud and abuse disputes. The group acts for a range of stakeholders, including providers, investors and physician practices.

Strengths

"Polsinelli has all aspects of the healthcare industry covered. I know that when I have a need, they have someone who is an expert in the area."

Work highlights

Polsinelli PC represented governing body of hospital where the organized self-governing medical staff was adverse to the governing body and to over 60% of the medical staff members.

Notable practitioners

Paul Gomez represents clients on a range of regulatory and transactional matters, including complex behavioral health mandates and physician practice acquisitions. **Strengths:** *"Paul is a trusted partner. He is thorough and responsive. I can assign him tasks with comfort knowing that he will provide them attention they deserve."* **Kenneth Yood** provides his clients with high-quality regulatory counsel, advising on issues such as Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement. He is also noted for his expertise in licensing matters. **Nathaniel Weiner** offers long-standing expertise in behavioral health mandates. He advises on both transactional and regulatory concerns, including licensing and reimbursement issues. **Strengths:** *"Nathaniel is a sophisticated and attentive business partner."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Gary Baldwin of Epstein Becker & Green handles regulatory compliance issues for healthcare providers and entities. **Strengths:** *"Gary is absolutely phenomenal. He knows the California regulatory agencies like the back of his hand."*

Gina Cavalier of Arnold & Porter has significant experience acting as counsel on fraud and abuse issues and wider regulatory compliance. She counts pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers and providers as her clients.

Tom Curtis of Nossaman LLP represents a range of healthcare clients such as hospitals, health systems and health plans. His expert practice includes regulatory compliance concerns, medical staff peer reviews and licensing proceedings. **Strengths:** *"Tom is a superb and trusted adviser."*

Michael Maddigan of Hogan Lovells is particularly adept at acting on class actions and breach of contract cases. He frequently handles False Claims Act actions and HIPAA matters. **Strengths:** *"Michael is very courteous, a delight to deal with and he represents clients extremely well."*

Gregory Pimstone commands respect for his strength across a range of contentious mandates, offering trial and appellate expertise as well as experience in government investigations.

Heather Richardson of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher comes recommended for her expert handling of health insurance issues, including advising on both external investigations and litigation such as large scale class actions. **Strengths:** *"Heather is thoughtful and provides very good legal advice."*

Raja Sékaran of Epstein Becker & Green PC represents healthcare clients in a wide range of matters, including regulatory compliance concerns, external investigations and enforcement proceedings, and fraud and abuse disputes.

Felicia Sze of Athene Law LLP is noted for her expertise in Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement matters. She is also highlighted for her strength in advising healthcare providers on a range of compliance issues. **Strengths:** *"She is incredibly smart and an independent thinker."*

Vanessa Wells of Hogan Lovells is an experienced practitioner who advises insurance clients and healthcare service plans on compliance and pricing issues.

Immigration

Immigration
Leading Firms
Band 1
BAL LLP
Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP
Van Der Hout Brigagliano & Nightingale LLP
Band 2
Minami Tamaki LLP
Weaver Schlenger LLP
Wolfsdorf Rosenthal LLP
Band 3
Corporate Immigration Partners
Duane Morris LLP
Jackson & Hertogs LLP
Jackson Lewis P.C.
Jewell Stewart Pratt Beckerson & Carr PC
Larrabee Albi Coker, LLP
Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, PC
Santos Lloyd Law Firm, PC
SGG Immigration LLP
Tafapolsky & Smith LLP
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

BAL LLP

What the team is known for

BAL LLP is a commanding corporate immigration boutique composed of a high-caliber team of attorneys. It offers expertise globally and domestically on the full range of immigration matters, notably excelling in the technology sector. The team is known for its strategic, consultative approach to immigration processing, often on behalf of multinational corporations in a broad range of industries, including the finance, energy and healthcare sectors.

Strengths

"BAL brings the resources and expertise of a large global firm, as well as the benefit of a dedicated, core small team of attorneys that we partner with on a daily basis."

"BAL assists us with many complex situations by providing in-depth and thorough legal counsel."

"The BAL team consistently delivers high-quality services and prioritizes matters appropriately."

Notable practitioners

Frieda Garcia is BAL's managing partner. She is adept at handling immigration matters relating to sizable merger and acquisition transactions, together with managing immigration programs for impressive clients. Her clients cover a range of sectors, including tech and travel. **Strengths:** "Frieda is an exceptional and visionary leader and a genuine relationship partner to BAL's clients." **Petra Tang** is experienced in handling a wide range of visa applications and evolving immigration policies affecting corporate clients. She routinely caters to clients in the sports, entertainment and technology industries.

Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP

What the team is known for

Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP is a high-

Immigration
Senior Statespeople & Eminent Practitioners
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Gonzalez Josie SGG Immigration LLP
Litwin Edward R Litwin & Smith, A Law (ORL) ◇
Schlenger Kirsten Weaver Schlenger LLP
Shusterman Carl Carl Shusterman, Immigration (ORL) ◇
Spiegel Lisa Duane Morris LLP
Wexler Mitchell Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy
Eminent Practitioners
Garcia Frieda A. BAL LLP *
Wolfsdorf Bernard Wolfsdorf Rosenthal LLP
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Nightingale Zachary M Van Der Hout Brigagliano
Paparelli Angelo Vialto Law (US) LLP (ORL) ◇
Van Der Hout Marc Van Der Hout Brigagliano
Band 2
Chehraz Ateesa Jackson & Hertogs LLP
Drummond Ilana J Jackson & Hertogs LLP
Haight Catherine L Haight Law Group, PLC (ORL) ◇
Horne Daniel Jackson & Hertogs LLP
Mehlman Sharon R Mehlman Jacobs LLP (ORL) ◇
Vázquez-Azpiri A James Tafapolsky & Smith LLP
Weaver Mary Jane Weaver Schlenger LLP
Band 3
Brodie Ali Fox Rothschild (ORL) ◇
Ellsworth Chad Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy
Garcia Charina Wolfsdorf Rosenthal LLP
Lee Olivia Serene Minami Tamaki LLP
Mautino Kathrin Kathrin S. Mautino, APLC (ORL) ◇
Stone Lincoln SGG Immigration LLP
Band 4
Albi Fausta M Larrabee Albi Coker, LLP
Exner John E Jackson Lewis P.C.
Faiz Fariba Law Offices of Fariba Faiz (ORL) ◇
Fullmer David R Wolfsdorf Rosenthal LLP
Hill Tiffany Weaver Schlenger LLP
Khedekar Sameer Vanguard Visa Law PC (ORL) ◇
Loke Walsh Tien-Li Loke Walsh Immigration (ORL) ◇
Mazel Laura J Mazel Immigration Law, PC (ORL) ◇
Nevarez Kristi Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP
Ozdemir Perrin Weaver Schlenger LLP
Pratt Claire Jewell Stewart Pratt Beckerson & Carr PC
Schulz Matthew Schulzlaw, PC (ORL) ◇
Shah Minal A. Van Der Hout Brigagliano & Nightingale LLP
Tang Petra BAL LLP *
Toy Yvonne Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart
Yakoob Nadia Nadia Yakoob & Associates (ORL) ◇
Up-and-coming individuals
Colucci Dillon R. Greenberg Traurig, LLP (ORL) ◇
Lau Benjamin Jackson Lewis P.C.
Santos Lloyd Flavia Santos Lloyd Law Firm, PC
Shao Mengci Dentons (ORL) ◇

quality immigration boutique with a strong presence in the California market, handling all aspects of business immigration law for a broad corporate clientele. Its areas of strength include investor immigration matters, work permit assistance and compliance work. The firm has an impressive network of international offices, which lends it a competitive global footprint. It also offers wide geographical coverage of the state, with offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Silicon Valley, Irvine and San Diego.

Strengths

"Words really cannot express how much I appreciate the depth and breadth of experience and kindness within this team. Fragomen is highly accountable, professional, proactive and collaborative, and always helps us see around corners. The quality of work provided is exceptional, doing it all with such great care and attention to detail."

"Fragomen demonstrates a strong understanding of our business, commercial priorities and risk tolerance, consistently tailoring immigration advice to support strategic and operational objectives."

"Fragomen's team acts with a high degree of integrity and ethics. The professionals are knowledgeable, responsive and well-respected."

"Fragomen possesses advanced regulatory expertise and keeps up with global changes."

"Fragomen has the expertise and resources to handle complex immigration matters."

Notable practitioners

Mitchell Wexler advises clients on the full gamut of business immigration, with special expertise in EB-5 visas. **Chad Ellsworth** is the managing partner of the San Francisco group. He advises on a range of immigration issues, with a special focus on EB-5 investor visas. **Strengths:** "Chad Ellsworth delivers sharp insights and practical solutions in case management, and he consistently raises the quality and service bar for large-scale global immigration programs. He is a highly effective communicator, offering clear, concise guidance with warmth and professionalism." "Chad combines strong leadership with deep collaboration to help define and advance business immigration strategy, policy and process." "Chad Ellsworth is wonderful. He is very responsive and knows how to have a real partnership with us." **Kristi Nevarez** is managing partner of Fragomen's Silicon Valley office. She has palpable tech-sector expertise, regularly advising multinational tech clients on a variety of matters including program development and management, strategic advice and visa filings. **Strengths:** "Kristi Nevarez is an amazing partner and is extremely supportive. She consistently keeps me abreast of immigration policy changes or proposed changes that may impact me." "Kristi Nevarez and her team's client service delivery is great. They have the expertise to handle complex immigration matters." "Kristi Nevarez is extremely knowledgeable. Her advice is always sound and caring, and she is highly respected."

Van Der Hout Brigagliano & Nightingale LLP

What the team is known for

Van Der Hout Brigagliano & Nightingale LLP is a respected firm based in San Francisco and known for its expertise in immigration litigation. The firm is well known for its criminal, deportation defense and asylum work. The group is also able to handle employment visas, labor certification, and citizenship and naturalization. Its lawyers represent employers, families and individuals.

Strengths

"Van Der Hout Brigagliano & Nightingale is absolutely amazing, very specialized and strategic for us."

Notable practitioners

Zachary Nightingale is managing partner of Van Der Hout. He comes highly recommended for work on deportation and asylum cases, as well as advice on immigration issues stemming from criminal convictions. **Strengths:** *"Zac is the best for deportation issues and removal defense."* **Marc Van Der Hout** is a founding member of Van Der Hout. He is a top choice for contentious immigration matters as well as for visa applications. **Strengths:** *"Marc is a preeminent leader in immigration."* Minal Shah has a busy immigration practice. She is noted for her program management work and various visa filings. She has strong pharmaceutical sector expertise. **Strengths:** *"Minal Shah is wonderful." "Minal Shah is entrepreneurial, practical and has a very good business sense. She is a really good lawyer."*

Band 2

Minami Tamaki LLP

What the team is known for

Minami Tamaki LLP is a strong San Francisco-based firm, offering comprehensive immigration services. The team advises clients in a range of industries, including financial, telecommunications and legal.

Strengths

"Minami Tamaki is good at giving us playbooks and guidelines so we can take the advice and put it into action."

"Minami Tamaki's immigration team are extremely experienced, very responsive and on top of things. They always stay current with new developments in immigration."

Notable practitioners

Olivia Serene Lee is well regarded for her ability to act on a diverse range of employment-based immigration matters. **Strengths:** *"Olivia is an excellent immigration lawyer with a lot of vision." "She is a really smart lawyer."*

Weaver Schlenger LLP

What the team is known for

Weaver Schlenger LLP is recognized for its handling of all aspects of US and global business immigration from its San Francisco base. The team continues to excel in connection with immigrant and non-immigrant visas, I-9 compliance and consular services. It also boasts a diverse client portfolio, including biotech, financial services and non-profit companies.

Strengths

"Weaver Schlenger demonstrates an excellent ability to handle sophisticated matters, consistently providing clear guidance, accurate execution and sound judgment."

"What truly distinguishes Weaver Schlenger from others in the industry is its blend of proactive legal strategy and impeccable client service."

"Weaver Schlenger always considers business context and impact when advising us."

"The team at Weaver Schlenger is excellent at handling a wide range of challenging U.S. immigration issues in an ever-changing political and policy landscape. In this context, they demonstrate a great deal of care, compassion, promptness and professionalism in handling our immigration matters. I can always depend on them to go above and beyond."

Work highlights

Weaver Schlenger LLP assisted a US-based supply chain technology company with all immigration related matters that arose after the company's merger with an international entity.

Notable practitioners

Kirsten Schlenger is a founding partner of Weaver Schlenger. She often advises individuals on green card matters and assists companies with PERM applications. **Strengths:** *"Kirsten Schlenger is wonderful to work with." "Kirsten Schlenger provides strategic legal counsel that goes beyond simple compliance to truly integrate with our business insights and goals." "Kirsten is adept at high-level oversight and key policy discussions, ensuring the firm's advice is not just legally sound but a strategic and flexible asset to our organization."* Founding partner **Mary Jane Weaver** focuses on business immigration matters. Her client base includes technology, banking and telecommunications clients. **Strengths:** *"Mary Jane is a very experienced immigration attorney whose advice and work product are always stellar. She cultivates that same work ethic in all of the attorneys and staff who work at the firm." "We're always delighted when we work with Mary Jane Weaver." "Mary Jane Weaver." **Tiffany Hill** acts as managing partner and receives recognition for her skilled handling of immigrant as well as non-immigrant visas. She demonstrates further expertise in PERM matters. **Strengths:** *"Tiffany Hill is a great support and guide as we navigate our various immigration cases." "Tiffany Hill is a very experienced immigration attorney, I can depend on her to ensure that our organization's cases are handled with the utmost care, and that our foreign national employees are getting the support they need in a timely fashion."* **Perrin Ozdemir** works with corporations, not-for-profit organizations and universities on a wide range of immigration matters for foreign-national employees and their families. She is adept at supporting clients through all stages of the permanent residence process and provides strategic guidance on both routine and complex government inquiries. **Strengths:** *"Perrin Ozdemir is a great resource to us."**

Wolfsdorf Rosenthal LLP

What the team is known for

Wolfsdorf Rosenthal LLP has a thriving California immigration team that advises a varied client base from its offices in LA, Oakland, San Francisco and Santa Monica. The firm handles both US immigration and global immigration and is particularly recognized for its representation of clients in the entertainment and healthcare industries. Its capabilities include assisting with immigration audits, consular processing and EB-5 investor visas.

Strengths

"We rate Wolfsdorf Rosenthal's ability to handle complex and sophisticated matters as excellent. They demonstrate a strong command of U.S. immigration law, provide clear and strategic advice on high-risk or non-standard cases, and manage complexity effectively through careful planning and attention to detail."

"Wolfsdorf Rosenthal is readily available to offer webinars and bulletins, especially given the current climate, so we stay informed about the latest news and can anticipate potential issues."

"The Wolfsdorf Rosenthal immigration group is proactive, responsive and savvy."

Notable practitioners

Bernard Wolfsdorf is based in Santa Monica and acts as managing partner of Wolfsdorf Rosenthal. He is adept at handling business immigration matters for his global client base. **Strengths:** *"Bernie Wolfsdorf is wonderful." "Bernie is a great immigration lawyer."* **Charina Garcia** has a broad practice covering both employment and family-based immigration matters. She is well regarded for her work, innovating the industry, and is the strategy and innovation partner for the firm. **Strengths:** *"Charina Garcia is very knowledgeable and great in her role." "We couldn't ask for a better person to work with. Charina is amazing." "Her guidance to the C-suite, support on M&A matters, strategic approaches to U.S. immigration and overall immigration guidance is awesome."* David Fullmer handles matters such as non-immigrant and immigrant visas, including I-9 compliance. **Strengths:** *"David Fullmer is a pragmatic problem solver." "David Fullmer consistently exceeds my expectations. He is able to set reasonable expectations for short and mid-term changes and implications that are on the horizon." "David Fullmer is very professional, attentive, responsive, supportive and committed to us." "David's responsiveness and commercial judgment set him apart."*

Band 3

Corporate Immigration Partners

What the team is known for

Corporate Immigration Partners is an innovative San Francisco-based firm noted for its outstanding performance in all aspects of corporate immigration law. Its areas of excellence include business visas, permanent residency applications, family applications, and I-9 and E-Verify compliance.

Strengths

"Corporate Immigration Partners handles everything and everyone with kindness, promptness and unmatched customer service. I trust the team completely and respect it to the highest level."

"The team members at Corporate Immigration Partners truly go above and beyond, both in terms of casework and as mentors."

"Corporate Immigration Partners is very responsive, provides great clarity when communicating with clients and shows a lot of empathy."

Duane Morris LLP

What the team is known for

Duane Morris LLP is an accomplished business immigration practice with experience in global visas and residence permit applications. It also handles compliance audits, for clients ranging from large multinational corporations to NGOs and individuals, as well as immigration-related litigation. The team offers sector-specific experience pertaining to a wide range of industries, including IT, finance and tech.

Notable practitioners

Lisa Spiegel handles the full spectrum of business immigration work for a client base that includes technology and engineering clients, as well as families and individuals. **Strengths:** *"Lisa Spiegel is a key resource in immigration. She is a smart attorney,*

and I highly recommend her."

Jackson & Hertogs LLP

What the team is known for

Jackson & Hertogs LLP is a respected San Francisco-based business immigration group noted for its activity across the full range of matters, including I-9 compliance and EB-5 investor visas. Its lawyers typically represent employers, ranging from multinational companies to startups, with hiring and retaining foreign national personnel. The team assists clients in a range of sectors including biotechnology, information technology and telecommunications.

Notable practitioners

Atessa Chehrizi is a well-known immigration attorney whose practice sees her advising businesses and employees on employment visas.

Strengths: "Atessa has been doing immigration lawyer for several years. She is wonderful." "Atessa Chehrizi is amazing." Ilana Drummond is the managing partner of Jackson & Hertogs LLP. She has experience working on a host of immigration matters including PERM and visa applications. **Daniel Horne** is a specialist immigration lawyer who frequently works on corporate immigration matters.

Jackson Lewis P.C.

What the team is known for

Jackson Lewis' immigration team assists clients in preparing all non-immigrant and immigrant visa applications, as well as advising on the immigration aspects of acquisitions and other corporate transactions. Its experience extends to all industries, with noted representation towards sports and healthcare.

Strengths

"Jackson Lewis is always quick to respond. If something is urgent, the team is very good at prioritizing."

"Jackson Lewis has great bench strength, rapid response time and great value."

"The team at Jackson Lewis is always proactive and responsive to my inquiries and requests. The team is knowledgeable and always keeping up to date with law changes or new updates to share."

"Jackson Lewis' ability to manage high volumes efficiently while still delivering personalised support to employees sets it apart, as does its collaborative approach with internal stakeholders and external partners to drive reliable, compliant and scalable outcomes."

Notable practitioners

John Exner is based in Jackson Lewis' LA office. He represents both families and businesses in a broad range of immigration matters. Additionally, he is also skilled in I-9 compliance mandates. **Strengths:** "John is always available and very straightforward and honest." "John provides excellent support to our company, demonstrating exceptional responsiveness to our questions. He understands the unique challenges within our department and offers guidance and support at all levels." **Benjamin Lau's** immigration practice focuses on advising clients in the entertainment, sports and technology sectors. He is based in the firm's LA office. **Strengths:** "Ben Lau is incredibly responsive and practical." "Benjamin Lau is always available to advise in a way that is easy to understand." "Ben Lau is timely, clear, warm and keeps on top of our needs and requests."

"I rely on Benjamin Lau because he is very knowledgeable and responsive." "Benjamin Lau because he is very knowledgeable and responsive."

Jewell Stewart Pratt Beckerson & Carr PC

What the team is known for

Jewell Stewart Pratt Beckerson & Carr is a specialized immigration firm that advises across the full spectrum of immigration matters. Business immigration is a particular focus and strength, working with clients to attract and maintain foreign national workers. The team's sector expertise includes clients in the fields of education, startups and non-profits.

Notable practitioners

Claire Pratt is the managing partner of Jewell Stewart Pratt Beckerson & Carr. Her expertise in L-1 intracompany transferee visas is recognized.

Larrabee Albi Coker, LLP

What the team is known for

Larrabee Albi Coker, LLP has a well-regarded employment-based immigration team situated out of San Diego. It is noted for its work with business clients in connection with all immigrant and non-immigrant visas. It also offers strengths in I-9 compliance, wage and hour regulations and immigration issues arising from M&A.

Notable practitioners

Fausta Albi is recognized for her immigration practice, which sees her working with clients on employment visas and immigration compliance.

Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, PC

What the team is known for

Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, PC is esteemed for its large U.S. business immigration practice, advising employers on temporary visas, permanent residence and immigration strategy for skilled foreign national employees. The team assists with executive and manager transfers, specialized technical roles, merger and acquisition planning and I-9 compliance matters. The West Coast team is recognized for serving employers across the technology, life sciences, construction, energy, healthcare and hospitality sectors.

Strengths

"Ogletree Deakins takes care of each case, look at all available solutions and provide guidance on what might work best for our company and the team member, outlining risks and opportunities."

"Whenever we have questions, Ogletree Deakins are quick to respond. They care about their clients."

"Ogletree Deakins is my trusted immigration adviser. It's proactive in its approach to stay on top of industry trends and the needs of my business."

Notable practitioners

Yvonne Toy leverages her strong immigration acumen to help employers with immigration strategy, compliance and global talent mobility. She is based in San Francisco. **Strengths:** "Yvonne Toy always comes up with creative solutions and is very caring in the way she works."

Santos Lloyd Law Firm, PC

What the team is known for

Santos Lloyd Law Firm, PC is a specialist immi-

gration law boutique with experience spanning the full gamut of employment, investor and family-related immigration matters. The team has particular strengths in supporting individuals in the arts, entertainment and sports industries.

Strengths

"Santos Lloyd Law Firm stands out for its knowledge, experience and professionalism. It clearly explains the entire process, which makes a real difference, as you know from the start that you are in good hands. It is always there whenever needed."

"They are extremely knowledgeable and attentive to you as a client."

"Santos Lloyd Law Firm is highly strategic, evidence-driven and client-oriented. Rather than relying on templates, the firm builds deeply customized legal narratives to support your case."

Work highlights

Santos Lloyd Law Firm successfully secured an O-1B visa for an internationally acclaimed, Emmy Award-winning comedian.

Notable practitioners

Flavia Santos Lloyd is a founder and managing attorney of Santos Lloyd Law Firm, PC. She is particularly experienced in advising executives and professionals in the sports, media and entertainment industries. **Strengths:** "Flavia Santos Lloyd is wonderful both as a human being and as a professional." "Flavia and her firm are amazing. She is very generous with her time and does a lot of good for her clients."

SGG Immigration LLP

What the team is known for

SGG Immigration is an LA-based team of specialists who advise on the full suite of immigration work. Business immigration is a key strength, and the team has broad experience assisting large companies, entrepreneurs and universities. Its attorneys also work with families during removal proceedings and citizenship applications.

Notable practitioners

Josie Gonzalez has longstanding experience in immigration, having specialized in the area for over three decades. She is highly recommended for her expertise in relation to business immigration. **Lincoln Stone** has a strong practice, part of which he represents clients in EB-5 investment visa issues. He works with high net worth individuals and startups, among other clients.

Tafapolsky & Smith LLP

What the team is known for

Tafapolsky & Smith is a prominent business immigration boutique with offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles. The team advises on the full range of immigrant and non-immigrant matters, while also providing consular services and citizenship and naturalization advice. Its clients range from scholars and entrepreneurs to startups and multinational corporations.

Strengths

"Tafapolsky & Smith is a strong immigration boutique."

Notable practitioners

James Vázquez-Azpiri maintains a strong practice that sees him advising on business immigration issues, including those relating to corporate transactions.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Ali Brodie of Fox Rothschild LLP is co-chair of the firm's immigration practice and covers an impressive range of business immigration mandates. She has notable strength in assisting clients with EB-5 matters. **Strengths:** *"We work extensively with Ali Brodie. She is incredibly responsive, and we really appreciate the time she takes in supporting us."* *"Ali Brodie. She is incredibly responsive, and we really appreciate the time she takes in supporting us."*

Dillon Colucci of Greenberg Traurig has a burgeoning immigration practice. He is adept at providing advice across a variety of immigration issues, including EB-5 visa processes. **Strengths:** *"Dillon Colucci is great and impressive."*

Fariba Faiz advises corporate clients on a wide variety of immigration matters, including H-1B and PERM processes. **Strengths:** *"Fariba Faiz is an elite strategist and executor on complex L-1, O-1, H-1 and E-2 matters."*

Catherine Haight is the founder and managing partner of Marina del Rey-based Haight Law Group. She is experienced in handling business immigration matters in the entertainment and sports industries.

Sameer Khedekar is the founder and managing partner of Vanguard Visa Law PC. He handles a

variety of business immigration matters, including H-1B investor-related applications. His clients include startups and Fortune 500 corporations.

Strengths: *"Sameer Khedekar is a really good immigration attorney."*

Edward Litwin of Litwin & Smith, A Law Corporation has extensive experience handling a wide range of business immigration matters. He is based in San Francisco and has a specialty in business visas and labor certifications.

Tien-Li Loke Walsh of Loke Walsh Immigration Law, PC represents a wide variety of clients, including startups, educational institutions and individuals, in a host of immigration matters.

Kathrin Mautino is a sole practitioner based in San Diego and is best known for handling family-based immigration matters. She is well versed in advising on removal defense, as well as the citizenship and naturalization process.

Laura Mazel of Mazel Immigration Law focuses on business immigration matters. Her clients include technology companies and educational institutions, among others. **Strengths:** *"Laura Mazel is a smart attorney."*

Sharon Mehlman of Mehlman Jacobs LLP is experienced in business immigration matters, including worksite enforcement issues.

Angelo Paparelli of Vialto Law is a go-to lawyer

for the gamut of immigration matters, including national interest waivers and investment-based immigration as well as issues such as the immigration aspects of M&A. **Strengths:** *"Angelo Paparelli is compassionate, knowledgeable, innovative and always finds a way to get things done."*

Matthew Schulz of Schulzlaw, PC receives recognition for the breadth of his business immigration practice. He is well-versed in advising international companies on immigration strategy as well as expansion into the US market.

Mengci Shao of Dentons assists employers with a broad range of work, including advising on immigration issues related to corporate restructuring. She is also adept at assisting clients with government audits.

Sole practitioner **Carl Shusterman** works on personal immigration issues such as naturalization and citizenship. He is also adept at advising on worksite compliance issues, investor visas and intracompany transfers as part of his business immigration practice.

Nadia Yakoob of **Nadia Yakoob & Associates** is regularly called upon by startup companies in the healthcare and technology sectors to advise on their immigration issues. **Strengths:** *"Nadia Yakoob is very experienced and great to work with."*

CALIFORNIA: An Insurance: Insurer Overview

Not often do insurance lawyers get to study US Supreme Court precedent for its impact on coverage. But they sure are taking note of the recent decision in *Cox Commc'ns, Inc. v. Sony Music Ent.*, 146 S. Ct. 959 (2026). That decision largely eviscerates Internet Service Provider (ISP) exposure to large-scale copyright litigation, holding that ISPs cannot be liable for contributory infringement for the acts of their users unless they intend that their services be used for infringement. For Cox Communications, it eliminated a USD1 billion judgment.

Aside from the massive impact on underwriting ISP risk, it highlights an important question: if ISPs can only be liable for copyright infringement when they *intend* their users to infringe, can there ever be coverage for this liability?

Background

Sony and other movie and music copyright holders sued Cox Communications, an ISP, because its users were downloading and sharing movies and songs without permission via their Internet using protocols such as BitTorrent. Sony sought to enforce its copyrights against Cox – rather than the individual violators – as the entity with the ability to pay a judgment and in an effort to enforce copyrights on a broader scale.

However, the standard for proving secondary infringement is naturally much higher than direct infringement: it would not normally be fair to charge ISPs for the acts of their users. Just as the courts would not normally charge platforms like X for the tweets of their users.

The Supreme Court has delineated two paths of permitting secondary infringement claims against ISPs: contributory and vicarious infringement:

- Contributory infringement applies when a party, with knowledge of infringing activity, induces, causes, or materially contributes to the infringement of another.
- Vicarious infringement applies when a party has the right and ability to supervise the infringing activity and derives a direct financial benefit from it.

A Virginia federal jury had awarded Sony and other copyright holders USD1 billion in their copyright infringement suit against Cox. On appeal, the Fourth Circuit affirmed the contributory liability finding but reversed the vicarious liability determination, concluding that Cox did not receive a direct financial benefit from its subscribers' infringement. The appellate court ordered a retrial on damages for contributory infringement. The case was then appealed to the Supreme Court, before that retrial occurred.

The Supreme Court granted certiorari to address only the contributory infringement claim, as the vicarious infringement claim had already been dismissed. Cox argued that the District Court had given the jury an overbroad instruction that permitted a finding of contribution with only a general knowledge that the infringement was occurring.

The Supreme Court's Finding

The Supreme Court held 9–0 that “[t]he provider of a service is contributorily liable for the user’s infringement *only if it intended that the provided service be used for infringement.*” *Id.* at 967 (emphasis added). The Court emphasized that this holding reiter-

ates many prior decisions stating more or less the same, citing, for example, *Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, Inc. v. Grokster, Ltd.*, 545 U.S. 913, 930 (2005)).

The Court therefore reversed the Fourth Circuit decision upholding the contributory infringement verdict and remanded for further proceedings consistent therewith. As the Fourth Circuit had already reversed the jury’s vicarious infringement verdict, the case against Cox is over.

This was a very positive result for Cox and other ISPs, who argued they had been sued unjustly for the acts of others. They could not be held responsible for policing the internet.

It remains to be seen whether copyright holders will abandon their pursuit of ISPs and shift focus to individual infringers or devise alternative strategies. In the wake of this decision, Universal Music Group, Sony, and Warner Music Group dropped their piracy lawsuit against Verizon in the US District Court for the Southern District of New York –choosing to dismiss the case with prejudice, without a settlement, because the legal basis for suing ISPs had been so dismantled by the high court. No further legal path appears viable.

Coverage Implications

While great for ISPs on liability, the decision also highlights significant questions on coverage. Intentional torts are generally not covered, under Insurance Code Section 533 and a host of other policy provisions and doctrines. Given the many millions of dollars spent defending and settling secondary copyright infringement claims against ISPs, coverage lawyers will take note.

The Court described clearly the level of intent required to hold ISPs liable:

- “The provider of a service is contributorily liable for the user’s infringement only if it intended that the provided service be used for infringement.”
- “This Court has repeatedly made clear that mere knowledge that a service will be used to infringe is insufficient to establish the required intent to infringe.” The Court frequently relied on prior precedent as if to leave no doubt that it was not making new law but rather reiterating the law that was already there.
- “[C]ontributory liability cannot rest only on a provider’s knowledge of infringement and insufficient action to prevent it.” An ISP who knows of infringing activity and ignores it is not liable for contributory infringement.

The Court’s decision therefore strengthens arguments that intentional act exclusions preclude coverage for contributory infringement.

Given that an ISP can only be held liable for contributory infringement if it provides internet service with the “inten[tion] that the provided service be used for infringement,” this standard seems to require an intentional violation of the law. Contributory infringement is an intentional tort not appropriate for coverage.

While there is no clear precedent finding no coverage for contributory copyright infringement, it appears to be the logical extension of the *Cox* decision. The closest favorable decision comes from a Pennsylvania Court of Appeal. In *Transcore, LP v. Caliber One Indem. Co.*, 972 A.2d 1205 (P.A. Super. 2009), the Court found

that a secondary patent infringement claim was not covered: “[T]his is an action for inducing a third party to violate a patent, not a direct patent infringement action. Because that patent action can only be brought if the violation is knowing, and there is an exclusion in the policy for ‘knowing’ actions, there is no coverage for this action.”

Insurance Insurer

Insurance: Insurer	Insurance: Insurer	
Leading Firms	Senior Statespeople	
Band 1	Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	Matthews Philip R Duane Morris LLP
Clyde & Co US LLP	Celebrezze Bruce Clyde & Co US LLP	
Dentons	Leading Individuals	
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP	Band 1	Tittmann Raymond J. TittmannWeix
Band 2	Baysinger Kara Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP *	Tosaris Elizabeth Michelman & Robinson LLP
Atheria Law PC	Klee Peter Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP *	Band 4
Duane Morris LLP	Plevin Mark Plevin & Turner LLP (ORL) ◇	Bricker Matthew TittmannWeix
Horvitz & Levy LLP	Band 2	Capell David C Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP	Casey William J Atheria Law PC	Danaher Charles Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton
Band 3	D'Ambrosio Joan Atheria Law PC	Downs Andrew Clyde & Co US LLP
Nicolaides Fink Thorpe Michaelides Sullivan LLP	Doren Richard J Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP	Foy Matthew Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP
O'Melveny & Myers LLP	Duchene Stephanie Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP *	Godwin David Squire Patton Boggs (ORL) ◇
Robins Kaplan LLP	Goetz Richard O'Melveny & Myers LLP	Guirgis Ralph A. Clyde & Co
TittmannWeix	Kent Ronald D Dentons	Huang Kathy Alston & Bird LLP *
Troutman Pepper Locke LLP	Potente Alexander E. Clyde & Co US LLP	Kelly Brian Duane Morris LLP *
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP	Stein Deborah Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP	Kook Spencer Y. Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP
Band 4	Stern Max Duane Morris LLP	Labovitch Jeffrey N. Nicolaides Fink Thorpe Michaelides
Alston & Bird LLP	Tilner Mitchell C Horvitz & Levy LLP	Mathis Jennifer Troutman Pepper Locke LLP
Freeman Mathis & Gary, LLP	Weix Louisa TittmannWeix	Moon Eric Atheria Law PC
Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP	Wells Vanessa Hogan Lovells US LLP (ORL) ◇	Narbaitz Jamison Atheria Law PC
Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP	Band 3	Noorani Zoheb O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Michelman & Robinson LLP	Brown Dan Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP (ORL) ◇ *	Park Sam Alston & Bird LLP *
Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP	Churan Amy Robins Kaplan LLP	Phillips Robert Alston & Bird LLP *
Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP	Geist Laura Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP *	Roberto Christina TittmannWeix
* Indicates individual with profile.	Hawkinson Julie Choi Atheria Law PC	Romero Robert J. Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	Kieffer Kevin F Troutman Pepper Locke LLP	Simantob David Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	Koehler Sullivan Susan Clyde & Co US LLP	Swick Jodi McDowell Hetherington LLP (ORL) ◇
	Koelzer James P. Clyde & Co LLP	Zhordania Theona Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton
	Lampkin Lisa Freeman Mathis & Gary, LLP	Up-and-coming individuals
	McInnis Terrence R Troutman Pepper Locke LLP	Cuatto Emily Horvitz & Levy LLP

Band 1

Clyde & Co US LLP

What the team is known for

The impressive team at Clyde & Co LLP has strong expertise across a range of insurance coverage work, including professional liability and cyber-liability insurance. It has noteworthy experience representing clients in both court and arbitrations and offers clients the benefit of its substantial international reach and vast experience in aviation and marine insurance.

Strengths

“Clyde & Co is an excellent firm I’d use for high-complexity, sensitive cases.”

“They are strategic, organized, responsive, and not afraid to be aggressive when the situation calls for it.”

“Clyde & Co has a very respected team of talented attorneys.”

“Clyde & Co delivers outstanding work product and client service.”

Notable practitioners

Bruce Celebrezze’s market-leading practice incorporates coverage litigation arising from disputes across a range of areas. He has experience working with both national and international insurers. **Strengths:** *“Bruce is a fantastic insurance lawyer.”* Alexander Potente is active in litigation relating to general and professional liability, among other claims. He is well regarded for his expert handling of coverage disputes arising from product defects and environmental matters, as well as complex reinsurance matters. **Strengths:** *“Alexander develops creative and brilliant strategies when faced with complex insurance problems.”* *“He is wicked smart, strategic and he knows the pertinent case law as well as anyone.”* *“Alexander is very experienced in this area.”* **Susan Koehler Sullivan** is a highly experienced insurance litigator who specializes in a wide range of insurance-related matters including claims involving directors and officers, employment and general liability policies. **Strengths:** *“Susan is*

whip smart, talented and finds creative solutions to insurance litigation issues.” *“I’d give the strongest commendation I could for Susan. She is sharp, strategic and thoughtful.”* *“Susan is thoughtful and detail-oriented, working on a lot of complex matters. She’s also a great litigation strategist.”* *“Susan is a well-respected insurance lawyer.”* *“Susan is knowledgeable about insurance coverage issues and litigation, and also has an excellent reputation. She is very solid.”* James Koelzer is a well-regarded practitioner with experience of leading his clients through bad faith claims and business interruption litigation. He is particularly active in the entertainment, construction, energy and shipping sectors.

Strengths: *“James is the best attorney that I work with. He’s always on top of files and provides great value.”* *“James is a very bright insurance coverage lawyer.”* **Andrew Downs** is highly sought after by insurance carriers for his capabilities in a number of areas, including construction liability and bad faith

Insurance: Reinsurance**Leading Individuals****Band 1**Park Sam *Alston & Bird LLP **Potente Alexander E. *Clyde & Co US LLP*

* Indicates individual with profile.

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

claims. He regularly intervenes in matters arising from wildfire damage. **Strengths:** "Andy has provided decisive opinions and the time necessary to get the job done." "Andrew is a really good insurance coverage lawyer." "Andrew is a strong lawyer who writes exceptional motions." "Andrew has a great knowledge of insurance coverage." "He has a strong coverage background so I trust his opinions a lot. Andrew does a good job of analyzing the issues and identifying potential concerns, and is always savvy on issues which impact our wider business." Ralph Guirgis is regularly retained by global insurance companies for significant matters, including fraud-related cases. He also assists clients with property damage and professional liability claims. **Strengths:** "Ralph is a quality insurance coverage lawyer."

Dentons**What the team is known for**

The broad insurance practice at Dentons has excellent credentials in handling transactional matters as well as complex litigation regarding highly sensitive issues for major insurers. It regularly manages class action defense, particularly in relation to financial transactions. Notably, the team also offers in-depth advice to tech startups and other clients on regulatory matters.

Strengths

"They are among the best insurance coverage lawyers out there, whether in the courtroom or providing the important analysis we need."

"Dentons has a great understanding of the market, is cognizant of our approach as a business and balances different interests well."

"Dentons has a brilliant team of lawyers with a very high level of knowledge."

Work highlights

Dentons represented AIG Speciality Insurance Company in insurance coverage claims by Major League Baseball, all 30 of its Major League teams, and related media entities seeking to recover the \$1.6 billion program limit due to the cancellation of baseball games during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Notable practitioners

Ronald Kent is well regarded for his skill in handling litigation and appellate work on behalf of insurance carriers. He handles a broad range of coverage claims, including those arising from cyber security, COVID-19 liability suits, environmental contamination and sexual abuse allegations. **Strengths:** "He is very aware of the emerging market trends within insurance." "Ronald is a talented litigator and a great strategist. He is hard-working and thorough."

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP**What the team is known for**

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP are specialists in the health insurance arena, with further expertise in product liability and employee benefit schemes. As well as representing clients in major coverage

disputes and class actions, the group has valuable experience advising insurers on cases involving significant antitrust, RICO and ERISA elements. The firm's clients include leading liability and health insurers, health plans and large employers. The firm is also recognized for its considerable strength at appellate level.

Strengths

"Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher has fantastic litigators who get results in the courtroom through their fantastic legal writing and persuasive arguments."

"The team has a very broad scope of competence and expertise."

"Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher is a top-tier firm."

"The team has lots of expertise, especially in appellate work."

"Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher is committed to the area and has multiple brilliant lawyers."

Work highlights

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP represented Defendants Farmers Group, Inc., Truck Underwriters Association, Fire Underwriters Association in a putative class action alleging excessive management fees, claiming breach of fiduciary duty.

Notable practitioners

Richard Doren offers considerable expertise in insurance disputes in the healthcare and employment arenas. He is proficient in the handling of bad faith cases and complex coverage disputes, among other matters. **Strengths:** "He is a great adviser in terms of legal counsel, but is also a trial lawyer. When he is in the courtroom we are putting our best foot forward." **Deborah Stein** regularly defends coverage disputes on behalf of insurance carriers. She is adept at managing class action claims and False Claims Act investigations. **Strengths:** "Deborah has been extremely reliable; she is among the best for insurance coverage work." "Deborah certainly knows her stuff." "Deborah is a well-respected practitioner."

Band 2**Atheria Law PC****What the team is known for**

Atheria Law PC is noted for its expert handling of coverage disputes on behalf of the insurer in professional liability, media and cyber and privacy cases. Also recognized for its expertise in technology claims. Fields advocates experienced in litigation, mediation and arbitration settings.

Strengths

"Atheria Law is incredibly adept with respect to the handling of complex matters. There has yet to be an instance where its knowledge base and expertise is not tailored to handle these matters."

"Atheria has an excellent group with a deep bench of experienced attorneys."

"Atheria Law understands the nuances of insurance coverage matters and also the business implications of insurer decisions. They are also thoughtful and collaborative."

"Atheria understands how insurance carriers work and brings its knowledge and experience to all work."

Notable practitioners

William Casey is a professional liability insurance specialist, acting for both insurers and reinsurers

in coverage disputes. He frequently acts for the insurers of architecture and engineering companies regarding construction matters and coverage disputes. **Strengths:** "William is a solid lawyer who knows the insurance industry and its nuances very well." "William is a very bright attorney." **Joan D'Ambrosio** is particularly experienced in media and technology matters and represents insurers in data security and privacy breaches. **Strengths:** "Joan not only provides unparalleled coverage advice but she threads this with an appreciation of market dynamics, relationships and optics." "Joan is a steady hand in often high-stakes and urgent matters. She is the person you want on your side, knowing she has commercial awareness and the legal acumen to keep your best interests preserved." "Joan is always pleasant to work with, even when the coverage issues are complex." "I see Joan as an extraordinary specialist and speaker. She is technically excellent, engaging and makes a wonderful impression." "Joan is hugely experienced, level-headed and delivers practical advice promptly. She is also responsive, always available to attend calls and updates the market on legal developments."

Julie Choi Hawkinson focuses her practice on representing insurers in media, technology and intellectual property matters. She frequently defends clients from class action suits and has experience handling coverage claims concerning cyber and privacy concerns. **Strengths:** "Julie consistently demonstrates impressive sophistication and insight, and communicates complex issues with clarity. Her client-focused approach and expertise make her invaluable." "Julie is a very well-respected insurance attorney." **Eric Moon** excels in representing insurers in coverage claims arising from complex underlying issues. He is a founding partner at Atheria Law. **Strengths:** "Eric is a strategic thinker focused on getting claims to resolution as quickly as possible. He has a huge wealth of experience and understands the market and all the latest trends extremely well." "I have found Eric really impressive. He has a real command of the area of law and is four steps ahead when litigating a case." "Eric is a high-quality lawyer." **Jamison Narbaitz** is regularly retained by large insurance companies for counsel related to varied and significant insurance coverage litigation. **Strengths:** "Jamie's service is exceptional and his advice is sophisticated, always clear and with an eye towards resolution. He builds rapport in what are often delicate situations." "Jamison is astute, smart and experienced. He is great with clients." "Working with Jamie is always a delight. He is quick to respond, thoughtful and concise. He has a thorough knowledge and provides insight into coverage positions taken industry-wide."

Duane Morris LLP**What the team is known for**

Duane Morris LLP has a well-regarded practice with a deep bench and a wide range of expertise that allows it to advise on almost all aspects of insurance law. In particular, it handles everything from company formations to high-stakes litigation and is particularly adroit at handling large environmental claims and providing insight into the workings of the London and European insurance markets. Frequently sought out by an enviable client roster, the team also offers specialist expertise in the manage-

ment of run-off exposures.

Strengths

"Duane Morris is our go-to firm on all aspects of legal coverage issues."

"Duane Morris is an excellent insurance firm."

Work highlights

Duane Morris LLP represented The Continental Insurance Company with respect to coverage claims stemming from a large-scale gas well blow-out.

Notable practitioners

Philip Matthews boasts a wealth of expertise in litigating some of the most high-profile and complex long-tail insurance cases in the California market. **Max Stern** has a strong reputation for his insurance coverage and defense work on behalf of carriers. His expertise covers professional liability and workers' compensation, among other areas.

Strengths: *"Max is excellent." "Max is simply the best insurance coverage attorney I have worked with."* **Brian Kelly** excels in representing insurers in coverage claims arising from complex underlying issues. He has particular expertise in environment-related matters. **Strengths:** *"Brian Kelly is a fabulous attorney." "Brian is a respected coverage attorney."*

Horvitz & Levy LLP

What the team is known for

The respected team at Horvitz & Levy LLP is frequently engaged by insurers to handle civil appellate litigation. It acts on a range of matters, including bad faith disputes, first-party coverage and excess and umbrella coverage. The team has additional expertise in representing insurance trade associations and advises insurers on trial strategy, preparation of materials and settlement negotiation.

Strengths

"Horvitz & Levy is thorough, proactive and decisive in its recommendations."

"Horvitz & Levy provides excellent legal advice on appellate matters."

"Horvitz & Levy provides incredibly insightful and thorough advice."

"Horvitz & Levy has a premier appellate practice and is particularly strong with respect to insurance issues."

"Horvitz & Levy has outstanding overall knowledge and several attorneys to provide service."

Work highlights

Horvitz & Levy represented Farmers Insurance Exchange as lead counsel on an insurance coverage appeal before the California Supreme Court, which raised questions regarding coverage for interior rain damage that occurs during roof repairs.

Notable practitioners

Mitchell Tilner is a recognized name in the market for his unrivaled appellate experience in insurance cases. His work includes matters related to major data privacy, business interruption and personal injury claims. **Strengths:** *"I appreciate Mitchell's professionalism, legal acumen and collaboration." "Mitch provides us with solid and reasonable advice in complex matters." "Mitch is a trusted partner we rely on because of his expertise, knowledge, professionalism and talent." "Mitchell is approachable, responsive and helpful." "He is considered one of the top appellate lawyers in California for the insurance industry."* **Emily Cuatto** is commended for her

ability to handle high-value and complex insurance matters at the appellate level on behalf of a wide range of insurers. **Strengths:** *"Emily's legal analysis is excellent and her writing is also top-notch. She is knowledgeable in California case law. She's the whole package." "I'd highly recommend Emily. She is great to work with and knows the ins and outs of appellate work." "Emily handles significant appeals and is a pleasure to work with." "Emily is an incredibly knowledgeable appellate lawyer."*

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

What the team is known for

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP is a quality California practice with core expertise in auto insurance claims, excess policies and bad faith litigation. Its strong track record in trial work sees the practice regularly engaged by major domestic insurers to defend them in substantial class actions, as well as in appellate proceedings. The team routinely represents clients in both the state and federal courts across California.

Strengths

"They are creative, responsive and professional. Their writing and critical thinking skills are exceptional, and they have a think-outside-the-box mentality."

"I turn to Sheppard Mullin for the most significant and complex legal matters. The firm has a deep bench of legal talent who provide outstanding strategic advice."

"They are all amazing attorneys in this team. They are super-knowledgeable and available."

"I can attest they have a solid knowledge of industry practices and litigation issues. It's a pleasure to work with a firm so proactive in its defense work."

"Their expertise allows for integrated, efficient and well-coordinated representation across jurisdictions."

Work highlights

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP obtained summary judgment in favor of Continental Casualty Company in a bad faith litigation.

Notable practitioners

Peter Klee stands out in the market for his expert handling of coverage disputes. He demonstrates strength in claims concerning bad faith and has experience handling both individual and class actions. **Strengths:** *"Peter is a superior attorney with a deep understanding of, and insight into, the challenges we face. He is our go-to attorney when a matter calls for extraordinary legal skills and industry acumen." "Peter is adept at handling complicated matters, with very detailed analysis and an encyclopedic knowledge of case law. He is aware of what's going on in the industry and applies that to his advice." "Peter is aware of our business and industry such that he gives a 360-degree view on the best way to go. He always has our best interests at heart and knows our business inside-out." "Peter is a top-notch insurance attorney who goes above and beyond." "Peter is the best attorney I've ever worked with in the industry."* **Theona Zhordania** is commended for her ability to handle high-value and complex insurance disputes. She demonstrates particular expertise defending insurers from bad faith and negligence claims. **Strengths:** *"Theona is an extremely effective litigator who understands our*

business needs and provides exceptional value to our company. She is well respected and an incredibly talented writer and researcher." "Theona is thorough and gets through material very efficiently and comes up with effective strategies." "I respect Theona's legal expertise and litigation experience. When she handles a case, she's all in and works diligently for the client." "Theona is a brilliant negotiator who comes up with novel arguments." "Theona is practical, solution-driven, and has an incredible work ethic. She is also an outstanding trial attorney."

Band 3

Nicolaides Fink Thorpe Michaelides Sullivan LLP

What the team is known for

Nicolaides Fink Thorpe Michaelides Sullivan LLP is active across a range of high-profile insurance disputes, including long-tail asbestos and environmental claims and prominent sports injury-related litigation. The team works with domestic and international insurers and reinsurers as well as underwriters and has experience advising London market clients.

Strengths

"The team is incredibly responsive at all times, which is hugely important to our business."

"They are very strong in analysis and pretrial work, and also at trial in high-value claims. They are also really responsive and provide great customer service."

"They are always thinking about the pragmatic implications for the company and thoroughly strategize at all times. The team is timely, thorough and easy to work with."

"The firm has deep knowledge of the insurance industry and businesses. It is responsive, has a broad bench and provides high-level legal advice on complex issues."

Work highlights

Nicolaides Fink Thorpe Michaelides Sullivan LLP represented Markel in an insurance dispute stemming from numerous underlying suits against a bankrupt insured, Real Water.

Notable practitioners

Jeffrey Labovitch of Nicolaides Fink Thorpe Michaelides Sullivan LLP is recognized for his adept handling of complex insurance coverage matters for his clients, ranging from commercial general liability and professional liability to employment practices liability. **Strengths:** *"Jeff is enthusiastic about and dedicated to his practice. He is objective and nuanced with respect to his advice and zealous with respect to his advocacy."*

O'Melveny & Myers LLP

What the team is known for

The skilled insurance defense team at O'Melveny & Myers LLP maintains a strong focus on environmental issues and bodily injury claims such as long-tail asbestos liability. The team represents major insurers in high-stakes litigation, as well as guiding them through complex arbitration proceedings. The firm also has a significant transactional and regulatory practice nationwide and is skilled in handling complex cyber-coverage disputes and health insurance matters.

Strengths

"O'Melveny & Myers is trusted to handle our most complex matters. It is a team of professionals who truly understand the insurance industry, delivering a personalized service."

"We have a great relationship with the firm. We can call on them any time and get an immediate response."

"O'Melveny & Myers has strong competency, thoroughness and responsiveness. The team understands client needs."

"O'Melveny & Myers' depth of litigation experience in high-stakes insurance disputes makes the firm uniquely situated to handle high-exposure, complex cases in jurisdictions across the country."

"O'Melveny & Myers has a strong depth of talent in the firm. It is able to take an issue through any legal life cycle."

Work highlights

O'Melveny & Myers LLP successfully represented TIG Insurance Company in the Los Angeles superior court in a coverage dispute with Montrose Chemicals.

Notable practitioners

Richard Goetz possesses over three decades of experience in handling litigation for insurers with regard to environmental, business interruption and product liability claims. **Strengths:** "Richard is a great high-stakes litigator." "Rich exemplifies leadership and unwavering commitment to client service. His approach is collaborative and his immense legal acumen and experience make him an indispensable part of our business." "Richard is up to date with case law and litigation trends, and keeps up with the industry incredibly well. He gives advice which is straightforward, well reasoned and thought out." **Zoheb Noorani** is noted for his ability to handle high-value and complex insurance disputes, often demonstrating strong expertise in dealing with novel and complex underlying issues.

Strengths: "Zoheb is responsive, intelligent, and always willing to assist." "Zoheb is incredibly well prepared, extremely competent, and a great thinker and writer. He is the full package of what an insurance company would want handling their important cases." "Zoheb is a really solid, hard-working attorney." "Zoheb is well versed in the issues and provides timely responses to inquiries and written correspondence." "Zoheb is incredibly smart and hard-working. He does a terrific job."

Robins Kaplan LLP**What the team is known for**

Robins Kaplan LLP demonstrates a strong practice defending insurers from high-stakes coverage claims and bad faith matters, often in relation to environmental damage, including natural disasters. The team also has significant experience acting for clients against insured members of the hospitality and entertainment industries seeking coverage for losses arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Strengths

"Robins Kaplan provides thorough, efficient responses, as well as strong clarity of thought and strategy."

"They have a lot of experience in complex situations. It's a diverse and knowledgeable team which provides swift responses."

"Robins Kaplan is consistently responsive to all

requests, and provides consistent and sound advice."

"We use Robins Kaplan in complex and sophisticated matters. The team provides honest communication as well as meticulous detail and advice."

"Robins Kaplan has some of the best lawyers I've worked with. I find them to be extremely helpful. Their communication is always very good, and they have excellent commercial awareness."

Work highlights

Robins Kaplan LLP are representing Liberty Mutual and Berkshire Hathaway in coverage litigation worth \$400 million, related to fire damage to a high-rise residential complex.

Notable practitioners

Amy Churan represents insurers in a range of complex coverage disputes, with particular expertise in property coverage claims. **Strengths:** "Amy is thorough, detail-oriented and uber-organized, so her advice is detailed and succinct." "Amy is a fantastic lawyer who is wonderful to work with and very adept at handling complex matters." "Amy is prompt and clear in her style of communication and explains highly technical things in plain English. She also understands our business well." "Amy is an excellent lawyer who is extremely capable in handling very complex losses and providing sound opinions to the insurance market. She also develops excellent relationships with her clients." "We trust that the work she produces is of the highest quality."

TittmannWeix**What the team is known for**

TittmannWeix operates a respected insurer-side practice noted for its ability to handle complex coverage litigation. The firm has particular experience in representing major insurers in disputes arising from malpractice, serious injury and property damage claims. The team also has significant experience in technology claims, including generative AI, data privacy and intellectual property.

Strengths

"TittmannWeix provides sound legal arguments backed by solid research and experience at all levels. The team always responds promptly but not without fully considering the question posed."

"TittmannWeix provides clear advice on complex issues in a timely manner. Its lawyers are innovative, strategic and focused on resolution. I am impressed by their approach to matters of high complexity. They are excellent on all levels."

"The firm makes an effort to truly understand the overall business as well as the specifics of each matter. They are smart, detailed and responsive."

Work highlights

TittmannWeix represented Brit, Riverstone and Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's, London in a dispute with Zoom over the coverage allocation of an \$85 million settlement of privacy class actions against the company.

Notable practitioners

Louisa Weix has a great deal of experience representing insurers, particularly in matters concerning intellectual property and data privacy. **Strengths:** "Louisa is a brilliant lawyer with a great understanding of the nuances of insurance." "Louisa has extensive knowledge and imparts it very well, both verbally and in writing. She has a great deal of experience and it shows." "Louisa is extremely

knowledgeable and thorough." "Louisa stands out for the clarity of her strategic judgment. She doesn't just analyze policy language, she maps it to the commercial realities and provides succinct, decisive advice." Raymond Tittmann is a founder and the managing partner of TittmannWeix. He comes recommended for his expertise in complex insurance litigation, particularly in relation to property damage matters and accidents resulting in death or serious injury. **Strengths:** "Raymond understands clients' needs and is brave in decision-making." "Ray is a highly skilled coverage lawyer with strong analytical skills." "Ray is a pleasure to work with. He has extensive contacts in the industry and a wealth of knowledge." "Ray is distinguished by his responsiveness and commercial calm. He's able to triage facts, cut through speculation, and deliver a practical position." "Raymond is very well respected in the field and plugged in to industry trends. He is also good at communicating with internal legal clients and our business clients." **Matthew Bricker** is recognized for his experience assisting insurers with coverage claims arising from novel and complex underlying issues. He draws on his particular expertise as chair of the firm's privacy and wrongful collection insurance practice. **Strengths:** "Matthew is thorough and examines everything very closely. He is professional, reliable and responsive." "He is without doubt my go-to for sensitive and sophisticated issues." "Matthew is brilliant at communicating. He is also proactive on files, really knows the law and keeps on top of updates very well." "He is extremely knowledgeable." "Matthew is detail-oriented and responsive." **Christina Roberto** comes highly recommended for her ability to handle complex insurance coverage disputes, including those arising from property damage and catastrophic injury claims. **Strengths:** "Christina is thoughtful and great with client relationships." "Christina Roberto is a fantastic lawyer."

Troutman Pepper Locke LLP**What the team is known for**

The robust insurance practice at Troutman Pepper Locke is known for handling substantial coverage disputes in the areas of professional liability, environmental contamination, product liability and D&O. The firm also has a growing focus on data breaches and cyber insurance and regularly advises major insurers on complex litigation involving excess policies, policy exclusions and multiple towers of insurance. The team acts for clients at both trial and appellate level.

Strengths

"Troutman Pepper Locke handles a considerable amount of complex insurance coverage litigation work."

"Troutman Pepper Locke provides excellent handling of complex matters, with a strong team of attorneys. It's a broad and deep team that is very responsive."

"They are smart, efficient and thorough lawyers. They cover all the bases; they're responsive and anticipate deadlines."

"Troutman Pepper Locke has extensive industry experience and contacts, and knows precisely how my company prefers to approach matters."

Work highlights

Troutman Pepper Locke LLP advised Indian Harbor

Insurance Company on coverage concerning underlying litigation brought against Ecobat in relation to a battery recycling plant in Los Angeles.

Notable practitioners

Kevin Kieffer is an active litigator with broad experience across the full gamut of coverage matters. He regularly represents insurance carriers with regard to claims under cyber, professional and general liability policies. **Strengths:** “Kevin is one of the smartest lawyers that I work with.” “Kevin cuts through matters incredibly quickly, cutting through uncertain facts and risky wording, getting to what is important.” Terrence McInnis is relied upon by insurance industry clients for representation in high-stakes claims, including those stemming from environmental and pollution damage, sexual abuse accusations and contractual disputes. **Strengths:** “Terrence is responsive, polite and highly practical.” “He is tough, knowledgeable and effective.” “He does an excellent job. He has a very professional approach and manner. His depth of analysis is exemplary. The whole package.” “Terrence is a very good lawyer who is strong in court, really good on the paperwork, and also a strategic thinker.” “Terrence provides exceptional service coupled with a high level of sophistication in handling complex coverage matters.” **Jennifer Mathis** is a highly regarded attorney, specializing in complex insurance coverage disputes on behalf of insurance carrier clients. She has experience handling directors and officers and errors and omissions claims, among others. **Strengths:** “Jennifer is knowledgeable in the coverage space nationally, and able to handle complex matters.” “Jennifer is wonderful – she has a strong presence and provides effective advocacy for clients.” “Jennifer is well prepared, understands all the issues, and provides very good guidance.” “Jennifer’s industry experience, judgment, legal talent and intense focus on individualizing her service are the reasons we hire her and why she can take our business wherever she goes.”

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

What the team is known for

Willkie Farr & Gallagher’s LLP insurance group in San Francisco offers expertise in a broad range of regulatory and transactional mandates. Frequently called upon to advise insurers on complex investigations and compliance matters, it also handles insurance product development and strategy. Notably, the team also advises clients operating within the insurtech space.

Strengths

“They are trusted legal advisers who are very knowledgeable about insurance matters in California.” “Willkie Farr & Gallagher provides balanced, thoughtful and practical advice, drawing on a wealth of knowledge and experience. The team is able to understand and incorporate operational considerations when providing counsel.”

“They have a great sense of what our overall business needs are and the direction we’re going.”

Work highlights

Willkie Farr & Gallagher represented SageSure in its acquisition of GeoVera Advantage Insurance Services, GeoVera Insurance Company, GeoVera Specialty Insurance Company, and Coastal Select Insurance Company.

Notable practitioners

Kara Baysinger maintains a highly respected insurance regulatory practice and cochairs the firm’s insurance regulatory and insurtech groups. She regularly counsels insurers during investigations and enforcement proceedings as well as on key transactions. **Strengths:** “Kara is extremely knowledgeable and well versed in insurance law.” “Kara is an incredible lawyer who is extremely knowledgeable in her subject area, always following along with legal developments.” “She has a very strong reputation in the regulatory field.” “Kara is smart and connected with regulatory agencies.” “Kara is an exceptional attorney. She is top-notch in every sense.” **Stephanie Duchene** advises insurers on a variety of regulatory matters. She frequently assists clients with product strategy, licensing, design and various other regulatory concerns. **Strengths:** “Stephanie has a well-rounded understanding of our operation and tailors her counsel to our specific needs.” “Stephanie is excellent on any kind of regulatory matter within insurance. She knows the state laws very well and has a good sense of what it takes to satisfy regulatory requests.” “Stephanie has a strong reputation in the industry.” **Laura Geist** counsels insurers on a range of regulatory matters, with particular expertise in life insurance and litigating class action suits. **Strengths:** “Laura has a very good reputation.” “I have always respected Laura, she is a very good insurance lawyer.” “Laura is very knowledgeable and well respected on the regulatory side and the class action side.”

Band 4

Alston & Bird LLP

What the team is known for

Alston & Bird LLP is noted for its handling of high-stakes and complex litigation on behalf of insurers, showcasing significant experience defending clients in policyholder class action cases, including bet-the-company cases. The insurance team holds particular expertise representing clients from the life insurance sector. The law firm’s California presence operates out of offices in San Francisco, Silicon Valley and Los Angeles.

Strengths

“Alston & Bird speaks with fluency about the matters at hand, narrowing in on the complex legal issues, and speaking on them with detailed knowledge and understanding.”

“Alston & Bird always presents excellent work product.”

Work highlights

Alston & Bird represented Security Benefit Life Insurance Company in a large class action involving alleged violation of RICO statutes.

Notable practitioners

Kathy Huang is commended for her ability to handle high-value and complex insurance disputes, often demonstrating her expertise in dealing with novel and complex underlying issues. **Strengths:** “Kathy is wonderful. Her industry knowledge is exceptional; she is a true specialist on insurance litigation. She is also very personable and can translate dense insurance concepts to judges and juries.” **Sam Park** is frequently sought after to assist insurers, particularly those in the life insurance space, with complex

coverage claims and other disputes. He has additional capabilities handling reinsurance arbitrations.

Strengths: “Sam is responsive and personable.” “Sam is super-smart and on the ball, providing sound strategy and succinct, to-the-point reports.”

Robert Phillips has a significant insurance litigation practice, representing insurers in complex disputes and class actions in the state, federal and appellate courts. **Strengths:** “Robert provides practical legal advice and his approach is always focused on practical outcomes.” “I have never been disappointed with his knowledge, skill or professionalism.” “Robert is incredibly creative at finding solutions to complex coverage issues.”

Freeman Mathis & Gary, LLP

What the team is known for

Freeman Mathis & Gary LLP is known for its high-level insurance expertise and decades of experience handling disputes arising from a wide array of underlying issues. The firm has notable strengths assisting clients with complex insurance coverage litigation as well as extra-contractual disputes.

Strengths

“Freeman Mathis & Gary can provide expertise across multiple jurisdictions.”

Work highlights

Freeman Mathis & Gary successfully represented RSUI before the California Court of Appeal with respect to a D&O insurance coverage dispute.

Notable practitioners

Lisa Lampkin of Freeman Mathis & Gary LLP acts as coverage counsel for insurers, with experience litigating claims arising from a wide array of underlying issues, many involving novel aspects for her clients. She has particular experience in claims involving sports and intellectual property. **Strengths:** “Lisa understands the sector of our business very well. She is also timely and diligent. She’s one of the most experienced coverage attorneys I’ve worked with.”

Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP

What the team is known for

Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP offers sound advice to the insurance industry in a broad range of coverage areas. Its particular specialties include life, health and first-party property insurance, with additional knowledge of aviation, marine and product liability. Demonstrates strong capabilities in bad faith litigation and class action defense, and also maintains a significant appellate practice. A key area of expertise is the firm’s insurance fraud practice, ably representing both domestic and foreign insurers.

Strengths

“I trust Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani to appropriately handle complex matters.”

“Complex cases fit well with their skill set.”

Work highlights

Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani represented State Farm Fire & Casualty in a declaratory relief action against an insured real estate management firm.

Notable practitioners

David Capell is frequently called upon to represent his clients in coverage disputes and bad faith litigation. He often works with health insurers, as part of a broader client base. **Strengths:** “David is aware of industry trends and what’s happening in the market

with respect to new cases and how courts are ruling on issues. He is also extremely knowledgeable, responsive, and has great attention to detail." "David is a very well-respected insurance lawyer."

Matthew Foy represents clients in a range of insurance disputes, including bad faith litigation and coverage claims. He also advises clients on liability and first-party property policies. **Strengths:** "Matthew has a very sharp legal mind." "Matthew has a reputation as a very solid attorney."

Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP

What the team is known for

Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP is a highly capable firm with a reputation for representing both domestic and foreign insurers across the USA. Its California team has key expertise in regulatory insurance law and also offers a robust litigation practice, representing insurers in coverage disputes and class actions on a regular basis. The firm also offers notable strength in construction defects, professional liability and first-party property insurance matters, among other areas.

Strengths

"Hinshaw & Culbertson is a big firm with lots of different subject matter expertise. It can bring in people when matters are more sprawling."

"It's a professional and knowledge team that provides an amazing service."

"Hinshaw & Culbertson has excelled in responsiveness."

"Hinshaw & Culbertson demonstrated its ability to handle complex matters on many occasions."

Work highlights

Hinshaw & Culbertson represented Mercury Insurance Company and California Automobile Insurance Company, successfully defeating class certification in a putative bad faith matter relating to handling of property claims.

Notable practitioners

Spencer Kook is noted for his handling of matters concerning insurance regulation and compliance. He also advises insurance carriers on litigation such as coverage disputes and regularly defends them in class action lawsuits. **Strengths:** "Spencer is an experienced adviser and trusted counselor on California regulatory matters." "Spencer has a real breadth of knowledge. He is thorough, confident and he will get something done when I hand it to him." "Spencer knows our business really well, and understands our risk tolerance and the implications of strategies." "Spencer is very knowledgeable and well connected in the insurance space." "Spencer has a great grasp of what impacts my business and quickly translates industry updates." Robert Romero is an established trial lawyer who frequently defends clients against bad faith and liability claims. Robert is the partner-in-charge of Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP's San Francisco office. **Strengths:** "Robert is an excellent trial lawyer, a force in the courtroom." "Robert is a skilled trial lawyer and has been invaluable for several litigations involving high-exposure, complex matters. He has excelled in bringing matters to a favorable result." "Rob is a trusted partner and recognized talent. He is a resource we rely on because of his expertise, knowledge, professionalism and talent." "Rob is a terrific trial lawyer with great instincts, judgment and presentation. He has delivered great results." "Robert is a professional,

excellent litigator."

Michelman & Robinson LLP

What the team is known for

Michelman & Robinson LLP is noted for its expertise in handling matters for major insurance carriers, brokers, agents and reinsurance companies. It has particular strengths in regulatory matters, including examinations by and engagement with the California Department of Insurance.

Strengths

"Michelman & Robinson is responsive and proactive in providing potential solutions."

"They are subject matter experts who are efficient in giving advice."

"Michelman & Robinson has an impeccable knowledge of the California insurance market. I always get an answer when I need one."

"The team provides quick and effective responses, and personable communication. They have a great grasp on our industry and our company specifically."

"Michelman & Robinson is extremely knowledgeable and well connected."

Work highlights

Michelman & Robinson LLP advised the Pacific Association of Domestic Insurers, filing amicus brief and request for judicial notice in the appeal of a dispute between the California Department of Insurance and the state's FAIR Plan.

Notable practitioners

Elizabeth Tosaris has a broad practice that sees her advise on a range of regulatory matters, including compliance advice, market conduct investigations and enforcement. She is a partner in Michelman & Robinson's San Francisco office. **Strengths:** "Elizabeth is knowledgeable as to the subject matter, and service-oriented. She treats our needs and concerns as important and works with us to achieve a good outcome." "Elizabeth is a very sharp regulatory lawyer." "Elizabeth breaks things down so they're easy to understand." "Elizabeth is communicative and provides detailed feedback." "Elizabeth clearly cares about her clients and is very knowledgeable about the subject matter. She also collaborates well to provide quality client service."

Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP

What the team is known for

Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP is noted for its representation of insurance companies in high-stakes and complex coverage litigation.

Work highlights

Practice group co-leaders Lawrence Tabb and Cheryl Orr are key contacts at the firm.

Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP

What the team is known for

The insurance department at Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP is well known for its comprehensive insurance coverage practice, frequently handling claims involving novel underlying issues. The firm has represented insurers in matters arising from social media and cryptocurrency-related litigation and class actions, as well as False Claims Act and personal injury cases.

Strengths

"Wilson Elser has deep understanding of our company and keeps on the pulse more broadly in the

insurance industry."

"Wilson Elser is very well connected in the industry. The team is very experienced, knows the players in the market and has strong communication skills."

"They are very good at servicing clients."

"Because the firm works with other insurers, they have an excellent understanding of how to best assist us and our insureds. Their sense and understanding of the market is broad."

Notable practitioners

David Simantob represents clients in a range of insurance disputes, including bad faith litigation and coverage claims. **Strengths:** "David is practical and knows insurance law backwards and forwards. He really has the trust of his clients." "I trust David's opinion always. He is a go-to attorney for insurance coverage claims."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Dan Brown is a partner at Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP noted for his widespread expertise assisting insurance sector clients with a host of regulatory and corporate issues. **Strengths:** "Dan is extremely knowledgeable on the regulatory side. He's a very respected attorney." "Dan is excellent to work with." "Dan handles all of the nuances in terms of regulations. He gets straight to the point, does what is necessary and handles all matters in a concise way." "Dan is a subject matter expert when it comes to insurance regulatory matters and some of the more complex lines of business."

David Godwin of Squire Patton Boggs handles a wide range of insurance coverage matters. He is able to draw on his engineering background when representing manufacturers in complex mass tort litigation. **Strengths:** "David is easy to work with and accommodates valuable discussions about complex insurance coverage issues." "I think of David very highly; he has extensive knowledge." "David is a superb coverage attorney who is creative and easy to work with." "David is an innovative policyholder lawyer who comes up with interesting strategies." "I often see David involved in high-profile and complex matters."

Mark Plevin of Plevin & Turner LLP attracts plaudits for his experience in long-tail litigation. He is adept at representing both national and international insurers in complex bankruptcy cases and major coverage disputes. **Strengths:** "Everyone knows and respects Mark; he is a fantastic attorney."

Jodi Swick of McDowell Hetherington offers a full breadth of experience across insurance industry matters, including coverage and bad faith litigation, as well as corporate and regulatory matters. **Strengths:** "Jodi is an excellent resource for us." "Jodi is very willing to jump in on complex issues and think up creative approaches to resolve a matter." "Jodi has very good communication skills, collaborates well and understands the litigation challenges. She is also ultra-efficient." "Jodi has demonstrated exceptional expertise, professionalism and sound judgment in navigating our matters. She is highly responsive, reliable and wonderful to work with."

Vanessa Wells advises insurers with respect to state regulation of the industry, in addition to counseling on disputes. She is a partner in Hogan Lovells' Silicon Valley office. **Strengths:** "Vanessa is

a fantastic regulatory lawyer.” “Vanessa is extremely prominent in the area.” “Vanessa has a great reputation.” “She has had a tremendous amount of success in the regulatory space.” “Vanessa is a good technical litigator. She is a strong practitioner in the space.”

Insurance Policyholder

Insurance: Policyholder
Leading Firms
Band 1
Covington & Burling LLP
Band 2
Blank Rome LLP
Farella Braun + Martel LLP
Reed Smith LLP
Band 3
Jones Day
Latham & Watkins LLP
McGuireWoods LLP
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Band 4
Andrade Gonzalez LLP
Barnes & Thornburg LLP
Pillsbury
Shernoff Bidart Echeverria LLP
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Covington & Burling LLP

What the team is known for

Covington & Burling stands as a powerhouse in the area of policyholder representation, with many of its practitioners being considered among the nation's finest. Consistently appointed by corporate giants around the world on their most high-stakes litigation, the team handles major matters such as environmental disasters, asbestos claims and mass torts. The firm is also notable for its experience in handling D&O disputes and cyber liability claims.

Strengths

“They are zealous advocates who learn about the needs of the client and incorporate them into litigation strategy. The firm has a deep bench of experienced, knowledgeable and responsive attorneys.” “They are the gold standard in the insurance client business. All of the insurance companies fear and respect them. They are also extremely good communicators with the non-legal members of the team.”

“Covington & Burling is the pre-eminent insurance group for policyholders. They know our company, our policies, and the insurance market.”

“The team is extremely knowledgeable in insurance law and constructively presents arguments to achieve desired results; always responsive and willing to meet quick turnaround on deliverables.”

“Covington & Burling attorneys are extremely smart and aware of the industry trends that frame the legal considerations. They are practical and able to pro-

Insurance: Policyholder
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Cohen Nancy Sher Lathrop GPM (ORL) ◇
Goodwin David B Covington & Burling LLP
Lerman Cary Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP (ORL) ◇
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Brown Donald W Covington & Burling LLP
Calkins Mary Craig Blank Rome LLP
Childress Tyrone R Jones Day
Cox David Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Kornfeld Linda D Blank Rome LLP
Myers Martin H Covington & Burling LLP
Pasich Kirk McGuireWoods LLP
Band 2
Gardiner Drew Latham & Watkins LLP *
Gerking Tyler C Farella Braun + Martel LLP
Halbreich David M Reed Smith LLP
Raskin Jeffrey S Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Saunders Haskett Christine Covington & Burling LLP
Siemens René L Covington & Burling LLP
Villanueva Erica Farella Braun + Martel LLP
Wilson John Latham & Watkins LLP *
Band 3
Briggs Amy B Farella Braun + Martel LLP
Crosner Shaun H. McGuireWoods LLP
Finch Amber Reed Smith LLP
Hoff Varner Gretchen Covington & Burling LLP
LeQuang Khai Omick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP (ORL) ◇
Roje Alexandra Reed Smith LLP
Sheen Raymond Farella Braun + Martel LLP
Teshima Darren Covington & Burling LLP
Thomas David Blank Rome LLP
Wallan Robert L Pillsbury
Band 4
Andrade Sean Andrade Gonzalez LLP
Asadourian Lilit Barnes & Thornburg LLP
Bidart Michael J Shernoff Bidart Echeverria LLP
Gupta Rani Covington & Burling LLP
Kemp Colin T. Pillsbury
Kowalski Tara Jones Day
Larson Jan Jenner & Block LLP (ORL) ◇
Masters Jeffrey D Newmeyer & Dillon (ORL) ◇
McDonald Brian D. Jones Day
Meyer Keith Reed Smith LLP
Miguel Michael John McKool Smith (ORL) ◇
Up-and-coming individuals
Eagle Shanti Farella Braun + Martel LLP
Jordan Ashley Theodora Oringher PC (ORL) ◇

vide highly relevant legal guidance.”

Work highlights

Covington & Burling represented 3M and Aearo

Technologies in disputes with their liability insurers concerning coverage for litigation and settlement costs in connection with more than 250,000 individual product liability claims related to Combat Arms earplugs.

Notable practitioners

David Goodwin is a leading insurance coverage attorney who maintains a premier policyholder-side practice. He is regularly instructed by household-name clients on high-stakes disputes.

Strengths: “David is an incredibly smart lawyer and one of the deans of the policyholder Bar.”

“David is very well respected.” “David is great to work with. He is responsive, helpful, and knows his area of law.” Donald Brown is highly regarded for his insurance coverage practice and regularly acts for leading corporate clients. He has experience of handling a wide range of high-value and complex insurance coverage disputes, including those relating to environmental and product liability claims. **Strengths:** “Donald is a gold standard lawyer in the California insurance space.” “Don is a policyholder-side insurance recovery lawyer at the highest level; he represents the very definition of a trusted adviser.” Martin Myers is relied upon by prominent policyholder clients for representation in coverage disputes on an international scale. He is particularly experienced in working with high-profile clients from the media and technology industries.

Strengths: “Martin is top-notch coverage counsel.”

Christine Saunders Haskett is noted for her expert handling of insurance coverage disputes, and is regularly called upon to represent policyholders in complex litigation and arbitrations. She has experience of acting in disputes concerning business interruption, property damage and bankruptcy, among other matters. **Strengths:** “Christine is a very sophisticated policyholder side advocate.” “Christine is an excellent lawyer.” “I respect Christine a lot, she’s very knowledgeable.” “Christine is great to work with, very responsive, and she knows her area of law.” René Siemens has experience in all manner of coverage disputes, including mass torts and environmental claims. His clients hail from a range of industry sectors, including education, sports and manufacturing. **Strengths:** “René is very bright and a strong communicator who solves complex problems.” “René has an excellent reputation which is well earned.” **Gretchen Hoff Varner** has experience in handling a wide range of insurance coverage disputes. She is a well-regarded trial attorney and proficiently leads policyholders through litigation arising from data breaches and D&O disputes, among other matters. **Strengths:** “Gretchen is killer. She is a great coverage attorney.”

"Gretchen is a complete pleasure to work with. She has an outstanding manner with clients." "Gretchen stands out for her excellent demeanor, professionalism and persuasiveness. She is a comforting presence in high-stakes litigation and is capable of working with all personalities well." "Gretchen is tactical and a forward thinker. She is also a solid writer and is poised on calls." **Darren Teshima** is noted for his adept handling of class action litigation and other complex insurance disputes. His broad expertise encompasses business interruption, liability claims, D&O coverage and cyber-related claims. **Strengths:** "Darren knows his stuff and is extremely pleasant to work with." "Darren is very knowledgeable and responsive." "Darren is a really smart, excellent and dedicated policyholder side advocate." "I can't imagine a better adviser on insurance-related legal matters." "Darren is an expert in the field. He has a great courtroom presence, is a highly strategic thinker, and is attuned to his clients' business realities." **Rani Gupta** is a highly regarded presence in the insurance industry, sought after for her policyholder-side expertise in complex coverage disputes. She has experience in handling product liability, general liability and business interruption-related claims, among others. **Strengths:** "Rani is an exceptional litigator. She litigates in a calm and confident manner, which serves her well." "Rani is very knowledgeable in representing insurance policyholders. She provides quick turnaround on complex issues." "Rani is an excellent coverage lawyer and is certainly one to watch." "Rani is brilliant, responsive and effective across all areas of insurance disputes, from high-level strategy to the day-to-day management of complex litigation." "Rani has been at the forefront of complex COVID business interruption disputes. She knows it all, and has had extraordinary success."

Band 2

Blank Rome LLP

What the team is known for

Blank Rome is experienced in representing policyholders in a broad array of coverage disputes, including issues related to bankruptcy, cybersecurity and political risk. The firm has additional expertise in issues concerning sexual abuse liability in the entertainment and sports industries, and serves a broad client base that includes financial institutions, universities, real estate developers, retailers and manufacturers.

Strengths

"Blank Rome attorneys are very knowledgeable and connected. They have helped us resolve some complex and complicated matters, and we always get our questions answered."

"Blank Rome lawyers know insurance law inside and out, as well as understanding the intricacies of how insurance companies work."

"The team are very well known and knowledgeable in the space. They know the law and have relationships which they leverage to achieve a desired result."

"It's a very skilled bunch at the very top of their game. The firm has a very good bench of dedicated people who write and speak really well. They are sensitive to where lawsuits fit in with a client's overall

objectives."

Work highlights

Blank Rome represented Goldman Sachs in pursuing coverage litigation in connection with delay losses it suffered after multiple water events slowed construction of the Austin Proper project.

Notable practitioners

Mary Craig Calkins is a market leader in D&O and other professional liability disputes, especially those pertaining to claims of sexual abuse and harassment. She frequently represents clients from the entertainment industry. **Strengths:** "Mary is fantastic; she is in the top tier of insurance coverage lawyers." "Mary has a wealth of knowledge on insurance law, plus good relationships with insurers. She is a trusted adviser on any and all insurance-related matters." "Mary is one of the very best in the space." Linda Kornfeld is co-chair of Blank Rome's insurance recovery practice and very experienced in complex coverage matters, including those in emerging areas such as cybersecurity. She also has expertise in high-value claims concerning business interruption and construction defect losses. She represents a range of eminent clients, including major figures from the sports and media sectors. **Strengths:** "Linda is incredibly smart and strategic. She understands complicated issues and navigates them well." "Linda is outstanding; she is completely dedicated to this practice area. She is a thought leader who understands the issues and goes over and above." "Linda is a fantastic attorney who is very up to date on the issues. She is also a brilliant strategist." "I respect her tremendously. She is a terrific lawyer with such a strong practice." **David Thomas** is recognised for the strength of his insurance practice, which sees him acting for a diverse range of clients on coverage disputes and bad-faith claims. His expertise includes business interruption and financial institutions insurance, among other policy types. **Strengths:** "David has great knowledge of insurance coverage law. His relationships in the space and demeanor are huge assets. He is calm, consistent and thorough."

Farella Braun + Martel LLP

What the team is known for

Farella Braun + Martel is deeply experienced in matters concerning policyholders, offering clients a range of non-contentious services including advice on policy interpretation. The team handles significant coverage litigation as well, particularly in the areas of D&O insurance, cyber liability, employment practices liability and construction-related claims. The firm is also noted for its class-action work and advises clients on policy wording negotiation and insurance policy purchasing.

Strengths

"The team provide solid strategic advice, retention of complex facts, and expert mediation skills. They also have an excellent understanding of our business."

"Farella Braun + Martel provides very able representation of our interests."

"Farella Braun + Martel have strong knowledge of the insurance market, providing cogent analysis regarding coverage matters. They have very good commercial awareness, I couldn't expect much more."

"The team are complete experts in all areas of insur-

ance law. They really know the landscape and give excellent, practical advice."

Work highlights

Farella Braun + Martel provided strategic and insurance coverage advice cybersecurity technology company CrowdStrike related to July 19, 2024 software update incident.

Notable practitioners

Tyler Gerking is a respected insurance attorney who regularly advises on D&O, data privacy disputes and insurance coverage. **Strengths:** "Tyler is highly skilled in insurance coverage and recovery matters. He is super responsive and an excellent partner for our business." "Tyler has a great reputation and is very active in the area." **Erica Villanueva** is the chair of Farella's insurance recovery practice group. She is widely respected in the California market and often works on complex insurance coverage disputes, frequently representing clients from the tech sector. She is recognised for her handling of D&O disputes and bad-faith claims. **Strengths:** "Erica is a complete expert in all areas of insurance law, and has strong experience with other firms. She really knows the landscape and gives excellent, practical advice." "Erica is a pleasure to work with. She is highly professional and an expert in her field. I would recommend her to anyone in need of her specialization." "Erica is amazing to work with on insurance matters. The depth of her technical coverage expertise and negotiation skills are invaluable." "Erica is a true expert who is good at reducing complex concepts to understandable explanations." "Erica is incredibly knowledgeable and experienced."

Amy Briggs is relied upon by a wide range of policyholders to handle their insurance claims and bad faith litigation. **Strengths:** "Amy knows what is a legal position and what is a business position, she understands the needs of our company. She is capable of taking complex, high-value matters and forming creative, winning strategies." "Amy is a well-respected attorney working on large complex cases." "Amy is practical and responsive, and I feel very confident in her advice. She is thorough, direct and succinct in written and oral communication." "I respect Amy a lot. She is bright, knowledgeable, and a strong advocate for her clients." **Raymond Sheen** focuses his practice on insurance recovery disputes. He regularly handles coverage claims concerning cyber liability, trademark infringement and business interruption losses. **Strengths:** "Ray is one of those lawyers you hang onto. He is a trusted adviser who really understands what a GC needs." "Raymond is responsive, attentive to detail; he knows everything about the matter and has facts at his fingertips." "Raymond's ability to understand the underlying industry is excellent, taking into account changes to the industry." "Raymond is responsive, commercially savvy, and aware of our business's specific needs." "Raymond is a smart and excellent attorney who really knows his stuff."

Shanti Eagle is widely sought after by policyholders to advise on insurance coverage and handle claims under a wide variety of policies. She has handled cases involving builder's risk and cyber and general liability, among other issues. **Strengths:** "Shanti is our go-to coverage counsel." "Shanti has deep subject matter expertise. She is practical, thoughtful and proactive." "Shanti demonstrated her ability to grasp the commercial detail on a complex matter. Her recall

of details was very high, and she was effective and professional in discussions." "I can't say enough great things about Shanti. Her advice was spot-on at every turn. She is super responsive and easy to work with."

Reed Smith LLP

What the team is known for

Reed Smith has a solid reputation in the financial services sector, particularly with regard to highly complex mortgage-based insurance disputes. The firm also assists clients with non-contentious coverage as well as corporate advice, and has additional expertise in asbestos, product liability, environmental damage and business interruption claims. The team works with household-name clients from a range of sectors, including technology, hospitality and healthcare.

Strengths

"Reed Smith takes a creative but cautious approach with insurance carriers. It balances the needs of the business with the insurance objectives nicely."

"We have only presented Reed Smith with complex, sophisticated matters and they continue to deliver. The team constantly staff subject matter experts on each relevant topic or issue we bring to them."

"Reed Smith is very good on the technical legal side of things and consistently delivers a great, well-tailored work product. It also understands the insurance environment from a business standpoint."

"The insurance lawyers at Reed Smith know the field and are always available to take my call or answer my questions."

"They provided timely and thorough advice throughout the matter."

Notable practitioners

David Halbreich is widely recognised for his considerable expertise in representing policyholders in complex coverage disputes, often regarding fire and environmental damage, as well as business interruption claims. He is particularly noted for assisting clients in the financial services space.

Strengths: "David is an excellent decision-maker and litigator." "David is absolutely fantastic." **Amber Finch** is recognised for her skilful approach to pursuing complex coverage claims for clients, and is adept at handling matters with international elements. She is the chair of Reed Smith's insurance recovery group. **Strengths:** "Amber was terrific at all times. She showed fantastic management of the case." "Amber has been an excellent resource with deep knowledge of insurance law." "Amber is a great company advocate. She ties her expertise and knowledge of insurance policies to a strategic approach for this type of litigation." "Amber is not only highly qualified in all relevant areas, but she is also a joy to work with." "Amber is a strong insurance coverage lawyer and a valued partner. She is always timely and responsive, providing clear advice and counsel." **Alexandra Roje** is particularly sought after among clients in the manufacturing and property sectors for her expertise in environmental and property damage matters. **Strengths:** "Alexandra is the real deal. She hits with the force of a sledgehammer but with the accuracy and force of a scalpel. Her ability to connect with people and simplify things is astounding." **Keith Meyer** focuses his practice on insurance coverage disputes arising from a wide array of issues, including environ-

mental damage, business interruption, D&O and professional liability. **Strengths:** "Keith is top-notch when it comes to client service. He is very good at describing the complex insurance issues we face."

Band 3

Jones Day

What the team is known for

Jones Day regularly represents blue-chip policyholder clients in high-exposure litigation, including cases related to natural disasters and other catastrophic events. Its varied coverage expertise ranges from product liability cases to D&O and E&O claims, with significant niche expertise in railroad insurance and cyber insurance. The team also offers experience in working with clients from numerous industry sectors, including aerospace, energy, pharmaceutical and retail.

Strengths

"The Jones Day attorneys are well prepared, with strong strategic planning and dogged persistence. The firm has lots of attorneys with great minds, dedication, and a methodical approach."

"They are experts in their field; we look to them to handle significant matters."

"The team have a really good understanding of what positions we can and can't take. They are responsive and have very good expertise."

"Jones Day 'gets' our business, and is extremely detail-oriented and very responsive."

"Jones Day has a lot of experienced attorneys who've seen our type of problems before. They'll tell us things before we've heard of them, having ideas that are creative and fresh."

Work highlights

Jones Day represented the University of Southern California in pursuing defence and indemnity coverage for over \$1 billion in losses stemming from the alleged decades of sexual misconduct of former USC campus physician, Dr George Tyndall.

Notable practitioners

Tyrone Childress is the chair of the firm's insurance recovery group. He has a wealth of experience in policyholder-side insurance work and is strong on mass tort and product liability claims, among others. His varied client base includes educational institutions and major players in the tech industry.

Strengths: "Ty is a great fixer. Opponents fear him because he is so competent and qualified in his specialty. He totally understands the business and our competitors, and minimizes our risk exposure."

"Tyrone is a very successful litigator. We are very happy with his service." "Tyrone has the experience – he has been in the industry a long time." "Ty is at the very top of the profession. I have complete trust in him." **Tara Kowalski** is a go-to practitioner for policyholders seeking representation in complex insurance recoveries. She has handled commercial general liability, errors and omissions and product liability-related cases, among others. **Strengths:**

"Tara is extremely responsive and very sophisticated on insurance litigation. She also provides excellent client service." "Tara has a very strong understanding of insurance law, and is a pleasure to work with." "She is very thorough and extremely responsive." **Brian McDonald** deals with a wide range of insurance coverage claims on behalf of

policyholders. He is well regarded for his handling of cybersecurity and D&O claims, among other matters. **Strengths:** "Brian is a pleasure to work with. He goes above board to drive great outcomes for us." "Brian is extremely detail-oriented, business-savvy, and results-driven."

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for

Latham & Watkins is highly regarded for its ability to achieve substantial recovery amounts on behalf of policyholders. Capable of handling sophisticated cross-border disputes, the team has contributed to significant and precedent-setting decisions with regard to California state law. Areas of strength include environmental exposure, business interruption, D&O, asbestos claims and the maintenance of a global presence in the London and Bermuda markets.

Strengths

"The team at Latham & Watkins have the niche knowledge necessary to quickly unravel complex matters. They have a deep bench for niche areas and are extremely responsive despite the business and demand."

"Latham & Watkins has a deep bench of lawyers handling sophisticated work. They are prompt, engaged, and always cognizant of internal business needs."

"Latham & Watkins provide very strong service across the board. They are exceptionally competent and always responsive."

Work highlights

Latham & Watkins LLP represented Fluor Corporation in a bad faith claim seeking more than \$1 billion of damages.

Notable practitioners

Drew Gardiner enjoys a good reputation for his representation of sport, construction, technology and energy sector clients. He regularly acts for policyholders in bad-faith disputes and is frequently called upon to advise on D&O liability coverage.

Strengths: "Drew is an outstanding lawyer." **John Wilson** attracts praise for his adroit handling of complex disputes following pollution, D&O, product liability and IP claims. He is noted for his expertise in bad-faith and cyber risk claims. **Strengths:** "John is a red-hot intellect. He is extremely clever with incredible judgment." "John is an expert in the area. He does an excellent job in front of the courts." "John is incredibly knowledgeable. He makes connections on past and current issues in a extraordinary way. He's as good an insurance coverage lawyer as I know."

McGuireWoods LLP

What the team is known for

McGuireWoods fields a respected insurance coverage group that represents policyholders in high-profile contentious matters. It is noted for its expertise in D&O and sexual misconduct claims, and it also handles high-value mandates for business interruption and property damage related to hurricanes, wildfires and other natural disasters.

Strengths

"McGuireWoods has specific expertise in the area of insurance law. It provides timely and practical guidance that can be easily applied."

"McGuireWoods understands the nuances of the

law and knows when to be aggressive. It is mindful of our goals and has the ability to see three moves ahead."

"The team is well connected to the industry, providing relevant information in terms of what the carriers care about."

"McGuireWoods has a good depth of knowledge, providing strategy out of the gate without needing to first go and research."

Work highlights

McGuireWoods LLP continued to represent Southern California Gas Company in seeking insurance coverage for more than 35,000 plaintiffs alleging injuries from the October 2015 natural gas leak at its Aliso Canyon facility.

Notable practitioners

Kirk Pasich is a recognised market leader with a wealth of experience in high-profile contentious coverage cases. He is noted for his adroit handling of high-value and complex D&O liability claims, and is particularly active in the entertainment and energy sectors. **Strengths:** "Kirk is a smart, knowledgeable and experienced insurance coverage attorney." "Kirk's experience and depth of knowledge is unmatched." "Kirk is a brilliant mind in insurance coverage. He provides wise counsel and incredible insight without much background." "I respect Kirk very much. I view him as the leader in the California policyholder practice." Shaun Crosner focuses his practice on high-stakes insurance recovery disputes, frequently helping clients recoup coverage from property damage and employment liability claims. **Strengths:** "Shaun understands our company specifically and how to get an outcome beneficial for all parties." "Shaun is a very experienced coverage attorney." "Shaun has a really good understanding of insurance coverage. He provides a quick, actionable strategy." "Shaun provides very valuable guidance to us."

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

What the team is known for

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius offers policyholder clients the breadth of a strong national practice as well as a wide range of insurance expertise, covering everything from expert trial representation to corporate and transactional advice. It specialises particularly in long-tail asbestos claims and associated bankruptcy proceedings, as well as environmental and construction claims. The team also has capabilities in disputes arising from property damage, hurricane-related claims and business interruption, and is adept at handling captive insurance matters.

Strengths

"It's a strong team of knowledgeable lawyers who have good relationships with insurers and a strong understanding of our organization. They are well respected by folks on the other side of the aisle." "Morgan, Lewis & Bockius has a uniquely strong practice in representing companies confronting legacy asbestos and environmental liabilities in traditional insurance recovery litigation."

"Morgan, Lewis & Bockius understands our business needs very well and we are never left waiting for things."

Work highlights

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius represented multiple global commercial aircraft leasing companies in connection with insurance coverage claims arising

out of aircraft detained in Russia after the commencement of the Ukraine war.

Notable practitioners

David Cox is adept at representing policyholders in complex insurance coverage litigation. His broad expertise encompasses claims arising from environmental losses and matters relating to product liability. **Strengths:** "David is a phenomenal lawyer." "David has earned an incredibly well-deserved reputation from clients, other policyholder attorneys, and opposing counsel of being an incredibly strategic and successful policyholder advocate." "David is very experienced. He is also firm in his representation but very charming." "David is one of the best lawyers I've ever worked with; he's an incredibly smart guy." "David is a fantastic lawyer who deserves the reputation he has earned." Jeffrey Raskin focuses his practice on the recovery of significant sums for policyholder clients, including Fortune 500 companies. His experience includes major asbestos, bodily injury and bankruptcy-related cases. **Strengths:** "Jeffrey is a brilliant attorney with incredible knowledge of insurance coverage." "Jeffrey is a stellar attorney." "Jeffrey is as aggressive as they come and is an incredible advocate."

Band 4

Andrade Gonzalez LLP

What the team is known for

Andrade Gonzalez has vast experience in representing clients in high-stakes coverage disputes, as well as often handling bad-faith litigation and liability cases. The firm represents a range of clients, including individuals, corporate entities and municipal bodies.

Strengths

"The attorneys at Andrade Gonzalez are incredibly insightful, are excellent writers, and are client-focused. I would trust them with the most complicated, high-exposure matters."

"Andrade Gonzalez lawyers know the law and work hard. They are very professional and I could tell everyone involved respected their knowledge and experience."

"Andrade Gonzalez is knowledgeable about the subject matter, strategic in its legal advice, and thorough in its review of policies. It also understands its clients' goals."

"Andrade Gonzalez has excellent attorneys with good experience handling tricky matters. They have an amazing depth of knowledge in insurance coverage."

Work highlights

Andrade Gonzalez LLP represented the City of Santa Monica in a \$200 million insurance coverage dispute with AIG, ICSOP, Allied World, Insurance Company of the West, and TIG/Riverstone, arising out of claims of sexual abuse by more than 250 plaintiffs.

Notable practitioners

Sean Andrade acts on behalf of a wide range of clients in insurance coverage disputes and all types of liability claims issues. **Strengths:** "Sean consistently delivers high-quality results in cases that matter the most." "Sean has significant subject matter knowledge. He is responsive, strategic, and an amazing advocate. He makes sure he under-

stands his client's needs." "Sean is a knowledgeable and strong coverage lawyer."

Barnes & Thornburg LLP

What the team is known for

Barnes & Thornburg has a commendable policyholder practice with experience in litigating a range of high-stakes coverage disputes, including those involving D&O, professional liability and intellectual property.

Strengths

"The matter was complex and was answered efficiently. They are subject matter experts on the issues, and excellent communicators."

"Barnes & Thornburg is a well-respected, well-oiled machine."

"Barnes & Thornburg has a strong team that shows pragmatism, expertise, and diligence."

"They handle a wide range of claims and have a wide knowledge base across subject areas. The team is collegial and client-focused, providing a high quality of service."

Work highlights

Barnes & Thornburg LLP represented Pangea Equity Partners and its affiliates in an insurance recovery action against Great American Insurance Company and Allianz for breach of the duty to defend.

Notable practitioners

Lilit Asadourian excels in the representation of corporate policyholders in a wide array of complex insurance matters. She is frequently sought after by financial institutions and major corporates.

Strengths: "Lilit is decisive, knowledgeable, and delivers excellent communication." "Lilit has a great depth of knowledge and sophistication." "Lilit is a pleasure to work with. She allows us to feel comfortable in her legal expertise, and her level of service is high."

Pillsbury

What the team is known for

Pillsbury has a well-regarded insurance recovery practice, which sees it act for policyholder clients from various sectors in a wide range of complex coverage disputes. The team's experience includes D&O, environmental and product liability claims, among others.

Strengths

"Pillsbury is consistently thorough and diligent, maintaining a practical, business-minded approach. They are very knowledgeable attorneys offering an excellent level of service."

"The team have deep knowledge of various state laws regarding insurance and bad faith. They have a breadth of experience in negotiating with insurers on high-dollar claims, and provides proactive advice on all matters relating to insurance."

"Pillsbury has extensive knowledge of insurance coverage litigation and provides razor-sharp analysis of the issues and strategy."

"Pillsbury is adept at handling sophisticated matters, and provides outstanding client service."

"Pillsbury provides great analysis with a keen eye to understanding the business relationships involved. The team always provides prompt responses and analysis."

Work highlights

Pillsbury represented Hilton Worldwide Holdings in

litigation of a \$1.7 billion COVID-19 business interruption insurance claim.

Notable practitioners

Robert Wallan is regularly sought after to handle insurance recovery claims on behalf of policyholders as part of a broad-based litigation practice. He co-leads Pillsbury's insurance recovery and advisory practice group. **Strengths:** "Robert provides excellent, timely advice on coverage matters. His deep expertise, practical guidance, and attention to detail have made him a trusted resource in navigating complex insurance issues." "A leader in his field, Mr. Wallan has decades of valuable, relevant experience dealing with complex insurance issues. He is a hands-on partner who always makes himself available to clients." "Robert is a very knowledgeable and experienced coverage lawyer, who has been in practice a long time." "Robert is really smart and sees the coverage landscape very clearly. He is savvy on complex issues, providing meaningful support and feedback along the way." Colin Kemp is a strongly regarded attorney in the insurance coverage space, acting on behalf of a wide range of clients in complex disputes. **Strengths:** "I would highly recommend Colin. He's efficient, prompt, and has deep expertise. He is good when disentangling business and legal issues, keeping the client's priorities in mind when recommending approaches." "Colin is a stalwart policyholder litigator."

Shernoff Bidart Echeverria LLP

What the team is known for

The experienced group of practitioners at Sherhoff Bidart Echeverria advises on a host of insurance coverage disputes. Well regarded for its representation of individuals, the team has expertise covering bad faith, personal injury and healthcare-related disputes.

Strengths

"Sherhoff Bidart Echeverria do tremendous work in California in terms of representing individual policyholders. I respect their work in this sector."

Work highlights

Sherhoff Bidart Echeverria LLP achieved a settlement in excess of \$720 million in a class action against California Public Employees' Retirement System related to premiums increases.

Notable practitioners

Michael Bidart focuses his practice on healthcare insurance disputes. He is held in high regard for his considerable experience in handling bad-faith claims, and is frequently called upon to represent clients in class action lawsuits.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Nancy Sher Cohen attracts praise for her expert handling of high-profile disputes, including long-tail environmental, business interruption and toxic tort claims. **Strengths:** "Nancy is a very sharp attorney and a strong advocate." "Nancy is a very good coverage attorney who everyone respects."

Ashley Jordan of Theodora Oringher is noted for her particular expertise in pursuing insurance coverage for construction-related claims. She also assists clients with drafting and negotiating insurance contracts.

Jan Larson of Jenner & Block LLP enjoys recognition for her skill in handling policyholder-side coverage disputes, including those relating to cybersecurity, reps and warranties and environmental matters. She frequently represents clients in the finance industry. **Strengths:** "Jan is our first call on any contested insurance matters. She is bright, practical, and knows the industry incredibly well." "Jan is fantastic. He explains very opaque insurance issues in a very easy-to-understand manner." "Jan is responsive, well prepared and her analysis is always thorough." "Jan is a stellar coverage lawyer."

Khai LeQuang of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP is recognised for his expertise in cost-of-insurance litigation. He also represents insurance investors in financial disputes. **Strengths:** "Khai is a terrific

partner and has been able to guide us through a variety of litigation matters." "Khai knows the industry exceptionally well, his knowledge base is very strong, and he is aware of costs versus reward." "Khai is a domain expert, and someone whose counsel I both seek and trust." "Khai is an excellent attorney who is professional and knowledgeable." "Khai is an incredibly valuable, specialized insurance lawyer who knows all about law across states. He is a true expert and a true litigator who is effective in negotiations. He also presents creative solutions."

Cary Lerman of Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP offers demonstrable expertise in coverage litigation pertaining to product liability and property damage claims, among other issues. **Strengths:** "Cary Lerman is an excellent lawyer."

Jeffrey Masters of Newmeyer & Dillon is recognised for his wealth of experience in representing policyholders in a wide array of coverage claims. He has additional capabilities in advising on policy review and handling bad-faith litigation. **Strengths:** "Jeffrey is a strong coverage lawyer with a reputation in construction insurance disputes." "Jeff is a great lawyer with a great speciality and expertise in construction."

Michael John Miguel is a highly regarded presence in the insurance industry, acting on behalf of a wide range of clients in complex insurance coverage disputes. **Strengths:** "Michael is a commanding trial presence. He is very good in the courtroom and a very good leader of teams." "Michael has a level of confidence and knowledge that allows him to provide timely and succinct information to ensure we understand our issue and our options." "Michael is my favourite attorney I've ever worked with anywhere due to his ability to connect with you, walk you through what's going on, and come up with creative solutions to difficult problems." "Michael is able to distill the facts. He is a model of what a litigator should be."

Intellectual Property

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Arnold & Porter

What the team is known for

Arnold & Porter houses a respected IP group with expertise spanning highly technical industries, including life sciences and technology. The team is regularly called upon to handle complex patent disputes and advise on general strategy and enforcement.

Strengths

"Arnold & Porter handles complexity extremely well and shows an excellent understanding of our busi-

ness and our industry."

"Arnold & Porter's depth and breadth are excellent. They are also client-friendly and responsive."

Work highlights

Arnold & Porter defended Anthropic against a direct copyright infringement claim brought by book authors.

Notable practitioners

Thomas Magnani leads the firm's technology transactions group and is regularly called upon by both upcoming and established companies to advise on the IP aspects of technology transactions.

Strengths: "Thomas Magnani has an absolutely terrific understanding of the law and the psychology

of people." **Deborah Fishman** is noted for her expertise in high stakes patent disputes. She has a particular focus on the life sciences sector, and counts leading medical device and pharmaceutical companies among her clients.

Baker Botts L.L.P.

What the team is known for

Baker Botts is noted for its strength providing IP counsel to high-profile technology sector clients in the Bay Area and nationwide. The group's practice includes representation in contentious IP matters before the district courts and the PTAB, and on appeal at the Federal Circuit. The team also han-

Intellectual Property: Patent Litigation
Leading Firms
Band 1
Irell & Manella LLP
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Morrison Foerster
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP
Band 2
O'Melveny & Myers LLP
WilmerHale
Band 3
Cooley LLP
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Fenwick
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Jones Day
Keker, Van Nest & Peters LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Paul Hastings LLP
Perkins Coie LLP
Reichman Jorgensen Lehman & Feldberg LLP
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
Band 4
Baker Botts L.L.P.
Covington & Burling LLP
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
Fish & Richardson PC
Goodwin
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP
Knobbe Martens
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
Sidley Austin LLP
White & Case LLP
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Band 5
Arnold & Porter
Bunsow De Mory LLP
Desmarais LLP
Farella Braun + Martel LLP
Kasowitz LLP
Lowenstein & Weatherwax LLP
McDermott Will & Schulte
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Winston Taylor LLP
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

dles patent prosecution and portfolio management for its broad range of clients.

Strengths

"Baker Botts are extremely knowledgeable and responsive. They help me turn complex tech into easy, digestible applications."

"Baker Botts is very pragmatic in coming up with an appropriate strategy for our business."

"My attorneys at Baker Botts are always available and produce excellent work product."

"Whenever we encounter issues, Baker Botts consistently provides us with valuable insights and assistance."

Work highlights

Baker Botts advised Alga Biosciences on patent prosecution and IP strategy in connection with the development of novel cattle feed supplements.

Notable practitioners

Matthew Avery of Baker Botts L.L.P. is known for

Intellectual Property: Patent Litigation
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Chu Morgan Irell & Manella LLP
Haslam Robert Covington & Burling LLP
Van Nest Robert Keker, Van Nest & Peters LLP
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Alper Adam R Kirkland & Ellis LLP
De Vries Michael Kirkland & Ellis LLP *
Durie Daralyn J Morrison Foerster
Lumish Douglas Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
Ramani Ashok Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP *
Band 2
Chatterjee Neel King & Spalding LLP *
Keefe Heidi Cooley LLP
Mehta Sonal N WilmerHale
Pak Sean Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP *
Re Joseph R Knobbe Martens *
Reines Edward Jones Day
Selwyn Mark D WilmerHale
Sheasby Jason Irell & Manella LLP
Turner Ellisen Kirkland & Ellis LLP *
Band 3
Berkowitz Matthew Reichman Jorgensen Lehman
Chaikovsky Yar White & Case LLP
De Mory Denise Bunsow De Mory LLP
Gibson Erin DLA Piper LLP (US)
Hadden J. David Fenwick
Lemley Mark Lex Lumina LLP (ORL) ◇
Rao Sasha G Nixon Peabody LLP (ORL) ◇
Reichman Courtland L Reichman Jorgensen Lehman
Roberts Clement Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Snyder Darin O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Yagura Ryan O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Band 4
Bader Martin Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP *
Batts Harper Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP
Bettinger Mike Sidley Austin LLP *
Block Micah G Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP *
Bobrow Jared Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Chen Betty H Desmarais LLP *
Fowler Mark DLA Piper LLP (US)
Gindler David I Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Guy III G Hopkins Baker Botts L.L.P. *
Hansen Alexa Covington & Burling LLP
Hung Richard Morrison Foerster
Iancu Andrei Sullivan & Cromwell LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Johnson Kevin Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP *
Kamber Matthias Paul Hastings LLP *
Mar Eugene Y Farella Braun + Martel LLP
Moore Steven Vinson & Elkins LLP (ORL) ◇
Nguyen Lisa Paul Hastings LLP *
Piepmeyer Sarah Perkins Coie LLP *
Powers Matthew D Tensegrity Law Group LLP (ORL) ◇
Rahebi Bita Morrison Foerster
Shamilov Saina Fenwick
Walter Derek Jones Day
Yang Irene Sidley Austin LLP *
Band 5
Boyd Karen Thompson Hine LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Brann Elizabeth Paul Hastings LLP *
Day Elizabeth Bunsow De Mory LLP
Deoras Akshay Kirkland & Ellis
Fishman Deborah Arnold & Porter
Glasser Lisa S Irell & Manella LLP
Jeffries Andrea Weiss Jones Day *
Jones Darcy Jackson Lewis P.C. (ORL) ◇
Kieckhefer Kieran Latham & Watkins LLP
Korniczky Stephen Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton
Lanier Greg Jones Day *
Liaw Winston Farella Braun + Martel LLP
Lisson David Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP *
Lyons Michael J Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP *
Ou Philip White & Case LLP
Schuman Brett Goodwin Procter LLP *
Shear Chad Cooley LLP
Simmons Luann O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Smith Mehrnaz Boroumand Kilpatrick Townsend
Sobolski Gregory Cleary Gottlieb Steen (ORL) ◇
Srinivasan Kalpana Susman Godfrey LLP
Stone Gregory Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
Taylor Jeremy Baker Botts L.L.P. *
Vakil Bijal Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (ORL) ◇
Waldrop Jonathan K. Kasowitz LLP
Young Patricia Latham & Watkins LLP *
Up-and-coming individuals
Chen Saulsbury Timothy Morrison Foerster

his expertise in patent prosecution, counseling, and diligence. His experience in preparing and prosecuting patent applications covers a wide variety of different technologies, including but not limited to Biotech, FinTech and artificial intelligence. Matthew Avery is noted for his expert advice to clients on patent prosecution and counseling. He regularly represents companies in sectors including life sciences and high technology. **Strengths:** "We are lucky to have Matt Avery as our IP counsel. He manages our entire portfolio and identifies areas where we can add further protection. Without him, we would not have the level of IP filings and management we have today." "Matthew Avery is deeply knowledgeable on patent strategy and is very pragmatic and business-minded. He is consistently responsive without overlawyering issues." Hopkins Guy is frequently called upon to handle litigation relating to patents and trade secrets by Silicon Valley clients. His practice is complemented by parallel experience handling commercial contract disputes. **Strengths:**

"Hopkins Guy is absolutely great in vision, strategy, execution and in delivering value." **Jeremy Taylor** is an experienced litigator with particular expertise advising tech-sector clients on complex IP disputes. **Strengths:** "I am always impressed with Jeremy's acumen and professionalism." "Jeremy Taylor is always available and highly responsive."

BraunHagey & Borden LLP

What the team is known for

BraunHagey & Borden, LLP fields a team of experienced attorneys with established expertise in trademark and trade secrets disputes. The firm regularly handles infringement and misappropriation claims, demonstrating capability in achieving negotiated resolutions as well as litigating matters through trial. It is particularly active in representing clients in the food and beverages industry.

Strengths

"BraunHagey & Borden's trial team is impressive, as well as its skills, guidance, responsiveness and

Intellectual Property Trademark, Copyright & Trade Secrets
Leading Firms
Band 1
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
Morrison Foerster
Band 2
Cooley LLP
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Fenwick
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Knobbe Martens
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Winston Taylor LLP
Band 3
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
Jenner & Block LLP
Keker, Van Nest & Peters LLP
King & Spalding LLP
Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP
Band 4
Arnold & Porter
BraunHagey & Borden LLP
Crowell & Moring LLP
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Goodwin
Loeb & Loeb LLP
Reed Smith LLP
Squire Patton Boggs
Stris & Maher LLP
Susman Godfrey LLP
Tucker Ellis LLP
White & Case LLP
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

patience toward the client."

Work highlights

BraunHagey & Borden defended Stone Brewing in securing and successfully upholding on appeal a \$56 million jury verdict for trademark infringement against Molson Coors.

Notable practitioners

Adam Cashman is a respected litigator with notable experience acting in complex trade secrets disputes for tech-sector clients. **Strengths:** "Adam is very reasonable, pragmatic and provides actionable advice."

Bunsow De Mory LLP

What the team is known for

Bunsow De Mory LLP is noted for its patent litigation expertise. The firm represents notable hi-tech clients in patent disputes across forums such as district courts, federal courts, PTAB and the ITC.

Strengths

"Their diligence has been exceptional at all times, always willing to work tirelessly, especially during the jury trial and the period leading up to it, demonstrating excellent teamwork."

Intellectual Property Trademark, Copyright & Trade Secrets
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Nimmer David Irell & Manella LLP
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Gass Andrew Latham & Watkins LLP *
Gratz Joseph C Morrison Foerster
Hurst Annette Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Klaus Kelly Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
Tangri Ragesh K Morrison Foerster
Band 2
Ghajar Bobby Cooley LLP
Hayes David L Fenwick
Webb Karen Fenwick
Wetzel Joseph R Latham & Watkins LLP *
Wilson Dennis Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP
Band 3
Ballon Ian C Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Barry Jennifer Latham & Watkins LLP *
Caplan David K. Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton
Caruso Margret Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP *
Cooke Michelle ArentFox Schiff LLP (ORL) ◇
Dunning Angela Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton (ORL) ◇
Golinveaux Jennifer Alston & Bird LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Kramer David H Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
McFarland Larry Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP
Natland Susan BakerHostetler LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Pietrini Jill Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP
Steinthal Kenneth King & Spalding LLP *
Tait Graves Charles Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Viscounty Perry J Latham & Watkins LLP *
Wakefield Jedediah Fenwick
Band 4
Almeling David O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Anderson Peter Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
Barbee Caroline Y Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton
Basile Katy Reed Smith LLP *
Brannen Elizabeth Stris & Maher LLP
Cashman Adam BraunHagey & Borden LLP
Chapman Laura Sheppard, Mullin, Richter *
Chatterjee Neel King & Spalding LLP *
Durham Gina DLA Piper LLP (US)
Garcia Jason Reed Smith LLP *
Gerber Seth M Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP *
Goo Valerie Crowell & Moring LLP
Goss Kent Crowell & Moring LLP
Grace David W Loeb & Loeb LLP
Grossman David Loeb & Loeb LLP
Howard Melanie J Loeb & Loeb LLP
Jampol Nicolas Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
Kay Randy Jones Day *
Kim Candice Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Kuwayti Kenneth Morrison Foerster
Lauter Judd Cooley LLP
Liou Joyce Morrison Foerster
Phillips Robert N Reed Smith LLP *
Reinckens Melissa DLA Piper LLP (US)
Riley Benjamin Bartko Pavia LLP (ORL) ◇
Samplin Ilissa Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP *
Singer Benjamin Singer LLP (ORL) ◇
Steele David Tucker Ellis LLP
Stris Peter Stris & Maher LLP
Zadra-Symes Lynda Knobbe Martens *
Zimmermann Kollin Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP
Up-and-coming individuals
Lovejoy Britt Latham & Watkins LLP *

Intellectual Property: Patent Prosecution
Leading Firms
Band 1
Fenwick
Jones Day
Knobbe Martens
Morrison Foerster
Band 2
Baker Botts L.L.P.
Cooley LLP
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Fish & Richardson PC
Goodwin
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP
Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Perkins Coie LLP
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP
Squire Patton Boggs
Band 3
Foley & Lardner LLP
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Haynes and Boone, LLP
Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

"Bunsow De Mory has the soup-to-nuts capability and the track record to back it up."

Work highlights

Bunsow De Mory represented Carma Technology in a patent infringement action against Uber concerning five patents relating to ride-sharing technology improvements.

Notable practitioners

Denise De Mory is an experienced patent litigator who is regularly called upon by technology-sector clients to enforce patent rights. She offers expertise acting in a range of venues, including the PTAB. **Strengths:** "Denise de Mory is absolutely exceptional in every aspect: attitude, technical preparation, legal preparation, excellent in court, great at delegating work and capable of resolving complex situations both inside and outside the courtroom." "Denise de Mory ensures strong commercial awareness and provides a good vision for the team."

Elizabeth Day is an experienced trial lawyer with a proven track record in high-stakes IP disputes. She is frequently engaged to handle patent infringement litigation for clients in highly technical industries. **Strengths:** "Elizabeth Day is exceptional in court and extremely well prepared in law, damages theory and witness handling." "Elizabeth is an excellent lawyer and business partner, extremely skilled in IP litigation with very strong business acumen. She is strategically creative, a strong advocate, highly successful and a good writer." "Elizabeth's strategic guidance and experience is comforting during the ups and downs of high-stakes, complex intellectual property litigation matters."

Cooley LLP

What the team is known for

Cooley handles a range of contentious matters including misuse of trade secrets and defense of patent infringement claims. The team also provides assistance with transactional matters, including licensing agreements. The firm frequently guides clients through USPTO engagements containing patent prosecutions and challenges.

Intellectual Property: Patent Prosecution	
Leading Individuals	
Band 1	
Haile Lisa A	DLA Piper LLP (US)
Mayer Mika	Cooley LLP
Polizzi Catherine	Morrison Foerster
Band 2	
Gelfound Craig	ArentFox Schiff LLP (ORL) ♦
Hostetler Michael J	Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Insogna Anthony M.	Jones Day
Jenkins Kenneth E	Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky
Merani, PhD Salima	Knobbe Martens *
Pathak Rahul	Squire Patton Boggs
Shieh-Newton Terri	Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky
Shuster Michael J	Goodwin *
Weisser Tamera M	Jones Day *
Xiao Janet	Morrison Foerster
Band 3	
Ai Bing	Perkins Coie LLP *
Anderton Thomas	Foley & Lardner LLP *
Bolten Christopher	Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Largent Craig C	Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP
MacDougall Christina	Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Mohr Judy	McDermott Will & Schulte
Roy Mani	Cooley LLP
Seidman Stephanie	Womble Bond Dickinson (ORL) ♦
Sequeira Antonia L	Fenwick
Tanner Lorna	Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP *
Ward Michael R	Morrison Foerster
Zhou Jie	Morrison Foerster
Band 4	
Alemozafar Ali	Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Avery Matthew	Baker Botts L.L.P. *
Becker Daniel	Fenwick
Bresnahan Matthew	Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Chen Tom	Haynes and Boone, LLP
Hulse Robert	Fenwick
Jacobson Anthony	Fenwick
Kabler Kevin	Goodwin *
Liang Bing	Jones Day
Mann Jeffrey S	Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Nie Alex	Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton
Patel Rajiv P.	Fenwick
Pisano Nicola	Cozen O'Connor (ORL) ♦ *
Potter Karen	Morrison Foerster
Rackowski David B.	Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton
Rawat Manita	Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Rice Janice	Squire Patton Boggs
Williams Gary S	Gary Williams IP (ORL) ♦
Up-and-coming individuals	
Cowan Tom	Knobbe Martens *
Wu David	Dickinson Wright PLLC (ORL) ♦ *
* Indicates individual with profile.	
♦ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

Strengths

"Cooley is excellent. It has deep insight into building patent portfolios and is experienced on both the medical and technological sides of our company."

"Cooley has a strong, responsive and skilled team."

"Cooley's team combines exceptional depth and breadth, with experienced attorneys across multiple practice areas who bring insight and technical expertise. Their collaboration and ability to scale the right mix of talent for each case ensures sophisticated matters are handled efficiently and effectively."

"I think very highly of the Cooley team. They give us

Intellectual Property Trademark, Copyright & Trade Secrets Transactional

Leading Individuals

Band 1

Arciniega Jorge Loeb & Loeb LLP

Arkowitz Jennifer Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

Bro Sarah McDermott Will & Schulte

Greenwald-Swires Lisa Fish & Richardson PC

Heller Susan L. Greenberg Traurig, LLP

Magnani Thomas A. Arnold & Porter

Webb Karen Fenwick

practical, thorough advice."

Work highlights

Cooley represented the City of San Francisco and Port of San Francisco in a trademark infringement dispute with the City of Oakland and Port of Oakland concerning the naming of the international airport located in Oakland, and recent name change from Metropolitan Oakland International Airport to San Francisco Bay Oakland International Airport.

Notable practitioners

Mika Mayer is a highly experienced patent prosecutor who is frequently called upon by life sciences businesses to handle patent prosecution and portfolio management work, including due diligence and post-grant reviews. **Strengths:** "Mika Mayer is top-notch and unlike any other IP prosecution attorney I have worked with. She has a deep understanding of the biotech business, which is critical to ensuring that the service provided is exceptional." "Mika Mayer is deeply experienced and agile in managing high-stake matters." "Mika Mayer's exceptional professional experience and deep knowledge are invaluable to us." "Mika Mayer's exceptional professional experience and deep knowledge are invaluable to us." "Mika Mayer is knowledgeable. She is a straight shooter who is very easy to work with. Whenever I have needed results in the IP space, Mika has delivered." "Mika Mayer is a great partner to ensure IP strategy aligns with business goals." **Bobby Ghajar** comes recommended for his significant expertise handling complex IP disputes. He frequently litigates trademark and copyright cases for household-name companies. **Strengths:** "Bobby Ghajar is helpful and has deep insight into the industry. He is proactive and provides sound advice on market developments." **Heidi Keefe** is sought after for her experience in the representation of leading tech-sector companies before venues including the PTAB, the ITC and the Federal Circuit. **Strengths:** "Heidi is a remarkable litigator. She is very knowledgeable and has a particular talent for presenting complex concepts in an understandable way." "Heidi Keefe provides excellent service." **Mani**

Roy advises life sciences-sector clients on patent prosecution, patent counseling and portfolio development work. **Strengths:** "Mani is highly knowledgeable, responsive and effective in delivering strategic patent guidance." "As a PhD-level scientist by training, Mani Roy is exceptionally nimble in stepping into and out of the field, which is incredibly helpful to assess the external freedom-to-operate landscape." "Mani Roy is exceptionally nimble in stepping into and out of the field, which is incredibly helpful to assess the external freedom-to-operate landscape." **Judd Lauter** caters to a wide range

of public and private entities in the IP space. He is particularly well-versed in all aspects of trademark and copyright strategy. **Strengths:** "Judd Lauter is thoughtful and responsive." "Judd Lauter handles complex topics seamlessly and is excellent in providing clear counsel." **Chad Shear** has substantial experience litigating complex patent disputes. He is particularly noted for his representation of major pharmaceutical companies. **Strengths:** "Chad Shear is a great strategist." "Chad's exceptional professional experience and deep knowledge are invaluable in navigating our most complex IP matters."

Covington & Burling LLP

What the team is known for

Covington & Burling is applauded for its strength assisting technology companies with complex patent litigation matters. The group is particularly sought out for its effectiveness defending both domestic and international companies against infringement actions initiated by patent assertion entities. It has also been noted for its skilled handling of matters before the PTAB and the ITC. Furthermore, the team handles misuse of trade secrets, inventorship and licensing disputes. It offers additional capabilities advising on contentious trademark and copyright matters.

Notable practitioners

Robert Haslam offers substantial experience handling trade secret and patent litigation arising from the technology industry. He has expertise in an array of tech disciplines such as microprocessors, cryptography and medical devices. **Strengths:** "Bob is an excellent litigator." **Alexa Hansen** is increasingly recognized for her adept handling of high-stakes patent disputes. She offers particular expertise representing companies in the life sciences sector.

Crowell & Moring LLP

What the team is known for

Crowell & Moring is increasingly recognized for its sophisticated representation of clients involved in complex IP disputes. The group regularly advises on matters including trade secret misappropriation and trademark and copyright infringement. It acts for a broad client base including leading clients from industries including technology, manufacturing and software.

Strengths

"As a firm, Crowell & Moring has a large number of experienced attorneys who proactively support the development of effective IP protection strategies. They are highly responsive and able to cover a broad spectrum of topics."

"The department at Crowell & Moring already delivers a high level of value, particularly in trademark enforcement and strategic advice. It responds quickly and decisively, and we are very satisfied with the value and results delivered."

"The Crowell & Moring team have a thoughtful approach to handling highly complex matters. They are also very responsive and available."

Work highlights

Crowell & Moring represented Lockheed Martin in a trade secrets and commercial litigation matter, securing a dismissal of tort claims and an appellate win in July 2024, defeating claims exceeding \$500 million.

Notable practitioners

Valerie Goo is a noted litigator who frequently advises on trademark, copyright and trade secrets disputes. She acts for clients from an array of industries, including manufacturing and technology.

Kent Goss maintains a respected contentious IP practice, frequently advising on matters including trademark infringement and trade secrets disputes for a varied client base. **Strengths:** “*Kent Goss is experienced and savvy.*”

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

What the team is known for

Davis Polk & Wardwell is a respected global firm with an increasingly prominent California-based patent disputes group. It boasts an impressive client list of major technology-sector companies and offers substantial expertise appearing in high-stakes cases before the ITC, PTAB and district and federal courts.

Strengths

“The team I work with at Davis Polk is a sophisticated group with a nuanced approach to complex disputes and is always available to help.”

“Davis Polk has brilliant strategists who really understand my business and goals.”

Work highlights

Davis Polk secured a trial victory for Magnolia in patent litigation in the District of Delaware against Kurin.

Notable practitioners

As head of the firm’s IP litigation group, **Ashok Ramani** has a well-respected practice that sees him representing both plaintiffs and defendants in trade secret and patent litigation. He is frequently called upon by leading tech-sector companies.

Strengths: “*Ashok Ramani is incredibly smart.*”

“Ashok has seen a lot and can provide insight based on his historical knowledge, which is helpful in predicting long-term issues.” Micah Block is recognized for his sophisticated representation of clients in IP trials. He represents both plaintiffs and defendants from the technology and software sectors. **Strengths:** “*Micah brings deep sophistication and litigation know-how.*” **David Lisson**’s respected practice regularly sees him represent technology companies in contentious patent matters. **Strengths:** “*David Lisson is a knowledgeable trial advocate with excellent writing skills.*”

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

What the team is known for

Davis Wright Tremaine is noted for its strong track record in complex IP disputes arising out of the technology and media and entertainment sectors. The team is complemented by further expertise in IP counseling and transactions.

Notable practitioners

Peter Anderson is best known for his expertise and experience in copyright and entertainment litigation. His clients include but are not limited to many established record labels, recording and performing artists and music publishers. **Nicolas Jampol** draws praise for his representation of companies involved in high-stakes copyright and trademark infringement disputes.

Desmarais LLP

What the team is known for

Desmarais LLP is a leading intellectual property

litigation firm with a strong record in high-stakes patent trials. The firm handles technology-focused patent disputes involving semiconductors, software, medical devices, consumer electronics and other technologies across all stages of litigation. The firm represents a broad client base, including Fortune 100 companies and smaller entities seeking to protect or enforce their intellectual property rights.

Strengths

“Desmarais has skilled patent litigators and advisers, and they can also provide competitive intelligence to monitor trends and address issues.”

“Desmarais is practical and efficient, and does not waste time on unnecessary efforts, instead leveraging its experience to focus on what works efficiently.”

Work highlights

Desmarais represented Apple in connection with cross-claims of infringement based on design and utility patents relating to electronic watches.

Notable practitioners

Betty Chen is best known for representing her clients in high-stake intellectual property disputes, with a primary focus on the technology and pharmaceutical industries. **Strengths:** “*Betty Chen’s approach to client service transcends traditional attorney-client relationships. She operates as a genuine business partner, demonstrating an uncommon understanding that legal strategy cannot exist in isolation from commercial objectives. Throughout our engagement she has been extraordinarily responsive, and she has an unmatched ability to anticipate our needs before we articulate them.*”

DLA Piper LLP (US)

What the team is known for

DLA Piper is a well-known firm benefiting from an extensive international network. The team has significant experience counseling clients on the defense of patent and trademark infringement claims as well as contentious copyright matters. It offers effective representation across ITC, Markman and Federal Circuit proceedings. The team also assists with Patent Office matters, including post-grant reviews and patent prosecution. It has additional strength in trademark portfolio management and licensing agreements.

Strengths

“I always enjoy working with the IP team at DLA Piper. They know the law very well and provide sound legal guidance on the remedies available to us, as well as the types of analyses courts have historically accepted or rejected. Their ability to navigate the subtlety of different circumstances is impressive.”

“This IP group at DLA Piper is highly knowledgeable about the counterparties, specifically opposing counsel, their tactics and the case law applicable to our situation. They help us form winning strategies in complex matters.”

Work highlights

DLA Piper represented Hill’s Pet Nutrition in a false advertising and civil conspiracy class action brought by KetoNatural, seeking more than \$2 billion in damages.

Notable practitioners

Lisa Haile is well-versed in patent prosecution concerns arising in the life sciences sector and frequently advises industry clients on matters ranging

from patentability and portfolio management to FDA regulations and due diligence. **Strengths:** “*Lisa Haile is a phenomenal patent prosecution practitioner.*” “*When the stakes are so high, Lisa Haile is one of the very top patent lawyers in the country.*”

Erin Gibson is frequently called upon by leading tech-sector companies seeking trial representation in high-stakes proceedings. She offers substantial expertise in ITC proceedings. **Strengths:** “*Erin Gibson is really focused on the details.*” “*Erin Gibson is a great litigator and strategist. Her ability to prepare witnesses for trial is one of the best I have ever seen. She is also pragmatic and direct. I find her incredibly efficient and a joy to work with.*”

Gina Durham regularly advises household-name clients on a broad range of contentious and noncontentious trademark and copyright matters. **Strengths:** “*Gina Durham is excellent, highly skilled, knowledgeable and a great partner to our company.*”

Mark Fowler is experienced in representing high-profile technology companies in patent litigation at both the US district courts and the ITC. **Strengths:** “*Mark Fowler is extremely experienced and really cares about customer service. He is trial-ready at all times.*”

Melissa Reinckens is increasingly recognized for her adept handling of contentious IP mandates. Her broad expertise spans trademark, trade secrets and false advertising matters, among others. **Strengths:** “*Melissa Reinckens is super knowledgeable in the space. She has good judgment and leads complex matters very well.*” “*Melissa Reinckens is highly effective and knows the case law very well.*”

Farella Braun + Martel LLP

What the team is known for

Farella Braun + Martel is noted for its strength in complex patent disputes. The team also demonstrates expertise in handling complex trade secret matters. It frequently acts for market-leading companies in the technology space.

Strengths

“The team at Farella Braun is adept at resolving matters early in the process.”

“Farella Braun offers deep business understanding, proactive and clear communication, strategic advice beyond just legalities, cost-efficiency, unvarnished truths and proven expertise.”

Notable practitioners

Eugene Mar is best known for representing his clients in patent, trade secret, copyright and licensing disputes. His main focus is in the technology and communications industries. **Strengths:** “*Eugene Mar is our go-to for complex IP matters. His down-to-earth, actionable advice is invaluable.*” “*Eugene Mar is a sophisticated IP advocate.*” **Winston Liaw** is increasingly recognized for his sophisticated patent litigation practice, particularly for technology-sector clients. **Strengths:** “*Winston Liaw combines exceptional client service with sophisticated litigation strategy. He is also highly responsive, breaks down complex issues clearly and understands the business implications of litigation decisions on our operations.*”

Fenwick

What the team is known for

Fenwick offers strategic and practical counsel on the management of IP portfolios and has a deep bench of technically knowledgeable patent pros-

ecutors. The team provides adept assistance for filings, clearance searches and due diligence needs for corporate transactions. It is active in contentious patent, trademark and copyright proceedings as well as intellectual property audits and licensing agreements.

Strengths

"Fenwick handles very complex matters with ease."

"Fenwick is experienced in dealing with the myriad examiner styles and critical feedback approaches, making it more efficient to arrive at a maximally broad claim set while minimizing the risk of rejection."

"Fenwick is my go-to for all matters related to intellectual property."

"Fenwick is the gold standard for IP matters."

"Fenwick is a trusted partner in pursuing our company's legal objectives. I have absolute confidence in their ability to work with us to achieve the optimal outcome."

Work highlights

Fenwick continued to represent Instacart on the development of its patent portfolio, securing more than 600 patents in a single year.

Notable practitioners

David Hayes is well-versed in a variety of online, digital and technology sector IP matters, including licensing and distribution, audits and litigation.

Strengths: *"David Hayes is one of the smartest lawyers in intellectual property. He is an intellectual force."*

Karen Webb is noted for her work advising companies of all sizes on trademark strategy, enforcement, portfolio management and licensing transactions. **Strengths:** *"Karen is a great strategist in the trademark space."* *"Karen Webb is an effective manager."* *"Karen is an excellent lawyer."*

David Hadden offers substantial experience litigating major patent disputes for an impressive list of tech-sector clients. **Strengths:** *"David Hadden is excellent at translating technical matters for juries."* *"David is a highly skilled, experienced litigator."* *Antonia Sequeira is adept in both litigation and prosecution, representing a broad client base that includes corporations, startups and universities."* **Strengths:** *"Antonia does great work."*

Jedediah Wakefield chairs the firm's litigation group and offers substantial experience litigating complex trademark and copyright disputes for household name clients. **Strengths:** *"Jedediah Wakefield delivers and is responsive, calm and wise in his advice."* **Daniel Becker** is well-versed in life sciences patent prosecution. He is regularly called upon by leading pharmaceutical companies to advise on matters including portfolio management and patent enforcement. **Strengths:** *"Daniel Becker is an incredibly sharp individual, both legally and technically, and a keen adviser."* **Robert Hulse** of Fenwick is best known for strategically building patent portfolios for his clients, with a primary focus on the technical field, including but not limited to computer software, digital healthcare and electronics. **Strengths:** *"Robert Hulse is very responsive and helps us see around the corner."*

Anthony Jacobson advises late-stage and public companies on patent strategy and portfolio growth. His practice also includes helping clients navigate IP protection and enforcement matters. **Strengths:** *"Anthony Jacobson is creative and easy to work with."* *"Anthony Jacobson is excellent and brings*

together strong teams across Fenwick for all of my company's most complex matters." *"Anthony is knowledgeable and a pleasure to work with."*

"Anthony's attention to detail, expertise and proactive communication are the best." Rajiv Patel is highly experienced in advising technology and life sciences clients on IP strategy, patent transactions and litigation. He serves as head of the firm's IP department. **Strengths:** *"Rajiv Patel is the reason I continue to come to Fenwick. His depth of expertise is great."* *"Rajiv Patel is knowledgeable about the subject matter and is a pleasure to work with."* **Saina Shamilov** offers notable experience representing companies in patent infringement matters before both the US federal circuit and ITC. **Strengths:** *"Saina Shamilov is really talented."* *"Saina Shamilov is incredibly client-service-oriented and trial-savvy."*

Fish & Richardson PC

What the team is known for

Fish & Richardson is a well-known name for IP portfolio management matters, including trademark filings and the development of protection strategies. The team is able to act in contentious proceedings, including patent invalidation actions and the defense of infringement allegations. Clients include educational institutions, health companies and software firms. The team demonstrates additional ability acting for pharmaceutical sector clients, including in ANDA litigation.

Strengths

"Fish & Richardson has a strong team with a high level of technological and legal skill to deliver consistent quality."

"Everyone on the Fish & Richardson team, from paralegals and accounting to associates, junior partners, and the partnership level, responds very quickly, usually within a few hours."

Notable practitioners

Lisa Greenwald-Swire frequently advises clients on a wide array of trademark and copyright matters, including prosecution and licensing. **Strengths:** *"Lisa understands our needs and backs us up. She is great."* *"No matter where Lisa Greenwald-Swire is, she will respond within a few hours to weigh in on the status of negotiations or provide an update on interactions with opposing counsel. Her trademark team, made up of top paralegals and associates, is legendary, but she stays firmly engaged even for routine trademark filings. She does not just send work down to her associates and paralegals. As a client, I feel seen and catered to."* *"Lisa Greenwald-Swire is, she will respond within a few hours to weigh in on the status of negotiations or provide an update on interactions with opposing counsel. Her trademark team, made up of top paralegals and associates, is legendary, but she stays firmly engaged even for routine trademark filings. She does not just send work down to her associates and paralegals. As a client, I feel seen and catered to."*

Foley & Lardner LLP

What the team is known for

Foley & Lardner is noted for its IP acumen, offering deep experience in patent portfolio development, management and strategy. The team is particularly adept at advising leading companies across the healthcare, life sciences, technology, energy and manufacturing sectors. The firm also demonstrates

additional capability in addressing trade secrets matters.

Strengths

"The Foley & Lardner team handle patent application and prosecution processes smoothly and efficiently for our engineers. They provide excellent guidance and client service."

"Foley & Lardner does an excellent job of meeting our needs at a reasonable cost."

"Foley & Lardner is like having a deputy GC ensconced in the firm and advocating on our behalf."

Work highlights

Foley & Lardner advised Tizona Therapeutics on patenting an HLAG antibody for a partnered product with an estimated value exceeding US\$1 billion per year.

Notable practitioners

Thomas Anderton draws upon substantial in-house experience to advise clients on patent prosecution and strategy. **Strengths:** *"Tom Anderton is an amazing IP attorney, and we would not have our issued U.S. claims without his tireless work on our behalf. He provides the best customer service."* *"I've worked with Tom Anderton for almost a decade, and his commitment to high-quality, personalized service has been exceptional. He consistently looks out for me and my business's needs."*

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

What the team is known for

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher provides strategic and effective litigation counsel for hi-tech and life sciences companies. It assists clients with inter partes reviews at the USPTO. The group offers additional strength handling trade secrets misappropriation claims and inventorship disputes. It is also recognized for its assistance with appellate and ITC proceedings.

Strengths

"Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher can tackle the most complicated technologies and narrate a compelling story, where you don't need to understand the technology to grasp the issues at hand. Their patent litigators also have a terrific business sense, framing litigation in a way that resonates with stakeholders."

"The Gibson Dunn attorneys are totally prepared, experienced and able to foresee the other party's defense standpoint."

Work highlights

Gibson Dunn overturned a jury verdict exceeding \$500 million against Western Digital in a patent infringement case filed by SPEX Technologies.

Notable practitioners

Ilissa Samplin is an accomplished litigator with a proven track record of success in complex IP disputes. She frequently advises clients from the tech and entertainment sectors on copyright and trade secrets litigation. **Strengths:** *"Ilissa Samplin is smart, responsive and a great writer."*

Goodwin

What the team is known for

Goodwin regularly advises clients on a variety of IP-related issues, including patent litigation and prosecution matters as well as strategic partnerships and licensing issues. The team offers expertise in a number of sectors, including technology and life sciences.

Strengths

"Goodwin always has access to skilled staff and the necessary resources for the relevant matter."

"The team at Goodwin is highly knowledgeable, thorough and prompt. They help us identify creative approaches to secure our goals."

"Goodwin provides excellent service and is highly responsive."

"Goodwin has become one of my favorite firms. We get very experienced lawyers paying attention to our matters."

Work highlights

Goodwin represented Shennon Biotechnologies in patent portfolio strategy and execution relating to its TCR discovery platform.

Notable practitioners

Michael Shuster is well regarded for his representation of life sciences-sector clients on patent prosecution, portfolio management and transactional IP matters. **Strengths:** *"Michael Shuster is an extremely smart attorney."* *"Michael Shuster is a fantastic lawyer. He is strategic, his clients like him and he trains his associates well."*

Kevin Kabler is regularly called upon by emerging and established life sciences companies to advise on patent prosecution and portfolio development. **Strengths:** *"Kevin Kabler is an excellent attorney."* *"Kevin Kabler has superlative domain knowledge and adds extreme value to matters."* *"Kevin Kabler is even-tempered, thoughtful and business-minded."* **Brett Schuman** is the co-chair of the Intellectual Property Litigation practice at Goodwin. He earns recognition for his expertise in patent litigation and arbitration.

Strengths: *"Brett Schuman knows patent litigation and is great at keeping me in the loop and involved."* *"Brett Schuman is a straight shooter, thoughtful and strategic practitioner. He knows how to bring cases to a resolution. I have high respect for him."*

Greenberg Traurig, LLP

What the team is known for

Greenberg Traurig, LLP is highlighted for its broad IP expertise. The firm is frequently engaged to handle both contentious and non-contentious mandates across trademarks, copyrights and patents, with work ranging from infringement litigation and strategic counselling to patent prosecution and portfolio management.

Strengths

"Greenberg Traurig always ask the right questions to clarify the details. They are intimately familiar with the state of the art in our field and related topics."

"Greenberg Traurig have handled multiple complex situations for us. I am satisfied with the level of knowledge, support, and professionalism we receive from the IP department. They are experts in our field and proactively look for ways to improve and build our IP portfolio."

"I am always surprised at how quickly the team at Greenberg Traurig is able to respond."

"Greenberg Traurig's IP team is highly experienced and strategically clever. They are also great listeners."

Notable practitioners

Susan Heller is called upon by major clients to advise on IP strategy and brand management. Ian Ballon co-chairs the firm's global IP and technology practice group and offers substantial experience litigating a wide range of trademark and copy-

right-related disputes. **Strengths:** *"Ian Ballon is always on top of key issues."*

Christopher Bolten is called upon by clients from a range of highly technical industries to advise on the prosecution of complex patents. **Strengths:** *"Chris Bolten is my trusted partner in the management and strategic development of our IP portfolio."* *"Chris Bolten has a superior awareness of our business and industry."*

"Chris Bolten is very professional, dedicated and strategic." *"Chris handles all communications with extreme professionalism."*

Candice Kim co-chairs the firm's trademark and brand management group. She has broad advisory expertise spanning mark procurement, enforcement and licensing.

Strengths: *"Candice Kim navigates complicated trademark issues with a mix of practical experience and legal acumen."* *"Her knowledge of the Asian market is invaluable to us."*

Haynes and Boone, LLP

What the team is known for

Haynes and Boone is a respected group with notable experience advising on patent portfolio management, prosecution and related transactions, as well as IPRs. The firm boasts an enviable client base, including a number of household name tech-sector companies.

Strengths

"I have entrusted Haynes and Boone with the most complex problems. They take our input and augment it with a comprehensive, superior strategy."

"The team at Haynes and Boone is extremely responsive and provides excellent service levels."

"The Haynes and Boone team communicates like clockwork, virtually 24/7. They are reliable, predictable, responsive and always follow up."

"Haynes and Boone provides meaningful and insightful feedback on every issue that arises."

Work highlights

Haynes and Boone continued to advise PayPal on global patent strategy, filing decisions and continuation practice.

Notable practitioners

Tom Chen's prosecution practice focuses on portfolio strategy development and implementation, management and evaluation. His client base spans artificial intelligence, fintech, manufacturing and fitness companies. **Strengths:** *"Tom Chen stands out for his combination of technical depth and commercial acumen. Beyond being a highly skilled legal strategist, he demonstrates a strong ability to connect legal solutions with business objectives."*

Irell & Manella LLP

What the team is known for

Irell & Manella houses an esteemed IP litigation practice prized for its bench of experienced courtroom attorneys and its experience in patent disputes. The firm has additional strength for contentious trade secrets cases, licensing and post-issuance proceedings. The team is skilled at representing clients in ITC and PTAB proceedings, and is often engaged by leading technology and life sciences companies to appear in high-profile litigation.

Strengths

"Irell & Manella is at the top of the market."

"Irell & Manella handles the most sophisticated intellectual property disputes. The results it achieves for us in very complex cases have always been impres-

sive."

"Irell & Manella has handled a number of bet-the-company matters for us with great results, and has always been responsive to our needs."

Work highlights

Irell & Manella secured a favorable settlement for SNMP Research in a copyright infringement and breach of contract dispute over proprietary networking software.

Notable practitioners

Morgan Chu is widely considered a leader in the field of IP litigation, and offers considerable experience in the representation of major technology and life sciences clients in complex patent disputes.

Strengths: *"Morgan Chu is phenomenal."* *"Morgan Chu is a luminary of the plaintiff bar."* *"Morgan has a prominent reputation."*

David Nimmer is well-versed in the representation of clients from a variety of industries. He is noted for his handling of complex copyright disputes and offers experience before the US Supreme Court. **Strengths:** *"His name carries a lot of weight. David Nimmer is preeminent."*

"David Nimmer is preeminent." *"An ambassador for the field of copyright litigation."* *"David Nimmer is one of the most respected in copyright."*

Jason Sheasby's respected patent litigation practice spans a broad spectrum of sectors, including electronics, pharmaceuticals and medical devices. **Strengths:** *"Jason Sheasby is passionate and gets results."* *"Lisa Glasser is a well-regarded patent litigator with notable experience representing a broad variety of clients in federal circuit patent litigation."* **Strengths:** *"Lisa Glasser is a ferocious litigator."*

Jenner & Block LLP

What the team is known for

Jenner & Block has a respected IP litigation group with substantial expertise acting in copyright, trademark and trade secrets disputes. The group is frequently called upon by leading companies from a diverse range of industries, including media and entertainment and technology.

Strengths

"The lawyers at Jenner & Block are experts in their field, with strong strategic acumen and a passion for getting the right results for their clients. They truly put themselves in the client's shoes and pull out all the stops to achieve a great result."

Jones Day

What the team is known for

Jones Day is a leading name for IP portfolio management in the life sciences space, especially in biotechnology. The firm is adept at patent prosecution and IP transactions, and also assists clients with patent, copyright and trade secrets disputes. The team is skilled at handling post-grant reviews at the PTAB, often acting for pharmaceutical and hi-tech clients.

Strengths

"Jones Day provides excellent litigation strategy and attention to detail in intellectual property."

"Jones Day's depth and breadth in intellectual property is impressive. They combine strong technical, scientific and legal expertise."

"Jones Day is the best at client service across the board. They stick to budgets, staff teams rightly and ensure that matters do not balloon out of control. They are also very pragmatic and business-minded."

"In complex chemical matters, Jones Day is highly experienced and effective, delivering outcomes I am very satisfied with."

"Jones Day handles the most important IP assets for my company, providing sound advice on how best to protect those assets, rather than just mechanically prosecuting patent applications."

Work highlights

Jones Day serves as lead counsel to Agensys, an affiliate of Astellas, on global patent portfolio strategy for monoclonal antibody and ADC cancer therapies.

Notable practitioners

Anthony Insogna frequently handles patent enforcement and defense, due diligence and portfolio strategy for life sciences clients. He also has experience before the PTAB. **Strengths:** *"Anthony Insogna is my go-to attorney for all things related to our IP portfolio. He is one of the absolute best in this business."* **Edward Reines** has extensive experience in litigating life sciences and technology IP disputes across district courts and the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals. **Strengths:** *"Ed Reines is a terrific attorney. He has a tremendous amount of trial and appellate experience."* **Tamera Weisser** co-leads Jones Day's global patent prosecution group. She represents clients on patent prosecution, portfolio management and advises on their global patent strategies. **Strengths:** *"Tamera Weisser is consistently high-touch, accessible and reliable, providing clear next steps and proactive updates."* **Randy Kay** is a noted litigator with broad expertise encompassing trade secrets and copyright disputes, among others. He acts for clients from a range of highly technical industries.

Strengths: *"I think highly of Randy Kay."* **Bing Liang** is an experienced patent practitioner with significant technical expertise in the life sciences sector. She frequently advises clients on patent prosecution and preparation. **Strengths:** *"Bing Liang is a great lawyer to work with."* **Bing Liang** is an excellent attorney and provides a full range of services and consultation with regard to a very complex patent portfolio. She is extremely knowledgeable and responsive. *"Bing Liang is an absolute joy to work with. She is extremely personable and also possesses a deep understanding of the intricacies involved in pharma and patent portfolio management."* **Bing Liang** is very responsive and provides insightful advice on the patent strategy. **Derek Walter** maintains a broad IP disputes practice, regularly litigating patent matters in district courts and before the ITC. **Strengths:** *"Derek Walter focuses on winning. I want to work with him again."* **Derek Walter** is responsive and professional, and puts client needs front and center. *"Derek has an excellent skill set."* **Andrea Weiss Jeffries** is recognized for her substantial expertise litigating high-stakes patent disputes for clients from highly technical industries. **Greg Lanier** is an experienced litigator with an impressive track record in high-stakes patent disputes. He frequently represents clients from highly technical industries. **Strengths:** *"Greg Lanier conveys trust when you put him in front of a jury."* *"Greg's knowledge, expertise*

and ability to keep client goals in mind are great."

Kasowitz LLP

What the team is known for

Kasowitz has a proven track record of success in complex IP trials, with particular expertise in patent disputes. The firm frequently represents major technology companies both on the plaintiff and defense side.

Strengths

"Kasowitz has a deep technical bench and available, responsive lawyers."

Work highlights

Kasowitz represented Fintiv in patent litigation against Apple concerning virtual card management and mobile wallet technology, securing a landmark discretionary denial of Apple's PTAB IPR petition.

Notable practitioners

Jonathan Waldrop is well regarded for his representation of major technology companies in complex patent litigation. **Strengths:** *"Jon is very persuasive at the table."*

Keker, Van Nest & Peters LLP

What the team is known for

Keker, Van Nest & Peters is a high-caliber practice widely recognized for its representation of clients in trade secrets misuse and patent infringement cases. The firm is also recognized for its expertise in trademark and copyright disputes and praised for its team of high-quality courtroom advocates.

Strengths

"If you have an IP case that needs to go to trial, Keker, Van Nest & Peters is a standout boutique to retain."

"Keker, Van Nest & Peters is one of the firms doing the heavy lifting in the IP space."

Notable practitioners

Robert Van Nest is well known for his nationwide IP disputes practice and frequently takes on matters ranging from patent infringement litigation to trademark controversies. **Strengths:** *"Robert is remarkably talented."* *"Robert Van Nest is the best lawyer for enormous disputes."*

Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

What the team is known for

Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton sports a respected IP team with nationwide resources and expertise advising consumer brand name clients on matters ranging from patent, copyright and trade dress litigation to trademark registration and licensing. The team is well equipped to take on scientifically and technically complex issues in district courts throughout the US, before the PTAB and at the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Strengths

"Kilpatrick Townsend provides unmatched value for money."

"Kilpatrick Townsend demonstrates precise and sophisticated work product in complex trademark litigation. The team is always looking for best results."

"When we face a hurdle in patent prosecution, KTS provide creative options and solutions. They are strategic, timely and have specialists who understand our very niche technology."

"KTS delivers excellent service with an eye on cost." *"The creativity from Kilpatrick Townsend is fantastic."*

We often face cutting-edge intellectual property issues, and the fact that they have attorneys who have dealt with one or more of these issues is incredible. The firm is a valued partner to us."

Work highlights

Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton counseled Stability AI on a global trademark portfolio comprising approximately 60 filings.

Notable practitioners

Jennifer Arkowitz counsels a long list of household-name clients on trademark portfolio management. **Strengths:** *"Jen Arkowitz is the best trademark attorney and provides excellent service."*

Dennis Wilson is adept at advising and representing clients in high-profile copyright, trademark and advertising disputes. **Strengths:** *"Dennis Wilson is super creative in enforcement matters in his space. We value his counsel."* *"Dennis is smart and knowledgeable."* David Caplan leads the firm's online enforcement group. He has substantial experience advising household name clients in the tech and media sectors on IP enforcement. **Strengths:** *"David Caplan is my subject-matter expert in complex enforcement issues. He is highly respected in the community."* *"Dave Caplan is an amazing partner, and he delivers creative, timely and practical resolutions to our matters."* *"Dave Caplan's deep experience with complex, high-profile matters has made his counsel invaluable to us. He has an excellent ability to make the complex feel simple."*

Craig Largent is noted for his expertise advising technology-sector clients on patent prosecution and portfolio management. **Strengths:** *"Craig Largent always provides great service, knowledge and responsiveness."* *"It is tough to find anyone better at what he does than Craig Largent. His work product and communication skills are excellent."*

Larry McFarland is noted for his broad trademark and copyright practice, regularly counseling high-profile tech-sector clients on contentious and noncontentious matters alike. Caroline Barbee is noted for her expertise in advising clients involved in complex copyright and trademark disputes. She is frequently engaged by major media and tech-sector clients. **Strengths:** *"Caroline Barbee has a high level of proficiency in delivering practical, effective solutions while ensuring alignment with our strategic objectives."* David Raczkowski draws upon his scientific background to advise clients in highly technical industries on patent prosecution and portfolio management. **Strengths:** *"David Raczkowski is hard-working, smart and very receptive. He does a lot of heavy lifting for our company."* Kollin Zimmerman is increasingly recognized for his work litigating complex IP disputes for tech-sector clients. He frequently handles matters involving trademark, copyright and trade secrets. **Strengths:** *"Kollin Zimmerman leads litigation with sophistication and professionalism."* **Mehnaz Boroumand Smith** is an accomplished litigator with broad disputes expertise encompassing patent, trademark and copyright work. She frequently represents household name tech companies in complex litigation. **Strengths:** *"Mehnaz is great at fact-gathering and understands my pain points."*

King & Spalding LLP

What the team is known for

King & Spalding LLP is a respected international

firm with substantial expertise in high stakes IP disputes. The group has particular strength in complex copyright and royalty litigation, frequently representing market-leading tech and entertainment clients in high-value matters.

Strengths

"King and Spalding have deep practical knowledge of ITC case law and rich experience in litigation. They are also extremely responsive, even during challenging times."

Work highlights

King & Spalding secured a victory for Buena Vista Home Entertainment, a subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company, in a copyright litigation matter concerning the 2016 animated feature film Moana.

Notable practitioners

Neel Chatterjee maintains a substantial portfolio of patent and trade secrets work for clients in the technology sector, including litigation spanning multiple courts and jurisdictions. **Strengths:** *"Neel Chatterjee is a legend. He is very knowledgeable and well known." "Neel Chatterjee is an incredible trial attorney. He is someone you use for complex, sophisticated litigation." "Neel Chatterjee is strategic and a big-picture thinker."* **Kenneth Steintal** offers vast experience in high stakes copyright disputes. He is regularly called upon by an array of household name media and technology clients. **Strengths:** *"Kenneth is a very bright lawyer."*

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

What the team is known for

Kirkland & Ellis acts for clients in a range of contentious matters, including patent, copyright, trademark and trade secrets cases. The team also assists with post-grant proceedings and disputes involving RAND licensing matters. The firm receives particular recognition for its representation of hi-tech companies and life sciences sector clients. It offers experience handling IP disputes with significant antitrust aspects.

Strengths

"Kirkland & Ellis has all of our high-profile copyright cases."

"Kirkland & Ellis not only has the best litigators, but they are also calm, methodical and technically excellent."

Work highlights

Kirkland & Ellis acted for Abbott Laboratories subsidiaries in worldwide patent disputes with DexCom concerning continuous glucose monitoring technology.

Notable practitioners

Adam Alper is held in high esteem for his experienced counsel on both sides of patent and trade secrets disputes across a variety of tech sector disciplines. **Strengths:** *"Adam Alper wins trials. His team is impeccable and his strategic vision is impressive." "Adam is a great litigator and strategist." "Adam Alper brings sophistication and practical strategy to cases." "Adam Alper knocks it out of the park."* **Michael De Vries** possesses experience handling complex patent disputes, and is particularly adept at representing clients in the technology sector. **Strengths:** *"Mike De Vries is a preeminent trial attorney. He develops winning strategies." "Mike De Vries makes complexity understandable. He is fantastic."* **Ellisen Turner** has a strong track record of representing technology, life sciences,

media and telecom industry clients in high-value patent and trade secret disputes and IP transactions. **Strengths:** *"Ellisen Turner is a fantastic, very capable lawyer." "Ellisen is really good in court."* **Akshay Deoras** comes recommended for his ability to litigate complex patent disputes on behalf of major tech-sector clients. **Strengths:** *"Akshay is a talented attorney."*

Knobbe Martens

What the team is known for

Knobbe Martens is a highly respected IP boutique that assists clients with IP portfolio management matters including patent prosecution proceedings and due diligence for corporate transactions. The firm also handles trade dress and patent infringement claims, and advises on trade secrets misuse claims. The team offers experienced representation in post-grant reviews before the PTAB.

Strengths

"Knobbe Martens has the smartest people in the room."

"Knobbe Martens really has everything: talented engineers, scientists, and attorneys. They quickly grasp complexity and can extract key strategic decisions from it."

"All the attorneys I have worked with at Knobbe Martens are rockstars and always on point. Their responsiveness is also excellent."

"Knobbe Martens is excellent and very diligent. I've worked with them for many years, and they've developed a strong understanding of the appropriate scope of projects and customize scope accordingly, so their approach is not generic."

"The lawyers at Knobbe Martens are able to successfully manage challenges to multiple patent families at once. They are creative in finding appropriate ways to further existing patents, and especially skilled at working with founders whose initial patents may be less descriptive than the final product, to obtain additional intellectual property protection."

Work highlights

Knobbe Martens served as lead IP counsel to Alpheus Medical, filing over 100 international patents and trademarks and advising on IP diligence for a \$52 million venture capital raise in May 2025.

Notable practitioners

Salima Merani frequently represents both emerging companies and their investors in a range of functions, including patent strategy, licensing and transactions. **Strengths:** *"For over a decade, Salima Merani's intellect, insight, and innovation have advanced numerous patent families in the medical device space across several quite disparate technologies. She fully understands that, in the end, my companies are developing commercial products intended to help patients, and she brings this framework to the patenting process, ensuring that the results are both comprehensive and defensible." "Salima's deep technical, business and case-law knowledge make her an invaluable IP partner at every stage of a company, from investment diligence and formation to ongoing IP strategy." "Salima Merani is a trusted partner, strategist and collaborator across multiple areas that influence my company's current and future value, as well as our position in the marketplace. I trust her implicitly, and I am truly thankful that she is part of our team. Her contributions continue to elevate our work and*

reinforce the strength of our partnership." **Salima Melani** is an incredible lawyer. She is an exceptional IP strategist who brings clarity, rigor and foresight to every matter she touches. **Strengths:** *"Salima is a pragmatic, client-centric problem-solver whose strategic insight, technical knowledge and leadership drive pioneering life science innovations."* Joseph Re is experienced in representing both holders and alleged infringers of patents at trial and on appeal across a range of venues throughout the US.

Strengths: *"Joe Re is an extremely talented advocate with a deep understanding of relevant jurisprudence and tactical procedural rules of court. Joe presents himself with confidence, legal and factual accuracy and enough humor where appropriate to make it entertaining to watch him win."* **Joseph Re** leads matters with skill and success. *"Koe Re is a trial lawyer and mechanical engineer who gets juries to fall in love with him. He is excellent at making sure that everything you do in a jury trial improves your chances of winning in the court of appeals."* **Lynda Zadra-Symes** co-chairs the firm's trademark and copyright litigation groups and is frequently called upon to handle complex IP disputes for clients from a wide array of industries. **Strengths:** *"Lynda Zadra-Symes is solid, knowledgeable, pragmatic and deeply invested in understanding our business and needs."* **Lynda** is effective, responsive and skilled at protecting our service marks. **Tom Cowan** co-chairs the Mechanical Engineering Practice Group at Knobbe Martens and is regularly retained for his counsel on prosecution and IP diligence in the aerospace, mechanical and medical device fields. **Strengths:** *"Tom Cowan is always quick to respond and provides valuable insight into our strategic options."* **He** is an experienced attorney."

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for

Latham & Watkins has a national footprint highlighted for its regular presence in district court, appellate and PTAB proceedings. The group offers effective representation in contentious copyright, trademark, trade secrets and patent proceedings. It provides skilled counsel to hi-tech and life sciences companies on inter partes reviews. The team is noted for the defense of clients against infringement claims brought by competitor entities. It is also distinguished for its abilities in handling TTAB opposition proceedings.

Strengths

"Latham & Watkins is very thorough, with the capacity to distill fundamental elements, construct solid claim structures, integrate multiple patents to create a moat around claims and present an easy-to-follow rationale."

"Latham & Watkins' breadth of knowledge is unparalleled. They have deep expertise, practical judgment and industry acumen."

"Latham & Watkins is by far one of the best in the music industry and is highly recommended. It is a powerful resource for any legal advice or services needed across all aspects of the industry."

"I would trust Latham & Watkins with any issues, including the most complex, sophisticated and sensitive ones."

Work highlights

Latham & Watkins represented the Internet Archive, a not-for-profit research library, in litigation arising

from its long-running efforts to preserve and digitize fragile 78 RPM sound recordings.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Gass is recognized for his sophisticated representation in complex copyright disputes. He is particularly noted for his work with broadcasting and music streaming clients, as well as for his experience in cutting-edge AI-related litigation. **Strengths:** “Andrew Gass is the best in his field.” “Andy Gass is a national leader in helping AI companies navigate difficult copyright issues and in defending them in high-stakes litigation when disputes arise.” “Andrew Gass is a superstar.” Joseph Wetzel is considered a go-to for music industry clients facing high-stakes copyright litigation. **Strengths:** “Joseph Wetzel is an excellent litigator.” “Joseph Wetzel is my go-to for music-related issues. He has deep knowledge across a range of topics.” “Joseph Wetzel is one of the few who understands how AI is impacting the music industry. His experience is unparalleled.” **Jennifer Barry** offers substantial experience litigating high-stakes trademark and trade secrets disputes. She regularly caters to household brands and celebrities across an array of industries. **Strengths:** “Jennifer Barry is a brilliant IP litigator. I go to her with key strategic matters.” Perry Viscounty is well-versed in litigating across the spectrum of patent, copyright and trade secret matters, frequently for technology-sector clients. **Strengths:** “Perry Viscounty is very good and strategic.” **Kieran Kieckhefer** is a seasoned trial attorney with extensive expertise in patent infringement cases. She is also well-versed in handling trade secret misappropriation cases. **Strengths:** “Kieran Kieckhefer is a sharp, high-caliber litigator who assembles teams very well. She handles client relationships fantastically.” **Patricia Young** is global vice chair of the firm’s IP group and has an impressive track record of success in complex patent disputes. **Strengths:** “Patricia Young is a truly great IP attorney.” “It is amazing how calm and centered Patricia Young is in such a high-stress, high-risk practice area like patent litigation. She is my first port of call for IP issues.” “Patricia Young is in such a high-stress, high-risk practice area like patent litigation. She is my first port of call for IP issues.” **Britt Lovejoy** comes recommended for representing AI companies in high-stakes copyright litigation, including landmark disputes involving generative AI. **Strengths:** “Britt Lovejoy is emotionally intelligent, gets to know the client and is responsive. She always puts the extra effort to understand our needs and be practical about the counsel she gives.” “Britt Lovejoy is quick, smart thoughtful and business-savvy.”

Loeb & Loeb LLP

What the team is known for

Loeb & Loeb LLP is regularly engaged by notable clients in the entertainment, retail and luxury goods sectors for advice on a wide variety of IP issues. The team is adept at counseling on mark prosecution, licensing and general IP strategy, and also has substantial expertise in complex disputes.

Strengths

“Loeb understands and cares about clients’ needs and commercial objectives, giving each matter a considerable amount of thought and attention.” “I’ve been extremely impressed with the depth and

breadth of Loeb & Loeb’s resources, attorneys and in-house experts.”

“Loeb & Loeb is highly proactive and reliable in managing large, multi-jurisdictional portfolios. The advice is clear, well-reasoned and practical, which allows us to make informed decisions quickly even in high-stakes or time-sensitive situations.”

“Loeb & Loeb are very experienced in both the legal and business sides of matters. They do what is needed, and they do it well.”

Work highlights

Loeb & Loeb advised luxury retailer Saks Global on several intellectual property, licensing and advertising matters for some of its key luxury brands.

Notable practitioners

Jorge Arciniega offers exceptional experience counseling clients on trademark and copyright prosecution and enforcement. **Strengths:** “Jorge Arciniega combines strategic judgment, depth of trademark and copyright expertise, and strong commercial awareness. He provides clear direction on portfolio strategy, and he is particularly good at cutting through complexity to focus on what really matters for the business.” “Jorge Arciniega is always there for us, and he is very helpful in many ways. He is a trusted adviser to our company.” David Grace is an experienced IP practitioner with substantial expertise in brand protection matters. He is frequently called upon by clients seeking representation in complex trademark and copyright disputes. **Strengths:** “David Grace is practical in his approach to matters.” “David Grace is incredibly deep in his knowledge of IP matters.” **David Grossman** offers substantial expertise in complex copyright disputes on behalf of media and entertainment-sector clients. **Strengths:** “David Grossman is extremely smart in how he handles matters.” Melanie Howard chairs the firm’s IP protection group. She frequently advises on a broad range of IP mandates, ranging from brand management and strategy to transactions. She counts major fashion and media companies among her clients. **Strengths:** “Melanie Howard is an absolute pleasure to work with. She understands our clients’ needs and is unparalleled in her focus on providing the best possible service.” “Melanie is exemplary.” “Melanie Howard is a fantastic attorney and partner. I’ve worked with her for years, and she is always my first call for anything related to IP and brands.”

Lowenstein & Weatherwax LLP

What the team is known for

Lowenstein & Weatherwax LLP is a highly regarded litigation boutique recognized for its expert handling of inter partes reviews for a wide array of clients. It counts a wide array of technology sector names among its client base, as well as telecommunications.

Strengths

“Lowenstein & Weatherwax are able to handle work in any technology sector. They work efficiently and have meticulous strategy and written work product. They are experts on PTAB procedure and have encyclopedic knowledge, maximizing efficiency for their clients.”

“L&W are very accomplished litigators, particularly when handling IPRs. They are able to navigate highly technical areas while also excelling in the legal and advocacy portions of an IPR. They use a

structured process that ensures all filings are dealt with in a timely manner and eliminates time based pressure.”

“The lawyers at Lowenstein & Weatherwax exhibit deep technical understanding for the patents involved in their matters. They are highly strategic when it comes to the policies and procedures of the USPTO, particularly as they relate to high-value patents.”

“We have always been delighted with their service and value to our business. They have always adapted flexibly and successfully.”

“They have more experience and have been very successful in the field of patent law and the inter partes review procedures.”

Work highlights

Lowenstein & Weatherwax LLP represented Neural AI LLC in four IPR petitions brought by NVIDIA.

Notable practitioners

Co-founders Nathan Lowenstein and Kenneth Weatherwax are key contacts at the firm.

McDermott Will & Schulte

What the team is known for

McDermott Will & Schulte fields an intellectual property litigation practice with particular strength in high-profile patent disputes, especially within the life sciences sector. The California-based team is recognized for handling complex, high-value patent litigation matters across federal district and appellate courts, as well as before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board. The firm also boasts capabilities in trade secrets litigation and across the full gamut of patent prosecution and brand management matters.

Strengths

“We reach out to McDermott Will & Schulte with the hardest questions, and they always manage to find the right answer.”

“The McDermott Will & Schulte team is responsive and demonstrates deep knowledge of, and appreciation for, the business and commercial side of things.”

Work highlights

McDermott Will & Schulte represented United Therapeutics in its patent and trade secret litigation against Liquidia Technologies.

Notable practitioners

Sarah Bro is a sought-after counselor frequently engaged to counsel clients from a diverse range of industries on brand management, prosecution and enforcement. **Strengths:** “Sarah is a pleasure to work with.” “Sarah is practical and incredibly efficient.” **Judy Mohr** represents clients on patent prosecution, portfolio development and management, clearance and strategy work. **Strengths:** “Judy Mohr is very knowledgeable and thorough in her legal analysis. She has a solid understanding of the intricacies and nuances of patent law.”

Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC

What the team is known for

Mintz houses a deep patent prosecution team encompassing an impressive range of technical expertise. The group regularly counsels clients on all aspects of patent portfolio management.

Strengths

"Mintz gives me subject-matter experts and responsiveness. They are very professional."

"The team at Mintz is one of my preferred teams. They are among the most responsive I have ever worked with."

"Mintz understands my sense of urgency and provides quick commercial guidance when needed."

Work highlights

Mintz continued to advise Corcept Therapeutics on protecting its pharmaceutical innovations, including new compounds, polymorphs, formulations and methods of making.

Notable practitioners

Kenneth Jenkins is principally recognized for his sophisticated advice to life sciences clients on portfolio strategy and patent prosecution mandates.

Strengths: *"Ken Jenkins and his team bring more value to my portfolio than any other team or firm."*

"What sets Kenneth Jenkins apart from his peers is his judgment. He not only gives opinions but also provides clear recommendations grounded in both the science and the business." **Terri Shieh-Newton**

draws upon a strong technical background to advise on patent prosecution and strategy for biotechnology companies. **Strengths:** *"Terri and her team consistently go above and beyond to meet our tight timelines. They are excellent at managing difficult inventors and licensees."* *"Terri Shieh-Newton excels at creating a sophisticated, layered patent strategy to help drive the growth of the business to the satisfaction of partners and investors."*

Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP

What the team is known for

Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP is renowned for its representation of clients in copyright infringement disputes. The firm acts for a broad range of clients in the media, entertainment and video game sectors.

Strengths

"Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp has great talent and experience in the unique problems of the entertainment industry. They are also very responsive to client needs and deadlines."

"Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp is always up to speed on new developments and willing to train my in-house team."

"Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp has the experience to tackle some of the most tough questions."

Work highlights

Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp represented Activision Publishing in litigation against individuals involved in the distribution and sale of software enabling cheating and player harassment across multiple Call of Duty titles.

Notable practitioners

Elaine K. Kim is a key contact.

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

What the team is known for

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius is experienced in handling inter partes reviews, trade secret misuse allegations and the defense of infringement claims made by nonpracticing entities. The team is noted for its patent prosecution and patent counseling services. The firm is particularly highlighted for its deep expertise in the life sciences sector, including in biotechnology and biosimilars. It also advises technology clients on patent prosecution and

copyright cases. It offers additional expertise in IP commercialization transactions, including licensing agreement matters.

Strengths

"Morgan Lewis navigate high-stakes, technically dense patent matters with real skill. Their command of the details, coupled with strong preparation for mediation and negotiation, makes a noticeable difference in our outcomes."

"We only work with the best U.S. law firms, and Morgan Lewis is without a doubt one of them. It knows the law, is creative and welcomes challenges."

"The Morgan Lewis team is extremely responsive, enabling us to file key applications and get them approved quickly."

"I send my most complex, sophisticated matters to the team at Morgan Lewis because they have a deep bench of highly qualified attorneys and an excellent training program."

"Morgan Lewis has the legal acumen and staffing needed to deal with complex matters."

Work highlights

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius was retained by Chegg for patent prosecution work related to online education platforms that include the use of AI.

Notable practitioners

Christina MacDougall frequently advises life sciences companies on patent prosecution, portfolio management and general patent strategy.

Strengths: *"Christina is an excellent attorney. I credit her experience, responsiveness, creativity and thoroughness. She is a real pleasure to work with."* Seth Gerber is noted for his impressive track record of success in high-value trade secrets trials.

He is frequently called upon by major companies in highly technical industries, including aerospace and semiconductors. **Strengths:** *"Seth Gerber is one of the best at what he does."*

Jeffrey Mann co-heads the firm's global life sciences group and offers substantial expertise in patent portfolio management and prosecution. **Strengths:** *"Jeff Mann is fantastic, and I love working with him."*

"Jeff Mann is always highly attentive to our requests for advice and service, and he consistently focuses on understanding our business goals and objectives."

"Jeffrey Mann leverages his thorough understanding of patent prosecution practice while recognizing and addressing clients' business strategies and demands."

Manita Rawat is recognized for her impressive patent prosecution practice. She has extensive experience advising major clients from highly technical industries. **Strengths:** *"Manita Rawat is a great lawyer to work with."*

Michael J. Lyons is frequently called upon by technology companies to represent them in intellectual property litigation, particularly patent infringement matters. He co-leads the Silicon Valley IP practice at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius. **Strengths:** *"Michael Lyons is a great litigator and a great personality."*

Morrison Foerster

What the team is known for

Morrison Foerster operates a go-to practice for patent and copyright litigation, which offers a deep roster of talented courtroom advocates. The team demonstrates additional proficiency handling contentious matters arising from misuse of confidential information allegations and trademark infringement

claims. It also enjoys an excellent reputation for its handling of IPRs and counsel on IP portfolio management. The group is experienced advising on licensing and collaboration agreements as well as transactional IP due diligence concerns.

Strengths

"Morrison Foerster is a top-tier firm with excellent attorneys and a focus on high-quality work."

"Morrison Foerster boasts sheer intellectual horsepower backed by a deep bench of experience."

"We were told that Morrison & Foerster were the strongest team to deal with our copyright defense matter. They have lived up to that by winning repeatedly. They have an excellent understanding of tech-heavy cases."

"It is hard to imagine a better sense of service and responsiveness. Whether online, on calls or in person, Morrison & Foerster gives unerring attention, even on short notice."

"Morrison & Foerster is my go-to firm for high-stakes litigation. I can always count on them when I am facing a particularly challenging legal battle."

Work highlights

Morrison Foerster obtained summary judgment for NeoGenomic Laboratories in connection with a ruling invalidating all asserted Natera patent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and dismissing the action with prejudice.

Notable practitioners

Daralyn Durie is a widely respected patent litigator who is regularly called upon to represent high-profile Silicon Valley tech and pharmaceutical businesses in litigation throughout the US. **Strengths:** *"Daralyn is an excellent attorney."*

"Daralyn Durie has a stellar reputation. We need more people like her in the field." *"Daralyn Durie is very sophisticated about the litigation process and can come up to speed on the commercial issues at play in the litigation."*

Joseph Gratz is held in high regard for the experienced handling of copyright-related disputes. He frequently represents leading technology companies. **Strengths:** *"Joe Gratz is a national leader on copyright and technology issues, combining litigation expertise, deep substantive knowledge and a knack for pragmatic counseling. He is absolutely top-notch."*

Catherine Polizzi is a deeply experienced lawyer who is held in high regard for a practice that includes patent portfolio management and development and IP counsel in the context of substantial life sciences transactions. **Strengths:** *"Catherine Polizzi is the best in the business."*

"Catherine Polizzi is extremely knowledgeable and experienced." Ragesh Tangri has a wealth of experience advising clients on trade secrets disputes and trademark matters for an array of household-name companies. **Strengths:** *"Ragesh Tangri is a brilliant analyst, tactician and strategist."*

Janet Xiao is regularly called upon by biotechnology companies to advise on patent prosecution and strategy. **Strengths:** *"Janet Xiao is extremely professional, friendly and well-networked. She is exceptional."*

"Dr Xiao is pivotal in shaping our patent strategy. Her profound insight and ability to transform our innovative concepts into patentable assets is commendable."

"Janet Xiao stands out for her exceptional technical depth and ability to understand highly complex antibody engineering and multispecific platforms."

Michael Ward is particularly skilled in agricultural IP matters, frequently advising

major clients on patent protection and portfolio development throughout the agricultural sector. He serves as the head of the firm's patent strategy and prosecution practice group. **Strengths:** "Michael Ward has a scientific training like few others. He is incredible." "Michael Ward is highly experienced."

Jie Zhou regularly represents life sciences companies on patent strategy, prosecution and portfolio management. **Strengths:** "Jie Zhou is extremely knowledgeable, especially about prosecution strategies." "Jie Zhou manages her team incredibly well and explains complex questions very clearly." "Jie Zhou provides excellent guidance."

Richard Hung co-chairs the firm's IP litigation group and is frequently called upon by both plaintiffs and defendants for representation in high-stakes patent disputes. **Strengths:** "Richard Hung is an all-around excellent litigator and trial attorney. He has years of courtroom experience and is able to distill complex patent litigation into an understandable level. When I hire Rich, I know he will dedicate his time and energy to achieving the best results for my company."

"Richard Hung is someone who would make sacrifices for the client, and he is clear about the issues. He has a cohesive approach to driving successful results." "Richard Hung is always my go-to for legal issues. He is quick to partner with others, including within and outside of his firm to get me the right solution to my issues." **Kenneth Kuwayti** is an accomplished litigator with broad disputes expertise. He regularly represents high tech-sector clients in complex litigation involving trade secrets and patent. **Strengths:** "Kenneth Kuwayti demonstrates strong expertise and well-reasoned judgment."

"Ken Kuwayti is one of the most dependable attorneys I know. He is a problem-solver and can always be my point of contact for any matter. When I have an important matter, I go to Ken." **Joyce Liou** chairs the firm's trademark group and is noted for her expertise both contentious and non-contentious IP mandates. Her broad practice encompasses work from portfolio management to complex litigation.

Strengths: "Joyce Liou is incredibly smart, diligent, empathetic, strategic and fierce when she needs to be. I'd put her up against anyone." "Above all, Joyce Liou is kind, with amazing legal knowledge and skills to boot." **Karen Potter** is experienced in advising life sciences and biotechnology companies on protecting discoveries and building patent portfolios. She is particularly skilled in developing patent portfolios in the areas of cell and gene therapies.

Strengths: "Karen Potter is technically skilled, with a deep scientific background and strong knowledge of our business. She is very responsive and able to anticipate needs." "Karen Potter is brilliant. She is technically astute, on top of the case law and always asks insightful questions. I would always want her in my corner." "Karen Potter is highly responsive, pays close attention to detail, and is well prepared for client meetings. She is extremely knowledgeable about biology-related disciplines and curates well-trained, client-specific teams aligned according to expertise. Work products by Karen and her team are consistently of high quality." "Karen Potter is good at seeing the big picture and gives honest advice."

In her capacity as co-chair of the firm's global IP litigation practice, **Bitra Rahebi** offers substantial expertise handling patent disputes for technology-sector clients. **Strengths:** "Bitra Rahebi

is sharp, knowledgeable and strategic. She understands where you are coming from and where you are going." **Timothy Chen Saulsbury** co-chairs the Global IP Litigation practice at Morrison Foerster. He regularly represents technology companies in complex patent litigation matters. **Strengths:** "Tim Saulsbury is truly exceptional in maintaining communication and responsiveness with me throughout the process." "Tim is a super smart lawyer who is able to go deep into the matter and offer sound strategies. He has guided us through several outstanding wins."

Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

What the team is known for

Munger, Tolles & Olson is an esteemed California litigation outfit with substantial expertise in high-stakes IP disputes. The team represents an enviable client base of leading technology and media and entertainment companies.

Strengths

"Munger, Tolles & Olson is proactive, responsive and efficient. I really like working with them."

"We are impressed by Munger's work and the depth of its strategic thinking and analysis."

"Munger, Tolles & Olson is one of my favorite firms to work with. The team is well-organized, has great writers and some of the strongest associates in the market."

Work highlights

Munger, Tolles & Olson successfully represented the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in a series of matters challenging the copyrightability of public safety standards.

Notable practitioners

Kelly Klaus is considered a go-to copyright litigator by a host of major media and entertainment industry clients. **Strengths:** "When we have our most complex and hard matters, we turn to Kelly Klaus." "Kelly Klaus." "Kelly Klaus is great to have when dealing with a problem that requires deep thinking and knowledge of complex areas of IP law. He is really smart, a very good writer, and has immediate gravitas with judges." "Kelly Klaus is one of the brightest and most sophisticated intellectual property attorneys. He has a deep commitment to client service and is a strategic litigator." **Gregory Stone** offers experience defending established and emerging companies across the tech, consumer products and manufacturing sectors on a range of patent disputes. **Strengths:** "Gregory Stone is great on his feet, and a fantastic storyteller. He is a big part of why we work with his firm."

O'Melveny & Myers LLP

What the team is known for

O'Melveny & Myers offers experience representing hi-tech clients in litigation arising from patent infringement claims made by nonpracticing entities. The firm also assists entertainment and consumer electronics companies on contentious soft IP matters, including copyright ownership disputes. It is noted for its excellent track record of handling inter partes reviews and has additional capabilities across trade secrets and trademark infringement matters.

Strengths

"O'Melveny & Myers provides significant expertise and highly strategic advice."

"O'Melveny & Myers offer me a highly efficient team with a perfect combination of experiences and expertise needed for my case. They are also very responsive and collaborative."

"O'Melveny & Myers has strong partner leadership, supported by a well-coordinated group of associates who consistently demonstrate subject-matter expertise and sound execution. They all have a clear command of intricate trade secrets issues, strategic judgment and effective management of high-stakes litigation."

"We bring some of our most intense IP cases to O'Melveny & Myers."

Work highlights

O'Melveny & Myers represented Verizon and AT&T in early-stage patent litigation brought by Morris Routing concerning next-generation wireless routing technologies.

Notable practitioners

Darin Snyder is particularly skilled in handling complex patent and trade secrets disputes for prominent technology-sector clients. **Strengths:** "Darin Snyder is a great trial lawyer." **Ryan Yagura** leads the firm's IP and technology practice. He is called upon by major technology industry companies to litigate high-stakes patent infringement matters.

Strengths: "If something goes to trial, I would trust Ryan Yagura with my life." "Ryan Yagura with my life." "Ryan Yagura can explain complex concepts in clear, plain terms. He is also nimble with facts and circumstances. I highly recommend him for any patent litigation."

David Almeling is a recognized expert in trade secrets mandates, with a particular focus on complex litigation. He chairs the firm's Trade Secrets Group. **Strengths:** "David Almeling's expertise in trade secrets litigation is superb. He is also very responsive, collaborative and fully cognizant of business objectives." "David Almeling's expertise in trade secrets litigation is superb. He is also very responsive, collaborative and fully cognizant of business objectives." "David Almeling is our go-to expert for all things related to trade secrets. His knowledge and understanding of practical applications are head and shoulders above others in the field." "David Almeling is a highly effective attorney who brings strong leadership, sound judgment and a calm, strategic approach." **Luann Simmons** is noted for her representation of major technology companies in high-stakes patent disputes.

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

What the team is known for

Orrick has notable expertise in trade secrets misappropriation investigations and in digital copyright matters. The firm also assists clients with IP enforcement proceedings and patent infringement disputes. It is also highlighted for its expert handling of post-grant reviews at the PTAB.

Strengths

"Orrick always brings in experts to cover our unique needs. They have a deep breadth of knowledge and are results-driven."

"Orrick has superb knowledge of trademark law. I have not encountered anything they cannot solve."

"Orrick is great at handling complex matters and explaining them in layman's terms."

"I give Orrick an A+ in IP litigation."

"Orrick is fantastic in court and in arbitration."

Work highlights

Orrick defended GitHub and Microsoft in a class action challenging generative AI, securing dismissal with prejudice of the DMCA claim against GitHub Copilot.

Notable practitioners

Annette Hurst is acclaimed for her experienced handling of a wide variety of IP disputes, including litigation related to patent, copyright, trade secret or trademark matters. **Strengths:** “Annette Hurst is a super attorney. Anything she touches is better for it.” “Annette Hurst is a fierce litigator, who is incredibly creative.” **Clement Roberts** has varied experience handling a wide range of IP disputes at state and federal level and the ITC. He is particularly noted for his representation of major technology clients in complex patent disputes. **Jared Bobrow** maintains an extensive technology-sector practice, representing clients in IP litigation concerning fields such as medical devices, cloud computing and semiconductors. **Strengths:** “Jared Bobrow is a very smart litigator.” “Jared is an experienced, strategic patent litigator.” David Gindler is highly experienced in handling patent disputes for emerging and established businesses and nonprofit entities, including cases throughout the US and cross-border litigation. **Strengths:** “David Gindler is an extraordinary litigator and trial lawyer.” “David Gindler thinks creatively.” “David is my go-to attorney. He’s a 10.”

Paul Hastings LLP

What the team is known for

Paul Hastings is a sizable firm with notable expertise advising high profile technology companies involved in major IP disputes. The firm fields a strong bench of attorneys offering substantial experience representing clients before the ITC and PTAB.

Strengths

“Paul Hastings handles challenging issues in patent litigation that cut across many different subject matters and legal areas. The team has a great range of technical and legal experts.”

Work highlights

Paul Hastings represented Google and YouTube in patent infringement litigation brought by the Receivership Estate of AudienceScience and Revitalization Partners concerning targeted advertisement algorithms in various Google products, including Gmail, YouTube and YouTube Music.

Notable practitioners

Matthias Kamber maintains an impressive track record acting at trial in complex patent disputes. **Lisa Nguyen** offers substantial experience in complex, high-value patent litigation. She is regularly called upon by tech-sector companies seeking defense against claims brought by NPEs. **Strengths:** “Lisa Nguyen is great at strategizing.” **Elizabeth Brann** is an accomplished litigator with experience acting before a broad range of venues, including the ITC and PTAB. She is regularly called upon by major tech and life sciences sector clients.

Perkins Coie LLP

What the team is known for

Perkins Coie is a respected group with substantial experience in both contentious and noncontentious patent matters. The firm is frequently called upon to represent leading technology-sector clients in patent infringement disputes before venues

including district and federal courts and the ITC. It draws upon a bench of attorneys with strong technical expertise to advise clients of all sizes on patent prosecution and portfolio management. It offers notable expertise advising Asia-based clients on US patent concerns.

Strengths

“Perkins Coie has an excellent team combining PhD-level scientific expertise across multiple subjects and subsets of biology, chemistry, immunology and nanotechnology. They can handle any subject and matter decisively and strategically.”

“The team at Perkins Coie have deep knowledge of the IP space and help us navigate the various filings we need. They are responsive and easy to get help from at a moment’s notice. They truly feel like an expert extension of our in-house legal team.”

“We see and use Perkins Coie as our trusted partner not only for patents, but also for many other aspects of our business, including contracts, capital structure, and data strategy. We couldn’t be happier with the Perkins Coie team.”

“Perkins Coie get the job done. They are knowledgeable and efficient.”

Work highlights

Perkins Coie continues to advise Olatec on patent, trademark, licensing, corporate and agreement-related matters.

Notable practitioners

Bing Ai draws upon an impressive technical background to advise on patent prosecution and portfolio management for tech-sector clients.

Strengths: “Bing Ai is a great IP attorney.” **Sarah Piepmeier** maintains a broad IP litigation practice, offering substantial experience handling patent disputes for technology-sector clients. **Strengths:** “Sarah Piepmeier is a great trial lawyer. She makes strong arguments to the judge and is quick on her feet.”

Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP

What the team is known for

Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP is recognized for its core strengths in the patent space. The team is experienced in preparing and prosecuting patent applications and advises on related matters such as procurement, licensing and portfolio development. The practice group is active across a range of sectors, including technology, life sciences, clean energy and the automotive industry.

Strengths

“The IP department at Procopio stands out for its reliability, timely execution and clear communication. The team is easy to work with, highly responsive and provides practical advice.”

“The lawyers at Procopio are experienced in a variety of technical fields, and they are able to bring additional team members to strengthen strategy. They are also always responsive, proactive and diligent.”

“My communication with Procopio is flawless, informative and always fast, with quick response times in all matters. We are always pleased with the quality of work they provide to us.”

“Procopio’s IP department has an acute sense of industry trends and complex scientific matters, as well as the ability to identify key differentiators between our company’s principal assets and those

of competitors.”

Work highlights

Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch advised Evofem on prosecuting a patent portfolio of about ten patent families covering the company’s therapeutic programs and FDA-approved products.

Notable practitioners

Miku Mehta is a key contact at the firm.

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

What the team is known for

Quinn Emanuel is a leading practice for complex and highly publicized patent infringement disputes, particularly in the hi-tech space. The firm is highlighted for its courtroom advocacy, including in cases involving design and standard-essential patents. The group is adept at PTAB, ITC and appellate proceedings. It also provides skilled counsel for contentious trademark matters and for cases arising from misappropriation of trade secrets allegations. The team offers notable capabilities assisting with trade dress, copyright and inventorship litigation.

Strengths

“Quinn Emanuel is always responsive and treats each matter with a high degree of care.”

“Quinn Emmanuel is able to handle large, multi-continent and multi-venue matters and delivers critical tactical results across a broader litigation strategy.

The team is thorough, creative, disciplined, efficient and highly experienced in all aspects of litigation.”

“Quinn Emanuel is one of the top law firms in IP litigation in the United States.”

Work highlights

Quinn Emmanuel represented JUUL Labs in an ITC investigation resulting in an exclusion order barring a competitor from importing products found to infringe four JUUL patents.

Notable practitioners

Sean Pak frequently represents both plaintiffs and defendants in numerous district courts and before the ITC in a wide variety of IP disputes. **Strengths:** “Sean Pak is very smart, technically and legally.” “Sean is a very strong lawyer.” **Margret Caruso** chairs the firm’s trademark and copyright group and is regularly sought out by both plaintiffs and defendants to litigate complex IP disputes. **Kevin Johnson** draws on his background in electrical engineering to represent technology companies of all sizes in intellectual property disputes, including litigation relating to copyright and licensing, trade secrets and patent infringement.

Reed Smith LLP

What the team is known for

Reed Smith is recognized for its depth in global trademark portfolio management, trade secret disputes and trademark litigation and enforcement. The practice is particularly noted for trademark and advertising services, including worldwide clearance and strategic counseling, brand protection and prosecution, and licensing and ownership advice, as well as enforcement and litigation before courts and the TTAB. The team advises a wide range of companies across the technology, consumer products, healthcare and financial services sectors.

Strengths

“The attorneys at Reed Smith are focused, reliable and responsive.”

"The Reed Smith team is extremely responsive and provides excellent service."

"Deep subject matter expertise and personal attention are characteristics of Reed Smith."

"Reed Smith provides terrific value, and I can't think of how they can improve. They are excellent."

"We are extremely happy with Reed Smith. They have the right combination of seasoned partners and younger associates, offering the skill sets and experience needed to succeed."

Notable practitioners

Katie Basile earns respect for her expertise in an array of trademark matters, including global trademark portfolios, enforcement actions, clearance processes and proceedings before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB). **Strengths:** *"Katie Basile is an expert in her field and a pleasure to work with."* **Jason Garcia** possesses in-depth knowledge of trademark prosecution and portfolio management across multiple jurisdictions. He also offers additional expertise in trademark enforcement and related matters.

Strengths: *"Jason Garcia is phenomenal to work with. He is responsive and really understands our goals and needs as a business."* Robert Phillips is a seasoned attorney with extensive experience in trademark infringement disputes. He is based in San Francisco. **Strengths:** *"Robert Phillips is an expert in his field and is incredibly responsive. He guides us through tricky IP questions."*

Reichman Jorgensen Lehman & Feldberg LLP

What the team is known for

Reichman Jorgensen Lehman & Feldberg maintains a strong reputation of excellence in high stakes patent disputes. As a noted trial boutique, the firm is frequently called upon by leading clients from a diverse range of industries to litigate patent infringement cases involving highly technical issues.

Strengths

"RJLF have a remarkable blend of technical and legal expertise, and they really work together to understand the technology, the business strategy and the legal aspects of our cases before giving solid advice in layman's terms."

"RJLF offers expert advice that is tailored to my business."

"The firm is highly capable of managing complex, sophisticated litigation and delivers consistently strong results."

Work highlights

RJLF achieved an \$84 million willful patent infringement verdict on behalf of Cirba against VMware.

Notable practitioners

Matthew Berkowitz is recognized for his litigation prowess, regularly representing clients in highly technical patent disputes before a range of venues, including the ITC. **Strengths:** *"Matt Berkowitz is an exceptional attorney. He provides the very best legal advice and really works to understand my business priorities."* *"Matt Berkowitz is not only a technically strong litigator, but also a strategic thinker who knows when to push and when to resolve issues efficiently."* Courtland Reichman offers broad litigation experience, frequently handling high-stakes patent, copyright and trademark disputes at trial. **Strengths:** *"Courtland is very knowledgeable and great to work with."* *"Courtland Reichman is cred-*

ible and frames complex issues in a straightforward way in court." *"Courtland Reichman is very good at setting up cases for success."*

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

What the team is known for

Sheppard Mullin is regularly called upon to litigate complex IP disputes at both federal and district court, as well as before the ITC. The team offers notable experience representing leading software and technology companies, and frequently advises clients on prosecution and portfolio management.

Strengths

"Sheppard Mullin is an excellent law firm for patent prosecution. Its work is excellent."

"The Sheppard Mullin team know our company and our business very well. They are well-versed in market trends and keep us apprised of the latest legal trends impacting our industry."

"Sheppard Mullin is exceptional."

Work highlights

Sheppard Mullin acted as outside patent counsel to Vir Biotechnology on the drafting and prosecution of all IP underpinning its August 2024 worldwide licence agreement with Sanofi.

Notable practitioners

Jill Pietrini maintains a broad IP practice with a particular focus on contentious and noncontentious trademark matters. **Strengths:** *"Jill Pietrini is a strategic trademark expert."* **Lorna Tanner** is called upon by life sciences companies to prosecute and manage highly technical patent portfolios.

Strengths: *"Lorna Tanner is smart and spends time to learn the pharma and biotech business. She quickly learns new technology and provides excellent advice promptly."* **Martin Bader** represents technology companies in patent infringement matters. Martin is additionally adept in handling inner partes reviews and licensing matters.

Harper Batts is an experienced practitioner with a proven track record of success in patent disputes and notable expertise in post-grant proceedings. **Strengths:** *"Harper Batts is a client-focused attorney who has a deep understanding of the technical and business issues that our company faces. He is very diligent and responsive."* **Laura Chapman** is a highly experienced litigator who is routinely called upon by clients to handle complex trademark and copyright disputes. **Strengths:** *"Laura is a rockstar, and we enjoy working with her. She is a great mentor and bright spot for us as we navigate change and growth."* *"Laura Chapman is my go-to adviser for litigation matters."* *"Laura Chapman understands our goals and is a strategic partner beyond the litigation strategy."* **Alex Nie** is recognized for handling the full gamut of patent issues, including procurement, enforcement, licensing and technology transfers. He is regularly retained by technology, pharma and life sciences companies. **Strengths:** *"Alex Nie is an excellent patent attorney. He is responsive and attuned to trends in my industry, keeping me updated with various happenings."* *"Alex Nie delivers excellent client service."* *"Alex Nie has an excellent business sense."* **Stephen Koriczky** represents major companies in patent litigation and licensing matters, often with notable cross-border elements. **Strengths:** *"Stephen Koriczky is a strategic leader. He combines deep subject-matter*

expertise with a sophisticated understanding of litigation dynamics and business priorities. Steve is exceptionally well-spoken, clear in his analysis and consistently brings sound, experience-driven judgment to every major decision."

Sidley Austin LLP

What the team is known for

Sidley Austin maintains an impressive track record in high stakes IP disputes, with demonstrable experience in complex patent trials. The firm represents an enviable client base of leading technology, life sciences and solar energy clients.

Strengths

"The team at Sidley Austin is highly strategic, thoughtful and thorough, particularly in high-stakes IP matters. It takes the time to understand our products, risk profile and long-term objectives, and clearly cares about the company and its success."

"I could not have asked for anything better than what the Sidley Austin team delivered. Without a successful outcome to the litigation, our company's future was at risk, and they brought all the resources needed to solve our problem."

"The attorneys at Sidley Austin are always responsive and user-friendly."

Work highlights

Sidley Austin defended Canadian Solar in multiple patent lawsuits brought by competitors across three US states.

Notable practitioners

Mike Bettinger frequently represents high-profile technology companies in patent litigation in a range of venues. **Strengths:** *"Mike Bettinger is incredibly energetic. His passion and active thinking resonate with clients. He is also a good storyteller with an excellent understanding of industrial practice."*

Irene Yang is co-head of the firm's IP group and offers substantial experience representing technology and life sciences companies in high-stakes patent trials. **Strengths:** *"Irene Yang is extremely knowledgeable, consistently timely and responsive and quickly grasps both the legal and business sides of IP issues. Her responsiveness and judgment make her feel like a true extension of our internal team."* *"Irene is really communicative, and I can rely on her to understand IP laws."* *"Irene Yang is responsive and creative in finding solutions."*

Squire Patton Boggs

What the team is known for

Squire Patton Boggs is a respected firm well equipped to take on patent concerns in highly technical domains, including biotechnology, consumer electronics and communications. The firm represents clients in work including portfolio management and development, applications, patentability opinions and post-grant reviews.

Strengths

"I have 100% confidence in the support we receive from Squire Patton Boggs. They are timely and flexible when the need arises to have expedited responses."

"Squire Patton Boggs bring a high level of expertise to small molecule patent prosecution. They are adept at understanding scientific nuances and working within tight chemical spaces to deliver intellectual property that is critical to the success of their clients."

Work highlights

Squire Patton Boggs continued to advise Sutro Biopharma on developing a portfolio of intellectual property around novel antibody technology.

Notable practitioners

Rahul Pathak maintains a broad practice which ranges from patent preparation and prosecution to due diligence concerns. He offers substantial expertise on technical pharmaceutical patents.

Strengths: *"Rahul Pathak is one of my most trusted advisors. He is an incredible patent attorney who can handle any topic in biology, chemistry and biophysics. He is very skilled."* **Janice Rice** draws upon substantial in-house experience to advise life sciences clients on patent prosecution and strategy. **Strengths:** *"Janice Rice is an extremely efficient attorney and a pleasure to work with. Her advice is always to the point and has proven to be invaluable time and again."*

Stris & Maher LLP

What the team is known for

Stris & Maher LLP is an elite litigation boutique with demonstrable expertise in bet-the-company IP disputes. The firm has notable trial and appellate experience, and regularly represents clients in fields including entertainment, tech, life sciences and the video games industry.

Strengths

"I consider the Stris & Maher team to be an extension of our company and a huge help to our general counsel when needed. I have completely confidence in their litigation abilities and the advice they give us to prevent issues from turning into litigation."

"Stris & Maher have always been highly responsive and flexible in meeting my needs. They go above and beyond."

"Stris & Maher is very organized and effective."

Work highlights

Stris & Maher represented Fortis Advisors in a \$250 million earn-out dispute against Krafton concerning the post-acquisition protection of creative intellectual property.

Notable practitioners

Elizabeth Brannen is managing partner of the firm and has an impressive track record of success in complex IP litigation, including at trial. Her broad expertise encompasses disputes involving copyright and trademark for major clients. **Strengths:** *"Liz Brannen has gotten us favorable decisions every time we have worked with her."* *"Elizabeth Brannen has a unique ability to be authoritative and direct while maintaining a respectful, considerate manner. She is also extremely responsive and a joy to work with."* **Peter Stris** is an accomplished litigator and trial lawyer noted for his substantial experience in bet-the-company disputes. He has expertise in high-stakes disputes involving trade secrets and copyrights as part of a broader litigation practice. **Strengths:** *"Peter Stris is brilliant and the ultimate strategist."* *"Peter Stris is an excellent negotiator."*

Susman Godfrey LLP

What the team is known for

Susman Godfrey is a litigation boutique with a strong reputation for handling high-stakes intellectual property disputes. The team represents both plaintiffs and defendants in litigation and is particu-

larly experienced in acting for individuals in putative class actions. Its practice encompasses copyright infringement claims, trade secrets misappropriation mandates, breach of contract disputes and other related matters.

Strengths

"Susman Godfrey has creative and pragmatic litigators with deep expertise and great familiarity with the courts."

"I am always satisfied with Susman Godfrey's work. They are consummate professionals."

"Susman Godfrey has a deep bench of experienced litigators who can handle sensitive and complex matters. Their strength lies in their hired gun litigator status."

Work highlights

Susman Godfrey helped secure a \$1.5 billion settlement requiring Anthropic to compensate book authors for the use of pirated books in developing its large language models.

Notable practitioners

Kalpna Srinivasan is the managing partner at Susman Godfrey. In addition to general business and antitrust litigation, she has extensive experience handling trade secrets disputes on behalf of plaintiffs. **Strengths:** *"Having Kalpna involved in our case gives me a great deal of confidence."*

"Kalpna Srinivasan is very strategic and available. She takes my calls all the time." *"Kalpna Srinivasan is formidable on her feet."* *"Kalpna is highly effective."*

Tucker Ellis LLP

What the team is known for

Tucker Ellis LLP earns recognition for providing full-service trademark representation across the life-cycle of brand protection. The team advises on domestic and international trademark registration and maintenance, portfolio management, availability clearance and licensing, as well as enforcement and litigation. The firm also demonstrates capabilities in handling copyright matters, including registration, ownerships, transfers and infringement. It regularly serves technology, consumer goods and jewelry designer companies.

Strengths

"The team at Tucker Ellis is very responsive and takes the time to get to the heart of matters without wasting time or being inefficient."

"There is never a problem getting a hold of them."

Work highlights

Tucker Ellis advised AEG and its affiliated entities on developing and implementing a worldwide brand protection strategy for the company's numerous music festivals, including Coachella and Stagecoach.

Notable practitioners

David Steele known for litigating trademark and internet law matters, with a focus on media and entertainment, technology and cybersquatting. He also advises clients involved in complex infringement disputes. **Strengths:** *"David Steele is our sherpa. He tempers action with wisdom, makes strategic decisions, and is extremely knowledgeable in this area of law. He is also able to predict how others may respond to various tactics."*

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

What the team is known for

Weil, Gotshal & Manges is regularly sought out by cutting edge electronics and life sciences companies to assist with district court and appellate proceedings arising from patent infringement allegations. The group is also highlighted for its counsel on USPTO inter partes reviews. It additionally demonstrates skill in handling complex inventorship disputes.

Strengths

"Weil possesses an experienced team to handle complex matters from inception through trial. Its ability to handle expansive disputes is remarkable."

"Weil has an incredibly deep, coordinated and responsive team for patent litigation matters."

Work highlights

Weil represented Orca Security in a patent infringement case against Wiz.

Notable practitioners

Douglas Lumish is a leading intellectual property lawyer with considerable experience representing plaintiffs and defendants, including a number of high-profile technology businesses, in both bench and jury trials. **Strengths:** *"Douglas Lumish is an experienced partner who has helped us successfully navigate some of the trickiest large litigation settlements."* *"Douglas Lumish is top of the class in every way."*

White & Case LLP

What the team is known for

White & Case LLP is a respected global firm with an impressive client list of blue-chip and emerging technology companies. The group has notable expertise in complex, high-value patent litigation and can draw upon significant appellate capability if needed.

Strengths

"White & Case brings together experienced partners, capable associates and relevant technical and industry expertise, allowing it to handle complex matters efficiently."

"White & Case's expertise consistently meets the demands of our most critical legal challenges."

"The White & Case partners are highly engaged, accessible and consistently take the time to ensure our business team understands the legal approach and implications."

"White & Case consistently demonstrate a high level of expertise in IP matters. They work quickly and efficiently and are a pleasure to be around."

Work highlights

White & Case represented Voltage in an ITC investigation and related district court litigation brought by Shoals, targeting Voltage's LYNX trunk bus cable assembly.

Notable practitioners

Yar Chaikovsky is a respected patent litigator who is well-versed in representing tech-sector companies in diverse fields such as communications, medical devices and semiconductors. **Strengths:** *"Yar Chaikovsky is thoughtful, extremely responsive and genuinely cares about finding the best way to protect and position our patents. He also brings strong judgment to patent prosecution and consistently provides practical, high-quality advice."* *"Yar Chaikovsky is excellent at looking for strategic outcomes."* **Philip Ou** comes recommended for his broad patent litigation expertise. He frequently litigates complex disputes in both district courts

and before the ITC. **Strengths:** *"Philip is extremely sophisticated in his approach to litigation."*

WilmerHale

What the team is known for

WilmerHale is highlighted for its abilities handling hi-tech patent infringement proceedings and ANDA cases. It is an effective counsel for inter partes reviews, licensing disputes and copyright, trademark and trade secret protection. The team is additionally skilled in representation for PTAB and ITC proceedings.

Strengths

"WilmerHale does a really good job at trial."

"We trust WilmerHale with our high-stakes litigation cases. They have extremely strong trial lawyers."

"From top to bottom, from senior partner to junior associate, WilmerHale has knowledgeable, hard-working attorneys."

Work highlights

WilmerHale represented Anthropic in copyright litigation brought by music publishers, including Concord, Universal and ABKCO.

Notable practitioners

Sonal Mehta is a noted patent litigator who maintains a high-profile tech-sector client base which includes prominent video game and software developers. **Strengths:** *"Sonal does sophisticated litigation. She is very strategic and respected by courts."* Mark Selwyn offers a wealth of experience litigating patent cases for clients throughout the tech industry and regularly undertakes cases with cross-border elements. **Strengths:** *"Mark Selwyn is hands down one of the hardest working attorneys in the business. The service he provides is unmatched."* *"Mark Selwyn is an excellent lawyer and fantastic to work with. He is deeply knowledgeable of patent law and is a highly skilled litigator. I very much appreciate his sound, practical and strategic approach to handling litigation, especially when it comes to nuisance and patent troll matters."*

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

What the team is known for

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati houses a multifaceted practice singled out for its representation of clients in complex patent litigation and copyright disputes. It offers expert counsel on the management of IP portfolios, including with patent prosecution and due diligence for corporate transactions. The team also advises on licensing and collaboration agreement negotiations.

Strengths

"I have traversed many challenging scenarios with Wilson Sonsini's counsel. They are the best in the business."

"The team I work with at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati is highly skilled in my company's particular space. This level of skill is present from patent agents up to the partner level. I am very comfortable engaging with all levels and have extreme confidence in all the members of the group."

"The entire team at Wilson Sonsini is excellent, and their performance on our high-stakes litigation is outstanding."

Work highlights

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati represented Shopify in filing a copyright infringement lawsuit against Shopline, the operator of an e-commerce

platform.

Notable practitioners

Michael Hostetler is regularly called upon by life sciences companies to advise on matters including IP strategy and transactional matters. **Strengths:** *"Michael Hostetler is great for complex matters."* David Kramer offers substantial experience in trademark and copyright infringement litigation. He is particularly adept at representing prominent internet-based businesses in complex disputes.

Strengths: *"David Kramer has an ability to think creatively about problems that seem insurmountable. He gives advice that is easy to understand."*

Charles Tait Graves is a distinguished litigator with particular expertise in complex trade secrets disputes. He frequently represents leading companies from a range of industries, including the tech sector. **Strengths:** *"Charles puts together organized, well-functioning teams."* *"I hold Charles in high regard. He fights hard for his clients and knows IP very well. I trust him a lot."* **Ali Alemozafar** leads the tools, diagnostics and deep technology practice in the Patents and Innovations group at Wilson Sonsini. He has robust experience advising private entities on patent prosecution matters across a wide range of issues, especially those involving biotech. **Strengths:** *"Ali Alemozafar is a strong and knowledgeable leader who has been extremely beneficial in growing our patent portfolio. We greatly appreciate working with him and his team."* *"Ali's understanding of our commercial space is instrumental in the development and execution of our patent strategy."* **Matthew Bresnahan** counsels both emerging and established biotech companies on all aspects of patent work, including prosecution and strategic portfolio management. **Strengths:** *"Matthew Bresnahan is very accessible and had great depth and breadth of knowledge."* *"Matthew Bresnahan is highly knowledgeable and always willing and motivated to deliver according to our needs."*

Winston Taylor LLP

What the team is known for

Winston Taylor offers notable strength in complex patent disputes before district courts and the PTAB. The team also represents clients on trademark and copyright infringement matters. It is frequently called upon by clients from a diverse range of industries including technology, entertainment and life sciences.

Strengths

"The team already add significant value to our business. They are great partners, providing excellent legal counsel and defense. Their lawyers are smart and responsive."

"Winston has very effective negotiators and provides accurate assessments of our exposure and our prospects for success when we decide to bring actions to protect our intellectual property."

"Winston handles highly complex matters and sophisticated risk assessments without breaking a sweat."

Work highlights

Winston Taylor secured a settlement for toy company WowWee in a dispute brought by Roblox, which alleged that WowWee's real-world fashion dolls infringed Roblox's online avatars.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Karen Boyd is a seasoned attorney based in Silicon Valley. Her expertise lies in patent litigation, representing clients across a range of industries, particularly technology. She is also retained as an arbitrator and mediator in IP disputes. **Strengths:** *"Karen Boyd is a fantastic attorney and is able to advise on big-picture strategy as well as dig into the details."* *"Karen Boyd is very responsive, creative and strategic."* *"Karen is fantastic at presenting arguments and conveying highly complex subjects in a way that makes sense."*

Michelle Cooke of ArentFox Schiff LLP draws on extensive experience in the handling of trademark matters for clients in a range of sectors, including media, financial services and fashion. **Strengths:** *"Michelle Cooke is insightful and thoughtful. When she speaks, you can tell she has thought of everything and is very confident in her answers. She is also measured, thoughtful and calm under pressure."* *"It is an absolute pleasure to work with Michelle Cooke in all aspects."* *"Michelle Cooke in all aspects."*

Angela Dunning of Clearly Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP is noted for representation of major technology companies in IP disputes, focusing mainly on copyright, rights of publicity, unfair competition and trade mark infringement. **Strengths:** *"Angela Dunning is a superb writer and a fantastic orator."* *"I think the world of Angela. She is thoughtful, adept and committed."* *"Angela Dunning is a remarkable risk manager and trial lawyer. She weaves practical advice with technical mastery."*

Craig Gelfound of ArentFox Schiff LLP heads the firm's California IP group and is noted for his experience advising technology-sector clients of all sizes principally on patent prosecution and portfolio management matters. **Strengths:** *"Craig Gelfound has an impressive background in patent prosecution."* *"For years, Craig has been one of my best sources of legal advice. He absolutely thinks with a business mind and quickly focuses on results that matter."* *"Craig Gelfound consistently goes above and beyond, treating clients like true partners by procuring, managing, licensing and enforcing IP portfolios that drive real business value for companies of all sizes. His client service shines through his proactive approach."*

Jennifer Golinveaux co-chairs Alston & Bird's IP group and is highlighted for her expertise in both contentious and non-contentious trademark and copyright matters. **Strengths:** *"Jennifer Golinveaux is an excellent resource and someone I rely upon to provide solutions to complex issues we face. I have the utmost confidence in her abilities."* *"Jennifer is an excellent attorney and an incredible asset to us."*

Andrei Iancu of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP draws upon his experience serving as director of the US Patent and Trademark Office to advise major clients facing high-stakes patent disputes. **Strengths:** *"Andrei is my lead strategist and litigation partner."* *"Iancu can try any case himself and is skilled at guiding other litigators to do so with a high rate of success."*

Darcy Jones of Jackson Lewis frequently represents technology clients in high-stakes patent litigation before a variety of venues.

Mark Lemley of Lex Lumina PLLC has a strong

track record in appellate cases before the Federal Circuit, and offers significant depth of expertise across a broad range of patent disputes. **Strengths:** “Mark Lemley is very talented and has a great appellate practice in IP.”

Steven Moore of Vinson & Elkins maintains a notable disputes practice and regularly represents technology-sector clients in complex patent infringement disputes. He has expertise in both domestic and international matters. **Strengths:** “Steven is an awesome lawyer.” “Steven Moore is a great patent litigator, a wonderful thought partner and someone I want on my side in high-stakes litigation.”

Susan Natland of Baker Hostetler is regularly called upon to advise media-sector clients on general trademark and brand protection matters. **Strengths:** “Susan Natland provides exceptional legal advice and always puts the client first.” “Susan Natland is a phenomenal partner.” “Susan has an ability to quickly and accurately assess for risks and benefits.” “I can get a hold of Susan 24/7. She is always there when I need her.”

Nicola Pisano of Cozen O'Connor is an experienced practitioner with expertise spanning contentious and noncontentious patent mandates.

Matthew Powers is a well-established trial lawyer with experience in patent and trade secret litigation involving a range of different technological disciplines. **Strengths:** “I highly recommend Matthew Powers.”

Sasha Rao of Nixon Peabody is frequently called upon to represent clients from the technology and

life sciences sectors and is highly adept at handling litigation across all forms of IP. **Strengths:** “Sasha Rao is a true professional. She is inspirational in how she leads and represents the firm.” “Sasha is excellent at devising strategies.” “Sasha Rao is fantastic and very diligent.” “Sasha Rao pairs elite technical mastery with a deep personal commitment to her clients’ success.”

Benjamin Riley of Bartko Pavia LLP frequently handles copyright, trademark and trade secret disputes and represents clients across a broad array of industries.

Stephanie Seidman of Womble Bond Dickinson US LLP is skilled in the monetization and development of pharmaceutical, chemical and biotech companies’ patent portfolios. She demonstrates particular experience in representing startups and emerging businesses.

Benjamin Singer is particularly noted for his broad expertise in trade secrets litigation involving complex technologies. **Strengths:** “Ben Singer is an incisive trial lawyer with tremendous work ethic, deep care for his clients, and exceptional experience in resolving high-stakes IP and technology-focused disputes. He displays an agility in his work, with the ability to master the most intricate technical details of his cases and develop and present broad, winning trial themes.” “Ben is my trusted partner.”

Gregory Sobolski of Clearly Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP is an experienced litigator who is frequently called upon by tech and life sciences-sector companies seeking representation in complex trade secret and patent disputes. **Strengths:** “Greg

Sobolski is wonderful to work with. He is very sharp and gets great results for his clients.” “Greg is a terrific strategist for his clients.” “Greg Sobolski is able to take technical or obscure concepts and describe them in an understandable way to people who are not practitioners in his space.”

Bijal Vakil of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom is frequently called upon by leading technology-sector companies to litigate complex patent disputes. **Strengths:** “Bijal Vakil’s instincts in complex patent and trade secret disputes consistently resonate with, and deliver wins for, leading technology companies. He is my trusted go-to advocate for IP matters in this market.” “Bijal Vakil’s instincts in complex patent and trade secret disputes consistently resonate with, and deliver wins for, leading technology companies. He is my trusted go-to advocate for IP matters in this market.” “Bijal Vakil is someone we rely on to fire the first shot if we need to get aggressive.” “Bijal is extremely thorough and transparent. He is very easy to work with.”

Gary Williams advises clients from a range of technical industries on the prosecution and licensing of complex patents. **Strengths:** “Gary Williams has a fantastic breadth and depth of knowledge about patent issues. He provides excellent strategic advice with an eye to current trends in the legal industry.”

David Wu is increasingly recognized for his expert advice on patent strategy and prosecution to clients from highly technical industries. **Strengths:** “David Wu is an excellent patent attorney.”

Labor & Employment

Band 1 Labor & Employment: Mainly Plaintiffs

Allred, Maroko & Goldberg

What the team is known for

Allred, Maroko & Goldberg has a highly respected plaintiff practice. The team demonstrates the ability to assist clients on a vast range of issues, including sexual assault, discrimination and wrongful termination matters.

Notable practitioners

Gloria Allred is an eminent plaintiff lawyer and founding partner of Allred, Maroko & Goldberg LLP. She represents employees in claims of discrimination, sexual harassment and wrongful termination.

Nathan Goldberg has a great reputation for his representation of clients in single-plaintiff employment cases. His experience includes handling matters related to wrongful termination, whistleblower and discrimination claims. **Dolores Leal** is well respected for her representation of plaintiffs in employment disputes, including wrongful termination, discrimination and sexual harassment matters.

Michael Maroko carries considerable expertise in

matters relating to discrimination and wrongful termination. He also has extensive civil rights litigation and appellate experience.

Altshuler Berzon LLP

What the team is known for

Altshuler Berzon LLP is a long-established boutique in San Francisco, widely acknowledged for its specialized representation of employees and unions in disputes. The firm frequently handles class action litigation, particularly in cases involving discrimination and wage and hour violations. The attorneys are also sought for their advice in collective bargaining.

Hadsell Stormer Renick & Dai LLP

What the team is known for

Hadsell Stormer Renick & Dai LLP is a highly regarded civil rights and employment boutique. The firm is regularly instructed to represent individuals in discrimination and harassment claims against high-profile individuals and corporations. It also offers deep expertise in wrongful termination and retaliation claims, as well as litigation in relation to

wage and hour violations.

Strengths

“Everyone on the team brought their own special talent, handling every aspect of the case with diligence, respect and kindness.”

“The firm is very responsive and is always there when I need it.”

Work highlights

Hadsell Stormer Renick & Dai LLP successfully settled a wage and hour class action against the Walt Disney Company alleging failure to pay minimum wage.

Notable practitioners

Daniel Stormer of Hadsell & Stormer is recognized among peers for his extensive work representing employees in contentious matters. He has notable experience assisting on matters related to gender and age discrimination claims as well as wrongful termination. **Strengths:** “Daniel is simply the best. I would trust him with any case.”

Helmer Friedman LLP

What the team is known for

Helmer Friedman LLP is a highly regarded employ-

Labor & Employment	
Senior Statespeople and Eminent Practitioners	
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	Siniscalco Gary <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP</i>
Alvarez Fred W. <i>Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP *</i>	Wohl Jeffrey D. <i>Nilan Johnson Lewis P.A. (ORL) ◇</i>
Grossman Paul <i>Paul Hastings LLP *</i>	Eminent Practitioners
Mathiason Gary G. <i>Littler Mendelson, PC</i>	Chopra Apalla <i>O'Melveny & Myers LLP</i>
Leading Individuals	
Star individuals	Petroff Laura R. <i>Limbo (ORL) ◇</i>
Hermle Lynne C. <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP</i>	Reathaford Laura <i>Lathrop GPM (ORL) ◇</i>
Band 1	Samuel Robin <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Baca Elena <i>Paul Hastings LLP *</i>	Siegel Robert <i>O'Melveny & Myers LLP</i>
Heinicke Malcolm <i>Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP</i>	Smith Katherine V. A. <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>
Oncidi Anthony J. <i>Proskauer Rose LLP *</i>	Stella Walter <i>Cozen O'Connor *</i>
Band 2	Theodore Mark <i>Proskauer Rose LLP *</i>
Connell Erin <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP</i>	Zadikany Ruth <i>Mayer Brown LLP (ORL) ◇ *</i>
Conway Catherine A. <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>	Band 5
Cripps Jr. Jesse A. <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>	Abrahms Adam <i>Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP</i>
Forster Katherine M. <i>Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP</i>	Brenner Jonathan <i>Epstein Becker & Green PC</i>
Kennedy Tracey A. <i>Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton</i>	Brewer Michael <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Levin Adam <i>Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP</i>	Buffalano Nicole <i>Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP</i>
Miller Savitt Linda <i>Ballard Rosenberg Golper (ORL) ◇</i>	Burns Brett <i>Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP *</i>
Orr Cheryl D. <i>Faegre Drinker *</i>	Cowie Paul <i>Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP *</i>
Sulzer Kenneth D. <i>Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete</i>	Doshi Pankit <i>McDermott Will & Schulte</i>
Totten Julie A. <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP</i>	Hudson Esra A. <i>Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP</i>
Band 3	Kaufman Thomas R. <i>Sheppard, Mullin, Richter</i>
Abbott Leslie <i>Limbo (ORL) ◇</i>	Keyes Judith Droz <i>Davis Wright Tremaine LLP</i>
Amdursky Eric <i>O'Melveny & Myers LLP</i>	Krudewagen Ute <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>
Ashe Brian T. <i>Seyfarth Shaw LLP *</i>	Lake Holly <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>
Baldocchi Jennifer <i>Paul Hastings LLP *</i>	Lens Molly <i>O'Melveny & Myers LLP</i>
Bergstrom Rick <i>Jones Day</i>	Llaguno Fernin H. <i>Littler Mendelson, PC</i>
Birenbaum Charles S. <i>Greenberg Traurig, LLP</i>	Maechten Laura J. <i>Seyfarth Shaw LLP</i>
Davis Felicia A. <i>Paul Hastings LLP *</i>	McQueen Daniel <i>ArentFox Schiff LLP</i>
Dollarhide Mary <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>	Ocheltree Lorraine <i>Duane Morris LLP</i>
Fischer Debra L. <i>Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP</i>	Powell Donelan Caroline <i>Blank Rome LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Fox Cameron <i>Paul Hastings LLP *</i>	Riechert Melinda S. <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP</i>
Haydel Gehrke Michele <i>Reed Smith LLP</i>	Sager Heather <i>Perkins Cole LLP *</i>
Hirschfeld Stephen J. <i>Hirschfeld Kraemer LLP</i>	Satenberg Andrew <i>Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP</i>
Howard Jr. George S. <i>Quarles & Brady LLP</i>	Tellado Christina <i>Polsinelli PC *</i>
Hutton Zachary <i>Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP</i>	Valdez Troy <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>
Karr Adam <i>O'Melveny & Myers LLP</i>	Witlin Scott J. <i>Barnes & Thornburg LLP</i>
Knopp Gregory W. <i>Proskauer Rose LLP *</i>	Woo Peter J. <i>Jackson Lewis P.C.</i>
Kraemer Glen E. <i>Hirschfeld Kraemer LLP</i>	Zadravec Steven M. <i>Jones Day</i>
Livingston Andrew <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP</i>	Band 6
Long Timothy <i>Greenberg Traurig, LLP</i>	Bass Erin <i>Dentons</i>
McLaughlin Gary <i>Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP</i>	Bauman Sharon <i>Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP</i>
Roberts Katherine A. <i>Sidley Austin LLP *</i>	Boman Chris <i>Fisher Phillips</i>
Rodriguez Maria <i>McDermott Will & Schulte</i>	Farag Shareef <i>BakerHostetler LLP *</i>
Rubin Jennifer <i>Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo</i>	Ho Benjamin <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Simmons Richard <i>Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton *</i>	Jones Hannah <i>Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP *</i>
Tate Eric Akira <i>Morrison Foerster</i>	Katz Steven B. <i>Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete, LLP</i>
Band 4	Lebel Philippe <i>Proskauer Rose LLP *</i>
Beldner Sabrina <i>McGuireWoods LLP</i>	Mates Josh <i>Cooley LLP</i>
Bulut Koray <i>Goodwin Procter LLP (ORL) ◇ *</i>	Paley Andrew <i>Seyfarth Shaw LLP</i>
Burkhardt Vicente Emily <i>Hunton Andrews Kurth *</i>	Posey Ryne <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher (ORL) ◇</i>
Dunne Julie <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>	Scherwin Todd <i>Fisher Phillips</i>
Fife Joan B. <i>Tucker Winston Taylor LLP *</i>	Shadi Sabrina <i>BakerHostetler LLP *</i>
Garvis Wright Kerry <i>Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan</i>	Sommerfeld Amanda <i>Jones Day</i>
Holland Ron <i>Greenberg Traurig, LLP</i>	Terry Jennifer C. <i>Reed Smith LLP</i>
Kane Matthew C. <i>BakerHostetler LLP *</i>	Wright Ian A. <i>Alston & Bird LLP *</i>
Lazerson Wendy <i>Sidley Austin LLP *</i>	Zee Candice T. <i>Vedder</i>
Leung Tao <i>Hogan Lovells US LLP (ORL) ◇</i>	Up-and-coming individuals
Maryott Michele <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>	Gitig Eric <i>Jackson Lewis P.C.</i>
McCandless Sandra R. <i>Dentons</i>	Gonzales Michelle <i>Hogan Lovells US LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Meer Jon D. <i>Seyfarth Shaw LLP</i>	Maraschino Margaret <i>Akin</i>
Moore Danielle Hultenius <i>Fisher Phillips</i>	Villanueva Anne <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher (ORL) ◇</i>
Perry Jessica R. <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP</i>	

* Indicates individual with profile.

◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Labor & Employment: Mainly Plaintiffs	
Leading Firms	
Band 1	
Allred, Maroko & Goldberg	
Altshuler Berzon LLP	
Hadsell Stormer Renick & Dai LLP	
Helmer Friedman LLP	
Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP	
Outten & Golden LLP	
Rudy, Exelrod, Zieff & Lowe, LLP	
Sanford Heisler Sharp McKnight, LLP	
Leading Individuals	
Star individuals	
DeRubertis David <i>The DeRubertis Law Firm APC (ORL) ◇</i>	
Band 1	
Allred Gloria <i>Allred, Maroko & Goldberg</i>	
Dermody Kelly <i>Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP</i>	
Friedman Andrew H. <i>Helmer Friedman LLP</i>	
Goldberg Nathan <i>Allred, Maroko & Goldberg</i>	
Harrison Genie <i>Genie Harrison Law Firm, APC (ORL) ◇</i>	
Lawless Barbara A. <i>Lawless & Lawless (ORL) ◇</i>	
Leal Dolores <i>Allred, Maroko & Goldberg</i>	
Lowe David <i>Rudy, Exelrod, Zieff & Lowe, LLP</i>	
Maroko Michael <i>Allred, Maroko & Goldberg</i>	
Palefsky Cliff <i>Law Offices of McGuinn, Hillsman (ORL) ◇</i>	
Shegerian Carney <i>Shegerian & Associates (ORL) ◇</i>	
Stormer Dan <i>Hadsell Stormer Renick & Dai LLP</i>	
Up-and-coming individuals	
Zheng Qiaojing Ella <i>Sanford Heisler Sharp McKnight, LLP</i>	

ment litigation boutique recognized for its adept representation of employees in a wide array of complex disputes. The team has experience in handling discrimination and wrongful termination cases, among other claims.

Strengths

"The firm stands out for its attention to detail and deep industry knowledge."

"The team has a strong depth and breadth of knowledge, and are always responsive. They have a strong understanding of representing plaintiffs."

Work highlights

Helmer Friedman LLP represented two former female administrators in a lawsuit against California State University alleging harassment and discrimination on account of their gender.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Friedman is recognized among peers for his work representing both individuals and classes in a variety of matters, ranging from harassment to wage and hour suits. **Strengths:** "Andrew is an authority in the field of employment law for plaintiffs."

Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP

What the team is known for

Lieff Cabraser Heimann LLP has a well-regarded plaintiff practice that is renowned for its ability to defend employee rights across a range of sectors, including healthcare and food and beverages. The team routinely assists clients on matters related to discriminatory claims, wage violations and misuse of employee benefits.

Notable practitioners

Kelly Dermody is extremely well regarded for her representation of plaintiffs in highly contentious discrimination cases. She boasts strength in handling high-profile class actions.

Labor & Employment: Highly Regarded	Labor & Employment: The Elite
Leading Firms	Leading Firms
Band 1	Band 1
BakerHostetler LLP	Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Dentons	Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Duane Morris LLP	Paul Hastings LLP
Fisher Phillips	Band 2
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP	Jones Day
Jackson Lewis P.C.	Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
McGuireWoods LLP	Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP	O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Polsinelli PC	Proskauer Rose LLP
Band 2	Band 3
Holland & Knight LLP	Baker McKenzie
Littler Mendelson, PC	DLA Piper LLP (US)
Quarles & Brady LLP	McDermott Will & Schulte
Band 3	Seyfarth Shaw LLP
Akin	Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP
Alston & Bird LLP	Sidley Austin LLP
ArentFox Schiff LLP	Band 4
Barnes & Thornburg LLP	Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete, LLP
Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP	Hirschfeld Kraemer LLP
Cooley LLP	Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
Cozen O'Connor	Faegre Drinker
Epstein Becker & Green PC	Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan & Shapiro, LLP	Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP
Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC	Morrison Foerster
Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, PC	Perkins Coie LLP
Vedder	Reed Smith LLP
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>	Winston Taylor LLP

Outten & Golden LLP

What the team is known for

Carrying a nationwide reputation for its plaintiff work, Outten & Golden LLP focuses on representing employees in a vast array of contentious matters. The team has considerable experience assisting clients on matters arising from harassment, executive compensation and wrongful termination claims. Its practice covers a wide array of industries.

Rudy, Exelrod, Zieff & Lowe, LLP

What the team is known for

Rudy, Exelrod, Zieff & Lowe, LLP is a boutique with a distinguished reputation for representing employees at every level. The team is highly regarded for its capabilities in class action litigation. The lawyers routinely handle equity compensation disputes.

Notable practitioners

David Lowe has established a reputation as one of California's leading plaintiff attorneys. He is held in high regard for his handling of high-profile gender discrimination cases and also acts as a mediator.

Sanford Heisler Sharp McKnight, LLP

What the team is known for

Sanford Heisler Sharp McKnight, LLP bears a strong reputation for handling complex employment matters. The team is renowned for its ability to handle workplace discrimination and wage and hour disputes. The lawyers have experience assisting employees from Fortune 500 companies, as well as attorneys at law firms, among others.

Strengths

"The firm is diligent and a very well-versed team who offered superior, compelling, and timely guidance, as well as thoughtful approach choices."

Work highlights

Sanford Heisler Sharp McKnight LLP secured a \$69 million settlement against UnitedHealth Group in an ERISA litigation that concerned the failure to remove underperforming investment options in their 401(k) plan.

Notable practitioners

Qiaojing Ella Zheng advises employees on a wide variety of employment issues, including wage and hour, discrimination, harassment and retaliation claims.

BakerHostetler LLP

What the team is known for

BakerHostetler LLP has a recognized labor and employment group with a strong national platform. It frequently acts on wage and hour class and collective actions. It also offers counseling on labor law issues, as well as experience in arbitration proceedings. The team represents clients from a variety of industries, including hospitality, transport and finance.

Strengths

"BakerHostetler is a large firm with many resources and expertise."

"They have handled complex matters with keen insight into our business needs, exceptional client service and thoughtful, comprehensive strategies."

"The team steer us to the best path in a complex and complicated myriad of cases. They have the knowledge, strategy and experience."

Notable practitioners

Matthew Kane has considerable expertise in wage and hour issues, and acts on behalf of clients in the energy, financial services and logistics industries, among others. He co-leads the firm's employment and wage and hour class actions team. **Strengths:**

"Matthew Kane is a true expert and very reliable."

Shareef Farag regularly defends employers in

wage and hour and PAGA claims. He co-leads the firm's employment and wage and hour class actions team. **Strengths:** *"Shareef is very knowledgeable of the subject matter and is really adept at translating information in a digestible way."* **Sabrina Shadi** provides robust representation to corporations and executives in non-contentious and contentious employment issues. She has defended clients against allegations including retaliation and harassment. **Strengths:** *"Sabrina is very knowledgeable at guiding us through the pitfalls of employment law. She takes a firm position of what is the best course of action."*

Dentons

What the team is known for

Dentons houses a notable team of labor and employment practitioners with extensive experience in disputes such as wage and hour class actions. It also advises on disputes involving allegations of discrimination and sexual harassment, including both domestic and cross-border mandates. It offers additional strength in advisory and contentious labor law concerns.

Strengths

"Dentons is very communicative and the advice is always spot-on."

Work highlights

Dentons represented Le-Vel Brands in a wage and hour class action alleging that Le-Vel misclassified its thousands of California Brand Promoters as independent contractors.

Notable practitioners

Sandra McCandless has expertise in both domestic and cross-border labor and employment matters, including advising on compliance concerns and defending against harassment claims. **Strengths:** *"Sandra is very knowledgeable and her subject matter depth is exceptional. I always feel very supported and have complete confidence in her."* **Erin Bass** enjoys a growing reputation for her experience in wage and hour class actions. She also advises employers on matters concerning discrimination and retaliation claims. **Strengths:** *"Erin is knowledgeable, commercial and thoughtful." "Erin combines sharp strategic instincts with a results-driven mindset. Her ability to cut through noise and focus on outcomes makes a tangible difference."*

Duane Morris LLP

What the team is known for

Duane Morris LLP bears a strong reputation for its team's litigation and trial capabilities. Its lawyers have particular expertise in defending clients in pay equity and discrimination matters. The team has further experience assisting clients on matters concerning ERISA violations.

Strengths

"Duane Morris are extremely responsive and sensitive. They give extremely nuanced advice and delve into the facts quickly."

"Duane Morris are thorough, insightful and responsive."

"We trust their judgment in navigating challenging situations that require legal precision and business acumen."

Work highlights

Duane Morris LLP represented SAP America in a lawsuit alleging gender and disability discrimina-

tion, sexual harassment, failure to accommodate, retaliation and wrongful termination claims.

Notable practitioners

Lorraine Ocheltree regularly handles harassment and retaliation matters on behalf of employers.

Fisher Phillips

What the team is known for

Fisher Phillips is a respected national boutique with expertise across the full spectrum of labor and employment matters, including harassment, discrimination, and wage and hour matters. The team advises companies in the hospitality, manufacturing and aerospace industries, among others.

Strengths

"Fisher Phillips truly understands the nuances and complexities of our business, which allows them to provide tailored, strategic advice."

"The firm is very responsive, intelligent and very knowledgeable about employment law."

"They prioritize us, they are responsive and they have done an amazing job of understanding our business."

Work highlights

Fisher Phillips successfully defended NBC Universal in an age discrimination and retaliation claim.

Notable practitioners

Danielle Moore regularly represents clients in PAGA and federal wage and hour disputes, and is also adept at handling discrimination and wrongful termination claims. **Strengths:** *"Danielle is very knowledgeable, responsive and a very good business partner who always provides practical advice."*

Chris Boman regularly handles a wide range of employment disputes, including wage and hour class actions and PAGA representative actions.

Strengths: *"Chris really understands the issues we are going through."* **Todd Scherwin** regularly defends clients in labor and employment disputes. He is particularly skilled in securing dismissals in relation to PAGA claims. **Strengths:** *"Todd is very responsive, down to earth and reliable."*

Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

What the team is known for

Hunton Andrews Kurth has a strong reputation for handling wage and hour litigation and PAGA actions. The group also handles matters concerning trade secrets, pay equity and discrimination claims. Its clients stem from a range of industries, including transportation and energy.

Strengths

"Hunton Andrews Kurth's willingness to be business partners, their attention to detail and strategic thinking distinguishes them."

"The firm demonstrates strong, invaluable expertise in California employment law, consistently delivering high-quality service and valuable counsel that fully meet our needs."

Notable practitioners

Emily Burkhardt Vicente is a highly sought-after employment lawyer based in the firm's Los Angeles office. She is noted for her skillful defense of employers in a wide array of disputes including wage and hour claims. **Strengths:** *"Emily is phenomenal for when you really need an expert. She knows the business really well, is calm, collected and very smart."* **Brett Burns** frequently acts for high-profile clients across a variety of industries

on contentious employment matters. He is experienced with handling wage and hour class and collective litigation on behalf of employers. **Strengths:**

"Brett is always responsive, approachable and proactive in his communication. He combines strong technical expertise with excellent commercial judgment."

Jackson Lewis P.C.

What the team is known for

Jackson Lewis P.C. assists employers on a wide variety of labor and employment issues, including representation in collective and class action claims. It also advises on breach of contract matters, as well as labor relations issues and discrimination claims. Its lawyers work with a range of clients, including companies in the retail, manufacturing and healthcare sectors.

Strengths

"With every need I have had, there has been a Jackson Lewis attorney with the expertise to provide valuable advice and counsel."

"Jackson Lewis has a breadth of experience and knowledge and is exceptional about following through."

"The firm combines legal expertise with pragmatic, business-oriented solutions that help us navigate complex challenges with confidence."

Work highlights

Jackson Lewis P.C. successfully defended Adecco USA in a PAGA action.

Notable practitioners

Peter Woo is well-versed in handling discrimination claims, including defending clients before the EEOC. **Strengths:** *"Peter makes himself available around the clock. He goes above and beyond."*

Eric Gitig represents his clients in a wide range of employment disputes, including class and representative PAGA and wage and hour claims.

Strengths: *"Eric is very impressive, smart and strategic."* *"Eric understands our nuances and industry in which we operate and provides a high level of service."*

McGuireWoods LLP

What the team is known for

McGuireWoods LLP fields a strong team of litigators for wage and hour class and collective actions arising from a range of sectors. It also advises on major racial and discrimination claims, as well as providing counsel on traditional labor law concerns. Its client roster includes major companies in the food and beverage, manufacturing and energy markets.

Strengths

"McGuireWoods are sensitive to client needs, collaborative and have good big-picture thinking."

"The team at McGuireWoods are excellent about giving a very organized and thoughtful evaluation of the cases. They know the nuances of Californian law and give excellent advice."

Notable practitioners

Based in San Francisco, **Sabrina Beldner** has experience in wage and hour class and PAGA actions. She also advises across a wide range of discrimination matters. **Strengths:** *"Sabrina is an excellent strategic partner and has excellent knowledge of the plaintiffs' Bar helping her provide excellent litigation defense."* *"Sabrina has a no-nonsense*

and very practical approach that yields very good results."

Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP

What the team is known for

Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp is highly recommended for its work for employers in the entertainment industry. The practice caters to an impressive client roster consisting of major film studios, television networks and production companies. Its lawyers offer advice on a broad range of matters including wage and hour class actions and single-plaintiff discrimination cases, with noted expertise in First Amendment defense and collective bargaining agreements.

Strengths

"The team handled a very difficult claim with excellent strategy that was aggressive but reasonable. They were always thinking ahead, giving timely responses and thinking creatively."

"The firm work extremely fast and efficiently. Their communication is excellent and nuanced."

"Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp's pragmatic and knowledgeable approach is always appreciated."

"The firm can handle extremely challenging sophisticated matters and the complexity of the constantly changing California laws."

Work highlights

Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP advised Home Box Office in a lawsuit brought by an independent contractor alleging sexual harassment, misclassification, breach of contract and retaliation claims.

Notable practitioners

Adam Levin is respected for his expertise in representing clients in the entertainment sector, handling matters such as wrongful termination and discrimination allegations. **Strengths:** *"Adam is incredibly skilled, an expert in his field and an excellent communicator."* **Gary McLaughlin** assists clients with wage and hour class and collective actions.

Strengths: *"Gary is a wonderful, very knowledgeable and practical lawyer."* *"Gary is always dependable and very intelligent. He thinks outside the box and is diligent and thorough."* *"Gary understands the nuances and intricacies of complex labor matters in California and provides sound advice."*

Polsinelli PC

What the team is known for

Polsinelli is a respected firm recognized for its strong California employment litigation capabilities. The team defends clients against single-plaintiff discrimination claims, and class and collective actions such as wage and hour suits. It also assists with trade secrets and retaliation mandates. The lawyers have notable experience in both state and federal administrative proceedings. It represent clients in the entertainment, hospitality and technology sectors.

Strengths

"Polsinelli have extreme responsiveness and thoughtful yet business-oriented approaches."

"Polsinelli has nationwide knowledge of all aspects of employment-related matters. The firm provides friendly service and excellent advice."

Work highlights

Polsinelli represented Tesla in a lawsuit brought by the California Civil Rights Department alleging racial discrimination and har-

assessment, as well as a countersuit against the CRD.

Notable practitioners

Christina Tellado is a labor and employment attorney based in both the Los Angeles and Philadelphia offices of Polsinelli PC. She focuses her practice on collective actions relating to discrimination and harassment. She also has experience in both wage and hour and PAGA matters.

Band 2 Labor & Employment: Highly Regarded

Holland & Knight LLP

What the team is known for

Holland & Knight is capable of litigating a variety of employment-related disputes. The group displays considerable adeptness in handling FLSA-related matters. Its practitioners provide expert counsel to clients in the fashion and financial industries.

Strengths

"Holland & Knight are client-centered and solution-oriented."

"Holland & Knight's lawyers are thorough and very responsive."

"The team handle issues efficiently and effectively. They identify key defenses early on and position cases for favorable resolutions."

Work highlights

Holland & Knight LLP represented MHM Services of California in a wage and hour class action which directly challenged practices at the heart of the client's staffing model.

Notable practitioners

Linda Auerbach Allderice is a key contact at the firm.

Littler Mendelson, PC

What the team is known for

Littler Mendelson has a broad-ranging practice that extends to all areas of employment law. The department is notable for its work on employment disputes and has experience litigating at both the state and federal levels. Its lawyers regularly represent employers in collective bargaining negotiations, as well as employment discrimination cases.

Strengths

"Their depth of knowledge and hands-on experience allows them to provide insightful, real-world and authoritative answers quickly."

"Littler Mendelson is responsive and provides practical, business-friendly legal advice."

"Littler Mendelson truly understands the business implications of our legal issues. The firm is incredibly responsive and an expert in every area of employment law."

Work highlights

Littler Mendelson, PC successfully acted for Nativo against a former employee alleging various claims, including a wage and hour class action, PAGA claims, discrimination, harassment and retaliation.

Notable practitioners

Garry Mathiason is an esteemed practitioner with niche expertise in employment issues related to AI and robotics. His practice also covers a broader range of labor law issues and employment disputes. **Strengths:** *"Garry is a very significant and impactful player in this field."* Fermin Llaguno handles a variety of contentious matters on behalf of

employers, including wage and hour class and collective actions and discrimination claims. His expertise also encompasses wrongful termination and retaliation disputes. **Strengths:** *"Fermin is responsive, smart and understands our business well."* *"Fermin is practical, responsive and tremendous. He has handled complex cases with always with great results. His judgment is very much trusted."* *"Fermin has a deep understanding of the law and has taken the time to truly understand our business. He has a great sense of how cases will play out and can evaluate and strategize."* *"He consistently provides a timely, thoughtful and diligent service when handling complex litigation."*

Quarles & Brady LLP

What the team is known for

Quarles & Brady LLP houses a San Diego-based team which is highly praised for its labor and employment expertise. It routinely handles contentious matters before the NLRB as well as state and federal courts. The department's expertise encompasses collective bargaining agreements and discrimination and retaliation claims. The team regularly advises schools and higher education institutions, among other clients.

Strengths

"The Quarles & Brady team is not only knowledgeable, it is timely, strategic, communicative and responsive."

"Quarles & Brady have a broad employment law practice and are nimble and hands-on. The lawyers are responsive, thorough and seasoned trial attorneys."

"Quarles & Brady handle very high-profile cases with skill, confidence and expertise. They are good, caring trial counsel with high integrity."

"The attorneys at Quarles are subject matter experts with outstanding business acumen."

Work highlights

Quarles & Brady LLP represented California State University, in a dispute challenging the constitutionality of policies barring caste discrimination.

Notable practitioners

George Howard has expertise in traditional labor law matters such as collective bargaining, as well as advising on employment law disputes. **Strengths:** *"George has a deep understanding of employment law at all levels."* *"George has encyclopedic knowledge of law."*

Band 3 Labor & Employment: Highly Regarded

Akin

What the team is known for

Akin houses expertise in wage and hour matters, with a strong track record of defending Private Attorneys General Act and federal lawsuits including misclassification, unpaid work and overtime claims. It represents high-profile clients in the professional services, food and beverage, and sports industries, among others.

Strengths

"Akin are very responsive, level-headed and focused on getting to the best outcome."

"Akin has great communicators who know our organization very well."

Work highlights

Akin represented Yipit in bringing an action for trade secret misappropriation in the Southern District of New York against M Science and two former Yipit employees.

Notable practitioners

Margaret Maraschino is best known for her representation of employers in wage and hour class actions. **Strengths:** *"Margaret always offers very practical advice and is an expert in her field."*

Alston & Bird LLP

What the team is known for

Alston & Bird LLP is known for its effective counseling of clients facing employment-related contentious and non-contentious issues. The law firm commonly deals with disputes arising from allegations of wage and hour violations and claims of discrimination, harassment and wrongful termination. The team advises companies in a range of sectors including financial services, retail and healthcare.

Strengths

"Alston & Bird is very capable of handling complex and sophisticated matters. The lawyers have expert knowledge and are very responsive."

"Alston & Bird is vastly experienced in defending and litigating class action lawsuits. The firm is very skilled and brings a strong business perspective."

Work highlights

Alston & Bird LLP represented Young's Market in an employment class and collective action alleging violations of wage and hour and PAGA laws.

Notable practitioners

Ian Wright has a robust labor and employment practice, spanning wage and hour class actions as well as individual claims of wrongful termination, harassment and discrimination. **Strengths:** *"Ian is detail-oriented and has deep knowledge of the subject matter. He is a great navigator of the landscape and gets results swiftly."*

ArentFox Schiff LLP

What the team is known for

ArentFox Schiff LLP offer a well regarded labor and employment practice with a particular focus on collective and representative actions brought under the PAGA and FLSA. The team is also experienced in defending employers against claims of discrimination, retaliation and wrongful termination. It represents clients across many industries including food and beverage, healthcare and agriculture, among others.

Strengths

"ArentFox Schiff is extremely knowledgeable, strategic and responsive. It takes the time to understand our company and leverage that knowledge to offer solutions."

"ArentFox Schiff have a very good ability to know all aspects of a case and provide experts in particular legal areas. It is very attentive to our needs and work with us to limit our exposure."

Work highlights

ArentFox Schiff LLP represented Nova Instruments in a wage and hour class action, a PAGA complaint and a disability discrimination action.

Notable practitioners

Daniel McQueen is highly regarded for his representation of employers in wage and hour class actions, as well representative and collec-

tive actions brought under the PAGA and FLSA. **Strengths:** *"Daniel knows case law by memory. He is very collaborative and I have all the confidence in him." "Daniel is incredibly smart and at the forefront of wage and hour law changes in California." "Daniel's intelligence and straightforwardness really set him apart."*

Barnes & Thornburg LLP

What the team is known for

Barnes & Thornburg LLP's California labor and employment team is best known for its work in class actions, and wage and hour and discrimination claims. The firm has offices in both San Diego and Los Angeles. Its team have extensive experience in putative class actions before the Superior Court of the State of California as well as a broad range of manufacturing clients from food to aerospace.

Strengths

"Barnes & Thornburg have deep expertise in our industry and are able to handle each and every issue."

"The team are responsive and willing to efficiently collaborate with others very well. They take the time necessary to thoroughly address matters."

"Barnes and Thornburg provides excellent technical advice."

Work highlights

Barnes & Thornburg LLP acted as lead negotiator for Flying Food Group, in numerous collective bargaining negotiations across the US for facilities with incumbent unions.

Notable practitioners

Scott Witlin handles a wide array of issues on behalf of employers, including labor relations matters and wage and hour litigation. He is particularly experienced in the entertainment industry. **Strengths:** *"Scott is a superb lawyer who always delivers the best results for his clients." "Scott has been an essential partner and respected counsel in guiding us through painful issues."*

Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP

What the team is known for

Californian labor and employment team Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP is experienced in wage and hour, PAGA and discrimination claims. The practice is well-versed in whistle-blower claims as well as collective bargaining. The firm has trial experience before the California Supreme Court as well as dealing with EEOC claims.

Strengths

"Coblentz have a very business-minded approach with a lot of experience. They navigate very challenging situations with experience and creativity, always thinking of the big picture while being mindful of the details."

"The Coblentz team provide highly tailored and business-friendly advice."

"Coblentz is a well-rounded firm across all legal segments. It provides high-quality work and timely responses."

Work highlights

Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP defended The Bohemian Club against a twin class action and PAGA complaint.

Notable practitioners

Fred Alvarez is a much admired employment

law expert with a wealth of experience representing employers in trials and appellate matters.

Strengths: *"Fred is a true advocate for his clients and understands how to get to the best result."*

Hannah Jones is a partner in Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP's San Francisco office. She has experience in both individual and class action suits, as well as discrimination, wage and hour, and wrongful termination matters. **Strengths:** *"Hannah gives agile, business-friendly and practical advice." "Hannah always provides very pragmatic and balanced advice." "Hannah is very detailed, quick and very clear. Her knowledge, speed and clarity stand out. She is a precise and a very good communicator." "Hannah's strategy was incredibly helpful. Her business lens gave us confidence."*

Cooley LLP

What the team is known for

Cooley LLP's labor and employment practice is held in high regard for its handling of the full spectrum of employment issues. The firm offers robust representation to employers in disputes arising from discrimination, retaliation and wage and hour violation claims. The team conducts investigations and negotiations and has a strong reputation serving as employment counsel on corporate transactions.

Strengths

"Cooley know the law very well and have a good commercial sense, providing advice based on our risk tolerance."

"The Cooley team do an excellent job of giving practical and business- focused advice on complex employment matters. They make themselves available on short notice to tackle very difficult issues."

"Cooley are always on top of the changing laws and how that can affect us in this space. They are extremely knowledgeable and creative at identifying solutions."

Work highlights

Cooley LLP acted as primary employment counsel to EPRI on the full range of employment issues including investigations, terminations and post-termination disputes.

Notable practitioners

Josh Mates serves as employment counsel to companies guiding them through contentious and non-contentious issues. He handles disputes arising from discrimination, wage and hour violations and post-termination claims. **Strengths:** *"Josh is a very seasoned and excellent employment lawyer." "Josh is an excellent partner who is always ready to jump in and help on short notice for emergencies. He is efficient and gives practical advice." "Josh is exceptional in terms of expertise, availability and responsiveness." "Josh is extremely knowledgeable and can handle anything from the mundane up to very high-stakes litigation."*

Cozen O'Connor

What the team is known for

Cozen O'Connor handles a wide variety of labor and employment matters, ranging from collective bargaining negotiations to handling wrongful termination and discrimination matters. The team acts on behalf of a varied client base which includes corporations, trade associations and nonprofits.

Notable practitioners

Walter Stella has a broad practice, which includes

wage and hour, harassment, discrimination and retaliation disputes.

Epstein Becker & Green PC

What the team is known for

Epstein Becker & Green PC offers a dedicated labor and employment practice in California as well as the ability to draw upon the firm's impressive nationwide bench. It is adept at handling high-stakes wage and hour litigation, as well as significant capability in traditional labor law, including handling proceedings before the NLRB.

Strengths

"Epstein Becker & Green combine technical excellence, commercial judgment and responsiveness. They consistently deliver advice that is legally sound yet highly practical."

"The team's legal analysis is spot-on and advice is commercially practical."

Notable practitioners

Jonathan Brenner frequently handles wage and hour class actions as part of his labor and employment practice. **Strengths:** *"Jonathan is responsive, organized and proactive in ensuring our needs are met. He understands our business and anticipate issues before they arise."*

Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan & Shapiro, LLP

What the team is known for

Glaser, Weil, Fink, Howard, Jordan & Shapiro, LLP offers noted labor and employment expertise ranging from litigation, alternative dispute resolution and other administrative hearings. The practice is well equipped to handle contentious matters at the state and federal level as well as international matters.

Strengths

"The Glaser Weil team have extensive experience and are very knowledgeable of the law and simplify all of its complexities to the client."

"The team are incredibly responsive and knowledgeable. They thrive with complexity."

"The firm is extremely attentive and responsive. They are experts in our industry and our unique challenges."

"They have deep subject matter expertise combined with practical, real-world guidance. They provide actionable solutions tailored to our specific business and workforce needs."

Work highlights

Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan & Shapiro, LLP represented IMAX in two lawsuits by former employees both alleging gender discrimination and one alleging pregnancy discrimination.

Notable practitioners

Kerry Garvis Wright has a strong track record in defending high-stakes employment disputes. **Strengths:** *"Kerry is an amazing professional with extensive knowledge. She has her client's back." "Kerry is fantastic and is very cognitive of our goals. She is very smart, very tough, has excellent judgment and knows how to get to the heart of the matter quickly." "Her depth of experience, accessibility, clear communication and confidence gave me peace of mind throughout the process."*

Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC

What the team is known for

Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC has a reputable labor and employment practice with broad experience in litigation. The firm's wide capabilities in contentious matters spans wage and hour disputes, PAGA claims, wrongful terminations and discrimination. It has expertise acting in both class actions and single plaintiff claims. The practice is enhanced by its advisory skills offered for employment-related corporate issues.

Strengths

"Mintz combines multinational employment depth with operational pragmatism. It provides real-time support for complex issues minimizing risk when it matters most."

"The team at Mintz are quick to provide realistic responses to handle various complex cases. They always provide well-thought-out recommendations, timely responses and extremely thorough work."

"The partners consistently take the time to take a holistic view of the business before solutioning the challenge at hand. They have excellent communication and accessibility."

"The team at Mintz has consistently provided expert advice on complex employment matters. They navigate complicated employment issues with an eye on minimizing our exposure."

"The firm demonstrates exceptional knowledge of employment law, strong judgment and a practical, results-oriented approach."

Work highlights

Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC represented Sciton in a class action alleging wage and hour violations and a PAGA action.

Notable practitioners

Jennifer Rubin handles a wide array of employment matters, including trade secret misappropriation, wage and hour, and discrimination claims. She regularly advises clients in the technology and health-care sectors. **Strengths:** *"She understands how to weigh risks and has been great both in advice and litigation."* *"Jen is quick, intelligent and identifies all possible outcomes and potential commercial outcomes."* *"Jennifer is deeply knowledgeable and you can trust her to deliver upfront, practical insight to help untangle even the most complex knots."* *"Jen has great breadth of knowledge and is well versed in different states. Her experience allows her to make quick, well thought-out judgments."* *"Jen is extremely responsive, extremely on-point and very sensitive to complex employment litigation matters. She knows how to nimbly walk through complex matters in complex environments."*

Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, PC

What the team is known for

Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, PC provides a full service for clients in all areas of labor and employment law, with a particularly busy litigation team. Its impressive client list includes numerous Fortune 500 companies from the full spectrum of sectors. The department has extensive experience with contentious labor issues, including wage and hour class actions, and also offers counsel on Cal/OSHA compliance.

Strengths

"Ogletree's have strategic prowess. They get very favorable resolutions based on their research, collaboration and relentless advocacy."

"The Ogletree lawyers are experts in the field. They are creative and always stay ahead of trends."

"Their quality of service is outstanding. They tear apart cases and cut to the chase."

Work highlights

Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, PC successfully dismissed a class action and a PAGA claim on behalf of a national university.

Notable practitioners

Spencer Skeen is a key contact.

Vedder

What the team is known for

Vedderis regarded for its representation in both employment and traditional labor matters. The practitioners are adept at representing clients in wage and hour litigation. They boast further experience assisting with wrongful termination claims and collective bargaining agreements.

Strengths

"Their attorneys are extremely experienced and knowledgeable."

"Vedder consistently provide clear, actionable and strategic advice and quickly understand the nuances of our organization offering tailored solutions."

Work highlights

Vedder defended Hat World in two putative class actions and two PAGA actions. The plaintiffs alleged a failure to pay overtime, meal and rest period premiums and sick pay.

Notable practitioners

Candice Zee acts on the full range of employment matters, from discrimination and retaliation claims to wage and hour class actions. **Strengths:** *"Candice helps us make the best judgment decisions. She is practical and business-minded and gives us confidence in her approach."* *"Candice gives excellent, quick and thoughtful advice and successfully defends and resolves cases efficiently."* *"Candice knows our business and consistently provides sound and timely support."*

Band 1 Labor & Employment: The Elite

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

What the team is known for

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP is noted for the strength of its employment litigation capabilities, particularly in high-stakes disputes with significant financial and reputational risk. The team is highly regarded for its work on complex class actions, single-plaintiff litigation and appellate matters. It is particularly active in high-stakes wage and hour cases, including employee classification disputes.

Strengths

"They are strategic litigators, leave no stone unturned and are always ready and willing to go to the mat if that's in the client's best interests."

"There is no task too big or too small for the firm. They complete tasks in a timely manner and provide an extremely high level of service."

"Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher thinks creatively, provides novel solutions and is an expert at discovery."

Work highlights

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP obtained a victory on

behalf of Amazon in a PAGA action in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles.

Notable practitioners

Catherine Conway is a litigator who frequently acts in wage and hour class actions, as well as discrimination, harassment and retaliation disputes.

Strengths: *"Catherine is a go-to for PAGA defense."*

Jesse Cripps is recognized for his expertise in major disputes such as discrimination claims and wage and hour disputes. **Strengths:** *"Jesse knows our business inside and out and provides both practical advice as well as the long-haul strategy in complex issues."* **Michele Maryott** is well regarded for handling PAGA and gender discrimination claims. She has experience representing notable corporate clients. **Strengths:** *"Michele is an excellent litigator with a deep awareness of our business needs."* *"Michele thinks well on her feet, is measured and methodical."* Katherine Smith handles a broad array of work on behalf of employers, including wage and hour class actions and discrimination and sexual harassment claims.

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

What the team is known for

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP is a highly recommended labor and employment outfit, renowned for its work for high-profile multinational clients. It covers the full range of work including high stakes litigation, arbitration and advisory matters. It acts on behalf of clients in a range of industries, including financial services, technology and retail. The teams areas of expertise include wage and hour, trade secrets and employment mobility litigation. It is also noted for its expert handling of pay equity and gender discrimination litigation.

Strengths

"Orrick are one step ahead in terms of litigation strategy. They are creative thinkers and very responsive."

"What sets Orrick employment apart is their exceptional combination of responsiveness, creativity and commercial judgment. They focus on practical and outcome-oriented solutions."

Work highlights

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP represented ByteDance in a nationwide FLSA collective action alleging that ByteDance misclassified various sales-adjacent roles as exempt and seeks unpaid overtime amongst other relief.

Notable practitioners

Gary Siniscalco has notable expertise in a range of disputes and investigations, including those involving allegations of discrimination. He is noted for his expertise in OFCCP compliance.

Strengths: *"Gary is incredibly smart and always gives solid advice."* *"Gary's subject matter expertise is unmatched and he always replies immediately."*

Lynne Hermle is esteemed throughout the market for her strength in industry-changing employment law disputes. She frequently handles high-profile matters for household names in the technology sector. **Strengths:** *"Lynne is the big guns we bring in strategically. She is creative and a force in the industry."* *"Lynne is the best employment litigator there is. She's who I call for high-risk or sensitive matters."* **Erin Connell** has developed a strong practice in the area of discrimination litigation, with notable expertise in defending large scale pay equity

disputes. **Strengths:** “Erin is smart and provides excellent strategic advice.” “Erin is very responsive and has a lot of relevant knowledge on the most topical issues.” Julie Totten has experience in a broad range of labor and employment matters, including classification, retaliation and wrongful termination issues. **Strengths:** “Julie is extremely knowledgeable and provides sophisticated and practical advice.” “Julie’s service level is very high and she has a practical awareness of industry trends that I can rely on.” “Julie provides practical and creative advice to help with business goals.” “She is patient, understanding and can make the complex simple and easy to understand.” **Andrew Livingston** often takes on wage and hour class actions for clients in a range of industries, as well as handling disputes such as wrongful termination and fraud claims. **Strengths:** “Andrew is a valued adviser with deep expertise in California employment law.” “Andrew is extremely smart, practical and is adept at managing relationships in potential and active disputes.” “Andrew is very practical and he brings a strategic mindset to employment litigation.” Jessica Perry represents an impressive roster of clients in major employment disputes such as class actions. She acts for management facing claims such as gender discrimination and pay equity issues, and frequently acts on nationwide mandates. **Strengths:** “Jessica is smart, strategic and solution-oriented.” “Jessica’s instincts are superb. She just gets it every time.” “Jessica is extremely knowledgeable and provides sophisticated and practical advice. She takes the time to get to know her clients.” Melinda Riechert is experienced in a range of high-profile employment law disputes, including defending against discrimination, wrongful termination and whistleblower claims. Her clients include technology companies and service providers. **Strengths:** “She understands the nuances of employment law and the business realities. She brings both clarity and calm to so many moments.”

Paul Hastings LLP

What the team is known for

Paul Hastings LLP stands out for its fantastic reputation and excellent bench strength. It is well known for handling class actions and appellate litigation. It also assists with high-stakes employee mobility and trade secrets disputes, as well as complex discrimination and wage and hour litigation. The team has an impressive client list consisting of a raft of household-name companies, including entities from the technology, retail and financial services sectors.

Strengths

“Paul Hastings is always thinking many steps ahead in litigation. The team has excellent command and knowledge of wage and hour litigation.”

“Paul Hastings is an exceptional business partner and has a wide range of legal expertise which is extremely valuable.”

“The lawyers at Paul Hastings are true partners in a case. They are very detail-oriented, very organized and very easy to work with.”

Work highlights

Paul Hastings LLP acted for Nike in the successful defense of a gender discrimination class action in Oregon.

Notable practitioners

Paul Grossman has a wealth of expertise in whistle-blower, wrongful discharge and discrimination matters. **Elena Baca** is experienced in highly contentious employment litigation including discrimination and wage and hour disputes. She also chairs the firm’s global employment law department.

Strengths: “Elena is a very strategic thinker.” “Elena is not just on your side as an advocate but she is a part of my team and totally invested in guiding me to the best outcome.” **Jennifer Baldocchi** specializes in employee mobility issues, including advising on noncompete agreements as well as litigating trade secret misappropriation and breach of restrictive covenant claims. **Strengths:** “I am consistently impressed by Jennifer’s ability to have her finger on the pulse of legal trends.” “Jennifer is able to manage the high-level narrative and also deep-dive into the details to build the best case possible.”

Felicia Davis specializes in assisting employers with discrimination and pay equity issues. **Strengths:** “Felicia is very available and gives very sound advice.” “Felicia has good instincts and good judgment.” **Cameron Fox** handles a variety of contentious matters on behalf of employers, including discrimination, sexual harassment and wrongful termination claims.

Band 2 Labor & Employment: The Elite

Jones Day

What the team is known for

Jones Day undertakes a wide range of work including advising on collective bargaining and NLRB work. The team is experienced in advising on a full range of contentious employment matters, including trade secret and whistle-blower cases. Bolstered by an impressive national labor and employment footprint, the practice provides a comprehensive service both in the USA and internationally. Its client base includes entities from the healthcare and telecommunications sectors.

Strengths

“Jones Day has subject matter expertise and is extremely reliable, responsive and very practical.”

“Jones Day understands our business and provide targeted, specialized advice.”

“Jones Day have a very deep bench with knowledgeable lawyers at every level. They handle large-scale cases, providing impeccable work product, responsiveness and strategy.”

Work highlights

Jones Day obtained a dismissal for Google in connection with allegations that the roles of third-party contractor employees were unlawfully offshored in response to union activity and allegations of joint-employer status.

Notable practitioners

Rick Bergstrom has a varied practice which includes trade secrets disputes, discrimination claims and PAGA class actions. **Strengths:** “Rick knows our business and provides targeted and excellent counsel, advice and strategy.” “He is reliable, efficient and creative delivering good results.”

“Rick is phenomenal in spotting issues and excellent at writing briefs in a clear and concise way. He is very proactive, detail-oriented and digs in and understands all of the aspects of our industry.” Steven Zdravec is based in Jones Day’s Los Angeles

and Irvine offices. He has experience in high-stakes litigation, such as EEOC discrimination claims, as well as trade secret and breach of contract matters. **Strengths:** “Steven’s advice and reasoning are always spot-on and his trial expertise is well-known.” “Steven ensures every strategic decision is perfectly aligned with our business goals.” **Amanda Sommerfeld** has a strong track record representing corporate clients in class and representative wage and hour and PAGA claims. **Strengths:** “Amanda is a strong litigator, knowledgeable and practical.” “Amanda has expert-level understanding of our industry. She manages client expectations and always over-delivers.”

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

What the team is known for

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP has a notable practice that works on a range of issues and is able to draw on the firm’s tremendous national presence. The team is expert in wage and hour class actions, as well as defending a range of single-plaintiff claims including discrimination, retaliation and wrongful dismissal disputes. It offers notable experience handling disputes involving noncompete agreements and trade secrets. The team services clients in a wide range of industries, including leading aviation, insurance and technology companies.

Strengths

“The Morgan Lewis team is incredibly responsive, can answer business questions and gives practical advice.”

“Morgan Lewis have a deep bench and provide an excellent service.”

“The lawyers have an integrated approach and it feels as if they work for our company.”

Notable practitioners

Debra Fischer frequently represents clients in disputes involving noncompete and trade secrets issues. She is also recognized for her handling of sensitive internal investigations. **Adam Abrahms** specializes in labor relations and often represents clients in the healthcare sector. **Nicole Buffalano** is held in high regard for her ability to assist clients from a wide spectrum of sectors, including sports, food and beverages, and hospitality. She routinely assists with collective bargaining agreement negotiations, as well as representing clients in arbitrations.

Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

What the team is known for

Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP is a high-quality firm noted for defending employers in high profile individual and class actions. The team works with clients from a range of industries, including financial services and retail. It is particularly proficient in misclassification matters, and also offers expertise in harassment, retaliation and wrongful termination disputes.

Strengths

“The team is very detail-oriented, knowledgeable and responsive.”

“The firm is fantastically creative, smart and experienced.”

“Munger, Tolles & Olson is really savvy, always able to provide quick practical guidance and is so strategic in everything it does.”

“Munger, Tolles & Olson is really strategic and can really get in the weeds on complex issues. The firm

is very practical, very helpful and comes up with very creative solutions to challenging problems.”

Work highlights

Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP represented BlackBerry in a discrimination, retaliation and wrongful termination lawsuit filed by a former executive.

Notable practitioners

Malcolm Heinicke has notable expertise in large-scale wage and hour matters, including class and collective actions. He is also very adept at handling trade secret, misclassification and executive termination disputes. **Strengths:** “Malcolm has incredible foresight, provides practical advice and interacts extraordinarily well with our executives and employees.” “He is creative, smart and experienced.” Katherine Forster represents clients in a range of high-stakes disputes such as wrongful termination claims, as well as advising on internal and external investigations. **Strengths:** “Katherine is an incredibly skilled expert who provides excellent work product.”

O'Melveny & Myers LLP

What the team is known for

O'Melveny & Myers LLP handle a wide range of labor and employment matters, with notable expertise in the issues affecting airlines under the Railway Labor Act. The team is experienced in both disputes and transactional matters, with particular strengths in wage and hour class actions and investigations brought by the EEOC.

Strengths

“The firm distinguishes itself through its collaboration with all stakeholders and decision-makers. It has an incredible depth of expertise and manage many moving pieces simultaneously.”

“O'Melveny & Myers has a deep bench of very strategic and creative thinkers. They are excellent litigators who know our business inside and out.”

Work highlights

O'Melveny & Myers LLP represented The Walt Disney Company in a putative class action by current and former California-based employees who alleged misrepresentation and emotional distress in connection with the 2021 cancelled relocation to Florida.

Notable practitioners

Apalla Chopra is a fine choice of counsel for large-scale internal investigations into allegations of misconduct, as well as acting in litigation such as discrimination claims. She is regularly called upon by clients in the education sector. **Strengths:** “Apalla is thoughtful and thorough.” “Our talks with Apalla result in the most creative solutions and best path forward.” “She anticipates what we need before we even have to ask. She knows our industry extremely well and is highly strategic.” **Eric Amdursky** is recognized for his strength in litigating complex employment law disputes, including trade secrets and retaliation allegations. He also advises on issues arising from corporate transactions. **Strengths:** “Eric distills complex and uncertain areas of the law into understandable and actionable advice.” “I could not be happier with Eric's experience and professionalism.” **Adam Karr** is noted for his experience in handling significant wrongful termination disputes, as well as large-scale class actions. **Strengths:** “Adam has an excellent understanding of California employment law. He is very

responsive, happy to answer any questions and is very easy to work with.” “Adam is a really seasoned attorney and strategic thinker.” **Robert Siegel** is a go-to labor lawyer for market-leading airlines. He handles matters such as collective bargaining and high-value claims brought under the Railway Labor Act. **Molly Lens** is a litigator known for defending employers in class actions and single plaintiff disputes. She has particular expertise in the media and entertainment sector. **Strengths:** “Molly is a very intelligent litigator who sees the weeds and the big picture. She could not be more responsive and strategic.” “Molly understands our business objectives and her advice consistently reflects this.” “Molly is an extremely responsive, an excellent writer and a strategic thinker.”

Proskauer Rose LLP

What the team is known for

Proskauer Rose LLP is noted for the breadth of its employment practice, which includes advice on everything from collective bargaining agreements to class action litigation. The labor and employment department is particularly proficient in the representation of clients in the entertainment sector. Its areas of expertise include labor management, wage and hour disputes, and discrimination claims.

Strengths

“Proskauer Rose stands out for its deep expertise, strategic approach and proactive guidance.”

“The team are always responsive and their depth of experience is invaluable.”

“Proskauer Rose's knowledge of tough employment law issues is great and their strategy decisions instills confidence.”

“Their advice is consistently well-rounded, practical and attuned to both legal risk and business objectives.”

Work highlights

Proskauer Rose LLP defended the National Academy of Recording Arts against allegations of claims including sexual battery, assault and negligence.

Notable practitioners

Anthony Oncidi advises an impressive roster of entertainment and media companies on big-ticket employment law disputes, as well as handling labor law mandates. He also offers experience in acting for management-side clients from industries such as healthcare and financial services. **Strengths:** “Anthony is an excellent strategic thinker. He really stands out as incredibly knowledgeable about employment law and our industry.” Gregory Knopp is noted for his prowess in wage and hour matters, including employee misclassification claims. **Strengths:** “Gregory is a great strategist.” **Mark Theodore** garners recognition for his representation of clients in traditional labor matters. He frequently appears in disputes before the NLRB. **Strengths:** “Mark is highly responsive and provides great expertise and advice.” **Philippe Lebel** assists employers with an array of contentious mandates, including wage and hour class actions as well as harassment and discrimination claims. **Strengths:** “Philippe is consistently dependable, insightful and instrumental in guiding us through a wide range of matters. His broad expertise across multiple areas makes him an invaluable resource and a trusted adviser.” “His strength is providing practical, business-focused

advice and consistently delivering clear, actionable recommendations that enable decisive action.” “He is skilled at handling sensitive and high-stakes employment disputes with discretion, judgment and a business-oriented lens.”

Band 3 Labor & Employment: The Elite

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for

Baker McKenzie offers a reputable team that is able to leverage the strength of the firm's global network to advise on national and international labor and employment matters. It offers particular expertise in employment and employee benefit issues stemming from M&A transactions. It is also adept at advising clients on sexual harassment allegations and wage and hour disputes.

Strengths

“The Baker McKenzie team are organized, reliable and work cross-functionally. They provide quality and timely advice throughout complex processes.”

“The lawyers at Baker McKenzie balance sound legal guidance and business objectives.”

“Baker McKenzie demonstrates broad expertise and has a practical approach to complex matters.”

Work highlights

Baker McKenzie assisted Thoma Bravo on the global employment aspects of their \$10.6 billion acquisition of portions of Boeing's Digital Aviation Solution business.

Notable practitioners

Robin Samuel advises clients on a variety of matters, including wage and hour class actions and operational issues. **Strengths:** “I am always impressed with every aspect of Robin's thoughtfulness and partnership.” “Robin has excellent service, subject matter dominance and great client manner.” “He ensures a commercial view is always taken. Knowing he will get us the needed guidance quickly is invaluable.” “Robin stands out because of his deep expertise and knowledge of labor law.”

Michael Brewer is the chair of the firm's employment & compensation practice. He has a strong reputation handling complex employment disputes. He has regularly defended against wage and hour actions and discrimination claims. **Strengths:** “Mike combines deep legal sophistication with exceptional strategic vision and practical judgment. He brings clarity, calm and confidence to even the most complex matters.” **Benjamin Ho** is sought by multinational companies for his employment expertise on significant corporate transactions. **Strengths:** “Ben is extraordinary in how he manages a global team. He is a fantastic coordinator.”

DLA Piper LLP (US)

What the team is known for

DLA Piper LLP (US) is a firm with broad experience in employment litigation. It frequently acts in wage and hour class actions and discrimination allegations and its contentious expertise is complemented by its strong advisory practice and experience in employment law issues arising from corporate transactions. The team's client roster spans a range of sectors including healthcare, finance and technology.

Strengths

"DLA Piper is a large firm that has demonstrated success handling sensitive matters with potential reputational risk."

"DLA Piper have great global legal expertise. They have an expert for seemingly every legal issue that comes up in our practice. They deliver their expertise in a prompt and digestible manner."

"The firm has a strong understanding of in-house issues, is very knowledgeable in employment law and delivers practical and helpful advice."

"Their talent lies in their ability to stay up to date on the latest regulations around the globe, synthesize volumes of information and provide user-friendly advice."

"The DLA lawyers provide peace of mind on high-stakes, evolving and unpredictable matters."

Work highlights

DLA Piper LLP obtained a unanimous jury verdict for Caltech in a lawsuit brought by a former Caltech engineer alleging claims of disability discrimination, failure to accommodate and a whistle-blower claim.

Notable practitioners

Mary Dollarhide is experienced in handling wage and hour class actions as part of her impressive labor and employment practice. **Strengths:** *"Mary is like a surgeon, she's very precise and she knows all the details inside-out."* *"Her expertise and practical advice make her an important partner to the in-house team."* *"She knows our business, is practical and has a deep litigation background."* *"Mary is responsive, strategic and communicative."* **Julie Dunne** is a partner based in DLA Piper LLP's San Diego office. She has vast experience in wage and hour class action work, as well as PAGA matters.

Ute Krudewagen regularly advises multinational clients on the labor and employment aspects of M&A transactions and global workforce matters. She is especially active in the technology sector. **Strengths:** *"Ute is knowledgeable in not only a wide variety of legal employment issues, but also on a global level."* *"Ute offers very strong client service. I can rely on her to be responsive and supportive in delicate matters."* **Holly Lake** frequently advises employers on sensitive workplace investigations, as well as disputes in relation to discrimination and retaliation claims. **Strengths:** *"We trust her and have confidence in her expertise and practical advice."* **Troy Valdez** frequently acts on a range of employment law matters, including wage and hour class actions. **Strengths:** *"Troy is a trusted adviser who knows our risk tolerance exceptionally well."* *"He can synthesize our unique business issues and apply complicated legal issues around them to deliver digestible guidance for our teams."*

McDermott Will & Schulte

McDermott Will & Schulte

What the team is known for

McDermott Will & Schulte is experienced in handling a wide array of labor and employment matters, including labor relations, sexual harassment claims, and wage and hour litigation. The practice regularly represents clients in the entertainment industry, among others.

Strengths

"McDermott Will & Schulte's advice is reliable and actionable. They are highly able to handle complex matters."

"The McDermott team is excellent and balanced. They are always available, knowledgeable of our

industry and produce quality work."

"The differentiator is their ability to simplify such complex matters into a simple argument that is easily communicated and ultimately more persuasive."

"McDermott is very responsive and provides a great level of service. They provide solutions that fit the needs of our business partners."

Notable practitioners

Maria Rodriguez takes on a range of employment law disputes, including defending against discrimination claims on behalf of clients such as entertainment companies. **Strengths:** *"Maria is a really deep, thoughtful lawyer."* *"Maria is exceptional on her feet, great at strategizing and preparing for trial."* **Pankit Doshi** represents employers in a wide variety of labor and employment matters, including breach of restrictive covenant and trade secrets claims.

Strengths: *"Pankit is extremely knowledgeable and practical in his approach."*

Seyfarth Shaw LLP

Seyfarth Shaw LLP

What the team is known for

Seyfarth Shaw LLP has a reputable employment practice engaging in all labor and employment matters at a high level, including wage and hour class actions. It has a strong track record of defeating class certification in employment disputes and offers additional expertise in appellate litigation. The practice services well-known multinationals, with a highly regarded and deep bench of specialists.

Strengths

"The Seyfarth team are creative, know the law and dig in to ensure they know the facts."

"Seyfarth Shaw's team provides exceptional legal expertise and practical guidance, particularly in navigating complex compliance issues and employment litigation."

"Seyfarth Shaw demonstrate a high level of competence in managing a complex and sensitive employment matter. They have talented partners and associates capable of developing effective litigation strategies."

"Each Seyfarth lawyer has an impressive background and experience that provides leverage. They consistently handle high-profile and high-exposure cases like PAGA and employment class actions."

"They have an in-depth understanding of our business and provide practical, effective advice."

Work highlights

Seyfarth Shaw LLP secured a summary judgment ruling for Columbia Sportswear in a wage and hour class and PAGA action.

Notable practitioners

Brian Ashe brings significant experience in defending against wage and hour class and collective actions, including misclassification disputes.

Strengths: *"Brian is very responsive and extremely useful."* Jon Meer is noted for his proficiency in handling class action litigation, where he has managed matters for a variety of major employers. He is notably adept at handling wage and hour matters.

Strengths: *"He brings a high level of sophistication to complex employment matters, combining sharp analytical skills with exceptional deposition technique and sound strategic judgment."* Laura Maechten advises employers on single and multi-plaintiff employment disputes concerning allegations of discrimination, harassment and retaliation,

among other matters. **Strengths:** *"Laura is a very accomplished lawyer."* *"Laura is very responsive to our various needs and issues."* **Andrew Paley** is well known for his expertise in wage and hour litigation.

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

What the team is known for

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP advises on a variety of labor and employment matters, including course-of-business issues as well as high stakes litigation. The practice regularly undertakes work in wage and hour disputes, single-plaintiff discrimination cases and harassment claims. The firm represents clients from a wide range of industries, including the transportation, hospitality and health-care sectors.

Strengths

"Their strategic insight and trusted judgment make them invaluable partners in litigation."

"They are extremely knowledgeable and have various areas of expertise on all facets of employment law. They provide excellent service and timely responses."

"The firm provides business-forward, practical and actionable guidance."

"The firm has consistently approached matters with rigor, technical excellence and thoroughness."

Work highlights

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP obtained a total defense victory on behalf of NetApp finding their commissions plan lawful. The plaintiff alleged labor code violation and breach of contract claims and a PAGA action.

Notable practitioners

Tracey Kennedy's impressive employment litigation and trial practice includes harassment and discrimination claims and retaliation suits. **Strengths:** *"Tracey is an incredible trial lawyer who is very respected and well liked."* *"Tracey is a very good trial lawyer, that is her strength."* *"Tracey is fantastic. She is a really experienced and smart trial lawyer."*

Zach Hutton is recognized for his handling of wage and hour litigation, where he represents notable clients within the automotive and technological fields. **Strengths:** *"Zach is on top of the case law and a real expert. He gives really practical suggestions."* *"He brings a forward-thinking perspective to litigation strategy, anticipating trends and tailoring his approach accordingly."*

Richard Simmons is well regarded for his experience in big-ticket class actions involving wage and hour issues. **Paul Cowie** is noted for his representation of employers in high-profile employment class action claims relating to wage and hour, discrimination and misclassification issues. **Strengths:** *"His combination of legal acumen, creativity and practical insight makes him an indispensable ally in our high-stakes matters."* *"Paul is on top of all issues of the case and is very savvy, extremely bright and very strategic."*

"Paul provides incredibly practical, expert advice on a broad range of employment matters." Thomas Kaufman is a fine choice of litigator for state and federal wage and hour actions arising in a range of industries, as well as claims involving breach of contract, charges of fraud and wrongful termination.

Sidley Austin LLP

What the team is known for

Sidley Austin LLP offers a respected employment law practice with experience across a range of disputes, particularly wage and hour, discrimination and wrongful termination cases. The practice acts for a range of significant employers in the finance, technology and healthcare sectors. The team is noted for its ability to advise clients on class and collective actions, as well as internal investigations.

Strengths

"Sidley Austin is very commercially focused and help navigate complex conversations."

"The Sidley team have tenacious litigators with sound judgment. They offer wonderful client service and deliver excellent quality work."

"They are very responsive, accessible and help strategically navigate matters effectively."

Work highlights

Sidley Austin LLP defended The Container Store Group in a putative wage and hour class action in the Superior Court of Santa Clara County.

Notable practitioners

Katherine Roberts represents employers in a range of contentious matters including wage and hour, retaliation and discrimination disputes, as well as traditional labor law. **Strengths:** *"Kate is very straightforward and risk-oriented."* *"Katherine is very responsive and very commercial. She distills the advice in such a concise and thoughtful way."* *"Kate provides both comprehensive and detailed guidance while explaining complicated subjects in easily digestible ways."* **Wendy Lazerson** is noted for her ability to handle high-stakes class actions as well as single-plaintiff litigation and internal investigations. Her experience includes discrimination and whistle-blower matters. **Strengths:** *"She really understands our business and calms us in ways only she could do in moments of crisis."* *"She is seasoned and has a wide range of experiences, making her advice so valuable. She guides us on tricky and sensitive matters."* *"Wendy is a strategic, experienced full-picture thinker."*

Band 4 Labor & Employment: The Elite

Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete, LLP

What the team is known for

Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete, LLP has considerable experience handling wage and hour disputes, with particular emphasis on PAGA claims. Recently active counseling employers on M&A-related issues. The team advises clients in the entertainment, education and healthcare industries, among others.

Strengths

"Constangy handle the complex matters most effectively with constant communication on strategy and intimate knowledge of law and procedure."

"The firm offers substantive knowledge, practical experience and lightning-fast service."

"Constangy consistently handles complex litigation efficiently and effectively. It is personable, proactive and responsive."

Work highlights

Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete, LLP represented the National Collegiate Athletic Association

in a class action lawsuit claiming that a class of college football players are employees and owed back wages.

Notable practitioners

Kenneth Sulzer brings longstanding experience in contentious mandates such as wage and hour class and collective actions. **Strengths:** *"Ken's ability to explain the law simply and in a digestible way is impressive."* *"Ken maintains communication throughout our matter and he understands all facets of the law and the legal business."* Steven Katz has a notable litigation and appellate practice representing defendants in disputes related to wage and hour violations and PAGA claims. **Strengths:** *"Steven is incredibly well-versed in the appellate space."* *"Steven's advice is actionable and business-friendly."* *"Steven is a very smart partner who handles a lot of work efficiently and builds strategy."*

Hirschfeld Kraemer LLP

What the team is known for

Hirschfeld Kraemer LLP offers a well-regarded labor and employment practice with wide-ranging expertise. The group is particularly skilled in the representation of educational institutions and healthcare organizations. It handles internal investigations into employee misconduct as well as advising on regulatory compliance and employment training. The team also offers prowess in contentious issues, including wage and hour, discrimination and retaliation claims.

Strengths

"Hirschfeld Kraemer has tremendous lawyers with a client-focused and result-oriented approach."

"The firm gives expedient responses and has a personal approach that enhances the robust professional advice. The team is efficient, understanding and knowledgeable."

"Hirschfeld Kraemer stay on top of evolving trends in our industry. The team help boil incredibly complex issues down to the easiest nuances."

Work highlights

Hirschfeld Kraemer LLP assisted Monterey Bay Aquarium with labor negotiations following a union organizing drive.

Notable practitioners

Stephen Hirschfeld assists management-side clients with an impressive range of employment law issues, including harassment disputes and misconduct investigations. He also advises clients such as educational institutions on labor law concerns. **Strengths:** *"Stephen is incredibly thorough, professional and gives outstanding advice."* *"Stephen has broad and deep knowledge across the full range of employment law. He is a gifted educator and recommends advice so effectively."* *"His advice is clear and actionable, he allows us to confidently make business decisions."* Glen Kraemer is particularly experienced in providing training and counseling on complex areas such as sexual harassment and discrimination. **Strengths:** *"Glen has the superior knowledge, expertise and ability to understand the complexities of an issue."* *"Glen is a great thought leader, tremendous partner and a fantastic presenter."* *"Glen is a brilliant attorney who is customer service-oriented, very helpful and on top of new regulations."*

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

What the team is known for

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP's labor and employment practice is noted for its full-service offering, which includes notable strength in employee benefits concerns and immigration law. It offers broad contentious capabilities that see it handle NLRB proceedings, employee classification class actions and single-plaintiff discrimination claims. The team acts for a range of state and national clients, including particular experience in labor law issues arising from the healthcare sector.

Strengths

"Davis Wright Tremaine is a highly skilled firm across many complex and sophisticated matters and is very effective in understanding our business and interests."

"Davis Wright Tremaine is fantastic on challenging matters and gives nuanced advice achieving great results."

Work highlights

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP successfully defended Ralphs Grocery Company in a security check action, where the plaintiff alleged a failure to pay wages for time allegedly spent undergoing security checks.

Notable practitioners

Judith Keyes represents clients in sexual harassment and discrimination claims as well as providing counsel on the employment aspects of M&A. She also acts as a mediator. **Strengths:** *"Judith is a thoughtful and solutions-oriented attorney."* *"Judith is very calming, practical and actionable."*

Faegre Drinker

What the team is known for

Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP has an experienced team that frequently acts in disputes such as discrimination claims and wage and hour class actions. The practice is noted for its strength in external and internal investigations, as well as government audits. It also offers particular expertise in matters involving restrictive covenants and trade secrets.

Strengths

"The Faegre Drinker attorneys are extremely knowledgeable and responsive."

"They adjust strategy as necessary to mount the best defense."

"Faegre has deep experience as well as general knowledge of plaintiffs' counsel. They are very detailed in their analysis and are very responsive."

"The Faegre team excels in providing expedient, succinct and practical advice. They understand their client's business and goals well."

Work highlights

Faegre Drinker represented The Regan Group in a wage and hour class action and PAGA suit in Los Angeles County.

Notable practitioners

Cheryl Orr handles a range of complex disputes, including wrongful termination claims and wage and hour actions. **Strengths:** *"Cheryl gives great advice, is very knowledgeable and has a great ability to negotiate."* *"Cheryl is an outstanding litigator and demonstrates great sophistication in her approach to client service and strategy."* *"Cheryl's knowledge and experience allows her to effectively discern and advise when to be flexible and when to push back,"*

which leads to the right result quicker.”

Greenberg Traurig, LLP

What the team is known for

Greenberg Traurig, LLP is recognized for its ability to handle a broad array of labor and employment matters, including employment litigation, labor relations and OSHA issues. Its clients include companies in the retail, entertainment and hospitality sectors.

Strengths

“Greenberg Traurig has keen insights on complex litigation strategy and has an excellent understanding of labor law.”

“Their advice is timely, providing the most up-to-date information delivered against a background of well-seasoned experience.”

Work highlights

Greenberg Traurig LLP represented Sunsweet Growers in a putative wage hour class action and related PAGA action.

Notable practitioners

Charles Birenbaum is particularly highlighted for his traditional labor law expertise, while also advising on wider employment matters. His practice includes both contentious mandates such as wage and hour class actions and advisory work. **Timothy Long** is noted for his skill in contentious employment matters, including discrimination claims and employee misclassification and other wage and hour disputes. **Strengths:** “Timothy is a technician but also a pragmatic and skilled litigator.” **Ron Holland** is well-versed in labor relations issues and also experienced in wage and hour matters. **Strengths:** “Ron is not only responsive, but is knowledgeable on complex and intricate labor law issues.” “Ron knows this area like the back of his hand.”

Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP

What the team is known for

Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP’s California labor and employment team is regarded for its work in the retail, entertainment and healthcare industries. The practice has a growing network of offices throughout the state and works with clients on the full spectrum of labor and employment matters, including wrongful termination, harassment and discrimination disputes.

Strengths

“Manatt Phelps & Phillips is helpful, knowledgeable and practical.”

“The firm is attentive, collaborative and always responsive.”

“The Manatt team is able to advise across jurisdictions and update us on changing laws.”

“The attorneys at Manatt Phelps provide clear guidance and excellent work. They are very thorough and have subject matter expertise.”

Work highlights

Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP defended Blue Shield of California in multiple wage and hour class actions and PAGA disputes.

Notable practitioners

Esra Hudson represents notable clients in the entertainment space, helping them navigate wage and hour litigation, trade secrets claims and discrimination matters. **Strengths:** “Esra sees the end-goal from the beginning. She is a very strategic and strong advocate.” “Esra is incredibly smart and savvy both on a legal and business level.” “Esra handles

very complex and demanding litigations but always makes time for questions. She is very passionate in what she does, understands what is important to clients and can translate that into a bigger picture.”

Andrew Satenberg has notable experience representing employers in wage and hour class actions.

Strengths: “Andrew is knowledgeable, responsive and provides practical solutions.” “Andrew has a very commercial and measured approach.” “Andrew is extremely knowledgeable, always willing to share latest updates. He is a great thought partner and a brilliant person.” **Sharon Bauman** regularly handles discrimination matters before the EEOC and also assists clients with wage and hour issues.

Morrison Foerster

What the team is known for

Morrison Foerster comes recommended for litigation involving issues such as wage and hour disputes and wrongful termination. The practice regularly advises clients on the protection of trade secrets. The team additionally provides counsel on whistle-blower and retaliation cases, also assisting with employment agreements.

Strengths

“Morrison Foerster has a great ability to handle complex matters and provides solutions quickly and with care.”

“The team is great at handling time-sensitive matters in a business-oriented and practical manner.”

“The team’s strategic thinking and ability to adjust to changes stands out.”

Work highlights

Morrison Foerster acted for F5 Networks, successfully defending a claim brought by Lynwood Investments CY regarding breach of loyalty by its former employees.

Notable practitioners

Eric Akira Tate routinely represents companies in trade secret and whistle-blower claims, among other employment matters. **Strengths:** “Eric provides pragmatic advice that is immediately actionable.” “Eric is very knowledgeable in employment law and he goes out of his way to help to answer quickly.” “Eric has very good judgment and expertise, so he is trusted with significantly important matters. He is thoughtful, balanced and doesn’t jump to conclusions.”

Perkins Coie LLP

What the team is known for

Perkins Coie’s broad team is skilled in the full range of employment law single-plaintiff and class action mandates. The practice acts on a range of issues, from wage and hour disputes to wrongful termination and discrimination claims. The team is increasingly active in independent contractor disputes, frequently representing clients in the technology, telecommunications and media arenas.

Strengths

“Perkins Coie are experts in all issues related to employment law. They are experienced and give practical guidance.”

“The team is very attuned to business needs and very reliable with great quality of work.”

“Perkins has wide-ranging knowledge of employment law issues in our industry.”

“The team’s collaborative, forward-thinking approach enables them to anticipate emerging risks

and craft creative, business-oriented solutions.”

Work highlights

Perkins Coie LLP defended Cal Marine Fish Company against a wage and hour class action and PAGA action.

Notable practitioners

Heather Sager is firmwide chair of the Perkins Coie LLP labor and employment practice. She has experience in both wage and hour and collective class actions. **Strengths:** “Heather is efficient, sharp and extraordinarily pragmatic on a range of complicated employment and labor-related issues.”

Reed Smith LLP

What the team is known for

Reed Smith LLP is experienced in defending complex, high-stakes wage and hour litigation. The practice advises clients on the full spectrum of labor and employment issues, often working in concert with its impressive network of offices. The team offers adept handling of class action litigation as well as single-plaintiff suits, working with clients from the media and entertainment and healthcare sectors, among others.

Strengths

“Reed Smith offers business-forward advice, strategic counseling that includes options and high-level business acumen.”

“The attorneys at Reed Smith think outside the box and recommend innovative approaches to litigating complex matters.”

Notable practitioners

Michele Gehrke is a fine choice of litigator for both class actions and single-plaintiff disputes, including discrimination and retaliation claims. **Strengths:** “Her advice is business-forward, practical and strategic every single time.” Jennifer Terry is best known for defending employers in class and collective actions relating to wage and hour claims. She regularly advises clients in the retail and food and beverage sectors, among others. **Strengths:** “Jennifer is measured in her representation and incredibly responsive.”

Winston Taylor LLP

What the team is known for

Winston Taylor has a strong labor and employment practice that maintains an impressive reputation for its handling of litigation. The team frequently defends employers against large-scale class and collective actions, including discrimination claims and wage and hour suits. It also offers expertise in whistle-blower and business tort cases. It represents clients from a range of industries including manufacture, retail and financial services.

Strengths

“Winston considers the business needs of its clients and maps a strategy that leads to the best outcome.”

“Winston have exceptional experience and breadth of knowledge. They apply their excellent expertise and experience to establish a plan of attack, and then execute on that plan.”

“We rely on the team’s good judgment, practical advice and tenacity to get the tricky matters resolved.”

Work highlights

Winston advised LVMH in a number of employment disputes, including wage and hour, discrimination

and breach of contract matters.

Notable practitioners

Joan Fife is particularly highlighted for her wage and hour expertise, which forms part of a broader class and collective action practice. Her clients include companies in the energy, financial services and technology industries. **Strengths:** *"Joan is brilliant, easy to work with and able to solve complex legal matters."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Leslie Abbott is a fine choice of counsel for clients facing a range of disputes, including wage and hour actions. **Strengths:** *"Leslie is always thinking ten steps ahead which has proved invaluable. She can look at both sides of an issue and address it strategically."*

Koray Bulut of Goodwin comes recommended for his handling of employment law disputes such as harassment and trade secret violation claims, as well as wage and hour actions. **Strengths:** *"Koray sees the big picture and understands what we need versus what we often want." "Koray's reliability, clear judgment and practical guidance is impressive. He is a trusted partner who understands our business well." "He is laser-focused, practical and incredibly responsive with lightning-fast turnarounds without sacrificing quality."*

David DeRubertis is best known for his extensive experience representing plaintiffs, with a primary focus on discrimination and wrongful termination matters. **Strengths:** *"David is the finest trial lawyer in California, he's just head and tails above any trial attorney and better than anyone I have seen." "David is without a doubt one of the best plaintiff lawyers in the state, if not the country." "He has an exceptional command of the law and an ability to translate it into clear, compelling stories that resonate on a human level."*

Michelle Gonzales has a growing reputation for her skillful handling of internal investigations and litigation, especially wage and hour disputes. **Strengths:** *"Michelle is very responsive, helpful and creative."*

Genie Harrison of **Genie Harrison** Law Firm, APC is revered for her representation of plaintiffs in disputes involving sexual harassment and discrimination claims.

Barbara Lawless of Lawless & Lawless is recognized for her robust representation of plaintiffs in contentious employment disputes.

Tao Leung of Hogan Lovells is the head of the labor and employment practice in California. He represents clients in a broad array of matters, including wage and hour litigation and trade secrets disputes, as well as providing general counsel. **Strengths:** *"Tao has a clear command of employment law, and knows how to stand in my shoes. It makes thinking about next steps quick and decisive." "Tao's ability to balance compliance with practical solutions reflects a great partnership that adds real value to our operations." "Tao is an expert for labor and employment issues. He is really pragmatic, business-minded and straightforward."*

Linda Savitt of Ballard Rosenberg Golper & Savitt LLP is a well-regarded litigator with expertise in harassment, wrongful termination and discrimination lawsuits. She is particularly renowned for her skill handling trials.

Cliff Palefsky of McGuinn, Hillsman & Palefsky is one of California's leading employment plaintiff lawyers. He has extensive experience handling complex sex discrimination matters.

Laura Petroff represents clients in a range of employment law matters, from wage and hour disputes to harassment and discrimination claims.

Ryne Posey advises companies on the labor and employment aspects of corporate transactions often with cross-border complexities. **Strengths:** *"Ryne is very smart on nuance and ever-changing labor and employment questions." "Ryne is a fan-*

tastic, practical partner to us who knows his stuff inside and out." "Ryne is very responsive, thorough and has a detailed understanding of our needs."

Caroline Powell Donelan of Blank Rome LLP is a labor and employment attorney based in Los Angeles. She focuses her practice on wage and hour and PAGA class actions. **Strengths:** *"Caroline is very efficient, gets to the point and is very realistic." "Caroline can make decisions fast and has a good sense of our risk. She has a good sense of the nuances and can present options in a pragmatic lens very well." "Caroline is a very knowledgeable, responsive and practical employment attorney."*

Laura Reathafor of Lathrop GPM is a San Francisco lawyer. Noted for her experience in both wage and hour and PAGA class actions. **Strengths:** *"Laura knows us and our market very well."*

Carney Shegerian of Shegerian & Associates is renowned for his trial capabilities. He regularly represents individuals and groups in employment-related matters, including age discrimination and breach of contract issues.

Anne Villanueva regularly advises national and international clients on the labor and employment aspects of M&A transactions, as well as experience in matters concerning noncompete and non-solicitation agreements. She splits her time between the firm's New York and California offices.

Jeffrey Wohl defends leading companies from a range of sectors against class actions involving diverse employment law claims, bringing to bear extensive trial experience.

Ruth Zadikany of Mayer Brown litigates the full gamut of state and federal wage and hour claims as well as handling discrimination disputes. **Strengths:** *"Ruth is brilliant and so sharp. She is incredibly analytical, strategic and creative." "Ruth is extremely responsive and immensely helpful resolving cases in California."*

Life Sciences

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Arnold & Porter

What the team is known for

Arnold & Porter has notable expertise in patent prosecution matters, patent infringement litigation and product liability class actions. The group is also regarded for IP-led corporate transactions with experience handling company formation and early-stage financing deals. The firm provides advice on compliance with regulatory regimes around the world.

Strengths

"Arnold & Porter has a good bench of strong litigators and specialists within life sciences to build a

capable team."

Work highlights

Arnold & Porter acted as lead counsel representing Bayer in ANDA patent litigation to enforce its US patents on its top-selling drug Kerendia.

Notable practitioners

Deborah Fishman is highly sought after by life sciences clients for her sophisticated patent litigation practice. She has experience acting before venues including the PTAB, Federal Circuit and district courts.

Cooley LLP

What the team is known for

Cooley LLP is a much-admired practice with a deep bench of transactional attorneys and a strong Bay

Area presence. The firm is recommended for its representation of biotechnology companies in corporate and commercial matters including high-value M&A, venture capital investments and licensing and collaboration agreements. The team fields additional expertise in complex patent litigation, including Hatch-Waxman, infringement and interference cases. The group offers substantial expertise in relation to medical device patent prosecution matters.

Strengths

"The Cooley team functions as a business partner, offering a strategic and entrepreneurial approach." "The team exhibits extraordinary attention to detail. The attorneys are responsive, have a strong awareness of current market terms and ensure agree-

Life Sciences: IP/Patent Litigation	Life Sciences: Corporate/Commercial
Leading Firms	Leading Firms
Band 1	Band 1
Cooley LLP	Cooley LLP
Morrison Foerster	Latham & Watkins LLP
Band 2	Band 2
Arnold & Porter	Covington & Burling LLP
DLA Piper LLP (US)	Fenwick
Goodwin	Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Jones Day	Goodwin
Knobbe Martens	Ropes & Gray LLP
Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC	Sidley Austin LLP
Perkins Coie LLP	Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Band 3	Band 3
Fenwick	DLA Piper LLP (US)
Fish & Richardson PC	Freshfields US LLP
Irell & Manella LLP	King & Spalding LLP
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP	Paul Hastings LLP
McDermott Will & Schulte	Perkins Coie LLP
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP	WilmerHale
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP	
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP	
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP	
Senior Statespeople	Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Chu Morgan Irell & Manella LLP	Jones Robert Cooley LLP
Leading Individuals	Leading Individuals
Band 1	Star individuals
Haile Lisa A. DLA Piper LLP (US)	Hasko Judith WilmerHale *
Polizzi Catherine Morrison Foerster	Band 1
Reines Edward Jones Day	Clark Kenneth A. Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Band 2	Larson Cheston Latham & Watkins LLP *
Durie Daralyn J. Morrison Foerster	Murr Ryan A. Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Gindler David I. Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP	Band 2
Gutman Siegmund Y. Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky	Abreu Stephen Cooley LLP
Kung Viola Perkins Coie *	Edvalson Ian B. Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Mayer Mika Cooley LLP	Hillier Kate Latham & Watkins LLP *
Merani, PhD Salima Knobbe Martens *	Hope Lila Cooley LLP
Shuster Michael J. Goodwin *	Leonard Emily I. Covington & Burling LLP
Walter Derek Jones Day	Ruck Charles K. Latham & Watkins LLP *
Wise Michael Perkins Coie LLP *	Toro Amy L. Covington & Burling LLP
Xiao Janet Morrison Foerster	Band 3
Band 3	Albright Shane Goodwin *
Carsten Douglas H. McDermott Will & Schulte	Baca Megan R. Ropes & Gray LLP
Fishman Deborah Arnold & Porter	Berezin Laura Cooley LLP
Insogna Anthony M. Jones Day	Flanagan Sharon R. Sidley Austin LLP *
Lee Sabing Knobbe Martens *	Hartlin Jeffrey T. Paul Hastings LLP *
Pelletier Ben Haynes and Boone, LLP (ORL) ◇	Kailasanath Vinita Freshfields US LLP
Potter Karen Morrison Foerster	Lin Geoffrey Ropes & Gray LLP *
Shear Chad Cooley LLP	Postner Marya Cooley LLP
Sitzman Michael McDermott Will & Schulte *	Quintini Stefano Fenwick
Wurster April Snell & Wilmer (ORL) ◇	Rahmani Frank Sidley Austin LLP *
	Socol Randy DLA Piper LLP (US)
	Weeks Mark B. Cooley LLP
	Wicker Mark Perkins Coie *
	Wong Maggie L. Goodwin *
	Zucker Sam Goodwin *
	Up-and-coming individuals
	Suzuki Georgina Jones Covington & Burling LLP

* Indicates individual with profile.

◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

ments are practical and realistic."

"Cooley's multidimensional approach and global adaptability distinguish it from other firms in the industry."

"Cooley attorneys demonstrate an unparalleled commitment to the client's legal and strategic success."

"The Cooley team provides flexible, pragmatic advice."

Work highlights

Cooley advised Avenzo Therapeutics on its exclusive license agreement with Duality Biotherapeutics.

Notable practitioners

Robert Jones advises life sciences and biotechnology businesses on a wide range of corporate matters, including financings, licensing and partnership transactions. **Strengths:** "Robert is a legend in the field." "Robert is a pioneer in this space." "Robert is one of the gods that created this market." **Stephen Abreu** regularly advises clients on high-value collaboration and licensing agreements. He has notable experience acting in matters with substantial cross-border elements. **Strengths:** "Stephen is

an outstanding lawyer. He knows his stuff, is responsive and thoughtful and knows how to navigate choppy waters." **Lila Hope** is well equipped to take on a range of transactional matters for life sciences businesses of all sizes, including those involved in medical devices, pharmaceuticals and digital health facilities. **Strengths:** "Lila is highly sophisticated in thinking through deal strategy and tactics and is an effective negotiator as a result." "Lila has unbelievable expertise in pharma licensing, and is fast and commercial." "Lila is tenacious and thoughtful." "Lila has tremendous knowledge and experience and top-notch interpersonal skills. She is not only a good negotiator, but also a problem solver." **Mika Mayer** centers her practice on patent prosecution and portfolio management advice for life sciences companies. She has experience with representation in patent litigation, post-grant reviews and due diligence. **Strengths:** "Mika is an exceptionally talented patent prosecutor." "Mika is practical and has a good sense of a client's business." **Laura Berezin** is a respected transactional attorney who frequently works with a range of financial institutions and private and public businesses active in the life sciences industry. **Strengths:** "Laura makes herself available in situations where an exceptionally high level of sophistication and legal intuition are necessary." **Marya Postner** maintains a respected transactional practice counseling life sciences companies in a broad range of matters, including licensing, joint ventures and collaborations. **Chad Shear** is highly regarded by pharmaceutical companies for his IP litigation experience. He is frequently called upon for high value patent disputes and has notable trial experience. **Strengths:** "Chad exemplifies superior client service and a high level of sophistication. With a demonstrated record of success, he brings deep pharma expertise, strategic acumen and a confident courtroom presence, handling board presentations and trial work with equal skill." Mark Weeks is adept at representing and advising emerging life sciences companies throughout their growth, from pre-incorporation to financing and M&A.

Covington & Burling LLP

What the team is known for

Covington & Burling LLP is renowned for the quality of its regulatory compliance counsel, alongside wider expertise in strategic partnerships, collaboration agreements and licensing deals. The group has impressive knowledge of all disciplines within life sciences, including cutting-edge technologies such as digital health and regenerative medicine.

Strengths

"The Covington has a practical approach and business awareness."

"The firm is a true thought partner. and the attorneys are incredibly thoughtful and thorough."

"Covington & Burling have a stellar team, with a very good mix of detail-orientated, practical, responsive and client savvy attorneys who are very attuned with market practice."

"Covington has a well-rounded corporate and licensing team and subject matter experts with deep pharma industry knowledge."

Work highlights

Covington & Burling advised Merck in its \$1.3 billion acquisition of Elanco Animal Health.

Notable practitioners

Emily Leonard centers her work on advising biotech and pharmaceutical clients on a broad range of transactional matters such as acquisitions, investments and collaboration transactions. **Strengths:** *"Emily is simply fantastic – she ticks every legal and commercial box." "Emily is thoughtful, focused and proactive, and can appropriately identify specialists where needed." "Emily is one of the most sophisticated biotech lawyers out there. She is really technical and wonderful to work with."* Amy Toro is well equipped to advise life sciences clients on a range of transactional matters, including commercial agreements and product development funding. **Strengths:** *"Amy is responsive and helpful. She brings strong experience and insight on industry issues."* **Georgina Jones Suzuki** is recognized for her adept handling of a range of life sciences transactions, including collaboration, joint venture and licensing agreements. **Strengths:** *"Georgina has good expertise in tech and biotech." "Georgina consistently provides the highest level of service and legal sophistication. I trust her awareness and knowledge of the legal issues involved in life science licensing transactions."*

DLA Piper LLP (US)

What the team is known for

DLA Piper LLP houses a highly regarded practice with a strong international presence highlighted for its guidance on the management of IP portfolios and on corporate transactions and stock offerings. The team is also recognized for its contentious work, such as patent disputes and patent office actions. The firm has additional expertise in medical device product liability litigation and corporate governance matters including anti-takeover measures and proxy contests.

Strengths

"The DLA Piper team is trustworthy, responsive and experienced."

"The group is able to connect legal considerations with business matters fluently to act in the best interests of the client."

"The department's culture stands out as a high-caliber team that collaborates well across functions and is known for pragmatic, solution-focused work."

"The team offers deep industry knowledge and contemporary insights on most recent legal and financing trends."

Work highlights

DLA Piper represented Caelum Biosciences in a patent, contracts and trade secret matter involving an anti-amyloid monoclonal antibody drug.

Notable practitioners

Lisa Haile's broad experience encompasses a variety of patent matters, nationally and internationally, including prosecution and portfolio management. **Strengths:** *"Lisa is one of the very top patent lawyers in the country."* **Randy Socol** is highlighted for his deep expertise in a range of life sciences financings. His clients include private equity companies and strategic investors in the biotech and healthcare industries. **Strengths:** *"Randy is a very skilled, senior lawyer with extensive business experience and a polished approach to client relationships." "Randy is a pro. He is willing to spend the time to get ahead or solve potential issues." "Randy stands out for a combination of deep subject-matter expertise, practical business judgment and an*

ability to give clear, actionable guidance." "Randy is incredibly thoughtful and sharp and, above all, strategic and pragmatic." "Randy is a true partner who offers strategic perspectives that meaningfully influence decision-making."

Fenwick

What the team is known for

Fenwick offers an admired corporate practice highlighted for its representation of both startup companies and more established entities across the life sciences sector. The firm is particularly noted for assistance with venture capital finance, licensing transactions and strategic partnerships. The group has additional expertise in stock offerings and the treatment of IP assets in high-value M&A transactions and is also noted for the quality of their representation in complex patent disputes.

Strengths

"The Fenwick team has deep technical knowledge and understands the competitive landscape."

"The judgment and commitment to excellence of the Fenwick group makes them a trusted and invaluable legal resource."

"Fenwick stands out for its deep domain expertise in life sciences and technology, its highly commercial approach and its ability to provide practical, execution-focused guidance."

"The team demonstrates strong analytical capability, clear strategic thinking and an ability to navigate technically challenging issues without losing sight of commercial priorities."

Work highlights

Fenwick advised Chai Discovery on its \$70 million Series A financing.

Notable practitioners

Stefano Quintini co-leads the firm's healthtech and life sciences group, and is frequently sought out for his expert advice regarding portfolio strategy and strategic collaborations. **Strengths:** *"Stefano produces great sophisticated work and is really collaborative." "Stefano is smart, insightful, fast and great to work with." "Stefano is very sharp and always has great insights and ideas to solve any issues that arise."*

Fish & Richardson PC

What the team is known for

Fish & Richardson PC is a distinguished IP boutique with offices throughout California. The group is equipped to handle all types of IP work for emerging and established life sciences companies, with expertise ranging from prosecution and portfolio management to complex infringement disputes and Hatch-Waxman litigation.

Freshfields US LLP

What the team is known for

Freshfields US LLP is a respected global firm with substantial experience acting for major life sciences companies. The group draws upon the firm's international footprint to advise clients on complex domestic and cross-border transactional work, including M&A, licensing and joint venture agreements.

Strengths

"Freshfields has an incredible breadth of team, so they have answers to all of our questions."

"The team is distinguished by the responsiveness of

its team and the ability to efficiently provide timely input."

Work highlights

Freshfields US LLP advised Cencora on its \$4.6 billion cash acquisition of Retina Consultants of America.

Notable practitioners

Vinita Kailasanath is noted for her transactional practice at the intersection of tech and life sciences. Her experience includes advising on domestic and cross-border investments and M&A. **Strengths:** *"Vinita is a strong partner for our company."*

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

What the team is known for

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP provides well-regarded corporate counsel with a particularly strong reputation in relation to M&A, financing transactions and strategic collaborations. The group regularly works with significant biotech, pharmaceutical and medical device companies.

Strengths

"The Gibson Dunn team has creative problem solving and an eagerness to find commercial solutions."

"The group is super pragmatic and has deep industry insight."

"Gibson Dunn is exceptionally flexible and willing to assess new information to drive commercial solutions."

Work highlights

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher advised 89bio on its sale to Roche Holdings for up to \$3.5 billion in total cash consideration.

Notable practitioners

Ryan Murr centers his work on licensing, stock and asset purchases and other strategic transactions.

Strengths: *"Ryan is a highly thought of, constructive, transactional-minded lawyer, who gets deals done with good commercial terms." "Ryan is an exceptionally creative and commercial attorney, who is a pleasure to work across from." "Ryan is an excellent, solutions-oriented attorney."*

Goodwin

What the team is known for

The Goodwin team provides experienced corporate counsel for emerging companies with particular expertise in assisting with public and private securities offerings and M&A. The team also receives attention for its counsel on patent portfolio strategies, including licensing deals and due diligence for corporate transactions. They have additional expertise in patent litigation.

Strengths

"Goodwin is a highly capable legal team with excellent knowledge of the overall business environment and counter-parties and how they conduct business."

"Goodwin's team has strong technical skills and readily customizes services to align with client business goals."

"Goodwin has a deep bench with technical and legal expertise in a variety of areas. The practice groups integrate seamlessly, and it is very easy to obtain prompt advice on matters requiring experts in varied subject matters."

"Goodwin demonstrates a strong ability to handle complex and sophisticated matters, particularly in

areas that require both deep subject-matter knowledge and practical, business-oriented judgment.”

“The group has extraordinary attention to detail, tenacity and the resolve to find the superior outcome in any endeavor.”

Work highlights

Goodwin team advised Mission Bio in its successful completion of equity financing led by Ally Bridge Group.

Notable practitioners

Michael Shuster has broad IP expertise which encompasses patent prosecution and transactional IP issues on behalf of emerging and established life sciences companies. He also represents clients on financing deals and strategic collaborations.

Strengths: *“Michael is a super lawyer.” “Michael is a top patent attorney. He consistently provides sound advice because he understands the science and the complexity of business.” “Michael always has great strategic insights and brings a wealth of experience to his clients. He never misses an email or text and is always available to help.”* **Shane Albright** is routinely called upon by companies in the life sciences sector to handle a variety of transactional mandates. His expertise includes advising clients on commercial contracts, IPOs and financings, among other things. **Strengths:** *“Shane is brilliant, friendly and cooperative.”* Maggie Wong maintains a respected transactional practice and regularly advises both public and private clients a range of matters. Her experience includes acquisitions, financings and strategic collaborations. **Sam Zucker** is adept at representing businesses and investors in transactions across the life sciences, healthcare and technology sectors. He represents clients on financing transactions as well as mergers and acquisitions. **Strengths:** *“Sam has a brilliant legal mind and immense industry knowledge.” “Sam is an indispensable part of our inner circle to further our business interests.”*

Irell & Manella LLP

What the team is known for

Irell & Manella LLP is a litigation boutique recommended for its bench of seasoned trial lawyers providing adept representation in patent infringement and inventorship disputes. The firm is well regarded for its capabilities in representing life sciences clients in inter partes reviews at the PTAB. It also advises on transactions in the sector, such as patent licensing, Hatch-Waxman and M&A.

Strengths

“Irell & Manella is an IP litigation powerhouse.”

Work highlights

Irell & Manella LLP represented several Stanford University professors and oncologists, and their startup company, Foresight Diagnostics, in a lawsuit alleging misappropriation of trade secrets pertaining to cancer detection technology.

Notable practitioners

Morgan Chu leads the litigation group at Irell and focuses on IP litigation, including many of the firm’s biggest life sciences matters. He represents life sciences clients on IP litigations, IP pre-litigation due diligence and general IP advisory. **Strengths:** *“Morgan is one of the great trial lawyers of our time.” “Morgan is an extremely good litigator. He is one of the titans of the IP Bar.”*

Jones Day

What the team is known for

Jones Day supports both emerging and well-established pharmaceutical, medical device and healthcare companies on a host of IP issues. The group is called upon to advise on patent prosecution and portfolio strategy, as well as high-stakes litigation. The firm’s contentious experience includes patent infringement and Hatch-Waxman litigation.

Strengths

“Jones Day does an excellent job handling the complex technical topics in litigation.”

“The Jones Day group provides excellent litigation strategy and attention to detail and also drafts very strong IPRs.”

“This department stands out for exceptional responsiveness, a true partnership mindset and thoughtful, actionable feedback, all combined with broad technical expertise.”

“Jones Day has skilled attorneys across a broad range of practice areas, which allows for efficient and effective cross-functional collaboration.”

“Jones Day offers great strategic advisors, who understand our technology and produce top-notch work product.”

“”

Work highlights

Jones Day represented Labcorp in patent litigation against Natera in the District of Delaware. The case was related to methods for the detection of cancer recurrence.

Notable practitioners

Edward Reines is highly respected for his work on intellectual property-related litigation within the life sciences sector, where he demonstrates particular expertise in acting for clients on appellate matters. **Strengths:** *“Ed is outstanding to work with and really focuses on winning.” “Ed may be the smartest lawyer I have ever met – he is always three steps ahead.” “Ed is an experienced first chair trial attorney, who develops themes and strategy and knows what is relevant to win a case.”* **Derek Walter** is noted for his expertise in high-stakes patent disputes, regularly advising life sciences companies in infringement matters and before the ITC and PTAB.

Strengths: *“Derek is an outstanding lawyer and formidable adversary.” “Derek is an exceptional litigator who has a deep understanding of technology and knows how to develop winning strategies.” “Derek is a very good trial lawyer, with presence, who develops good arguments and really knows the science. He creates an incredibly good work product and is an excellent writer.”* Anthony Insogna, as the firm’s global IP practice leader, is recognized for his expert management of complex portfolios. He fields additional strength in contentious IP work, including enforcement and infringement actions. His clients include significant pharmaceutical companies. **Strengths:** *“Anthony demonstrates advanced legal and scientific rigor – digging into the facts, conducting detailed analysis and crafting well-supported, persuasive arguments.” “Anthony is very knowledgeable in IP law and is a strategic thinker.” “Anthony is accessible, responsive under tight timelines and follows through with clear action plans.”*

Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

What the team is known for

Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton is a comprehen-

sive patent portfolio practice for life sciences companies of all stripes, which takes in prosecution, freedom-to-operate analysis and due diligence for corporate transactions. It has additional expertise in contentious IP proceedings.

Strengths

“The Kilpatrick team is easy to work with.”

“Kilpatrick Townsend attorneys are thorough and prepare very good applications.”

“The group is very strategic and timely.”

Work highlights

Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP managed Chengdu Kanghua Biological Products Co’s global vaccine patent portfolio, including advising on IP strategy and due diligence.

Notable practitioners

Charles Calkins and Nicoletta M. Kennedy are co-leaders of Kilpatrick’s chemistry and life sciences practice.

King & Spalding LLP

What the team is known for

King & Spalding LLP offers broad life sciences expertise, with deep experience in matters ranging from regulatory approvals to corporate transactions, including investments and financings. The team has strong experience working on cross-border deals.

Strengths

“King & Spalding always offers efficient legal advice and business savvy.”

“King & Spalding attorneys are exemplary. They are consistently available, deeply knowledgeable and consistently delivering outstanding results.”

“King & Spalding exceeds expectations by providing partners with deep, highly relevant experience in exactly the area required.”

Work highlights

King & Spalding LLP advised Heartflow in its \$316.7 million Nasdaq initial public offering, as life sciences regulatory counsel and special counsel for certain corporate matters.

Notable practitioners

Nikki Reeves is a key contact at the firm.

Knobbe Martens

What the team is known for

Knobbe Martens is a boutique IP practice with a strong Southern California presence recommended for its effective patent portfolio work, including prosecution, as well as due diligence on corporate, commercial and capital markets transactions. The team has extensive experience handling PTAB proceedings and is also recommended for patent and trade secrets litigation.

Strengths

“Knobbe Martens is critical to everything we do, with differentiation, strategic positioning and competitive analysis.”

“I have never worked with an IP firm that devotes so much time and energy to maximizing value creation for shareholders.”

“Knobbe offers best-in-class technical sophistication in subject matter.”

“Knobbe stands out for its strategic, forward-thinking approach.”

“The group has a strong track record in high-stakes IP disputes.”

Work highlights

Knobbe Martens successfully represented Masimo

Corporation and Cercacor Laboratories in a patent infringement investigation suit against Apple.

Notable practitioners

Salima Merani is noted for her sophisticated representation of life sciences companies in patent prosecution and strategic portfolio management. **Strengths:** *"Salima is phenomenal and has been instrumental in key strategic moves that our organization has taken." "Salima is an exceptional IP strategist who brings clarity, rigor and foresight to every matter she touches. She combines deep technical expertise with practical, business-aligned judgment." "Salima is a pragmatic, client-centric problem solver known for practical, globally informed counsel in IP strategy, licensing and due diligence." "Her connections, commercial acumen and deep legal and technical knowledge make her a standout attorney."* **Sabing Lee** is noted for his established practice in both advisory and transactional IP matters. He regularly works with clients in the medical devices industry, advising on strategic portfolio management and international IP protection. **Strengths:** *"Sabing is pragmatic, has extreme attention to detail and is very creative." "Sabing is very much aligned with our business strategy. He is also very good at communicating as well as being proactive and detail-orientated." "Sabing does a tremendous job in filings and applications."*

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for

Latham & Watkins LLP has a best-in-market corporate team with a sterling reputation for its counsel on M&A transactions, public and private securities offerings, and strategic partnerships. The team acts for early-stage and long-established companies as well as banks and financiers.

Strengths

"The Latham & Watkins team has unrivalled expertise in providing strategic insight and effective solutions to complex legal situations."
"The group is calm and patient and brings a breadth of experience to address the matter at hand."
"Latham & Watkins has deep expertise in M&A and provides creative solutions to deal challenges. The team also has excellent drafting and written work product."
"The Latham team is a very knowledgeable group that act as a great partner to the company."
"Latham's corporate experience is hard to match. It has encountered most, if not all, types of matters. If the partner you are working with hasn't seen it, all they have to do is inquire within."

Work highlights

Latham & Watkins advised Merus in its \$8 billion in its sale to Genmab.

Notable practitioners

Cheston Larson maintains a corporate and financing focus, frequently advising investment banks and venture capital firms along with public and private companies. **Kate Hillier** has a respected practice advising life sciences companies on licensing and collaborations, acquisitions and capital markets transactions. She regularly represents pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies nationally and internationally. **Strengths:** *"Kate is top-notch. She is incredibly invested and responsive, and can work efficiently, cutting through a lot of noise." "Kate has a wealth of understanding and the*

unique ability to understand both the scientific and corporate elements of the work." **Kate** is a licensing guru in the life sciences industry." Charles Ruck is highly experienced in handling life sciences industry transactions and corporate governance issues, and maintains a broad client base of public and privately held businesses. **Strengths:** *"Charles always has insightful approaches." "Charles is a master in the boardroom. He is good at negotiating with counterparties and managing a set of directors with diverse sets of concerns."*

McDermott Will & Schulte

What the team is known for

McDermott Will & Schulte provides broad contentious and non-contentious IP expertise to life sciences companies. The team frequently advises on patent prosecution, general IP counseling and portfolio management. The group is further recognized for its experience in complex IP litigation and proceedings before the USPTO.

Strengths

"From top to bottom, the McDermott team is engaged, energetic and very smart. The attorneys work very hard and are creative in developing strategy for discovery and trial."
"The team's is distinguished by its understanding of the client's goals, business or otherwise."

Work highlights

McDermott Will & Schulte represented United Therapeutics Corporation in its patent and trade secret lawsuit against Liquidia Technologies.

Notable practitioners

Doug Carsten is co-head of the firm's global IP group. He is regularly called on by major life sciences companies seeking counsel in high-stakes patent disputes, including at trial. **Strengths:** *"Doug is terrific. He is smart and a great team leader."*
"Douglas is a tremendous trial lawyer who is fantastic in the court room and has great judgment and presence." *"Douglas is extremely responsive, keeps clients very well informed and understands the client's goals."* **Michael Sitzman** is a patent litigator with strong experience in the biotech and pharmaceutical industries. His expertise spans Hatch-Waxman and infringement cases, amongst others. **Strengths:** *"Mike adds huge value to everything we do."*

Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC

What the team is known for

Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC boasts a strong team of dedicated attorneys proficient in IP prosecution, litigation and strategy. Representing established and emerging companies, the firm has broad experience within the biotechnology and life sciences sectors.

Strengths

"Mintz has responsive, professional subject matter experts."
"The Mintz team offers attention to detail, responsiveness and a high level of sophistication and expertise. The group is also terrific under pressure and in adversarial situations."
"The Mintz team is experienced in pharma litigation and focuses on the business impact of legal proceedings."
"Mintz has industry-leading strategic thinkers on

patent strategy and prosecution, on a global basis."

Work highlights

Mintz represented Amgen in a series of BPCIA cases to defend Amgen's Prolia and XGEVA franchises from biosimilar competition.

Notable practitioners

Siegmund Gutman heads the firm's life sciences patent group and is noted for his expert representation of clients involved in complex patent disputes, including Hatch-Waxman litigation. He also provides IP counseling services to his clients. **Strengths:** *"Siegmund digs into the material and has a good command of the subject matter."*

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

What the team is known for

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP offers notable expertise in a wide range of IP matters, including patent prosecution, infringement litigation and Hatch-Waxman and PTAB proceedings. The team is further known for its work on IP-driven transactions, including licensing and collaboration agreements, M&A and stock offerings.

Strengths

"Morgan Lewis operates like a well-rehearsed orchestra. The team approaches each stage of litigation with the precision of athletes running a practiced play, ensuring every step is sharp, coordinated and effective."
"The Morgan Lewis team is expert in the pharmaceutical and US patent law areas."
"Morgan Lewis excels in its accessibility, its communication and the strength of its advocacy."

Work highlights

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP advised Nautilus Biotechnology on global patent protection for the device and computational components of the clients' Proteome Analysis Platform.

Notable practitioners

Deanne Miller is a key contact at the firm.

Morrison Foerster

What the team is known for

Morrison Foerster is recommended for its seasoned bench of patent prosecutors and for its counsel regarding the protection and commercialization of IP portfolios. The team receives attention for its transactional strength, including the handling of private financing, strategic partnership, licensing and M&A deals. The group is also noted for representing clients in patent litigation, registry actions and royalty disputes.

Strengths

"The team addresses complex patent work with experience and efficiency."
"The Morrison Foerster group is very consistent in terms of practicality and solutions and has very deep experience in life sciences."
"The firm's technical and legal expertise is excellent, the quality of the work product high and the customer service great."
"With Morrison Foerster, complex licensing issues are explained with exceptional clarity."
"The firm has an excellent client service culture. Every attorney goes the extra mile to function not only as an expert in their field but also as a thought partner in solving the most challenging problems."

Work highlights

Morrison Foerster represented NeoGenomics in

a patent infringement lawsuit brought by Natera, related to RaDaR minimal residual disease (MRD) assay.

Notable practitioners

Catherine Polizzi maintains a respected practice that encompasses a wide range of life sciences-related patent work, including prosecution and strategic portfolio management and development. Daralyn Durie is an esteemed patent litigator who regularly handles high-value infringement claims for life sciences companies as part of a wider disputes practice. **Strengths:** *"Daralyn is truly a superstar and generational talent who we turn to for the most important cases. I sleep better knowing she's on our side."* **Janet Xiao** is well equipped to advise international clients on patent prosecution and strategy in the biotech industry, drawing on substantial technical knowledge. **Strengths:** *"Janet has the ability to focus on the big picture, understands business objectives and provides practical advice."* *"Janet's extensive experience, deep expertise and dedication to success make her critical in driving IP strategy and execution."* *"Janet is a real leader. She is exceptionally experienced, strong and knowledgeable."* **Karen Potter** assists with patent preparation, strategy and prosecution for both well-established and emerging biotechnology and life sciences companies. **Strengths:** *"Karen is an excellent lawyer and scientist, as well as a wonderful person who comprehends the complex challenges faced by startups in the life sciences space."* *"Karen is an excellent IP practitioner."* *"Karen's knowledge base is really valuable. She is also conscientious and open to feedback."*

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

What the team is known for

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe has a highly sought after IP group with the ability to handle complex disputes including Hatch-Waxman litigation and patent infringement claims. The firm also assists manufacturers, investors and drug and medical device companies with IP strategies and collaborations.

Strengths

"The Orrick team engages at the highest level of responsiveness and service."

"The team is knowledgeable, practical, pragmatic and focused."

"Orrick attorneys have background and expertise to delve into details and understand technical, cutting-edge technology issues readily."

"The group has the ability to distill complex science into readable, comprehensive and meaningful patent applications."

"Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe is organized and systematic."

Work highlights

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP represented Corteva Agriscience as lead trial counsel to handle summary judgment and trial in a contract and patent dispute with Bayer in the Delaware Superior Court.

Notable practitioners

David Gindler is noted for his expertise in representing companies of all sizes in complex life sciences concerns, frequently guiding them through high-value IP litigation and licensing transactions. He offers experience acting in both domestic and international disputes. **Strengths:** *"David is a giant*

when it comes to leading litigation. You can see his experience shine through." *"David has it all. He is pleasant, responsive, efficient, knowledgeable and experienced."* *"David is a phenomenal writer who really takes the time to understand the opponents' arguments, and distills a very strong response. He's also an excellent advocate who has a true mastery of the material, and can pivot under difficult questioning."* *"David's level of sophistication is outstanding. He has deep technical and legal expertise that enables him to navigate highly complex IP litigation with precision."* *"David's ability to combine technical depth, strategic foresight and business perspective makes him an invaluable adviser on critical matters."*

Paul Hastings LLP

What the team is known for

Paul Hastings LLP is highlighted for its adroit handling of a range of transactional life sciences work. The group regularly represents significant public and private companies on mergers, acquisitions and IPO work.

Strengths

"The Paul Hastings team is responsive and has the ability to bring other partners in for specialized matters."

Work highlights

Paul Hastings LLP advised Xencor in connection with its \$175 million underwritten public offering of common stock.

Notable practitioners

Jeffrey Hartlin is recognized for his work on deals in the life sciences space. He represents the gamut of clients, ranging from startups to established companies in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology spaces. He has notable experience in M&A and IPO deals. **Strengths:** *"Jeff works on good M&A transactions and is a creative thinker."* *"Jeffrey is a good attorney and a smart guy."*

Perkins Coie LLP

What the team is known for

Perkins Coie LLP represents clients in relation to the management of IP portfolios, including freedom to operate analysis, patent prosecution, due diligence and enforcement actions. The team is also noted for its adept handling of corporate transactions, licensing deals, strategic partnerships and capital markets offerings. The team also assists with PTAB proceedings and advises on FDA compliance matters.

Strengths

"Perkins Coie has knowledgeable and responsive employees who are highly experienced."

"The Mintz team is efficient, responsive and offers solid expertise in specific subject matter areas."

"Perkins has a depth of understanding in biotechnology."

"The group's service levels and responsiveness are outstanding. The team is proactive in addressing any issues and is always quick to respond."

"Perkins Coie is extremely knowledgeable and offers full service, global IP support. The attorneys bring real passion to their work."

Work highlights

Perkins Coie LLP represented Gator Bio on intellectual property matters, including patent litigation, patent prosecution and trademarks.

Notable practitioners

Viola Kung regularly advises clients in the biotech, chemical and pharmaceutical fields both nationally and internationally on an array of matters, particularly patent prosecution and portfolio management. **Strengths:** *"Viola is knowledgeable in science, easy to work with and very fast at what she does."* **Michael Wise's** experience includes handling a broad range of patent concerns for life sciences sector clients. He chairs the firm's life sciences group and advises clients from a range of industries, including medical devices and software.

Strengths: *"Michael provides highly responsive, thoughtful and reliable support. He delivers sophisticated, strategic guidance on complex IP matters, remaining aligned with commercial goals."* *"Michael offers excellent client service with sophistication and strong commercial insight."* **Mark Wicker** represents established and emerging clients in the life science industry. Boasting significant corporate experience, he provides expertise on strategic partnerships, licensing agreements and joint ventures. **Strengths:** *"Mark is extraordinary in pharma and biotech agreements. He has knowledge, judgment and invaluable market expertise."*

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

What the team is known for

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP is a respected litigation firm with a notable track record of success in complex IP disputes for emerging and established life sciences companies. The group frequently handles bet-the-company patent disputes, as well as related matters before the PTAB.

Strengths

"The Quinn Emanuel team is always responsive and treats each matter with a high degree of care."

"The group offers quick, incisive analysis across both complicated technology and bet-the-company litigation."

Work highlights

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP represented Natera in a patent infringement lawsuit against CareDx in the diagnostics space.

Notable practitioners

Raymond Nimrod is co-chair of the firm's global life sciences practice.

Ropes & Gray LLP

What the team is known for

Ropes & Gray LLP is a respected life sciences group with broad expertise encompassing contentious and non-contentious mandates. The firm is frequently called upon to represent major companies in acquisitions, financings license and collaboration agreements. It offers notable capabilities advising on regulatory proceedings and litigating complex patent disputes.

Strengths

"Ropes & Gray offers experience, thoughtfulness, responsiveness and strategic thinking."

"Ropes & Gray is responsive and very attuned to client service. The attorneys digest complex information and reduce this to well-grounded practical advice."

"The Ropes & Gray team offers a strategic approach, proactive negotiating and precise drafting."

Work highlights

Ropes & Gray represented Audax Private Equity in its acquisition of the clinical services business of Avantor.

Notable practitioners

Megan Baca is an experienced adviser who co-heads the firm's IP transactions group. She offers substantial expertise on matters including licensing agreements, joint ventures and transactions. **Strengths:** *"Megan is a powerhouse. She is responsive, provides thoughtful advice and acts as a great point of contact, and is able to make connections at Ropes but also externally." "Megan is super knowledgeable and extremely responsive."*

Geoffrey Lin is commended for his transactional life sciences work, including advising on significant transactions, strategic collaboration agreements and licensing negotiations. He is noted for his cross-border work with Asia. **Strengths:** *"Geoffrey has deep expertise in life-science transactions and a collaborative style that streamlines decisions. He has strong cross-border experience and offers highly practical guidance on China-specific deals."*

Sidley Austin LLP

What the team is known for

Sidley Austin LLP is well equipped to handle a diverse range of life sciences concerns, including acquisitions, collaborations and capital raising as well as intellectual property disputes and other litigation. The team brings to bear substantial regulatory bench strength and an international presence to advise clients in the biotech and pharmaceutical sectors.

Strengths

"Sidley gives good client service, and the team's advice is succinct, to the point and user-friendly."
"The Sidley Austin team possesses strong business acumen, enabling the group to understand market dynamics, financial implications and strategic objectives with clarity. The team's ability to anticipate challenges and identify opportunities makes them a trusted partner in complex negotiations."
"Sidley has an established practice of seasoned professionals who facilitate and expedite matters."
"The Sidley team is exceptionally good at formulating strong defenses, building persuasive arguments, finding or deposing expert witnesses and formulating winning strategies."

Work highlights

Sidley Austin LLP represented medical device company, Stryker, in its definitive agreement to acquire Inari Medical for approximately \$4.9 billion.

Notable practitioners

Sharon Flanagan is noted for her adept representation of both public and private clients on a range of transactional life sciences work. Her experience includes advising on both domestic and international M&A and joint venture agreements. **Strengths:** *"Sharon is an incredibly smart attorney."*
Frank Rahmani is well-equipped to advise clients on matters including strategic collaborations, licensing, financings, IPOs and securities offerings. **Strengths:** *"Frank combines an ability to understand both legal and business matters." "Frank provides strategic insight and unwavering support, especially during complex and challenging deals."*

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

What the team is known for

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP offers wide-ranging life sciences expertise to established and emerging companies. The firm is particularly noted for its ability to provide sophisticated representation to clients involved in high-value patent disputes, including at appeal and in inter partes review proceedings.

Strengths

"The team is comprised of responsive subject matter experts who act as thought-partners in solving complex business and legal issues."
"The Weil Gotshal group has outstanding trial skills and the ability to handle expansive disputes that require a large, well-coordinated team with broad expertise."
"Weil Gotshal & Manges offers technical acumen, persuasive ability and client service."

WilmerHale

What the team is known for

WilmerHale is sought out by companies in the pharmaceutical, medical device, and biotechnology sectors for assistance in commercial transactions. Recognized for experience in strategic alliances, joint ventures, corporate partnerships and licensing, the team's advice also spans venture capital investment strategies, financings and patent infringement litigation.

Strengths

"The team has a sophisticated understanding of IP for complex product modalities and is able to capture key concepts clearly and effectively in deal documents."
"The WilmerHale team has a strong market sense."

Work highlights

WilmerHale represented Gate Bioscience in its recent collaboration and license agreement with Eli Lilly and Company.

Notable practitioners

Judith Hasko has substantial expertise advising major life sciences companies on an array of complex commercial matters such as IPOs, licensing and collaborations transactions. **Strengths:** *"Judith is a star. She is a high-quality lawyer who is really well-respected for life sciences licensing."* *"Judith is a really fantastic attorney."*

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

What the team is known for

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati has a long-established presence in the life sciences technology field, with a team that enjoys a strong reputation for its counsel to emerging companies, especially in relation to its cutting-edge transactional work. The firm provides strategic advice on IP portfolio management matters, including patent prosecution. The firm has additional expertise with regard to contentious patent matters including Hatch-Waxman litigation.

Strengths

"The Wilson Sonsini team provides strong thought partnership and reliable counsel, including on complicated issues and matters."
"The team is distinguished by its scientific knowledge, knowledge of the rules and regulations in different jurisdictions and trends in patent office rulings

and attention to detail."

"Wilson Sonsini combined deep industry knowledge combined with excellent legal expertise."

"The firm's ability to execute high-quality drafts under time pressure is impressive. The group provides around-the-clock coverage to bridge time zone gaps, showing a tireless work ethic and a critical, client-first mentality."

"Our team at Wilson Sonsini stands out for a rare combination of deep scientific fluency, strategic sophistication and practical, business-aligned advice."

Work highlights

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati represented ABL Bio in negotiating a worldwide licensing agreement with GSK, enabling for the development of medicines for neurodegenerative diseases.

Notable practitioners

Kenneth Clark is frequently called upon to represent life sciences clients in a broad array of corporate transactions including strategic agreements, M&A, financings and spinouts. **Strengths:** *"Kenneth is an excellent attorney with a great reputation for medical devices work."* *"Kenneth is a well-known attorney who is easy to work with and produces high-quality work."* **Ian Edvalson** is frequently called upon by emerging and established life sciences companies to advise on a broad range of transactional mandates. He is particularly noted for his expertise in collaboration agreements and licensing. **Strengths:** *"Ian is a commercial attorney who knows what matters and what does not. He gets deals done to a high quality."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Ben Pelletier of Haynes and Boone, LLP acts as a trusted adviser to many biotech and pharmaceutical companies, managing patent portfolios and advising on complex patent prosecution, strategic collaborations and licensing. **Strengths:** *"Ben is very responsive to the client's needs."* *"Ben stands out for his ability to quickly understand complex science and translate it into clear, strategic claims. He consistently thinks ahead, asks the right technical questions and provides practical, well-reasoned guidance."* *"Ben has deep scientific and strategic sophistication for developing patent strategies and executing on them in our specific field. He also has a remarkable grasp on the overall landscape of our field and puts that to use in helping us design our patent strategy."*

April Wurster of Snell & Wilmer maintains a strong IP advisory practice. Her experience spans drafting, prosecution and enforcement, and she represents a range of life sciences clients, from startups to public companies. **Strengths:** *"April comes up with creative solutions and is quick to pivot strategy when the situation changes or evolves."* *"April is responsive, detail-oriented, proactive and strategy-oriented."* *"April is the total package."* *"April is thorough, strategic and asks the right questions."* *"April's in-depth knowledge of scientific, technological nuances and common-sense approach to IP strategy outshine every other legal expert we have previously met. I consider her part of our superpower as a company."*

CALIFORNIA: A Litigation: Securities Overview

Last year, California continued to be an important venue for securities class action litigation, and this year promises to be no different. 2025 saw a 40% increase in total settlement value for accounting-related cases, rising to USD1.5 billion, and a simultaneous 40% drop in accounting case filings, which fell to a record low of 34 for the year. Many of these cases were in the Second and Ninth Circuits, as in years past (the Ninth Circuit reviews decisions from California federal courts). Given that California is home to many AI, media, hardware, software and biotechnology companies, which plaintiffs' firms have targeted, there is good reason to believe that courts in California and the Ninth Circuit will continue to play a crucial role in the development of the federal securities laws. This article considers several important legal developments in California and the Ninth Circuit over the last year.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)'s Power to Order Disgorgement Heads to the Supreme Court

On 20 April 2026, the United States Supreme Court heard argument in *Sripetch v SEC*, which addressed the SEC's power to use disgorgement to force a wrongdoer to turn over its profits to the government without showing harm caused to the wrongdoer's customers. The Ninth Circuit, in *SEC v Sripetch*, 154 F.4th 980 (9th Cir 2025), affirmed the judgment of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California ordering that the defendant disgorge his ill-gotten gains, reasoning that disgorgement under 15 USC Section 78u(d)(5) and (d)(7) does not require a showing that investors experienced pecuniary harm. The court joined the First Circuit (*SEC v Navellier & Associates, Inc*, 108 F.4th 19 (1st Cir 2024)) and rejected the Second Circuit's contrary holding in *SEC v Govil*, 86 F.4th 89 (2d Cir 2023).

The SEC sued Ongkaruck Sripetch for his role in a fraudulent stock scalping scheme involving penny stock companies. Sripetch consented to judgment but opposed disgorgement, arguing – relying on *Govil* – that the Commission had not shown that his victims suffered pecuniary harm. The district court ordered disgorgement of USD2,251,923.16 in net profits. The Ninth Circuit affirmed, holding that no showing of pecuniary harm is required to order disgorgement.

The United States Supreme Court granted Sripetch's petition for certiorari, which continues the Court's scrutiny of the SEC's remedial powers. In this regard, previously, in *Liu v SEC*, the Supreme Court held that in an SEC enforcement action a disgorgement award that does not exceed a wrongdoer's net profits and is awarded for victims as equitable relief is permissible under 15 USC Section 78u(d)(5). In *SEC v Jarkesy*, the Supreme Court ruled that the SEC's routine practice of imposing fines in its administrative proceedings, used to penalize securities fraud, violates the Seventh Amendment "right of trial by jury" in all "suits at common law." *Sripetch* will determine whether the SEC must demonstrate a concrete financial injury each time it seeks disgorgement of ill-gotten profits. This has serious real-world implications: last fiscal year alone, the SEC collected USD6.1 billion in disgorgement – a new record.

Private Securities Class Action Litigation – Robinhood

The Ninth Circuit was also active on the private litigation front.

In *Sodha v Golubowski*, 154 F.4th 1019 (9th Cir 2025), the Ninth Circuit addressed the Robinhood IPO securities litigation. In this regard, Robinhood's IPO occurred on 30 July 2021, one month after the close of its second quarter. Plaintiffs alleged that, even though Robinhood was not required to release its second-quarter results until mid-August, the company was obligated to disclose interim financial information for the second quarter – and for the then-ongoing third quarter – in its IPO materials, because the business had significantly deteriorated between the close of the first quarter and the IPO.

The plaintiffs relied on an omissions theory – contending that, under Section 11(a), Robinhood was required to affirmatively disclose its interim financial results. In this regard, Section 11(a) recognizes two circumstances in which an omission is actionable:

- under the "misleading omissions" prong, which requires disclosure when necessary to render statements in the offering documents not misleading; and
- under the "required statements" prong, which requires disclosure when required by another provision of the securities laws.

The Ninth Circuit held that Robinhood could be liable under Section 11(a)'s misleading omissions prong for failing to disclose interim financial data when the omitted information is material – without requiring a separate inquiry into whether the omission rendered any specific statement misleading. The court reasoned that, if alleged omissions "involve the relationship between a prior statement concerning a particular time period and an event subsequent to that time period," the materiality inquiry effectively subsumes the question of whether a duty to disclose exists. The defendants have filed a petition for a writ of certiorari with the United States Supreme Court, which is pending.

Auditor Liability

In *Hunt v PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP*, 159 F.4th 603 (9th Cir 2025), the Ninth Circuit wrote on auditor liability for opinions. In that regard, investors in Bloom Energy challenged the classification of certain sale-leaseback arrangements. Plaintiffs also sued PwC, Bloom Energy's outside auditor, arguing that PwC signed off on the financials, so PwC should be liable as well. The Ninth Circuit rejected this argument, stressing that an auditor's opinion is an exercise of professional judgment, not a factual representation of the underlying numbers. To hold an auditor liable, a plaintiff must allege facts showing that either the auditor did not actually believe its own opinion or that it ignored concrete warning signs. Here, the plaintiffs did neither. The plaintiffs' petition to the United States Supreme Court was denied.

Litigation

Litigation: Securities
Leading Firms
Band 1
Cooley LLP
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Band 2
Freshfields US LLP
Morrison Foerster
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
Sidley Austin LLP
Band 3
Fenwick
Katten
O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
WilmerHale
Band 4
Alto Litigation
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
Winston Taylor LLP
<i>* Indicates individual with profile.</i>
<i>◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.</i>
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Adams, Duerk & Kamenstein

What the team is known for

Adams, Duerk & Kamenstein has a burgeoning reputation for its expertise in complex commercial litigation, with strength in areas involving product liability, antitrust and contract and partnership disputes. The firm is sought by an array of clients including Fortune 500 companies, startups and universities.

Strengths

"The firm is responsive and available."

"The depth and breadth of ADK's team is at the highest level. Their extensive expertise and methodical approach consistently demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of complex issues."

"What distinguishes Adams, Duerk & Kamenstein is its combination of strategic intelligence, professionalism and genuine humanity."

Work highlights

Adams, Duerk & Kamenstein represented Caroline Ruddy, a co-founder of the West Hollywood-based company RQ Media Group, in litigation against RQ and her co-founder, who alleged breach of contract, unfair business practices and breach of fiduciary duty.

Notable practitioners

Adam Kamenstein is a key contact at the firm.

Alto Litigation

What the team is known for

Alto Litigation is a reputable litigation boutique with expertise in complex securities and corporate litigation, as well as arbitrations and investigations.

Litigation: Securities
Leading Individuals
Star individuals
Eth Jordan <i>Morrison Foerster</i>
Feldman Boris <i>Freshfields US LLP</i>
Spiegel John <i>Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP</i>
Band 1
Brody Sara B. <i>Sidley Austin LLP *</i>
Fukumura Koji F. <i>Cooley LLP</i>
Gibbs Patrick <i>Cooley LLP</i>
Johnson Michele D. <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>
Kramer James <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP</i>
Lutz Brian M. <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>
Morrison Peter <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom</i>
Sacks Robert A. <i>Sullivan & Cromwell LLP *</i>
Band 2
Celio Michael <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>
Hashemi Caz <i>Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati</i>
Milstead Virginia <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom</i>
Potischman Neal <i>Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP (ORL) ◇ *</i>
Shimada Charlene S. <i>Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP</i>
Smith Colleen C. <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>
Valenzuela Jessica <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>
Vanyo Bruce G. <i>Katten</i>
Band 3
Close Matthew <i>O'Melveny & Myers LLP</i>
Erickson White Anna <i>Morrison Foerster</i>
Gavril Doru <i>Freshfields US LLP</i>
Kevane Catherine <i>Fenwick</i>
Kristy Dean <i>Fenwick</i>
Laguardia Daniel <i>Paul Hastings LLP *</i>
Salceda Ignacio E. <i>Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati</i>
Schreiber John E. <i>Winston Taylor LLP *</i>
Seyedin-Noor Bahram <i>Alto Litigation</i>
Shapiro Jonathan <i>Goodwin (ORL) ◇ *</i>
Weiner Perrie M. <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Band 4
Caine Gidon <i>Katten</i>
Charlson Michael L. <i>Vinson & Elkins LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Cullen Brendan P. <i>Sullivan & Cromwell LLP *</i>
Foster Mark <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP</i>
Gildersleeve John <i>Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP</i>
Hamilton Joshua <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>
Henderson Katherine L. <i>Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati</i>
Steinfeld Jeffrey <i>White & Case LLP</i>
Talarides Alex <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP</i>
Varnen Craig <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>
Zelichov Richard <i>Katten</i>
Band 5
Adams Peter <i>Cooley LLP</i>
Bartlett Jaime A. <i>Sidley Austin LLP *</i>
Costley Christina <i>Katten</i>
Eagan Shannon <i>Cooley LLP</i>
J Dolan Matthew <i>Sidley Austin LLP *</i>
Keats Ryan <i>Morrison Foerster</i>
Park Amy S. <i>O'Melveny & Myers LLP</i>
Phadke Achyut J. <i>Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP</i>
Vanzura Glenn <i>Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP (ORL) ◇ *</i>
Walker Melanie <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>
Up-and-coming individuals
Blake Stephen <i>Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP *</i>
Bretan Jennifer C. <i>Fenwick</i>
Hsiao Winston <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom</i>
Lewis Jessica <i>WilmerHale *</i>

Litigation: Mainly Plaintiffs
Leading Firms
Band 1
Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy
Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP
Susman Godfrey LLP
Band 2
Altshuler Berzon LLP
Boies Schiller Flexner LLP
Gibbs Mura
Miller Barondess LLP
Panish Shea Ravipudi LLP
Band 3
Barrack, Rodos & Bacine
Bradley Grombacher
Clarkson Law Firm
Dudensing Law
Gaw Poe LLP
Girard Sharp
Hadsell Stormer Renick & Dai LLP
LippSmith LLP
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Cotchett Joseph <i>Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy</i>
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Brook Davida <i>Susman Godfrey LLP</i>
Cabraser Elizabeth J. <i>Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein</i>
Panish Brian <i>Panish Shea Ravipudi LLP</i>
Ravipudi Rahul <i>Panish Shea Ravipudi LLP</i>
Srinivasan Kalpana <i>Susman Godfrey LLP</i>
Band 2
Bonn Amanda <i>Susman Godfrey LLP</i>
Gibbs Eric <i>Gibbs Mura</i>
Grombacher Kiley <i>Bradley Grombacher</i>
Mao Mark <i>Boies Schiller Flexner LLP</i>
Mura Andre M. <i>Gibbs Mura</i>
Polk Adam <i>Girard Sharp</i>
Seltzer Marc <i>Susman Godfrey LLP</i>
Band 3
Benson Katherine <i>Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein</i>
Bradley Marcus <i>Bradley Grombacher</i>
Clarkson Ryan <i>Clarkson Law Firm</i>
Dudensing Edward <i>Dudensing Law *</i>
Gaw Randolph <i>Gaw Poe LLP *</i>
Hart Yana <i>Clarkson Law Firm</i>
London Sarah <i>Girard Sharp</i>
Poe Mark <i>Gaw Poe LLP</i>
Ricketts Morgan <i>Hadsell Stormer Renick & Dai LLP</i>
Stein Dave <i>Gibbs Mura</i>
Stormer Dan <i>Hadsell Stormer Renick & Dai LLP</i>
Up-and-coming individuals
Washington David <i>Hadsell Stormer Renick & Dai LLP</i>

The firm counts investment firms, corporates and individuals among its diverse client base.

Strengths

"The team responds quickly to questions over email and is always willing to discuss more complex issues on phone calls."

"Every member of the Alto Litigation team is unusually bright and dedicated, making them capable of tackling the most challenging issues."

"Alto Litigation has a rigorous and collaborative workflow."

Litigation: Securities Mainly Plaintiffs
Leading Firms
Band 1
Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP
Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP
Band 2
Berman Tabacco
Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP
Band 3
Bleichmar Fonti & Auld LLP
DiCello Levitt
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Cotchett Joseph <i>Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy</i>
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Baron Randall J. <i>Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP</i>
Robbins Darren <i>Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP</i>
Band 2
Forge Jason <i>Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP</i>
Lavallee Nicole <i>Berman Tabacco</i>
Molumphy Mark <i>Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy</i>
Tabacco Jr Joseph J <i>Berman Tabacco</i>
Uslaner Jonathan D <i>Bernstein Litowitz Berger</i>
<i>* Indicates individual with profile.</i>
<i>◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.</i>
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

"The team showed diligence, attention to detail and thoroughness."

Work highlights

Alto Litigation represented health technology investor Ali Hashemi in a suit in the Delaware Court of Chancery to enforce his rights as a director of All.Health to certain books and records of the company.

Notable practitioners

Bahram Seyedin-Noor is held in high esteem for his securities litigation practice and frequently acts for businesses and executives in defending class actions, handling M&A litigation and representing clients before the SEC. He is the CEO and founder of Alto Litigation. **Strengths:** *"Bahram has excellent securities litigation knowledge and expertise."* *"Bahram is an extremely professional and talented legal mind capable of distilling complex issues down to the fundamentals."* *"Bahram Seyedin-Noor is an intellectual powerhouse in how he runs cases."* *"He is a sophisticated and creative lawyer who miraculously manages incredible outcomes for his clients."*

Altshuler Berzon LLP

What the team is known for

Altshuler Berzon is a longstanding California law firm representing plaintiffs in a wide range of areas of litigation, including constitutional, class action and environmental disputes, among others. The department is regularly engaged by public interest organizations, workers and consumers.

Strengths

"They are excellent attorneys; they excel in labor practices and union-side work."

"Altshuler Berzon handles complex legal cases and attracts really strong lawyers with impressive academic backgrounds."

Litigation: General Commercial
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Keker John <i>Keker, Van Nest & Peters LLP</i>
Van Nest Robert <i>Keker, Van Nest & Peters LLP</i>
Leading Individuals
Star individuals
Brian Brad <i>Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP</i>
Hueston John C <i>Hueston Hennigan LLP *</i>
Keller Jennifer L. <i>Keller Anderle Scolnick LLP</i>
Petrocelli Daniel <i>O'Melveny & Myers LLP</i>
Williams Bart H <i>Proskauer Rose LLP *</i>
Band 1
Holscher Mark <i>Kirkland & Ellis LLP *</i>
Kaba Moez <i>Hueston Hennigan LLP *</i>
Li Luis <i>Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati</i>
Quinn John B <i>Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP *</i>
Rhow Ekwon E. <i>Bird, Marella, Rhow, Lincenberg, Drooks</i>
Band 2
Agrusa Angela C <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>
Cheung Tiffany <i>Morrison Foerster</i>
Chorba Christopher <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>
Dixon Douglas <i>Hueston Hennigan LLP *</i>
Glaser Patricia <i>Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan & Shapiro</i>
González Arturo J <i>Morrison Foerster</i>
Kristovich Bethany <i>Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP</i>
Levin Daniel B. <i>Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP</i>
Mallow Michael <i>Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP</i>
McRae Marcellus A <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>
Merryman Bryan <i>White & Case LLP</i>
Price William C <i>Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP *</i>
Sacks Robert A <i>Sullivan & Cromwell LLP *</i>
Samplin Ilissa <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP *</i>
Singh David R <i>Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP</i>
Band 3
Blunski Melanie <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>
Chan Paul S <i>Bird, Marella, Rhow, Lincenberg, Drooks</i>
Elizabeth Sierra <i>Kirkland & Ellis LLP *</i>
George Eric M <i>Ellis George LLP</i>
Goodman Mark <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Hartnett Kathleen R <i>Cooley LLP</i>
Herrington Robert J <i>Greenberg Traurig, LLP</i>
Hur Benedict Y <i>Cooley LLP</i>
Lally Amy <i>Sidley Austin LLP *</i>
Marroso David <i>O'Melveny & Myers LLP</i>
McKane Mark <i>Kirkland & Ellis LLP</i>
Obaro Bambo <i>Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP</i>
Oxley William <i>Kirkland & Ellis LLP</i>
Russell Jason D <i>Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP (ORL) ◇ *</i>
Tayback Christopher <i>Quinn Emanuel Urquhart *</i>
Band 4
Akrotirianakis Joseph <i>King & Spalding LLP *</i>
Anderle Kay <i>Keller Anderle Scolnick LLP</i>
C. Valco Nicole <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>
Cachán Manuel F <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom</i>
Drooks Mark T. <i>Bird, Marella, Rhow, Lincenberg, Drooks</i>
Etcheverry Lance A <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher</i>
Gerchik Julie <i>Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan & Shapiro</i>
Groves Amanda <i>Winston Taylor LLP *</i>
Henn Emily Johnson <i>Covington & Burling LLP</i>
Henry Sascha <i>Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP</i>
Hummel Chad <i>McKool Smith</i>
Jura Perlette Michèle <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP *</i>
Kline Matthew <i>O'Melveny & Myers LLP</i>
Leader Susan <i>Paul Hastings LLP</i>
Marder Neal <i>Akin (ORL) ◇</i>
Miller Louis R. <i>Miller Barondess LLP</i>
Norton Fred <i>The Norton Law Firm (ORL) ◇ *</i>
O'Neill Megan <i>DTO Law</i>
Ord Isabelle <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>
Pearl James Bo <i>Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP</i>
Pipkin Elizabeth <i>McManis Faulkner (ORL) ◇</i>
Powers Matt <i>O'Melveny & Myers LLP</i>
Reiter Joseph <i>Hueston Hennigan LLP *</i>
Scolnick Chase A. <i>Keller Anderle Scolnick LLP</i>
Sheridan Stephanie A <i>Ballard Spahr LLP *</i>
Somvichian Whitty <i>Cooley LLP</i>
Spelman Kate <i>Jenner & Block LLP</i>
Tabaie Abraham <i>Debevoise & Plimpton LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Wilson Bobbie <i>Perkins Coie LLP (ORL) ◇ *</i>
Up-and-coming individuals
Brooks Meegan <i>Ballard Spahr LLP *</i>
Mishra Sourabh <i>Hueston Hennigan LLP *</i>
Reiss Michael <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>
Yoo Timothy B <i>Bird, Marella, Rhow, Lincenberg, Drooks</i>

Arnold & Porter

What the team is known for

Arnold & Porter offers a varied litigation practice, with experience in acting for major multi-national clients in antitrust, consumer class actions and environmental litigation. The law firm calls upon a large global network of offices to be able to handle cross-border litigation disputes. The team have deep expertise working with clients in the energy, pharmaceutical, healthcare and technology industries.

Strengths

"Few other firms offer the same level of service and value. Any business would benefit from its exceptional talent and skill set."

"Arnold & Porter is top-tier in terms of both the timeliness and the quality of its responses."

"When we have a big issue we turn to Arnold & Porter."

"Arnold & Porter's technical expertise is outstanding. The team consistently delivers precise and well-informed counsel across a wide range of matters."

"Arnold & Porter makes the complex simple through clear articulation of risk and options."

Work highlights

Arnold & Porter successfully represented steel producer Nucor Corp in an antitrust case brought against Nucor, AK Steel and U.S. Steel by JSW Steel, alleging that the defendants conspired to block JSW's access to foreign sources of raw material.

Notable practitioners

Jonathan Hughes is a key contact at the firm.

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for

Baker McKenzie possesses considerable commercial litigation strength, acting on behalf of clients across the technology, healthcare and financial services sectors, among others. The firm has notable experience handling product liability and consumer class actions, in which it excels in defending food and beverage manufacturers.

Strengths

Litigation: General Commercial
Leading Firms
Band 1
Cooley LLP
Band 2
Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP
Band 3
Caldarelli Hejmanowski & Leer
Garcia Hong Law
Higgs Fletcher & Mack
Noonan Lance & Boyer LLP
Pettit Kohn Ingrassia Lutz & Dolin PC
Wilson, Turner, Kosmo LLP
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Attanasio Michael <i>Cooley LLP</i>
Doolin Michelle <i>Sidley Austin LLP</i> *
Geise Steve <i>Jones Day</i>
Ryan Jake <i>Latham & Watkins LLP</i> *
Young Christopher <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>
Band 2
Antia Mazda <i>Cooley LLP</i>
Baird Courtney <i>Duane Morris LLP (ORL)</i> ◇ *
Gleason Michael J <i>Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP</i>
Goldfarb Steven A. <i>Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP</i>
Petrossian Emil <i>Glaser, Weil, Fink, Howard, Jordan</i>
Wright Gabe P <i>Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP</i>
* <i>Indicates individual with profile.</i>
◇ <i>(ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.</i>
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

"It is a deep and sophisticated team that is result-oriented and refuses to lose."

"Baker McKenzie is available whenever needed, and is able to provide and meet deadlines."

"Baker McKenzie has an entrepreneurial spirit and develops novel strategies for complex securities matters."

"The team is highly skilled, intellectual and practical."

"Baker McKenzie can get you industry experts in a variety of different business models quickly."

Work highlights

Baker McKenzie successfully represented Bay Hills Capital Partners against a lawsuit brought by the Kentucky Retirement System alleging fraud, breach of fiduciary duty and breach of contract.

Notable practitioners

Mark Goodman is a highly regarded commercial litigator who is well recognized for his expertise spanning multidistrict litigation and class actions. He serves as co-chair of the firm's North America commercial litigation group. **Strengths:** *"Mark was the reason we got a stellar outcome."* *"Mark Goodman is able take complicated issues and distill them down for me."* *"Mark gets done what you need done."* *"Mark is very responsive for both big and small requests."* Perrie Weiner is called upon by underwriters and investors to handle sophisticated securities disputes. He currently serves as partner-in-charge of Baker McKenzie's Los Angeles office.

Strengths: *"Perrie sets himself apart in his ability to develop and drive novel and winning strategies."* *"Perrie is knowledgeable, experienced, up to date and personable."* *"Perrie Weiner is sagacious and gives sound business advice."* *"Perrie is an out-*

Litigation: General Commercial: The Elite
Leading Firms
Band 1
Cooley LLP
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Hueston Hennigan LLP
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP
Band 2
Keker, Van Nest & Peters LLP
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
Morrison Foerster
O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Band 3
Bird, Marella, Rhoads, Lincenberg, Drooks & Nessim
Covington & Burling LLP
Jones Day
Proskauer Rose LLP
Sidley Austin LLP
Band 4
Jenner & Block LLP
King & Spalding LLP
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Paul Hastings LLP
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
White & Case LLP

standing lawyer and an expert in his field."

BakerHostetler LLP

What the team is known for

BakerHostetler LLP possesses deep expertise in a wide range of commercial matters including consumer protection and product liability. The firm is held in high regard by clients in the media and entertainment, technology and energy sectors, among others.

Strengths

"BakerHostetler provides very good practical advice, knows our risk tolerance and what we are trying to achieve."

"The team is knowledgeable and has the required expertise."

"BakerHostetler is very quick to respond and provide sound, actionable advice."

"The team were superb in every respect; they were careful, hard-working, astute and energetic."

Work highlights

BakerHostetler LLP defended SoundCloud in an advertising class action relating to a yearly automatic renewal and price increases over time.

Notable practitioners

Bethany Lukitsch is a key contact at the firm.

Ballard Spahr LLP

What the team is known for

Ballard Spahr has an established litigation practice which can draw on its nationwide expertise to handle complex commercial disputes and consumer class actions. The firm is held in high repute for its work representing notable clients from across the retail sector.

Notable practitioners

Stephanie Sheridan excels in the handling of consumer class actions, including those alleging false advertising and privacy violations. As leader of the firm's retail and e-commerce industry team, she

Litigation General Commercial: Highly Regarded
Leading Firms
Band 1
Arnold & Porter
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Keller Anderle Scolnick LLP
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
Band 2
Baker McKenzie
Crowell & Moring LLP
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
Dechert LLP
Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan & Shapiro, LLP
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Mayer Brown LLP
McDermott Will & Schulte
McKool Smith
Band 3
Bienert Katzman Littrell Williams LLP
BraunHagey & Borden LLP
DTO Law
Ellis George LLP
Reed Smith LLP
Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP
Band 4
Adams, Duerk & Kamenstein
BakerHostetler LLP
Ballard Spahr LLP
Bartko Pavia LLP
Bergeson LLP
Everett Dorey LLP
Frost LLP
Halpern May Ybarra Gelberg
Waymaker LLP
Willenken LLP

has considerable expertise representing retailers and major brands. **Strengths:** *"Stephanie is a super-savvy lawyer who really understands the retail landscape. She is a fierce advocate for her clients."*

Meegan Brooks is sought after by leading retailers for her expertise in consumer class actions and other disputes. **Strengths:** *"Meegan Brooks is the best consumer protection lawyer in the country."*

"Meegan is an excellent attorney. She is scary smart without being intimidating." *"Meegan is a great business partner."*

Barrack, Rodos & Bacine

What the team is known for

Barrack, Rodos & Bacine offers a broad base of plaintiff-side expertise, with an experienced team of litigators capable of handling privacy, securities and antitrust-related litigation, among other matters.

Bartko Pavia LLP

What the team is known for

Bartko Pavia LLP is recognized for its broad base of litigation experience. The firm's expertise spans a wide array of commercial disputes, alongside anti-trust, employment and IP-related cases. Its client base includes those from the healthcare, finance and retail industries.

Strengths

"Bartko Pavia has an exceptional litigation practice, with a proven track record, excellent client commu-

nication and involvement.”

“They are good in court and are strategic in pursuing their clients’ interests.”

“Bartko Pavia is incredibly innovative and insightful. They know how to litigate and fight intelligently and aggressively.”

“They have been remarkably diligent, meticulous and persistent in developing the factual basis for our claims.”

Work highlights

Bartko Pavia LLP successfully represented Zest Labs in a trade secrets suit against Walmart.

Notable practitioners

Patrick Ryan is a key contact at the firm.

Bergeson LLP

What the team is known for

Bergeson LLP has a prominent practice providing expert representation to individuals and companies in a range of litigation matters. The firm is recognized for its expertise in business litigation and intellectual property matters.

Strengths

“Bergeson provides extremely sophisticated and nuanced advice.”

“The team are detail-oriented, smart and strategic. They understand leverage but do things in a reasonable way and can keep track of the big-business picture.”

“Bergeson has a strong bench of experienced practitioners.”

Work highlights

Bergeson LLP represented Secret Waterfall and two individuals in alleged claims of copyright infringement and trademark infringement brought by Rainbow S.p.A regarding the clients’ Roblox videogame.

Notable practitioners

Daniel Bergeson is a key contact at the firm.

Berman Tabacco

What the team is known for

Berman Tabacco is a skilled and effective litigation boutique with a strong bench of talented and experienced litigators. The firm is regularly turned to by institutional investors and other stakeholders for its depth and breadth of experience in bringing securities litigation and derivative actions involving allegations of breach of fiduciary duty.

Strengths

“The lawyers are thoughtful, creative and diligent. They also produce excellent briefs.”

Work highlights

Berman Tabacco served as a member of a plaintiffs’ Executive Committee in shareholder derivative litigation against Meta alleging that members of the company’s leadership had breached their fiduciary duty and violated a US FTC consent decree in relation to the alleged use of Facebook user data by Cambridge Analytica.

Notable practitioners

Nicole Lavallee is an experienced securities litigator who frequently acts for investors and shareholders to bring claims against public companies.

Strengths: *“Nicole is the person I want with me when going into battle. She is determined and a great tactician.” “When I think of plaintiffs’ lawyers who are really good and the toughest adversaries in a highly professional way, Nicole is near the top of*

that list.” Joseph Tabacco is a highly regarded plaintiffs’ lawyer who regularly advises on high-stakes class actions and derivative suits. **Strengths:** *“He is calm under pressure, thinks strategically and always adds value. I always learn something from him.”*

Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP

What the team is known for

Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann is a market-leading plaintiff firm that provides considerable strength in securities fraud litigation and shareholder rights work. The firm is renowned for recovering substantial sums in settlements and obtaining significant corporate governance reforms. The team is noted in particular for its successful track record in disputes surrounding RMBS matters, particularly in bringing claims against Wall Street banks.

Strengths

“BLBG can handle large-scale and complex discovery better than almost anyone else in the plaintiffs’ bar. They are also smart and tenacious, and choose their cases carefully.”

“Bernstein is a leader in the field of plaintiffs securities litigation.”

“It’s a high-quality firm and you have to fight when you’re up against them.”

Work highlights

Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann represented Meta common stock investors in a securities class action brought against the technology company relating to allegedly false and misleading statements regarding harms caused by its platforms.

Notable practitioners

Jonathan Uslaner is an expert plaintiff securities litigator with a wealth of experience in leading direct and class actions, including notable expertise in opt-out actions. **Strengths:** *“Jonathan is a skilled and savvy lawyer.” “Jonathan is a formidable opponent who zealously advocates for his investor clients.” “John is a high-quality adversary. He’s bright, focused and works very hard.”*

Bienert Katzman Littrell Williams LLP

What the team is known for

Bienert Katzman Littrell Williams LLP has built a reputation on representing both small and large companies, individuals and professionals in a range of commercial disputes. The firm has expertise in class actions, professional liability and derivative actions. The team is regularly engaged by clients in the entertainment, e-commerce and biotech industries, among others.

Strengths

“Bienert Katzman’s overall strength is its vast experience in both state and federal court matters. It’s known and respected by judges in all courtrooms.”

“A great team of partners and a great set of paralegals. They have a deep bench and a lot of historical knowledge.”

“They are efficient and appreciate how much cases cost.”

Work highlights

Bienert Katzman Littrell Williams LLP defended Amazon in a lawsuit brought by the Federal Trade Commission alleging that the company had employed deceptive interface designs to mislead consumers into enrolling in auto renewing Amazon Prime subscriptions.

Notable practitioners

Michael Williams is a key contact at the firm.

Bird, Marella, Rhow, Lincenberg, Dooks & Nessim, LLP

What the team is known for

Bird Marella is a specialist litigation boutique that undertakes high-profile cases for clients in industries such as media and entertainment, technology and manufacturing. The team offers significant expertise in commercial matters, with strengths in disputes involving issues such as IP and antitrust. The law firm is particularly noted for its stable of talented trial lawyers, with in-depth experience of state and federal courts in California and nationwide.

Strengths

“Bird, Marella can handle difficult, complex and high-profile matters with great understanding.”

“I appreciate their thoroughness, judgment and strategic thinking.”

“They are competent, well managed and think about things carefully.”

“The firm is always highly responsive.”

Work highlights

Bird Marella represented Waste Connections in excess of 30 mass tort actions, with plaintiffs alleging liability for ultrahazardous activity, negligence and nuisance claims.

Notable practitioners

Ekwan Rhow is frequently engaged by large corporates, midsize businesses and individual clients to handle significant litigation work, with his expert trial skills considered a significant asset. **Strengths:**

“He is an excellent lawyer and business adviser.” “Ekwan is one of the top trial lawyers in the nation.

He constantly gets amazing results.” “Ekwan is indefatigable in terms of his work ethic. He has a great reservoir of common sense, and connects respectfully with judges and jurors.” Paul Chan is the managing partner of Bird Marella. He has over 25 years of experience defending large corporate clients on a wide variety of commercial disputes, including class actions, securities and intellectual property litigation. He is often engaged by clients for representation both in California and across the United States. **Strengths:**

“Paul Chan develops encyclopedic knowledge about the relevant facts, law and strategic options of a case.” “Paul brings a real sense of senior leadership style guidance on strategy and development.” “He has a very good feel for the matters he is commenting on, how something will turn out and the different alternatives.” Mark Dooks offers specialist knowledge in the field of legal malpractice in addition to experience in varied commercial disputes. **Strengths:**

“I appreciate Mark’s steady hand and his thoughtfulness.” “Mark is an extraordinarily smart lawyer. He is strategic and very thoughtful.” Timothy Yoo specializes in IP litigation and commercial disputes in the technology sector. He is co-chair of the firm’s Korea practice group. **Strengths:** *“Timothy is an excellent lawyer with deep IP experience.” “Tim has dignity and integrity.”*

Bleichmar Fonti & Auld LLP

What the team is known for

Bleichmar Fonti & Auld is noted for its handling of complex litigation on behalf of plaintiffs. The firm’s

notable areas of expertise include securities and consumer litigation, as well as work related to anti-trust and corporate governance. It is sought out by institutional investors and asset managers.

Strengths

"They produce high-quality work and have a good set of lawyers."

Boies Schiller Flexner LLP

What the team is known for

Boies Schiller Flexner LLP is a well-established litigation specialist serving plaintiffs in a range of areas. The firm is experienced in taking on some of the biggest defense firms in the world, regularly achieving positive results for their clients. The team has expertise in class actions, intellectual property and breach of contract litigation, among many others.

Strengths

"They are excellent litigators doing all kinds of commercial litigation."

"Boies Schiller does big, meaningful work."

Work highlights

Boies Schiller Flexner served as co-counsel in litigation against Meta which alleged that implemented features on the social media application Instagram were intentionally designed to be addictive for teens despite evidence that it could harm their mental health.

Notable practitioners

Mark Mao is an effective plaintiff-side litigator noted for his wealth of experience handling privacy-related litigation and wider consumer class actions involving a number of industries. **Strengths:** *"Mark is an excellent strategist for his clients."*

Bradley Grombacher

What the team is known for

Bradley Grombacher is a well-regarded plaintiff litigation firm noted for its adept representation of individuals and class actions. The team has capabilities in complex personal injury and a wide range of employment claims. It is particularly strong in handling consumer actions and mass torts, including those concerning tech and pharmaceuticals.

Notable practitioners

Co-founding partner, **Kiley Grombacher** is noted for her adept representation of individual plaintiffs and class actions. She has experience handling consumer actions and employment claims, as well as mass torts involving pharmaceuticals and other products. Co-founding partner, **Marcus Bradley** has experience litigating and trying consumer claims, product liability suits and complex personal injury cases, among other matters. He acts for individual plaintiffs as well as class actions and mass torts.

BraunHagey & Borden LLP

What the team is known for

BraunHagey & Borden is a San Francisco-based boutique highlighted for its considerable strength in commercial litigation, with experience handling trade secret theft claims, consumer class actions and contractual disputes. The firm draws from a bench of experienced trial lawyers to represent clients spanning from tech startups to publicly traded companies.

Strengths

"BraunHagey & Borden lawyers go above and beyond. They are brilliant, creative and consistently reliable."

"The team is always responsive and brings up key issues promptly with good discussion."

Work highlights

BraunHagey & Borden LLP represented Eric Olson and Sandra Olson in a dispute with World Financial Group Insurance Agency (WFG) after WFG allegedly moved to terminate Eric Olson and take over his 20,000 agent business.

Notable practitioners

Noah Hagey is a key contact at the firm.

Caldarelli Hejmanowski & Leer

What the team is known for

Caldarelli Hejmanowski & Leer is a San Diego-based litigation outfit with experience litigating at state and federal level. The team has capabilities across business litigation, real estate disputes and employment, among other areas.

Strengths

"Caldarelli is a very good firm. There are good lawyers there."

Clarkson Law Firm

What the team is known for

Clarkson Law Firm is a firm with offices across the US, dedicated to plaintiff representation in a whole manner of cases, from AI and data privacy litigation, to class actions and antitrust suits. The law firm has offices up and down California to assist clients with their needs, and the team has experience in litigating cases at both the trial and appellate stages.

Strengths

"Clarkson Law Firm is very experienced in complex class actions."

"The Clarkson Law Firm does good, meaningful work."

Work highlights

The Clarkson Law Firm represented consumers in a class action against Dr. Dennis Gross Skin Care that alleged false, misleading, deceptive labeling and advertising of 'C + Collagen' products.

Notable practitioners

Founder and managing partner, **Ryan Clarkson** is highlighted for his expertise in consumer class actions. He has experience handling cases involving tech, pharmaceuticals and consumer products. As leader of the firm's data privacy and misuse litigation practice, **Yana Hart** is well-versed in handling complex claims against notable companies. She has experience acting for individuals and class actions in a wide array of consumer protection cases.

Cooley LLP

What the team is known for

Cooley offers a deep bench of skilled litigators with strong substantive knowledge in securities and commercial litigation. The law firm is particularly adept at representing pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies in major class actions, as well as excellent skills in intellectual property disputes.

Strengths

"Cooley has a deep understanding of how plaintiff law firms behave and how to get the best settlement."

"Their understanding of the federal court system is

excellent. The thoroughness in which they approach fact discovery is also exemplary."

"Cooley is excellent in San Diego. It has a professional, deep bench with really excellent attorneys."

"Cooley knows the area of securities litigation better than anyone; we feel they are the best. They have done incredible work and deliver exceptional work product, responsiveness and advocacy."

"Cooley is always responsive and understands our business. It is a game changer for us to have a firm that has the depth and breadth of legal expertise in all areas."

Work highlights

Cooley defended Google in a state class action and jury trial, in which plaintiffs alleged that the Android operating system causes certain data to be transmitted from Android devices to Google servers over cellular networks rather than Wi-Fi, utilizing plaintiffs' cellular data allowances without permission.

Notable practitioners

Michael Attanasio is the former chair of the firm's global litigation department. He is an experienced trial lawyer with notable expertise in commercial disputes. **Strengths:** *"Mike is very impressive in all ways, shapes and forms. He is someone who gives the board a tremendous amount of confidence."*

"Michael is the type of lawyer you want representing you in difficult cases. He is that combination you are looking for in terms of tenacity and strategic approaches to litigation."

"Michael has a strong courtroom presence, and he is an excellent team leader." Koji Fukumura routinely handles big-ticket securities actions for major corporates and their executives. He has experience in defending class actions across the whole range of potential securities law violations and has expertise in defending clients in the pharmaceutical and technology sectors. **Strengths:** *"Koji is passionate, smart and experienced. He is a litigator and a go-getter."*

"Koji Fukumura is one of the top litigators in the country." *"Everything Koji called was spot-on. He can handle and lead tough negotiations."*

Patrick Gibbs advises clients in the tech and life sciences sectors on significant class action concerns, as well as derivative suits. **Strengths:** *"Patrick is fantastic in the courtroom, with clients and with everyone he works with."*

"Patrick is a great lawyer and a good guy." *"Patrick has been a consistently strong and excellent lawyer."*

Mazda Antia regularly acts for technology and life sciences clients to handle a broad spectrum of commercial litigation matters, including defending class actions. **Strengths:**

"Mazda is calm under pressure." *"He is a great negotiator."*

Kathleen Hartnett represents plaintiffs and defendants in complex litigation, and is sought after for her expertise in commercial, regulatory and constitutional matters. She is recognized as a reliable litigator for leading technology companies.

Strengths: *"Kathleen Hartnett is the smartest attorney I've ever worked with. She can write well and understands what judges want to see in briefings and legal findings."* *"Kathleen works on significant cases."*

Benedict Y Hur regularly handles high-profile commercial and privacy disputes for clients in the technology sector. **Strengths:** *"Ben is a good listener, which goes a long way in getting advice that is helpful. I feel comfortable with him representing us."* *"Benedict has been a leader in the community here, and has handled some*

large cases.” **Whitty Somvichian** is held in high esteem by clients in the technology sector, who he represents in a broad array of commercial litigation and class action defense. He offers notable expertise in privacy disputes. **Peter Adams** has experience in handling various securities class actions in both California and Delaware. He regularly defends corporate clients and executives in the technology and healthcare industries. **Strengths:** “I like Peter’s style. He is casual, reasonable and talented at breaking down complexity in a way that is translatable to a lay audience.” **Shannon Eagan** is the partner in charge and head of the business litigation practice for Cooley’s Palo Alto office. She boasts experience in litigating securities cases and class actions across the United States on behalf of financial institutions, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies. **Strengths:** “Shannon is an excellent advocate, adviser and litigator.” “Shannon is thoughtful, proactive and efficient. It is a joy to work with her.” “Shannon always goes above and beyond.” “Shannon provides thoughtful guidance and listens to client questions and suggestions for possible negotiating strategies.”

Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy

What the team is known for

Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy has an established litigation practice dedicated to plaintiff-side work for a variety of individuals, public sector institutions and corporate entities. It is proficient in a diverse range of commercial disputes, regularly litigating claims in state and federal courts in areas including employment, antitrust and consumer class actions.

Notable practitioners

Joseph Cotchett enjoys a stellar reputation as a plaintiffs’ litigator. He represents clients in significant commercial disputes as well as securities litigation. **Strengths:** “Joe is the godfather of the plaintiffs’ Bar.” **Mark Molumphy** is an experienced plaintiffs’ lawyer with notable experience handling shareholder derivative suits and class actions. **Strengths:** “Mark is a very good plaintiffs lawyer.” “Molumphy is a real litigator running big cases. He is a formidable foe.”

Covington & Burling LLP

What the team is known for

Covington & Burling brings vast experience in commercial litigation to bear when handling high-stakes disputes, often arising from the technology, healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors. The team is highly proficient in handling class actions, breach of contract and mass tort claims, and offers additional expertise in IP-related litigation.

Strengths

“The team are good at giving practical advice and are very good writers.”

“They were super responsive and had the knowledge we needed.”

Work highlights

Covington & Burling LLP represented TikTok in a series of lawsuits alleging that the platform misleads users about the nature and amount of mature content on the site.

Notable practitioners

Emily Johnson Henn specializes in defending class actions across a broad range of sectors. She

regularly acts for clients in the life sciences and consumer products spaces. **Strengths:** “Emily is a talented lawyer.”

Crowell & Moring LLP

What the team is known for

Crowell & Moring offers a strong track record in litigation matters, with clients benefiting from deep expertise in contractual disputes and defending major class actions. It frequently acts for a range of individuals, public entities and corporate clients, with notable strengths representing educational institutions. The firm demonstrates additional expertise in domestic and international arbitrations.

Strengths

“Crowell & Moring attorneys are responsive, accessible and thoughtful when communicating with in-house counsel and business leaders.”

“Crowell & Moring has handled complex problems on a regular basis and provided advice that was practical and accurate.”

“The firm provides great service and always keeps our budget in mind.”

Work highlights

Crowell & Moring LLP represented Nuna Baby Essentials in multiple putative class actions relating to a recall of Rava model car seats.

Notable practitioners

Jennifer Romano is a key contact at the firm.

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

What the team is known for

Davis Wright Tremaine possesses considerable strength acting for household names in the technology sector alongside notable financial services and media and entertainment sector expertise. The firm is particularly highlighted for its experience handling consumer class actions, as well as intellectual property litigation.

Strengths

“Replies to emails are almost instantaneous, with meetings scheduled as quickly as requested.”

“The lawyers at Davis Wright Tremaine are consistently smart, creative problem-solvers, and they’re also friendly.”

“I have the utmost confidence in the firm’s ability to handle complex and sophisticated matters.”

Work highlights

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP defended Walmart in a putative class action which claimed that the company’s avocado oil was misleadingly adulterated with other oils.

Notable practitioners

Joseph Addiego is a key contact at the firm.

Dechert LLP

What the team is known for

Dechert LLP has a comprehensive commercial litigation offering, benefiting from a deep pool of experienced attorneys with considerable substantive knowledge. The firm is particularly adept in contract disputes and product liability matters, alongside wider skills in areas such as class action defense and unfair competition claims.

DiCello Levitt

What the team is known for

DiCello Levitt is a recognized presence in plaintiff-side securities litigation, acting for classes of

shareholders as well as pension funds and other institutional investors. The firm expertly litigates large-scale claims against notable names from a wide array of industries.

Strengths

“They are communicative, diligent and knowledgeable.”

Work highlights

DiCello Levitt represented a coalition of international institutional investor funds in a securities class action against AstraZeneca that alleged the pharmaceutical company had concealed its involvement in insurance fraud in China.

Notable practitioners

Patrick Daniels is a key contact at the firm.

DLA Piper LLP (US)

What the team is known for

DLA Piper excels in handling complex commercial litigation for public and private sector clients across the country, proficient in an array of life sciences, technology and consumer products disputes. The firm calls upon an extensive roster of litigators across the state and country to assist with bet-the-company litigation and cross-border work.

Strengths

“DLA Piper made a real effort to learn our business. It’s also the most responsive I’ve ever worked with, and has a wealth of experience to draw on.”

“The team is super clear in communicating complex legal matters simply, and is very collaborative.”

“They are thoughtful and intelligent litigators, thinking through problems and solutions. They also take a broader view about what impact a decision has on the company.”

“The partners are truly cutting-edge in the areas that impact our company. They have expert knowledge and great instincts.”

“The team understands and does a good job of getting the nuances of the dispute. They also make it a point to reply almost immediately to my inquiries.”

Work highlights

DLA Piper LLP represented Johnson & Johnson Consumer in multiple multi-action class litigation involving benzoyl peroxide products.

Notable practitioners

Christopher Young regularly takes on significant class actions and is noted for his proficiency in product liability matters. Cochair of DLA Piper’s US product liability, mass torts and class actions practice, Angela Agrusa is noted for her considerable expertise representing food and beverage manufacturers alongside experience acting for clients in the tech sector. **Strengths:** “Angela is wonderful to work with. She is smart, creative, and has helped us with complicated cases.” **Isabelle Ord** regularly represents notable clients in complex litigation and has expertise in consumer protection, financial services and commercial disputes. She is cochair of DLA Piper’s class action litigation practice and global co-chair of the financial services sector group. **Strengths:** “Isabelle is an amazing trial lawyer who does an excellent job providing insightful advice.” “Isabelle Ord is an incredible asset. She provides superior customer service and knowledge.” “Isabelle is a superb attorney who gets it from a business perspective.” **Melanie Walker** is an experienced litigator highlighted for her strong track record handling complex securities disputes

and class actions, particularly those arising from corporate transactions. She is chair of DLA Piper's corporate and securities litigation practice.

DTO Law

What the team is known for

DTO Law is a notable litigation boutique with offices in Los Angeles and Silicon Valley. The firm is particularly experienced in defending Fortune 500 companies in consumer class actions, as well as handling intellectual property-related litigation.

Strengths

"DTO Law is always responsive, no matter when an issue comes up. I can always rely on them to support me in a critical moment."

"DTO provides good, practical, real-world advice."

"DTO has a deep understanding of business, and builds strategy to meet client needs."

"DTO Law are nimble, practical and creative. The team is sufficiently deep for our matters."

Work highlights

DTO Law defended Honda in a putative class action where plaintiffs alleged the automotive manufacturer had engaged in false advertising under California's consumer protection statutes.

Notable practitioners

Megan O'Neill is sought by clients for her expertise in class actions, appellate litigation and a wide array of commercial disputes. She leads the litigation practice at DTO Law. **Strengths:** *"Megan is a force to be reckoned with. She's an excellent strategist and trial lawyer."* *"Megan O'Neill is one of the best lawyers in terms of client service. She gets it from a commercial perspective and thinks not only about the litigation risk but the overall impact to the business."* *"Megan is a natural leader who stands fearless as an advocate for her clients."*

Dudensing Law

What the team is known for

Dudensing Law specialises in the representation of plaintiffs in elder abuse cases. The law firm has a track record of success in litigating cases against care providers and healthcare conglomerates.

Notable practitioners

Edward Dudensing has expertise handling complex litigation on behalf of victims of elder abuse and neglect through his plaintiff practice.

Ellis George LLP

What the team is known for

Ellis George LLP is a boutique litigation firm with experience defending and prosecuting claims for clients. The firm has deep trial experience in commercial disputes. The team has expertise in representing both corporations and individuals in litigation matters.

Strengths

"No matter how big or small the issue, they are always available and responsive."

"Ellis George has strong experience and connections in the business community."

"They've handled complex matters perfectly."

Work highlights

Ellis George represented Fox in a cross-border trademark dispute involving injunctions in the United States and Mexico after an improper effort by defendant and contemnors to prevent Fox from using all 'Fox' marks in Mexico.

Notable practitioners

Eric George is frequently engaged by clients to handle commercial disputes, where his well-tested pedigree at trial comes to the fore. He also handles appellate arguments before state and federal courts of appeal. **Strengths:** *"Eric is one of the smartest attorneys we have hired."* *"Eric George is extremely helpful in trying to drive things to a logical and a sensible conclusion."* *"Eric is really talented, personable and good in court."*

Everett Dorey LLP

What the team is known for

Everett Dorey is noted for its particular expertise acting on behalf of municipalities in complex disputes. The firm's broad practice includes areas such as personal injury, property damage and toxic torts.

Fenwick

What the team is known for

Fenwick possesses a high-quality practice often called upon by Silicon Valley-based technology companies to assist with a wide variety of securities disputes, particularly noted for its in-depth experience in handling post-IPO claims. The firm offers wider strengths in a broad range of securities class actions and shareholder derivative claims, alongside expertise in regulatory investigations and enforcement actions.

Strengths

"Fenwick has a very deep bench from the team leaders to junior associates."

"They are subject matter experts in the securities field. The firm does an excellent job analyzing pleadings, briefing the arguments and presenting oral advocacy to the courts."

"The team is consistently responsive and available without exception, including after hours when requested or needed."

"Fenwick has experience in the interplay between traditional securities litigation and related derivative matters."

Work highlights

Fenwick represented SentinelOne, its CEO and former CFO, in a securities class action alleging defendants made various misstatements about the company's business and financial condition.

Notable practitioners

Catherine Kevane has a broad securities practice, often representing clients in derivative suits and stockholder litigation. **Strengths:** *"Catherine is a strong lead partner who is willing to jump into the most complex issues."* *"Catherine Kevane has an in-depth understanding of the law and a mastery of procedure, which puts us in the best position possible."* **Dean Kristy** is co-chair of Fenwick's securities litigation practice, and regularly defends clients in significant class actions and shareholder litigation. **Strengths:** *"Dean is very experienced in federal securities class actions."* *"Dean is experienced, gets some really good cases and is easy to work with."* **Jennifer Bretan** is highlighted for her adept handling of securities class and derivative actions. **Strengths:** *"Jennifer is a good lawyer with good judgment."*

Freshfields US LLP

What the team is known for

Freshfields has a highly regarded securities litigation group with a strong pedigree in representing emerging businesses, major technology companies and senior executives in M&A and IPO-related litigation, as well as broader shareholder class and derivative actions. The firm offers robust additional strengths in regulatory concerns, including counseling on risk and corporate governance, handling investigations and defending SEC enforcement actions.

Strengths

"They are experts in their field. They know everything about the legal landscape and provide practical business advice."

"Nothing is beyond them. They are among the most sophisticated securities litigators."

"They are by far my favorite team. They are extremely creative in their approach, do not give cookie cutter advice and take the time to understand the client's objective."

Work highlights

Freshfields US successfully represented Instacart and several officers and directors in a securities class action and derivative suit in connection with its IPO.

Notable practitioners

Boris Feldman is an esteemed securities litigator frequently engaged by leading tech companies on significant class actions and derivative suits.

Strengths: *"Boris Feldman is a pleasure to work with. He makes even the most unpleasant situations pleasant experiences and gives you a sense of how things will play out."* *"Boris is a leader in his field."*

"Everyone knows Boris. His voice carries a lot of weight among the judges and opposing counsel."

"Without a doubt Boris is the best securities litigator in the Silicon Valley, not only because of his wealth of experience and exceptional legal acumen, but his deep understanding of our business and industry."

Doru Gavril is well-versed in acting for clients in shareholder disputes, securities class actions and government investigations. He handles work for a variety of clients in the technology and life sciences industry. **Strengths:** *"Doru Gavril is an exceptional lawyer who provides the highest level of service with unsurpassed sophistication, commercial awareness and vision."* *"Doru thinks about all the angles and his judgment is so strong on so many issues."* *"Doru Gavril is a strong lead lawyer. He's sophisticated, knowledgeable and on top of trends and developments."* *"He is terribly responsive and if he cannot respond right away he will tell you and arrange another time."*

Frost LLP

What the team is known for

Frost LLP possesses a broad base of expertise in commercial disputes, spanning breach of contract and rights-related litigation, as well as intellectual property suits. The firm is noted for its representation of clients across the media and entertainment and technology industries, among others.

Strengths

"Frost is highly experienced in California litigation matters and it does a good job of getting results."

"The firm has a deep bench with experience in many different areas."

"Frost does a great job of handling our matters in a timely manner."

Work highlights

Frost LLP represented Celestron Acquisition in several antitrust class actions relating to alleged price fixing and monopolization.

Notable practitioners

Founding partner Christopher Frost is a key contact at the firm.

Garcia Hong Law**What the team is known for**

Garcia Hong Law is recognized for providing sophisticated legal expertise to a range of clients. The firm has a breadth of litigation experience, including contract disputes and business torts, as well as handling personal injury and professional liability claims.

Gaw | Poe LLP**What the team is known for**

Gaw | Poe LLP has considerable strength in assisting plaintiffs with a wide range of litigation, including advocacy at trial and appellate levels. The team expertly handles antitrust-related cases, catastrophic injury litigation, and wider business disputes.

Notable practitioners

Randolph Gaw represents plaintiffs in complex injury and antitrust-related litigation. **Strengths:** "Randolph Gaw gets the business perspective very quickly." "Randy understands that in-house legal teams are pressed for time and he tailors his advice to that." **Mark Poe** has a sophisticated plaintiff practice with a focus on antitrust law and catastrophic injury claims.

Gibbs Mura**What the team is known for**

Gibbs Mura is a robust plaintiff-side litigation practice which excels in a broad array of commercial litigation matters, regularly appearing in significant class and individual actions. The firm's areas of expertise include product liability, privacy, employment and consumer protection.

Strengths

"The team demonstrates exceptional strategic judgment, analytical depth, and creativity in navigating high stakes, multifaceted litigation with precision and effectiveness."

"I have found Gibbs Mura very conscious of the cost of litigation. The firm always assesses ways to deliver high-quality services to their clients using the most cost-efficient manner possible."

"The team has strong and varied skill sets."

Work highlights

Gibbs Mura acted on the multidistrict litigation against social media companies, including ByteDance and Meta, alleging that defendants' products are addictive and defectively designed.

Notable practitioners

Eric Gibbs has experience representing plaintiffs in a variety of class actions and mass torts. He has particular focus on consumer protection, financial fraud and antitrust litigation. **Strengths:** "Eric is an extremely able and innovative manager of his firm, in which he has developed an unmatched ability to market their legal services and manage and represent thousands of victims of various forms of misconduct." **Andre Mura** acts on behalf of plaintiffs in class actions and mass torts. His practice

ranges from consumer protection to privacy and products liability. **Strengths:** "Andre Mura is a true thought leader. He is a vigilant and industrious lawyer whose intellect and dedication consistently elevates the quality and integrity of every matter he undertakes." "Andre is a sophisticated writer who is knowledgeable about law." **Dave Stein** has a plaintiff practice representing clients in securities and fraud class actions. His litigation experience also includes product liability and consumer protection.

Strengths: "Dave is smart, reliable and kind. He is great co-counsel."

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP**What the team is known for**

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher is a high-caliber practice group with top-tier credentials in securities and commercial disputes, regularly picked by clients for high-stakes, bet-the-company cases. The firm possesses a wealth of expertise in trial work, counting several former prosecutors with extensive litigation experience among its roster of standout attorneys. It handles a plethora of other disputes in areas such as IP, employment and product liability. The team services an impressive array of blue-chip corporates, including a number of Silicon Valley behemoths, in highly publicized litigation battles. It also features a leading appellate practice with an enviable track record in representing major corporations in the Ninth Circuit and Supreme Court.

Strengths

"Gibson Dunn is responsive and has good knowledge of securities class actions."

"It's a strong team across the board with high intellectual horsepower. I take my highest stakes and most difficult matters there."

"I think Gibson Dunn lawyers are used to being the very smartest in the room because they almost always are."

"They are creative in their development of arguments and have a deep understanding of securities law."

Work highlights

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP represented Meta in a landmark securities class action and derivative action relating to misused user data by Cambridge Analytica, and Facebook's \$5 billion resolution of allegations by the Federal Trade Commission that Facebook violated a consent decree.

Notable practitioners

Brian Lutz has a broad commercial litigation practice which features notable strength in defending public companies against securities class action and derivative suits, as well as advising on corporate governance matters. Brian is the co-chair of the firm's national securities litigation practice group. **Strengths:** "Brian has a lot of experience and understands what business teams and executives need." "Brian is a top-notch counselor who has his clients' interests at heart." "Brian Lutz has incredible substantive knowledge and outstanding judgment, and he's an incredibly gifted advocate. He is among one of the finest lawyers I've ever worked with." **Michael Celio** is noted for his expertise in handling class action mandates. He acts for both corporates and individuals, and is adept at handling SEC investigations. **Strengths:** "He is great at handling difficult clients and does a great job in relationship management." "The results Michael has

earned for some of his clients are amazing. He's gotten clients out of cases that he had no business getting them out of." **Christopher Chorb** is noted for his handling of a variety of disputes, including significant class actions. His clients include major tech companies and significant names in the media and entertainment industry. **Strengths:** "Chris is a tireless advocate, you can get him 24/7 if you need to, and he is also incredibly knowledgeable on all the latest case law." "Chris Chorb is truly a class action savant. He knows all of the different procedural levers you can pull in, all the ways to defeat class certification and is so up to speed on the plaintiffs' Bar." "Chris has an amazing practice." **Marcellus McRae** is highly experienced at litigating highly valuable disputes for large corporations. He has experience defending his clients in both trial and appellate courts. His clients range from telecommunications giants to individuals. **Strengths:** "Marcellus is particularly strong for big trials and is very thoughtful as well as strategic." "Marcellus McRae is strong on client relations and extremely responsive."

Ilissa Samplin's practice focuses on commercial litigation arising from the technology, media and entertainment industries. She is particularly adept at handling intellectual property disputes. Ilissa serves as the co-chair of the firm's media, entertainment and technology practice group. **Strengths:** "Ilissa is a strong litigator with deep knowledge of the California court system." "Ilissa Samplin is a phenomenal thought partner who provides very strong client service." "Ilissa is a talented lawyer, I respect her." "Ilissa is a great writer, she's strategic and leads the team very well." **Jessica Valenzuela** frequently advises individual and corporate clients in the technology sphere on securities class actions and derivative suits, as well as advising on compliance and corporate governance matters. **Strengths:** "Jessica is poised and always prepared." "Jessica is smart, creative and knows how to move a case to fruition."

Perlette Michèle Jura is adept at handling complex commercial litigation and has experience representing clients from a range of industries, from food and beverage to tech and automotive. **Strengths:** "Perlette is a terrific lawyer who knows our company well and is easy to work alongside." "With Perlette it's almost like I have two people for the price of one. She has a spine of steel; she is fearsome and ready to do battle." "Perlette leaves no stone unturned and always thinks ahead to potential circumstances and procedural issues. Everything will be clearly scoped out, with every step detailed. Whether the piece is large or small, it's always thoroughly thought through." **Craig Varnen** is adept at handling securities fraud litigation as well as derivative actions. He regularly acts for large corporates and their executives. He serves as the co-chair of the firm's national securities litigation practice group. **Strengths:** "He understands company dynamics and is very good with other players across the table." "Craig is professional and knows what he is doing. He is also user-friendly and has good judgment." "Craig is strategic and has the ability to analyze and provide a strategic plan that is very helpful and moves us forward."

Girard Sharp**What the team is known for**

Girard Sharp is a San Francisco-based firm that

represents plaintiffs nationwide in class actions and other forms of dispute. The firm's litigation expertise includes antitrust, securities and sexual abuse litigation.

Notable practitioners

Adam Polk represents plaintiffs in complex litigation. His expertise spans financial fraud litigation, catastrophic injury claims and data privacy matters. **Strengths:** "Adam is a wonderful lawyer. I have lots of respect for his abilities." **Sarah London** has experience in mass torts and multidistrict litigation. Her practice involves matters of sexual abuse, product liability and consumer protection.

Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan & Shapiro, LLP

What the team is known for

Glaser, Weil, Fink, Howard, Jordan & Shapiro LLP is an accomplished Los Angeles-based litigation practice which possesses a breadth of commercial disputes capabilities. Alongside its considerable media and entertainment sector expertise, the firm is frequently sought after to handle a wide range of business disputes and class actions arising from a number of areas, including financial services.

Strengths

"The well-rounded expertise and experience of this firm equips them to handle nearly any situation."
 "Glaser Weil's service levels and responsiveness on our matters has been very timely and competent."
 "The team was highly educated about our business and able to learn things quickly if they didn't already know them."
 "The client service stands out the most and the comfort I get as a client knowing they are on top of everything. Nothing falls through the cracks and they are very communicative."
 "The firm delivers high-quality work product and wise and efficient use of attorney resources."

Work highlights

Glaser Weil successfully defended Sony Electronics in a class action lawsuit relating to alleged discrimination of male creators through Sony's Alpha Female Creator program.

Notable practitioners

Patricia Glaser is routinely engaged by clients on a variety of complex mandates, including notable skills in media and entertainment disputes. She chairs the firm's litigation department. **Strengths:** "Patty Glaser is a legend." "Patricia is hard-charging and tough as nails. You're in for a battle with her." "Glaser is an excellent trial lawyer. She's smart and aggressive, in a good way." **Emil Petrossian** is an experienced commercial litigator who is sought after to handle disputes on behalf of entertainment and finance clients, among others. He is managing partner of the firm's San Diego office. **Strengths:** "Emil Petrossian delivers excellent client service that understands the business objectives that need to align with the legal strategy." "Emil is sharp, creative and has clients' best interests in mind." "We have enormous respect for and trust in Emil." "Emil is an exceptional commercial litigation attorney. His understanding of the ins and outs of commercial litigation in California is excellent." **Julie Gerchik** represents a range of clients in complex commercial litigation, including those from the financial services and media and entertainment industries. She co-chairs Glaser Weil's litigation department.

Strengths: "Julie was absolutely fantastic on every level."

Greenberg Traurig, LLP

What the team is known for

Greenberg Traurig, LLP has a growing commercial litigation presence in California. The firm is capable of handling antitrust and false advertising litigation for a myriad of major technology and consumer product companies. The team also has expertise in representing financial institutions in a range of commercial disputes.

Strengths

"The ability to handle complex matters is Greenberg Traurig's bread and butter."
 "The firm has subject matter experts to cover any area we need."
 "The team has excellent responsiveness and communication."

Work highlights

Greenberg Traurig LLP represented Alexander Hughes as beneficiary of trust in disputes concerning the Hughes Family Trust which involved breach of trust claims, litigation relating to the removal of former trustees and a property dispute.

Notable practitioners

Co-chair of Greenberg Traurig's national class action practice Robert Herrington possesses considerable experience acting for product manufacturers and retailers in defect, consumer fraud and false advertising claims, among others. **Strengths:** "Robert Herrington is amazing. He has great client skills, takes care of us and breaks down complex concepts." "Rob is a great attorney to have on your side. He is attentive and service-oriented."

Hadsell Stormer Renick & Dai LLP

What the team is known for

Hadsell Stormer Renick & Dai LLP is a leading civil rights and plaintiff litigation firm noted for its representation of individuals and class actions in complex cases. The team's expertise spans discrimination, abuse and wrongful arrest, among others.

Notable practitioners

Morgan Ricketts has experience representing plaintiffs in employment litigation and civil rights cases. Her work includes police misconduct and First Amendment issues. **Strengths:** "She works tirelessly and advocates for her clients zealously." **Dan Stormer** is recognized for his adept handling of complex cases on behalf of plaintiffs against their employers and the police. **David Washington** represent plaintiffs in civil rights and other cases. His caseload ranges from claims against the police and representing employees in discrimination claims, among others.

Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP

What the team is known for

Hahn Loeser & Parks is a national firm with strong credentials in defending consumer class actions, including significant trial experience. The firm offers wider skills in real estate litigation, insurance claims and state regulatory matters.

Strengths

"It has outstanding lawyers and provides high-quality legal services to clients."
 "Hahn Loeser got up to speed quickly and added

invaluable perspective."

"The firm delivers excellent communication and quick resolution of issues."

Work highlights

Hahn Loeser & Parks represented Chicago Title Insurance Company in a putative class action related to commercial property investments whereby plaintiffs alleged fraud, breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty and violation of California's Unfair Competition Law.

Notable practitioners

Michael Gleason is an accomplished trial and appellate litigator with widespread commercial disputes experience spanning consumer class actions, product liability and real estate related litigation. He heads the San Diego office of Hahn Loeser & Parks. **Strengths:** "Mike is a fantastic attorney. He's smart, responsive and practical." Steven Goldfarb is vastly experienced in commercial litigation matters. He has particular knowledge of title insurance, unfair competition and contract cases, and frequently handles the defense of large consumer class actions. Gabe Wright possesses a diverse commercial litigation practice encompassing business, insurance, product liability and real estate disputes. **Strengths:** "Gabe Wright is an excellent litigator, trial attorney and legal adviser. I trust his counsel on a variety of legal and risk matters." "Gabe is smart and savvy. Not many lawyers hit those marks as well as he does."

Halpern May Ybarra Gelberg

What the team is known for

Halpern May Ybarra Gelberg has a burgeoning reputation representing clients in complex litigation. The firm is recognized for its expertise in commercial litigation, professional liability and insurance coverage.

Strengths

"Halpern May Ybarra Gelberg is outstanding."
 "I find the firm to be very professional."

Higgs Fletcher & Mack

What the team is known for

Higgs Fletcher & Mack LLP is a San Diego-based law firm with expertise in a range of commercial disputes. The firm is often engaged by clients to handle intellectual property, labor and employment and commercial litigation.

Hueston Hennigan LLP

What the team is known for

Hueston Hennigan is a leading litigation boutique with a fine track record across both plaintiff and defense-side commercial cases, calling upon a talented bench of expert trial lawyers. The firm possesses a diverse caseload including environmental, employment, intellectual property and breach of contract matters.

Strengths

"The team pays attention to all details in a case and is very thorough in strategy and approach. If you have bet-the-company or high-stakes litigation, this is the firm to use."
 "The firm's superior breadth and depth enables it to deliver unparalleled levels of service."
 "Hueston Hennigan has exceptional understanding of how our business thinks about risk, cost and value. It also moves incredibly quickly, and their

responsiveness is better than any other firm we work with."

"Hueston Hennigan are one of the top trial boutiques in the country. They knock it out the park."

Work highlights

Hueston Hennigan successfully defended Disney in a high profile copyright infringement suit relating to development of the animated film Moana.

Notable practitioners

John Hueston is consistently recognized as one of the top trial attorneys in the country, with clients regularly turning to him for their most sophisticated commercial disputes in issues ranging across environmental claims, intellectual property disputes and labor and employment law. **Strengths:** "John is the Babe Ruth of trial lawyers. When he shows up on your behalf, the other side knows you are deadly serious about pushing back hard on their claims."

"John Hueston is a master strategist. He can see things that actually matter before anyone else sees them." "John is business practical and stays intimately involved in the process from start to finish." "John closing and opening statements are always incredibly well done, he's not a showboat. He overwhelms you with common sense and a rational presentation, and he's mastered the art of simplifying the complicated for judges and juries. His experience shows." "There's no better trial lawyer than John Hueston." **Moez Kaba** is held in high esteem for his commercial litigation practice. His experience spans negligence, intellectual property and contractual disputes. **Strengths:** "Moez is a fantastic trial attorney who is able to adapt and persuade judges and jurors alike. He has incredible situational awareness and elite trial skills." "Moez is an incredibly savvy litigator and trial lawyer who is quick to pick up themes and issues." "Moez Kaba is user-friendly and always available. His writing ability is also super persuasive." "Moez has an extremely good intuitive sense of how to present and develop an argument. He is always thinking three or four steps ahead."

Douglas Dixon is an experienced trial lawyer with a strong track record across state and federal courts. He has particular strength handling intellectual property and antitrust related disputes, as part of a broad commercial litigation practice. **Strengths:** "Douglas Dixon is outstanding in front of a board or executive team. He has a very calm and reassuring presence." "Doug is super communicative and always available." "Doug is just a natural-born lawyer and a consummate gentleman." **Joseph Reiter** handles a broad array of litigious matters including antitrust, trade secrets and Federal Trade Commission litigation. **Strengths:** "Joseph is a terrific attorney who has earned our trust." "Joe is a smart, client-oriented partner." "Joseph Reiter is always available and very responsive." **Sourabh Mishra** has a burgeoning reputation as a capable commercial litigator, with experience representing a range of clients from the biopharmaceutical, food and beverage and telecommunications industries, among others. **Strengths:** "Sourabh is one of the best legal writers I've encountered. If I had one brief to win, he'd be my first call." "Sourabh is incredibly intelligent, diligent and responsive."

Jenner & Block LLP

What the team is known for

Jenner & Block has an established practice han-

dling a wide array of commercial disputes for a diverse client base spanning the technology, energy and consumer products sectors. The firm boasts far-reaching expertise, with experience handling class actions as well as business tort, securities fraud and trade secret theft claims.

Strengths

"The quality of their work is phenomenal. They come up with the most creative strategies, work tirelessly and are thorough with their research and analysis."

"Jenner & Block is incredibly responsive."

"I have absolute confidence that they can manage complex and sophisticated matters."

"They are very good litigators and efficient writers."

Work highlights

Jenner & Block LLP represented Instagram and Meta in a class action lawsuit alleging that Instagram's new 'Map' feature automatically shared users' location data without their consent.

Notable practitioners

Kate Spelman is a co-chair of the class action, consumer brands, and food and beverage practices at the firm, and draws on experience in a variety of litigation matters. Her client base encompasses utility companies, food and beverage brands and automotive manufacturers. **Strengths:** "Kate is a great adviser with a unique knowledge base." "Kate Spelman is an excellent writer, as well as being super practical and knowledgeable about the law." "It is a true partnership with Kate and I can trust she is looking out for the best interest of her client." "Kate Spelman is a really great adviser. She's responsive, proactive and brings a holistic view to the issues."

Jones Day

What the team is known for

Jones Day provides expertise across a broad spectrum of commercial litigation matters to a roster of major multinational clients. It features notable capability in mass tort claims, product liability matters, antitrust cases and IP disputes. The firm's clients benefit from the firm's global footprint, drawing from extensive resources nationwide and globally to assist with major litigation matters.

Strengths

"I never go more than a few hours before hearing from a member of the Jones Day team in response to any question or concern I have."

"Jones Day is an incredibly talented organization that is well staffed from top to bottom."

"Jones Day is creative, aggressive and very responsive."

"Their creativity and thoughtfulness is helpful."

Work highlights

Jones Day successfully defended Chevron USA in product liability litigation relating to the herbicide paraquat.

Notable practitioners

Steve Geise offers broad skills in contentious matters, with a particularly strong reputation for his role defending technology and life sciences clients in product liability suits. **Strengths:** "Steve provides impeccable client service and has a rare knack for understanding which parts of the case will play to the jury." "I've worked with countless lawyers and Steve is the best of the best." "Steve is an all-round excellent lawyer. I am consistently impressed with his complete handle of the law and facts of particular cases."

Katten

What the team is known for

Katten's practice spans the gamut of securities matters, including class actions, derivative claims and M&A-related disputes. The firm represents a broad range of clients from industries such as life sciences, financial services and technology. It focuses its practice on acting for corporates as well as their officers and directors.

Strengths

"Katten has been extremely responsive, and has achieved stellar results for us."

"Katten has a deep and very experienced team. From senior partner to associate, it's a quality team."

"The firm is pragmatic, up to speed with latest developments, and understands business objectives."

"Katten is very good at handling complex and sophisticated matters and is able to simplify matters in a way that is understood by the client and other litigants."

Work highlights

Katten represented BioAge Labs and its directors and officers in a class action and derivative action in connection with the company's IPO.

Notable practitioners

Bruce Vanyo is vastly experienced in acting for clients in complex securities class actions and shareholder derivative suits. **Strengths:** "Bruce is a legend among securities litigators. He is highly sophisticated and creative." "Bruce has amazing experience and ability to craft arguments that address the key underlying issues of complex complaints and allegations." "I appreciate his strategic and tactical approach." **Gidon Caine** is well-versed in representing clients in an array of securities matters, including class actions and SEC investigations. He has notable experience acting for major names in the technology and life sciences industries. **Strengths:** "Gidon is very experienced and knowledgeable." "I consider Gidon Caine a go-to adviser." "Gidon Caine is a go-to adviser." **Richard Zelichov** is well-versed in acting for clients in securities class actions and derivative suits. He is particularly adept at handling claims relating to IPOs.

Strengths: "Richard offers outstanding service and valuable insight." "Richard Zelichov is responsive, experienced and pragmatic." "Richard is a high-value attorney and a joy to work with." **Christina Costley** is sought by clients across a wide range of industries to handle securities class and derivative actions. She chairs the firm's West Coast securities litigation practice group. **Strengths:** "Christina is a very knowledgeable and competent securities litigator." "She is experienced in securities matters and able to wade through complex issues." "Christina is responsive and produces excellent work quality." "Christina will handle questions with the right tailoring for the client and its risk profile and industry. She is also highly responsive."

Keker, Van Nest & Peters LLP

What the team is known for

Keker, Van Nest & Peters features a team of leading trial lawyers who are often called upon to represent clients in high-profile and high-stakes disputes, across both plaintiff and defense-side litigation. The firm is considered a go-to in cases involving IP issues, especially for technology companies.

Strengths

"Keker is fantastic. It has well-known lawyers and a lot of very smart people."

"It's a formidable litigation boutique."

Notable practitioners

John Keker is highly regarded for his commercial litigation practice. His experience spans negligence, intellectual property and contractual disputes.

Robert Van Nest is a highly respected trial lawyer with experience in a wide range of sophisticated business disputes. He offers particular expertise in the tech sector. **Strengths:** *"Rob is exceptional. He's a real force and a great litigator."* *"Robert Van Nest is a legend in the community. He's really good, smart and hard-working."* *"Robert is great in terms of trial strategy."*

Keller Anderle Scolnick LLP

What the team is known for

Keller Anderle Scolnick is a distinguished litigation boutique which offers significant trial expertise to corporate and individual clients facing a broad array of commercial disputes. It excels in areas including intellectual property, labor and employment, financial services litigation, professional negligence and whistle-blower matters.

Strengths

"Keller Anderle Scolnick is a well-prepared full-service law firm with talented trial attorneys."

"The firm's ability to handle complex and sophisticated matters is top-notch and unparalleled."

"Keller Anderle is prompt and thorough in responding to inquiries."

"Keller Anderle Scolnick is exceptional, dependable and client-centric."

Work highlights

Keller Anderle Scolnick LLP represented plaintiff Guardant Health against Natera, alleging that Natera had spread false information regarding a cancer detecting test.

Notable practitioners

Jennifer Keller is a renowned trial lawyer. Her practice spans a range of significant, high-stakes commercial disputes in tax, patent and contract law.

Strengths: *"Jennifer is as fine a lawyer and person as there is in the business."* *"Jennifer is the strongest and most well-rounded lawyer in the industry."* *"Jennifer Keller is the best of the best when it comes to trial and legal talent."* *"Jennifer is a visionary leader and a fearless courtroom advocate and strategist."* *"Jennifer is the very best at dealing with judges."*

Kay Anderle is an expert trial lawyer with a wealth of experience acting for clients on issues ranging from shareholder litigation, intellectual property and business fraud. She also excels in white-collar criminal defense matters. **Strengths:** *"Kay is an exceptional leader with perfect judgment honed over a career of excellence in both the public and private sectors."* *"Kay is well organized and well respected. Her management skills are also top-notch."* *"Kay is a brilliant strategist."* *"Kay has incredible negotiation skills and effectively leverages these to assist a client's goals."* *"Kay possesses great strategic vision."*

Chase Scolnick draws on his extensive litigation and trial experience to support clients in a raft of complex commercial disputes. His clients include high-profile individuals, biotechnology companies and law firms. **Strengths:** *"Chase is a fighter and he has excellent precision in witness examination."*

"Chase Scolnick has excellent communication and lawyering skills. He is a leader in our legal community." *"Chase is a talented lawyer who is commercial and responsive."* *"Chase is a truly gifted trial lawyer. He is personable and friendly, which makes his cross-examinations all the more lethal."* *"Chase is intellectually rigorous, and he has complete and uninhibited commitment to serving clients and achieving the best goals for them. He will go above and beyond."*

King & Spalding LLP

What the team is known for

King & Spalding is a robust litigation practice with wide-ranging skills in commercial matters, acting for corporate clients on disputes concerning intellectual property, privacy matters, antitrust and labor and employment. The firm is held in particularly high esteem for its work in highly regulated industries, including healthcare, life sciences and environmental law.

Strengths

"Their responsiveness on urgent matters is exceptional."

"King & Spalding is well positioned to handle complex and sophisticated matters."

"They are brilliant litigators who know how to present issues, and they don't miss out on necessary salient points."

Work highlights

King & Spalding LLP defended NSO Group against claims brought under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act and California law by plaintiffs including WhatsApp, Meta and Apple, as well as several individual plaintiffs, which alleged that the cyber intelligence company's Pegasus technology illegally accesses their computers.

Notable practitioners

Joseph Akrotirianakis has an impressive track record in both jury and bench trials in an established career as a litigator. He is experienced in representing clients in a range of industries in a variety of business disputes. **Strengths:** *"Joe is a very experienced litigator. He's thorough, bright and a strategic thinker."*

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

What the team is known for

Kirkland & Ellis has a superb team that provides expertise in the full gamut of complex litigation for a number of multinational corporations. The firm is proficient in class action cases as well as appellate matters in federal and state courts, with notable expertise in areas including breach of contract claims and antitrust work.

Strengths

"Kirkland & Ellis has a deep and unparalleled bench. It is able to cover all aspects of a case."

"Kirkland has an immense focus on executing strategy, with assertiveness and strength of conviction on behalf of the client."

"I was very impressed by the team's ability to dive in and understand the details."

Work highlights

Kirkland & Ellis LLP represented Instructure Holdings in a putative class action alleging that the company's Canvas Ed Tech platform collects, stores, analyzes, and shares students' sensitive data without effective consent.

Notable practitioners

Mark Holscher offers considerable experience in a range of commercial disputes, including breach of contract and intellectual property matters, as well as additional expertise in securities litigation. **Strengths:** *"Mark is excellent in his ability to manage complex issues in elegant ways."* *"Mark has really good analytical skills and is really thoughtful in approaching delicate matters."* **Sierra Elizabeth**'s practice focuses on complex litigation, with particular strength in product liability and toxic torts defense. She has notable experience representing clients at trial in both federal and state courts. **Strengths:** *"Sierra is a brilliant trial lawyer. She is fantastic on her feet and is thoughtful in her examinations."* *"Sierra has a real gift for standing her ground on issues but always doing so in a very professional way. She's a true advocate and a very talented litigator."* **Mark McKane** has a vibrant commercial disputes practice and is held in particularly high esteem for his abilities in bankruptcy disputes. **Strengths:** *"Mark digs in, gets answers quickly and can figure out the path forward early in a case."* **William Oxley** comes highly recommended for his expertise representing clients in commercial disputes, including significant product liability matters. He offers experience acting for clients in the chemical and pharmaceutical sectors. **Strengths:** *"William Oxley listens, he has superb trial skills and an excellent presence in the courtroom. He also has a reputation that precedes him."*

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for

Latham & Watkins maintains a formidable reputation for undertaking precedent-setting bet-the-company securities matters, offering notable strengths in regulatory compliance and shareholder litigation. The firm also provides a comprehensive commercial litigation offering to multinational companies, acting on complex and high-value cases in state and federal courts nationwide. Its particular areas of expertise include representing media and entertainment, technology and pharmaceutical companies.

Strengths

"The team is practical, provides solid advice and understand the process and the business objectives."

"The firm's partners are great generals who can lay out strong strategic plans, while its associates are first-rate, extremely intelligent and hardworking."

"They are zealous advocates who take winning very seriously."

"Latham & Watkins has a strong reputation which underscores how serious a defendant is when it engages the firm."

Work highlights

Latham Watkins represented Neurelis in commercial litigation against Aquestive alleging unfair competition, defamation and trade libel, seeking damages and injunctive relief.

Notable practitioners

Michele Johnson offers substantial experience representing clients in class actions and commercial disputes in the Delaware Court of Chancery and in various Californian courts. She is the global chair of Latham & Watkins' litigation and trial practice group. **Strengths:** *"Michele is a thoughtful and creative thinker. She provides efficient and client-driven*

solutions.” *“Michele is far and away the leader in this practice area; her clients rely on her.”* **Jake Ryan** is widely recognized in the market as an experienced litigator with a keen focus on intellectual property disputes. **Strengths:** *“He is a savvy, experienced and practical litigator.” “Jake has done an excellent job. He’s very smart, strategic and a very capable lawyer in depositions.”* Colleen Smith appears for both individuals and corporations in securities class actions, as part of a broad civil litigation practice.

Strengths: *“Colleen Smith delivers good oral arguments and is able to translate them in a way the client can understand.” “Colleen has been fantastic. I appreciate that I don’t have to worry about anything slipping through the cracks.” “Colleen has a lot of experience, which really comes through. She knows how this goes and has the ability to explain the arc of litigation and what to expect, which instills confidence.”* **Melanie Blunsch** serves as vice chair of Latham & Watkins’ retail and consumer products industry group. She is highly experienced in defending numerous complex, high-profile litigation matters for clients in the technology sector, among others. **Strengths:** *“Melanie Blunsch is an inspiring leader who really has her finger on the pulse of what is happening in the legal landscape. She is experienced and I trust her judgment and her decisions.” “Melanie is there for everything, all aspects of the case, and she keeps the trains on time. She makes sure she has the right resources.” “Melanie got to the heart of the issue and didn’t get caught up in extraneous issues.”* Nicole Valco focuses her practice on complex business disputes. She has experience in advising clients in the technology, energy and healthcare industries. **Strengths:** *“Nicole is always calm, collected and has a plan. She does a great job of making her clients feel taken care of.” “She is remarkably efficient and knowledgeable.” “Nicole is great. She’s a really strong attorney and also a nice person.” “Nicole is remarkably efficient and knowledgeable.”*

Joshua Hamilton fields significant expertise in securities litigation and investigations. He acts for a broad array of public companies, financial institutions and senior officers and directors. **Strengths:** *“Joshua is great and works through issues. He’s smart, practical and available.” “Josh Hamilton is the best litigator I’ve worked with. He has an instant grasp of the facts and arguments.” “Joshua Hamilton is a great lawyer with a high business IQ.” “Joshua is very good at complicated legal matters, and very intricate in how he addresses them. He’s also very good at brief writing and leading his team to make sophisticated arguments.” “Josh has a calm demeanor, and he is also strategic, coming up with various helpful alternatives to avoid litigation.”* **Michael Reiss** has a growing reputation for his broad-based commercial disputes practice, which sees him represent a wide array of clients in business litigation as well as sports and bankruptcy-related cases. **Strengths:** *“Michael’s strongest skill set is his ability to not over-complicate complex issues and to present strategies in a clear and concise manner.” “Mike is one of the finest lawyers I have met. He has an incredible intellect and great instincts for strategy and tactics.” “Michael’s most effective skill is his clear and decisive communication.” “He comes with good ideas that are well researched and thought through.” “Michael is an excellent attorney who provides a*

very good client service.”

Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP

What the team is known for

Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein is a highly regarded plaintiff-side firm routinely seen in major nationwide litigation cases, acclaimed for its strong track record of securing notable courtroom victories and high-value settlements. The firm offers excellent capabilities in commercial and securities class action matters, representing plaintiffs in a wide array of commercial disputes, including antitrust, consumer protection and mass tort litigation.

Strengths

“Lieff Cabraser is a great firm with really smart attorneys who do top-quality work.”

“Lieff Cabraser is a tremendous firm.”

“Elizabeth and her firm are among the best consumer and class action lawyers in the country, let alone California.”

Notable practitioners

Elizabeth Cabraser is a leading figure in the representation of plaintiffs. Her broad base of expertise spans complex litigation in consumer fraud, product liability and antitrust law. **Strengths:** *“Elizabeth has won big cases and has had an impact on the way a lot of big California companies do business.” “Elizabeth is the queen of class action lawsuits.” “Elizabeth is terrific. I’ve seen her in court and she’s really talented.” “Elizabeth is talented at leading significant litigation. She is quite the expert in her field.”* **Katherine Benson** has a well-regarded plaintiff side practice with a specialization in securities, shareholder derivative and antitrust litigation.

LippSmith LLP

What the team is known for

LippSmith is a plaintiff firm that represents clients in class actions involving wage and hour, personal injury and data privacy. The firm has brought claims against leading insurance companies, banks and product manufacturers.

Mayer Brown LLP

What the team is known for

Mayer Brown regularly acts in multidistrict litigation and a variety of employment and IP disputes. The firm has been retained by high-profile technology, higher education and insurance clients.

Strengths

“Its experience and ability to staff large cases is impressive.”

“The team is always quick and responsive.”

“Ultimately, results matter when it comes to litigation and Mayer Brown deliver results.”

Work highlights

Mayer Brown LLP defended Google in litigation that alleged the technology corporation had over-charged and misled advertisers.

Notable practitioners

Tony Weibell is a key practitioner at the firm.

McDermott Will & Schulte

What the team is known for

McDermott Will & Schulte has a distinguished commercial litigation group with a strong roster of trial experts, demonstrating broad strengths in complex and high-value disputes. The firm’s signature spe-

cialization in healthcare law is complemented by notable capabilities in areas including intellectual property and professional liability.

Strengths

“McDermott’s team is deep and its members work collaboratively with each other.”

“The team is extremely responsive. All inquiries and requests are responded to within minutes.”

“McDermott Will & Schulte provides excellent and steady advice that is client-centric.”

Work highlights

McDermott Will & Schulte represented the University of New Mexico in a class action. Plaintiffs alleged that ‘loss of chance’ leukemia patients were treated with the wrong chemotherapy procedure at the University of New Mexico Health Center.

Notable practitioners

Jason Strabo is a key contact at the firm.

McKool Smith

What the team is known for

McKool Smith has a strong litigation practice based around a robust core of seasoned trial lawyers. It demonstrates broad strengths in disputes concerning intellectual property rights, professional liability issues and wider contractual disputes. The firm acts for a range of high profile individuals, public sector entities and major corporations.

Strengths

“They are seasoned trial attorneys with exceptional presentation skills. They focus on distilling the core concepts of a complex and convoluted case into a narrative that is accessible. That’s an invaluable strength.”

“The team’s attention to detail is very strong. You are able to just sit down with them and they listen to make sure they have the full picture.”

“Their experience is obvious when it comes to litigation.”

Work highlights

McKool Smith represented Neurobrands against The American Bottling Company and Keurig Dr Pepper in a federal action which claimed that the companies were in breach of a distributorship agreement to promote the sale of Neurobrands products.

Notable practitioners

Chad Hummel is a highly respected litigator who receives particular plaudits for his courtroom prowess, having appeared in both civil and criminal trials arising out of commercial disputes and regulatory enforcement matters. **Strengths:** *“Chad Hummel speaks the language of business and can work with non-lawyers.” “Chad is the quintessential trial attorney. He has a mind for sophisticated cases, complex legal arguments and a skill for developing accessible narratives.” “He provides excellent strategy and analysis.” “Chad’s ability to listen to you and understand what your issues are is excellent.”*

Miller Barondess LLP

What the team is known for

Miller Barondess is a highly respected firm with capabilities in handling both plaintiff and defense-side commercial cases. It is regularly called upon by clients in the entertainment, healthcare and financial services sectors.

Strengths

"The Miller Barondess team are unafraid. They are fighters and they are loyal."

"They do a lot of trials and get some big wins."

Work highlights

Miller Barondess represented plaintiffs against Nissan North American alleging that the automotive manufacturer had targeted and consequently forced Trophy Group out of business in a retaliatory action which deliberately under-allocated the dealership's vehicle inventory.

Notable practitioners

Louis Miller draws from five decades of experience to counsel clients in a broad array of commercial litigation disputes, with notable skills in representing public sector entities, individuals and corporate clients in contentious matters. **Strengths:** *"Louis Miller is a very good lawyer and a star in my books."* *"If you go to battle, Louis is very good on his feet."*

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

What the team is known for

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius has a notable litigation group with strength in securities matters and general litigation, regularly called upon for its proficient handling of class action cases. The firm's expertise covers disputes concerning intellectual property and antitrust as well as SEC proceedings. It counts a sizable number of leading US and international companies among its clients. The team is active in sectors including healthcare and medical devices, technology, financial services and retail.

Strengths

"Morgan, Lewis & Bockius has a strong bench and has done a very good job training the younger members of the team."

"The Morgan Lewis team is thorough, responsive and great at thinking outside the box to come up with creative solutions."

"They are always prompt with replies and I have never felt like I was bothering them with inane questions."

"Morgan, Lewis is highly efficient, provides a quick response, and it's a big firm with all kinds of expertise. It provides solutions for the best interest of the client."

"MLB is a good steward of complex securities litigation because it generally knows all of the players on the plaintiffs' side. Also, it has great familiarity with the courts and judges."

Work highlights

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius represented Goldman Sachs and the other 14 members of the underwriting syndicate for the December 2020 IPO for ContextLogic d/b/a Wish, in a putative securities class action which alleged misstatements and omissions.

Notable practitioners

Charlene Shimada comes recommended for her expertise in securities litigation and offers notable experience representing underwriters. **Strengths:** *"Chuck is the gold standard in securities litigation counsel. She is responsive, approachable and a savvy legal expert."* *"Charlene Shimada is a really skilled lawyer who is able to navigate complicated issues."* *"Chuck has got many years of experience, and she clearly draws on that to give her advice."*

Morrison Foerster

What the team is known for

Morrison Foerster has a formidable litigation practice recognized for its capabilities in market-defining securities litigation and cutting-edge commercial cases. The firm calls upon excellent expertise in the technology and financial services sectors to provide strength in diverse matters, including privacy and data security issues and unfair business practice claims. The team's securities expertise spans class actions and corporate governance cases, among other areas. It is considered a go-to resource for mega Silicon Valley players facing challenging litigation, alongside roles acting for major financial institutions, retailers and manufacturers.

Strengths

"Morrison and Foerster demonstrates a high degree of judgment, efficiency and knowledge."

"Their skills in research and writing, and breadth of experience across securities claims is exceptional. They achieve outstanding results."

"The MoFo team is thoughtful in understanding nuances, working with multiple parties and crafting a dynamic strategy."

"The team has a deep bench from associates to partners. Each member is well-versed in the issue at hand and ready to step in in place of another."

Work highlights

Morrison Foerster represented SoftBank Group in several class actions filed in connection with the collapse of the cryptocurrency exchange FTX.

Notable practitioners

Jordan Eth offers in-depth knowledge and leading expertise in securities litigation, and regularly acts for clients in significant actions brought by shareholders. **Strengths:** *"Jordan Eth is a very seasoned and effective lawyer with swift and decisive judgment."* *"Jordan provides excellent support and insightful, steady advice."* **Tiffany Cheung** is a skilled lawyer who is adept in handling consumer and privacy class actions. She has significant experience in the technology sector. **Strengths:** *"Tiffany is smart, knowledgeable and active in the community."* *"Tiffany has incredible command of complex issues."* **Arturo González** is a well-regarded litigator practicing across the spectrum of commercial mandates, including contractual disputes and trade secrets matters. He attracts particular praise for his skills in court. **Strengths:** *"Arturo is a lion of the Bar. He's one of the top trial lawyers in California."* *"Arturo is a jury whisperer. He masters a courtroom, when he talks, everyone listens and the judge leans in. He is a phenomenal trial lawyer."* *"Arturo is a fantastic trial lawyer."* **Anna Erickson White** counsels clients in the tech and life sciences industries on sophisticated securities class actions. **Strengths:** *"Anna was great at ensuring the team had all the right and necessary resources to guide the company through litigation."* *"Anna consistently demonstrates a thoughtful and expert approach to complex securities litigation."* *"Anna has got substance and gravitas. I've been lucky to have her on the team."* **Ryan Keats** is co-chair of Morrison Foerster's securities litigation group. He is noted for his representation of companies in derivative suits, class actions and broader investigations. **Strengths:** *"Ryan's deep experience and ability to navigate the issues was exceptional."* *"Ryan is a highly effective advocate and communicator who ensures his clients' positions are clearly and forcefully represented."* *"Ryan Keats probably has the best read of a room."*

Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

What the team is known for

Munger, Tolles & Olson is a renowned litigation outfit with strong credentials across commercial and securities disputes, counting household names and multinational corporations among its roster of clients. The firm offers comprehensive coverage in business-critical issues, ranging from antitrust, contractual disputes and IP to litigation arising from environmental disasters and industrial accidents. Calls upon a stable of leading trial and appellate advocates, notable for their breadth of expertise and deep experience.

Strengths

"The depth of the bench is impressive. Every attorney is smart and committed at each level."

"They are smart, efficient and terrific litigators."

"MTO attorneys are fierce litigators but also polite and a pleasure to work with."

"Munger routinely combines its mastery of securities laws with its deep understanding of business to provide exceptional advocacy in the most complex matters."

Work highlights

Munger represented Disney and current and former executives in a securities class action and related derivative litigation where plaintiffs alleged the company violated federal securities laws by misleading investors regarding the streaming service Disney+.

Notable practitioners

Brad Brian is a respected litigator who is regularly called to handle the most high-stakes commercial disputes, with clients benefiting from his outstanding pedigree in bet-the-company litigation and his impressive trial skills. **Strengths:** *"Brad is a remarkable litigator but, even more importantly, a great strategist and adviser."* *"Brad is the best litigator in the country."* *"Brad Brian brings tremendous smarts to the table. He has a wealth of experience to draw from and is easy to talk to."* *"Brad is an excellent, top-notch trial lawyer who is great at reading the room and relating to juries and judges."* **John Spiegel** attracts universal praise for his expertise in sophisticated securities litigation, which is supplemented by a diverse practice in broader commercial litigation. **Strengths:** *"Clients take great comfort in John Spiegel, and in every court I've seen him in judges are deferential. He is as close to a perfect litigator as a mere mortal can be."* *"John Spiegel, and in every court I've seen him in judges are deferential. He is as close to a perfect litigator as a mere mortal can be."* *"John is a rock-solid attorney. He has a good presence, he's a good boardroom lawyer and he can guide clients through difficult situations."* **Bethany Kristovich** has represented an array of significant clients in product liability and mass tort litigation. She also has an active practice defending law firms in malpractice suits. **Strengths:** *"Bethany Kristovich has a high level of experience, is a consummate professional and is aware of clients' needs."* *"Bethany is good in trial and tenacious in representing her clients."* *"Bethany is one of the best litigators I have encountered."* **Daniel Levin** has a broad litigation practice which sees him regularly represent major companies in mass torts, class actions and environmental litigation. He also has notable experience in defending False Claims Act accusations. **Strengths:** *"Dan is extremely smart and talented. He is also versatile and can*

handle a wide variety of litigation situations.” **John Gildersleeve** is noted for his expertise acting for issuers and their officers and directors on securities class actions and shareholder derivative claims.

Strengths: “John provides excellent services to his impressive client list. He is an excellent attorney who is creative and resilient.” “John Gildersleeve is an incredible securities litigator who always provides the best possible advice and advocacy. There is no one I rely on or trust more.” “John is immersed in the facts, and he makes a point to understand the client’s issues and any pitfalls.” “He’s a strong lawyer who is really thoughtful.” Achyut Phadke focuses his practice on securities litigation on behalf of technology and financial services sector clients, with experience acting on class actions and internal investigations. **Strengths:** “Achyut never misses a call; he understands the bigger picture and is very candid and accurate in his risk assessments.” “Achyut Phadke is super strategic, super intelligent and clearly client-oriented.” “Achyut is smart and responsive. I think highly of him and would be happy to work with him again.”

Noonan Lance & Boyer LLP

What the team is known for

Noonan Lance & Boyer LLP has a well earned reputation representing a breadth of clients from individuals to Fortune 500 companies in complex civil litigation. The firm is recognized for its capacities to handle business disputes, employment matters and intellectual property cases, among other areas.

Strengths

“They are very good lawyers for business and commercial litigation.”

O’Melveny & Myers LLP

What the team is known for

O’Melveny & Myers houses a strong complement of famed litigators with expertise covering a broad range of complex issues. The firm is equally proficient handling commercial litigation and securities disputes across industries including energy, retail, media and entertainment and financial services. The team offers a strong platform for companies with interests in Asia, demonstrating significant experience in assisting China-based businesses in US litigation.

Strengths

“They are high power, comprehensive and leave no stone left unturned.”

“The team is always available when needed and proactively ensures my understanding of where we are in the process.”

“I have seen the highest level partners at O’Melveny & Meyers manage litigation in the most cost-efficient manner possible.”

“O’Melveny & Myers has an exceptionally deep and versatile litigation bench. The team combines technical mastery, strategic insight and strong courtroom experience.”

Work highlights

O’Melveny & Meyers LLP represented Warner Bros. Discovery and its subsidiary DC Comics in a lawsuit brought by the estate of Joseph Shuster, co-creator of Superman, that claimed the company and its affiliates lacked the rights to release the movie in ten countries, seeking an injunction.

Notable practitioners

Daniel Petrocelli wins praise from all corners of the market for his wealth of expertise in big-ticket litigation. He is regularly called upon by household-name clients, with particular experience acting for clients from the media and entertainment sector.

Strengths: “Daniel Petrocelli is just beyond a superstar. Judges respect him and he delivers excellent client service.” “He is a really excellent trial lawyer.” “He is one of the most well-known lawyers, he has a significant reputation.” “Dan’s reputation is well-earned. He brings both pragmatism and a keen strategic bent to his legal advice.” “Dan is a veteran. He is masterful at taking depositions, oral arguments and overall legal strategy.”

Matthew Close routinely represents clients in large-scale securities class actions and derivative suits. **Strengths:** “In spite of Matt’s extensive expertise, he took the time to explain every detail and potential path to me.” “Matt has great judgment and presence. He knows how to maneuver cases to accomplish results.” **David Marroso** is held in high esteem by a range of clients from the financial services to media and entertainment industries, who he represents in a broad array of commercial disputes. **Strengths:** “David is a bet-the-company kind of lawyer. He is my first call when the stakes are high.” “David Marroso is a deep thinker. He is strategic, analytical and a good listener.” “David is fantastic in the courtroom. He is a great storyteller and the jury seems to love him.”

“David Marroso is an overall expert our company relies on for guidance. He has earned the trust of everyone in our organization.” **Matthew Kline** is an experienced litigator, with expertise in a broad range of sectors, such as entertainment and technology. **Strengths:** “Matthew Kline is our go-to for difficult, complex cases. He is one of the best strategists out there.” “Part of Matt’s strength is the team around him and he’s the person who built and sustained it. His leadership is second to none.”

As co-chair of O’Melveny & Myers’ consumer class actions practice, **Matt Powers** possesses an impressive breadth of experience acting for manufacturers and retailers spanning the consumer products, financial services and pharmaceutical sectors. **Strengths:** “Matt is very responsive and his feedback is both well thought-out and executable.” “Matt is highly responsive and practical.” Amy Park is a well-regarded securities litigator noted for her experienced handling of class actions, M&A-related disputes and corporate governance matters. **Strengths:** “Amy’s legal expertise and judgment are matched only by her zealous tenacity and poignant advocacy.” “Amy is able to seamlessly blend complicated fact patterns, critical legal theories and the business perspective.”

“Amy is able to seamlessly blend complicated fact patterns, critical legal theories and the business perspective.”

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

What the team is known for

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe has an impressive offering in securities matters, covering the full range of shareholder derivative suits, class action matters and SEC administrative proceedings. The firm also regularly tackles complex and significant commercial litigation, frequently representing corporate clients facing class action litigation and breach of contract disputes. The team is particularly proficient in trade secret and employee mobility matters. Orrick offers impressive coverage across the state and internationally, leveraging its extensive

resources for cross-border disputes.

Strengths

“The team is very experienced and skilled. They also have great client communications and responsiveness.”

“Orrick is practical and gives really good, business-oriented advice.”

“Their management of securities and shareholder derivative litigation is excellent. They know the players in this space and handle these types of matters in a way that is very helpful to clients.”

Work highlights

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP represented an underwriting syndicate, including Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs and J.P. Morgan, in a securities class action relating to the Rivian IPO.

Notable practitioners

James Kramer is well-versed in handling significant class action concerns for high-profile clients, including corporations and their executives in the tech sector. He also acts for clients on internal and governmental investigations and SEC enforcement matters. **Strengths:** “James is a subject matter expert and a great counselor who is extremely responsive.” “James is the best lawyer I’ve worked with. I trust him in every aspect of my case.” “Jim makes you feel like his only client.” “James Kramer is simply one of the best lawyers I’ve had the privilege of working with in my career, and I recommend him highly in the securities litigation space.” **Alex Talarides** is a go-to lawyer for issuers, their directors and board members facing complex securities class actions and shareholder derivative cases.

Strengths: “Alex is a great brief writer and someone with whom it is easy to collaborate. He has a good handle on securities and shareholder derivative litigation.” “Alex is a very bright guy, and is practical and tough. He is a litigator in the true sense of the word.”

Panish | Shea | Ravipudi LLP

What the team is known for

Panish | Shea | Ravipudi LLP is a plaintiff firm based in Los Angeles with a focus on personal injury claims. The law firm has developed a reputation over the last 20 years of taking on complex lawsuits arising from injuries suffered by clients by negligence or wrongdoing committed by others. The team has experience in handling cases on the nationwide and state-wide stage.

Notable practitioners

Brian Panish has a distinguished practice representing plaintiffs in high-profile personal injury, wrongful death and product liability cases.

Strengths: “Brian Panish is one of the great trial lawyers in California. There is no one better at high-end personal injury.” **Rahul Ravipudi** is a well-recognized Los Angeles-based personal injury attorney with expertise in catastrophic injury and wrongful death litigation. **Strengths:** “Rahul is possibly one of the best plaintiffs trial lawyers in the country. His results are outstanding.”

Paul Hastings LLP

What the team is known for

Paul Hastings is often called upon by a range of banks, institutional investors and multinational companies to assist with major securities disputes. The firm also offers strong capabilities in a plethora of

commercial litigation matters, with expertise across areas including breach of contract issues, intellectual property matters and class action defense. It acts for clients in sectors including healthcare, financial services, technology and energy.

Strengths

"The firm values client relationships and invests in making sure the client feels like part of the team."

"They are sharp lawyers who have good rapport with their clients, command of their cases and persuasive brief-writing skills."

"In trial they have a command of the underlying details of a case and can point to them quickly."

Work highlights

Paul Hastings LLP represented the Ultimate Fighting Championship in a putative class action alleging that the UFC Fight Pass website causes subscribers' web browsers to send certain information to Facebook without adequate disclosure or consent.

Notable practitioners

Daniel Laguardia provides expert representation in derivative actions and M&A litigation to companies in an array of sectors. He co-chairs Paul Hastings' securities litigation practice. **Strengths:** *"Daniel is the guy you want in your corner."* *"Daniel Laguardia stands out for his collaborative approach, good communication and aggressive lawyering when needed."* *"Daniel works to understand business goals and figures out how he will use his experience to get you there."* *"Daniel has an encyclopedic knowledge of federal securities law and deep expertise across multiple industries."* **Susan Leader** is a highly regarded commercial litigator who excels in a broad range of business disputes and defending class actions. She is held in particularly high esteem for her advocacy skills. **Strengths:** *"She has an impressive command of the facts, mastery of legal issues and the ability to simplify complicated commercial arguments in litigation. Susan is an outstanding and persuasive advocate in the courtroom."* *"She is a true fighter and not a settlement lawyer. That is quite rare, she is someone that is always in your court and fighting for you. She loves to win, which is an important quality, and she is very driven. I get the feeling some lawyers are managing you into a wrap-up and settlement, but you get none of that with Susan."* *"She really understand her clients' businesses and advocates accordingly. She gives us all right guidance on the law and is so savvy regarding what clients are trying to achieve and helping achieving those objectives."*

Pettit Kohn Ingrassia Lutz & Dolin PC

What the team is known for

Pettit Kohn Ingrassia Lutz & Dolin PC has experience representing clients in complex litigation at both the state and federal level. The team is sought after for its capacity to handle business litigation, employment matters and product liability cases.

Proskauer Rose LLP

What the team is known for

Proskauer Rose has a robust business disputes practice which houses a strong bench of expert litigators, with significant courtroom experience. The firm acts for a diverse and impressive client base of multinational corporates, investors, governmental entities and individuals, as well as traditional

strengths in acting for sporting associations.

Strengths

"It's a deep and broad team with different but overlapping skills."

"Service and responsiveness are five stars. Timelines and expectations are always communicated and met."

Work highlights

Proskauer Rose LLP represented Wells Fargo in a putative class action alleging race discrimination in the bank's mortgage underwriting practices.

Notable practitioners

Bart Williams' wide-ranging trial practice sees him regularly taking on significant mandates for high-profile clients. He has notable experience in product liability and antitrust disputes. **Strengths:** *"Bart is a great trial lawyer out battling the toughest cases."* *"Bart Williams is a phenomenal lawyer."* *"Bart helped us set the strategy for a difficult matter. Despite high demands on his time, he is attentive, responsive, thoughtful and strategic."* *"He is in the top ten. I like that even though he is godlike in the trial bar he is so down to earth and gracious. Juries can sense this and they like and connect with him."*

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

What the team is known for

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan is an innovative business litigation-focused group that excels in high-stakes securities and commercial matters. The firm is well resourced to lead the charge in the prosecution of securities litigation claims relating to IPOs, M&A and RMBS matters. It offers broad strengths in wider commercial disputes, with particular expertise in complex intellectual property matters. The team is highly regarded for its courtroom skills, representing both plaintiffs and defendants in a wide array of trial and appellate proceedings nationwide.

Strengths

"They're effective at oral argument, taking and defending depositions and live testimony in these proceedings."

"Quinn Emanuel is able to meticulously review the facts to negotiate superior outcomes."

"Quinn Emanuel is proactive in helping us avoid disputes. Bringing them in really sends a message to the other side; they are the best of the best."

"Quinn lawyers have a remarkable strategic acumen, keen insight in venue and jurisdictional considerations, and remarkable detail orientation. Their work reflects deep subject matter expertise. They are also very forward-thinking, considering our interests at all times."

Work highlights

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan served as co-lead counsel for a class of those who entered into stock loan transactions with six major banks that serve as prime brokers of stock loans. Plaintiffs alleged the defendants conspired to underpay stock lending institutions and overcharge investors.

Notable practitioners

John Quinn is widely acclaimed as one of the leading trial lawyers in the nation, offering proven skills in high-stakes commercial disputes for an array of blue-chip companies. **Strengths:** *"John Quinn is an absolute legend. He is the guy you call when you have something really tough to deal*

with." *"John has a great reputation for being a very strong litigator."* *"John Quinn is a great trial lawyer and an empire builder."* William Price is adept at handling a range of commercial litigation, including contractual disputes and intellectual property claims. **Strengths:** *"Bill Price is a transcendent talent among trial lawyers."* Co-managing partner of Quinn Emanuel's Los Angeles office, **Christopher Tayback** is hugely experienced handling a range of commercial litigation, particularly those arising from bankruptcies. **Strengths:** *"Christopher is a consistently strong lawyer."* *"Chris is someone with experience, wisdom and the cases to prove it."* *"Chris is a very good litigator who is smart, hard-working and diligent."*

Reed Smith LLP

What the team is known for

Reed Smith is known for its deep strengths in major contractual disputes and class actions, with significant experience defending clients in areas such as advertising, IP, insurance and consumer protection. The firm provides a holistic offering, supported by complementary practices such as healthcare, arbitration and an established appellate group with a strong track record in state and federal courts.

Strengths

"The team are commercially minded, knowledgeable and very good at what they do."

"Reed Smith consistently provides immediate, high-quality support."

"The size of the firm, including its international presence, allows the team to bring in knowledgeable experts for questions that arise."

"The team demonstrates excellent commercial awareness and a clear understanding of our business priorities."

Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP

What the team is known for

Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd is widely respected as a top-notch plaintiff firm with considerable strength in the class action space. The firm specializes in complex securities fraud disputes, with an excellent record of high-value recoveries for clients including institutional investors, financial institutions and pension funds. It counts several former prosecutors among its roster of trial attorneys, with deep expertise in trial and appellate litigation.

Strengths

"Everyone would rank them as one of the top five plaintiffs securities litigation firms in the country."

"Robbins Geller is leading the pack. No question that it is the best firm in California for plaintiffs in securities litigation."

"They are competent litigators and use great diligence in investigating and pursuing cases."

"They are excellent at what they do and investigate thoroughly."

Work highlights

Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP represented a UK-based public pension fund in a shareholder action against Apple, successfully recovering \$490 million in claims alleging false and misleading statements about the company's business in Greater China.

Notable practitioners

Randall Baron enjoys a strong reputation among securities practitioners. His practice focuses on

cases arising from M&A and breach of fiduciary duty claims. **Strengths:** "Randy is one of the top plaintiffs' lawyers in the country." **Darren Robbins** is routinely called on by shareholders for representation in big-ticket securities class actions.

Strengths: "Darren is deferential about client needs and concerns." "Darren is extraordinary and very knowledgeable." "Darren is a brand, and a big deal in the plaintiffs world." **Jason Forge** is a sophisticated securities litigator who has a reputation for leading complex securities class actions and recoveries against public companies. **Strengths:** "Jason is devastatingly effective in court and super aggressive in an effective way. He is a smart and a tenacious adversary." "Jason is a tough guy and a good litigator. He is a known quantity as a plaintiff lawyer." "He's a very talented trial lawyer."

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

What the team is known for

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP is proficient in litigation and arbitration proceedings, with strong capabilities in professional liability matters, intellectual property issues and defending class actions. The firm represents clients in a wide range of industries, including media and entertainment.

Strengths

"They are excellent in San Diego in particular. The office has a real presence."

"The Sheppard Mullin team stands out for its responsiveness, care and dedication to providing best-in-class service."

"Sheppard Mullin takes the time to understand its client's business, struggles and opportunities."

"The team is very efficient with time and recognizes that matters can be complex and stretch out over months and even years."

Work highlights

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP represented Moxie Partners in a suit against Portrait Health for defamation and business torts and defended the company in a cross-claim of trade secret misappropriation brought by Portrait.

Notable practitioners

Sascha Henry has extensive experience representing companies in class actions and commercial disputes. She is co-leader of Sheppard Mullin's business trial practice group. **Strengths:** "Sascha Henry is intelligent, caring and professional. She works hard and she makes you feel like you are her only client." "She's a terrific lawyer and advocate who understands our needs in the marketplace. She is easy to work with." "Sascha is one of the best attorneys we have ever worked with. She provides deep experience and expertise."

Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP

What the team is known for

Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP has expertise in dealing with complex litigation matters for their clients. The firm has a strong track record in class action, product liability and contractual disputes. The team is often engaged by large corporations in the automotive, technology and pharmaceutical industries.

Strengths

"Shook Hardy is able to adeptly handle sophisticated matters involving multiple active cases in various states."

"Their responsiveness and level of service are flawless."

"They are strong litigators with a strong understanding of the law and of plaintiff attorneys and their tactics."

"Shook Hardy is good at thinking a few steps ahead on complex interrelated cases."

Notable practitioners

Michael Mallow is regularly engaged to defend corporations against significant class actions concerning consumer protection and product liability issues. He is the managing partner of Shook, Hardy & Bacon's Los Angeles office. **Strengths:** "Michael Mallow is a creative class action lawyer." "Michael is fantastic at issue-spotting, and has the ability to lead a case and get the results we need."

Sidley Austin LLP

What the team is known for

Sidley Austin is a full-service firm with excellent strengths in litigation disputes, drawing from a strong team of expert trial lawyers across California and nationwide. It offers particularly strong capabilities in consumer class action defense, alongside broader experience in areas including financial services and media and entertainment litigation. The firm is regularly called upon in securities litigation and has a well-deserved reputation for its strengths representing underwriters.

Strengths

"The team is extremely knowledgeable and well networked. They are also good at flagging risks that we're not thinking about."

"Sidley Austin is extremely responsive and easy to work with."

"We have received quality service from Sidley Austin."

"Sidley has an established practice of seasoned professionals who facilitate and expedite matters."

Work highlights

Sidley Austin LLP represented Morgan Stanley in litigation alleging violations of the California False Claims Act in connection with the sale and remarketing of variable rate debt securities over the course of more than ten years.

Notable practitioners

Sara Brody is a leading choice for public companies and senior officers and directors facing complex securities class actions and derivative suits. **Strengths:** "Sara Brody is great in litigation defense. She is really knowledgeable and communicates effectively to drive consensus and progress." "Sara's experience is evident and executive teams greatly value her expertise. She provides a sense of calm and understanding to the process."

"Sara isn't afraid to tell us no, which we really appreciate. She is effective and no-nonsense." **Michelle Doolin** has a considerable depth of experience handling class actions concerning alleged breaches of consumer, privacy and advertising laws. **Strengths:** "Michelle is a very capable attorney. She is knowledgeable, gets great results and is cost-effective."

Amy Lally has experience defending corporate clients in a diverse range of industries, with a particular specialty in privacy class actions and false advertising claims. She is the global co-leader of the firm's consumer class actions practice. **Strengths:** "Amy's clarity of message and ability to be commercial are unparalleled." "Amy Lally is an expert

in class actions." "Amy is an excellent litigator and a strong strategist." Jaime Bartlett is noted for her expertise acting for issuers and their executives in shareholder class actions, derivative suits and fraud claims. **Strengths:** "Jaime Bartlett is extremely detail-oriented, responsive, and a clear communicator during all steps of the process." "Jaime has a very calming demeanor that is helpful in the litigation space." Matthew Dolan is a partner in Sidley's Palo Alto office. He regularly represents individuals and corporate entities in shareholder class action and derivative suits. **Strengths:** "Matt Dolan is a real securities law guru. I feel comfortable relying on his experience and expertise."

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

What the team is known for

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett boast a high-quality securities litigation practice, which is regularly engaged by technology companies and investors to defend claims in California and around the United States. The firm is also highly experienced in representing Asia-based clients in actions in the US.

Strengths

"The firm provides reliable and trusted counsel on highly complex matters."

"The team exhibits a high level of responsiveness and strategic thinking."

"They consistently deliver practical, strategic advice that aligns with business objectives, especially in bet-the-company cases."

Work highlights

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP successfully obtained a dismissal on behalf of defendant underwriters, including J.P. Morgan and Wells Fargo, of a securities class action concerning Eargo's IPO.

Notable practitioners

Stephen Blake focuses represents a range of companies in derivative suits and shareholder litigation. He has strong experience acting for tech companies. **Strengths:** "Steve has so much expertise and is so collaborative with the team." "Stephen Blake understands my business better than any litigator. I can give him issues to run with and he knows exactly when and how much to bring me in." "Stephen's ability to get his arms around tricky things quickly is just astonishing. He is always the one to pick up the phone and to answer the email." "I'm impressed by Stephen's responsiveness, strategic judgment and strong organizational skills."

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates

What the team is known for

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates has a fine trial team with substantive experience in a wide range of sectors, representing both individuals and corporate interests in complex disputes. The firm features a robust securities group that offers expertise in areas including financial services, healthcare and technology. The team is regularly called upon to handle bet-the-company matters and major class actions, well supported by its nationwide and global offices.

Strengths

"The team is extremely responsive."

"They are experts in the field who can understand client desires and give practical advice to those not experienced in the area."

"The Skadden team have a deep knowledge base in securities law and good relationships with counsel on both sides of the aisle. They are strategic, thoughtful, and practical in the advice they offer."

"The firm has outstanding experience in multidistrict and high-stakes securities litigation."

Work highlights

Skadden represented Visa and certain individuals in a securities class action and a series of putative stockholder derivative actions, which alleged violation of federal securities laws and harming of investors through allegedly false and misleading statements that regulatory changes wouldn't impact the company's debit card business.

Notable practitioners

Peter Morrison is particularly well-versed in handling big-ticket securities class actions for major corporate clients, as well as advising individual executives on breach of fiduciary duty claims. Peter is the co-head of the firm's West Coast litigation practice and leads the Los Angeles litigation group. **Strengths:** *"Peter is top-notch and offers valued counsel. He is definitely an attorney to have in your corner."* *"Peter is an excellent litigator for complex matters. He's a great business partner."* *"Peter is client service-oriented, extremely responsive and practically minded."* **Virginia Milstead** has cultivated an excellent reputation for her abilities in defending clients facing complex securities actions and derivative claims. **Strengths:** *"Virginia is extremely bright. She can think through really complex issues and build case strategy."* *"Virginia is an absolute powerhouse. She's a technician and a brilliant writer who can craft well-reasoned arguments."* *"Everything she does is at the top of her game. If we had a litigation matter that was of consequence, Virginia would be on speed dial to get that call in."* Manuel Cachán is an experienced trial lawyer noted for his adept handling of business disputes and class actions on behalf of a range of clients. **Strengths:** *"Manuel Cachán is one of the most technically sound trial attorneys I have ever worked with."* *"Manuel is fantastic and a real trial lawyer. He is someone handling important litigation."* Lance Etchevery has an international disputes practice which sees him act for both domestic and foreign clients on a broad array of commercial claims and class action litigation. His client roster includes a number of Asia-based businesses. **Strengths:** *"Lance is a very strong lawyer, I think highly of him."*

Mark Foster has a reputable practice in the securities space, where he regularly represents clients across a broad range of sectors in shareholder derivative actions. **Strengths:** *"He knows his stuff and I trust him. You want someone like Mark."* *"Mark is a fantastic lawyer who is good in this space."* **Winston Hsiao** is highlighted for his growing reputation representing a range of clients in complex securities litigation. **Strengths:** *"Winston is incredibly brilliant, cool and collected."* *"Winston is extremely responsive, organized and client-oriented."* *"Winston Hsiao explains difficult concepts in ways that are easy to understand."*

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

What the team is known for

Sullivan & Cromwell is a full-service litigation group offering representation in high profile cases, with experience in areas including antitrust, IP, securities

and wider commercial disputes. The team excels in contentious class action matters, including significant multidistrict proceedings. The firm's wide-ranging client base includes a number of leading financial institutions, technology companies and manufacturers.

Strengths

"Sullivan & Cromwell has extensive experience in all areas of litigation, which allows it to provide competent and creative legal advice."

"The team is strong and deep with multiple first-chair partners."

"S&C thinks of ways of doing things that other law firms and other lawyers haven't thought of."

Work highlights

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP represented underwriter banks, including J.P. Morgan, in a putative federal securities fraud class action, which alleged that Neumora, certain of its executives and its underwriters misled investors about the efficacy of the company's drug products at the time of its 2023 IPO.

Notable practitioners

Robert Sacks has attained a sterling reputation for his disputes practice, which sees him employ his well-honed litigation skills in a broad spectrum of commercial claims and securities class actions. **Strengths:** *"We consistently turn to Bob because his advice is practical and actionable. He has very good instincts on his feet and is easy to work with."* *"Bob Sacks is top of my speed dial for a high-risk situation."* Brendan Cullen is frequently called upon by clients in the financial services and technology industry to handle securities disputes, as part of a wide-ranging commercial litigation practice. He also counsels clients on regulatory enforcement and investigations. **Strengths:** *"Brendan is a capable guy who contributes to the legal community."*

Susman Godfrey LLP

What the team is known for

Susman Godfrey is a superb litigation firm that mainly acts for plaintiffs, with a reputation for securing favorable results against industry giants. It employs a cross-office approach and draws upon nationwide resources, offering proficiency in antitrust, insurance and patent infringement matters. The firm offers niche expertise in the representation of prominent musicians in copyright battles.

Strengths

"Susman Godfrey is the best plaintiffs firm in the country."

"Susman Godfrey is absolutely elite, it does everything well."

"Susman Godfrey is deeply expert in various bodies of law. As litigators they are creative, innovative and pragmatic."

"Susman Godfrey staffs things leanly and is extremely capable from top to bottom. Their associates are very strong lawyers as well."

"Susman Godfrey is one of the best litigation boutiques in the country."

Work highlights

Susman Godfrey represented the New York Times against Microsoft and Open AI in a copyright action regarding the training of ChatGPT.

Notable practitioners

David Brook is a renowned litigator and trial lawyer recognized for her considerable strength acting for

plaintiffs in complex and high-profile cases. She has handled cases ranging from defamation to intellectual property. **Strengths:** *"David Brook is one of strongest litigators I have ever worked with. She is deeply creative, a true client partner and is deeply invested in building relationships."* *"David has great litigation instincts, she's great at understanding when to push or not. She is also always there to listen to concerns."* *"David is very effective in her litigation style."* *"David is tremendous on her feet."* *"David has amazing commercial knowledge."* **Kalpna Srinivasan** acts for clients in an array of commercial disputes, and is particularly well-versed in litigating antitrust, privacy class actions and RICO matters. She is the managing partner of Susman Godfrey. **Strengths:** *"Kalpna is strong across every metric. She takes my calls all the time and is very good in front of a jury."* *"Kalpna is methodical and a good litigator."* *"Kalpna is a force of nature and an eminent litigator."* *"Kalpna is a total rockstar."* **Amanda Bonn** has significant experience in complex litigation across a wide array of areas, including privacy and antitrust. **Strengths:** *"Amanda is a force to reckon with. She is strong and a very talented litigator."* *"Amanda is an incredibly talented trial lawyer."* **Marc Seltzer** combines great experience in antitrust litigation with additional expertise in securities matters, and is well-versed at handling large class actions. **Strengths:** *"Marc is a great lawyer who is smart and respected."*

Waymaker LLP

What the team is known for

Waymaker is a Los Angeles-based trial and appellate boutique with experience representing both plaintiffs and defendants in high-stakes litigation. Its areas of expertise include antitrust, securities and intellectual property.

Strengths

"They were steady and tough where they needed to be."

"The Waymaker team has great depth at the partner and associate level."

"They are nimble, efficient and excellent trial lawyers."

Work highlights

Waymaker won dismissal of an over \$80 million complaint brought against Kraken over the alleged theft and laundering of bitcoin.

Notable practitioners

Ryan Baker is a key contact at the firm.

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

What the team is known for

Weil, Gotshal & Manges provides a wide array of litigation expertise to an impressive client base spanning the technology, financial services and consumer industries, among others. The firm is experienced in handling large-scale consumer class actions, complex business disputes and theft of trade secret claims.

Strengths

"Weil lawyers are responsive and available as needed. They also write effective correspondence and always deliver key information succinctly."

"The firm provides expert guidance."

"Weil is good at finding a path through the morass and at balancing everything with business needs."

Work highlights

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP represented Exxon-Mobil as lead national trial counsel in defence of multiple public nuisance lawsuits relating to plastic pollution.

Notable practitioners

David Singh is highly reputed for his abilities in defending corporate clients facing class action litigation. He offers experience defending mass claims involving employment law, product liability and consumer protection, as well as acting on a wide array of broader commercial disputes. **Strengths:** *"David Singh is incredibly bright and a delight to work with." "David is highly knowledgeable and great at what he does." "He is eager to think through complex legal issues and enjoys complex legal questions." "David is an excellent advocate; he's very effective in oral argument."* **Bambo Obaro** has a broad base of expertise in commercial litigation and arbitration encompassing contract, intellectual property, anti-trust and product liability-related disputes. He has experience representing clients at trial and appellate levels. **Strengths:** *"Bambo has a keen sense of business needs and how to manage a case." "Bambo Obaro commands the room. I would trust him in a courtroom or behind the scenes."* **Bo Pearl** has deep experience across a wide range of disputes and is sought after by clients in diverse industries. He has expertise in handling antitrust claims and contractual disputes, among other matters. **Strengths:** *"James Bo Pearl is calm in challenging situations and very good at navigating the commercial aspects of a case." "I appreciate James' ability to understand the full scope of a matter and give practical advice." "He is simply the most strategic and best counsel I have ever worked with."*

White & Case LLP

What the team is known for

White & Case is frequently called upon to provide expertise in complex commercial litigation, with strengths in areas including antitrust disputes, breach of contract claims and defending consumer class action lawsuits. The firm has noted international capabilities, regularly handling litigation for Asian companies.

Strengths

"White & Case has a qualified team of experts spanning multiple jurisdictions."

"The department finds solutions for complex matters and knows how to adjust advice to practical business measures."

"The White & Case team is timely and responsive."

Work highlights

White & Case LLP represented Nestlé USA in personal injury cases alleging that consumption of certain baby food products containing heavy metals had caused plaintiffs to develop neurological conditions.

Notable practitioners

Bryan Merryman maintains a varied practice in commercial litigation, with experience in disputes covering antitrust, securities and product liability. **Strengths:** *"Bryan provides an excellent grasp of complex legal issues and is a great communicator." "Bryan Merryman is practical, and knows my company and our industry."* **Jeffrey Steinfeld** regularly represents both companies and executives in securities disputes and derivative actions. **Strengths:** *"Jeff gets our business needs and interests."* *"Jeff*

Steinfeld has the ability to sift through complicated issues and simplify them so quickly." "Jeffrey really gets into the weeds, reads all cases and details. He will dig in." "Jeff is sharp and strategic. He's great at coming up with creative solutions to complex problems, and he is also a pleasure to work with."

Willenken LLP

What the team is known for

Willenken LLP is a boutique litigation firm recognized for its ability to handle complex commercial litigation. The firm is retained by clients for its capabilities in a range of practice areas intellectual property, product liability and business disputes.

Strengths

"The team works well with in-house counsel regarding strategy and legal issues."

Work highlights

Willenken LLP defended USG Corporation in a personal injury action with damages in excess of \$30 million claimed by the plaintiff.

Notable practitioners

Kenneth Trujillo-Jamison is a key contact at the firm.

WilmerHale

What the team is known for

WilmerHale has a notable litigation practice with long-standing strengths acting for clients in the technology and life sciences sectors. The firm draws from a respected stable of experienced disputes experts nationwide, who excel in defending major public companies, startups and senior executives in securities class and derivative actions, as well as SEC enforcement and investigations.

Strengths

"WilmerHale has a deep understanding of our business and interests."

"The team provides amazing client service and guidance. It is on top of everything and achieves fantastic outcomes."

Work highlights

WilmerHale represented the directors of Zymergen, a life science automation platform company, in multiple matters stemming from its initial public offering.

Notable practitioners

Jessica Lewis is well-versed in securities litigation, class actions and corporate governance disputes. Her clients include leading organizations in the technology, life sciences and financial sectors.

Strengths: *"The gamut of things Jessica can do is amazing. She is proactive, provides hands-on client service and is a fantastic writer and legal thinker."*

"Jessica is talented, smart and energetic. She is someone to watch."

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

What the team is known for

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati is considered the first port of call for technology and life sciences companies and their executives in defending high-stakes securities litigation claims. The firm boasts outstanding proficiency in post-IPO and merger litigation, as well as derivative suits and government investigations. Its broad client base also includes companies in the aerospace, energy, construction and entertainment sectors.

Strengths

"Wilson lawyers are unparalleled and have deep subject expertise. They are smart attorneys who are deeply experienced in securities litigation and law."

"They are very responsive and will take calls on nights and weekends."

"It has a strong bench, each with different skills, whether it is securities law or understanding sophisticated technology. The firm staffs appropriately but also has a deep well of resources."

Work highlights

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati represented Infosys McCamish Systems in consumer class actions concerning a cybersecurity incident whereby personal information of individuals became subject to unauthorized access or exfiltration.

Notable practitioners

Luis Li is a widely regarded litigator noted for his expert handling of complex commercial disputes, including those involving privacy and contractual issues. He is particularly sought after by tech sector clients, among others. **Strengths:** *"Luis is a superior litigator with an exceptional level of service and dedication." "Luis sees the whole picture better than any lawyer I have ever worked with." "Luis is incomparable." "Luis is really good at dealing with clients and people trust him." "Luis is the smartest and best lawyer I have ever worked with. He is a brilliant negotiator, an outstanding litigator and a great though partner. I love working with him."*

Caz Hashemi is held in particularly high regard for his expertise defending complex securities class actions and derivative suits. Caz is the head of Wilson Sonsini's litigation practice and a member of the firm's board of directors. **Strengths:** *"Caz Hashemi is thorough, knowledgeable and can explain complex business litigation." "Caz understands all facets of the law and is a quick study of the business and commercial context." "Caz Hashemi is one of the best attorneys I have ever had the privilege to work with. He is extremely smart, strategic, thoughtful and responsive." "Caz is connected. He knows all the players and his client communication is also great."* **Ignacio Salceda** regularly advises clients in the technology and private equity sectors on class actions and derivative suits. He is also experienced in engagements that involve international complications, as well as representing clients in courts across the nation. **Strengths:** *"Ignacio is a great, very accomplished lawyer." "Ignacio is an experienced lawyer. He's good to work with and covers a lot of ground."* **Katherine Henderson** acts for an array of companies, boards of directors and senior executives on shareholder class and derivative actions. **Strengths:** *"Katherine is responsive, knowledgeable and communicates really well." "Katherine Henderson is wonderful at educating clients in what is going on and what their options are. She's hyper pragmatic, knows the market well and has the ability to give advice." "Katherine is a rockstar. She handles very complex business matters with great judgment."*

Wilson, Turner, Kosmo LLP

What the team is known for

Wilson, Turner, Kosmo LLP is an established San Diego-based boutique law firm that has experience representing companies of all sizes in a wide range of litigation. The firm boasts expertise in the retail, banking and energy industries, among others.

Winston Taylor LLP

What the team is known for

Winston Taylor has a well-earned reputation representing clients in complex securities litigation. The firm has capabilities spanning class actions, derivative suits and M&A-related disputes.

Strengths

"Winston feel like an extension of our in-house team. They are practical, mindful of business needs and really deliver."

"Winston always puts together a strong team."

"The Winston team is invariably ultra responsive and provides excellent client service."

"Their attorneys have wide-ranging knowledge that extends beyond federal securities laws and encompasses adjacent fields such as state corporate law and insurance law."

Work highlights

Winston Taylor successfully obtained a unanimous US Supreme Court victory for Macquarie Infrastructure Corporation in a federal securities class action concerning an approximately \$2 billion stock drop.

Notable practitioners

John Schreiber's practice includes state and federal securities class actions, shareholder derivative claims and M&A litigation, in which he has experience acting for clients in the financial services, energy and manufacturing sectors. He chairs the Los Angeles litigation practice and co-chairs the securities litigation group. **Strengths:** *"John Schreiber has a great rapport with clients. He's extremely intelligent, incredibly competent and very charismatic."* *"John feels like an extension of our team. He can take sensitive issues and put people at ease with the depth of his knowledge."* *"John is practical, plain-spoken and clearly an expert in this area of law."* *"John Schreiber exudes professionalism and a great sense of humor in how he represents his clients."* **Amanda Groves** possesses a broad disputes practice, in which she is sought after by a wide array of consumer product companies and financial sector clients, among others. **Strengths:** *"Amanda is an excellent attorney who is relatable and a pleasure to work with."* *"Amanda understands a corporate client better than almost any lawyer I have worked with. When I ask her for help, I get it and it's good."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Courtney Baird has experience across a wide range of complex litigation, including class actions, business disputes and product liability. She co-chairs the commercial litigation practice at Duane Morris.

Strengths: *"Courtney Baird is strategic and aggressive but also civil and courteous. She can handle any obscure issue that I call her to handle."*

Michael Charlson is a skilled litigator who handles shareholder derivative matters and securities class actions. He operates across the San Francisco and Los Angeles offices of Vinson & Elkins. **Strengths:** *"Michael is a great lawyer and a pleasure to work with."* *"Michael Charlson has great judgement and can figure out the best way to proceed to get the best result for a client."*

Neal Marder possesses a broad commercial disputes practice, with experience spanning securities litigation, business disputes and consumer class actions. He leads Akin's California commercial litigation practice, and is the co-leader of the firm's national class action practice. **Strengths:** *"Neal is a rockstar in the class action space. I would use him in high-stakes, bet-the-company litigation."*

Fred Norton of The Norton Law Firm draws on his extensive litigation and in-house expertise to support clients in sophisticated commercial litigation. He is recognized for his experience in class actions, business disputes and intellectual property-related matters. **Strengths:** *"Fred Norton is sharp, strategic and thoughtful. I trust his opinion on any matter he is working on."* *"Fred is one of the very best litigators I've worked with. He's fantastic at trial; he can cross-examine, defend depositions and write unique briefs."*

Elizabeth Pipkin is highlighted for her broad based commercial disputes practice, which sees her handle contract and trade secrets-related litigation, among other matters. **Strengths:** *"Elizabeth is an excellent counselor with great customer service and commercial awareness."* *"She is one of the most collaborative lawyers I have worked with."* *"Elizabeth Pipkin provides in-depth commercial knowledge, legal experience and strategy every step of the way."*

Neal Potischman is a well-regarded securities litigator with notable experience handling SEC investigations, class actions and derivative suits. He leads Davis Polk's West Coast commercial litigation practice. **Strengths:** *"Neal quickly captures complexity and distills it to its most basic components."* *"Neal is terrific in the courtroom, excellent with opposing counsel, and he puts together a com-*

elling briefing."

Jason Russell is an experienced litigator who acts for an array of significant corporate clients on commercial litigation matters and class actions, including particular expertise in the sports and social media sectors. **Strengths:** *"Jason is quick on his feet and astute in oral argument and depositions."* *"Jason really understands litigation from a business perspective and will consider the tactical moves needed to resolve matters quickly."*

Jonathan Shapiro offers expertise in a range of securities matters, including class actions, securities fraud and concerns arising from M&A. He is a partner in Goodwin's San Francisco office. **Strengths:** *"Jonathan is highly responsive, creative in his solutions, and he goes the extra mile to make sure that he is helpful."* *"Jonathan doesn't just understand his area of expertise, he takes the time to understand our business, our people and our goal."* *"Jonathan Shapiro is a strong oral advocate with a unique style that serves him well."* *"Jonathan is relentlessly focused on achieving the best possible outcome for the client. He is also unafraid to deliver hard truths when they matter."*

Abraham Tabaie is an experienced litigator sought after by a range of clients across tech, finance and other industries. He adeptly handles commercial disputes, including contract, trade secrets and antitrust-related matters. **Strengths:** *"Abraham is the best litigator I have ever come across. I would use him every time."* *"Abraham is a strategic and sophisticated litigator who tackles tough cases and emerges with the best results for clients."* *"Abraham is the most exceptional attorney I've worked with and is strong in every area that matters."*

Glenn Vanzura has wide-ranging experience in litigating shareholder class and derivative actions involving a wide array of industries. He excels in the representation of executives, as well as acting for corporates. **Strengths:** *"Glenn is an incredible attorney with the EQ to deal with clients."* *"I would have no concerns about taking anything to Glenn Vanzura."* *"Glenn Vanzura."* *"Glenn is a high-caliber attorney."* *"I'd refer him out to anyone dealing with a litigation matter in his wheelhouse."*

Bobbie Wilson of Perkins Coie is a go-to litigator for household names in the technology sector. She is particularly experienced in handling intellectual property cases as well as class actions alleging breaches of privacy, consumer protection and advertising laws. **Strengths:** *"Bobbie Wilson has a strong practice."* *"Bobbie is a well-regarded litigator."*

Litigation White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations

Litigation White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations		
Leading Firms		
Band 1		
Bird, Marella, Rhoads, Lincenberg, Dooks & Nessim	<i>"The team is highly reliable, knowledgeable, creative and persistent."</i>	<i>"Gibson Dunn is top of the market for handling high-stakes white-collar matters."</i>
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP	<i>"Bird Marella has successfully developed its next generation of outstanding trial attorneys."</i>	Work highlights
Hueston Hennigan LLP	Work highlights	Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher represented Andy Duong, an executive of California Waste Solutions, in a criminal corruption prosecution brought by the US Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California.
Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP	Bird Marella served Phillips 66 as a trial counsel in a federal post-indictment criminal case, with felony and misdemeanor charges brought by the DOJ.	Notable practitioners
Latham & Watkins LLP	Notable practitioners	Nicola Hanna offers extensive experience in defending clients against a wide array of criminal enforcement matters, as well as advising clients on internal investigations and compliance matters.
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP	Benjamin Gluck focuses his practice on the representation of healthcare providers in high-stakes fraud litigation and possesses additional capabilities in white-collar tax matters. Strengths: <i>"Benjamin Gluck is among the smartest lawyers I have ever worked with. He provides solutions that no-one else comes close to providing. His talents are in court and out of court, and in the very tricky negotiations with opposing counsel. He sees many steps ahead, and he never gives up."</i>	Strengths: <i>"Nicola gets incredible results and builds solid teams within Gibson. No problem is too big for him."</i>
Sidley Austin LLP	<i>"Benjamin is brilliant, creative and passionate. He obtains remarkable results."</i>	<i>"Nicola Hanna is an amazing, terrific lawyer."</i>
Band 2	<i>"Benjamin is an excellent lawyer. He really knows his stuff, particularly around defending allegations of healthcare fraud."</i>	Debra Wong Yang is frequently called on by clients to conduct highly sensitive and consequential internal investigations, leveraging her significant experience in dealing with regulatory bodies and defending enforcement matters. Strengths: <i>"Debra is extraordinarily well respected in the community. She can command an audience with the government at any time. I have the utmost respect for her."</i>
Covington & Burling LLP	Gary Lincenberg is regularly called on by clients to handle some of their most consequential, high-profile white-collar matters, earning particular recognition for his impressive track record in high-stakes trial work. Strengths: <i>"Gary is the best in the business."</i>	<i>"Debra is a powerhouse. She hits it out of the park."</i>
Jenner & Block LLP	<i>"Gary has emerged as one of the truly outstanding trial attorneys in the country."</i>	Winston Chan is held in high esteem for his expertise in handling governmental and internal investigations. He regularly represents clients in the healthcare, tech and life sciences sectors. Strengths: <i>"Winston Chan has a lot of expertise and is unflappable. He does well under pressure and has seen it all. He is easygoing and relatable at the same time."</i>
Keker, Van Nest & Peters LLP	<i>"Gary is a top trial lawyer of his generation; he has the experience to handle any case."</i>	Douglas Fuchs has a strong pedigree in regulatory enforcement work and internal investigations, with notable expertise in regulatory and professional liability issues affecting clients in the accounting sector. Strengths: <i>"Douglas is extremely smart, dogged in representation of clients, appropriately aggressive when needed and unafraid to take on government cases."</i>
King & Spalding LLP	Ariel Neuman is a highly regarded trial lawyer with significant experience advising corporate clients and individuals across a broad array of enforcement matters, including tax, healthcare and securities fraud matters. Strengths: <i>"Ariel has strong relationships and knows the LA judges really well. He is a great partner to work with and brings real trial experience."</i>	Eric Vandeveld focuses his practice on federal criminal investigations and enforcement actions, with particular focus on acting on cybersecurity, data protection and fin-tech-related matters. Strengths: <i>"Eric Vandeveld is an exceptional white-collar attorney and general litigator."</i>
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP	<i>"Ariel has great courtroom presence."</i>	<i>"Eric's strategic nature and willingness to understand the depth of our business is fantastic."</i>
Winston Taylor LLP	Van Dyk specializes in handling investigations and white-collar criminal defense matters for corporate and individual clients, including particularly strong expertise in healthcare fraud matters. Strengths: <i>"Nicole is a really smart litigator with good judgment."</i>	
Band 3	<i>"Nicole is a pleasure to work with; she is fearless."</i>	
Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP	<i>"Nicole is very strong and strategic."</i>	
Jones Day		
O'Melveny & Myers LLP		
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP		
Spertus, Josephs & Minnick, LLP		
Band 4		
Bienert Katzman Littrell Williams LLP		
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP		
Farella Braun + Martel LLP		
Hogan Lovells US LLP		
Morrison Foerster		
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP		
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP		
Band 5		
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP		
Cooley LLP		
Crowell & Moring LLP		
Fenwick		
Foley & Lardner LLP		
Glenn Agre Bergman & Fuentes LLP		
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP		
WilmerHale		

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1 Litigation: White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations

Bird, Marella, Rhoads, Lincenberg, Dooks & Nessim, LLP

What the team is known for

Bird Marella fields an impressive array of experienced litigators and former prosecutors, recognized for securing acquittals and favorable settlements in white-collar criminal proceedings. The group features notable strength in healthcare and securities litigation, as well as a variety of corruption, money laundering and environmental matters. The team is highly rated for its trial capabilities, with a strong track record of handling white-collar matters in state and federal courts.

Strengths

"The Bird, Marella, Rhoads, Lincenberg, Dooks & Nessim team has some of the smartest attorneys I've ever worked with. The attorneys responded with lightning speed, and they are top-notch."

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

What the team is known for

Gibson Dunn is renowned for its outstanding white-collar practice, with a national reputation for excellence, and is equally comfortable representing both individuals and leading companies in their most critical issues. The practice is skilled at handling complex crises across multiple jurisdictions and governmental agencies, calling upon its impressive roster of practitioners with deep DOJ and prosecutorial experience. It offers markedly broad subject matter capability, with strong coverage in areas including securities fraud, healthcare fraud and FCPA issues.

Strengths

"The team at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher is really good. They are top-notch and very well connected,

thoughtful and strategic."

"Gibson Dunn is top of the market for handling high-stakes white-collar matters."

Work highlights

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher represented Andy Duong, an executive of California Waste Solutions, in a criminal corruption prosecution brought by the US Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California.

Notable practitioners

Nicola Hanna offers extensive experience in defending clients against a wide array of criminal enforcement matters, as well as advising clients on internal investigations and compliance matters. **Strengths:** *"Nicola gets incredible results and builds solid teams within Gibson. No problem is too big for him."* **Debra Wong Yang** is frequently called on by clients to conduct highly sensitive and consequential internal investigations, leveraging her significant experience in dealing with regulatory bodies and defending enforcement matters. **Strengths:** *"Debra is extraordinarily well respected in the community. She can command an audience with the government at any time. I have the utmost respect for her."* *"Debra is a powerhouse. She hits it out of the park."* Winston Chan is held in high esteem for his expertise in handling governmental and internal investigations. He regularly represents clients in the healthcare, tech and life sciences sectors. **Strengths:** *"Winston Chan has a lot of expertise and is unflappable. He does well under pressure and has seen it all. He is easygoing and relatable at the same time."*

Douglas Fuchs has a strong pedigree in regulatory enforcement work and internal investigations, with notable expertise in regulatory and professional liability issues affecting clients in the accounting sector. **Strengths:** *"Douglas is extremely smart, dogged in representation of clients, appropriately aggressive when needed and unafraid to take on government cases."* **Eric Vandeveld** focuses his practice on federal criminal investigations and enforcement actions, with particular focus on acting on cybersecurity, data protection and fin-tech-related matters. **Strengths:** *"Eric Vandeveld is an exceptional white-collar attorney and general litigator."* *"Eric's strategic nature and willingness to understand the depth of our business is fantastic."*

Hueston Hennigan LLP

What the team is known for

Hueston Hennigan is a high-caliber litigation boutique with powerhouse white-collar criminal defense credentials. The firm boasts outstanding trial capabilities, drawing from a high-quality bench of litigators that includes several former federal prosecutors. Its clients include a range of senior executives, corporate entities, and religious and educational institutions.

Strengths

"Hueston Hennigan's lawyers are some of the best at what they do and set themselves apart through the legal victories for their clients."

"The Hueston Hennigan team stands out for strong trial experience and innovative thinking."

Litigation: White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations		
Senior Statespeople		
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	Keker John <i>Keker, Van Nest & Peters LLP</i>	Sun Brian A. <i>Norton Rose Fulbright (ORL)</i> ◇
Clarence Nanci L. <i>Law Office of Nanci Clarence (ORL)</i> ◇	Little Jan Nielsen <i>Keker, Van Nest & Peters LLP</i>	
Hennigan Brian J. <i>Hueston Hennigan LLP</i>	Potter John <i>Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP*</i>	
Leading Individuals		
Star individuals	Bell Koren <i>Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP*</i>	Bienert, Jr. Thomas H. <i>Bienert Katzman Littrell Williams</i>
Haag Melinda <i>Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison*</i>	Chou Vicki <i>Hueston Hennigan LLP*</i>	Braverman Adam <i>Morrison Foerster</i>
Hueston John C. <i>Hueston Hennigan LLP*</i>	Cooper Ellyce R. <i>Sidley Austin LLP*</i>	Bunzel Sharon <i>O'Melveny & Myers LLP</i>
Band 1	Hill Joshua <i>Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP</i>	Coyle Sean P.J. <i>Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP*</i>
Abascal Manuel A. <i>Latham & Watkins LLP*</i>	Jacobs Matthew <i>Baker Botts L.L.P. (ORL)</i> ◇*	Dicke Michael <i>Fenwick</i>
Anderson Dave <i>Sidley Austin LLP*</i>	Johnston Pamela L. <i>Foley & Lardner LLP*</i>	Evangelist Britt <i>Swanson & McNamara LLP</i>
Axel Douglas A. <i>Sidley Austin LLP*</i>	Keane William P. <i>Farella Braun + Martel LLP</i>	Frey Christopher <i>Latham & Watkins LLP*</i>
Brian Brad <i>Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP</i>	Kennedy-Park Jennifer <i>Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton</i>	Gelberg Grant B. <i>Halpern May Ybarra Gelberg</i>
Brown Jr Walter F. <i>Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton</i>	Kreindler Chuck <i>Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton</i>	Herzinger Kenneth <i>Paul Hastings LLP (ORL)</i> ◇*
Cohen Josh <i>Debevoise & Plimpton LLP</i>	Larson Stephen G. <i>Larson LLP</i>	Jauregui Eddie <i>Holland & Knight LLP (ORL)</i> ◇
Crudo Timothy P. <i>Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP*</i>	Morgan Rees F. <i>Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP*</i>	Jayne Julia <i>Jayne Law Group, P.C. (ORL)</i> ◇
DiCanio Jack P. <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom</i>	Neuman Ariel A. <i>Bird, Marella, Rhow, Lincenberg, Drooks</i>	Josephs Samuel A. <i>Spertus, Josephs & Minnick, LLP</i>
Ehrlich Miles F. <i>Ehrlich & Craig LLP</i>	Nixon Daniel V. <i>Byrne & Nixon LLP</i>	Kim Ann C. <i>Hogan Lovells US LLP</i>
Gluck Benjamin N. <i>Bird, Marella, Rhow, Lincenberg</i>	O'Brien Thomas P. <i>Greenberg Traurig, LLP (ORL)</i> ◇	Lable Cori A. <i>Kirkland & Ellis LLP (ORL)</i> ◇*
Hanna Nicola T. <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>	Pacheco Anthony <i>Adams, Duerk & Kamenstein</i>	Matthews Shireen <i>Jones Day</i>
Hewitt Karen <i>Jones Day</i>	Shallman Daniel <i>Covington & Burling LLP</i>	Mugmon Michael <i>WilmerHale*</i>
Kane Miranda <i>Conrad Mettitzky Kane LLP (ORL)</i> ◇	Shifman Gail <i>Law Office of Gail Shifman (ORL)</i> ◇	Robbins Joshua <i>Crowell & Moring LLP</i>
Levine Janet <i>Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP</i>	Steskal Christopher J. <i>Fenwick</i>	Tubach Michael <i>O'Melveny & Myers LLP</i>
Lincenberg Gary S. <i>Bird, Marella, Rhow, Lincenberg</i>	Westling Richard <i>Proskauer Rose LLP (ORL)</i> ◇*	Williams Jennifer L. <i>Forta Law PC (ORL)</i> ◇
McNamara Mary <i>Swanson & McNamara LLP</i>	Williams Bart H. <i>Proskauer Rose LLP (ORL)</i> ◇*	Wong Michael Li-Ming <i>Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP*</i>
Olson Steven J. <i>O'Melveny & Myers LLP</i>	Wong Christine Y. <i>Morrison Foerster</i>	Band 6
Peters Elliot <i>Keker, Van Nest & Peters LLP</i>	Band 4	Bell Alyssa <i>Cohen Williams LLP</i>
Rutherford Jeffrey H. <i>Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP</i>	Armbrust Sheila <i>Sidley Austin LLP*</i>	Beste Eric <i>Barnes & Thornburg LLP (ORL)</i> ◇
Schar Reid J. <i>Jenner & Block LLP</i>	Beck Mark <i>Beck Law, PC (ORL)</i> ◇	Byrne Mark <i>Byrne & Nixon LLP</i>
Scheper David C. <i>Winston Taylor LLP*</i>	Bernstein Whitney Z. <i>Bienert Katzman Littrell Williams</i>	Carlucci Thomas F. <i>Foley & Lardner LLP*</i>
Swanson Edward <i>Swanson & McNamara LLP</i>	Berry John W. <i>Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP</i>	Cheng Ronald <i>Pillsbury (ORL)</i> ◇
Willingham David <i>King & Spalding LLP*</i>	Bowman James A. <i>O'Melveny & Myers LLP</i>	Echavarria Lorraine B. <i>WilmerHale*</i>
Wong Yang Debra <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>	Callaway David R. <i>Glenn Agre Bergman & Fuentes LLP*</i>	Hahn Derek <i>Crowell & Moring LLP</i>
Band 2	Camp Marshall <i>Hueston Hennigan LLP*</i>	Illovsky Eugene <i>Illovsky Gates & Calla LLP</i>
Adkins Robb C. <i>BakerHostettler LLP (ORL)</i> ◇*	Craig Amy <i>Ehrlich & Craig LLP</i>	Kevane Catherine <i>Fenwick</i>
Chan Winston Y. <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>	Dyer Aaron S. <i>Pillsbury (ORL)</i> ◇	Kingsley Benjamin <i>Fenwick</i>
Cohen Reuven L. <i>Cohen Williams LLP</i>	Gerges Shields Rasha <i>Jones Day</i>	Lewis Anthony <i>Sullivan & Cromwell LLP (ORL)</i> ◇*
Dugdale Robert <i>Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP</i>	Gugelmann August <i>Swanson & McNamara LLP</i>	Martin Craig D. <i>Morrison Foerster</i>
Estrada E Martin <i>Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP</i>	Hashemi Caz <i>Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati (ORL)</i> ◇	Michael Brian <i>Morrison Foerster</i>
Fondo Grant P. <i>Goodwin (ORL)</i> ◇*	Hemann John H. <i>Cooley LLP</i>	Orozco Agustin <i>Crowell & Moring LLP</i>
Fox Brandon <i>Jenner & Block LLP</i>	Holscher Mark <i>Kirkland & Ellis LLP (ORL)</i> ◇*	Porter Alexander <i>Davis Wright Tremaine LLP (ORL)</i> ◇
Fuchs Douglas <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>	Lewis Aaron <i>Covington & Burling LLP</i>	Rubino Kevin <i>Sidley Austin LLP*</i>
Luskey Randy <i>Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison*</i>	Littrell John <i>Bienert Katzman Littrell Williams LLP</i>	Steinfeld Jeffrey <i>White & Case LLP (ORL)</i> ◇
Marino Nina <i>Kaplan Marino, PC</i>	Machala Angela M. <i>Winston Taylor LLP*</i>	Umhofer Matthew D. <i>Umhofer, Mitchell & King (ORL)</i> ◇
McNiven Carolyn <i>Faegre Drinker (ORL)</i> ◇*	Potashner Hilary <i>Larson LLP</i>	Wiechert David <i>Wiechert, Munk & Goldstein, PC (ORL)</i> ◇
Nall Jessica <i>Withers (ORL)</i> ◇	Rim Naeun <i>Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP (ORL)</i> ◇	Up-and-coming individuals
Shepard Michael J. <i>Farmer Brownstein Jaeger (ORL)</i> ◇	Rodriguez Van Dyk Nicole <i>Bird, Marella, Rhow</i>	Bostic John <i>Cooley LLP</i>
Spertus James <i>Spertus, Josephs & Minnick, LLP*</i>	Sarratt David <i>Debevoise & Plimpton LLP</i>	Chemerinsky Jeffrey <i>Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP</i>
Sprague W. Douglas <i>Covington & Burling LLP</i>	Schaffer Michael V. <i>Cohen Williams LLP</i>	Lieser Jennifer <i>Kaplan Marino, PC</i>
Vandevelde Eric <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>	Scott McGregor W. <i>King & Spalding LLP*</i>	Small Carolyn <i>Jenner & Block LLP</i>
West Hartley <i>Dechert LLP (ORL)</i> ◇*	Tsai Jeffrey E. <i>DLA Piper LLP (US) (ORL)</i> ◇	Wyman Alex <i>Latham & Watkins LLP*</i>
Yonekura Stephanie <i>Hogan Lovells US LLP</i>	Band 5	Yelovich Matthew <i>Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP</i>
Band 3	Ahn Daniel <i>Reed Smith LLP (ORL)</i> ◇	Associates to watch
Agnolucci Simona <i>Cooley LLP</i>	Altman Peter I. <i>Akin (ORL)</i> ◇	Bittman Carly <i>Swanson & McNamara LLP</i>
Agre Lyn <i>Glenn Agre Bergman & Fuentes LLP*</i>	Axelbaum Marc <i>Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris (ORL)</i> ◇	

* Indicates individual with profile.

◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

"Hueston Hennigan is our go-to firm for any high-stakes issues."

Work highlights

Hueston Hennigan secured a victory for Youngho Yoon, a former executive with SK Energy, who was accused of a conspiracy to defraud the US government through a bid rigging-scheme.

Notable practitioners

Brian Hennigan benefits from a wealth of experience in high-stakes criminal enforcement matters and advises clients on white-collar matters ranging from antitrust and false claims actions to fraud. **Strengths:** "Brian is a well-known name in the community, with a strong track record of work." John Hueston is regarded as one of the nation's

premier white-collar defense lawyers, with a range of high-profile executives and major corporates turning to him for his consistently proven pedigree in big-ticket trials, investigations and enforcement proceedings. **Strengths:** "John Hueston is a phenomenal litigator. He is top rate in litigation and investigations, and he is the first call for many." "John is a powerhouse and a rare person who lifts

Litigation Specialist Firms in White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations

Leading Firms

Band 1

Cohen Williams LLP

Ehrlich & Craig LLP

Kaplan Marino, PC

Larson LLP

Swanson & McNamara LLP

Band 2

Adams, Duerk & Kamenstein

Arguedas, Cassman, Headley & Goldman LLP

Byrne & Nixon LLP

Halpern May Ybarra Gelberg

Illovsky Gates & Calia LLP

RFZ Law LLP

Rizk & Shearer LLP

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

people up. He sees diverse talent and supports these lawyers to make them the next generation of his firm." "John is an artist in how he presents arguments." **Vicki Chou** enjoys a burgeoning reputation for her role in representing clients facing major enforcement actions, with clients benefiting from her significant experience in bet-the-company litigation matters and her prosecutorial experience as an Assistant US Attorney in California's Central District. **Strengths:** "Vicki relates to all her clients in a very easy way. Also, she is extraordinarily smart – courtroom-smart, street-smart and book-smart – and an all-round talent." "Vicki is a total fighter. She is very savvy and sharp, helping clients with challenging situations." **Marshall Camp** enjoys a sterling reputation for his courtroom skills, employing his advocacy expertise in a broad spectrum of civil and criminal disputes. **Strengths:** "Marshall is smart, detailed and articulate."

Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP

What the team is known for

Kendall Brill & Kelly is a highly rated litigation firm with considerable strength in white-collar trials and investigations. It regularly acts for high-ranking individuals and corporates across a wide range of industries and possesses vast experience defending clients against a diverse array of claims, including corruption and securities and healthcare fraud.

Strengths

"Kendall Brill & Kelly combines deep substantive experience with an exceptional feel and judgment when making difficult strategic calls."

"The Kendall Brill & Kelly team stands out for their level of expertise, experience, client service, results and professionalism."

"Kendall Brill & Kelly has real trial lawyers; an impressive firm with some of the best litigators in California."

"The attorneys at Kendall Brill have a wide breadth of experience as former federal prosecutors and public defenders. As such, the firm is well versed in current federal law and practice and is extremely good at navigating complex and sophisticated cases to the benefit of clients."

Work highlights

Kendall Brill & Kelly represented the University of

Southern California in the early dismissal of a fraud suit related to the "Varsity Blues" admissions scandal.

Notable practitioners

Janet Levine is a highly respected practitioner, regularly engaged by individual clients to advise on sensitive government investigations concerning matters as varied as money laundering, healthcare fraud and tax evasion. **Strengths:** "Janet is a superb lawyer, with a terrific touch with clients." "Janet is great; she is a luminary in the field." "Janet Levine is a very experienced criminal defense lawyer. She is smart and well established." "Janet is a highly skilled trial lawyer." Jeffrey Rutherford is routinely called on to assist clients with criminal investigations and is also recognized for his extensive trial experience. **Strengths:** "Jeffrey is an outstanding white-collar lawyer who has all the tools you could ask for." "Jeffrey is one of the best trial lawyers and advocates for individual criminal defendants in Los Angeles. He is a trusted referral for anyone needing high-quality criminal defense services." "Jeffrey is efficient, gets to the point, and is very fair with clients and co-counsel." **Robert Dugdale** is called upon by individuals and organizations to defend them in criminal matters, including advising on government investigations and defending clients facing a broad array of enforcement actions. He wins particular praise for his advocacy skills, bringing a wealth of experience in trial and appellate matters. **Strengths:** "Robert is extremely strategic and effective in criminal investigations." "I would trust Robert with the most sensitive and highest-stakes matter imaginable." "Robert Dugdale is phenomenal; one of the top people you would want in any investigation."

Jeffrey Chemerinsky is a former federal prosecutor commended for representing public entities and prominent individuals in high-profile criminal matters, including bribery and misuse of public funds. **Strengths:** "Jeffrey brings great enthusiasm to every case. He is a person who looks for different ways to advance the client's position." "Jeffrey Chemerinsky is very experienced, personable and has good trial skills." "Jeffrey has excellent insight into the workings and direction of federal prosecution offices and regulators."

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for

Latham & Watkins offers top-tier skills representing both individual and corporate clients in major criminal investigations and administrative enforcement, with strengths in areas including healthcare fraud, insider trading and FCPA violations. It excels in complex multijurisdictional work, with expert abilities in defending clients against major SEC and DOJ actions. The firm's impressive client base includes a number of household names in the energy, financial services and healthcare sectors.

Strengths

"Latham & Watkins is very strategic, practical, calm and our go-to firm when crisis hits. The firm is very knowledgeable about California government agencies. Overall, they provide a fantastic experience."

"Latham & Watkins is one of the most responsive firms I have ever worked with, and their level of service is equally among the very best. The team always has someone with the necessary experience and expertise, which ensures top-notch representa-

tion of my company. Everyone I have worked with has been excellent."

"Latham & Watkins is our go-to firm for the most strategically important appeals, litigation and business-critical issues. They have brilliant trial and appellate lawyers and counselors. The firm hires the best associates and counsel to assist their excellent partners."

"Latham & Watkins achieves incredible results. They listen to their clients and put themselves in their shoes."

Work highlights

Latham & Watkins team represented UnitedHealth Group in a False Claims Act litigation related to UnitedHealth's Medicare Advantage (MA) plans.

Notable practitioners

Manuel Abascal represents large corporations as well as individual executives in internal and government investigations. **Strengths:** "Manuel is the best of the best; a total super star. He is client centered, honest, honorable, kind, and humble. He has the highest level of work ethic and professionalism."

"Manuel is a superb lawyer with excellent advocacy skills and an approachable attitude." **Christopher Frey** is a highly regarded former prosecutor who offers a strong pedigree in acting for financial services companies and executives in regulatory investigations and enforcement. **Strengths:** "Christopher Frey is a great strategist and a force of calm and clarity." "Frey has an outstanding sense on how to navigate complex regulatory and criminal investigations." **Alex Wyman** brings to bear his experience as a federal prosecutor to deliver sophisticated and thorough representation for his clients in SEC and DOJ investigations and enforcement matters. **Strengths:** "Alex is an excellent communicator with the California government. He commands authority when he speaks. It is always evident how much they value his feedback and opinion." "Alex has terrific people skills and a wide and deep network of contacts at the US Attorney's offices. He also has broad and deep experience, and he is one of the most responsive lawyers with whom I have ever worked."

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

What the team is known for

Paul, Weiss has a longstanding reputation for excellence in major investigations and government enforcement matters, based upon the firm's outstanding pedigree in the most significant and sensitive of white-collar criminal defense matters. The California team benefits from the wider firm's formidable pool of resources, including a number of high-profile former government lawyers with extensive experience in bet-the-company disputes.

Strengths

"The team at Paul, Weiss is best in class, with highly skilled lawyers at all levels."

"The team at Paul Weiss has experience investigating a broad range of matters, and they are always extremely responsive to their clients."

"The team has an excellent breadth of knowledge and experience."

"The team are outstanding, I can't say enough good things about the firm. Just a high, high level of content expertise – super measured and practical. They are diligent and detail-oriented."

Notable practitioners

Melinda Haag offers a wealth of experience in the white-collar space. She specializes in representing individuals on diverse mandates in litigation, investigations and enforcement actions. **Strengths:** “Melinda is an absolute advocate for her clients. She is effective at representing boards of the largest companies in the world and everyday individuals. She is resourceful, creative and has tremendous credibility in court.” Walter Brown is a widely respected white-collar practitioner. He focuses his practice on the representation of high-level executives in sensitive investigations and regulatory matters. **Strengths:** “Walter is a vital member of any team. He has the experience, judgment and talent.” “Walter is an incredible all-around adviser, litigator and crisis management expert. He has a wonderfully effective demeanor in court with witnesses. He is super smart and very strategic.” “Walter Brown is a real litigation lawyer.” **Randy Luskey** has considerable experience conducting internal investigation and advising corporate clients on governmental investigations and DOJ enforcement matters, as well as handling False Claims Act disputes. **Strengths:** “Randy is terrific. He has a really good courtroom presence.” “Randy was phenomenal. I wanted to stand up and applaud his closing arguments.” **Joshua Hill** offers strong capabilities in antitrust, False Claims Act and securities matters and routinely advises clients on government investigations. **Strengths:** “Joshua is unflappable even in the most high-stakes and intense situations.” “Joshua is brilliant in and out of a courtroom.”

Sidley Austin LLP

What the team is known for

Sidley Austin's team demonstrates exceptional quality in litigating high profile enforcement matters and securing the closure of government proceedings, acting on behalf of both major corporates and individual clients. The firm is regularly turned to for its excellence in highly regulated fields, including securities, healthcare and defense contracts.

Strengths

“Sidley Austin's attorneys are extremely knowledgeable in their areas of expertise and well networked. They are good at flagging risks we do not think about.”

“The team at Sidley Austin has creative ideas. They are knowledgeable and experienced.”

“The attorneys on the team have tremendous experience, are highly intelligent and have great judgment.”

“The Sidley Austin team is truly top-notch; very responsive and wise and prudent in advising on how to handle sensitive matters, with tremendous depth of experience in complex issues.”

Work highlights

Sidley Austin represented the American Chemistry Council (ACC) in a California Attorney General's investigation into allegations of potential fraud in connection with the recyclability of plastics and other matters.

Notable practitioners

Dave Anderson is a former US Attorney who brings a wealth of expertise and experience to bear in white-collar criminal defense to clients in industries including financial services, healthcare and technology. **Strengths:** “Dave is one of the finest lawyers in the country.” “Dave is the smartest and friendliest

white-collar partner I've ever met. He is able to make complex issues simple, see the common-sense path through the noise and provide advice that navigates clients through some of their toughest days, while somehow keeping the atmosphere light and friendly.” “Dave has all the gears. He is an excellent litigator and negotiator, a great navigator through a crisis and provides a steady hand. He has a calming, almost magical presence on cases. He is the greatest practitioner.” Douglas Axel advises clients on a range of white-collar concerns, including fraud, corruption and regulatory actions. **Strengths:** “Douglas is at the top of this game and is a great lawyer.” “Douglas has the ability to handle the biggest, most high-profile cases and achieve success.” “Douglas is one of the top white-collar lawyers in the world. He's an excellent lawyer.” Ellyce Cooper focuses her practice on crisis management and regulatory enforcement, as well as advising corporates on internal investigations. **Strengths:** “Ellyce is a rock star! She is truly a pleasure to work with. She is incredibly smart, transparent and responsive.” “Ellyce Cooper is absolutely fantastic. She is an amazing, trusted adviser to our business. She is always my first call when I have an issue.” “Ellyce is always ready to respond, providing an unexpected and beyond-the-norm level of legal support. She is always thinking with her client's business in mind. Her instincts are incredibly solid, and she is the type of team player I would hope to have on any team running into a crisis situation.” “Ellyce is very strong. She is incredibly knowledgeable, helpful and always willing to listen.” **Sheila Armbrust** is frequently called upon by corporate clients and senior executives to handle internal investigations and defend regulatory actions. **Strengths:** “Sheila Armbrust is whip-smart. She is calm and steady even in really difficult situations. She is well respected in her field among peers, in a way that is helpful to her clients.” “Sheila is so analytical and thoughtful about strategy and interpersonal dynamics in trials and broader investigations.” “Sheila is amazing; a smart, tough, experienced white-collar professional with an incredibly warm, friendly nature.” “Sheila is an amazingly brilliant attorney.” **Kevin Rubino** is sought after by clients for his expertise in handling civil and criminal litigation, with a focus on the representation of technology companies in multi-agency investigations. **Strengths:** “Kevin is a terrific lawyer who works tirelessly to advance his clients' interests.” “Kevin delivers excellent client service, digs in on facts and is thoughtful in his representation.” “Kevin is exceptionally brilliant and caring. He brings experience directly related to our case and shows a great affinity for the institution I serve.” “Kevin Rubino has valuable government experience and is very smart and practical.”

Band 2 Litigation: White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations

Covington & Burling LLP

What the team is known for

Covington's California offices include an expert criminal defense practice, which leverages the firm's signature expertise in complex regulatory issues to defend clients facing allegations of corruption, fraud and FCA and FCPA violations, among others. The

group benefits from a number of well-recognized attorneys with extensive capabilities at trial, and in investigations and enforcement proceedings.

Strengths

“Covington & Burling's team has an unparalleled ability to take an issue and think not just about now but about many years into the future. They can see through momentary changes and can understand the historical sweep of the law. This has been a real differentiator. The guidance they provide helps present and future-proof the company's risk profile.” “Covington & Burling has skilled and experienced white-collar defense lawyers in very specific areas of practice, including in government contracting and cyber-related matters, and are easy to work with collaboratively”

“What truly sets Covington & Burling apart is the depth of their investigative and defense knowledge, honed through decades of experience across private practice and public service. Many of their attorneys bring unique insights from prior roles in government agencies, including the Department of Justice and regulatory bodies, which adds a layer of credibility and strategic foresight that few firms can match.”

“Covington & Burling consistently provides thoughtful, measured and timely advice.”

Work highlights

Covington & Burling represented Meta in product liability suits related to teen mental health, brought by multiple State Attorney Generals.

Notable practitioners

Douglas Sprague is well versed in responding to DOJ and SEC investigations on behalf of his clients. He also has experience in conducting internal investigations. **Strengths:** “Douglas is able to forecast what the other side is likely thinking and how to approach matters.” **Daniel Shallman** focuses his practice on government and internal investigations. He advises companies and high-ranking executives on antitrust, FCPA and FCA matters. **Strengths:** “Daniel is very responsive. He's a brilliant lawyer with good instincts.” “Dan is an excellent white-collar defense lawyer. He has experience in a range of matters and is very bright, extremely responsive, easy to work with and an excellent strategist and advocate.” “Daniel Shallman is smart, measured and honest.” **Aaron Lewis'** investigations and enforcement-based practice sees him representing companies and individuals across a range of industries. **Strengths:** “Aaron has a rare ability to distill complex legal and strategic issues into clear, actionable insights. His brilliance, professionalism and strategic acumen consistently elevate our decision-making.”

Jenner & Block LLP

What the team is known for

Jenner & Block offers clients a dynamic white-collar criminal defense practice known for its expertise in high-stake trials and investigations. The practice benefits from a deep bench of lawyers with extensive government backgrounds, who represent an array of global companies, leading sports teams and technology companies.

Strengths

“In Jenner & Block's white-collar group, I have the perfect team that has expertise in both complex civil litigation and complex criminal defense.”

“The team at Jenner & Block is very responsive to

client needs and provides great work product and advice."

"They are incredibly responsive."

Work highlights

Jenner & Block represented Jesse Powell, the chairperson of Payward, in a hacking and cyberstalking federal investigation.

Notable practitioners

Reid Schar is called on for his in-depth expertise in handling complex investigations matters, including both internal proceedings and those conducted by external agencies, such as the SEC and DOJ. He splits his time between the firm's Chicago and San Francisco offices. **Strengths:** "Reid Schar is incredibly smart, very strategic and very responsive." **Brandon Fox** is an experienced and highly regarded trial lawyer who offers a wealth of experience in criminal defense matters. He is well versed in matters involving FCPA, securities fraud and healthcare fraud. **Strengths:** "Brandon Fox offers excellent client service, communication skills, emotional intelligence and strategic vision." "Brandon knows how the matter would play out and how to get to the right outcome. He is informative, educational, collaborative and always available to discuss the case." **Carolyn Small** draws from a wealth of experience as a former AUSA to advise clients facing a broad array of criminal investigations and enforcement proceedings. She offers notable skills in advising on alleged financial crimes. **Strengths:** "Carolyn is really smart, very effective and has a lot of credibility with the United States Attorney's Office." "Carolyn Small is a deep subject-matter expert on investigations. She has astute judgment on some really sensitive investigations. Her relationships with prosecutors, both locally and nationally, are instrumental."

Keker, Van Nest & Peters LLP

What the team is known for

Keker, Van Nest & Peters is a highly rated litigation boutique that is routinely seen defending sophisticated white-collar criminal lawsuits. It benefits from an extensive roster of top-drawer litigators with a wealth of trial court experience and is considered a first port of call for executives facing governmental actions.

Notable practitioners

John Keker has long been considered one of the nation's finest trial lawyers, with clients turning to him for his impeccable pedigree in both civil and criminal trials. **Jan Nielsen Little** is adept in the handling of high-stakes criminal investigations and trials, with experience covering complex fraud and corruption matters. **Strengths:** "Jan is very well respected." **Elliot Peters** acts for clients on major investigations and trials in diverse areas, acting for a broad array of corporate and individual clients. **Strengths:** "Elliot is one of the best." "Amazing at cross-examination; he crushes it."

King & Spalding LLP

What the team is known for

King & Spalding offers clients a distinguished regulator practice with significant expertise in white-collar criminal matters. The firm benefits from a deep bench of high-profile former governmental lawyers in its offices across the United States, providing a wealth of experience in defending corpo-

rate and individual clients against SEC and DOJ actions.

Strengths

"The King & Spalding team is at the top of their game. Their service level is excellent. They are available at any time and promptly respond to any request or question."

"King & Spalding is highly sophisticated, practical and knows the business well. They provide cutting-edge advice on the law. They are a go-to firm for internal investigations and anything that is highly sensitive."

Work highlights

King & Spalding represented an individual indicted by the US Attorney's Office in San Diego in connection with a fraud and money laundering scheme affecting Qualcomm.

Notable practitioners

David Willingham advises individuals and companies on a diverse range of white-collar criminal matters and is practiced in handling both investigations and trial work. **Strengths:** "David has an unparalleled understanding of the litigation process, provides a clear course of action and achieves intended outcomes." "David is excellent in trial and criminal matters." Greg Scott is an experienced trial lawyer who draws on his experience as US Attorney for the Eastern District of California to represent companies embroiled in a range of white-collar charges, including healthcare fraud and FCA matters. **Strengths:** "McGregor is impressive."

Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

What the team is known for

Munger Tolles offers a distinguished white-collar criminal defense group with outstanding trial experience. The firm benefits from a highly regarded bench of litigators, including a number of former federal prosecutors with excellent credentials in trial court and investigatory proceedings. It offers noted capabilities in securities fraud and criminal antitrust matters, among other areas.

Strengths

"Munger, Tolles & Olson has a strong team with excellent criminal defense experience. They are responsive and proactive."

"Munger, Tolles & Olson combines broad and deep capabilities with thoughtful, long-term strategic thinking."

Work highlights

Munger, Tolles & Olson represented the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power in litigation and investigations arising from the January 2025 Palisades Fire.

Notable practitioners

Brad Brian is sought out by major clients to assist with significant white-collar trials and investigations ranging from criminal negligence to corruption. **Strengths:** "Brad Brian is a great litigator. He is absolutely brilliant and gets good results anytime he handles cases for me." "Brad Brian is one of the greatest in our area. He can size up and get to the heart of the case with lightning speed. Brad is a great, all-around courtroom litigator." "Brad is spectacular. He is on my short list." As a former United States Attorney for the Central District of California, Martin Estrada enjoys a remarkable reputation for his expertise in the white-collar space. He skillfully represents high-level individuals and top compa-

nies alike. **Strengths:** "Martin Estrada is an icon and a hell of a lawyer." "Martin is a superior addition to a superior firm." "Martin Estrada is one of the biggest names in the market. He is super hard-working, has good judgment and is very impressive." John Berry is held in high esteem for his SEC-facing practice, frequently advising clients on significant securities investigations and enforcement actions. **Strengths:** "John Berry has a good demeanor and an ability to grasp very complex issues and synthesize them into digestible pieces." "John is very persuasive. He is that rare lawyer who is both analytical and empathetic." "John is an excellent attorney, and I have high praise for him. He is very practical, client-focused and strategic."

Winston Taylor LLP

What the team is known for

Winston Taylor offers a highly esteemed white-collar criminal defense group with proven abilities in trial settings, drawing from an expert pool of litigators with excellent courtroom pedigree in California and nationwide. The group excels in representing individuals and corporate clients in the full gamut of regulatory enforcement matters, as well as handling internal investigations.

Strengths

"The Winston team gives us complete and absolute comfort at every stage that they are representing our interests. They leave no stone unturned in reaching their conclusions."

"The team are capable litigators and are a strong team. They are wonderful to work with and collaborative. We got exactly what we wanted."

Work highlights

Winston Taylor represented Nicholas Gardner in relation to honest services fraud allegations brought by the US Attorney's Office for the Central District of California.

Notable practitioners

David Scheper is a highly respected attorney routinely engaged on high-stakes white-collar matters, including trials and investigations encompassing fraud, malpractice and patent infringement. **Strengths:** "David is a great lawyer. He is very tough and has great experience." "David is eminent; he is great." "David is considered one of the lions of the Southern California federal criminal defense community. He is a very strong strategist and gets great results, as he is persistent and does excellent work." Angela Machala is the managing partner of the Los Angeles office. She is skilled in advising clients on high-profile matters spanning a range of areas including securities fraud, FCA actions and tax matters. **Strengths:** "Angela is an excellent and thoughtful attorney. I would not hesitate to work with her on all of my most complex matters." "Angela is very smart. She is good on strategy and has great judgment."

Band 3 Litigation: White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations

Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP

What the team is known for

Coblentz has a robust white-collar criminal defense group, with strong credentials in defending SEC and DOJ investigations and enforcement actions. It

draws from an expert pool of litigators with significant prosecutorial experience, advising clients on defending criminal antitrust, fraud, corruption and FCPA claims.

Strengths

"The team at Coblenz Patch Duffy & Bass is highly knowledgeable. They are expert negotiators, have excellent contacts and provide empathetic counsel."
"Coblenz Patch Duffy & Bass has a deep bench of talent."

"I have seen my share of frivolous suits, as well as tough, complex facts, and they excel in both arenas."

Work highlights

Coblenz Patch Duffy & Bass acted on behalf of a former police officer in a federal court matter addressing charges of conspiracy to defraud a number of police departments.

Notable practitioners

Timothy Crudo represents companies as well as individual executives on a range of mandates including trial work, government investigations and enforcement actions. **Strengths:** *"Tim Crudo is a truly amazing talent. He is a perfect blend of experience, wisdom, empathy and counsel."* *"Timothy is very experienced and effective."* *"Tim is the greatest adviser. He is experienced, practical and creative."* *"Tim exercises extraordinary judgment and is recognized by the United States Attorney's offices and by regulators nationwide."* Rees Morgan is called upon by clients in the technology, healthcare and financial services industries to handle sensitive investigations and defend enforcement, where his strong trial skills come to the fore. **Strengths:** *"Reese is a good strategist. He is someone with good instincts you can totally trust. He gets how cases are tried and knows the likely next moves."* *"Rees is a great guy and a top-notch lawyer."* *"Rees is tenacious, a team player and a great asset. I value his insights on cases."* Sean Coyle has a broad criminal defense practice and is often called upon by senior officers, directors and other executives in complex regulatory investigations and enforcement actions. **Strengths:** *"Sean is zealous for clients and a pleasure to work with."* *"I am a huge fan of Sean Coyle."*

Jones Day

What the team is known for

Jones Day frequently advises on major corporate investigations and bet-the-company litigation. The group benefits from a wealth of resources, nationally and globally, to assist with multijurisdictional and multi-agency matters for corporate clients and senior executives. It is active in a wide range of areas, with particular expertise in FCPA investigations and wider enforcement work.

Notable practitioners

Karen Hewitt advises major companies on governmental and internal investigations, including notable expertise in FCPA-related matters. **Strengths:** *"Karen is fantastic. She is in the most cutting-edge matters in the country."* *"Karen is an experienced white-collar lawyer. She provides good customer service and is good at interacting with C-suite executives and company boards."* *"Karen is a very sophisticated lawyer who inspires confidence among company executives and boards of directors."* **Rasha Gerges Shields** is frequently engaged for her expertise in defending regulatory enforce-

ment actions and investigations, acting for a broad spectrum of major corporates and senior officers and directors. **Strengths:** *"Rasha is very well known for handling high-profile government investigations and white-collar matters. She is very experienced."* *"Rasha is an excellent lawyer."* **Shireen Matthews** is held in particularly high esteem for her expertise in healthcare matters, including advising clients on False Claims Act, anti-kickback and wider data privacy matters. **Strengths:** *"Shireen is excellent."*

O'Melveny & Myers LLP

What the team is known for

O'Melveny's practice group is particularly skilled in healthcare matters, benefiting from numerous attorneys with expertise in areas such as Medicare fraud and healthcare-focused False Claims Act matters. The team offers additional strengths in a range of criminal and investigatory proceedings, including environmental, antitrust, FCPA and securities issues. Its impressive client base includes leading corporate clients, major financial institutions and senior executives.

Strengths

"The fluency of the O'Melveny & Myers team in complicated and novel legal concepts is impressive. The service and responsiveness is excellent."
"O'Melveny & Myers has strong connections to pertinent players in the legal space and a mastery of substantive law and likely risks."

"I've been in-house for 20 years, and there are no firms that are more responsive than O'Melveny & Myers. On many occasions, we've asked for their advice on a discrete legal issue and given them an unreasonable turnaround time, and they've always delivered."

"The team is knowledgeable, professional and dependable. I know I can count on them for thoughtful and timely feedback."

Notable practitioners

Steven Olson is a strong choice for clients on high-stakes internal and regulatory investigations, as well as offering clients an excellent pedigree in jury trial work. **Strengths:** *"Steven is highly regarded and very experienced in the space."* *"Steven Olson is an unbelievable good lawyer."* James Bowman's practice focuses on the representation of clients in internal investigations and white-collar litigation. He is well versed in matters relating to the False Claims Act, particularly in the healthcare space. **Strengths:** *"Jim is terrific. I think highly of him."* *"He stands out; I am very impressed with him."* **Sharon Bunzel** is well versed in government and internal investigations pertaining to trade secrets theft and whistleblower allegations. **Strengths:** *"Sharon is adaptable and has deep subject matter expertise."* *"Sharon is a pleasure to work with. She is reasonable and commercial."* *"I like Sharon a lot. She is always smart and has good judgment."* **Michael Tubach** is widely considered a go-to practitioner for criminal antitrust matters, in which field he regularly advises on DOJ investigations. **Strengths:** *"Michael Tubach is great."*

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates

What the team is known for

Skadden remains a formidable resource for clients facing governmental investigations and major

enforcement action, boasting a cadre of nationally famed litigators with outstanding courtroom experience. The firm offers strong capabilities in areas such as money laundering, environmental crime and state and federal grand jury investigations. Its team advises a range of leading corporates, public company boards, audit committees and individual clients.

Strengths

"Skadden is always timely and responsive."

Work highlights

The team represented China General Nuclear Power Company in a novel Atomic Energy Act investigation, with indictments brought forward by the Department of Justice.

Notable practitioners

Jack DiCanio is a highly respected criminal defense lawyer with deep experience in defending clients in regulatory enforcement matters, earning particular plaudits for his trial capabilities. **Strengths:** *"Jack has the best bedside manner of any litigator I have worked with. He is excellent at understanding the practicalities of the case and helping clients achieve the best outcome. His judgment is impeccable, and he is an expert at advocacy with regulators and law enforcement. He does great work shaping our defense and telling our story."* *"Jack has led some of the most high-profile investigations. There is no-one like him. He oozes credibility, as he has seen it all."*

Spertus, Josephs & Minnick, LLP

What the team is known for

Spertus, Josephs & Minnick is a litigation boutique that fields a compact but formidable bench of lawyers with notable prosecutorial experience and strong trial capabilities. It defends clients in state and federal courts, as well as handling government and internal investigations into a wide range of matters including healthcare fraud, securities fraud and the False Claims Act.

Strengths

"The lawyers at Spertus, Josephs & Minnick are tremendous litigators and strategists that generate real results for their clients."

"The team is excellent."

Work highlights

Spertus, Josephs & Minnick successfully acted on behalf of Diana Teran, a former prosecutor at the LA District Attorney, in a prosecution involving 11 felony counts under California's anti-hacking criminal statute.

Notable practitioners

James Spertus is a seasoned white-collar trial lawyer with particular experience in the fields of intellectual property and computer crime. **Strengths:** *"James stands out for his versatility. He can handle any type of case."* *"James Spertus is tenacious and dogged."* *"James is an outstanding attorney."* Samuel Josephs is praised as a go-to trial and appellate lawyer for clients facing criminal enforcement proceedings. **Strengths:** *"Samuel gets good results and handles high-profile matters. He is well respected by judges."* *"Samuel Josephs is smart and patient. He is also a terrific writer."* *"If I need a co-counsel and a first chair in California, I will always seek out Sam first."* *"Samuel is a talented trial lawyer."* *"His writing, advocacy and people skills are impressive."*

Band 4 Litigation: White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations

Bienert Katzman Littrell Williams LLP

What the team is known for

Bienert Katzman Littrell Williams is a highly reputed boutique litigation firm with a deep pool of formidable trial lawyers with prior prosecutorial experience. The firm acts for both corporate and individual clients in a broad array of investigations and enforcement actions, including healthcare fraud, cybercrimes, AML violations and securities matters.

Strengths

"Bienert Katzman is a great criminal defence firm in Southern California. They are excellent – fearless, and they get great results for their clients."

"Bienert Katzman a first-rate firm with motivated and highly capable lawyers who are dedicated to their clients."

Work highlights

Bienert Katzman Littrell Williams represented Karim Arabi in a \$180 million wire fraud and money laundering scheme affecting Qualcomm.

Notable practitioners

Whitney Bernstein garners respect for her strong skills in litigation and investigations, and regularly represents individuals and corporations facing SEC and DOJ enforcement. **Strengths:** *"Whitney is a powerhouse. She is a lawyer in the room that knows all the facts."* *"Whitney is great. She is creative and effective."* *"She is incredibly dedicated to her clients."* **John Littrell** is held in particularly high esteem for his advocacy skills, with clients benefiting from his strong courtroom track records. He is particularly well versed in defending individual defendants in a wide array of enforcement proceedings. **Strengths:** *"John Littrell is tenacious beyond belief."* *"John is a terrific trial lawyer. He inspires confidence."* *"He has good instincts and is super responsive."* Thomas Bienert is a highly regarded criminal defense attorney who offers clients a strong pedigree in trial court work. **Strengths:** *"Thomas is a talented cross-examiner."* *"Tom Bienert is an experienced white-collar trial lawyer. He understands how to communicate with a jury from the beginning."*

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

What the team is known for

Debevoise & Plimpton has a long-held reputation for excellence in acting for corporates and individual executives in their most sensitive and sophisticated investigations, alongside an excellent track record in defending regulatory enforcement. Clients benefit from the firm's recognized expertise in handling cases brought by the SEC and DOJ, alongside a wider pool of talented litigators for parallel civil litigation.

Strengths

"Debevoise & Plimpton has a strong focus on understanding a client's pain points. They also lean heavily into how technology can help us spend the time on the highest-value work."

"The firm offers excellent client service, responsiveness and practical advice."

"Debevoise & Plimpton handled every aspect of the criminal case in a professional, compassionate way."

Work highlights

Debevoise & Plimpton represented Valerie Lau Beckman, the wife of a founder and CEO of an AI chatbot company, in an alleged fraud scheme brought by the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California and the SEC.

Notable practitioners

Josh Cohen is a highly experience white-collar criminal defense attorney who offers clients a strong pedigree in defending against regulatory investigations and enforcement matters. His clients include both senior executives and corporates facing a wide array of criminal fraud, antitrust, insider trading and securities claims. **Strengths:** *"Josh Cohen is an exceptional white-collar lawyer. He is very good with individual clients and navigating through conflicting concerns."* *"Josh is a total pro. He is a talent."* *"Josh is a fab trial lawyer."* *"He is smart, strategic and well respected. We are big fans of him."* **David Sarratt** is held in particularly high esteem for his expertise in defending clients facing FCPA enforcement actions, as part of a broad criminal defense practice acting for both corporate and individual clients. **Strengths:** *"David is a truly outstanding lawyer, strategist and human being."* *"It is great to work with David. He is a creative advocate who consistently brings something extra to the case."*

Farella Braun + Martel LLP

What the team is known for

Farella has a dynamic criminal defense practice, which houses a strong team of attorneys who are well versed in trial work, internal investigations and enforcement proceedings. It demonstrates capabilities in antitrust, trade secrets and RICO matters and routinely provides this expertise to clients in the healthcare, technology and financial sectors.

Strengths

"The team at Farella Braun + Martel is very attentive to communications, respond immediately and are great on deadlines. It is an excellent firm with strong lawyers."

"They are very responsive and have a service-oriented culture."

"Farella's team brings litigation expertise, good judgment and a strong ability to analyze complex legal questions."

Notable practitioners

William Keane is held in particularly high esteem for his litigation skills, with a strong track record in defending individual and corporate clients in DOJ and wider regulatory enforcement matters. **Strengths:** *"William is very good. He is a real player in the market."*

Hogan Lovells US LLP

What the team is known for

Hogan Lovells combines its signature strengths in highly regulated sectors with an expert criminal defense team, which includes a number of former prosecutors and governmental attorneys. The firm frequently advises clients in the life sciences, technology, financial services sectors and beyond on DOJ and SEC investigations and enforcement actions, alongside advising on internal investigations.

Strengths

"The Hogan Lovells team rapidly responds to challenges and client needs, but most importantly, they tend to predict and prepare for future challenges."

This puts them in a good position to proactively support their client and mitigate future impacts."

"The collaborative nature of the Hogan Lovells team truly sets them apart from other firms I have worked with. The team always approaches each matter with the client's best interest at heart."

"Hogan Lovells offers expertise, industry connections and empathy."

Notable practitioners

Stephanie Yonekura is the global head of the investigations, white-collar and fraud practices at Hogan Lovells. She regularly advises clients on high-stakes internal and federal investigations. **Strengths:** *"If you're unlucky enough to need Stephanie but can get her, consider yourself lucky. This is the attorney you want in your corner."* *"Stephanie is terrific."* *"She is one of the best outside counsellors with whom I've ever worked."* **Ann C. Kim** is an experienced litigator with an SEC background, providing clients with advice regarding regulatory and criminal investigations. **Strengths:** *"Ann is a fantastic and savvy partner."* *"Ann is extremely professional and brings an invaluable set of skills and expertise from her former career in enforcement."*

Morrison Foerster

What the team is known for

Morrison Foerster offers a high-quality group of regulatory defense attorneys, with considerable skill in defending SEC and DOJ investigations and litigation matters. The firm is held in particularly high regard for its expertise in data privacy and cybersecurity matters.

Strengths

"The team at Morrison Foerster is responsive, strategic, forward-thinking and well-equipped to handle cross-border matters."

"The Morrison Foerster team has a deep bench of sophisticated practitioners in a variety of practice areas, many of whom bring valuable government experience."

Work highlights

Hogan Lovells secured the closure, with no charges filed, of a federal criminal investigation that had been ongoing for more than four years into a now-retired CFO of an East Coast liberal arts college.

Notable practitioners

Christine Wong is a highly experienced white-collar criminal defense attorney who is held in high esteem for her trial expertise. **Strengths:** *"Christine Wong is qualified to advise Fortune 500 companies, and she effectively leverages her former prosecutor experience. She has a deep understanding of corporate and cost pressures, which gives her credibility with business leaders and translates into a rare ability to offer practical solutions."* *"I adore her. She is awesome and formidable."* **Adam Braverman** is a deeply experienced criminal defense attorney who is regularly turned to by corporate and individual clients facing False Claims Act and wider healthcare fraud claims. Clients benefit from his tremendous depth of expertise, having served as US Attorney for California's Southern District and as an Associate Deputy Attorney General. **Strengths:** *"Adam is highly respected and sought after for complicated cases. He is able to handle large matters and brings a calming presence."* Craig Martin offers impressive skills in advising clients on SEC investigations and enforcement actions, alongside roles conducting

internal investigations. **Strengths:** “Craig Martin is calm, high in emotional intelligence, unflappable and balanced.” “Craig is a deft and thoughtful advocate.” **Brian Michael** is the chair of Morrison Foerster’s Global Ethics and Compliance practice. His clients benefit from his expertise in complex individual and corporate representation, with a particular focus on FCPA issues, trade sanctions and securities fraud, amongst others. **Strengths:** “Brian has excellent strategic instincts and knows how to approach investigative issues with an eye to later or parallel litigation.” “Brian is strong as both a litigator and an investigator.” “He is a strategic attorney and a terrific thinker.”

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

What the team is known for

Quinn Emanuel is a nationally recognized trial firm with markedly broad capabilities within the field, and is well resourced to represent both senior executives and corporations. It offers strength defending allegations in diverse areas such as antitrust, health-care and securities, alongside particular expertise acting for East Asian clients in economic espionage cases. The firm calls upon a strong team of litigators with decades of experience handling complex government investigations and criminal litigation.

Strengths

“One of the things that sets Quinn Emanuel apart is its strong white-collar defense practice, both in Los Angeles and nationwide. They are one of the preeminent go-to firms in the space.”

“Quinn Emanuel is excellent all around.”

Work highlights

Quinn Emanuel represented Rob Granieri, co-founder of Jane Street, in a criminal investigation into the provision of \$7 million to Peter Ajack, a South Sudanese political figure accused of planning a coup.

Notable practitioners

John Potter is a highly renowned white-collar lawyer who offers a wealth of experience defending individual and corporate clients in high-stakes criminal litigation matters. **Strengths:** “John Potter is smart, experienced and strategic.” “He’s a great go-to with a wonderful manner.”

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

What the team is known for

Willkie Farr offers robust strengths in criminal defense matters, acting for corporate and individual clients in a broad spectrum of SEC and DOJ enforcement actions. The firm draws from a strong pool of litigators in its California offices, supported by a national and international group of disputes lawyers with impressive advocacy skills.

Strengths

“Willkie Farr & Gallagher is a great firm. The white-collar practice always provides top-notch service.”

“They distinguish themselves for being responsive and for providing pragmatic advice.”

Work highlights

Willkie Farr & Gallagher represented two former Silicon Valley Bank executives in investigations and litigation arising from the bank’s failure in 2023.

Notable practitioners

Koren Bell enjoys an excellent reputation for her white-collar criminal defense practice, earning

plaudits for her trial and appellate capabilities.

Strengths: “Koren is exceptional in her ability to be practical with advice to corporate entities. She moves the ball forward, cuts through all issues and ensures client service is always top-notch.” “Koren Bell wins cases both on paper and in the courtroom in a way that very few others could. Her creativity, experience, intellect and grit make her a one of the best trial lawyers in the country.” “Koren is a phenomenal trial lawyer. She is hard-working, super smart, very well respected and feared by opponents.” “Koren is a gifted oral advocate and strategist.” “Koren is super smart and thoughtful. She takes on the most complex cases.” **Michael Li-Ming Wong** is co-chair of the firm’s global white-collar defense practice group. He is a trusted adviser to a range of corporate and individual clients, who turn to him for this skills in navigating complex criminal litigation and investigations. **Strengths:** “Michael is an excellent attorney.”

Band 5 Litigation: White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

What the team is known for

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton offers a robust white-collar crime practice for their corporate and individual clients. The practice is known for their credentials in representing financial institutions and large corporations in front of the US DOJ and the SEC, as well as in various government bodies in domestic and cross-border matters.

Strengths

“There is an incredible level of expertise within the Cleary Gottlieb team and a quick ability to understand complex business models.”

“Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton offers seasoned specialists who are personable and reliable. They provide incredible counsel and support.”

“The team at Cleary Gottlieb is able to seamlessly leverage an entire firm of experts as new issues arise.”

Work highlights

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton represented the current CEO of Wells Fargo Bank in matters arising from the fallout of various regulatory enforcement actions taken against the bank for failures in the consumer protection space.

Notable practitioners

Jennifer Kennedy-Park is held in particularly high esteem for her representation of financial institutions facing investigations and enforcement actions brought by a range of US and international agencies.

Strengths: “Jennifer Kennedy Park is a very persuasive advocate. She is a great writer and frames very complex arguments simply.” “Jennifer has deep expertise in government agencies and processes.”

“Jen is the consummate professional and goes above and beyond to deliver best-in-class advice, both legally and strategically. She is extremely sharp and becomes an expert on the issues at hand.”

“We love working with Jennifer. She has a good sense of what is practical and realistic for a business.” **Matthew Yelovich** provides his clients with expertise in domestic and cross-border white-collar crime investigations, including related enforcement actions. **Strengths:** “Matthew is a guiding force.

He takes the time to understand our business and is always open and honest in his communications with us.” “Matthew is very intuitive, responsive and a great communicator.” “Matt has a tremendous background as a former prosecutor and is able to quickly understand the dynamics involved in supporting a fast-growth company.” “Matt is extremely responsive and on call 24/7 for my needs.”

Cooley LLP

What the team is known for

Cooley enjoys a strong reputation for the strength of its white-collar criminal defense practice, which benefits from a strong pool of industry experts with significant prosecutorial experience. The firm offers expertise across a full range of regulatory investigation and enforcement matters, acting for both individual and corporate clients.

Strengths

“Cooley has an outstanding group of litigators who bring a wide range of skills to a trial team. They are dedicated to excellence and to truly getting the best possible result for the client.”

Work highlights

Cooley represented Harpreet Chadha, the CEO of an insurance brokerage, in a criminal action brought by the Santa Clara DA’s office as part of a wide-ranging bribery investigation.

Notable practitioners

Simona Agnolucci has a wide-ranging litigation practice that features notable strengths in defending DOJ, SEC and wider regulatory enforcement actions, acting for both individual and corporate clients. Simona is a powerhouse. John Hemann is called upon by clients for his expertise in DOJ, SEC and FCPA investigations. He acts for clients in matters involving fraud, anticorruption, antitrust and more. **Strengths:** “John has instant credibility with the court and with his clients because of his judgment, experience and intelligence. He is your consummate strategic thinker for high-stakes litigation.” “John is an excellent trial lawyer with a keen understanding of the client’s business objectives and industry context. He can quickly and confidently analyze a case and provide the client with a sound strategy backed by years of trial experience.” **John Bostic** has a proven pedigree in trial court work, with clients benefiting from his impressive advocacy skills in a broad array of criminal and civil investigations and regulatory enforcement proceedings.

Strengths: “John is very responsive and has a lot of wisdom and experience.”

Crowell & Moring LLP

What the team is known for

Crowell & Moring offers robust strengths across a broad spectrum of regulatory defense matter, with clients benefiting from the firm’s roster of experienced former governmental attorneys and its pool of industry experts. The firm advises both individual and corporate clients in areas such as anti-money laundering, FCPA, False Claims Act and wider fraud claims.

Strengths

“Crowell & Moring marries a deep regulatory practice, featuring distinguished practitioners in various industries, at the intersection of government contract and national security. This unique combination of experience enables the team to provide strategic

solutions.”

“I trust Crowell & Moring to provide exceptional strategic advice and bring their extensive enforcement and regulatory experience to high-stakes matters matters.”

“Crowell & Moring brings the right experts to solve important problems.”

Work highlights

Crowell & Moring served as counsel to Vasudha Pharma Chem in connection with a criminal indictment filed against the company by the DOJ's Narcotics and Dangerous Drug Section in the District of Columbia.

Notable practitioners

Joshua Robbins is an experienced litigator who advises clients on a range of high-stakes matters. He is particularly well-versed in representing clients from the healthcare and life sciences industries.

Strengths: *“Joshua sets himself apart for the level of personal commitment he brings to every matter. He consistently makes himself available.” “Joshua Robbins is highly knowledgeable and experienced.” “Josh stands out for his exceptional judgment, deep subject-matter expertise, and ability to navigate highly complex and sensitive matters with clarity and calm under pressure.”* **Derek Hahn** is sought after for his prowess in white collar and regulatory enforcement. Clients benefit from his expertise in FCPA matters. **Strengths:** *“Derek is proactive, thorough, practical and really in the weeds on documents.”* **Agustin Orozco** is a go-to adviser for clients seeking sophisticated representation on False Claim Act matters. **Strengths:** *“Agustin is a great lawyer. He is an effective advocate and has strong leadership abilities.” “Agustin is awesome and has a unique skill set.”*

Fenwick

What the team is known for

Fenwick has a robust team who are skilled in a range of white-collar criminal defense matters. Its lawyers provide counsel on cryptocurrency issues, OFAC investigations, FCPA violations, insider trading and more.

Strengths

“The Fenwick team is very thoughtful, nuanced and strategic.”

“Fenwick fully understands our business and the highly regulated industry we serve.”

“The team at Fenwick has strong litigation expertise and the ability to plainly describe complex legal concepts.”

Work highlights

Fenwick represented Done Global and Mindful Mental Wellness in a DOJ investigation and related litigation involving an alleged conspiracy to distribute controlled substances.

Notable practitioners

Christopher Steskal enjoys a solid reputation for his capabilities in the white-collar criminal defense field, including notable expertise in defending clients accused of FCPA violations. **Strengths:** *“Christopher has great attention to detail, is knowledgeable about business and is able to apply that knowledge in ways that fit with us. He is also very experienced.” “Christopher has an immense amount of experience. He is a fantastic communicator and very strategic in his approach.” “Christopher is a pleasure to work with and has a great understanding of*

the company's needs. His advice is practical and thoughtful.” *“He has a reassuring and effective presence with the government in high-stakes, stressful cases.”* **Michael Dicke** has a wide-ranging securities litigation practice that features notable strength in defending clients facing SEC investigations and enforcement proceedings. **Strengths:** *“Michael has tremendous experience and understands that a business needs to continue to operate. He has strong commercial awareness and sophistication.” “Mike brings a wealth of SEC experience to an engagement while also understanding the real-world issues relating to our industry. He works incredibly well with other partners to dissect difficult issues and provide great legal counsel.” “When I need SEC defense expertise, I call Mike. He knows the inner workings of the SEC, understands enforcement trends and is a sophisticated adviser to companies under the SEC microscope.”* **Catherine Kevane's** clients benefit from her extensive experience in securities litigation and representing both individual and corporate clients before special committees in regulatory and internal investigations. **Strengths:** *“Catherine has an amazing ability to distill very complicated issues into clear advice.” “I am consistently impressed with Catherine's professionalism and expertise. She remains composed and steady, even during high-pressure moments. She is a tenacious advocate for my interests.”* **Benjamin Kingsley** has a robust practice, focusing on government investigations and regulatory matter representation for various clients before federal and state agencies. **Strengths:** *“Benjamin does a fabulous job synthesizing complicated issues, explaining how the Department of Justice will view them and providing thorough yet concise readouts.” “Benjamin is incredibly responsive, with a lot of depth and breadth in white-collar and government investigations work.”*

Foley & Lardner LLP

What the team is known for

Foley & Lardner offers an accomplished practice routinely seen handling complex litigation and investigations for a broad array of corporates and individuals, alongside niche expertise advising Latin American and Asian clients in government enforcement work. The firm's signature specialization in healthcare matters is complemented by excellent strengths in False Claims Act cases, FCPA matters and government investigations.

Notable practitioners

Pamela Johnston's practice encompasses a range of white-collar matters, including DOJ investigations and FCA cases, and she is noted for her experience in healthcare-related matters. **Strengths:** *“Pamela is fierce and thorough, but must of all, she stands out for her personal attention to her clients.” “Pamela is highly available, a great communicator and excellent at listening to my needs. She helps me get the answers I need to get to a good result.” “I always look for lawyers like Pamela for high-level strategy and practical guidance on how to proceed in complex matters. She is really smart.”* Thomas Carlucci focuses his practice on the representation of individual clients in an array of white-collar matters including DOJ and SEC investigations, FCA cases and fraud allegations. **Strengths:** *“Tom is experienced and smart. I really like him.”*

Glenn Agre Bergman & Fuentes LLP

What the team is known for

Glenn Agre Bergman & Fuentes offers robust strengths in litigation matters, drawing from an experienced pool of disputes lawyers with deep trial expertise. It acts for clients to defend a broad spectrum of criminal allegations and regulatory investigations, representing both corporate and individual clients.

Notable practitioners

Lyn Agre is a deeply experienced criminal defense lawyer who is regularly called on to handle sensitive investigations and the defense of clients facing enforcement actions. **Strengths:** *“Lyn is a very talented lawyer.”* David Callaway is a highly experienced former prosecutor who is well versed in handling DOJ and SEC investigations and enforcement actions. He offers additional expertise in advising Latin American clients facing litigation in the USA.

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

What the team is known for

Sheppard Mullin has a strong litigation group with robust capabilities in investigations and trials both at the federal and state level. The group is experienced in handling False Claims Act litigation and related enforcement actions and is particularly adept at resolving disputes within the healthcare sector.

Strengths

“Sheppard Mullin exhibits incredible attention to detail, very strong negotiation skills and a thorough understanding of human behavior and psychology.” “Sheppard Mullin offers a large, highly skilled team with experienced partners.”

Work highlights

Sheppard Mullin represented businessman Rob McKinley in the dismissal of all felony charges for alleged fraudulent activity involving the sale of dietary supplements and nutraceuticals.

Notable practitioners

Charles Kreindler is proficient in a wide array of white-collar matters, with clients regularly turning to him to handle investigations and defending enforcement actions by an array of governmental agencies. **Strengths:** *“Chuck is very pragmatic in how he approaches his matters. He handles them with class and firmness.”*

WilmerHale

What the team is known for

WilmerHale offers their corporate and individual clients a robust white-collar practice. The California team is sought after for their government experience, with particular strengths in handling investigations and requests by various federal regulatory agencies. Clients benefit from sophisticated representation across various sectors, including the financial sector, health care and technology.

Strengths

“Apart from excellent legal expertise, the Wilmer Hale team has a good sense of when and how to approach matters and people. They provide impeccable client service and are business-oriented.”

“The team at WilmerHale is the most responsive I have worked with.”

“WilmerHale shows outstanding expertise. While the lawyers are very knowledgeable and experienced,

they are also patient and take the time to explain the various legal processes to set our expectations." "WilmerHale's attorneys are diligent, highly skilled and very responsive. They know the law well and effectively leverage their experience and relationships with government regulators."

"They dig into the details of the business and have a deep understanding of the specific matters at the heart of the investigation."

Work highlights

WilmerHale represented independent directors of Silicon Valley Bank in relation to litigation proceedings, various actions filed in state court, and inquiries conducted by regulatory bodies, federal law enforcement and congressional investigators.

Notable practitioners

As the partner in charge of WilmerHale's San Francisco office, **Michael Mugmon** offers his varied clients a robust domestic and international practice. He is frequently sought out to handle high-profile representation in front of government investigation agencies, with matters including fraud and sanctions work. **Strengths:** "Michael Mugmon is a highly trusted adviser with consistently outstanding service and strong commercial vision." "Michael always makes himself available and provides excellent client service and strategic guidance." "Michael is knowledgeable, has great expertise, understands issues and is very patient." "Michael Mugmon brings an extremely high level of sophistication and understanding to the investigation. He is highly responsive and available at all hours to update us and to strategize with us. He has a very clear vision for the strategy and executes that strategy effectively."

"Michael Mugmon delivers the total package of outside counsel. He leads our matter with 24/7 accessibility and exceptional emotional intelligence." Lorraine Echavarria is a skilled and experienced practitioner serving as the partner in charge of WilmerHale's Los Angeles office. She is known for representing clients in the financial services sector in securities enforcement, government investigations and internal investigations. **Strengths:** "Lori is a great lawyer with expertise and a valuable network in financial services and securities litigation." "Lori is my go-to outside counsel on regulatory matters. She is thoughtful in her approach to regulatory investigations and provides practical guidance that helps us protect our organization." "She is very easy to work with and extremely responsive."

Band 1 Litigation: Specialist Firms in White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations

Cohen Williams LLP

What the team is known for

Cohen Williams demonstrates impressive skills in defending entrepreneurs, officers, directors and other senior executives facing regulatory investigations and enforcement actions, drawing upon a group of litigators with considerable prosecutorial and trial experience. It acts on a broad spectrum of AML, RICO, FCPA, cybersecurity and False Claims Act cases.

Strengths

"Cohen Williams brings a wealth of strategic insight and nimbleness to any engagement. They work effi-

ciently."

"The team at Cohen Williams stands out for relationship-building, subject-matter expertise, preparation, response time and availability."

Work highlights

Cohen Williams represented Brendan Ross, the founder and CEO of Direct Lending Investments, in a wire-fraud criminal matter.

Notable practitioners

Reuven Cohen wins plaudits for his advocacy skills, frequently acting for clients in a broad array of criminal litigation and trial matters. **Strengths:** "Reuven is, across the board, an excellent lawyer in every way." "Reuven is one of the most talented trial lawyers I have seen. He has an incredible record of taking cases to trial and achieving great results." "He is an incredible, well-rounded leader, across everything from trial skills to people skills."

Michael Schafner has established a varied practice in the white-collar crime area, advising clients on a range of matters including DOJ and SEC enforcement actions. **Strengths:** "Michael is very thorough and knowledgeable." "Michael's client service and level of sophistication are excellent." "Michael is an impressive lawyer. He is a very shrewd legal counselor and excellent advocate." **Alyssa Bell** is held in particularly high esteem for her criminal appellate practice, making regular appearances in state courts and before the Ninth Circuit. **Strengths:** "Alyssa is very sharp and strategic. She's a joy to work with." "Alyssa is a great go-to appellate specialist." "She is a great legal mind and is very motivated to get clients the right results."

Ehrlich & Craig LLP

What the team is known for

Ehrlich & Craig is a Berkeley-based criminal defense boutique recognized for its team of top-class former prosecutors, who offer extensive capabilities representing individuals in litigation and government investigation. The team offers wider strengths in internal investigations and civil business litigations.

Strengths

"Ehrlich & Craig is highly responsive, a pleasure to work with and gets to the core of the case quickly." "The team at Ehrlich & Craig has great judgment. They are strategic thinkers."

"I would recommend my most sophisticated individual representations to them."

Notable practitioners

Miles Ehrlich maintains a wide-ranging white-collar practice encompassing fraud, corruption and trade secrets theft, among other areas. He is skilled in trial work as well as investigations. **Strengths:** "I would trust Miles with the most complex litigation. He is smart, creative and great with clients and prosecutors." "Miles is very agile. He is an excellent strategist and charming to work with. He is one of the finest minds in the community." "Miles Ehrlich is one of the finest lawyers that I've ever worked with. He is a generational talent." "Miles has great judgment. He is unflappable and has great contacts. He is terrific and so well-rounded, thoughtful and careful. He is my favorite lawyer." "Miles Erlich is one of the finest lawyers I've ever worked with and truly a generational talent. He has an uncanny ability to pull rabbits out of hats. He can present cases to the government that seem hopeless and emerge with a declination because he is so smart and persua-

sive that he can change the minds of even the most cynical regulators and government lawyers." **Amy Craig** has a wide-ranging criminal defense practice and has robust experience defending clients facing SEC and DOJ investigations, enforcement actions and wider compliance issues. **Strengths:** "Amy is a smart and capable defense lawyer who gets great results." "Amy is a master of facts." "Amy Craig is very client-focused and centered. She is dedicated to her clients, really gets into the details of cases and leaves no stone unturned." "She has a gift for handling clients in crisis."

Kaplan Marino, PC

What the team is known for

Kaplan Marino is a Los Angeles-based criminal boutique firm that is known for its broad capabilities within the field. The group is experienced in the representation of high-profile individuals in matters including healthcare, cybersecurity, public corruption and more.

Strengths

"Kaplan Marino has a fierce bench of criminal defense attorneys with varied and valuable experiences."

"Kaplan Marino is a high-quality criminal defense boutique, with the expertise and ability to take on complex fraud matters."

"The team at Kaplan Marino has incredible expertise and provides white-glove service."

Work highlights

Kaplan Marino team represented Roger Ver in a multijurisdictional tax evasion matter.

Notable practitioners

Nina Marino of Kaplan Marino has cultivated an excellent reputation in the market for her skillful representation of senior executives in white-collar criminal litigation. **Strengths:** "Nina is very experienced and great in court." "Nina is a tenacious advocate." "Nina is the real deal as a trial attorney." "Nina's leadership is unequaled. She provides strategy and direction." **Jennifer Lieser** of Kaplan Marino enjoys a burgeoning reputation for her criminal defense practice. She leads the firm's internal investigation and corporate compliance practice group. **Strengths:** "You can trust Jennifer. She always comes prepared." "Jennifer is the power behind all the detailed work." "Jennifer Lieser demonstrated absolute command of the fluid situation that my criminal defense required." "Jennifer is a rising star and a future leader of the white-collar Bar."

Larson LLP

What the team is known for

Larson is a high-caliber trial boutique with significant experience defending clients against DOJ and SEC investigations and enforcement concerning FCPA violations, healthcare fraud, environmental crimes and securities actions. Clients also benefit from the firm's strong pool of former judges, prosecutors and public defenders.

Strengths

"Larson has a deep bench of experienced and highly skilled lawyers. They bring a practical, can-do approach to resolving difficult issues. I don't believe there is a case that is too large or complex for them to ably handle."

"Larson is home to top-notch attorneys with a problem-solving attitude."

Work highlights

Larson acts as counsel for a client facing extradition from Germany to the United States following convictions for wire fraud and aggravated identity theft.

Notable practitioners

Stephen Larson offers considerable expertise in trial work on behalf of clients facing white-collar criminal enforcement, having served for a number of years as a US district judge. **Strengths:** "Stephen has built an exceptional law firm and has a commanding presence in the courtroom. He is trustworthy and genuinely concerned about the welfare of his clients." "Stephen Larson is a great litigator. He is highly knowledgeable and has a reputation for being a tough, skilled litigator in court." **Hilary Potashner** leverages her significant expertise as a former federal public defender to act for a wide array of corporate clients and executives facing major criminal enforcement actions. She is held in particularly high regard for her excellent courtroom skills. **Strengths:** "Hilary is an exceptional lawyer. She is smart, savvy and a great listener. She has a wealth of experience in criminal and civil matters and moves seamlessly between the two."

Swanson & McNamara LLP**What the team is known for**

Swanson & McNamara is a highly regarded boutique that is regularly seen in litigation throughout state and federal courts. The team is recognized for the standout trial credentials of its bench and its impressive reputation among local judiciary bodies, and often defends individuals and corporations in areas including securities fraud, antitrust and False Claims Act matters, alongside additional strengths in general criminal and civil litigation matters. The firm acts for a diverse client base, which includes a number of senior executives in the technology and financial sectors.

Strengths

"The Swanson & McNamara team are very responsive and highly committed."

"The Swanson & McNamara team are among the very best criminal defense attorneys in the Northern District of California. They have exceptional judgment and are keen strategic thinkers."

"The team are brilliant and vigorous advocates. They have unparalleled experience, and they care deeply and personally about their clients."

Work highlights

The Department of Justice (DOJ) selected Swanson & McNamara to monitor, review and enhance eBay's internal controls over a three-year period, following the conviction of several global security employees on charges of stalking and harassment.

Notable practitioners

Mary McNamara offers excellent pedigree in defending executives in high-stakes investigations and enforcement actions, with commentators consistently highlighting her standout courtroom skills as a significant asset to clients. **Strengths:** "Mary is a wonderful attorney. She is incredibly persuasive and a thoughtful advocate." "Mary is an exceptional, wise talent. She knows how the government will approach a matter and is able to advise her clients with a clear view of litigative risk." "Mary is a master tactician. She has an uncanny ability to diagnose a problem and prescribe the perfect course of action." "Mary has unmatched credibility and is

loved by everyone she comes into contact with. She has impeccable judgement." "Mary is a wonderful trial lawyer. She is also incredibly authentic in court, which inspires confidence and leads juries to follow – and judges, too. She speaks to them in a way that is incredibly compelling, capturing their attention and drawing them in." **Edward Swanson** is a go-to choice for sophisticated white-collar criminal defense matters, with a wealth of experience acting for clients facing criminal trials and investigations.

Strengths: "Edward really cares about the client. There's no detail he doesn't pay attention to. He makes times for all his clients and works tirelessly for them." "Edward is among the most thoughtful, hard-working and precise attorneys I have ever worked with or against." "Edward Swanson is smart, creative and good at negotiating difficult solutions to hard problems." "Edward Swanson is incomparable. He is deeply respected by the bench and prosecutors. He is a strategic thinker and extraordinarily insightful." "Edward's courtroom advocacy is unparalleled. I believe he is the finest courtroom lawyer in California. He has a nearly unlimited reservoir of credibility. Judges and jurors hang on his every word." **August Gugelmann** has established a strong reputation within the white-collar Bar in California. He is trusted to advise both individuals and companies on complex criminal cases at both the federal and state level. **Strengths:** "August is an incredibly smart and sophisticated attorney who I would trust to handle complex legal and factual issues." "August is a strategic thinker and a true talent." **Britt Evangelist** has a robust criminal defense practice, which sees her regularly engaged by corporate and individual clients in regulatory enforcement matters. **Strengths:** "Britt has an encyclopedic knowledge of the law. She can cite all the relevant procedure and law. She is also an excellent and very persuasive writer." "Britt is extremely hard-working and smart." **Carly Bittman** is an associate in the team, assisting on a range of complex criminal cases. **Strengths:** "Carly is very smart and talented. Her work product is exceptional." "Carly is a pleasure to work with. She is upbeat and tireless in working a case. She is able to synthesize complicated issues and fashion a very creative defense. She is also intuitive about which arguments will be persuasive or not to a judge or jury. She is a good and fast writer, which is a great skill."

Band 2 Litigation: Specialist Firms in White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations**Adams, Duerk & Kamenstein****What the team is known for**

Adams, Duerk & Kamenstein is a highly regarded litigation boutique in Los Angeles. Its lawyers are recognized for their considerable strengths advising clients in sensitive internal and government investigations.

Strengths

"The lawyers at Adams, Duerk & Kamenstein are highly skilled and extremely responsive."

"I am unfailingly impressed by the team's diligence and responsiveness."

"The knowledge and experience of the attorneys I have dealt with have been superior, including their

quick grasp of complex issues."

Work highlights

Adams, Duerk & Kamenstein represented PetroSaudi Oil Services in a federal forfeiture action arising from the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) scandal.

Notable practitioners

Anthony Pacheco of Adams, Duerk and Kamenstein is a vastly experienced litigator who excels in acting for clients in internal and regulatory investigations, as well as defending businesses and individuals facing criminal indictments. **Strengths:** "Anthony is thoughtful, has a great sense of judgment and is a terrific trial lawyer."

Arguedas, Cassman, Headley & Goldman LLP**What the team is known for**

Arguedas Cassman is a compact yet formidable boutique with an excellent track record defending clients in government investigations and litigation. It is strongly focused on white-collar criminal defense for individuals and corporations. The team is particularly commended for its tremendous courtroom skills, frequently appearing in high-stakes and high-value trials, and in appellate proceedings.

Strengths

"The firm has very good writers and advocates."

Byrne & Nixon LLP**What the team is known for**

Byrne & Nixon is an acclaimed boutique in the Southern District of California. Its lawyers have significant experience as federal and state prosecutors. The firm is held in particularly high esteem for its effective representation of individual defendants.

Strengths

"Byrne & Nixon is a solid firm that delivers high-quality work."

Notable practitioners

Daniel Nixon is held in high esteem for his role defending individuals accused of white-collar criminal matters, with clients benefiting from his significant prior prosecutorial expertise. **Strengths:** "Daniel can work on any white-collar case and has a lot of state court experience." As the co-founder of Byrne & Nixon, **Mark Byrne** is an experienced white-collar crime litigator. He is frequently retained by individual and corporate clients alike for his expertise in jury trials, fraud allegations and qui tam investigations. **Strengths:** "Mark is experienced and knows everyone in town."

Halpern May Ybarra Gelberg**What the team is known for**

Halpern May Ybarra Gelberg is a highly respected white-collar crime litigation boutique. The practice group is routinely retained by individual clients for high-level representation in regulatory investigations and enforcement proceedings. Clients particularly benefit from their expertise in fraud matters and FCA actions.

Strengths

"I love Halpern May Ybarra Gelberg. They are a great firm."

"Halpern May is a top-drawer law firm for matters in Los Angeles."

Notable practitioners

Grant Gelberg of Halpern May Ybarra Gelberg

attracts recognition for his deep experience in the healthcare sector. His practice covers both criminal defense and civil litigation. **Strengths:** “Grant is such a great lawyer.”

Illovsy Gates & Calia LLP

What the team is known for

Illovsy Gates & Calia is an expert criminal defense boutique with a strong pedigree in internal and regulatory investigations, crisis management and defending enforcement actions. The team is held in particularly high esteem for its work defending corporate executives.

Notable practitioners

Eugene Illovsy of Illovsy Gates & Calia draws from a wealth of experience and knowledge to advise clients on internal and regulatory investigations and enforcement, where his impressive trial and appellate skills come to the fore. **Strengths:** “Eugene provides great service and is knowledgeable about the subject matter, with a practical approach.”

RFZ Law LLP

What the team is known for

Zweiback, Fiset & Zalduendo enjoys a fast-rising reputation for its capabilities in trial work, alongside a robust pedigree in regulatory and internal investigations. The firm is held in particularly high esteem for its representation of individual defendants, including public officials and corporate executives.

Rizk & Shearer LLP

What the team is known for

Rizk & Shearer boasts an esteemed white-collar crime practice located in San Francisco. The firm focuses on representing individuals under investigation or indictment in an array of matters, including bribery, wire fraud and securities fraud, among others.

Strengths

“Rizk & Shearer has smart attorneys who are experienced with the federal criminal justice system.”

“They are always at the top of my list when referring friends and business contacts for anything complex.”

Work highlights

Rizk & Shearer represented a client who pled guilty to participating in a conspiracy scandal with Santa Clara County Sheriff officials.

Notable practitioners

Adam F. Shearer and David Rizk are key contacts.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Robb Adkins of BakerHostetler is regularly engaged by clients on internal and government investigations which touch on diverse areas, including anti-trust law and corruption. **Strengths:** “Robb garners the trust and appreciation of his clients by being a strong, honest advocate.”

Daniel Ahn of Reed Smith leverages his experience from the Department of Justice to advise clients in complex internal and government investigations. **Strengths:** “Daniel demonstrates an exceptional level of professionalism and responsiveness.” “Daniel’s dedication, expertise and genuine care go far beyond anything I’ve experienced. He consistently

goes the extra mile. What truly sets him apart is his remarkable empathy and unwavering commitment.” “Daniel is unfailingly available when needed, thoughtful in his guidance and always brings empathy to conversations that are often high-pressure and emotionally difficult.”

Peter Altman of Akin is held in particularly high esteem for his representation of investment management clients facing SEC, CFTC and DOJ enforcement, including expertise in criminal investigations in the cryptocurrency space. **Strengths:** “Peter is very responsive. He makes you feel like he has all the time in the world for you.” “Peter is exceptional in all areas, including strategy, responsiveness and practical solutions.” “He is an excellent lawyer with superb soft skills.”

Marc Axelbaum of Mintz is a go-to resource for corporate and individual clients to handle sensitive internal and regulatory investigations, as well as defending enforcement actions. **Strengths:** “Marc has the ability to spin gold from drought. A relentless advocate for clients, he takes a set of facts and makes them appealing. He is a real talent.” “Marc’s ability to drill down on case issues makes him a tremendous asset to his clients.”

Mark Beck of Beck Law PC is a highly experienced white-collar criminal defense lawyer who has a strong pedigree in defending corporate and individual clients, as well as handling internal investigations. **Strengths:** “Mark is one of the most sought-after attorneys in Los Angeles.” “Mark is well-respected, thoughtful and skilled.”

Eric Beste of Barnes & Thornburg leverages his experience as a former federal prosecutor to provide his clients with expert handling of litigation, government and internal investigations, as well as compliance and enforcement work. **Strengths:** “Eric Beste is very knowledgeable about white-collar issues. He always stays in touch with us and forecasts the issues that need to be addressed.” “Eric is analytical and offers perspective on matters as a whole.”

Ronald Cheng of Pillsbury brings his significant experience as a federal prosecutor to skillfully represent corporate and private clients in white-collar matters, with a focus on complex litigation related to China. **Strengths:** “Ronald knows the ins and outs of the Department of Justice.”

Nanci L. Clarence of the Law Office of Nanci Clarence advises individuals as well as well-known corporate clients in an array of white-collar criminal actions, investigations and enforcement proceedings. **Strengths:** “Nanci is a great, fantastic lawyer.” **Aaron Dyer** of Pillsbury excels in advising both individual clients and businesses facing criminal litigation in areas including securities fraud, healthcare litigation and False Claims Act suits. **Strengths:** “Aaron is a consummate criminal defense lawyer. He provides excellent advice.” “Aaron is knowledgeable and easy to work with.”

Grant Fondo of Goodwin focuses his practice on the representation of individual clients in federal and regulatory investigations and is noted for his expertise in the financial technology sector. **Strengths:** “Grant is fantastic to work with and is a trusted confidant.” “Grant is one of the best white-collar attorneys on the West Coast.”

Caz Hashemi of Wilson Sonsini is praised as a go-to attorney for clients seeking strong representation and advice across the breadth of SEC-related

matters. **Strengths:** “Caz is outstanding. He is incredibly client-oriented and organized, ensuring we get everything we need in a high-quality and timely manner. He is responsive to my requests.” “Caz is thorough and knowledgeable. He is good with business leaders and can explain complex business litigation.”

Kenneth Herzinger of Paul Hastings is the global co-chair of the investigations and white-collar defense practice. He is trusted by some of the largest companies to advise them on internal investigations and enforcement actions. **Strengths:** “Kenneth Herzinger stands out for his rare ability to combine deep legal analysis with practical judgment in areas where the law is unsettled or still developing. We rely on his judgment in some of the most complex issues.”

Mark Holscher of Kirkland & Ellis acts for large companies on an array of white-collar issues, including fraud and FCA cases and internal investigations, as well as acting for clients on a broad spectrum of commercial litigation matters. **Strengths:** “Mark is great to strategize with and is a real threat to prosecutors.” “Mark is the best for bet-the-company litigation. He is who you want in cases you can’t lose.”

Matthew Jacobs of Baker Botts is a regular adviser to clients on government investigations and has particular experience in antitrust and FCPA matters.

Strengths: “Matthew takes the time to understand every detail and guides us through each step of the way. He does an excellent job.”

Eddie Jauregui co-chairs the white collar defense and investigations practice group at Holland & Knight. He offers robust expertise in addressing sophisticated enforcement and compliance matters. **Strengths:** “I refer every matter I can to Eddie. His advice and judgment are impeccable.” “Eddie Jauregui is a fantastic lawyer. He provides excellent client services, operates with a high level of sophistication and has great commercial vision.” “Eddie has a tremendous feel for strategic matters. More than others, he is able to predict what will happen and prepare for it thoroughly. He is very responsive and very knowledgeable, with a real knack for knowing what needs to be understood and learned.”

Julia Jayne of Jayne Law Group enjoys a strong reputation for her criminal defense practice, earning particular praise for her representation of individual defendants. **Strengths:** “Julia is a trial lawyer who has handled high-profile cases and is an important member of the defense bar.”

Miranda Kane of Conrad Metlitzky Kane is a highly experienced white-collar defense lawyer who offers great experience in representing major companies on a diverse range of mandates. **Strengths:** “Miranda is a fierce, well-respected advocate.”

Cori Lable of Kirkland & Ellis is recognised for her expertise in advising clients, particularly in the private equity space, in a range of investigations and compliance issues. **Strengths:** “Cori’s understanding of our business and her responsiveness have been second to none.”

Anthony Lewis of Sullivan & Cromwell is the co-head of the firm’s national security practice. He is sought after by clients for his domestic and international expertise in white-collar matters, with a particular focus on cyber incident responses as well as representation in front of the SEC, OFAC and the DOJ. **Strengths:** “Anthony is sharp and has

good judgment. He is on top of things.” “Anthony is a diligent and capable lawyer. He is extraordinarily conscientious, and drills down on the issues with a thoroughness that really sets him apart. If there is a legal argument that will advance his client’s cause, he will find it. He is very methodical and leaves no stone unturned.”

Carolyn McNiven of Faegre Drinker is held in particularly high esteem for expertise in healthcare fraud matters, acting in a broad array of investigation, enforcement and False Claims Act work. **Strengths:** “Carolyn is very tenacious and a great strategist. She really fights for her clients and is diligent as well.” “Carolyn provides practical advice. She is collegial and respectful of business turnaround times.” “I would work with Carolyn any time. She is an amazing lawyer and a wonderful personality to work with. I highlight her thoughtfulness and great judgment.”

Jessica Nall of Withersworldwide has a broad-based white-collar practice with expertise covering antitrust, FCA and trade secrets matters, and experience both at trial and in handling investigations. **Strengths:** “Jessica is very good at reassuring clients who are facing difficult situations. She has a really nice touch, is tenacious and is known as someone who is willing to fight.” “Jessica Nall is fantastic, creative and a force of nature.”

Thomas O’Brien of Greenberg Traurig offers deep experience defending clients in regulatory and corporate compliance actions brought by federal and state authorities. **Strengths:** “Thomas is a trial rock star who can captivate and move the jury.” “Tom is outstanding. He knows how to communicate with clients, conduct investigations and build rapport. He gets back to you immediately.”

Alexander Porter of Davis Wright Tremaine is a sought-after white-collar litigator, with clients benefiting from his extensive experience representing corporate and individual clients in a variety of industries, including healthcare and real estate. **Strengths:** “Alexander Porter is a great advocate. He is smart, thorough and works extremely hard.” “I find Alex smart, responsive, diligent, and very good at communicating.”

Naeun Rim of Manatt Phelps & Phillips has a strong reputation for excellence in her defense of clients facing regulatory enforcement, acting for businesses and individuals in the technology,

life sciences and media sectors, among others.

Strengths: “Naeun is a well-rounded attorney. She is phenomenal in writing, research, oral advocacy, client management and her interactions with judges.” “She is great in the courtroom and very sharp.” “Naeun is one of the most experienced and knowledgeable criminal attorneys in her cohort. She deals with tricky international issues.”

Michael Shepard of Farmer Brownstein represents companies and high-ranking executives on investigations and enforcement actions, and frequently advises on fraud cases. **Strengths:** “Michael is a household name. He is a spectacular lawyer.” “He is a heavy-hitting lawyer in the Bay Area.”

Gail Shifman of the Law Office of **Gail Shifman** is a sole practitioner who enjoys an excellent reputation for her skills in white-collar criminal defense work. She is particularly recognized for her trial skills.

Strengths: “Gail is a tough cookie. She is a tenacious litigator, respected by judges and feared by opponents. She keeps up with the law, knows who to contact and is very plugged in.” “Gail is a solo practitioner, but she outworks many larger shops.” “Gail is a fierce advocate and a pillar of San Francisco’s white-collar defense Bar. She can be very aggressive when needed.”

Jeffrey Steinfeld of White & Case is growing a notable white-collar practice in Los Angeles. Clients benefit from his skills across securities and white-collar matters. **Strengths:** “Jeffrey is an extraordinary advocate. His combination of trial experience, regulatory mastery, business acumen and strategic judgment sets him apart. He is a fearless and tireless advocate, available at all hours and renowned for his ability to distill highly complex information into clear, persuasive arguments.” “Jeffrey Steinfeld is very responsive, dedicated, and down to earth.”

Brian Sun of Norton Rose Fulbright is noted for his cross-border expertise. He advises clients on diverse white-collar matters, including tax evasion and trade secret theft.

Jeffrey Tsai of DLA Piper is managing partner of the firm’s San Francisco office. He is praised for his sophisticated representation of corporations in regulatory litigation. **Strengths:** “Jeffrey’s experience, professionalism and communicative style are what make him a standout.”

Matthew Umhofer of Umhofer, Mitchell & King LLP is regularly called on to try a variety of high-stakes

white-collar criminal cases, with a particularly strong reputation for his roles defending senior executives in investigations and litigation. **Strengths:** “Matthew is one of the smartest lawyers you can meet.”

Hartley West of Dechert attracts ample praise for her white-collar criminal defense practice, which sees her handle sensitive investigations and litigation matters relating to issues including antitrust, healthcare fraud and trade secrets. **Strengths:** “Hartley West is a brilliant trial attorney and a great strategist. She pays attention to every detail and can achieve magic results out of very difficult facts and circumstances. She is a top professional in her field who is incredibly intelligent, hard-working and client-focused.” “Hartley is practical and business-minded. She has a ton of experience in this area.” “Hartley is a fearless trial lawyer who projects strength. She is not afraid to take on the hardest assignments or tasks.”

David Weichert of Weichert, Munk & Goldstein is a respected practitioner in the white-collar space, with both individual and corporate clients benefiting from his boutique practice. **Strengths:** “David is practical and strategic. He has significant experience as a trial lawyer, and clients trust him with complex cases.” “David gets to the heart of the matter quickly. He has very good judgment, and he also masters the details.” “David is great. He is smart and strong in court, and he is sophisticated in how he handles cases.”

Bart Williams of Proskauer Rose LLP offers formidable strengths as a trial lawyer, coupled with extensive experience in investigations. His white-collar practice encompasses a range of business crime issues.

Bart is one of my favorite lawyers ever.

He is a highly regarded litigator and investigator.

Bart is a real trial lawyer.

Jennifer Williams of Forta Law PC is held in high esteem for her advocacy skills in challenging criminal enforcement matters and is frequently engaged by individual clients facing litigation matters.

Strengths: “Jennifer has incredible judgment and presence. She is an outstanding lawyer.” “She is smart and has a great demeanor.” “Jennifer is passionate and has the kind of human connection that makes her effective in individual representations.”

CALIFORNIA: A Litigation: Appellate Overview

The California Supreme Court is a national leader in addressing emerging legal issues, and the intermediate Courts of Appeal ensure a deep and rich body of case law exploring a broad range of civil law issues.

Court Structure and Operation

The California Supreme Court consists of a Chief Justice and six Associate Justices. Members of the Supreme Court are nominated by the Governor after being reviewed by the California State Bar's Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation, and then confirmed by the Commission on Judicial Appointments. Supreme Court Justices serve 12-year terms, after which they appear on the ballot in a state-wide "retention" election.

The Supreme Court exercises discretionary review in civil matters. It accepts only cases raising issues of statewide legal importance, usually where lower appellate court decisions conflict. The Court grants fewer than 5% of all civil review petitions for full merits briefing. The Court's decisions bind all lower courts in the state. Understanding the narrow grounds on which the Court will grant review and the Court's broad power to shape California law is critical to successfully litigating a matter in the California Supreme Court.

The Courts of Appeal hear all appeals from final trial court judgments and from certain pre- and post-judgment orders. They also have discretion to review other pre-judgment decisions via writ petition, but they rarely exercise that discretion. There are six Court of Appeal Districts, divided geographically, with headquarters in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, Fresno and San Jose. Some Districts are further segregated into Divisions. For example, the Second Appellate District in Los Angeles has eight divisions, with a total of 32 Justices. Because of the size and diversity of the appellate bench, knowledge of individual Districts and Divisions can be helpful in assessing the likelihood of success on appeal, and in crafting effective briefs.

The Exceptional Importance of Briefing

In all appeals to the intermediate Courts of Appeal, and in cases where the Supreme Court grants review, the parties have a right to submit briefs. The party seeking review of a lower court decision files an opening brief, the opposing party files a brief in response, and the opening party may file an optional reply brief.

Strong briefing is crucial in California, because the appellate courts do not hold oral argument until the panel has developed a tentative opinion resolving the case – and the tentative result rarely changes after oral argument (though some wording might). California appellate courts are sophisticated, with each Justice assigned several research attorneys to aid in review of cases and preparation of opinions. The high volume of appeals, and the vast array of subjects they address, make it essential that briefs present concise and persuasive arguments that busy strangers to the case can quickly grasp.

Use of Technology

The Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal require electronic filing of petitions and briefs, as well as portions of the lower court record, via bookmarked PDFs. California also permits submission of

fully hyperlinked briefs, allowing Justices and their staff to review a cited case or portion of the record simply by clicking on the citation. This is particularly helpful in complex appeals, where it might otherwise be cumbersome for a Justice or research attorney to comb through an extensive record to find a particular reference.

Oral Argument

Appellants have a right to oral argument in California, though they can choose to waive it. Counsel will usually know the assigned Division by the time briefing commences, but the actual three-Justice panel that will hear and decide the case may or may not be revealed before argument day. As noted, panels hear oral argument with a tentative opinion already prepared, but very few Divisions share it with counsel in advance, and some do so only occasionally. Some appellate courts have begun to experiment with other ways of helping counsel focus on the issues of greatest concern – whether by sending a short summary of the draft opinion in advance, announcing a summary when argument begins, or sending an advance letter that asks counsel to focus oral argument on specific issues.

Some arguments feature active questioning to both sides, while others do not. Oral argument rarely changes the tentative result, though it can produce changes to the text of an opinion that matter a great deal to the litigants. Cases are "submitted" at the conclusion of oral argument, and the court must decide the case within 90 days after submission.

Oral arguments are livestreamed. All appellate courtrooms have the technical capacity to permit remote or hybrid oral argument, but nearly all panels prefer that counsel appear in person, subject to special requests supported by good cause. Remote argument requires additional skills and preparation to handle effectively.

Precedential Power of Decisions and Timing

All decisions of the Supreme Court are published in California's "official reports" and are binding on all lower state courts. Whether Court of Appeal decisions are binding on lower courts depends on whether the opinion is "published." Published decisions are binding on all trial courts throughout the State, but if two appellate decisions conflict, trial courts may choose which to follow. Most Court of Appeal decisions are not published in the official reports, and *cannot* be cited as precedent or even for persuasive effect. However, anyone – party or non-party – may ask a Court of Appeal panel to designate an opinion for publication, and if the panel declines may then ask the Supreme Court to order publication. Publication most often occurs where the opinion addresses a significant or new rule of law, applies a settled rule to a new fact situation, or contains a legal discussion that makes an important contribution to the law. The Supreme Court can also order – on its own or by request from anyone interested – that a Court of Appeal opinion *not* be published in the official reports. This does not change the outcome for the parties, but does make the opinion non-precedential and non-citable – thus avoiding adverse development of the law.

The median time between initiating a civil appeal and the filing of the Court of Appeal's opinion is about 17 months, but in the

fastest Divisions and Districts 14–15 months is common. Cases in the Supreme Court always take longer, primarily because of a lag between the completion of briefing and oral argument.

Specialized Appellate Bar

The complexity and nuance of California's appellate system and its vast body of law have led to the development of a specialized appellate bar, reflected in both the State Bar's certification of appellate specialists and peer-reviewed organizations such as the California Academy of Appellate Lawyers.

There is a growing recognition in California that in significant cases it may be necessary to lay the groundwork for a successful appeal in the trial court, by having appellate counsel consult with trial attorneys to preserve issues for review and frame key filings such as jury instructions and verdict forms. It is also imperative that litigants assess – early and objectively – the likelihood of success on appeal, what success would mean (including any potential remand for further proceedings), and the potential consequences of a published opinion, whether favorable or not.

Litigation Appellate

Litigation: Appellate	
Leading Firms	
Band 1	
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP	
Greines, Martin, Stein & Richland LLP	
Horvitz & Levy LLP	
Stris & Maher LLP	
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati	
Band 2	
Arnold & Porter	
Complex Appellate Litigation Group LLP	
King & Spalding LLP	
Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP	
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP	
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP	
Reed Smith LLP	
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP	
* Indicates individual with profile.	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	
Band 1	
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP	
What the team is known for	
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher houses an outstanding appellate practice with a track record of representing major corporate clients across a broad spectrum of procedural and substantive appeals. The firm has top-tier credentials in securities and commercial disputes, and is regularly picked by clients for high-stakes, bet-the-company cases. It services an impressive array of blue-chip corporates, including a number of Silicon Valley behemoths, in highly publicized litigation battles. Its deep bench of appellate litigators has argued before state appellate courts, the Ninth Circuit and the US Supreme Court.	
Strengths	
"They are top-notch. They are experts in appeal work and know what will or won't get a court's attention."	
"They do a very good job of identifying value-added items and separating the wheat from the chaff."	
"They are outstanding writers and strategists. They are extremely knowledgeable about the landscape	
in federal circuit courts and the United States Supreme Court."	
Work highlights	
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP defended the NFL before the ninth circuit wherein plaintiffs alleging \$4.7 billion worth of damages claimed that the NFL engaged in anti-competitive conduct via its 'Sunday Ticket' television offering.	
Notable practitioners	
Theodore Boutrous is widely acknowledged as one of the premier appellate litigators on the West Coast and nationally, making frequent appearances before appellate courts in some of the most significant business and civil rights disputes. Strengths: "He is someone you hire in a sensitive matter where	
the company's reputation may be challenged or at stake." "Boutrous is a great lawyer who has a very persuasive style. He is aggressive but likeable at the same time." "Pound for pound, Ted is the best appellate lawyer in California." Theane Evangelis boasts an impressive and varied appellate practice, leading challenges before the Ninth Circuit and US Supreme Court on constitutional and commercial matters, including labor and employment concerns. She co-chairs the firm's global litigation practice group and its class actions practice. Strengths: "She's the person we turn to in a crisis, and the one who always picks up the phone, no matter the issue." "Theane is sharp, well prepared, and does a fantastic job. She is also good with client con-	
Litigation: Appellate	
Senior Statespeople	
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	Grignon Margaret Grignon Law Firm LLP (ORL) ◇
Axelrad David M. Horvitz & Levy LLP	Richland Kent L. Greines, Martin, Stein & Richland LLP
Leading Individuals	
Star individuals	Perigoe Kelly King & Spalding LLP *
Boutrous Jr Theodore J. Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP	Perrochet Lisa Horvitz & Levy LLP
Band 1	Sutherland Brian Complex Appellate Litigation Group LLP
Cardozo Raymond A. Reed Smith LLP	Tobisman Cynthia Greines, Martin, Stein & Richland LLP
Evangelis Theane Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP	Band 4
Meadow Robin Greines, Martin, Stein & Richland LLP	Alter Valerie Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP
Rowley Jr Fred A. Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati	Azadian James Dykema Gossett PLLC (ORL) ◇
SeLegue Sean Arnold & Porter	Bennett Jennifer Gupta Wessler PLLC (ORL) ◇
Stris Peter Stris & Maher LLP	Cuatto Emily Horvitz & Levy LLP
Voigts Anne Pillsbury (ORL) ◇	Danas Glenn Clarkson Law Firm (ORL) ◇
Band 2	Ells Lisa Rosen Bien Galvan & Grunfeld LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Heinke Rex S. Complex Appellate Litigation Group LLP	Evanston Blaine Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP *
Poon Julian W. Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP *	Garrett Nathaniel Jones Day (ORL) ◇
Shatz Benjamin Duane Morris LLP (ORL) ◇	Mathieson Anna-Rose Complex Appellate Litigation
Sungaila Mary-Christine (M.C.) Complex Appellate	McCallum Joanna S. Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP
Yohalem Mark R. Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati	McGrath Aileen Morrison Foerster (ORL) ◇
Band 3	Rosen Jeremy B. Horvitz & Levy LLP
Brill Laura Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP (ORL) ◇	Rotter Alana H. Greines, Martin, Stein & Richland LLP
Carpenter David R. Sidley Austin LLP (ORL) ◇ *	Sigel James R. Davis Wright Tremaine LLP (ORL) ◇
Esner Stuart Esner Chang & Boyer (ORL) ◇	Stokes John Stris & Maher LLP
Falk Donald Schaerr Jaffe LLP (ORL) ◇	Von Loewenfeldt Michael Complex Appellate Litigation
Hepler Laurie J. Greines, Martin, Stein & Richland LLP	Wu Jeffrey Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
Horwich Benjamin J. Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP	Up-and-coming individuals
Lundell Todd E. Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP	Curtis Kasey J. Reed Smith LLP
Martin James C. Reed Smith LLP	Wedel Collin Sidley Austin LLP (ORL) ◇ *

tact, making sure we get what we need.” *“Theane is incredibly smart.”* Julian Poon offers expertise in a diverse range of appellate matters and regularly represents clients in federal and state appellate courts in California and throughout the country. He co-chairs the firm’s nationwide appellate and constitutional law practice. **Strengths:** *“Julian is a fantastic lawyer and probably one of the smartest I have ever known.” “The quality of his legal analysis is exceptional.” “Julian is an outstanding appellate attorney.” “He’s a vigorous advocate who is very passionate and compelling. His briefing is also tight and impressive.”* **Blaine Evanson** is highlighted for his appellate litigation practice, which has seen him argue before state and federal appellate courts, and up to the US Supreme Court. He has represented a wide array of notable corporates. **Strengths:** *“Blaine is responsive and great at explaining procedure and drafting things. He loves appellate law and everything around it.” “Blaine provides excellent appellate litigation support.”*

Greines, Martin, Stein & Richland LLP

What the team is known for

Greines, Martin, Stein & Richland is a distinguished appellate boutique with proficiency in a wide array of industry sectors, acting for a broad range of individuals, public entities and corporate clients. It offers deep expertise in state and federal court work, including frequent appearances before the California Supreme Court. The firm is often called upon to assist trial counsel in strategizing cases in anticipation of appeal.

Strengths

“Greines, Martin is a 10/10 on everything. If I had something in California I was appealing, that is who I’d go to every time.”

“Greines is my favourite appellate firm to work with. They are very forward-thinking and don’t just understand the appellate side but also keep a finger on the pulse of what’s happening with the trial Bar in California.”

Notable practitioners

Kent Richland is a well-respected practitioner with deep experience in appellate work in state and federal courts. **Strengths:** *“Kent is very smart and an extremely well-liked, well-respected lawyer.”*

Robin Meadow is a leading appellate litigator who is well-versed in handling appeals across such diverse fields as insurance, real estate and personal injury. **Strengths:** *“Robin is incredibly smart, amazingly gracious and insanely effective.”* Laurie Hepler is an appellate specialist who advises clients on appeals both locally and on a nationwide basis. Her practice covers a broad range of areas, from employment to unfair competition. **Strengths:** *“Laurie is a strategic thinker.”* **Cynthia Tobisman** is noted for representing plaintiffs in the Ninth Circuit, California Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. She is co-managing partner of Greines, Martin, Stein & Richland. **Strengths:** *“Her quality of work, thinking and writing is good.”* Alana Rotter enjoys a burgeoning reputation for her appellate expertise, including advising clients on appeals before a range of state courts and the Ninth Circuit in civil appeals.

Horvitz & Levy LLP

What the team is known for

Horvitz & Levy is a highly regarded appellate bou-

tique with outstanding strengths in civil disputes, making regular appearances before the Ninth Circuit and the California Supreme Court. It acts for an impressive roster of high-profile clients, including household names in the manufacturing, energy and media sectors.

Strengths

“They are some of the smartest attorneys I’ve worked with. They have deep substantive knowledge and appellate experience.”

“Horvitz & Levy has been exceptional. I have yet to request anything that has not been done in a timely and superior fashion.”

“They have a deep and talented bench. They do a good job of educating their team and putting the right person on the matters assigned.”

“Beyond their courtroom successes, they are invaluable strategic partners who are highly responsive to our in-house team and instrumental in navigating new California legislation.”

Work highlights

Horvitz & Levy LLP defended GEICO as lead appellate counsel in a bad faith insurance claim before the Ninth Circuit which successfully established two precedent setting protections for insurers in the insurance industry.

Notable practitioners

David Axelrad is a highly regarded appellate practitioner and a veteran of the state courts of appeal, with particular expertise in toxic tort and personal injury matters. **Strengths:** *“David Axelrad’s technical knowledge and communication skills are excellent. He heads a team of solid lawyers, and is responsive and kind.”* *“A tremendous appellate lawyer.”* **Lisa Perrochet** assists her clients with major appeals that touch on insurance coverage, liability and punitive damages, both in California and across a number of domestic jurisdictions.

Strengths: *“Lisa is an excellent appellate attorney I trust to run my appeals.”* *“Lisa is a thought leader in the consumer litigation auto space. She has consistently created strategies that have influenced trials in a positive direction for manufacturers.”* *“An excellent lawyer with a high degree of strategic vision and awareness of the key legal issues that are relevant to our work.”* **Emily Cuatto** has appeared as lead counsel before several state courts in addition to the Ninth Circuit. She has expertise representing clients in the automotive, healthcare and insurance industries.

Strengths: *“Emily was dialled in for her oral argument. She was well prepared and handled herself very well.”* *“Emily Cuatto is a consummate professional. I would recommend her without reservation to anyone in California and would jump at the chance to work with her again.”* *“She is incredibly intelligent and practical for handling appeals. An asset to the firm.”*

Jeremy Rosen has an impressive depth of expertise in appellate matters at state and federal levels. He has represented a range of clients across the healthcare, retail and energy industries, among others. **Strengths:** *“Jeremy Rosen is an excellent writer and issue-spotter.”* *“Jeremy Rosen is committed to excellence. He understood the challenges of our case and was tireless in pursuit of resolution.”* *“Jeremy is an excellent strategist and is always very responsive. It is a pleasure working with him.”*

Stris & Maher LLP

What the team is known for

Stris & Maher is a renowned boutique appellate firm with significant experience in business appeals before the California courts and a wide array of federal circuit courts. It acts for large corporates, mid-size companies and individuals in issues involving environmental, intellectual property and labor and employment law. The firm also has notable expertise in handling complex appeals to the US Supreme Court.

Strengths

“The team are among the best lawyers I have ever worked with. They are collaborative, creative, hard-working and extremely responsive.”

“Stris & Maher provides high-quality legal services with professionalism and attention to detail. The team communicates clearly, meets deadlines and demonstrates strong expertise in handling complex matters.”

“Stris & Maher has intelligent, insightful and wonderful lawyers.”

“Stris & Maher are Supreme Court and appellate court specialists.”

Work highlights

Stris & Maher LLP represented students against Illuminate before the Ninth Circuit in litigation arising from a large data breach.

Notable practitioners

Peter Stris has an impressive appellate practice which sees him making regular appearances in state courts, various federal courts of appeal and the US Supreme Court. His experience spans copyright, trade secrets, ERISA and regulatory concerns. **Strengths:** *“Peter is simply one of the best lawyers I’ve ever met, he has it all. He’s creative, strategic, effective and unflappable.”* *“Peter is a brilliant strategist, excellent negotiator and a really good advocate.”* *“Peter Stris is simply among the top appellate lawyers in the country and has built a top boutique firm in the area from scratch.”* *“For someone as renowned as he is, he is very willing to ask questions about things he doesn’t know. He is keenly insightful about accessing important issues.”*

John Stokes has a growing reputation for his abilities in significant appellate disputes, having argued cases before the Second and Ninth Circuits. He also appears in trial proceedings, advising in post-trial motions. **Strengths:** *“John Stokes is quick on his feet at oral argument.”* *“John is among the best writers I’ve come across. He’s responsive, professional and ahead of schedule.”*

John Stokes has a growing reputation for his abilities in significant appellate disputes, having argued cases before the Second and Ninth Circuits. He also appears in trial proceedings, advising in post-trial motions. **Strengths:** *“John Stokes is quick on his feet at oral argument.”* *“John is among the best writers I’ve come across. He’s responsive, professional and ahead of schedule.”*

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

What the team is known for

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati boasts a sophisticated practice that excels in complex appellate disputes, drawing from a talented pool of litigators with a wealth of experience in appearing before the California and federal courts. The firm’s signature strengths in the technology, intellectual property and securities fields are complemented by deep expertise in First Amendment and wider constitutional law questions.

Strengths

“The attorneys grasp complex issues with ease and understand the sensitive nature of high-profile litigation.”

“They just do excellent work, and provide excellent

results.”

“The firm is fantastic at capturing complex and niche topics and explaining them to judges.”

Work highlights

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati represented TikTok in appeals relating to privacy claims alleging internet users’ personal information made its way to TikTok through ‘pixel’ code, a tool advertisers use to collect certain browsing data.

Notable practitioners

Fred Rowley is a well-respected appellate litigator with expertise in a variety of commercial disputes and class actions. His clients include household name corporations, which he represents adeptly in both state and federal courts. **Strengths:** “Fred is a terrific appellate lawyer. He is savvy strategically, well prepared at argument and a fabulous writer.” “Fred Rowley is a spectacular appellate lawyer. He is great in writing and on his feet.” Mark Yohalem offers excellent skills in appellate disputes before state and federal courts of appeal, as well as appearing for clients in jury trials. **Strengths:** “Mark is a jack of all trades. He is a fantastic trial lawyer, brilliant appellate lawyer and one of the smartest people I know in the business in terms of raw intellectual power.” “Mark’s ability to see legal issues and be able to propose arguments and understand what the court is going to respond to is unapparelled.” “Mark is brilliant. His writing is fantastic, and his strategic thinking is second to none.”

Band 2

Arnold & Porter

What the team is known for

Arnold & Porter boasts a diverse group of skilled attorneys who are regularly called upon for unique and challenging appellate issues. The firm offers strengths in both state and federal appellate courts, with experience in a broad range of corporate disputes. It acts on behalf of clients in industries such as retail, technology and healthcare. It also represents notable non-corporate and individual clients.

Notable practitioners

Sean SeLegue offers substantial experience in representing clients in state and federal courts, handling issues such as labor and employment law, real estate matters and family law cases. **Strengths:** “Sean is phenomenal and an excellent defense side lawyer.” “Sean is a thought leader.”

Complex Appellate Litigation Group LLP

What the team is known for

Complex Appellate Litigation Group is a distinguished appellate boutique that acts for an impressive client base of major corporates, midmarket companies and individuals in complex appeals. The firm appears regularly before the California state courts and the Ninth Circuit.

Strengths

“They are client-focused and deliver excellent written work product.”

“They have a lot of experience on appellate matters. They break issues down clearly, and are knowledgeable about what does and doesn’t work.”

“The firm has a deep bench of experience for appellate work in California, where each lawyer is sea-

soned and effective while also adding something to their team as a whole.”

Work highlights

Complex Appellate Litigation Group LLP represented Snap before the California Supreme Court concerning privacy protections for its users.

Notable practitioners

Rex Heinke is a highly regarded and well-respected veteran of state and federal appellate court disputes. He has impressive experience in acting for large international corporations across a range of sectors, as well as representing individuals. **Strengths:** “He is calm under pressure, consistent in the advice he gives, and steady about the work and arguments that need to be done and made.” “He has a very conversational style from the podium. He makes it more like a conversation back and forth than a one-sided presentation. This is a style I try to replicate.”

“Rex is a great, well-established appellate lawyer.” Mary-Christine Sungaila maintains a well-regarded and broad appellate practice, with recent experience in employment, trademark and immigration matters. **Strengths:** “MC is an extremely thoughtful appellate practitioner who brings her wisdom and excellent experience to each matter.” “MC Sungaila is responsive, eager to work with and for our team, and produces highly sophisticated work product that we’ve always been pleased with.” “She is a superb appellate lawyer who matches tremendous ability with extensive experience.”

Brian Sutherland is an experienced appellate litigator, with a strong track record in appearing before federal appellate courts on behalf of both individual and corporate clients. **Strengths:** “Brian is a smart, responsive and efficient appellate lawyer.” “Brian Sutherland is brilliant at strategy, issue spotting, and narrative.” **Anna-Rose Mathieson** is an experienced appellate litigator who has handled contract, employment and product liability-related cases, among others. **Strengths:** “Anna-Rose Mathieson is exceedingly smart. She understands the big picture, delivers things on time, and recognizes client needs.” “Anna-Rose is excellent and is the first call I make when I have an appellate issue.” **Michael Von Loewenfeldt** has a robust appellate practice, which sees him act for corporates, government agencies and others at state and federal levels. **Strengths:** “Michael is the equivalent of a supercomputer in terms of being able to absorb and apply complex ideas.” “Michael is a very strong critical thinker who has great analytical insights.”

King & Spalding LLP

What the team is known for

King & Spalding represents corporate clients in a broad array of appellate matters. Its deep bench has experience before state and federal courts and includes a certified appellate specialist. The firm’s appellate practice is well supported by its broad base of trial and litigation expertise.

Strengths

“They are brilliant litigators who know how to present the issues and don’t miss out on necessary salient points. It’s an experienced, effective and close-knit team.”

“The team continually updated me. I didn’t really have to do anything as they were so knowledgeable and right on point.”

“They are superb in their approach and are really

keen to take an active role, which is tremendously valuable.”

Work highlights

King & Spalding LLP successfully represented Gap in the First Circuit, in connection with litigation alleging violation of the New Hampshire Driver Privacy Act.

Notable practitioners

Kelly Perigoe specializes in appellate litigation in both federal and state courts. She has particular experience in arguing cases before the Ninth Circuit, as well as having worked on petitions to the US Supreme Court. **Strengths:** “Kelly’s best skill set is that she can take complex ideas and explain them to me.” “Kelly is extremely organized and has a tremendous work ethic.” “She is a real pleasure to work with. She understands the issues immediately, and is also extremely responsive and accessible.”

Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP

What the team is known for

Manatt Phelps & Phillips has a strong appellate practice with notable experience in acting for clients in the healthcare sector on significant consequential cases. It has experience before both federal and state courts on issues including labor and employment disputes and real estate matters. The firm’s appellate litigation expertise is supplemented by a strong practice preparing amicus curiae briefs.

Strengths

“Manatt Phelps is perspicacious in identifying opportunities to employ sophisticated responses to complex legal issues.”

“Each team member has a different function and area of expertise. There is little overlap or duplication and they work well together.”

“The firm is very responsive to our questions and concerns, and is very dedicated to our cause.”

Work highlights

Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP represented the California-American Water Company in appeal before the California Court of Appeal relating to the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District’s alleged attempt to take over the company’s private water system.

Notable practitioners

Joanna McCallum has an impressive depth of expertise in the healthcare sector, in which she handles a broad array of complex cases. She has experience of acting in state and federal appellate courts as well as briefing before the US Supreme Court. **Strengths:** “Joanna is an excellent attorney and appellate specialist.” “Joanna is very knowledgeable and responsive.” “Joanna is an exceptional appellate attorney.” “Joanna did an excellent job getting up to speed on a complex case with numerous issue.”

Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

What the team is known for

Munger, Tolles & Olson has a well-regarded appellate practice with experience in representing major multinational corporations from a broad range of industries. It acts in a variety of high-stakes matters, including commercial, antitrust, product liability and securities disputes. It has additional strength in handling cases arising from environmental disasters and industrial accidents. The firm’s strong bench in California is supported by its nationwide footprint.

Strengths

"The Munger team are really strategic and can get into the weeds on complex issues. They are our go-to for our most challenging litigation, we have so much confidence in them."

"If I have to choose one area of customer service that epitomizes Munger, Tolles & Olson it would be the quality of its service and responsiveness."

"The lawyers at Munger, Tolles & Olson have provided excellent quality of written product and oral advocacy."

"Munger boasts a deep bench of experts on almost any legal or business issue, which it uses efficiently and effectively in its appellate advocacy."

Work highlights

Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP successfully defended Chevron before the Ninth Circuit in an antitrust class action alleging that the energy corporation had conspired with other oil companies and members of OPEC to artificially inflate oil prices.

Notable practitioners

Benjamin Horwich is an expert appellate lawyer who frequently advises clients on appeals before state and federal courts, including having argued ten cases before the US Supreme Court. **Strengths:** *"Benjamin is an incredibly insightful and sophisticated appellate lawyer. He has lots of practical knowledge and great thoughts around framing arguments."* *"He is a strategic partner and a trusted adviser."* *"He is thorough, well prepared and creative, and eager to jump in and find the best approach."* *"He has a great strategic vision, he's very collaborative, and advocates zealously for his clients."* **Jeffrey Wu** is a well-regarded appellate litigator with experience spanning commercial disputes, securities litigation and class actions, among other areas. **Strengths:** *"Jeffrey is an extremely intelligent, deep thinker. He has handled some very complex matters and he can answer nuanced questions in a very thoughtful way."* *"Jeffrey Wu is great for state appellate work."* *"Jeffrey is a highly strategic thinker who is able to think not just about the specific matter but more broadly about our business and legal portfolio."*

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

What the team is known for

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP is noted for its expert handling of large-scale and high-value appellate matters, advocating for clients at state and federal levels. The firm counts notable names across the tech, automotive and communications industries among its wide reaching client base.

Strengths

"Quinn Emanuel cares about its clients, is focused on good work product, and takes a measured tactical approach."

Work highlights

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP represented OpenAI in an appeal concerning a trademark infringement lawsuit regarding the use of the name 'OpenAI' against Guy Ravine and Open Artificial Intelligence.

Notable practitioners

Sanford Weisburst is a key contact at the firm.

Reed Smith LLP

What the team is known for

Reed Smith boasts an established appellate practice with a strong track record in both state and federal appeal courts. It represents clients in an array of industries, including banking, pharmaceuticals and manufacturing. The firm is known for its deep strengths in major contractual disputes and class actions, with significant experience in acting for clients in areas such as advertising and insurance. The firm is often engaged by major corporations as well as acting for individuals.

Strengths

"They never miss a deadline and I almost always hear back from them the day I contact them."

"They are extremely experienced lawyers with a broad knowledge base and great appellate court skills."

"They are extremely thorough and smart. They think about everything from trial strategy to appellate issues."

Notable practitioners

Raymond Cardozo is highly regarded in the market for his experience in the state Courts of Appeal, as well as the Ninth Circuit. He routinely handles a variety of commercial disputes. **Strengths:** *"Ray earns respect from everyone he talks to, especially opposing counsel."* *"His credibility is maintained through his institutional and historical legal knowledge on complex topics."* *"I consider Raymond to be one of the better appellate lawyers."* James Martin has notable experience in district and circuit courts. He has recently handled appeals addressing breach of contract and consumer class action claims. **Strengths:** *"James Martin is a mastermind. He has broad knowledge crucial to appellate matters."* *"Jim has this amazing ability to distill the facts of the matter into core legal issues in an extremely brief period of time and present that to court."* **Kasey J Curtis** has a growing reputation for handling complex appeals and has appeared before the California Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. **Strengths:** *"Kasey is not just a great appellate attorney, he is a great attorney in general, which allows him to be of value from the first day of a dispute."* *"Kasey is one of the most brilliant attorneys I have ever worked with."* *"Kasey has expertise on the court system and the judges."*

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

What the team is known for

Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton boasts a sophisticated appellate practice recognized for its experience representing clients before both state and federal appellate courts. It acts for a diverse client base, including notable corporates from the media and entertainment industry, among others. The team has capabilities spanning commercial disputes, constitutional matters and insurance cases.

Strengths

"Sheppard Mullin has a deep roster of lawyers. Its customer service is exceptional, it responds quickly, and produces excellent legal briefing and advice on complicated issues."

"Sheppard Mullin is a very well-respected firm with strong attorneys."

"The firm is very knowledgeable regarding appeals and the constitutional issues involved."

Work highlights

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP repre-

sented Amazon and MGM Studios before the Ninth Circuit over a dispute relating to the rights to the movie Road House.

Notable practitioners

Todd Lundell routinely appears in state courts of appeal and the Ninth Circuit on an array of mandates. His practice spans anti-SLAPP, consumer protection and breach of contract matters, among others. **Strengths:** *"Todd is a very strong appellate attorney with broad civil and business knowledge."* *"Todd Lundell is very responsive and an expert in the appellate court process."* *"Todd does an amazing job focusing on the strongest arguments and setting forth the key facts."* **Valerie Alter**, co-leader of the Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton's appellate team, advises her clients in fiduciary, constitutional and commercial litigation, including issues concerning anti-SLAPP motions. She has experience in many different courts, including the Ninth Circuit and California Court of Appeals. **Strengths:** *"Valerie Alter combines strong legal intellect with pragmatism."* *"Val is able to distill complicated issues into something that lay people can understand. She is an expert, but also able to bring in colleagues with differing expertise to provide a well-rounded legal approach."* *"Valerie is marvelous and great to work with. She is helpful, easy to understand and lets you know what she thinks."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

James Azadian co-leads Dykema Gossett PLLC's nationwide appellate practice. He is particularly noted for his expertise in representing automotive clients. **Strengths:** *"James Azadian is really great with clients."*

Jennifer Bennett has expertise handling complex appellate matters ranging from civil rights to consumer protection and constitutional law. She has also represented clients before the Supreme Court of the United States, the California Supreme Court and the Ninth Circuit. **Strengths:** *"Jennifer is a wonderful attorney. She's someone you can bring challenging legal issues to and have a great discussion about them with."* *"Jennifer is a super star. She is considered the gold standard."* *"Jennifer is the best writer I've ever seen. She is unflappable, a joy to work with and also totally brilliant."*

Laura Brill of Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP maintains a broad appellate practice with notable expertise in intellectual property matters, as well as constitutional and regulatory issues. **Strengths:** *"Laura Brill is an appellate lawyer of distinction."*

David Carpenter of Sidley Austin LLP acts for clients in appellate matters arising in a range of industries, including media and entertainment, financial services and technology. He also appears at the trial level, including preparing briefings and preserving issues for appeal. **Strengths:** *"David is a skilled appellate lawyer who helps think through and develop appellate issues."*

Glenn Danas has a significant depth of experience in a variety of appellate matters, in which he frequently acts for employees and consumers. **Strengths:** *"Glenn is a really good appellate lawyer doing interesting work."* *"Whenever I have a question about appellate practice I will call him and he'll give me very wise counsel. He is a fine appellate*

writer." "Glenn is a spectacular lawyer who is very responsive to clients."

Lisa Ell of Rosen Bien Galvan & Grunfeld is highlighted for her experience across a wide range of appellate matters. Her expertise spans housing, employment and constitutional-related matters. **Strengths:** "Lisa manages matters flawlessly. She's extremely responsive and works well with clients." "Lisa can distill the key issues and prepare persuasive and cogent, responsive briefs and oral argument."

Stuart Esner of Esner Chang & Boyer is a highly regarded appellate expert who makes frequent appearances in state appeals, with a strong reputation for his abilities in plaintiff-side roles. **Strengths:** "Stuart Esner is very sharp. He is fabulous and someone I would recommend for plaintiffs."

Donald Falk of Schaerr Jaffe LLP is routinely engaged by major tech clients on significant appellate matters.

Nathaniel Garrett of Jones Day has a burgeoning reputation in the appellate space, often appearing on trade secrets matters in both the California Court of Appeals and the Ninth Circuit. **Strengths:** "Nathaniel is a talented writer, has high intelligence and is a wildly efficient lawyer." "Nathaniel is very talented. He's very good in oral argument, his writing is very good, and he is able to plainly state why we should win."

A former justice in the California Court of Appeal, **Margaret Grignon** of Grignon Law Firm LLP brings considerable experience of appellate procedure to

bear on a range of high-stakes matters. **Strengths:** "One of the most amazing justices and appellate lawyers. She brings judicial and decision-making aspects to her firm, and is able to translate that into a very hard assertive argument. She turns all her previous experiences into great advocacy."

Morrison Foerster partner **Aileen McGrath** has a notable practice across a variety of appellate courts. Her recent experience includes handling appeals in consumer class actions and labor and employment disputes. **Strengths:** "Aileen is a brilliant attorney and legal writer with superb professional judgment. She is also a genuinely kind human being and an absolute pleasure to work with." "Aileen McGrath is a rockstar. She takes legal issues and explains them extremely clearly."

Benjamin Shatz handles a variety of appellate matters, with notable experience including contractual disputes and fraud cases. **Strengths:** "Benjamin Shatz is one of the best qualified appellate lawyers with whom I have had the pleasure of working." "Ben has endless amounts of energy and knowledge of this practice. He is a big lover of appellate work and a great lawyer as well."

James Sigel of Davis Wright Tremaine is well-versed in handling appeals before the Ninth Circuit as well as appellate courts in California, with experience of handling securities and intellectual property-related cases. **Strengths:** "James is a brilliant and strong oral advocate." "James is a great lawyer who is poised and sharp."

Anne Voigts of Pillsbury appears before various

appellate courts in California in an array of subject matter disputes, covering issues including anti-trust, copyright and the False Claims Act. She is also active in federal appeals courts and has handled appeals to the US Supreme Court. **Strengths:**

"Anne Voigts is a great writer who understands the appellate process and how to formulate persuasive arguments. She has all the attributes you would look for in an appellate lawyer." "Anne might actually win a prize for being the most responsive lawyer. She also provides quality analysis and communication, and brings fantastic real-world experience, having been a federal prosecutor." "Anne is very calm and professorial." "Anne is a very well-respected and thoughtful lawyer, and an excellent writer." "Anne is seasoned, experienced and forward-thinking. She also has the ability to collaborate and be collaborative."

Collin Wedel of Sidley Austin LLP acts on behalf of both corporate and individual clients, with experience in matters before federal and state courts, including the US and California Supreme Courts.

Strengths: "Collin is an intellectual force with outstanding judgment and tactical vision." "Collin Wedel is a skilled trial and appellate attorney who has a strategic mindset to make the best and strongest arguments." "When people envision what top legal work and advice looks like from a top firm, it's Collin Wedel that they're picturing." "Collin Wedel that they're picturing."

Media & Entertainment Litigation

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Bird, Marella, Rhaw, Lincenberg, Dooks & Nessim, LLP

What the team is known for

Bird, Marella, Rhaw, Lincenberg, Dooks & Nessim, LLP is a highly renowned litigation firm with a strong entertainment offering. The team has carried out industry-leading work in profit participation litigation. The firm offers further prowess in disputes relating to breach of contract, copyright and licensing. The group displays particular expertise in the film industry, representing significant producers and actors in contentious work.

Strengths

"The team truly understand the industry and its players."

"The firm has incredible depth of experience and cutting-edge expertise."

Work highlights

Bird, Marella, Rhaw, Lincenberg, Dooks & Nessim, LLP represented Brad Pitt in multijurisdictional lawsuits against ex-wife Angelina Jolie and others concerning the parties' interests in Château Miraval.

Notable practitioners

John Berlinski is celebrated for his impressive practice representing high-profile clients in the entertainment industry. He is widely regarded as a go-to choice for profit participation disputes. He has additional expertise in high-stakes licensing, contractual and intellectual property lawsuits. **Strengths:** "John is top of the line. He is smart, strategic and thinks steps ahead." "John is an excellent thinker." "John is an experienced and level-headed strategist." Ronald Nessim is renowned for his expert representation of talent, including writers and producers. He offers particular prowess in profit participation disputes.

Julia Cherlow is noted for her growing prominence in handling complex disputes in the entertainment space. Julia represents high-profile actors, producers and guilds in a range of civil cases.

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP

What the team is known for

BCLP is eminently capable in First Amendment litigation. The group frequently acts for news media companies in access claims and libel lawsuits and has extensive experience with copyright claims and anti-SLAPP matters.

Strengths

"Collaboration between attorneys at the firm is outstanding and leads to amazing suggestions and results."

"The team does a good job of keeping us informed and laying out strategy considerations."

"The attorneys are smart, hard-working and good communicators, so are good at collaborating with in-house counsel."

"The team is top-notch and has vast experience."

"The group is extremely aware of business issues and dynamics."

Work highlights

BCLP defended Lee Enterprises in a putative class action whereby the plaintiff sued for alleged violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act.

Notable practitioners

Rachel Matteo-Boehm frequently represents news organisations in lawsuits around the country. She is particularly adept in First Amendment litigation, including acting on behalf of news organisations seeking access to government records. **Strengths:** "Rachel is highly experienced and knowledgeable regarding First Amendment issues." **Roger Myers** is a go-to lawyer for news organisations. He offers

Media & Entertainment: Litigation
Leading Firms
Band 1
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Band 2
Jenner & Block LLP
Katten
Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP
Kinsella Holley Iser Kump Steinsapir LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
Paul Hastings LLP
Band 3
Bird, Marella, Rhow, Lincenberg, Drooks & Nessim
Jassy Vick Carolan LLP
Loeb & Loeb LLP
Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP
Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP
Band 4
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP
Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan & Shapiro, LLP
Greenberg Glusker LLP
Kibler Fowler & Cave LLP
Lavelly & Singer PC
Sidley Austin LLP
Venable LLP
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

expertise in defamation and Freedom of Information disputes.

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

What the team is known for

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP is home to a superb media and First Amendment litigation practice. The firm handles rights of publicity and misappropriation disputes on behalf of writers and producers in film and television, as well as libel litigation and pre-publication review for news organizations. The team offers significant expertise in breach of privacy and anti-SLAPP litigation. It is increasingly active in copyright infringement litigation on behalf of clients in the music industry.

Strengths

"Davis Wright Tremaine's work product is top-notch."

"The team is extremely responsive and conscientious."

"Davis Wright Tremaine has deep subject matter expertise."

"Davis Wright Tremaine's media practice has an incredibly impressive bench, from experienced partners with decades of practice to junior associates with ambition and meticulous drafting skills."

Work highlights

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP represented State Farm and its advertising partners in a copyright infringement case.

Notable practitioners

Kelli Sager has an exceptional reputation as a First Amendment litigator. She is highly skilled at handling libel, copyright infringement and privacy disputes on behalf of news and entertainment organisations. **Strengths:** "Having Kelli on your side

Media & Entertainment: Litigation
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Kinsella Dale F. Kinsella Holley Iser Kump Steinsapir LLP
Olson Ronald. Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
Singer Martin D. Lavelly & Singer PC
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Anderson Peter. Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
Berlinski John V. Bird, Marella, Rhow, Lincenberg, Drooks
Glaser Patricia. Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan & Shapiro
Kendall Richard B. Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP
Klaus Kelly. Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
Petrocelli Daniel. O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Band 2
Deixler Bert. Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP
Eskenazi Bonnie. Greenberg Glusker LLP
Godley Tamerlin. Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Halberstadter David. Katten
Kelly Philip M. Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP
Klieger Robert. Hueston Hennigan LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Kump Michael. Kinsella Holley Iser Kump Steinsapir LLP
Lens Molly. O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Marenberg Steven. Paul Hastings LLP *
Moss Aaron. Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP
Putnam Marvin. Latham & Watkins LLP *
Schwartz Robert. Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan *
Band 3
Aronoff David. Fox Rothschild (ORL) ◇ *
Brenner Lee S. Venable LLP
Garfinkel Michael B. Venable LLP
Gatti John. Loeb & Loeb LLP
Jacobs Robert A. Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP
Pomerantz Glenn D. Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
Ransom Rollin A. Sidley Austin LLP *
Rosengart Mathew. Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Sahni Neema. Covington & Burling LLP (ORL) ◇
Shepard Julie Ann. Jenner & Block LLP
Singer David. Jenner & Block LLP
Stein Stanton 'Larry'. Russ August & Kabat (ORL) ◇
Steinthal Kenneth. King & Spalding LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Thomas Andrew J. Jenner & Block LLP
Weiner Joel. Katten
Weingarten Alex M. Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Band 4
Bach Nathaniel. Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP
Baum Andrew. Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan & Shapiro
Chieffo Vincent H. Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Ehler Rose. Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
Fink David E. Venable LLP
Fowler John. Kibler Fowler & Cave LLP *
Grossman David. Loeb & Loeb LLP
Harder Charles. Harder Stonerock LLP (ORL) ◇
Iser Lawrence. Kinsella Holley Iser Kump Steinsapir LLP
Jampol Nicolas. Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
Johnson Arwen. King & Spalding LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Kim Elaine K. Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP
Nessim Ronald J. Bird, Marella, Rhow, Lincenberg
Pagnanelli Karin. Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP
Rozansky Daniel. Brown Rudnick LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Samplin Ilissa. Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP *
Srinivasan Jay. Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Stebbins Bina Jessica. Latham & Watkins LLP *
Yeagan Ashley. Russ August & Kabat (ORL) ◇
Up-and-coming individuals
Cherlow Julia. Bird, Marella, Rhow, Lincenberg, Drooks
Cox Erin. Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
Ellison Robert. Latham & Watkins LLP *
Freeman Cydney. Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
Kim Nary. Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP
Moses Sarah. Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP
Washington Laura. Latham & Watkins LLP *

brings a credibility that cannot be understated."

"Kelli is a don of the Bar. She really knows her stuff."

"Kelli is a powerhouse litigator." **Peter Anderson**

is held in high esteem for his handling of copyright disputes on behalf of significant clients in the music industry. **Strengths:** "Peter is very experienced and knows the landscape."

"Peter is one of the best music copyright litigators in the space." "Peter is a terrific copyright lawyer."

Thomas Burke maintains an impressive First Amendment practice, with particular expertise in anti-SLAPP motions. **Strengths:**

"Thomas is one of the top First Amendment lawyers in the country." "Thomas has the ability to tackle complex issues with precision. He's a true model for media lawyers."

Nicolas Jampol has developed an impressive entertainment practice, which includes a particular emphasis on intellectual property disputes. He continually represents major clients in technology and streaming spheres. **Cydney Freeman**

is a partner in the firm's Los Angeles office with a burgeoning litigation practice, representing a range of media clients on content-related matters. **Strengths:** "Cydney is a smart and practical attorney."

Dan Laidman, based in the firm's Los Angeles office, is increasingly recognized for his work for media clients in the First Amendment litigation space. **Strengths:** "Dan writes excellent amicus breifs."

"Dan is super bright."

DLA Piper LLP (US)

What the team is known for

DLA Piper LLP (US) is commended for its strength in a range of transactional work touching the music industry, including acquisitions, loans, securitizations and rights sales. The group represents significant industry players, such as investors, private equity companies and music aggregation platforms, amongst others.

Strengths

"The team at DLA consists of top partners and associates across the country who are able to collaborate and communicate in a way that leads to direct results for clients."

"Each member of the team adds great value and is a pleasure to work with."

"DLA is a great team that is diligent, knowledgeable and has the right resources. Its attorneys all cared about what was happening."

Notable practitioners

Claire Hall is noted for her deep expertise in financing work in the music industry, with notable expertise with ABS transactions. **Strengths:** "Claire is commercial, collaborative and intelligent." Robert Sherman, as chair of the entertainment finance practice, is recognized for his strength in music financings and transactions. **Strengths:** "Robert possesses a unique blend of music and finance knowledge."

Media & Entertainment: Music	
Leading Firms	
Band 1	
Gang, Tyre, Ramer, Brown & Passman, Inc.	
Myman Greenspan Fox Rosenberg Mobasser	
Band 2	
Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP	
Reed Smith LLP	
Band 3	
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP	
DLA Piper LLP (US)	
Greenberg Traurig, LLP	
Loeb & Loeb LLP	
Senior Statespeople	
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	
Cooper Jay L. Greenberg Traurig, LLP	
Leading Individuals	
Band 1	
Anderson Peter <i>Davis Wright Tremaine LLP</i>	
Bromley Jordan <i>Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP</i>	
Greenspan Eric <i>Myman Greenspan Fox Rosenberg</i>	
Passman Donald S. <i>Gang, Tyre, Ramer, Brown</i>	
Paterno Peter <i>King, Holmes, Paterno & Soriano (ORL) ♦</i>	
Rosenberg Aaron <i>Myman Greenspan Fox Rosenberg</i>	
Salomon, Jr. Eugene <i>Gang, Tyre, Ramer, Brown</i>	
Band 2	
Frankenheimer John T. <i>Loeb & Loeb LLP</i>	
Lande David <i>Ziffren Brittenham LLP (ORL) ♦</i>	
LaPolt Dina <i>LaPolt Law PC (ORL) ♦</i>	
Light Jeffrey <i>Myman Greenspan Fox Rosenberg Mobasser</i>	
Sessa Stephen <i>Reed Smith LLP</i>	
Soriano Laurie L. <i>King, Holmes, Paterno (ORL) ♦</i>	
Band 3	
Biederman Charles J. <i>Greenberg Traurig, LLP</i>	
Custer Eric <i>Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP</i>	
Hall Claire <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>	
Karlof Jason <i>Barnes & Thornburg LLP (ORL) ♦</i>	
Plinio Steve <i>Greenberg Traurig, LLP</i>	
Sherman Robert J. <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>	
Stapleton Beau <i>Wilkie Farr & Gallagher LLP (ORL) ♦ *</i>	
Steinthal Kenneth <i>King & Spalding LLP (ORL) ♦ *</i>	
Vaquerano Heidi <i>Fox Rothschild (ORL) ♦ *</i>	
Up-and-coming individuals	
Alanís Brigitte <i>King, Holmes, Paterno & Soriano (ORL) ♦</i>	
Benoualid Audrey <i>Myman Greenspan Fox Rosenberg</i>	
Love Joshua <i>Reed Smith LLP</i>	
Manger Mitchell <i>Loeb & Loeb LLP</i>	
Moses Sarah <i>Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP</i>	
Schiffres Ethan Benjamin <i>Gang, Tyre, Ramer, Brown</i>	
* Indicates individual with profile.	
♦ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

Gang, Tyre, Ramer, Brown & Passman, Inc.

What the team is known for

Gang, Tyre, Ramer, Brown & Passman, Inc. is highly regarded for its expertise in representing high-profile clients within the music industry. It demonstrates exceptional capability and sophistication in the representation of talent.

Notable practitioners

Donald Passman is a highly respected attorney in the music industry known for his strong representation of high-profile individuals and talent.

Strengths: "Donald is a legendary attorney." "Donald literally wrote the book on the music business." Eugene Saloman is a prominent attorney in

Media & Entertainment First Amendment Litigation	
Leading Individuals	
Star individuals	
Sager Kelli L. <i>Davis Wright Tremaine LLP</i>	
Band 1	
Boutrous Jr Theodore J. <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>	
Burke Thomas R. <i>Davis Wright Tremaine LLP</i>	
Jassy Jean-Paul <i>Jassy Vick Carolan LLP</i>	
Vick Kevin <i>Jassy Vick Carolan LLP</i>	
Band 2	
Bostwick Gary L. <i>Bostwick Law (ORL) ♦</i>	
Carolan Duffy <i>Jassy Vick Carolan LLP</i>	
Matteo-Boehm Rachel E. <i>Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner</i>	
Myers Roger <i>Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP</i>	
Up-and-coming individuals	
Laidman Dan <i>Davis Wright Tremaine LLP</i>	

the music space. As managing partner of the firm, he leverages his deep expertise to represent significant figures on a range of transactional work.

Strengths: "Eugene is an effective, aggressive and smart attorney." Ethan Schiffres is recognized for his growing prominence representing significant clients in the music industry. **Strengths:** "Ethan is super smart and a great lawyer."

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

What the team is known for

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP has a renowned group of litigators consistently engaged in high-stakes litigation for an enviable client roster made up of entertainment, media and technology companies. The firm is capable of handling a broad range of matters, including contractual, accounting and intellectual property disputes, as well as profit participation litigation. It offers additional strength in First Amendment litigation.

Strengths

"The team has exceptional First Amendment knowledge."

"Gibson Dunn has thought leaders and innovators in entertainment and media litigation."

"Gibson Dunn operates nimbly and strategically as issues arise."

Work highlights

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP represented NBCUniversal and Peacock in a \$100 million defamation suit brought by Sean "Diddy" Combs over the "Making of a Bad Boy" documentary.

Notable practitioners

Theodore Boutrous is a renowned First Amendment litigator. He often represents high-profile individuals and news organisations in defamation and reporter's privilege disputes. **Strengths:** "Theodore is a smart lawyer who has a great understanding of the law." Ilissa Samplin shows considerable strength in complex entertainment disputes as part of her broader litigation experience. She represents significant studios and technology giants.

Strengths: "Ilissa does a tremendous job of always being responsive and thoughtful." "Ilissa is smart, thorough and a great brief writer." Jay Srinivasan is noted for his experience with complex disputes in the media and entertainment industries. He has deep expertise in commercial litigation, including issues of competition and IP rights. **Strengths:** "Jay is very smart and puts together great teams."

Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan & Shapiro, LLP

What the team is known for

Glaser, Weil, Fink, Howard, Avchen & Shapiro, LLP is home to a bench of experienced litigators well known for representing talent and other high-profile individuals and companies involved in the entertainment industry. It is well versed in the full range of disputes arising in the context of content creation and exploitation. Its areas of expertise include contractual disputes, intellectual property, defamation and profit participation. The team offers significant trial experience, as well as providing pre-litigation counseling.

Strengths

"The team is responsive, timely, professional and knowledgeable."

"The team is cognizant of business goals."

Work highlights

Glaser Weil represented Michael Gaffney, Muhammad Ali's personal photographer, as plaintiff in a copyright infringement case.

Notable practitioners

Patricia Glaser is a pre-eminent media and entertainment attorney renowned for her wealth of trial experience. She handles high-stakes business disputes on behalf of leading companies and prominent individuals in the entertainment sector, and also has experience in handling sexual harassment claims. **Strengths:** "Patricia is at the top of her field." "Patricia is extremely experienced and knowledgeable." "Patricia has raw ability, is easy to work with and is available 24/7." **Andrew Baum** demonstrates skill across a range of commercial disputes, representing significant individuals and entities in the entertainment industry. **Strengths:** "Andrew is a very commercial attorney." "Andrew is an excellent and concise drafter."

Greenberg Glusker LLP

What the team is known for

Greenberg Glusker Fields Claman & Machtinger LLP has a highly respected litigation team capable of representing talent as well as corporate clients in a wide array of disputes, including intellectual property, contractual, accounting and defamation litigation. The team represents video game and digital media companies, in addition to its longstanding expertise in film and television. The firm acts on behalf of the estates of musicians, writers and producers in disputes about the ownership and exploitation of content.

Strengths

"The team is exceptional at identifying issues and providing timely, organized solutions."

"Greenberg Glusker consistently demonstrates expertise in navigating complex matters."

"The team has a keen attention to detail and response to urgency."

"The team's commercial acumen is impressive. The group demonstrates a deep understanding of company goals and market dynamics that it translates into thoughtful, results-oriented actions."

Work highlights

Greenberg Glusker LLP represented Kelcie Stranahan, who was sued in Los Angeles Superior Court by a production company for breach of contract and fraud.

Notable practitioners

Bonnie Eskenazi has a strong track record of handling sophisticated disputes for clients in the film industry, including copyright and profit participation matters. **Strengths:** *"Bonnie is an exceptionally intelligent individual, as well as an excellent problem solver."* *"Bonnie has strong legal expertise paired with sound judgment and a collaborative mindset."* *"Bonnie adds tremendous value to every project she touches."*

Greenberg Traurig, LLP

What the team is known for

Greenberg Traurig, LLP handles a range of contentious and non-contentious work relating to the music industry. The group has strong experience in relation to royalty disputes, as well as in the securitization of music catalogues and licensing work.

Strengths

"The partners at Greenberg Traurig are well respected leaders for high-stakes media and entertainment litigation."

Notable practitioners

Jay Cooper is commended for his strength in negotiating a range of contracts in the music space. His clients include artists, composers and recording companies. **Strengths:** *"Jay is a legend in the music space."* Charles Biederman maintains a sophisticated transactional music practice, representing clients such as composers, studios and individual artists. **Steve Plinio** is recognized for his expertise in music transactions, representing a range of emerging and established artists. He has particular expertise in touring and merchandising matters. **Mathew Rosengart** is co-chair of Greenberg Traurig, LLP's national media and entertainment litigation team. He is an experienced litigator recognised for his history of handling of high-stakes cases, which has equipped him to expertly handle a host of litigation proceedings. **Strengths:** *"Mathew is a force of nature who shows overwhelming strength and competence."* *"Mathew is a brilliant strategist and tactician."* *"He is very mindful of communication and clarity"* *"His advocacy is sincere and personalized."* Vincent Chieffo is co-chair of Greenberg Traurig, LLP's national media and entertainment litigation team. He has an impressive track record representing clients in the entertainment sector on matters ranging from copyright infringement and rights of publicity to breach of contract claims. **Strengths:** *"Vincent has a diverse practice and is very experienced."*

Jassy Vick Carolan LLP

What the team is known for

Jassy Vick Carolan LLP is a media and entertainment boutique with offices in both Los Angeles and San Francisco. The group is sought after for its strength in handling First Amendment litigation across the country, regularly defending both media companies and journalists in defamation claims. In addition, the firm has expertise in broader entertainment lawsuits such as copyright infringement and trademark work.

Strengths

"The team provides great strategy and client service."

"The team has good attention to detail and is creative in its legal arguments."

Work highlights

Jassy Vick Carolan LLP represented The board of trustees for the California State University in a successful anti-SLAPP motion resulting in the striking of the plaintiff's claims for defamation, workplace harassment and infliction of emotional distress.

Notable practitioners

Jean-Paul Jassy is noted for his expertise in First Amendment issues. His wide-ranging practice also sees him handle copyright infringement, profit participation and breach-of-contract claims. **Strengths:** *"Jean-Paul is a true expert in First Amendment law."* *"He is a great lawyer with a laser focus on winning a case."* *"Jean-Paul provides consistent, high-quality legal advice."* **Kevin Vick** is an experienced litigator in the media and entertainment field, regularly handling matters on copyright, defamation and anti-SLAPP motions. **Strengths:** *"Kevin is smart and tenacious."* **Duffy Carolan** is noted for her burgeoning practice in the media and entertainment space, with expertise in defamation, anti-SLAPP motions and the copyright space. She regularly represents a number of news organizations.

Jenner & Block LLP

What the team is known for

Jenner & Block LLP is an established entertainment firm renowned for its depth and geographic coverage. It is regularly engaged in some of the biggest copyright, licensing and right of publicity disputes affecting the entertainment sector. The firm's attorneys are also experienced in handling profit participation claims. The team's clients include leading broadcasters, record companies, movie studios and other corporations, as well as individuals involved in the entertainment sector.

Strengths

"Jenner & Block has sophisticated, smart and experienced litigators."

"Jenner & Block offers wide expertise and a deep bench."

"The team is very knowledgeable about media and entertainment industries."

Work highlights

Jenner & Block LLP represented StudioCanal SAS, a subsidiary of the CANAL+ Group, in litigation to recover millions stemming from the distribution of the film 'Legend' in the United States and Canada.

Notable practitioners

With experience across the media and entertainment industry, **Julie Ann Shepard** represents a range of clients from film studios to technology corporations. She specialises in intellectual property and AI. **Strengths:** *"Julie has precision around complex issues."* *"Julie is a trusted litigator and counselor."* **David Singer** is co-chair of the firm's national content, media and entertainment practice. He has significant experience in handling commercial and intellectual property disputes for clients in the media, entertainment and technology sectors. **Strengths:** *"David is hard-working and responsive."* *"David understands the industry deeply. This knowledge, coupled with his law experience, makes him excel."* *"David has amazing business acumen."* *"David is an excellent and clear thinker, writer and communicator."* Andrew Thomas is particularly adept at handling intellectual property disputes as part of his impressive entertainment litigation practice. He is frequently called upon to represent major

motion picture studios and television networks.

Strengths: *"Andrew is knowledgeable and helpful."* *"Andrew is a subject matter expert with incredibly strong writing skills."*

Katten

What the team is known for

Katten houses a highly respected group of litigators with extensive experience of advising media and entertainment companies on a wide array of disputes, including intellectual property, copyright, contractual, employment and First Amendment claims. It also frequently advises on litigation avoidance during the early stages of film and television production. The firm's clients include individual talent, as well as motion picture studios and television networks.

Strengths

"Katten provides detailed, practical analysis and advice."

"Katten has expertise in complex and nuanced copyright law."

"Katten has deep commercial pragmatism."

"Katten leverages deep knowledge and experience to devise effective and efficient litigation strategy."

Notable practitioners

David Halberstadter represents prominent entertainment companies in complex copyright and trademark infringement disputes. **Strengths:** *"Davis is great at strategizing."* *"David is a top-notch expert as an entertainment and intellectual property litigator."* *"David is an excellent litigator who caters his advice based on the business goals of his clients and their risk tolerance."* **Joel Weiner** is routinely engaged by leading media and entertainment companies to handle copyright infringement, breach of contract and defamation claims, among others. **Strengths:** *"Joel is encyclopedic on the law."* *"Joel possesses substantial expertise regarding IP law and consistently offers insightful and pragmatic guidance."* *"Joel is smart, practical and hard-working."* *"Joel understands business and industry realities very well."*

Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP

What the team is known for

Kendall, Brill & Kelly LLP is a compact litigation boutique capable of representing sizeable media and entertainment companies, including major motion picture studios and top broadcasters. Its attorneys are experienced in handling disputes about entertainment finance, content production and distribution, as well as intellectual property claims.

Strengths

"The team has great movie industry expertise."

"It is an incredibly smart and strategic team."

"Kendall, Brill & Kelly is made up of excellent commercial litigators."

"The team at Kendall, Brill & Kelly is smart, strategic and nimble."

Work highlights

Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP represented Hipgnosis in a dispute spanning the Central District of California and the UK concerning ownership rights to royalty streams from Barry Manilow's song catalogue.

Notable practitioners

Richard Kendall is admired for his command of high-stakes litigation. He is a go-to lawyer for top-echelon clients in the entertainment sector,

including film studios, television networks and talent agencies. **Strengths:** *"Richard is an incredibly experienced, highly networked and knowledgeable attorney."* **Bert Deixler** has over four decades of experience in the entertainment field. He is especially active in litigation on behalf of talent in the music industry. **Strengths:** *"Bert brings a pragmatic and efficient approach."* Philip Kelly acts for major film studios, television networks and other sizeable clients in the entertainment sector. His experience includes contractual, intellectual property and profit participation disputes. **Strengths:** *"Philip is smart, diligent, organized and responsive."* *"Philip is an excellent lawyer with fantastic judgment."* **Nary Kim** has an increasingly strong entertainment and media litigation practice, with expertise in IP and anti-SLAPP disputes. She is highlighted for her experience working with significant music and production industry clients.

Kibler Fowler & Cave LLP

What the team is known for

Kibler Fowler & Cave LLP is a boutique law firm with deep commercial litigation and trial experience in complex and novel music, media and entertainment matters. Known for its copyright expertise, this team of lawyers represents major clients across California.

Strengths

"The team is attentive and creative in its approach."

"The team can be counted on to be hyper-responsive, attentive to timelines and always on top of what needs to be done."

"The Kibler Fowler & Cave team stays on top of legal trends and landscapes yet also advises with common sense and street smarts."

Work highlights

Kibler Fowler & Cave LLP represented Moontower Productions in a lawsuit concerning the disputed ownership, governance and financial management of Radiant Media Studios.

Notable practitioners

John Fowler has considerable expertise in representing media and entertainment clients on significant commercial litigation cases. His work often touches contract, IP or rights issues. **Strengths:** *"John is a trusted adviser and litigator."*

Kinsella Holley Iser Kump Steinsapir LLP

What the team is known for

Kinsella Holley Iser Kump Steinsapir LLP has a team of respected litigators serving an enviable list of corporate and individual clients, with extensive experience representing well-known recording artists and their estates. The firm is capable of handling the full range of contractual and intellectual property disputes and is also adept at handling profit participation and vertical integration litigation.

Strengths

"The team has good attorneys who write strong briefs."

"The attorneys are incredibly knowledgeable, client service-oriented and tenacious."

"The team is experienced and knowledgeable in all areas of media and entertainment law."

"Kinsella has brilliant, tough and strategic litigators."

"The team is exceptionally thorough and strategic."

Work highlights

Kinsella Holley Iser Kump Steinsapir LLP represented Chuck Lorre in connection with a range of distribution agreements, profit participation audits and related negotiations.

Notable practitioners

Dale Kinsella is well renowned for his entertainment practice, which sees him representing film and TV producers and studios in high-stakes litigation. His expertise includes profit participation, intellectual property and breach of contract claims.

Michael Kump continues to represent high-profile individuals as well as entertainment companies in high-profile intellectual property and contractual disputes. **Strengths:** *"Michael is good thinker and communicator."* *"Michael is a brilliant lawyer with a sharp business mind."* *"He knows every area of entertainment law and is a tenacious fighter for his clients."* *"Michael has sharp analytical skills."* **Lawrence Iser's** media and entertainment practice sees him handle a variety of work in this space, ranging from complex copyright and contractual disputes to intellectual property. **Strengths:** *"Lawrence is a strategic thinker."* *"He knows and keeps up with the music industry."*

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for

Latham & Watkins LLP fields a highly impressive entertainment, sports and media practice. The firm has a strong track record in high-stakes litigation involving media and entertainment companies, as well as the ability to draw upon its market-leading transactional practice. The group's expertise is wide-ranging, spanning intellectual property, anti-trust and breach-of-contract claims.

Strengths

"The Latham & Watkins team is good with cross-border elements."

"The team is made up of really smart people who prepare thoroughly and consider the long-term strategic view."

"The team is exceptional in its subject matter expertise."

"Latham & Watkins team is remarkably strong, competent and experienced. Its attorneys are strategic and relentless."

Work highlights

Latham & Watkins LLP represented Netflix in its defense of the Baby Reindeer defamation lawsuit filed in California Federal Court by Fiona Harvey.

Notable practitioners

Marvin Putnam is chair of the firm's entertainment, sports and media industry group. He is a go-to lawyer for high-stakes litigation in the entertainment sector. He acts on behalf of talent agencies, production companies and investors in a broad array of matters. **Strengths:** *"Marvin is thoughtful and strategic."* **Jessica Stebbins Bina** has an active practice representing entertainment clients in a wide array of matters, including intellectual property litigation, royalty disputes and investigations. Her client base is drawn from a range of industries including film, television, music and technology.

Robert Ellison is noted for his burgeoning practice in the media and entertainment space and recognised for his high-profile arbitrations. **Strengths:** *"Robert is skilled orator and litigator. He has sharp drafting skills and is on point with business goals."* *"Robert is a litigation machine. He is focused, tal-*

ented and forward-thinking." **Laura Washington** is known for her work in defamation cases, invasion of privacy and investigations for film and TV clientele. **Strengths:** *"Laura is very responsive and easy to deal with."*

Lavelly & Singer PC

What the team is known for

Lavelly & Singer PC is a formidable entertainment boutique dedicated to representing high-profile individuals in sensitive disputes. The firm is frequently engaged by clients facing considerable media scrutiny. Its areas of strength include contractual, right of publicity, privacy, defamation and intellectual property litigation.

Notable practitioners

Martin Singer is widely recognised for his experience in acting for high-profile individuals in the media and entertainment sector. He is a go-to lawyer for highly sensitive disputes, usually involving scrutiny from the press.

Loeb & Loeb LLP

What the team is known for

Loeb & Loeb LLP has a storied national entertainment practice with notable capability in contentious matters, in addition to its premier transactional offering. The firm is particularly adept in copyright disputes and also offers strength in profit participation and contractual disputes. It has particularly notable expertise in the music sector.

Strengths

"The Loeb & Loeb partners understand the industry from A to Z."

"The team understands the subjective component of an industry that uses creative talents."

Work highlights

Loeb & Loeb LLP defended NBCUniversal against a \$14 million copyright infringement lawsuit brought by Providence Publications.

Notable practitioners

John Frankheimer demonstrates strong capabilities in transactional matters within the music industry. He regularly represents artists in negotiating talent, licensing, distribution and touring agreements, and provides adept advice on significant M&A transactions in the sector. **John Gatti** demonstrates an impressive breadth of work, from profit participation litigation and breach of contract to contract disputes on behalf of clients in the film and television industry. **David Grossman** is co-chair of the firm's litigation department. He has an excellent reputation for his expertise in handling a range of contentious work, including copyright infringement, rights of publicity and breach-of-contract claims. He has extensive entertainment sector experience, having represented clients in the film, television and music industries. **Strengths:** *"David has a great combination of legal savvy and industry knowledge."* **Mitchell Manger** maintains a growing transactional music practice focused on the representation of emerging artists. His work includes the negotiation of publishing, production and recording agreements, as well as catalog acquisitions.

Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP

What the team is known for

Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP has a respected

media and entertainment group that provides expert representation to talent and companies in the music, television and film industries. This firm demonstrates strength in intellectual property and breach of contract disputes involving the financing, production and distribution of content.

Strengths

"The team provides top-notch and pragmatic legal advice."

"The team is thorough and comes up with creative solutions."

Work highlights

Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP represented Megan Roup and her company, The Sculpt Society, in a copyright, Lanham Act, breach of contract and unfair competition lawsuit filed in the Central District of California.

Notable practitioners

Jordan Bromley is noted for his skillful representation of music industry clients, including significant artists and their estates. **Strengths:** *"Jordan is a force and has a great skill set."* **Eric Custer** maintains a strong music-oriented practice, focused on the representation on clients such as artists, songwriters and producers. **Strengths:** *"Eric has a tremendous legal mind."* Robert Jacobs leads the firm's entertainment litigation practice. He is particularly active in the music industry, frequently representing recording artists, record labels and publishing companies in intellectual property disputes. **Strengths:** *"Robert is a thoughtful and responsive attorney."* **Nathaniel Bach** focuses his practice on representing clients in the media and entertainment sector in complex disputes. He has experience handling copyright, right-of-publicity and First Amendment litigation. **Strengths:** *"Nathaniel is good at thinking creatively."* *"Nathaniel is concise, responsive and commercial."* **Sarah Moses** advises clients on breach of contract, royalty disputes and federal class action lawsuits, amongst others. She has particular expertise relating to the music sector. **Strengths:** *"Sarah is always spot on with her counsel."*

Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP

What the team is known for

Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP has a broad entertainment practice catering to large and small entertainment companies, as well as individuals. The firm has extensive experience in intellectual property litigation, including copyright infringement. Additional areas of expertise include contractual and employment disputes, with a particular focus on the video game sphere.

Strengths

"The department stands out for its high level of expertise, responsiveness and business and client focus."

"The team is strategic in litigation and pragmatic when it comes to settlements."

Work highlights

Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP represented Warner Bros Discovery in a trademark lawsuit brought by HomeVestors of America over the company's HGTV television series 'Ugliest House in America'.

Notable practitioners

Aaron Moss is called upon by major entertainment companies to handle a range of contentious mat-

ters, including copyright, trademark and contract disputes, as well as defamation claims. **Strengths:** *"Aaron is attentive and offers appropriate, imaginative solutions."* Elaine Kim is an experienced litigator in the entertainment industry with extensive experience representing clients across film, television, music, video games and technology. **Strengths:** *"Elaine has detailed, substantive knowledge."* **Karin Pagnanelli** is the national chair of the firm's entertainment and intellectual property litigation practice group. She focuses her practice on copyright and trademark litigation and has notable experience representing video game companies. **Strengths:** *"Karin is knowledgeable and responsive."* *"Karin has good insights into the industry."* *"Karin is a great leader and a fabulous adviser."*

Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

What the team is known for

Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP is prominent in entertainment litigation, with several highly respected partners as well as a deep bench of associates. The group is frequently sought out to represent leading film and television studios, record companies and trade associations in complex, industry-shaping litigation. Its particular strengths include copyright infringement, profit participation and antitrust litigation. The team is experienced in handling class actions and internal investigations.

Strengths

"Munger, Tolles & Olson has tremendous experience and expertise in the field."

"The team's strategic thinking in the copyright space is unparalleled."

"Munger, Tolles & Olson has a fantastic team of attorneys who provide great service and responsiveness."

Work highlights

Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP represented Netflix and RealHouse in a lawsuit involving invasion of privacy claims related to the documentary 'Our Father'.

Notable practitioners

Ronald Olson is a vastly experienced litigator with a wealth of experience in the media and entertainment sector. He also counsels executives on corporate governance and transactional issues. **Kelly Klaus** is a highly respected litigator with extensive expertise in copyright matters. He regularly acts for leading entertainment companies, including major motion picture studios. **Strengths:** *"Kelly is a fantastic attorney who provides exceptional quality and responsiveness."* Glenn Pomerantz offers a depth of knowledge across media and entertainment litigation and is particularly proficient in intellectual property and antitrust disputes. **Rose Ehler** has established an impressive practice acting on behalf of entertainment and technology companies. She regularly handles copyright and trademark disputes. **Strengths:** *"Rose is the complete package. She knows how to litigate and win complex matters but also how to strategically think through problems."* **Erin Cox** is noted for her burgeoning practice in the media and entertainment space, with experience in copyright, intellectual property disputes and trademark infringement.

Myman Greenspan Fox Rosenberg Mobasser Younger & Light LLP

What the team is known for

Myman Greenspan Fox Rosenberg Mobasser Younger & Light LLP is a Los Angeles-based boutique practice focused on music, television and film, with a strong reputation for representing high-profile musicians and other leading talent.

Notable practitioners

Eric Greenspan is commended for his extensive experience representing significant music industry players, including high-profile talent. **Aaron Rosenberg** is commended for his expert representation of high-profile music and social media clients, including producers, artists and labels. **Jeffrey Light** maintains a strong music practice, adeptly representing high-profile individuals on a range of transactional work. **Strengths:** *"Jeffrey is one of the smartest lawyers in the practice."* **Audrey Benoualid** is recognized for her burgeoning practice, focused on the representation of both emerging and established music industry professionals. She has expertise in the realm of publishing and merchandise agreements, as well as licensing work.

O'Melveny & Myers LLP

What the team is known for

O'Melveny & Myers LLP has a long history of handling entertainment litigation on behalf of high-profile individuals and companies involved in the film, television and music industries. The team is experienced in a wide range of disputes, including contractual, intellectual property, profit participation and defamation matters. The firm also offers experience in disputes pertaining to sports broadcasting and live entertainment.

Strengths

"The team's personal attention is above expectation."

"The team is made up of strategic, practical and strong subject matter experts."

"O'Melveny & Myers has the strategic vision and capacity to handle large, complex cases."

Work highlights

O'Melveny & Myers LLP represented Warner Bros. Discovery and its subsidiary, DC Comics, in a lawsuit brought by the co-creator of Superman claiming the company and its affiliates lacked the right to release its upcoming movie in ten countries and sought an injunction to block the film's release in the UK, Canada, Australia and Ireland.

Notable practitioners

Daniel Petrocelli garners acclaim for his exemplary litigation skills. He acts for an enviable roster of clients consisting of leading entertainment companies as well as talent, handling the full gamut of litigation including antitrust, intellectual property and profit participation claims. **Strengths:** *"Daniel's reputation is well-earned. He brings both pragmatism and a keen strategic bent to his legal advice."* *"Daniel is who you hire when you have a case that you can't lose."* *"Daniel is a veteran. He is masterful at taking depositions, oral arguments and overall legal strategy."* *"Daniel is a national superstar. He is a big thinker who delivers excellent client service."* **Molly Lens** co-leads the firm's entertainment, sports and media offering. She represents major clients in the entertainment sector on a broad range of litigation, including copyright infringement and breach of contract disputes. **Strengths:** *"Molly is an intelligent litigator who could not be more responsive and strategic."* *"Molly is a very smart, excellent writer."*

Paul Hastings LLP**What the team is known for**

Paul Hastings LLP has a wide-ranging media and entertainment offering, with a growing team of dedicated litigators complementing its enviable bench of renowned transactional lawyers. The firm is adept at handling the full range of disputes including anti-trust, profit participation and copyright infringement matters. It acts for an impressive roster of clients, which includes motion picture studios, production companies, talent agencies and record labels.

Strengths

"The Paul Hastings team has deep knowledge of the industry."

"The team's business and commercial awareness is one of its key strengths."

"The team is respected and experienced."

"Paul Hastings provides outstanding service."

"The firm's attorneys are not bound by tradition. Instead, they are open to new approaches and are not afraid to aggressively pursue new legal paths."

Work highlights

Paul Hastings LLP represented Creative Artists Agency in an unfair-competition suit against Range Media Partners.

Notable practitioners

Steven Marenberg is held in high regard for his handling of complex entertainment disputes. He continues to be engaged in business-critical mandates on behalf of film studios, production companies and talent agencies. His wide-ranging experience includes antitrust, profit participation and contractual litigation. **Strengths:** *"Steven is experienced, talented and responsive."* *"Steven is an outstanding litigator. He is someone you want on your side in a tough fight."*

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP**What the team is known for**

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP houses a bench of well-regarded litigators with considerable experience representing clients in the entertainment sector. The firm is consistently involved in significant contractual and intellectual property disputes on behalf of content creators and distributors. The group's additional experience includes litigation arising out of financing agreements and other breach-of-contract disputes.

Strengths

"The team consistently brings a strategic, commercially focused approach."

"The Quinn Emanuel team demonstrates impressive versatility and depth across a broad spectrum of litigation."

Work highlights

Quinn Emanuel represented Alec Baldwin on both the civil and criminal aspects of the "Rust" on-set shooting.

Notable practitioners

Robert Schwartz is vastly experienced in handling complex litigation for prominent individual and corporate clients in the entertainment sector. He displays strength in intellectual property matters and contractual disputes. **Strengths:** *"Robert is smart, commercial and practical."*

Reed Smith LLP**What the team is known for**

Reed Smith LLP houses a sophisticated music practice. The team is particularly noted for its skillful negotiation of a range of licenses and agreements, including endorsement and sponsorship deals. The firm also handles catalogue transactions.

Notable practitioners

Stephen Sessa represents a range of music-industry clients, including artists, publishing companies and producers. He is highlighted for his strength in rights sales and label investments. **Joshua Love** has a burgeoning practice encompassing M&A and investments in the music industry.

Sidley Austin LLP**What the team is known for**

Sidley Austin LLP undertakes high-stakes litigation for clients in the media, entertainment and technology sectors. The team is particularly prominent for its representation of record labels and others in the music business, and is also a go-to firm for clients in film and television. Its areas of expertise include intellectual property, contractual, profit participation and accounting disputes.

Strengths

"The team knows negotiation tactics and strategies to get deals done efficiently."

"The group has incredible high-touch and human communication."

"Sidley Austin is a great thought partner."

Work highlights

Sidley Austin LLP defended Universal Music Group against a defamation suit brought by Drake in connection to the recording and distribution of Kendrick Lamar's music track 'Not Like Us'.

Notable practitioners

Rollin Ransom has a broad entertainment litigation practice, which includes notable strength handling intellectual property claims in the music industry as well as licensing and distribution agreements.

Strengths: *"Rollin is a great thought partner and adviser."*

Venable LLP**What the team is known for**

The media and entertainment department at Venable LLP is well known for its track record representing clients in a wide array of litigation, from intellectual property to copyright infringement and licensing disputes. The firm stands out for its clientele in the music industry, representing notable talent in high-profile matters.

Strengths

"The Venable team has a combination of legal expertise, strategic thinking and empathy, as well as emotional intelligence and a good bedside manner."

"The Venable team is strategic, focused and innovative."

"Venable has a vast amount of knowledge and expertise."

Work highlights

Venable LLP defended Studio 71 against copyright claims made by music publishing companies arising out of the alleged unauthorized use of recordings by social media influencers.

Notable practitioners

Lee Brenner is chair of Venable LLP's entertainment and media litigation practice group. He acts on behalf of a broad client base, which includes television networks, production companies and

high-profile individuals. **Strengths:** *"Lee is a fantastic trial lawyer and top strategic thinker."* *"Lee is brilliant. He leaves no stone unturned."* *"Lee's stellar advocacy skills, ability to strategize many steps ahead and tenacity make him a formidable attorney to have on your side. He consistently delivers excellent results."* Michael Garfinkel represents an impressive clientele, which includes talent agencies, production companies and other leading names in the entertainment sector. His experience includes disputes involving intellectual property rights, profit participation and breach of contract.

Strengths: *"Michael is experienced, reliable and intelligent."* *"Michael really knows the law and gives commercial and actionable advice."* *"Michael gives client-oriented solutions."* David Fink is an experienced litigator whose broad practice includes notable strength handling disputes in the media and entertainment sector. **Strengths:** *"David translates effectively between legal and business reality."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Brigitte Alanís of King, Holmes, Paterno & Soriano, LLP is well-regarded for her growing music transactions practice. For her broad client base of artists and executives, she negotiates a range of agreements, including those related to recording, publishing and touring.

David Aronoff is a Los Angeles-based partner at Fox Rothschild. He has a wealth of experience in the entertainment sector, regularly undertaking significant disputes on behalf of production companies, motion picture studios and individual talent, including pre-eminent recording artists. **Strengths:** *"David is driven and has high command of his area."* *"David is smart, practical and gets good results."*

Gary Bostwick, founding partner of Bostwick Law, is an experienced litigator with notable expertise in First Amendment matters.

Tamerlin Godley of Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP handles complex litigation for a varied client base, which includes major studios, television networks and record companies. **Strengths:** *"Tammy has strong industry knowledge and business awareness."* *"Tammy is good at digging in to complicated factual issues and discovery challenges."* *"Tammy is a straightforward problem solver."* *"Tammy is smart, strategic and business-friendly."*

Charles Harder is a founding partner of Harder Stonerock LLP. He is widely known for his representation of high-profile individuals in the entertainment sector. His expertise includes right of publicity, defamation and privacy disputes. **Strengths:** *"Charles is great to work with."*

Arwen Johnson of King & Spalding LLP has a well-regarded commercial litigation practice representing entertainment clients such as major studios in the media and entertainment space. **Strengths:** *"Arwen is an exceptional attorney and a great human being."* *"Arwen is super smart. She is a very strong writer and is excellent at oral arguments."*

Jason Karlov of Barnes & Thornburg LLP is recognized for his work representing prominent artists in the music industry. He adeptly handles a range of transactional matters, including the negotiation of sponsorship deals and catalog sales.

Robert Klieger is a partner in Hueston Hennigan

LLP's Los Angeles office and represents some significant studios in this industry. He has a highly respected litigation practice, which sees him handle high-stakes profit participation, intellectual property and contract disputes. **Strengths:** "Robert is incredibly intelligent and routinely delivers the highest quality of work product." "Robert gives practical, straightforward advice. He is also smart in terms of litigation strategy."

David Lande is a partner at Ziffren Brittenham LLP and is highlighted for his work representing high-profile music artists, companies and executives. He has extensive experience on large M&A deals in the space and leverages deep expertise in IP to support his clients.

Dina LaPolt is commended for her strong representation of music clients, including creators and artists. As the founding partner of LaPolt Law PC, her work spans contract negotiations, copyright and trademark advice, and a range of litigation matters.

Peter Paterno of King, Holmes, Paterno & Soriano, LLP is commended for his depth of experience representing music-industry clients. His roster is compiled of major recording artists, who he assists on a range of transactional work. He has particular expertise in the purchase and sale of entertainment companies, alongside his expert contract negotiation. **Strengths:** "Peter is a legendary transactional lawyer."

Daniel Rozansky is a partner in the Orange County office of Brown Rudnick LLP. He frequently undertakes complex contentious work for talent and corporate clients in the entertainment sector.

Strengths: "Clients enjoy working with him, and he brings levity and practicality to dispute resolution." "Daniel is an excellent lawyer, and his pragmatism adds real value." "Daniel provides fantastic advice. He is intelligent and knowledgeable in his field."

Neema Sahni of Covington & Burling LLP has extensive experience working in the media and entertainment industry. She has litigated for major social media platforms, studios and streaming sites, handling content moderation, contractual disputes and general guidance. **Strengths:** "Neema is whip-smart, super responsive and practical." "Neema provides excellent client service." "Neema is a great partner to work with."

Laurie Soriano of King, Holmes, Paterno & Soriano, LLP is recognized for her adept representation of a range of music clients, including artists, songwriters and record companies.

Beau Stapleton of Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP maintains a strong transactional practice for music-industry clients, such as artists, studios and producers.

Larry Stein is head of Russ August & Kabat's media and entertainment group. He acts for a myriad of individual and corporate clients in the entertainment industry. He is noted for his expertise in profit

participation cases and also offers experience with intellectual property and right-of-publicity matters.

Kenneth Steintal is a partner at King & Spalding LLP. He is well versed in handling intellectual property disputes on behalf of clients in the media and entertainment industries. He is particularly adept at handling cases concerning music licensing and royalty payments. **Strengths:** "Kenneth is very connected and knows the space well." "Kenneth gives good, business-oriented advice." "Kenneth is a very responsive attorney."

Heidy Vaquerano is a partner in Fox Rothschild's Los Angeles office. She is commended for her negotiation of a range of contracts in the music industry, including recording, publishing and production agreements. She also represents her client base of musicians and record labels on trademark and copyright matters.

Alex M Weingarten, managing partner of Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP's Los Angeles office, impresses with his breadth of work and trial experience. He showcases work across the music, TV, finance and NFT sectors. **Strengths:** "Alex is very savvy on the commercial awareness front." "Alex is knowledgeable about client needs."

Ashley Yeagan is a partner in Russ August & Kabat's media and entertainment group. She frequently acts on behalf of both talent and corporate clients in disputes including breach of contract, defamation and intellectual property claims.

Media & Entertainment Transactional

Media & Entertainment: Transactional
Leading Firms
Band 1
Latham & Watkins LLP
Paul Hastings LLP
Band 2
Akin
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Sidley Austin LLP
Band 3
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Loeb & Loeb LLP
Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP
O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Band 4
Barnes & Thornburg LLP
Katten
Reed Smith LLP
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Akin

What the team is known for

Akin is renowned for its film and television financing practice in Hollywood. The team is capable of handling transactions of all sizes, from single-picture loans to asset acquisitions and M&A involving media and entertainment companies. The attorneys predominantly represent lenders active in the entertainment industry, including domestic and foreign banks, investment funds, film distributors and high net worth individuals.

Strengths

"Akin gives expert advice and experience in the film and TV industry."

"The team has strong industry knowledge and insight."

"The Akin team has excellent negotiating skills, with highly sophisticated counterparties."

"The team distinguishes itself through deep subject-matter expertise, commercial pragmatism and institutional discipline."

"The group is fast, flexible and dedicated."

Work highlights

Akin represented Western Alliance Bank as it relates to a \$75 million credit facility with Vice Media.

Notable practitioners

Chris Spicer fields significant expertise in entertainment financing, frequently acting for major investors active in the film, television and music sectors. **Strengths:** "Chris always goes above and beyond." "Chris' ability to think like a deal-maker, a CEO, a producer and a financier is what distinguishes him and what makes his advisory services invaluable." "Chris is a fantastic partner to work with who knows the industry and the players very well."

"Chris is an effective, sophisticated and strategic attorney." **Alissa Miller** has an active entertainment finance practice. She represents banks and other investors as well as production companies.

Strengths: "Alissa is very experienced and gives practical advice." "Alissa is a consummate professional whose expertise, judgment and collaborative approach make her an outstanding partner to work with." "Alissa gives a top-tier level of service." **Vanessa Roman** is recognized for her bur-

Media & Entertainment: Transactional
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Mayerson Mickey <i>Mayerson Law P.C. (ORL) ◇</i>
Moore Schuyler M <i>Greenberg Glusker LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Conner Lindsay <i>O'Melveny & Myers LLP</i>
Deutsch Kenneth <i>Paul Hastings LLP *</i>
Hobel Michael <i>Katten</i>
Offsay Rick <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>
Spicer Chris <i>Akin</i>
Thompson Matthew C <i>Sidley Austin LLP *</i>
Zuckerman Williams Susan <i>Paul Hastings LLP *</i>
Band 2
Ara Tom K <i>Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Bruington Nancy A <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>
Darwell Robert A <i>Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton</i>
Epstein Alan J <i>Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP *</i>
Frankenheimer John T <i>Loeb & Loeb LLP</i>
Mastroberte Glen G <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher</i>
Masuda Kevin <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>
Miller Alissa <i>Akin</i>
Sherman Michael <i>Eisner, LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Siegel Amy <i>O'Melveny & Myers LLP</i>
Yen Sophia <i>Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP</i>
Band 3
Black Daniel H <i>Greenberg Traurig, LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Edel Scott <i>Loeb & Loeb LLP</i>
Hunt Carolyn <i>Barnes & Thornburg LLP</i>
Johnson Kendall K <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>
Petretti Richard S <i>Buchalter, LLP (ORL) ◇ *</i>
Ross Benyamin S <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP *</i>
Tsoneff Stephen <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>
Band 4
Coze Carissa <i>Jenner & Block LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Hill Briana <i>Pryor Cashman LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Hurdle Jr Steven E <i>Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP *</i>
Klein Robb <i>Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP</i>
Labate Robert J <i>Holland & Knight LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Miller Brad <i>Davis Wright Tremaine LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Sherman Robert J <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>
Vannini Silvia <i>O'Melveny & Myers LLP</i>
Whiting Evie <i>Sidley Austin LLP *</i>
Up-and-coming individuals
Roman Vanessa <i>Akin</i>
<i>* Indicates individual with profile.</i>
<i>◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.</i>
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

geoning practice in the entertainment financing and acquisitions space. **Strengths:** “Vanessa provides excellent customer responsiveness and expertise.” “Vanessa is extremely smart and always available.” “Vanessa is incredibly knowledgeable.”

Barnes & Thornburg LLP

What the team is known for

Barnes & Thornburg skillfully handles an array of transactional matters in the film, television and music industries. It has particular strength negotiating financing, distribution and licensing agreements. The firm acts on behalf of producers, distributors and financiers, among others.

Strengths

“The Barnes & Thornburg team is strategic. Its attorneys are responsive and timely, and their work is of high quality.”

Media & Entertainment Transactional: Mainly Talent
Leading Firms
Band 1
Hansen, Jacobson, Teller, Hoberman, Newman
Ziffren Brittenham LLP
Band 2
Gang, Tyre, Ramer, Brown & Passman, Inc.
Jackoway Austen Tyerman Wertheimer
Johnson Shapiro Slewett & Kole, LLP
Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP
Band 3
Del Shaw Moonves Tanaka Finkelstein Lezcano
Felker Toczek Suddleson Abramson LLP
Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz
Goodman Genow Schenkman Smelkinson
Lichter Grossman Nichols Adler & Feldman
Paul Hastings LLP
Sloane, Offer, Weber & Dern
Senior Statespeople & Eminent Practitioners
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Cooper Jay L <i>Greenberg Traurig, LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Hansen Thomas <i>Hansen, Jacobson, Teller, Hoberman</i>
Hirsch Barry L <i>Hirsch Wallerstein Hayum Matlof (ORL) ◇</i>
Ramer Bruce <i>Gang, Tyre, Ramer, Brown & Passman, Inc.</i>
Eminent Practitioners
Ziffren Kenneth <i>Ziffren Brittenham LLP</i>
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Branca John G <i>Ziffren Brittenham LLP</i>
Fischer Samuel N <i>Ziffren Brittenham LLP</i>
Gilbert-Lurie Clifford <i>Ziffren Brittenham LLP</i>
Hyman Erik <i>Paul Hastings LLP *</i>
Jackoway James R <i>Jackoway Austen Tyerman</i>
Jacobson Craig <i>Hansen, Jacobson, Teller, Hoberman</i>
Johnson Matt <i>Johnson Shapiro Slewett & Kole, LLP</i>
Passman Donald S. <i>Gang, Tyre, Ramer, Brown</i>
Shaw Nina <i>Del Shaw Moonves Tanaka Finkelstein Lezcano</i>
Wertheimer Alan <i>Jackoway Austen Tyerman Wertheimer</i>
Band 2
Bromley Jordan <i>Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP</i>
Felker Patti <i>Felker Toczek Suddleson Abramson LLP</i>
Gilbert Gary <i>Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP</i>
Goodman Carlos K <i>Goodman Genow Schenkman</i>
Karlov Jason <i>Barnes & Thornburg LLP</i>
Kinney Christiane <i>Kinney Law, P.C. (ORL) ◇</i>
Kole Tara <i>Johnson Shapiro Slewett & Kole, LLP</i>
Lichter Linda <i>Lichter Grossman Nichols Adler & Feldman</i>
Miller Darrell D. <i>Fox Rothschild (ORL) ◇ *</i>
Newman Jeanne <i>Hansen, Jacobson, Teller, Hoberman</i>
Rush Gretchen <i>Hansen, Jacobson, Teller, Hoberman</i>
Shapiro PJ <i>Johnson Shapiro Slewett & Kole, LLP</i>
Sloane Jason <i>Sloane, Offer, Weber & Dern</i>
Toczek Fred <i>Felker Toczek Suddleson Abramson LLP</i>
Band 3
Christopher Chatham R. <i>Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP</i>
DiMotta Caitlin <i>TroyGould Attorneys (ORL) ◇</i>
Heisler Ellie <i>Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP *</i>
Hurwitz Andrew <i>Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz</i>
Meigs John <i>Hansen, Jacobson, Teller, Hoberman</i>
Phillips Lee <i>Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP</i>

“Barnes & Thornburg is excellent at understanding risk balance. Its team understands the industry and business needs, and is very good at advising on positioning.”

“The team stays on top of entertainment industry issues and finds creative ways to help clients.”

“The team is easy to get hold of, quick to get deals done and looks for win-win solutions.”

Notable practitioners

Jason Karlov chairs the firm’s entertainment, media and sports team. He is particularly knowledgeable about the music business, frequently acting on behalf of well-known recording artists and corporate clients on the full range of transactional mandates. **Strengths:** “Jason is extremely smart and knowledgeable.” “Jason has deep expertise in music and entertainment.” “I really like working with Jason because he thinks sideways as well as about the why and the bigger picture. He is doing more than just getting the deal across the line.” **Carolyn Hunt** remains a popular choice to act for investors in the entertainment sector. She assists clients with transactions of all sizes, with a particular focus on film and television financing and distribution. **Strengths:** “Carolyn knows how to work with the nuance of this space.” “Carolyn is knowledgeable and experienced.” “Carolyn has a depth of legal knowledge across the sector.”

Del Shaw Moonves Tanaka Finkelstein Lezcano Bobb & Dang

What the team is known for

Del Shaw Moonves Tanaka Finkelstein Lezcano Bobb & Dang is a highly sought-after entertainment boutique. The firm fields accomplished attorneys who represent an impressive client roster comprised of emerging and established talent, including actors, directors and writers, as well as production companies.

Notable practitioners

Nina Shaw is an acclaimed figure in the entertainment sector. She handles high-profile deals on behalf of talent in the film and television industries. **Strengths:** “Nina is a really solid lawyer.”

DLA Piper LLP (US)

What the team is known for

DLA Piper LLP (US) has a well-regarded team that advises studios, record companies, television networks and investors, among others. The firm is noted for its capability in handling content development, production, financing and distribution deals. The group has notable expertise working in the music industry.

Strengths

“The DLA Piper team is responsive and thorough.”

“The team is knowledgeable, commercial and creative.”

“The team is knowledgeable and well-versed in sophisticated transactions and financings.”

“DLA Piper has strong industry expertise.”

Work highlights

DLA Piper LLP represented Amazon Prime Video in structuring and negotiating Prime Video’s Telecast Rights Agreement with the National Basketball Association (NBA) valued at \$21 billion.

Notable practitioners

As chair of DLA Piper’s entertainment finance practice, **Robert J Sherman** is recognized for his expertise with regard to the music industry. **Strengths:** “Robert possesses excellent industry insight and knowledge.” “Robert is a trusted adviser in the media and entertainment financing space.”

Felker Toczec Suddleson Abramson LLP

What the team is known for

Felker Toczec Suddleson Abramson LLP is recognized for its breadth of experience in the media and entertainment industry. The team is especially well-versed in the representation of talent in film and TV.

Notable practitioners

Patti Felker has an impressive talent-side entertainment practice, which sees her regularly advise well-known actors, screenwriters and producers.

Fred Toczec is noted for his work in the media and entertainment space, specifically for his talent representation. His clientele spans the film and TV industry, including actors, producers and directors.

Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz

What the team is known for

Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz is a pre-eminent entertainment and media law boutique with a growing presence in Los Angeles complementing its long-standing strength in New York. The firm is particularly proficient in the representation of talent in the film and TV industry, including prominent directors and writers.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Hurwitz is a prominent transactional attorney focused on talent in the media and entertainment industry. He focuses his practice on film and TV, being involved in a range of writing, production and distribution deals.

Gang, Tyre, Ramer, Brown & Passman, Inc.

What the team is known for

Gang, Tyre, Ramer, Brown & Passman, Inc is a compact and well-regarded entertainment law boutique catering to talent in the music, film and television industries. The group represents numerous award-winning film-makers, actors and musicians.

Notable practitioners

Bruce Ramer expertly handles a range of transactional matters for talent in the TV and film business. Donald Passman is recognized as an authority in the music industry. He frequently negotiates sizeable transactions for well-regarded recording artists. **Strengths:** *"Donald is at the top of the game. He is a really impressive attorney."*

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

What the team is known for

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP has a bench of highly regarded transactional lawyers catering to marquee clients in the entertainment, media and technology sectors. It is a particularly strong choice for complex financing transactions. The firm's repertoire also includes sizeable mergers, acquisitions and joint ventures. The team handles both domestic and cross-border transactions in the entertainment sector.

Strengths

"The Gibson Dunn team has a high understanding of industry-specific issues and concerns."

"The team's technical expertise combined with its practical commercial approach make it a pleasure to work with."

"The Gibson Dunn team is incredibly detail-oriented."

"Gibson Dunn is knowledgeable, attentive and cli-

ent-focused."

Work highlights

Gibson Dunn advised Global Music Rights and The Azoff Company in the majority-stake sale of the former to Hellman & Friedman.

Notable practitioners

Kevin Masuda is co-chair of the firm's media, entertainment and technology group. He is a go-to lawyer in the industry for transformative corporate and financing transactions. **Strengths:** *"Kevin is cool under pressure."* *"Kevin's knowledge is impeccable."* *"Kevin has a vast amount of experience and is incredibly resourceful."* **Benjamin Ross** is cochair of the firm's media, entertainment and technology practice. He advises across a range of transactions with a focus on music, sports and film production. **Strengths:** *"Benjamin is among the most sophisticated dealmakers in Hollywood."* **Stephen Tsoneff** is an experienced media and entertainment attorney. His practice benefits from extensive experience across film financing, sales and mergers. **Strengths:** *"Stephen lives and breathes entertainment transactions and has deep knowledge of the industry."* *"Stephen is pragmatic and personable."*

Goodman Genow Schenkman Smelkinson & Christopher LLP

What the team is known for

Goodman Genow Schenkman Smelkinson & Christopher LLP houses a strong transactional media and entertainment team, with notable expertise in the representation of talent.

Notable practitioners

Carlos Goodman has an impressive track record in the film space, where he counsels well-known actors and directors.

Hansen, Jacobson, Teller, Hoberman, Newman, Warren, Richman, Rush, Kaller, Gellman, Meigs & Fox LLP

What the team is known for

Hansen, Jacobson, Teller, Hoberman, Newman, Warren, Richman, Rush, Kaller, Gellman, Meigs & Fox LLP is a go-to firm for many of the most prominent film actors, producers and writers in Hollywood. The firm also represents numerous television and internet personalities, as well as emerging talent, in a wide variety of transactions.

Notable practitioners

Thomas Hansen is noted for his longstanding media and entertainment practice. He continues to provide expert counsel to high-profile actors, directors and producers on complex transactional matters. **Craig Jacobson** remains a prominent presence in the TV, film and digital media industries. He handles a range of transactional affairs on behalf of well-known talent and corporate executives. **Jeanne Newman** is a distinguished entertainment attorney with a particular focus on transactions involving non-scripted television shows. She frequently acts for television writers and producers in sophisticated deals. **Gretchen Rush** is well-regarded for her representation of talent in the entertainment industry. She frequently represents directors, actors and writers in the film and television industries. **John Meigs** is sought after for his work in the entertainment space. He represents clients in the film, TV and publishing industries.

Jackoway Austen Tyerman Wertheimer Mandelbaum Morris Bernstein Trattner Auerbach Hynick Jaime LeVine Sample & Klein

What the team is known for

Jackoway Austen Tyerman Wertheimer Mandelbaum Morris Bernstein Trattner Auerbach Hynick Jaime LeVine Sample & Klein LLP has a strong team of entertainment attorneys. The firm has extensive experience negotiating transactions within the film and television business on behalf of directors, producers, writers, actors and other well-known celebrities. It is noted for its dedication to fostering new and emerging talent.

Strengths

"The team is great on content matters."

Notable practitioners

James Jackoway has a wealth of experience representing high-profile talent, including actors and producers, in the film and television industry. **Alan Wertheimer** earns praise for his representation of talent in the film and entertainment industries. He acts for an enviable roster of well-regarded writers, actors and directors. **Strengths:** *"Alan is good on film matters."*

Johnson Shapiro Slewett & Kole, LLP

What the team is known for

Johnson Shapiro Slewett & Kole, LLP is an entertainment boutique led by highly accomplished and experienced attorneys. The team provides expert, comprehensive counsel to on- and off-screen talent.

Strengths

"Johnson Shapiro is a formidable firm."

Notable practitioners

Matt Johnson has a thriving media and entertainment practice. He has a particular prowess acting for talent in the film and television industry, and additional strengths in music and sports. Matt is really great. He is an excellent lawyer. **Tara Kole** has a burgeoning practice in the media and entertainment space in California and represents a number of actors, producers and television directors in this field. **PJ Shapiro** has an outstanding entertainment practice. He represents a varied clientele of producers, directors, writers and on-screen talent in the film, TV and music industry.

Katten

What the team is known for

Katten has a strong bench of entertainment experts who are active in the film and television industry. The firm's clients also include digital media companies, video game developers and sports teams. The team has experience representing clients on a variety of production, licensing and distribution matters, as well as in M&A and financing transactions.

Strengths

"Katten knows the market well and can navigate commercial aspects."

"Katten has a great bench with expertise that brings different perspectives."

Notable practitioners

Michael Hobel has a wealth of experience negotiating complex production, financing and distribution transactions for clients in the television and film business. **Strengths:** *"Michael provides astute and trusted advice for high level negotiations."*

Latham & Watkins LLP**What the team is known for**

Latham & Watkins LLP houses a superb entertainment group, which includes a strong bench of junior lawyers as well as well-known senior partners. It is consistently involved in some of the largest transactions in the media and entertainment sector, with extensive experience in negotiating M&A and complex financing transactions. The firm is also involved in negotiating content production and distribution agreements. The team represents a diverse group of clients including film studios, digital media companies, and talent and financial institutions. The group's capabilities include cross-border transactions.

Strengths

"The team is extremely knowledgeable and commercial."

"Latham & Watkins is absolutely best in class for complicated M&A and entertainment financing transactions."

"The team is encyclopedic in its understanding of the market."

"Latham & Watkins' responsiveness is off the charts."

"The Latham & Watkins team is made up of amazing strategic thinkers."

Work highlights

Latham & Watkins LLP advised TPG in the acquisition of Grandview, in partnership with United Entertainment.

Notable practitioners

Rick Offsay is often sought out to advise media and entertainment companies on strategic corporate transactions, including transformative M&A deals. He is the global co-chair of the firm's entertainment, sports and media practice. **Strengths:** *"Rick is extremely knowledgeable and commercial."* *"Rick is super analytical in his work."* *"Clients look to him to deliver best-in-class legal advice and support on critical transactions."* *"Rick is one of the top entertainment lawyers in the world. He is a brilliant strategist, adviser and deal-maker."* Nancy Bruington regularly undertakes complex financing transactions on behalf of leading clients in the media and entertainment sector. **Strengths:** *"Nancy is a strong financing lawyer who approaches transactions with a commercial lens."* Kendall Johnson has a notable practice that encompasses sports and entertainment law. Her experience is wide-ranging, including corporate, licensing, production and financing agreements, among other things. **Strengths:** *"Kendall is the very model of an excellent lawyer. He is brilliant, thoughtful, thorough and tireless."* *"Kendall is incredibly smart and has a great legal mind."*

Lichter Grossman Nichols Adler & Feldman**What the team is known for**

Lichter Grossman Nichols Adler & Feldman is recognised for its wide ranging expertise within the entertainment industry. The firm is particularly proficient in representing clients across the finance, film, TV and live stage sectors.

Notable practitioners

Linda Lichter is a founding partner of Lichter Grossman Nichols Adler & Feldman. She has a strong entertainment practice, which sees her representing talent in the film, theatre and publishing industries.

Loeb & Loeb LLP**What the team is known for**

Loeb & Loeb LLP is a respected firm known for its strong track record of advising clients in the entertainment sector. The firm has notable prowess in the music industry, and is proficient in transactions involving film and television content. It also offers specialist expertise in matters relating to live entertainment as well as guild and other labour negotiations unique to the entertainment industry.

Strengths

"The Loeb & Loeb team is responsive and strategic in its thinking."

"The team is fast, smart and aggressive, but also fair."

"We always receive thoughtful and well-researched advice from the Loeb & Loeb team."

Work highlights

Loeb & Loeb LLP represented the Academy of Country Music in connection with a three-year media rights agreement for the ACM Awards with Amazon Prime Video.

Notable practitioners

John Frankenheimer is a hugely experienced media and entertainment attorney with particular prowess in the music industry. He regularly negotiates publishing, licensing and touring agreements on behalf of well-known recording artists as well as corporate clients. **Strengths:** *"John has seen it all."* *"John is a legend."* **Scott Edel** leads the firm's entertainment group. He has vast experience acting on behalf of film and television production companies and investors, often handling complex financings and distribution agreements. **Strengths:** *"Scott is pragmatic, available and creative."* *"Scott runs a nimble department with a great breadth of experience and expertise."*

Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP**What the team is known for**

Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP has a deep bench of attorneys catering to talent as well as content companies and financiers. The firm offers expertise in all aspects of entertainment, including film, television, music and digital content transactions. The team is particularly experienced with negotiating complex financing deals, such as film slate financing. They represent prominent recording artists and songwriters as part of their respected talent practice.

Strengths

"The team is made up of great communicators and helps to distill information with ease."

"Manatt Phelps is incredibly responsive and brings a practical, business-oriented approach to deal negotiations. The firm has a strong grasp of both legal and industry-specific challenges in the live entertainment space."

"The team exhibit intelligence, thoughtfulness, creativity and diligence."

"The team's ability to handle complex and sophisticated matters is excellent. Its attorneys are adept at creative problem-solving when standard approaches won't work."

Work highlights

Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP represented FilmRise in connection with their merger with Shout! Studios and the subsequent creation of Radial Entertainment.

Notable practitioners

Jordan Bromley leads the firm's entertainment transactions and finance practice. He predominantly advises recording artists on the full gamut of music transactions. **Strengths:** *"Jordan approaches deals with a calm, solution-driven approach."* *"Jordan is not just a lawyer, but a true partner in getting the deal done."* **Gary Gilbert** represents an impressive roster of clients in the music industry, including prominent artists, producers and songwriters. **Sophia Yen** is well regarded at the media and entertainment Bar, with expertise advising corporate clients on film and TV production and development deals. She is also active on financings and M&A deals. **Strengths:** *"Sophia is experienced, knowledgeable and commercial."* *"Sophia constantly goes above and beyond as a service provider."* Christopher Chatham is recognized for his strength in a range of transactional work in the entertainment space. He displays particular prowess in the negotiation of talent agreements and partnership deals. **Strengths:** *"Christ is a truly exceptional lawyer all around."* **Ellie Heisler** leads the entertainment group at Nixon Peabody LLP. She is a go-to adviser for social media influencers and other individual and corporate clients in the media, entertainment and sports sectors. **Strengths:** *"Ellie is a great deal-maker."* **Lee Phillips** is a highly experienced music attorney with an enviable client base consisting of recording artists, producers and composers. **Strengths:** *"Lee has been in the space for a long time and knows the industry well."*

O'Melveny & Myers LLP**What the team is known for**

O'Melveny & Myers LLP continues to advise entertainment and media companies on a wide array of transactions, including cross-border matters. It frequently represents foreign and domestic investors in complex film financing and M&A. The firm is also adept at negotiating large licensing, production and distribution agreements. The group offers further expertise in new media and sports broadcasting.

Strengths

"O'Melveny & Myers has both top-notch legal expertise and real-world acumen."

"The team at O'Melveny & Myers is attuned to the nuances of the media and entertainment business. They are incredibly thoughtful and insightful in their guidance and input."

"The team has deep technical knowledge and invaluable industry experience."

"O'Melveny is always a trusted adviser. Its team provides fast, thorough and well-reasoned advice to tackle the most complicated matters we are working through. We also appreciate the practical approach they take."

Work highlights

O'Melveny & Myers LLP acted as media and finance counsel to Paramount Pictures in regard to productions for the Taylor Sheridan Franchise.

Notable practitioners

Lindsay Conner has a reputable media and entertainment practice and receives particular acclaim for his representation of international clients. He is well versed with handling financing and distribution agreements. **Strengths:** *"Lindsay is a wonderful, top-of-the-line attorney."* **Amy Siegel** has a well-regarded practice in the entertainment industry. She is adept at negotiating acquisitions, financings

and distribution deals involving television and film projects. **Strengths:** “Amy is smart on both legal and business issues.” “Amy is excellent across the board.” **Silvia Vannini** has a growing reputation for her impressive entertainment practice. She regularly provides counsel on M&A deals for both domestic and international companies. **Strengths:** “Silvia has exceptional skills in navigating complex, cross-border transactions.” “Silvia is smart, commercial and ultra-responsive.” “Silvia is a fantastic and seasoned deal-maker.”

Paul Hastings LLP

What the team is known for

Paul Hastings LLP is a full-service firm with an impressive entertainment practice and an enviable bench of experienced attorneys. It offers expertise in all aspects of content creation and exploitation and is especially well versed in entertainment finance. The firm possesses additional strength in talent representation.

Strengths

“Paul Hastings is truly exceptional. The team possesses a rare combination of world-class legal expertise, impeccable client service and genuine integrity.”

“The team gives strategic, business-minded and solution-driven advice.”

“The team excels at handling complex, high stakes matters.”

Work highlights

Paul Hastings LLP represented Ryan Murphy on his upcoming show, *The Shards*, based on a Bret Easton Ellis novel.

Notable practitioners

Kenneth Deutsch remains a popular choice to represent media and entertainment companies in corporate and financing transactions. **Strengths:** “Ken is an elite lawyer.” **Erik Hyman** is a go-to lawyer for prominent directors, screenwriters, producers and other talent in the film and television industry. **Strengths:** “Erik provides spot-on advice and has fantastic commercial awareness.” “Erik is responsive, collaborative and understands the marketplace.” “Erik is very adept at problem-solving and communicating.” “Erik is a thoughtful and strategic lawyer.” **Susan Zuckerman Williams** is frequently sought out to represent investors in complex financing transactions involving film and television content. **Strengths:** “Susan is a powerhouse in the debt world.” “Her expertise in film finance and entertainment transactions is unparalleled.” “Susan thinks very strategically and gives excellent guidance.”

Reed Smith LLP

What the team is known for

Reed Smith LLP has an established media and entertainment group sought out for its expert handling of complex transactions. The group provides counsel to corporate and individual clients on the production and distribution of entertainment projects, particularly in the film, music, television and video game spaces.

Strengths

“The Reed Smith team gives practical, actionable advice.”

“The team is responsive and client-oriented.”

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

What the team is known for

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP offers broad entertainment expertise. The team is capable of handling financing, production, distribution and talent agreements for film and television, as well as corporate transactions involving the sale, acquisition and financing of media companies. The lawyers have additional experience advising on transactions involving video games, virtual reality and digital content. The firm advises a diverse client base, which includes entertainment companies, investors and well-known individuals.

Strengths

“The team is incredibly knowledgeable and dedicated to their clients. It always makes you feel like you are its most important client.”

“Sheppard Mullin is plugged into the industry and its evolution.”

“The team’s turnaround times are incredibly fast, without compromising work product.”

“The department stands out for its business-minded lawyering. The team is proactive and fast, communicates clearly across borders and shows real ownership of each matter.”

Work highlights

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP served as lead counsel to Meta in connection with its Super Bowl commercial for Ray-Ban Meta glasses.

Notable practitioners

Robert Darwell is a skilled transactional attorney who acts for leading clients in the film and television industry, advising on the production, financing and distribution of content. **Strengths:** “Robert is strong at providing business-guided advice.” “Robert is one of the leaders in the space; he knows the sector well.” **Robb Klein** leads the firm’s media and entertainment practice, representing clients in M&A and financing work in this practice area. His client roster spans the film, financing and video game sectors. **Strengths:** “Robb is smart and always available.”

Sidley Austin LLP

What the team is known for

Sidley Austin LLP is a respected presence in the media and entertainment sector. The firm represents investors as well as content companies in a diverse array of matters, and offers particular capabilities in M&A and financing transactions.

Strengths

“Each person in the Sidney Austin team has real depth of knowledge.”

“The team provides outstanding guidance in very complex situations.”

“The Sidney Austin team is fast, thorough and has deep knowledge.”

“Sidley Austin provides wonderful service and responsiveness.”

Work highlights

Sidley Austin LLP represented Warner Music Group in the formation of a joint venture with Bain Capital, which focused on the purchasing of music catalogues.

Notable practitioners

Matthew Thompson has a thriving transactional practice with particular expertise handling mergers and acquisitions. His client list includes prominent names in the TV and film industry. **Strengths:** “Matt

is extremely smart and knowledgeable.” “Matt is a practical and efficient executor.” “Matt is very experienced and creative.” “Matt knows the sector very well.”

Evie Whiting is a sought-after attorney in the media and entertainment transactional space, gaining recognition for her work counselling clients on film financing and distribution matters.

Strengths: “Evie has a rare combination of common sense and superior legal ability. Her knowledge of finance is invaluable to negotiations.” “Evie is responsive and understands legal issues.”

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates

What the team is known for

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP is a renowned corporate powerhouse well placed to handle M&A and financing transactions in the media and entertainment sector. The group is engaged by a wide variety of clients, including investors and prominent entertainment companies.

Strengths

“Skadden has incredible attentiveness and speed, as well as a deep understanding of the entertainment industry.”

“The team offers elite legal expertise and practical advice.”

“Skadden houses a really strong bench.”

Work highlights

Skadden represented Downtown Music Holdings LLC in its \$775 million acquisition by Virgin Music Group.

Notable practitioners

Glen Mastroberte handles licensing, distribution and financing matters on behalf of investors, production and distribution companies and other clients in the entertainment industry. He has additional experience in carrying out M&A deals involving significant entertainment companies. **Strengths:** “Glen’s expertise, drafting ability and business skills are best in class.” “Glen is very sharp and practical.”

Sloane, Offer, Weber & Dern

What the team is known for

Sloane, Offer, Weber & Dern has a strong group of attorneys who continue to be prominent within the entertainment industry. The firm negotiates on behalf of a diverse client base, which includes numerous Hollywood actors as well as influential directors and producers in film and television.

Notable practitioners

Jason Sloane is widely renowned for his representation of well-known and up-and-coming talent in the film business.

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

What the team is known for

Willkie Farr & Gallagher is a well-known law firm in the media and entertainment space in California, recognised for representing clients across the music, social media and film sectors. The firm also shows expertise in its M&A and talent work.

Strengths

“The attorneys at Willkie Farr & Gallagher are academically brilliant, practical and solution-oriented. They bring an enormous wealth of hands-on experience.”

“Willkie Farr attorneys have good industry knowledge and are both commercial and pragmatic.”

"Wilkie has been instrumental in some of the largest deals in the industry. Their experience and knowledge have been exceptional in every way."

"The team is well connected, prompt in its responses and diligent in handling all matters."

Work highlights

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP advised Create on its acquisition of Monstercat.

Notable practitioners

Alan Epstein has vast experience with corporate transactions, making him a strong choice to handle M&A, joint ventures and financing transactions in the media and entertainment sector. **Strengths:** *"Alan problem solves like no other." "Alan is committed to achieving the most sophisticated deals."* Steve Hurdle maintains a strong M&A and financing practice in the entertainment realm. His clients include significant production and distribution companies. **Strengths:** *"Steve is very hands-on." "Steve is a really good, pragmatic lawyer." "Steve is fantastic. He is very responsive and knowledgeable."*

Ziffren Brittenham LLP

What the team is known for

Ziffren Brittenham LLP is an entertainment powerhouse catering to established and emerging talent. The firm acts for an enviable list of clients that includes many of the biggest names in film, television, music and digital media. It provides a wide range of services to its clients, including licensing and endorsement expertise. The team is also focused on providing high-level strategic counseling to entertainment companies and executives, including prominent film and television studios.

Strengths

"Ziffren is great on talent work."

Notable practitioners

Kenneth Ziffren is well versed in representing prominent individuals and corporations in the entertainment business. John Branca fields impressive expertise in transactional matters and continues to negotiate complex recording and publishing deals on behalf of prominent artists. Samuel Fischer represents top-echelon clients, including actors, writers and producers, in the motion picture, television and new media sectors. **Clifford Gilbert-Lurie** expertly handles a range of transactional matters on behalf of prominent clients in the film, television and new media industries.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Tom Ara of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP is a go-to lawyer in the media and entertainment industry. He is noted for his representation of domestic and international clients in M&A and financing deals covering industries such as music, film, video gaming and sports.

Daniel Black is vice chairperson of Greenberg Traurig LLP's global entertainment practice. He advises individual and corporate clients in the media and entertainment sector on all aspects of content creation and distribution.

Jay Cooper is the founder of Greenberg Traurig LLP's Los Angeles entertainment practice. He has an impressive track record of representing talent. His clients include high-profile recording artists as well as writers, producers and actors. **Strengths:** *"Jay is legendary in this sector."*

Carissa Coze adeptly represents a range of media and entertainment clients on the gamut of transactional work, including M&A, joint venture agreements and financings. **Strengths:** *"Carissa is a valuable and trusted partner." "Carissa is hard-working and knowledgeable."*

Caitlin DiMotta of TroyGould Attorneys has a broad entertainment practice that spans publishing as well as film and television.

Briana Hill of Pryor Cashman LLP co-chairs the transactional media and entertainment practice. She is recognised for her work in the film, podcast, streaming and TV areas. Her work also includes acquiring film adaptation rights and advising on joint ventures.

Barry Hirsch of Hirsch Wallerstein Hayum Matlof & Fishman has a wealth of experience representing talent in the television and film industry.

Christiane Kinney of Kinney Law PC is a highly sought-out entertainment attorney with particular experience in the music industry. She counsels recording artists, songwriters and producers on the development and distribution of content.

Robert Labate of Holland & Knight LLP is an experienced transactional attorney across the media and entertainment industry. He has an extensive track record advising across film production, rights acquisition, video game transactions and various purchase agreements.

Mickey Mayerson of Mayerson Law P.C. remains

at the forefront of the entertainment industry, negotiating high-value financing, production and distribution deals.

Brad Miller of Davis Wright Tremaine LLP leverages his 25 years of experience to advise entertainment production companies, negotiating across transactions and navigating business and legal risks.

Darrell Miller is the founding chair of the entertainment and sports law department at Fox Rothschild LLP. He is a well-regarded entertainment lawyer, and representing high-profile individuals in the film and television business continues to be a mainstay of his practice. **Strengths:** *"Darrell is a great partner to us."*

Schuyler Moore of Greenberg Glusker Fields Claman & Machtinger LLP is a partner at Greenberg Glusker. He is a seasoned attorney with vast experience handling media and entertainment transactions. His experience includes film financing and related tax issues.

Richard Petretti of Buchalter has extensive experience with financing transactions in the entertainment industry, with particular strength in the handling of cross-border deals. **Strengths:** *"Richard provides excellent guidance and counsel, which is based on years of experience." "Richard possesses a high degree of knowledge and expertise."*

Michael Sherman of Eisner LLP has vast experience handling corporate and finance matters, as well as negotiating production and distribution agreements for film and television content. His clients include banks, entertainment companies and talent. **Strengths:** *"Michael has an amazing wealth of knowledge." "Michael is an outstanding attorney."*

Native American Law

Native American Law
Leading Firms
Band 1
Kaplan Kirsch LLP
Band 2
Maier Pfeffer Kim & Geary, LLP
Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Adams Matthew Kaplan Kirsch LLP
Maier, Esq. John A. Maier Pfeffer Kim & Geary, LLP
Setshwaelo Sara Dutschke Kaplan Kirsch LLP
Band 2
Bergin Patrick Peebles Bergin Schulte (ORL) ◇
Patten Magallanes Jenny Akin (ORL) ◇
Patterson Kerry Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch
Sullivan Bethany Maier Pfeffer Kim & Geary, LLP
Up-and-coming individuals
Grigg Nicole Kaplan Kirsch LLP
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Kaplan Kirsch LLP

What the team is known for

Kaplan Kirsch is an esteemed firm dedicated to the interests of Native American tribes. It maintains a strong bench of experienced Native American law practitioners with a wealth of expertise in this space. Recognized for work on tribal land issues. The firm is also strong in environmental and resource protection and the development of tribal law and policy.

Strengths

"The attorneys at Kaplan Kirsch are well-versed in the realities faced by tribes, including the unique and complex challenges they face."

"Kaplan Kirsch has a unique expertise in tribal affairs."

Work highlights

Kaplan Kirsch represented the Pueblo of Acoma

and the Pueblo of Laguna in defending Public Land Order 7923, withdrawing approximately 336,404 acres surrounding Chaco Culture National Historical Park from mining and mineral leasing.

Notable practitioners

Matthew Adams remains a leading figure for National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) proceedings and is well versed in representing tribes and tribal entities on land use matters. **Strengths:** *"Matt's expertise is invaluable. He is knowledgeable in this area, which gives us the confidence that he can handle our complex issues."* **Sara Dutschke**

Setshwaelo represents tribes and tribal entities in an array of issues affecting tribal governments, including the development of tribal law and policy. She also sits as the Chair of the Lone Band of Miwok Indians. **Strengths:** *"Sara's real-world knowledge of the uniqueness of each tribe is invaluable. We have complete trust on her advice."* **Nicole Grigg** is noted for her experience in advising tribal nations on a wide variety of matters. She is recognized for her work in land restoration and economic development. **Strengths:** *"Nicole has a strong knowledge base surrounding federal Indian law matters."*

Band 2

Maier Pfeffer Kim & Geary, LLP

What the team is known for

Maier Pfeffer Kim & Geary is a Native American law boutique offering experienced representation of tribes and tribal entities in a wide array of matters. The firm offers expertise in gaming, tax and economic development work, with particular expertise in federal and private funding matters.

Strengths

"Maier Pfeffer Kim & Geary is one of the best-known tribal practices in California."

Notable practitioners

John Maier offers considerable expertise in governance, gaming and land use matters. He regularly

acts on behalf of tribes in state and federal courts.

Strengths: *"John Maier cares deeply about the clients he works with. He is well respected and does a great job."* **Bethany Sullivan** focuses her practice on tribal governance, economic development, fee-to-trust land acquisitions, gaming and commercial transactions, taxation, and regulatory compliance in natural resources and environmental law. Her work spans complex matters involving tribal, federal, and state legal frameworks. **Strengths:** *"Bethany is a brilliant, really smart lawyer in this space."*

Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP

What the team is known for

Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch is a firm renowned for its work in assisting tribal clients with economic development through support on financial matters. The firm regularly advises on gaming projects, gaming compacts, lease negotiations and financings.

Notable practitioners

Kerry Patterson regularly advises clients on all manner of native law matters, with a particular focus on finances. Kerry's practice focuses on gaming, commercial transactions, economic development and financing for native tribes.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Patrick Bergin is the managing partner of Peebles Bergin Schulte & Robinson. His work covers representation of tribal governments in matters including litigation, governmental affairs and economic development.

Jenny Patten Magallanes has significant expertise in advising and litigating on behalf of clients on native law matters, particularly in relation to rights of way issues, gaming law and regulatory issues.

Strengths: *"Jenny is an incredible lawyer."*

Private Equity Buyouts

Private Equity: Buyouts	
Leading Firms	
Band 1	
Kirkland & Ellis LLP	
Band 2	
Ropes & Gray LLP	
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP	
Band 3	
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP	
Latham & Watkins LLP	
Sidley Austin LLP	
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP	
Band 4	
Goodwin	
Paul Hastings LLP	
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP	
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP	
Band 5	
Greenberg Traurig, LLP	
Massumi + Consoli LLP	
Winston Taylor LLP	
Leading Individuals	
Band 1	
Khodadad Mehdi <i>Sidley Austin LLP *</i>	
Meshki Hamed <i>Kirkland & Ellis LLP *</i>	
Ressler Alison S <i>Sullivan & Cromwell LLP *</i>	
Band 2	
Adas Craig <i>Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP</i>	
Azher Atif <i>Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP *</i>	
Davis Eva <i>Winston Taylor LLP *</i>	
Kramer Sean <i>Kirkland & Ellis LLP</i>	
Krpata Kyle C <i>Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP</i>	
Linan Ari <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>	
O'Neill Rita-Anne <i>Sullivan & Cromwell LLP *</i>	
Silvera Jason H <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>	
Band 3	
Casillas Stuart <i>Kirkland & Ellis LLP</i>	
Freedman Jason <i>Ropes & Gray LLP *</i>	
Howald Brandon <i>Ropes & Gray LLP</i>	
Kromm Dana <i>Paul Hastings LLP *</i>	
Ryan Tana M <i>Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP</i>	
Sekhon Vijay <i>Sidley Austin LLP *</i>	
Band 4	
Clivner Dan <i>Sidley Austin LLP *</i>	
Gersich Bradley J <i>DLA Piper LLP (US) (ORL) ◇</i>	
Huard Patrick <i>Morrison Foerster (ORL) ◇</i>	
Kelson Mark <i>Greenberg Traurig, LLP</i>	
Langdon Robert T <i>Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP *</i>	
Le Minh-Chau <i>Ropes & Gray LLP</i>	
Lee Stephen <i>Goodwin *</i>	
Massumi Peter <i>Massumi + Consoli LLP</i>	
McPeake Brian C. <i>Goodwin *</i>	
Veit Jeremy <i>Paul, Weiss, Rikkind, Wharton (ORL) ◇</i>	
Up-and-coming individuals	
Keller Amy <i>Goodwin</i>	
* Indicates individual with profile.	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

Band 1

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

What the team is known for

Kirkland & Ellis has attained a commanding reputation for the exceptionally high quality of its private

equity counsel. Its strengths include advising on large-cap and midmarket leveraged buyouts, equity financings and fund formation matters, with clients benefiting from its international pool of outstanding transactional attorneys.

Strengths

"Their most distinctive strength is how deeply they understand our business."

"You hire Kirkland for speed and responsiveness, and they always meet expectation."

"Their breadth and depth in private equity is unmatched. The partners are very sophisticated and have a strong understanding of the issues companies are facing."

"They're distinguished by their massive resources and world-class attorneys."

"They take a very practical approach to problem-solving that balances a discussion on business risk."

Work highlights

Kirkland & Ellis acted for Francisco Partners on the sale of Edifecs to Cotiviti.

Notable practitioners

Hamed Meshki offers excellent advice to private equity clients in transactions occurring across a broad range of industries. **Strengths:** *"He's smart, creative, hardworking and has good judgment. He knows how to drive deals and problem-solve."* *"He is on top of the most strategic, decisive matters."*

"The consummate lawyer. Hamed not only fights for what you need to win, but does so in a way that doesn't break glass with the other side." *"He is excellent. He is a very direct, commercial and effective lawyer."* *"Hamed is the best in the business and a go-to trusted resource in all cases. I wish I could use him on all my legal matters."*

Sean Kramer attracts praise for the high quality of his private equity practice. Clients benefit from his prior experience as a senior professional at an investment fund. **Strengths:** *"He's very commercial, always responsive and an excellent team player. He knows exactly what we are looking for."* **Stuart Casillas** offers extensive expertise in acquisitions on behalf of private equity funds and their portfolio companies. He advises on LBOs, MBOs and growth equity investments, among a number of other transactions. **Strengths:** *"He's thoughtful, engaging and funny, all while bringing an unmatched legal mind to the table. Stuart sees around corners for our business and delivers unmatched advice and counsel. While Stuart can go deep in the technical side of the law when needed, he consistently delivers top legal advice in a practical and conscientious manner."* *"He's a great partner and strategic lawyer."* *"He provides highly sophisticated, commercial guidance on all matters. He's a trusted partner that I can rely on for any meaningful transaction."*

Band 2

Ropes & Gray LLP

What the team is known for

Ropes & Gray houses substantial expertise in private equity transactions, including representing some of the largest firms and portfolio companies

in significant investments, leveraged buyouts and debt financings. Features expertise across a wide array of industries, including technology and entertainment.

Strengths

"We trust Ropes for every deal that we do because they are on top of every detail and because they provide sound business judgment on top of their legal counsel. They know when to spend less time on a matter and when a topic deserves extra scrutiny."

"They're one of the leading private equity practices in the country. They bring a hands-on approach to cutting-edge deals."

"Ropes has technical skill, market-savvy and a very deep bench. They have the experience and the maturity to tackle the most complex matters."

"They get their arms around issues and understand the practical impact when giving advice."

Work highlights

Ropes & Gray acted for TPG in its acquisition of AT&T's remaining 70% stake in DirecTV.

Notable practitioners

Jason Freedman is noted for his adept handling of M&A, buyouts and other investments on behalf of private equity firms. **Strengths:** *"He is super thoughtful and he understands our business and what our deal teams are looking for."* *"He's great and a very commercial lawyer."* **Brandon Howald** maintains a strong practice that incorporates expertise in private equity transactions. He routinely serves as counsel in deals in the technology, healthcare and consumer products spaces, among others. **Minh-Chau Le** is known for her work in complex deals for notable private equity firms and their portfolio companies. She frequently advises on acquisitions, add-ons and strategic investments across a range of sectors. **Strengths:** *"She's a superb, dedicated lawyer."*

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

What the team is known for

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett is recognized for its signature strengths in private equity transactions and investments, and offers additional know-how in private equity fund formation. The group displays expertise in buyouts, joint venture formations and corporate governance, and frequently handles cross-border deals.

Strengths

"They are all-round really excellent at what they do and have great M&A practitioners who are very skilled."

Work highlights

Simpson Thacher advised Silver Lake on its \$13 billion acquisition of Endeavor.

Notable practitioners

Atif Azher is a standout practitioner in the private equity market who is active in domestic and cross-border transactions. He frequently handles transactions in the technology and life sciences industries. **Strengths:** *"Atif is a high-end M&A expert. If you have a complicated or high-value acquisition, he's the guy to go to."* Robert Langdon is noted for his prowess in representing private equity funds and their portfolio companies in M&A and buyouts. **Strengths:** *"He is very creative and thinks about*

things we didn't know we needed. He's very clever and a great deal scientist." "He's very pragmatic, commercial and gets the deal done."

Band 3

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

What the team is known for

Gibson Dunn enjoys a growing reputation for its pedigree in the private equity sector, with a range of large-cap and midmarket investors turning to the firm for its transactional talents. Clients benefit from a multidisciplinary team, with expertise in the technology, industrials and life sciences sectors, alongside a wealth of resources from the firm's national and global network.

Strengths

"Gibson have never missed a beat. They're fantastic."

"Gibson Dunn has a tremendous practice."

Work highlights

Gibson Dunn advised Veritas Capital on its \$2.4 billion acquisition of the digital banking business of NCR Voyix.

Notable practitioners

Ari Lanin enjoys an excellent reputation for his transactional practice, which sees him advise a number of major private equity investors on their deal activity. **Strengths:** "I don't know how he can keep all the balls in the air without dropping anything. He manages all areas of the process and is pleasant to work with. He works incredibly well under pressure."

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for

Latham & Watkins enjoys an excellent reputation for the strength of its transactional attorneys, who offer a wealth of experience in acting for private equity firms on complex deal work. The firm represents an enviable array of high-end and midmarket investors, who also benefit from the firm's wider pedigree in fund formation and regulatory matters.

Strengths

"They're very practical and pragmatic. They know the rules inside and out and help explain them."

Work highlights

Latham & Watkins advised Neuberger Berman in its acquisition of a minority stake in Yellowstone Landscape.

Notable practitioners

Jason Silvera maintains an active practice representing private equity firms in an array of high-profile transactions. **Strengths:** "He's a strong and capable attorney." "He's an excellent lawyer who is very well respected."

Sidley Austin LLP

What the team is known for

Sidley Austin acts for a wide spectrum of private equity firms, portfolio companies and other specialist investors on the full range of transactional, finance and fund formation needs. Its highly talented team is sought after for a broad range of buyout transactions, alongside offering additional strength in growth equity investments.

Strengths

"The team is very responsive, provides good advice on key situations and helps negotiate legal points

with the opposing counsel very well. Its lawyers are expert in M&A and very good negotiators."

"Sidley Austin provides substantial strength and expertise. We have had strong results from Sidley Austin in every aspect of its work for us."

"They have a remarkable ability to handle complex legal issues very quickly and holistically. They give very sharp, precise and pragmatic solutions to complex situations, which make them unique and a very trusted partner for transactions."

"They provide exceptional legal advice and the ability to act as a true business adviser when needed. The firm also has the entire suite of legal services and every person is excellent."

Work highlights

Sidley Austin advised Clearlake Capital on its \$7.7 billion take-private of Dun & Bradstreet Holdings.

Notable practitioners

Mehdi Khodadad exhibits notable skill in domestic and cross-border private equity deals as part of a diverse transactional offering. He is particularly focused on technology and life sciences deals. He serves as co-leader of the firm's M&A and private equity group. **Strengths:** "He is an exceptionally talented M&A attorney." "Mehdi has a tremendous practice." **Vijay Sekhon's** robust expertise in private equity matters sees him regularly representing private equity funds in M&A deals across a broad range of sectors. **Strengths:** "Vijay is very strong, responsive and knows his stuff very well." "Vijay is highly responsive, effective and efficient from the client's perspective. He is strong with respect to his level of sophistication and ability to execute a deal in the most effective manner possible." "My honest opinion of Vijay is that he is a rare combination of a genuinely patient, honest, nice guy who also happens to be one of the best legal minds I have come across. There are a lot of really smart lawyers, but I truthfully have never felt more genuinely represented than when Vijay was fighting for me." "He's extremely sophisticated and responsive, and he's easy to work with." **Dan Clivner** is a well-established name in the private equity market, who regularly assists clients in deals across the media and entertainment, financial services and technology industries, among others. He serves as managing partner of the firm's Los Angeles offices.

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

What the team is known for

Weil Gotshal & Manges offers robust strengths across the full gamut of private equity matters, with its highly respected deal attorneys frequently advising clients on issues ranging from growth and venture capital investments through to high-end buyout and exit work. Its transactional talents are also utilized by a range of wider investors, including sovereigns, pension funds and family offices.

Strengths

"The firm has a consultative approach combined with practical business-savvy, which provides direction to successful resolutions and outcomes. It's incredibly efficient in harnessing global expertise across legal landscape to guide resolution across complex deal terms and business risks."

"They are so client-first and so flexible on how they work with us. They are always helping us get the answers we need and further our business."

"We work with hands-on senior partners with strong

commercial acumen in addition to technical legal skills."

"They're fantastic. They understand the private equity landscape and the nuances to our fund specifically."

"The team at Weil are trusted advisers for our firm. They have keen legal insight but complement that with business judgment."

Work highlights

Weil advised HIG Capital in its take-private of Converge Technology Solutions.

Notable practitioners

Craig Adas represents both corporate and private equity interests in a range of high-profile transactions. **Strengths:** "He understands our business, the industry, and our risk tolerances. He is incredibly efficient in gathering expertise across sophisticated legal matters and advising with one voice to summarize risks and recommendations." "Craig is very commercial. He focuses on the things that truly matter and doesn't get caught up in the minutiae." "He's very bright, thorough and detail-oriented." **Kyle Krpata** is recommended for his adroit handling of corporate transactions in the technology space. His expertise also includes private equity, venture capital investments and corporate governance. **Strengths:** "He's excellent and has a calm and collected nature about him. He brings this confidence-inspiring calm to everything." "Kyle is a fantastic and trusted partner. His depth of knowledge and expertise make him easy to rely on, and his advice is consistently practical." **Tana Ryan** advises clients on a range of domestic and cross-border matters, including M&A, buyouts and carve-outs. Industry expertise includes technology, energy and infrastructure. **Strengths:** "He's incredibly talented."

Band 4

Goodwin

What the team is known for

Goodwin is widely considered a leading choice for mid- and lower-midmarket private equity transactions, alongside offering deep expertise in growth equity matters. The firm's traditional strengths in technology and life sciences see it frequently advise on transactions in those sectors, and it has additional experience in the financial services and consumer markets.

Strengths

"On the transactional side they are very smart and definitely know how to solve complex problems in an efficient and fair way. Their responsiveness and how they take care of their clients is unmatched."

"They were exceptional. They're able to put a bespoke lens on every transaction and provide a great user-interface."

"They have tremendous bench depth. They can help us out even if we have a ton of deals going on, and we know we will get high-quality legal services."

Notable practitioners

Stephen Lee maintains an active practice representing private equity sponsors in a range of domestic and cross-border transactional matters. He offers knowledge of the aerospace, technology and software spaces, among others. **Strengths:** "His strength is his responsiveness and in just taking care of his clients." **Brian McPeake** is the co-chair

of the firm's global private equity group. He regularly advises clients in complex domestic and cross-border acquisitions spanning a number of industries. **Strengths:** "He's an excellent attorney with very good judgment. We trust him and his work implicitly. He really understands private equity deals and has good drafting skills and very good negotiating skills." **Amy Keller** offers robust strengths in transactional matters. She acts for an impressive array of private equity firms and their portfolio companies.

Paul Hastings LLP

What the team is known for

Paul Hastings is considered a destination practice for private equity matters, particularly in the technology and life sciences sectors. Its attorneys are held in high esteem for their work in midmarket transactions and venture capital financings, alongside offering additional strength in tax, fund formation and regulatory compliance.

Strengths

"The firm has a solid blend of commercial judgment and legal acumen. They team are always commercial and constructive and have the ability to focus on core issues that matter versus getting caught in minutiae."

"They have an exceptional understanding of our business, what actually matters to us and what we care about. They are helpful in making it clear for us what we should care about."

"The team is fantastic to work with. They work meticulously to ensure they consistently deliver a high-quality outcome for us and our portfolio companies. They always act with our best interests in mind and bring a breadth of experience to each engagement, which has been a differentiator for our more complex situations."

"The team has an exceptional understanding of our business model. They go beyond pure legal analysis to provide commercially-grounded advice that aligns with how we evaluate risk. Their ability to anticipate business considerations, not just legal issues, makes them a true partner in decision-making and a differentiator compared to other firms."

"What set the Paul Hastings team apart was their lightning-fast counsel and ability to cut through issues quickly. They were always available, moved the process forward without delay, and gave clear, practical guidance."

Work highlights

Paul Hastings advised Symphony Technology Group on its acquisition of Yodlee.

Notable practitioners

Dana Kromm exhibits strength in private equity transactions as part of a diverse corporate offering. She is experienced in handling domestic and cross-border deals on behalf of private equity funds and their portfolio companies. **Strengths:** "Dana is outstanding, dependable and a great partner to work with." "Dana shined in her ability to focus on what matters and to think creatively – he shined on that. I cannot recommend her highly enough."

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates

What the team is known for

Skadden's signature strengths in high-end deal work, including notable expertise in cross-border

transactions, see it frequently engaged in significant private equity transactions. The California team is complemented by strong resources in the firm's offices nationwide, alongside additional teams in Europe and Asia.

Strengths

"When you have a matter that is complex, they can deliver extremely sound advice."

"They're very knowledgeable and up to speed on market terms. They're very efficient with time and resources and they help drive forward negotiations with our counterparties very effectively."

"When we reached out to Skadden, they immediately started asking detailed questions, demonstrating understanding and experience in these types of negotiations, and got up to speed very quickly. They have been great partners in identifying where compromise makes sense or where to give on a point with relatively low stakes for me that can result in greater gains on other issues."

"When you speak to Skadden, you feel confident their lawyers have handled similar structures or even more complex deals, and are able to get up to speed quickly and move at a fast pace."

"They're among the very best at complex M&A work. They bring genuine industry expertise and ask thoughtful questions to understand key issues."

Work highlights

Skadden advised Capitol Hill Group on its acquisition of Big 5 Sporting Goods Corporation.

Notable practitioners

Thomas Ivey, Jeffrey Cohen and David Niemeyer are key contacts.

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

What the team is known for

Sullivan & Cromwell enjoys a robust reputation for its abilities in private equity transactions, with clients benefiting from the firm's longstanding reputation for excellence in deal work. It acts across the full gamut of transactional activity, advising both investment firms and portfolio companies.

Strengths

"Their strength is the consistent quality of the team globally, its breadth of capabilities, its responsiveness, and its ability to mobilize quickly. Their level of understanding of our overall business allows them to tailor solutions specific to us."

"They're super smart and have the ability to gain the respect of opposing counsel and to anticipate issues before they arise."

"They have deep expertise across many facets, including complicated M&A that requires comprehensive understanding and support. They're very strong in collaborating with counterparties in order to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes."

"It's a deep team with a strong bench of senior attorneys and subject matter experts. Everyone we have worked with has been phenomenal."

"They provide practical, business-focused advice and continue to advise with a thought to the commercial feasibility of their recommended actions."

Work highlights

Sullivan & Cromwell advised Ares Management on its acquisition of a majority stake in Epika Fleet Services.

Notable practitioners

Alison Ressler is widely regarded as one of the foremost private equity experts in California, with an

excellent track record in high-value buyout transactions. **Strengths:** "She's deeply experienced and able to provide advice on complex issues." "Alison is a trusted advisor who you can use on any legal risk-related questions when you want excellent judgment." "She provides very level-headed and practical advice." **Rita-Anne O'Neill** is a seasoned practitioner who serves as co-head of the firm's global private equity group. She frequently acts on behalf of private equity firms in M&A and securities transactions. **Strengths:** "She's technically very good and very loyal and protective of her clients." "Rita is always available, responsive and able to provide a quick but thoughtful initial perspective and simultaneously mobilize a team. She is terrific." "Rita provides world-class guidance, advice and leadership."

Band 5

Greenberg Traurig, LLP

What the team is known for

Greenberg Traurig provides excellent counsel to private equity funds and portfolio companies, and is noted particularly for its strength in midmarket transactions. The firm leverages an extensive network of offices to handle domestic and cross-border buyouts, M&A and governance issues across a range of industries.

Strengths

"They're my go-to firm as they're very responsive and aggressive in acting for me. They're fantastic."

"They are extremely competent in all phases of M&A. The value and competency-to-price ratio is always attractive to me and the team."

"They make a point to understand where we believe the real commercial risks in a deal are, and reflect this in their drafting of documents to ensure we are efficient."

"It's a very experienced team of lawyers who are extremely responsive and proactive in getting matters resolved. The team knows our fund and businesses very well and are a value-added partner to us on many commercial decisions."

"They have an extremely balanced approach underpinned by strong specialty knowledge."

Work highlights

Greenberg Traurig advised Meaningful Partners in its \$370 million acquisition of Fitness Ventures, a Crunch Fitness franchisee.

Notable practitioners

Mark Nelson is a deeply experienced transactional lawyer with significant strength in private equity matters. **Strengths:** "Mark is extremely commercial and sensible in helping get deals negotiated and finalized. He is a strong advocate for his client and knows what areas to focus on and how best to negotiate key matters."

Massumi + Consoli LLP

What the team is known for

Massumi + Consoli is a highly-regarded firm focused on the representation of private equity clients in mid-market transactions. The team offers excellent counsel in LBOs, carve-outs and add-ons, among other transactions, across a broad range of industries.

Strengths

"M+C attorneys can very quickly become subject matter experts, advising clients on services outside the purely legal. They understand my business very well."

"They combine very good experience in the private equity space with a focus on executing on deals efficiently."

"They have a deep understanding of the private equity business, deal execution, and advocacy for our interests. All the while they're enjoyable to work with. Massumi showcases excellent industry perspective and commercial-savvy."

"They are nimble, responsive and commercial."

Notable practitioners

Founding partner **Peter Massumi** has an excellent track record in advising investment firms on a broad spectrum of growth equity and wider private equity M&A matters. **Strengths:** "Peter brings a world of experience and knowledge." "Peter is amenable, smart and provides proactive advice in deal negotiations and structuring." "He is amazingly commercial and very even-tempered." "Peter is laser-focused making sure his clients get the advice and service level they need." "Peter stands out for exceptional judgment and commercial pragmatism. He brings deep experience in private equity transactions and a steady, solution-oriented approach that builds confidence on both sides of the table."

Winston Taylor LLP

What the team is known for

Winston Taylor has a robust pedigree in mid-market private equity deals. The team acts for private equity funds and portfolio companies in a suite of domestic and cross-border transactions in the retail, technology and manufacturing spaces, among others.

Strengths

"The team is very efficient and commercial."

"It's a full-service firm with expertise in a wide breadth of areas."

"They have the right professionals with domain expertise to get to the right answers."

"In addition to legal talent, they add business advice. The firm is extremely responsive, always available and is trusted counsel."

Work highlights

Winston Taylor advised Cuadrilla Capital in its acquisition of Gluware.

Notable practitioners

Eva Davis handles domestic and cross-border M&A on behalf of prominent private equity houses, with particular expertise in midmarket transactional work. **Strengths:** "What is really great is her knowledge of our strategic objectives."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Bradley Gersich of DLA Piper LLP offers strong counsel in private equity buyouts. He is active in the software, media and education spaces. **Strengths:** "Brad is a fantastic attorney, combining legal expertise with business acumen and commercial awareness. He only adds value to each engagement and is simply a pleasure to work with."

Patrick Huard serves as the co-chair of Morrison Foerster's global private equity practice. He advises clients on sophisticated mid-market transactions across a great many industry sectors. **Strengths:** "The thing I most appreciate about working with him is that I have full confidence that nothing will slip through the cracks." "Patrick is a very sharp attorney and strong advocate for us in our deals." "In addition to being an excellent lawyer with great bedside manner, he's got a really good sense of deal points."

Jeremy Veit of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP offers clients well-honed strengths in transactional matters, having attained an excellent reputation for his abilities in private equity investment work.

He's fantastic and sophisticated counsel, serving as a true partner to our firm. He has a great commercial orientation, strong collaboration and service level, and is a pleasure to work with.

Public Finance

Public Finance
Leading Firms
Band 1
Nixon Peabody LLP
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Band 2
Kutak Rock LLP
Norton Rose Fulbright
Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth, A Professional
Band 3
Best Best & Krieger, LLP
Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP
Jones Hall
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Nixon Peabody LLP

What the team is known for

Nixon Peabody LLP has a significant public finance practice in California with offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles. The firm has expertise across a range of tax-exempt bond transactions for local governments. It is active across the public utilities, transportation, healthcare and education industries.

Strengths

"The team at Nixon Peabody was very responsive."

Work highlights

Nixon Peabody LLP served as bond and borrower's

counsel to The Broad Collection issuance over the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank's \$135.8 Million Revenue Bonds toward The Broad's expansion in downtown LA.

Notable practitioners

Daniel Deaton has deep experience in handling public finance transactions, including those relating to affordable housing, clean energy and transportation. He regularly acts as bond and underwriters' counsel. **Strengths:** "Daniel is a very strong expert in the state." **Travis Gibbs** expertly handles the tax aspects of public finance transactions. He regularly acts for cities and municipal authorities, including in tax revenue bond matters.

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

What the team is known for

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP boasts a leading public finance practice. It offers particular expertise in housing deals as well as financing for educational facilities and utility projects. The firm has public finance partners across multiple California offices, including San Francisco and Sacramento.

Strengths

"Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe are a 10 across the board."

"Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe have exceptional tax and securities lawyers."

Work highlights

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP acted for Los Angeles Unified School District as bond and tax counsel over the \$2.97 billion general obligation BAB refunding bonds deal.

Notable practitioners

Charles Cardall is a highly experienced tax attorney who focuses his practice on advising on public finance transactions. He is experienced across education and utility developments, among others.

Strengths: "Charles is a leading name in public finance." "Charles is very sophisticated and tries to find ways to get deals done even when there are not initially obvious solutions."

Justin Cooper is co-head of Orrick's public finance group. He is sought out for his expertise in the housing space and has vast experience with multi- and single-family projects. **Strengths:** "Justin is a terrific lawyer." **Roger Davis** is sought out by municipal entities and non-profit organisations for his significant expertise in handling public finance transactions. He is highly experienced across a range of sectors including housing, utilities, education and healthcare. **Strengths:** "Roger is a master of the high-yield industry." **Eugene Clark-Herrera** frequently represents his clients as bond counsel on public finance transactions. He has significant expertise in the funding of projects in the education sector, being particularly well-versed in charter schools. **Jenna Magan** regularly handles public

Public Finance
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Cardall Charles C. Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Cooper Justin Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Davis Roger Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Deaton Daniel Nixon Peabody LLP
Forbath Brian P. Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth, A
Band 2
Balisy Sam S. Kutak Rock LLP
Byrens Kimberly Best Best & Krieger LLP
Civale Kevin Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth, A
Clark-Herrera Eugene Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Curls-Bartling Ericka Husch Blackwell LLP (ORL) ◇
Galvan Juan M. Anzel Galvan LLP (ORL) ◇
Gibbs Travis Nixon Peabody LLP
Hsu Victor Norton Rose Fulbright
Jennings Jacquelynne M. ArentFox Schiff LLP (ORL) ◇
Kim Daniel Best Best & Krieger, LLP
Kortmeyer Scott Norton Rose Fulbright
La Morena Rohlin Ann Norton Rose Fulbright
Lynch Christopher Jones Hall
Magan Jenna Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Moore Richard Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
O'Brien Nora Chapman and Cutler LLP (ORL) ◇
Shaham Jessica Kutak Rock LLP
Tierney Sean Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP *
Treu Nathan Squire Patton Boggs (ORL) ◇
Wang John Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Up-and-coming individuals
Turner-Bond Jade Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Associates to watch
Chan Steffi Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

finance transactions and has experience with those in the utilities, healthcare and housing spaces. She is co-head of Orrick's public finance group. **Strengths:** "Jenna Magan is a leading lawyer in the field with deep transactional expertise. She is an extraordinarily knowledgeable lawyer." **Richard Moore's** practice is focused on handling the tax aspects of public finance transactions. **John Wang** is a strong public finance attorney who is frequently engaged on behalf of both issuers and borrowers. He has experience in handling financings in the education, healthcare and utilities sectors. **Jade Turner-Bond** frequently acts for cities and local authorities in a range of public finance transactions. She has additional experience acting as underwriters' counsel for financial institutions. **Strengths:** "Jade is a wonderful attorney." **Steffi Chan** regularly assists with transactions in the public finance space, including in the education sector. **Strengths:** "Steffi gets the deal done." "Steffi Chan is unbelievably capable, committed and bright."

Band 2

Kutak Rock LLP

What the team is known for

Kutak Rock LLP is regularly called upon by public authorities to act as bond counsel in transactions. The team are experienced across developments in a range of sectors, including education and housing.

Notable practitioners

Sam Balisy routinely acts as bond counsel in connection with issuances for a range of developments in California. **Jessica Shaham's** practice sees her act as bond, underwriters' and borrower counsel to municipal agencies, among other clients. She has particular strength in handling matters concerning developments in the education space.

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for

Norton Rose Fulbright undertakes an array of public finance work, including in the healthcare, education and energy sectors. Its California team is regularly engaged by public authorities and cities seeking strong bond counsel. The firm has additional experience in representing unified school districts.

Strengths

"The team at Norton Rose Fulbright stands out for its deep experience and proven track record in handling complex financings."

"The lawyers at Norton Rose Fulbright are very knowledgeable."

"Norton Rose Fulbright are experts in this area."

Work highlights

Norton Rose Fulbright served as bond and disclosure counsel to the Southern California Public Power Authority, assisting on the financing of the joint prepayment of renewable energy for Burbank Water and Power, Colton Public Utilities, Pasadena Water and Power and Vernon Public Utilities.

Notable practitioners

Victor Hsu's public finance practice sees him frequently act as bond counsel on development projects in the energy and transportation sectors.

Strengths: "Victor finds ways to get things done, he's very creative in problem-solving and is very knowledgeable about different financing parameters." "Victor is a pleasure to work with and very knowledgeable." "Victor always provides top-notch work product." "Victor Hsu provides proactive service and is very responsive." **Scott Kortmeyer** is regularly sought out by health systems and other industry clients for his expertise in healthcare financings. **Strengths:** "Scott Kortmeyer is a huge name in the public finance space." **Ann La Morena Rohlin's** public finance practice frequently sees her act on transactions involving general obligation bonds. She is experienced across a range of sectors, with notable strength in education. **Strengths:** "Thorough, hard-working, knowledgeable and an excellent attorney, Ann is a standout in her field."

Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth, A Professional Corporation

What the team is known for

Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth's strong public finance offering includes partners based in Newport Beach, San Diego and Sacramento. The firm routinely acts as bond and disclosure counsel on financings as well as acting for underwriters. It has experience with projects across sectors such as utilities, sport and transportation.

Notable practitioners

Brian Forbath principally acts on behalf of California-based issuers in public finance transactions. He has additional capabilities acting for clients in the sports sector, including on stadium projects. **Kevin Civale** brings over three decades of experience in

public finance to his clients, advising on financings for airports and sports arenas.

Band 3

Best Best & Krieger, LLP

What the team is known for

Best Best & Krieger LLP regularly acts as bond and disclosure counsel to California-based clients in public finance transactions. The firm has strength across an array of financings and is notably active in water and wastewater projects. The team has further capabilities as underwriters' counsel.

Strengths

"Best Best & Krieger has the depth and expertise to handle complex and sophisticated matters."

"Best Best & Krieger's experts in bond financing are highly skilled."

Work highlights

Best Best & Krieger LLP served as bond and disclosure counsel for the Riverside Unified School District Financing Authority concerning the authority's community facilities districts program.

Notable practitioners

Kimberly Byrens focuses her practice on the public finance space. She has experience across a range of financing structures including tax-exempt, revenue refunding and obligation bonds. **Strengths:** "Kimberly Byrens is a great bond counsel." **Daniel Kim's** practice focuses on handling public finance transactions for his government authority clients.

Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP

What the team is known for

Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP has established a strong public finance department, with the team adept at advising on tax-exempt municipal and general obligation bond deals relating to the education and aviation sectors.

Notable practitioners

Sean Tierney is a recognized figure in the California public finance space, with deep experience as bond and disclosure counsel advising on transportation, redevelopment and multifamily housing bond financings.

Jones Hall

What the team is known for

Jones Hall is a well-regarded San Francisco-based boutique firm offering a wealth of expertise in public finance. It routinely provides representation to local governmental authorities and public agencies. Its strong bench has significant experience acting in an array of roles, including as bond, disclosure and underwriters' counsel.

Notable practitioners

Christopher Lynch regularly acts as bond and disclosure counsel on public finance transactions in California. **Strengths:** "Christopher is great."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Ericka Curls-Bartling of Husch Blackwell LLP is skilled at handling public finance transactions involving a range of bond issuances. She regularly assists her clients with financings concerning transportation, healthcare and education developments.

Co-founder of Anzel Galvan LLP, Juan Galvan has a strong public finance practice which sees him regularly acting for cities, counties and public agencies. Jacquelynne Jennings of ArentFox Schiff LLP has deep expertise in public financings in California, including those using general obligation and lease revenue bonds. Her experience covers the housing,

transport and wastewater infrastructure sectors. **Strengths:** “*Jacquelynne is a strong lawyer.*” **Nora O’Brien** of Chapman and Cutler LLP is an experienced public finance attorney who has expertise across a variety of financings. She routinely acts as bond counsel on transactions, including those in the housing sector.

Nathan Treu of Squire Patton Boggs handles a range of financings in California, including those involving taxable and tax-exempt issuances. He has experience representing cities, public authorities and not-for-profit clients.

Real Estate

Real Estate	
Leading Firms	
Band 1	
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP	
Band 2	
Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP	
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP	
Paul Hastings LLP	
Pillsbury	
Band 3	
ArentFox Schiff LLP	
Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP	
Perkins Coie LLP	
Polsinelli PC	
Shartsis Friese LLP	
Leading Individuals	
Band 1	
Yearwood Kahlil T. <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>	
Band 2	
Gennis Alan C. <i>Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP</i> *	
Levine Philip <i>Morrison Foerster</i>	
Madigan Camarin <i>Perkins Coie LLP</i> *	
Band 3	
Buser Scott <i>Mayer Brown LLP</i> *	
Calkins Dustin <i>Mayer Brown LLP</i> *	
Clark Noa <i>Pillsbury</i>	
Horsch Rachel B. <i>Pillsbury</i>	
Kozerski Danna <i>Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP</i> *	
Machalow Jacobus <i>Greenberg Traurig, LLP</i>	
Band 4	
Aitelli Peter <i>Shartsis Friese LLP</i>	
Bonner Jed W. <i>Polsinelli PC</i>	
Freeman Robin <i>Seyfarth Shaw LLP</i>	
Gantz Clay <i>Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP</i>	
Kidd Allison H. <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i> *	
Pritchett M.J. <i>ArentFox Schiff LLP</i>	
Roheim Jonathan <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP</i>	
* Indicates individual with profile.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Allen Matkins

What the team is known for

Allen Matkins maintains a strong reputation across the state of California for its deep real estate expertise. The firm is particularly noted for its strength in highly sophisticated leases, acquisitions and dispo-

Real Estate
Leading Firms
Band 1
Allen Matkins
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Band 2
Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Holland & Knight LLP
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
Paul Hastings LLP
Band 3
Pillsbury
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP
Band 4
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Goodwin
Greenberg Glusker LLP
Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP
Mayer Brown LLP
McGuireWoods LLP
Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC
Morrison Foerster
O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Polsinelli PC
Seyfarth Shaw LLP
Sidley Austin LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

sitions. Recognized in the market for representing developers, the firm has additional expertise in related areas, including joint venture transactions, land use approvals and commercial finance and tax issues.

Strengths

“The firm provides outstanding service but also bring a great commercial perspective on the market.”

Work highlights

Allen Matkins advised Prometheus Real Estate Group in the joint venture recapitalization of four multifamily projects located in Northern California with a combined value of \$1.151 billion.

Notable practitioners

Chair of the firm's real estate department, Anton Natsis is highly sought after to represent clients in leases, purchases and sales, and joint ventures. He offers particular expertise in acting for real estate

investors, private equity firms and REITs. **Dean Pappas** is highly sought after for his experience handling acquisitions and joint ventures relating to mixed-use development and residential projects. His clients include real estate developers, investors and private equity organizations. **Strengths:** “*Dean is a very talented attorney and also keenly focused on meeting his clients' needs and expectations.*” **Jeffrey Chine** represents clients in contentious land use matters and provides guidance on entitlement proceedings. He is well versed in the handling of environmental-related litigation in both state and federal courts. **Strengths:** “*Jeff is a key partner for us in complicated matters.*” **Jennifer Sung** is recognized for her work advising clients including institutional investors, REITs and developers in relation to complex real estate transactions. **Strengths:** “*She is thoughtful and practical in her approach and highly tuned into her client's needs.*” **Gary McKittrick** is well regarded for his counseling of clients, such as developers and technology companies, on a broad range of real estate matters, including acquisitions, lease transactions and design and construction agreements. **John Tipton** is regularly called upon to advise investors and landowners on a wide range of transactional matters, including acquisitions and leases. **David Stone** is a well-regarded lawyer who advises clients such as investors, asset managers and developers on a range of commercial real estate transactions. Marc Young has vast experience handling a broad range of real estate matters, with particular expertise in advising borrowers and lenders on financing transactions.

Alston & Bird LLP

What the team is known for

Alston & Bird LLP is home to a respected group with notable experience assisting clients in obtaining zoning, land use and environmental approvals for a range of substantial development projects. The lawyers represent developers, municipalities and companies in connection with the entitlements of commercial, residential and industrial projects. It also has noted experience acting as counsel in land use litigation.

Strengths

“The firm is well versed in Californian land laws and can navigate what can be pretty muddy water at times.”

Work highlights

Real Estate	
Senior Statespeople	
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	Carey Stevens A. <i>Holland & Knight LLP</i>
Arnold Dennis <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>	Waldman Ira J. <i>Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP</i>
Leading Individuals	
Star individuals	Perry Randolph <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP</i>
Sharf Jesse <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>	Simonis John F. <i>Reed Smith LLP (ORL) ♦</i>
Band 1	Szczurek Michael <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>
Booth Susan J. <i>Holland & Knight LLP</i>	Tipton John <i>Allen Matkins</i>
Fileti Thomas <i>Morrison Foerster</i>	Winters Grace <i>Holland & Knight LLP</i>
Keane Jr Robert M. <i>Kirkland & Ellis LLP *</i>	Band 5
Natsis Anton N. <i>Allen Matkins</i>	Cocci Meghan <i>Kirkland & Ellis LLP *</i>
Pappas Dean <i>Allen Matkins</i>	Cupp Susannah S. <i>Morrison Foerster</i>
Band 2	Cuskelly Gabrielle <i>Alston & Bird LLP *</i>
Ehrhart Kevin <i>Kirkland & Ellis LLP *</i>	Davis Michael H. <i>Greenberg Traurig, LLP</i>
Flowers Drew C. <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>	Eddebarh Mehdi <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>
Mendelson Richard C. <i>Seyfarth Shaw LLP</i>	Famili Anita <i>Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP</i>
Sanford Misty M. <i>Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP *</i>	Fields Kenneth <i>Greenberg Glusker LLP</i>
Westhoff Pamela L. <i>Sheppard, Mullin, Richter *</i>	Fishman Gregory A. <i>Greenberg Traurig, LLP</i>
Band 3	Hamilton Steven <i>Pillsbury</i>
Graiwier Stuart A. <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>	Hinton Jane <i>Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP (ORL) ♦ *</i>
Guggenheim Daniel <i>Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky</i>	Israni Ankush <i>Greenberg Traurig, LLP</i>
Hamilton Michael D. <i>O'Melveny & Myers LLP</i>	Jacobs Alex <i>Goodwin *</i>
Lurie Steven <i>Greenberg Glusker LLP</i>	Katzir Danielle <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>
More Farshad <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>	Lorang Karen A. <i>Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP *</i>
Osher Mark <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>	Paek Stacy <i>Seyfarth Shaw LLP</i>
Rishwain James <i>Pillsbury</i>	Praw Douglas <i>Holland & Knight LLP</i>
Shalla-Strong Hilary <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>	Ravid Nadav <i>Ravid Law Group (ORL) ♦</i>
Shapiro Jesse <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>	Regenstreif Mitchell <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>
Stemp Albert <i>Kirkland & Ellis LLP *</i>	Serure Mal E. <i>McDermott Will & Schulte (ORL) ♦</i>
Sung Jennifer <i>Allen Matkins</i>	Sher Kevin <i>Greenberg Glusker LLP</i>
Swalwell Chauncey <i>Goodwin *</i>	Sobhani Casey <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>
Weissburg Adam <i>Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP</i>	Stone David <i>Allen Matkins</i>
Band 4	Walsh Gerald <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP</i>
Alavi Sam <i>Paul Hastings LLP *</i>	Weakland Alan W. <i>Kennerly, Lamishaw & Rossi (ORL) ♦</i>
Arkow Loryn <i>Hogan Lovells US LLP (ORL) ♦</i>	Young Marc D. <i>Allen Matkins</i>
Clarke Pablo <i>Paul Hastings LLP *</i>	Up-and-coming individuals
Del Prete Keith Hayden <i>Sidley Austin LLP *</i>	Nichols Jesse M. <i>Polsinelli PC</i>
Fischer Bruce <i>Greenberg Traurig, LLP</i>	Associates to watch
Mair Peter <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP</i>	H Koh Jonathan <i>Sidley Austin LLP *</i>
McKitterick Gary <i>Allen Matkins</i>	

* Indicates individual with profile.

♦ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Alston & Bird LLP defended Hackman Capital Partners in multiple lawsuits challenging the approval of entitlements and an EIR for the modernization and expansion of production facilities at the Television City in Los Angeles.

Notable practitioners

Edward Casey is well regarded for his experience handling zoning and land use issues, including CEQA matters. He focuses his practice on litigation and regularly represents clients in trials and appeals. **Jeffrey Carlin** is noted for his impressive practice in the zoning and land use space in California. He is regularly engaged by clients for assistance with litigation and CEQA matters. **Strengths:** "He has the ability to put things in terms I can understand and does a great job of guiding us through land and environmental challenges." **Nicki Carlsen** is a well-reputed land use and environmental law specialist who can offer substantial expertise in various entitlement and compliance matters. She has assisted a number of natural resources companies with renewables projects. **Gabrielle Cuskelly** is noted for her real estate finance experience, fre-

quently representing lender or borrower-side clients in relation to mortgage or mezzanine financing.

Strengths: "She can balance both commercial and legal aspects of matters."

ArentFox Schiff LLP

What the team is known for

ArentFox Schiff LLP has a growing presence in the California real estate market. The team advises on a wide variety of matters, including acquisitions, developments and leasing. Its client base includes those in the hospitality, sports and automotive industries.

Notable practitioners

M.J. Pritchett has copious experience in the California real estate market. He has represented established organizations in areas such as financing, development and acquisitions across a range of asset classes.

Armbruster Goldsmith & Delvac LLP

What the team is known for

Armbruster Goldsmith & Delvac LLP is a respected

Real Estate: Zoning/Land Use
Leading Firms
Band 1
Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP
Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Holland & Knight LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
Perkins Coie LLP
Band 2
Allen Matkins
Alston & Bird LLP
Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP
Band 3
Armbruster Goldsmith & Delvac LLP
Best Best & Krieger LLP
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Nossaman LLP
Paul Hastings LLP
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Mihlsten George <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Barclay Cecily Talbert <i>Perkins Coie LLP *</i>
Forbes Amy R. <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>
Hernandez Jennifer L. <i>Holland & Knight LLP</i>
Hori Susan K. <i>Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP</i>
Murphy Mary <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>
Band 2
Casey Edward J. <i>Alston & Bird LLP *</i>
Chine Jeffrey <i>Allen Matkins</i>
Collins Beth <i>Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP</i>
Goldsmith Dale <i>Armbruster Goldsmith & Delvac LLP</i>
Gray Matthew S. <i>Perkins Coie LLP *</i>
Plume Tamsen <i>Holland & Knight LLP</i>
Band 3
Casper Kyndra Joy <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>
De la Cruz Victor <i>Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP</i>
Fogg Andrew <i>Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP</i>
Golub Daniel <i>Holland & Knight LLP</i>
Hoye Maria P. <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>
Kuhn Bradford <i>Nossaman LLP</i>
Moore DJ <i>Paul Hastings LLP *</i>
Neuman Jerold <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>
O'Brien Harry <i>Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP *</i>
Saltsman Benjamin <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>
Sekhri Neil H. <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i>
Via Tay <i>Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP *</i>
Band 4
Brady Andrew <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>
Carlin Jeffrey <i>Alston & Bird LLP *</i>
Carlsen Nicki <i>Alston & Bird LLP *</i>
Colli Garrett <i>Perkins Coie LLP *</i>
Imwalle Miles <i>Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP *</i>
Kidd Allison H. <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP *</i>
MacLean Chelsea <i>Holland & Knight LLP</i>
Matsler Sean <i>Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP</i>
Menzer Mitchell B. <i>Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP</i>
Mudge Anne E. <i>Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP</i>
Rohrer Paul <i>Loeb & Loeb LLP (ORL) ♦</i>
Rubens Jack H. <i>Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP</i>

firm renowned for its expertise handling land use issues. The team is particularly adept at providing counsel on entitlement matters and CEQA compliance. Acting for a range of clients, including developers and organizations from a number of sectors including entertainment, education and sports, the firm has extensive experience advising clients on contentious matters.

Notable practitioners

Dale Goldsmith assists clients in obtaining government approvals for major development projects in California. He has particular expertise in advising clients in relation to CEQA concerns.

Best Best & Krieger LLP

What the team is known for

Best Best & Krieger LLP advises on a wide variety of real estate issues, including acquisitions, dispositions, leasing and land use. The firm is best known for its expertise in representing municipalities.

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

What the team is known for

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP is a prominent land use and real estate practice with strong capabilities across a range of sectors, including energy, healthcare, shipping and residential. The firm's impressive client base includes real estate owners and operators. The team has a proven track record of capably acting on land use approvals for a variety of projects.

Strengths

"The firm always works thoroughly and expeditiously in all matters."

Work highlights

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP represented BayWa r.e. Americas as entitlement and CEQA counsel regarding the JVR Energy Park.

Notable practitioners

Beth Collins has a varied practice representing clients in land use entitlements and related litigation and transactional matters. She acts for a range of clients, including energy companies, landowners, developers and public agencies. **Strengths:** *"Beth is an original and out-of-the-box thinker who brings perspectives not usually associated with the legal profession."*

Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP

What the team is known for

Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP has a prominent real estate practice offering particular strength in obtaining land use, zoning and environmental approvals for development projects. With an especially strong presence in the Bay Area, the firm counts notable healthcare, technology and real estate investment companies among its clients. It is recommended for sales and purchases, leases, financings and joint ventures.

Strengths

"They are responsive and very proactive, which makes it easy for us to help manage the process of attaining approvals."

Work highlights

Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP assisted Prologis on the land use aspects of multiple industrial developments in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Notable practitioners

Alan Gennis is recognized for his significant experience

handling real estate transactions, such as acquisitions and joint ventures. He also advises on entitlements and due diligence, including providing counsel on mixed-use and office development projects. **Strengths:** *"Alan is incredibly intelligent, an excellent negotiator and able to speak to our business team and represent our interests with all stakeholders."* **Danna Kozerski** capably represents clients in commercial real estate matters, including financing, leasing and acquisitions. **Strengths:** *"Danna is an excellent deal-maker; she is intelligent and effective in negotiations."* **Harry O'Brien** is well respected for his handling of a wide spectrum of real estate matters, ranging from land use to transactional issues. He has significant experience advising clients on acquisitions, entitlements and CEQA compliance. **Tay Via** works with market-leading companies on land use and other real estate aspects of large development projects. **Miles Imwalle** is chair of the firm's real estate practice group. He is noted for his deep expertise in land use matters and is regularly called on by developers to assist with a wide range of projects, including mixed-use and multi-family developments. **Strengths:** *"He is very proactive in the industry and is very aware of how to apply the laws in California to our situations."*

Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP

What the team is known for

Cox Castle & Nicholson LLP fields a dedicated real estate practice with capabilities throughout California. They offer a comprehensive service for real estate transactions, including obtaining the necessary approvals, negotiating financing and executing transactions. Acknowledged by market sources as an active presence on the market and frequently seen representing major investors, the firm is highly regarded for litigation, and has a deep well of experience advising on land use and entitlement matters.

Strengths

"The firm is very organized and coordinated; they know our projects across the spectrum and are able to pull from previous lessons learned."

Work highlights

Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP represented Terra Gen Power and Enterprise Solar Storage on the acquisition of entitlements and approvals for the Enterprise Solar and Battery Storage Project in Kern County, California.

Notable practitioners

Ira Waldman is heralded as one of the most experienced real estate practitioners in California, with particular expertise on financing matters. **Andrew Fogg** advises a range of clients in connection with the land use entitlement process and related litigation. He has notable expertise in CEQA-related matters. **Strengths:** *"He has excellent business acumen and skillfully helps clients navigate the complex regulations throughout California."* **Adam Weissburg** maintains a noted real estate financing practice that regularly sees him advise both lenders and borrowers on transactions involving a broad range of asset classes. **Sean Matsler** is best known for helping his clients obtain entitlements for complex real estate development projects and advising them on regulatory compliance with the laws governing their developments. **Strengths:** *"Sean is very experienced and has a strong ability to build consensus on important themes to reach conclusions."*

Mitchell Menzer advises developers and investors in connection with a broad range of land use matters, including obtaining entitlements for development projects. Anne Mudge is highly experienced in assisting clients with entitlements and approvals for high-value projects, especially concerning energy infrastructure developments.

DLA Piper LLP (US)

What the team is known for

DLA Piper LLP (US) is capable of advising across a wide range of real estate transactions, including acquisitions, dispositions, leases and financing. The firm frequently represents foreign investors breaking into the California real estate market. Clients include financial institutions and high-profile developers. The firm is familiar with a variety of specialized property classes, from transport and utility infrastructure to tech campuses and hotels.

Strengths

"They help to navigate negotiations with knowledge and insights born of experience, as well as a strong understanding of the latest developments that are applicable to our project."

Work highlights

DLA Piper LLP assisted The Star in the development of the \$1 billion, 509,000 square foot creative office tower in Hollywood.

Notable practitioners

Kyndra Casper represents clients in a range of development-led land use and environmental matters. She is particularly well versed in relation to CEQA compliance. **Strengths:** *"Kyndra has a knack for attacking complex issues with simple, practical solutions."* **Jerold Neuman** has significant experience advising clients on land use, CEQA clearance and financing issues. **Strengths:** *"His ability to think creatively and holistically about all aspects of a project adds value."* **Jerold** is one of the best lawyers I've worked with. He thinks like a business person, which is immensely valuable." **Andrew Brady** is best known for helping his clients obtain land use entitlements, as well as his for expertise in matters involving the California Environmental Quality Act. **Mitchell Regenstreif** is well positioned to advise clients on a wide range of transactional real estate matters and is highly experienced in advising international companies on a variety of deals. **Casey Sobhani** is the head of the firm's leasing practice. He is deeply experienced in assisting clients with leasing negotiations and strategically advising clients on real estate valuations.

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

What the team is known for

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP offers a premier service with expertise covering all aspects of real estate, including joint ventures, financing and land use. The firm is especially renowned for its representation of leading real estate lenders, in addition to private equity firms and investors, often in transactions employing complex debt and equity financing structures.

Strengths

"The firm exhibits a depth of knowledge, and provides practical advice and innovative solutions."

Work highlights

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP represented Divco

West Properties with a joint venture with Norges Bank and the acquisition of a commercial office building in Menlo Park for \$222.2 million.

Notable practitioners

Dennis Arnold is a seasoned practitioner with substantial expertise in real estate finance matters. He offers particularly deep experience in connection with distressed assets and debt restructuring agreements. **Strengths:** “Dennis is highly respected and super hard-working.” **Jesse Sharf** co-chairs the firm’s real estate group and is sought out by an array of leading industry clients for his deep expertise in real estate transactions. **Strengths:** “Jesse is the LeBron James of real estate attorneys.” “His grasp of the issues that really matter is unparalleled.” “Jesse knows how to get a deal done; he is very responsive and is a great resource for us.” “He is a legend and the gold standard for real estate law.” Amy Forbes is a highly sought-after land use specialist who handles matters arising from real estate transactions, including entitlement issues, for clients from a diverse range of sectors including media, sport and financial services. **Mary Murphy** is well respected for her expert handling of land use and development mandates. She advises real estate investors and developers on a range of matters such as the entitlement of large scale projects, including historic rehabilitation projects. Kahlil Yearwood has substantial experience advising a range of lenders on financing transactions such as mortgage, mezzanine and construction loans. **Strengths:** “He excels in complicated negotiations; he reduces complex concepts into simple ideas.” Drew Flowers has vast experience handling joint ventures, complex financing transactions and dispositions. **Strengths:** “Drew is even-keeled and very practical.” Stuart Graiwer is well regarded for his representation of a number of private and institutional investors in connection with the acquisition, sale, development and financing of a variety of asset classes. **Strengths:** “Stuart’s experience and intellect enable anticipating issues and avoiding pitfalls before they arise, adding significant strategic value.” **Farshad Morè** has a broad and varied real estate practice that encompasses advising clients such as private equity funds, investors and lenders on large-scale acquisitions, dispositions and financing transactions. **Strengths:** “Farshad is a thought partner with strong commercial acumen and is great at getting counterparties to a resolution.” **Mark Osher** has a growing reputation within the field of real estate finance. He is capable of representing a range of clients in acquisition and financing matters associated with development projects. **Strengths:** “Mark is responsive, has strong commercial awareness and is able to drive complex negotiations.” **Benjamin Saltsman** is noted for his work advising clients on land use entitlements for major real estate developments, including large retail centers and mixed-use developments. **Strengths:** “He is super experienced in this area of law.” Neil Sekhri is sought out by clients in connection with a range of land use and entitlement matters, including public-private partnerships and substantial redevelopment projects. His clients include real estate developers, investors and public agencies. **Strengths:** “He is so knowledgeable; he has a bank of at-the-ready solutions to any problem you might encounter.” **Jesse Shapiro** represents

a range of investors, owners and operators in real estate matters including acquisitions, loan restructuring and workouts. **Strengths:** “Jesse is an outstanding legal mind, and he is an integral part of our team.” Allison Kidd frequently guides clients through real estate development agreements and entitlement issues, with further experience in CEQA compliance. Her client base includes professional sports teams and property developers. **Strengths:** “She understands our business and is able to tailor her advice accordingly.” **Michael Szczurek** is best known for his expertise in representing funds and developers in matters including, but not limited to, loans, acquisitions, REIT formations, sales and other complex transitions. **Strengths:** “He is smart, analytical and moves quickly.” **Mehdi Eddebarh** is an up-and-coming attorney based in Los Angeles with specific expertise in REITs and private equity fund real estate work. **Danielle Katzir** acts for clients, including private equity funds, investors and developers, on a range of commercial real estate matters. She offers expertise advising on matters including acquisitions, developments, joint ventures and financing transactions. **Strengths:** “Danielle is a solid subject matter expert who diligently develops bespoke solutions and drives deals to completion for her clients.”

Goodwin

What the team is known for

Goodwin provides major institutional investors and real estate funds with joint venture, lending, acquisition and development advice. Noted for its expertise in representing clients in the hospitality sector, the firm offers additional strength in corporate, tax and fund formation matters. It is highly knowledgeable on issues faced by clients in the real estate investments management space.

Strengths

“The firm’s strengths are their responsiveness, ability to understand complex structure and solution-focused representation.”

Work highlights

Goodwin acted for Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel in the acquisition of the Waldorf Astoria Monarch Beach Resort & Club in Dana Point, California for \$900 million.

Notable practitioners

Chauncey Swalwell has vast experience handling real estate transactions for real estate clients, including portfolio acquisitions, financings and sales. He regularly advises clients on mixed-use development and residential projects. **Alex Jacobs** co-chairs the firm’s real estate joint ventures and real estate finance and restructurings practice. He is best known for his expertise in representing investors in acquisitions, developments, mortgage loans and negotiating joint venture agreements. **Strengths:** “He is responsive, works through complex things quickly and works with the wider firm really well.”

Greenberg Glusker LLP

What the team is known for

Greenberg Glusker LLP possesses a well-regarded practice capable of servicing clients in an array of real estate matters. These include acquisitions, financing and leasing transactions.

Strengths

“Greenberg Glusker has a strong understanding of business issues beyond the legal implications.”

Work highlights

Greenberg Glusker LLP assisted LaTerra Development with the development of a mixed-use project consisting of 129 apartments and 2,100 square feet of retail in Los Angeles.

Notable practitioners

Steven Lurie maintains a varied real estate practice that regularly sees him advise on a range of complex transactional matters. He has particular expertise in golf course-related real estate issues. **Strengths:** “Steve is remarkably smart and a visionary with respect to how matters within our overall business plan are achieved.” **Kenneth Fields** comes recommended for his real estate transactional practice, with particular experience in the acquisition of both individual property and portfolios. **Strengths:** “Ken understands the nuances of my business and works tirelessly to solve issues and problems for our company.” **Kevin Sher** is best known for his expertise in representing his clients in real estate matters, including but not limited to purchase and sale transactions, leasing and real estate financing. **Strengths:** “Kevin is able to handle very sophisticated matters and is able to concisely but thoroughly present issues and suggested paths forward.”

Greenberg Traurig, LLP

What the team is known for

Greenberg Traurig, LLP’s clients benefit from its extensive experience handling real estate transactions and litigation. The firm’s broad practice covers issues on both a domestic and international scale. It comes highly recommended for its experience of representing clients from a wide spectrum of sectors including retail, hospitality and healthcare. It fields an experienced group of practitioners who regularly handle joint ventures, restructuring and leasing, among other issues.

Strengths

“They are exceptionally skilled at keeping all parties aligned, anticipating the downstream impact of each step and structuring a path forward that works legally, commercially and logistically.”

Work highlights

Greenberg Traurig, LLP advised Remedy Medical Properties and Kayne Anderson Real Estate in their joint venture to acquire 18 million square feet of outpatient medical office space from Welltower.

Notable practitioners

Jacobus Machalow is noted for his work advising clients in connection with acquisitions, development deals and secured financings. His client base includes real estate funds, developers and investors. **Strengths:** “I consider him an extension of my team and a critical adviser to my business.” **Bruce Fischer** chairs the firm’s West Coast real estate practice. He acts for a range of clients on transactional real estate matters, including portfolio sales and acquisitions. Michael Davis is noted for his sophisticated representation of clients including financial institutions, developers and investors in a broad range of transactional real estate matters. Greg Fishman maintains a respected practice representing clients including private equity funds, investors and developers in a range of real estate mandates. He regularly advises across a range of

asset classes, including student housing, medical office, senior housing and self-storage portfolios. **Ankush Israni** has a growing practice advising clients on a range of real estate matters, with particular expertise in financing transactions.

Holland & Knight LLP

What the team is known for

Holland & Knight LLP has expertise in obtaining land use, zoning and environmental approvals for significant development projects. Adept at financing and executing a variety of real estate transactions, the firm has additional expertise in EB-5 and tax-exempt bond financing. Its clients include REITs and local governments, and the firm has a particularly strong offering in relation to public finance and municipal bond matters.

Strengths

"The firm is knowledgeable, well rounded and able to drill down to matters of importance and bring in others within the firm when needed."

Work highlights

Holland & Knight LLP assisted California Forever in the drafting of amendments to their general plan, including environmental review under CEQA.

Notable practitioners

Stevens Carey is renowned in the market for his extensive experience handling real estate matters, including acquisitions and joint venture transactions. **Strengths:** *"He's very responsive, respectful and thoughtful."* Susan Booth is well regarded for her handling of real estate transactions, including sales, acquisitions and financings. She represents clients in transactions involving a range of assets, including data centers, office buildings and multifamily developments. Jennifer Hernandez is highly regarded for her extensive experience in the real estate space. She advises clients on entitlement issues and CEQA compliance, as well as handling land use matters. **Strengths:** *"Jennifer has unmatched knowledge about the evolution of California land use law and policy."* **Tamsen Plume** has significant experience securing project entitlements and advising clients on due diligence during acquisitions. She also handles leases, investments and sales relating to mixed-use projects and office development projects. **Strengths:** *"She has a way of explaining legal language in a way we understand, and she comes up with recommendations to help us achieve what we need."* **Daniel Golub** represents a variety of developers, public agencies and non-profit organizations in relation to the land use approvals process. He also has significant experience litigating cases under state housing production and streamlining laws. **Strengths:** *"His deep expertise and practical guidance have been critical in helping us navigate complex entitlement pathways."* **Chelsea MacLean** is developing a strong reputation within permitting and entitlement work. She has acted in connection with various high-profile Northern California development projects. **Strengths:** *"Chelsea provides an expansive level of land use counsel service, while maintaining a comprehensive and current understanding of dynamic land use legal concerns in California."* **Grace Winters** focuses her practice on representing clients in relation to acquisitions, dispositions and financings. She has extensive experience advising on multifamily housing properties. **Strengths:** *"Grace is very*

knowledgeable, capable and responsive." **Douglas Praw** heads the firm's West Coast real estate practice and represents clients in a range of commercial real estate matters, including acquisitions, development and financings. He has particular expertise in advising clients in relation to public finance transactions.

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

What the team is known for

Kirkland & Ellis LLP possesses an increasingly prominent West Coast group with a notable practice acting for sophisticated clients including private equity sponsors, REITs and other institutional investors. The firm regularly advises on joint ventures, substantial acquisitions and dispositions and mortgage and mezzanine financing transactions. It also offers expertise acting across asset classes including logistics, multifamily, medical offices and life sciences properties.

Strengths

"The firm is incredibly responsive, provides excellent work product, has a good business sense and helps us understand risk."

Work highlights

Kirkland & Ellis LLP assisted Blue Owl Capital with their joint venture with Meta Platforms to finance the \$27 billion development of the Hyperion data center campus in Louisiana.

Notable practitioners

Robert Keane has significant experience advising clients on joint ventures, portfolio sales, financings and acquisitions. **Strengths:** *"Robert is our go-to resource for our most complex transactions in the United States."* **Kevin Ehrhart** has experience advising on transactions such as sales, acquisitions and refinancings. He focuses on acting for investors and is adept at handling matters with cross-border elements. **Strengths:** *"He brings a lot of deal experience, is proactive and helpful in finding solutions for us."* **Albert Stemp** is particularly adept at handling transactional real estate issues, ranging from financings to acquisitions and dispositions. He has extensive knowledge of providing counsel on multifamily developments and industrial projects. **Strengths:** *"He has a great breadth and depth of experience as well as a high level of service."* **Meghan Cocci** has an array of real estate experience, acting for developers and investors on sophisticated transactions. Clients also benefit from her exceptional experience in the hospitality industry. **Strengths:** *"She has the ability to find a solution and is creative in terms of both getting the drafting and underlying matter resolved on both sides."*

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for

Latham & Watkins LLP earns strong market endorsement for its land use expertise. The lawyers also handle sophisticated corporate and finance transactions for significant clients within the real estate industry. The firm is highly experienced in taking on work from REITs, as well as developers, investors and other critical real estate players.

Strengths

"They think holistically and comprehensively so the most effective path forward can be achieved."

Work highlights

Latham & Watkins LLP advised SoCalGas on the

environmental, regulatory, permitting and other strategic considerations in relation to its Angeles Link project.

Notable practitioners

George Mihnsten continues to be a popular choice for clients seeking advice on regulatory issues and offers significant expertise in development projects in the media and hospitality sectors. **Strengths:** *"His expertise and ability to solve complex and unique issues is remarkable."* Maria Hoyer showcases excellent experience assisting clients with entitlement approvals for real estate development projects. **Strengths:** *"Her capacity to manage multiple issues and timelines is endless."* **Hilary Shalla-Strong** is increasingly recognized for her work advising on transactional real estate matters such as the acquisition and financing of portfolios. Her practice spans a range of sectors, including logistics, senior living and data centers. **Strengths:** *"She is really aware of the pitfalls and risks and helps us understand everything."*

Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP

What the team is known for

Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP handles diverse real estate and land use matters across the country, including acquisitions, dispositions, leasing and development projects. It is also adept at structuring equity and debt financing transactions. It is experienced advising on matters involving public utilities and shopping centers, and works closely with its corporate, government relations and environment teams to tackle multidisciplinary issues.

Strengths

"The firm provides an excellent level of service regardless of the level of difficulty."

Work highlights

Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP represented Samsung Electronics America in multiple transactions that allowed the launch of three new Samsung Experience Stores across New York, Minnesota and California.

Notable practitioners

Susan Hori is highly regarded for her expertise in handling CEQA compliance issues, as well as advising clients on obtaining land use approvals and entitlements. Her recent experience includes advising clients on residential and industrial development projects. **Victor De la Cruz** leads the firm's land use group and represents clients such as developers, institutions, corporations and individuals on a wide variety of land use matters. He has notable expertise covering entitlements and related litigation. **Clay Gantz** handles a range of acquisitions, developments and financings. His broad client base includes real estate owners, developers and investors. **Anita Famili** has a well-regarded real estate transaction and financing practice. She is frequently sought out for advice by a wide range of clients including owners, lenders, developers and investors.

Mayer Brown LLP

What the team is known for

Mayer Brown LLP offers a full range of real estate services spanning joint venture formation, leases, acquisitions and financings. The firm provides capable handling of transactions involving office buildings, as well as commercial properties in the

retail and hospitality sectors. It is also adept at advising clients on restructuring and recapitalization matters.

Strengths

"The firm brings strategic insight and practical judgment."

Notable practitioners

Scott Buser advises clients including investors, insurance companies and REITs in relation to real estate acquisitions, development deals and joint ventures. **Strengths:** *"Scott is a great thinker, very practical and deal-oriented."* **Dustin Calkins** has substantial experience representing a range of real estate investors in connection with acquisitions and joint ventures, as well as related financing transactions. **Strengths:** *"He excels at untangling complex issues and driving negotiations to successful conclusions without losing sight of the broader business context."*

McGuireWoods LLP

What the team is known for

McGuireWoods LLP is best known for its expertise in representing clients in complex real estate matters. Their work has included matters involving leasing, commercial mortgage loans and acquisitions. The group is known to represent financial institutions as well as investment banks and other REITs.

Strengths

"The team has diverse experience, so they can provide market intelligence and apply the appropriate level of scrutiny based on the risk associated with the transaction."

Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC

What the team is known for

Mintz regularly counsels REITs, investors, developers and financial institutions on a range of real estate transactional and financing work. It has noted experience dealing with a broad range of assets including shopping malls, office space and multifamily residential properties.

Strengths

"Mintz is extremely sophisticated, responsive and well versed in the latest trends in the market."

Work highlights

Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC represented Arc Capital Partners in a joint venture with ScanlanKemperBard to acquire two manufacturing building in Arizona for \$10 million.

Notable practitioners

Daniel Guggenheim is a strong real estate attorney who focuses his practice on a range of real estate matters, such as acquisitions, dispositions and financings. **Strengths:** *"Daniel is thoughtful, commercial and finds ways to creatively problem solve in a way that protects his clients but also advances transactions."*

Morrison Foerster

What the team is known for

Morrison Foerster counsels clients on a range of sophisticated transactional real estate matters, including joint ventures, acquisitions, loan modifications and workouts, as well as development and construction projects. The firm advises across a broad array of asset types, including residen-

tial, office, commercial and hospitality, and counts REITs, developers and financial institutions among its clients.

Strengths

"They are knowledgeable of the market, and they are able to provide sound guidance that is consistent with the overall market."

Work highlights

Morrison Foerster assisted CAA-Tramview Real Estate Fund I on the acquisition of a medical office building in Florida.

Notable practitioners

Thomas Fileti cochairs the firm's real estate group and has experience representing clients in both cross-border and domestic matters. He is regularly called upon to provide counsel on investments, acquisitions and portfolio financings. **Strengths:** *"Thomas adds a lot of value given his depth of knowledge and ability to cut through issues to find a middle ground. He's great to work with."* **Philip Levine** maintains a notable practice advising a variety of real estate clients on matters including financings, acquisitions and sales. His expertise extends to the structuring and formation of joint ventures. **Strengths:** *"He has deep expertise in legal matters and understands our business needs and perspective."* **Susannah Cupp** represents her clients in real estate finance transactions. She has recent experience handling loan construction and modifications, lease purchases and amendments and acquisitions. **Strengths:** *"She is an excellent dealmaker, very intelligent and highly experienced."*

Nossaman LLP

What the team is known for

Nossaman LLP is a respected adviser on all aspects of the land use permitting process, including zoning, CEQA, coastal developments and eminent domain. The firm is especially adept at counseling public agency clients, such as government associations and transport authorities, guiding them through all stages of entitlement and litigation procedure. It frequently interacts with significant regulatory bodies, particularly the California Coastal Commission.

Strengths

"The firm is super efficient, effective and solution-oriented."

Work highlights

Nossaman LLP assisted Southern California Edison with all aspects of zoning and land use matters related to multiple electric transmission projects.

Notable practitioners

Bradford Kuhn is an experienced attorney focusing on eminent domain and associated aspects of land use and real estate law. He advises clients throughout development projects and in related litigation. **Strengths:** *"He has a really good sense of the legal issues and client-related risks, and is immediately responsive."*

O'Melveny & Myers LLP

What the team is known for

O'Melveny & Myers LLP has notable experience in real estate matters, with particular expertise in the development sector. Additionally, the firm has a strong record of handling real estate transactions. The team acts for a variety of clients, including large corporations, state agencies and banks.

Strengths

"The firm is incredibly knowledgeable in the sector and through, diligent and professional."

Work highlights

O'Melveny & Myers LLP advised Peakstone Realty Trust on its acquisition of a portfolio of 51 industrial outdoor storage properties in an off-market transaction valued at \$490 million.

Notable practitioners

Michael Hamilton has an impressive borrower-side practice and frequently advises on private equity investments and loans. **Strengths:** *"He understands the law, and is very detail-oriented and intelligent."*

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

What the team is known for

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP advises on all aspects of acquisitions and dispositions, usually handling landmark real estate assets and portfolios in the hospitality, office, retail and multifamily sectors. Clients include major national and international investors, as well as an impressive roster of clients in the technology sector.

Strengths

"The firm's strengths lie in their speediness and effective communication style."

Notable practitioners

Randolph Perry is head of the firm's real estate practice. He focuses on distressed assets and joint ventures and has significant expertise across a range of assets including industrial and residential properties. **Strengths:** *"He gets our concerns and can explain the issues very concisely."* **Jonathan Roheim** is best known for his expertise in advising clients with mortgage loans, mezzanine loans and other real estate finance, with a particular focus on real estate private equity investor clients. **Gerald Walsh** is commended for his wide-ranging real estate practice. He is highly experienced in representing clients in both financing and acquisition deals. **Strengths:** *"He is a subject matter expert. He provides great counsel and advice when navigating tough transactions."*

Paul Hastings LLP

What the team is known for

Paul Hastings LLP undertakes highly sophisticated acquisitions, dispositions and developments across California, including providing advice on joint ventures and real estate financing. Clients include household-name technology companies, and the team is much sought after by private equity companies. The firm offers notable additional expertise in land use matters.

Strengths

"The firm is practical, very responsive and knowledgeable in this area."

Work highlights

Paul Hastings LLP assisted JMB Realty in the development of the Century City Center project, including advising on all aspects of construction implementation.

Notable practitioners

DJ Moore is best known for helping his clients obtain project-siting and environmental approvals for development projects in the infrastructure and energy industries. **Strengths:** *"DJ is practical, responsive and communicative."* **Sam Alavi** regularly advises clients in relation to real estate devel-

opment and financing matters across a range of asset classes, including multifamily, data centers and office buildings. **Strengths:** *"He consistently distills complex problems into simple decision-making summaries and is extremely attentive."* **Pablo Clarke** is well regarded for his knowledge of real estate financing and transactions, particularly for mortgage and mezzanine financing mandates. **Strengths:** *"He is able to step in and cool things down when things get heated."*

Perkins Coie LLP

What the team is known for

Perkins Coie LLP is a highly regarded real estate and land use practice providing advice on all phases of a development project. The firm is also experienced at representing public agencies in relation to contentious land use proposals. Clients include leisure and hospitality corporations, as well as shopping center operators. It also offers experience advising on environmental aspects of projects, including CEQA compliance and water quality regulations.

Strengths

"Perkins Coie provide unparalleled experience on complex projects and a creative approach to unique challenges."

Work highlights

Perkins Coie LLP served as lead land use entitlements counsel for Google on the Downtown West Project in San Jose, California.

Notable practitioners

Cecily Barclay's practice covers a wide range of issues, including negotiating entitlement agreements and advising clients on CEQA compliance. Matthew Gray focuses his practice on obtaining land use entitlements for substantial mixed-use development projects. He has notable expertise in CEQA compliance. **Camarin Madigan** represents a broad cross-section of real estate clients, including developers, REITs and landowners, in connection with acquisitions, dispositions and land use entitlements. She also has substantial experience in the drafting and negotiation of ground leases. **Garrett Colli** represents clients in relation to the land use aspects of residential, commercial and industrial development projects. **Strengths:** *"Garrett has a deep understanding of the field and creative ideas."*

Pillsbury

What the team is known for

Pillsbury is home to a skilled real estate group with the ability to handle a variety of mandates, including acquisitions, development deals, design and construction agreements and lease negotiations. The firm represents developers, investors and other companies across the state of California and is also adept at handling matters relating to public-private partnerships and affordable housing projects.

Strengths

"The firm is able to pull in resources effectively from the broader firm, which is helpful across a variety of difficult negotiations."

Work highlights

Pillsbury represented PG&E in the relocation of its headquarters from San Francisco to Oakland, consisting of a sale of the San Francisco building and the entry into a lease with a purchasing option for the Oakland property.

Notable practitioners

Noa Clark is increasingly recognized for her work representing a wide variety of clients, including developers, owners and investors, in a range of development projects. **Strengths:** *"She is able to communicate our commercial objectives in a clear and concise manner and is an excellent sounding board when evaluating complicated situations."* Rachel Horsch heads the firm's real estate group and regularly advises clients including developers, investors and owners in connection with all aspects of real estate transactions. **James Rishwain** offers significant experience in a wide range of real estate matters, including advising on acquisitions and financings in relation to multi-family and office development projects. He is active across a range of sectors such as sports and tourism. **Steven Hamilton** operates a respected lender-oriented real estate finance practice based in San Diego. He works across a range of asset classes such as retail, housing and warehousing. **Strengths:** *"Steve is proactive and provides high-quality work product."*

Polsinelli PC

What the team is known for

Polsinelli PC offers notable capabilities in real estate matters. The team handles an array of transactional work, including acquisitions, dispositions and joint ventures. Clients further benefit from the firm's additional expertise in single-family rental mandates.

Strengths

"The firm has a wonderful balance of business and legal expertise."

Work highlights

Polsinelli PC represented BorderPlex Digital Assets in their development of a data center complex in New Mexico, with the project valued at \$5 billion.

Notable practitioners

Jed Bonner is noted for his transactional real estate practice, boasting experience in a wide range of high-value commercial deals. **Strengths:** *"He communicates exceptionally, is very thoughtful in his analysis and provides excellent services all around."* Jesse Nichols has a broad real estate practice, often assisting clients with acquisitions, dispositions and commercial leasing matters. **Strengths:** *"Jesse handles complex transactions with ease, always makes himself available and is solution-focused to get transactions across the finish line."*

Seyfarth Shaw LLP

What the team is known for

Seyfarth Shaw LLP regularly advises clients on matters including financing, complex joint ventures and portfolio acquisitions and dispositions. The firm acts for a broad range of developers, investors and financial institutions. It offers additional expertise in office and retail leasing for both landlords and tenants.

Strengths

"Seyfarth is responsive, creative and always looking to ensure we understand the legal risks in any transaction."

Work highlights

Seyfarth Shaw LLP represented LBA Realty in the \$194 million acquisition of five industrial properties in Lacey, Washington and South Salt Lake, Utah.

Notable practitioners

Richard Mendelson is a respected practitioner with

a broad practice that encompasses a wide range of real estate matters for clients including developers, lenders and investors. **Robin Freeman** covers a range of real estate finance matters, such as mortgage and mezzanine loan transactions. **Stacy Paek** leads the firm's Los Angeles real estate practice. She regularly advises clients including private funds, developers and insurance companies in a range of real estate matters and financing transactions.

Shartsis Frieze LLP

What the team is known for

Shartsis Frieze LLP advises clients on a range of real estate matters, including the acquisition, financing, development and leasing of properties such as shopping centers, multifamily property and industrial projects. The firm also advises technology companies and corporate users in relation to corporate campuses and office buildings. The team works closely with the firm's litigation group to handle property disputes.

Strengths

"The Shartsis team has great knowledge for complex real estate issues and is able to effectively negotiate complicated deals."

Work highlights

Shartsis Frieze LLP represented DRA Advisors in connection with a joint venture to purchase the note and accept a deed-in-lieu of foreclosure on Market Center, San Francisco.

Notable practitioners

Peter Aitelli specializes in commercial real estate transactions, including acting for major investors.

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

What the team is known for

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP can boast a well-respected real estate practice with a respected bench of experienced practitioners who provide high-quality advice on leases, joint ventures, financings and acquisitions. The firm offers expert counsel for clients such as developers, real estate firms and investors and also advises clients on compliance with environmental and land use issues.

Strengths

"The firm's understanding of the commercial and regulatory landscape is excellent, allowing it to provide advice that is both strategic and pragmatic."

Work highlights

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP represented 1HWY1 in negotiations with the Port of San Diego and the County of San Diego regarding the \$3.5 billion redevelopment of San Diego's Seaport Village.

Notable practitioners

Pamela Westhoff is regularly called upon to handle transactions relating to mixed-use development projects. She advises on portfolio acquisitions, leases, joint ventures and dispositions. Jack Rubens is an experienced land use attorney with expertise in CEQA matters. He has significant experience in handling complex land use lawsuits.

Sidley Austin LLP

What the team is known for

Sidley Austin LLP possesses expertise across a wide range of financing transactions, including

originating, documenting and restructuring various loans. The lawyers are also adept at advising on joint venture formations and M&A involving significant real estate assets. It counts a number of household-name lenders among its clients, including numerous overseas institutional investors doing business in the USA.

Strengths

"Sidley Austin has a really strong understanding of the market, is very pragmatic and has a sensitivity to the needs of an internal legal team."

Work highlights

Sidley Austin LLP assisted Accor Hotels in the negotiation of a hotel management agreement with the Reuben Brothers as the new owner of the Fairmont Century Plaza.

Notable practitioners

Keith Hayden Del Prete has established a well-regarded practice advising on real estate financing and transactions. He is regularly sought by a wide range of clients including private equity groups, asset managers and investors. **Strengths:** *"Keith is highly knowledgeable, extremely responsive and deeply understands both our organization and our priorities."* Jonathan Koh is best known for his expertise in counseling his clients on a wide range of real estate transactions, including but not limited to purchase and sale transactions, loans and restructurings and leasing. **Strengths:** *"I cannot say enough about his demonstrated commitment and stellar work ethic to deliver the best for his clients."*

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates

What the team is known for

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates represents sophisticated investors, including private equity funds, REITs and other private and public lenders, in financing and executing real estate transactions. A complementary strength is corporate transactions featuring REITs and other real estate companies. The firm is also experienced advising on high-value portfolio matters in the healthcare and retail sectors.

Strengths

"Skadden knows our business and preferences and have taken an approach to learn about these things

and have become incredibly efficient in handling all real estate matters."

Work highlights

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates acted for Rithm Capital Corp. in the \$1.6 billion acquisition of Paramount Group, a publicly traded office REIT.

Notable practitioners

Peter Mair is head of the real estate group in Skadden's Los Angeles office and has been key to raising the profile of this practice group on the West Coast. He is experienced in a wide range of real estate and related transactions. **Strengths:** *"He is very practical in how he approaches documents and negotiations."*

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

What the team is known for

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP offers clients insightful guidance on all aspects of real estate transactions, including acquisitions and dispositions, financings and refinancings as well as mortgage loans. The team advises in a wide array of real estate sectors, including office, retail, hospitality and industrial, among others.

Strengths

"The firm has strong attention to detail, a refined understanding of complex concepts and is good at risk avoidance planning for clients."

Work highlights

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP represented Breakthrough Properties on its acquisition of a premier three-building Class A life science campus in San Diego for \$160 million.

Notable practitioners

Misty Sanford has a strong reputation for her substantial experience advising developers, investors and REITs on real estate matters. She acts on joint ventures, financings and sales. **Strengths:** *"She is incredibly bright, responsive and intelligent."* Karen Lorang has a varied practice that spans advising both developers and investors in relation to large-scale development projects. She offers additional expertise advising on financing transactions. **Strengths:** *"Karen is smart, thoughtful and a very good negotiator."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Loryn Arkow of Hogan Lovells offers substantial expertise advising on matters including joint ventures, acquisitions, financings and development transactions. Her broad client base includes developers, private equity funds and other investors.

Strengths: *"She excels at varying her approach in a manner that promotes resolution of any issues."*

Jane Hinton of Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP has a broad practice that regularly sees her advise clients including investors, investment funds and financial institutions on acquisitions, joint ventures and financing transactions. Her representation spans asset classes including multifamily properties, healthcare facilities and offices.

Nadav Ravid of Ravid Law Group is a noted leasing specialist with particular expertise representing retail-sector clients. **Strengths:** *"He has clear up-to-date overall knowledge of industry conditions and shares information to ensure clients have the knowledge to make the best decisions."*

Paul Rohrer of Loeb & Loeb LLP is regularly called upon to advise clients on acquisitions, leases and entitlement issues. He acts for clients including government entities and landowners, and has experience across a broad range of sectors, such as healthcare, media and transport.

Mal Serure of McDermott Will & Schulte is noted for his extensive practice in the real estate sector, including a deep level of experience assisting a variety of clients with financing matters. **Strengths:** *"Mal is always accessible, commercially focused and deeply invested in understanding the client's business objectives."*

John Simonis of Reed Smith LLP acts for a range of developers, investors and owners in relation to complex real estate developments and related construction matters. **Strengths:** *"John is extremely savvy and strategic; he is able to handle sophisticated transactions without being fazed."*

Alan Weakland of Kennerly Lamishaw & Rossi LLP is regularly called upon to advise on acquisitions, joint venture agreements and financings. He has particular expertise in the hospitality sector.

Tax

Tax: State & Local
Leading Firms
Band 1
Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP
McDermott Will & Schulte
Pillsbury
Band 2
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Band 3
Vallejo Antolin Agarwal Kanter LLP
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Coffill Eric J. Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP *
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Gustafson Timothy A. Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP *
Marsh Bradley Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Moll Charles J. McDermott Will & Schulte
Roberts Carley A. Pillsbury
Vesely Jeffrey M. Pillsbury
Band 2
Antolin Edwin Vallejo Antolin Agarwal Kanter LLP
Gorrod William H. Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Mandel Marcy Jo. McDermott Will & Schulte
Merten III Robert P. Pillsbury
Silverstein Amy Silverstein & Pomerantz (ORL) ◇
Van Dongen Troy. McDermott Will & Schulte
Associates to watch
Phang Jeffrey Pillsbury
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Ascendant LLP

What the team is known for

Ascendant houses experts able to handle a wide range of tax matters. The firm regularly manages estate tax planning matters, transactional issues and cases involving Qualified Small Business Stock, among numerous other matters.

Strengths

"Ascendant provides great customer service."

"The firm has an excellent level of knowledge of the laws and regulations."

"The attorneys and their staff are helpful and professional."

Work highlights

Ascendant represented Buzz Technologies in its acquisition by LineLeap.

Notable practitioners

Alexander Lee is a key contact.

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for

Baker McKenzie is an esteemed practice held in high regard for its adept handling of international tax work, such as transfer pricing and tax planning. The team is also noted for its expertise in tax controversy matters, including litigation and administrative appeals. It works with a host of market-leading clients, including high profile names from the social

Tax
Leading Firms
Band 1
Baker McKenzie
Fenwick
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Band 2
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Latham & Watkins LLP
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Band 3
Sidley Austin LLP
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Band 4
Goodwin
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Mayer Brown LLP
McDermott Will & Schulte
Morrison Foerster
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Paul Hastings LLP
Pillsbury
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Divola Julie Pillsbury
Forst David Fenwick
Giesselman Nathan Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher
Kleinberg Rachel Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Moir Katharine P. Latham & Watkins LLP *
Sprague Gary D. Baker McKenzie
Band 2
Bassett Barton Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Halpern Adam S. Fenwick
Kim Sang DLA Piper LLP (US)
Neumann Larissa Fenwick
Band 3
Lam Emily M. Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Lemaster Kelsey Goodwin *
Lipeles Stewart R. Baker McKenzie
Murphy Christopher Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher
Skinner William Fenwick
Sutanto Shen Myra Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Zhu Jonathan Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Band 4
Cheng Henry DLA Piper LLP (US)
Donnelly Rod Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP *
Ferreira Michelle Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Frewing Scott H. Baker McKenzie
Koryteck Dominika McDermott Will & Schulte *
Lee Grace Latham & Watkins LLP *
Linch Maureen Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton (ORL) ◇
Morin Sarah-Jane Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP *
Myszka Joseph DLA Piper LLP (US)
Netser Idan Sidley Austin LLP *
Pistillo Bernie Morrison Foerster
Rachuba Lucas Paul Hastings LLP *
Ushakova-Stein Julia Baker McKenzie
Vollbracht Jason R. Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP (ORL) ◇
Up-and-coming individuals
Grinberg Ora Goodwin *

media, money transfer and travel booking sectors.

Strengths

"Baker McKenzie strategically focuses on aligning

Tax
Leading Firms
Band 1
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
Band 2
Cooley LLP
Sidley Austin LLP
Band 3
Ascendant LLP
Baker McKenzie
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Hochman Salkin Toscher Perez P.C.
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Morrison Foerster
O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Paul Hastings LLP
Proskauer Rose LLP
Vinson & Elkins LLP
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Cuff Terence Loeb & Loeb LLP (ORL) ◇
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Kim Anne Kirkland & Ellis LLP *
Lee Alexander Cooley LLP
O'Brien Ana G. Latham & Watkins LLP *
Band 2
Arash Dora Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Moritz Luc O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Zomorodi Pardis Latham & Watkins LLP *
Band 3
Freier Elliot VLP Law Group LLP (ORL) ◇
Gluth Todd Cooley LLP
Goldman David B. Baker McKenzie
Jones Ivy Sidley Austin LLP
Lebovitz Michael Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP
Nix Shane Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP *
Sczudlo Paul Withers (ORL) ◇
Toscher Steven Hochman Salkin Toscher Perez P.C.
Band 4
Cho Eric Latham & Watkins LLP *
Collins Lauren A. Vinson & Elkins LLP
Haun Michael D. Paul Hastings LLP *
Kelly Bryan Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP *
Kroll Ethan S. Baker McKenzie
Medina Jorge Vinson & Elkins LLP
Nardiello Chad Nardiello Turanchik Tompkins, LLP (ORL) ◇
Schonholz Matthew Baker McKenzie
Shelley Shane Morrison Foerster
Sodhi Rishi Foley & Lardner LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Wilson Lorna Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Up-and-coming individuals
Hamano Brian DLA Piper LLP (US)
Lee Aaron Proskauer Rose LLP *
Ngo Tuan DLA Piper LLP (US)
Associates to watch
England Kevin DLA Piper LLP (US)

the right firm resources with their client's needs. It has experienced professionals that clients view as trusted business advisers."

"Baker McKenzie has unmatched technical analysis, paired with practical solutions and novel approaches

to complex problems.”

“Their tax department has incredible size and breadth that enables them to be a go-to on any and all tax matters, regardless of subject matter or jurisdiction.”

“Baker McKenzie has the ability to coordinate seamlessly across global offices, benchmark solutions internationally, and provide risk-weighted, pragmatic recommendations that drive value and certainty.”

Work highlights

Baker McKenzie represented Amgen in an eight week trial before the United States Tax Court. The primary transfer pricing dispute involved a proposed IRS income adjustment of \$23 billion.

Notable practitioners

Gary Sprague wins praise from across the market for his exemplary skills in tax planning and controversy work. **Strengths:** *“Gary’s professionalism, clarity and strategic vision set him apart, not just as a tax expert, but as a true adviser who adds value well beyond the technical.”* *“Gary is a leading expert in the field.”* *“Gary is one of the most outstanding international tax lawyers around.”* David Goldman applies his tax expertise to a wide range of corporate transactions, including cross-border restructurings and M&A. **Strengths:** *“David is incredibly smart, responsive, user-friendly and a pleasure to work with.”* Stewart Lipeles concentrates his practice on corporate tax matters, including tax structuring issues. He regularly handles domestic and cross-border issues. **Strengths:** *“Stewart understands our industry and is practical and technically strong.”* Scott Frewing advises on various tax controversy matters, including transfer pricing disputes.

Strengths: *“Scott is a great writer and a well known advocate.”* Ethan Kroll is chair of Baker McKenzie’s west coast tax practice and chair of the firm’s North American tax planning and transactions group. He is recognized for his expertise in a broad range of tax matters, including international planning, transactional and controversy work. **Strengths:** *“Ethan is one of the smartest and effective practitioners I know.”* *“Ethan is an excellent adviser.”* **Matthew**

Schonholz is a tax and executive compensation practitioner who focuses on M&A, joint ventures and corporate and partnership tax. **Strengths:** *“Matthew is technically very sound and knowledgeable, staying on top of things by paying attention to what’s happening in the market.”* *“His tremendous tax knowledge is beyond impressive.”* *“Matthew is a very bright attorney who looks out for his clients.”*

Julia Ushakova-Stein advises clients across industries including technology, healthcare and financial services in transactional matters. **Strengths:** *“Julia is a great international tax partner.”* *“Julia is absolutely great to work with. She is extremely responsive, knowledgeable and very practical.”* *“Julia has practical, business-focused advice and the ability to navigate complex, cross-border matters with clarity and efficiency.”*

Cooley LLP

What the team is known for

Cooley has a highly experienced team praised for its transactional capabilities. Its diverse client roster includes technology, life science, energy and telecommunication sector clients.

Strengths

“Cooley is very much into the details, but doesn’t forget about the big picture.”

“I always have faith in Cooley’s abilities to resolve complex matters.”

“Cooley has strong technical skills and the ability to flag issues and potential paths forward arising out of new laws and tax rules.”

Work highlights

Cooley advised the Boston Celtics and the Grousebeck family on the agreement to sell the Celtics to an investor group led by William Chisholm.

Notable practitioners

Alexander Lee is a strong transactional lawyer, recognized for addressing international tax considerations. **Strengths:** *“Alexander has the ability to think on his feet regarding alternative solutions, based upon his own knowledge of the law.”* **Todd Gluth** is chair of Cooley’s global tax practice group. He is a strong choice for clients seeking counsel on transactional tax issues, offering significant experience handling contentious matters.

DLA Piper LLP (US)

What the team is known for

DLA Piper advises a raft of technology and manufacturing clients on cross-border transactional work, international tax structuring and transfer pricing arrangements, leveraging its extensive global network of offices. The team also has tax controversy capabilities, including criminal tax and civil litigation. Its client base includes those in the beverages, IT and chemical sectors.

Strengths

“DLA Piper has consistently gone above and beyond, delivering what our team needs to make informed decisions within tight timelines.”

“DLA Piper has a strong knowledge of USA and international regulations, providing practical advice and solutions.”

“DLA Piper has skilled talent around the globe to assist with global tax matters.”

Work highlights

DLA Piper represented Thrasys in a tax court litigation with the IRS.

Notable practitioners

Sang Kim cochairs the global tax practice at the firm. He handles a host of tax planning matters, often pertaining to life science, technology and manufacturing sector clients. **Strengths:** *“Sang provides excellent advice and leadership.”* *“Sang is definitely an expert in the field.”* **Henry Cheng**’s practice focuses on tax controversies and litigation. Clients also benefit from his knowledge of international planning and structuring issues. **Strengths:** *“Henry has been an excellent tax adviser to us.”* *“Henry is good at interpreting and looking for efficient options and the best response for us in dealings with highly localised tax issues.”* **Joseph Myszka** is recognized for his expertise across tax planning and controversy work. He represents large multinational corporations in both domestic and international tax matters. **Strengths:** *“Joseph is extremely easy to work with.”* **Brian Hamano** is a highly skilled tax practitioner who focuses his practice on transactional matters. **Strengths:** *“Brian is amazing. He is so knowledgeable, responsive and easy to work with.”* *“Brian has been a fantastic partner for us. He’s very responsive and has a deep understanding of the tax issues we’ve encountered.”* *“Brian has*

very strong technical skills.” **Tuan Ngo** is recognized for his strong tax practice. He ably advises clients on cross-border M&A, corporate international tax and issues concerning tax treaties, among other matters. **Strengths:** *“Tuan is excellent. He is able to deftly navigate unique facts and apply complex tax law to the issue. He is timely and respectful.”* **Kevin England** is a strong associate focusing his practice on international tax matters. **Strengths:** *“Kevin has been responsive and has the level of knowledge to tackle the issues.”* *“Kevin is very knowledgeable and easy to work with.”*

Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP

What the team is known for

Eversheds Sutherland has a strong team with notable expertise in state and local tax matters. The department acts for a number of household names from the technology, telecommunication and retail sectors. It additionally offers expertise in tax planning, compliance and controversy issues.

Strengths

“Eversheds combines deep legal expertise with business acumen and strategic perspective.”

“They immersed themselves in understanding our business and industry. They stay abreast of current events that impact our specific department as well as the overall industry.”

Notable practitioners

Eric Coffill is an expert in SALT matters. He acts on behalf of industry-leading nationwide clients in complex disputes. Timothy Gustafson maintains a widely commended SALT-focused practice. His expertise encompasses management of complicated income tax matters and leading clients through various high stakes tax proceedings. **Strengths:** *“Tim is exceptional.”* *“He is a consummate professional and makes our working relationship enjoyable with his calm, easy going and personable demeanor.”* **Michael Lebovitz** has strong skills in tax planning matters. He often works on joint ventures and cross-border deals. **Strengths:** *“Michael is a trusted partner and outstanding adviser to our organization whose technical excellence and commercial awareness enable him to deliver practical, business-oriented solutions.”*

Fenwick

What the team is known for

Fenwick has a strong presence in the Bay Area, acting for an enviable client list ranging from Fortune 100 giants to early-stage Silicon Valley companies. The team has a high profile in both domestic and international tax matters, with broad expertise across M&A, transfer pricing, joint ventures and tax litigation. It is a highly credible source of legal advice on issues relating to the technology, media and telecommunications sector.

Strengths

“Fenwick demonstrates strong expertise in the relevant areas, which has been valuable for our needs.” *“The partners at Fenwick are amazing, from their technical skills to providing practical solutions.”*

“Fenwick is very responsive and always pleasant to work with.”

Work highlights

Fenwick represented Smartsheet in its \$8.4 billion acquisition by Blackstone and Vista Equity Partners.

Notable practitioners

David Forst continues to command respect for his experience handling complex tax issues arising from M&A. Adam Halpern handles a broad array of issues, including global tax planning and tax controversy work. **Strengths:** *"Adam is an expert in Foreign Tax Credit matters."* **Larissa Neumann** is recognized for her handling of international transfer pricing issues, IRS appeals and other tax controversy matters. **Strengths:** *"Larissa has been our go-to adviser for complex issues, we can always count on her excellent services."* *"Larissa's technical skills are great and she always offers great advice."* **William Skinner** advises a range of high profile clients on the tax aspects of transactions, providing additional support in litigation. **Strengths:** *"William is very thoughtful, responsive and solution-oriented practitioner."*

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

What the team is known for

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP advises on tax aspects of high value transactional matters, such as acquisitions and spinouts. The team has wide-ranging expertise in international, federal and state matters, alongside strength in litigation and controversy issues. It regularly advises a broad variety of clients, including private equity firms, REITs and multinational corporations in the technology industry.

Strengths

"The team knows how to navigate and locate relevant expertise around the globe as needed to help connect the most skilled and relevant resources to our engagements."

"The team has the ability to integrate specialized expertise with practical process optimization."

"The tax team is as sophisticated as it gets."

Work highlights

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP advised AT&T on the \$7.6 billion sales of its remaining 70% stake in DIRECTV to TPG.

Notable practitioners

Rachel Kleinberg is co-leader of Sidley's global tax practice and heads the west coast tax practice. She is highly proficient in navigating through the tax aspects of high value M&A. **Strengths:** *"Rachel took the time to build a personal relationship with me and my team which was positive."* *"Rachel is broad and seasoned as an M&A lawyer."* **Dora Arash** is commended for her ability to navigate through the tax aspects of major transactions. She advises on partnership tax matters as well as joint ventures and reorganizations. **Strengths:** *"Dora is a seasoned and highly experienced transactional tax lawyer who has consistently demonstrated ability to handle multiple complex transactions."* *"She combines deep technical expertise with the ability to clearly and commercially explain complex issues with professionalism and authority."* **Lorna Wilson** advises on tax issues concerning corporate transactions and is particularly noted for her expertise in matters concerning real estate. **Strengths:** *"We work with a lot of firms, and none have a tax attorney that can match Lorna's expertise and practicality."*

"Lorna is very calm and level-headed she can explain things directly and simply and is straight to the point and solution-oriented."

Goodwin

What the team is known for

Goodwin is a respected practice handling tax aspects of M&A and other transactions. The team's expertise covers joint ventures and cross-border deals. It is particularly adept at representing those in the investment funds and life sciences sectors.

Strengths

"Goodwin is great to work with; it has a huge appetite for complexity and great understanding of how the sophisticated translates to the daily."

Work highlights

Goodwin was counsel to Silo.ai Oy in the \$665 million sale to Advanced Micro Devices.

Notable practitioners

Kelsey Lemaster handles tax aspects of transactions such as M&A and joint ventures. He is also highlighted for his skill in handling matters relating to REITs. **Strengths:** *"Kelsey is an experienced, seasoned REIT tax attorney."* **Ora Grinberg** is an up-and-coming tax attorney who advises on US and cross-border M&A and restructurings. **Strengths:** *"Her ability and the depth of her expertise is mind-blowing, she understands the nuances of situations."* *"Ora was amazing during our M&A transaction. She was able to see many potential pitfalls and help us architect solutions to avoid them."*

Greenberg Traurig, LLP

What the team is known for

Greenberg Traurig, LLP advises on SALT and tax controversy matters, among others. Its client base includes corporations, individuals and partnerships. The team is particularly experienced in working with REITs.

Strengths

"Greenberg Traurig has the technical ability and understanding of the legal and complex nuances of California property tax."

"All of our interactions were productive and they were excellent in terms of their responsiveness."

"Their depth of experience and wisdom is magnificent and really helps all aspects of the work we do with them."

Work highlights

Greenberg Traurig advised the Australian Retirement Trust (ART) on its investment in Pattern Energy Group LP.

Notable practitioners

Bradley Marsh serves as the co-chair of the firm's US State and Local Tax (SALT) practice. He is a respected name in the arena and based in the firm's San Francisco office. **Strengths:** *"Bradley is above and beyond the leader in his field."* *"Bradley is very knowledgeable and strategic."* **Michelle Ferreira** is the executive vice president and co-chair of the firm's global tax practice. She is a respected practitioner with experience advising clients on controversy matters as well as tax planning. **Strengths:** *"Michelle is a very professional, respectful attorney."* *"Michelle is always a pleasure to work with."*

Hochman Salkin Toscher Perez P.C.

What the team is known for

Hochman Salkin Toscher Perez is a respected tax boutique noted for its handling of contentious tax matters. It has a hugely impressive track record in tax controversy, alongside criminal and civil litigation at both state and federal level.

Notable practitioners

Steven Toscher is noted for his experience advising clients on contentious tax matters, including IRS and DOJ litigation. He regularly works with corporations and individuals.

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

What the team is known for

Kirkland & Ellis LLP is a popular choice of counsel for high-level expertise in tax issues across an impressive range of transactions. It fields experience in M&A, capital markets and private equity transactions, among others.

Strengths

"The team is well aware of the operational and business concerns underpinning deals. It helps bring those issues to the forefront and offers practical solutions."

"Kirkland & Ellis excels at meeting the client on their terms, developing strong relationships and being practical and business-oriented."

"The team combines deep technical expertise with commercial pragmatism, coordinating seamlessly across jurisdictions and delivering solutions that withstand scrutiny while advancing deal objectives."

Work highlights

Kirkland & Ellis LLP advised Turn/River Capital in the \$4.4 billion acquisition of SolarWinds Corporation.

Notable practitioners

Anne Kim is an experienced tax practitioner who is extremely proficient in handling complex business transactions. **Strengths:** *"Anne consistently delivers thorough and reliable analysis."* *"Her attention to detail and ability to think through complex tax is unique."* *"Anne is a great person to work with. She is very thorough and trustworthy. I enjoy working with her."* *"Anne is a tax expert and a fantastic attorney."*

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for

Latham & Watkins LLP is an acclaimed practice noted for its capabilities in the tax structuring of corporate deals, with considerable cross-border capabilities. The team is well known for its superior capabilities in complex REIT tax matters. Its enviable client base also includes retail and pharmaceutical companies, as well as financial institutions. Wider areas of excellence include partnership tax matters and tax-free spinoffs.

Strengths

"The legal, technical, compliance and tax expertise of the team sets it apart."

"Latham & Watkins is one of the leaders in the REIT industry."

"The team is very responsive in time critical projects, delivering quality results."

Work highlights

Latham & Watkins LLP represented Skydance Media and the Investor Group in the completion of its merger with Paramount Global.

Notable practitioners

Katharine Moir has a well-regarded tax practice, which includes advising on issues in connection to transactions. Ana O'Brien is global co-chair of the REIT Industry Group, and advises on tax issues concerning REITs and corporate transactions. **Strengths:** *"Ana has a deep breath of REIT knowledge and tax technical knowledge that is clearly at*

the top of the legal and REIT industry." "Ana has the ability to draw encyclopaedic knowledge and practical advice on tax." **Pardis Zomorodi** advises her clients on the tax elements of corporate transactions and REITs. **Strengths:** "Pardis is a skilled negotiator that tailors her approach to suit the client's needs." **Eric Cho** receives praise for the quality of his tax advice in sophisticated M&A deals, private equity investments and restructurings, among other transactions. **Strengths:** "Eric has a meticulous mind." "Eric considers issues holistically and he is a great partner to have on our side." "Eric is very responsive to our needs. He understands what needs to be done and does what it takes to get there." **Grace Lee** advises clients on a range of M&A transactional tax work. Her client base includes public and private companies and investors. **Strengths:** "Grace is competent, smart and the sophistication of her work is high. She negotiates very well for her clients."

Mayer Brown LLP

What the team is known for

Mayer Brown acts on a range of tax matters, including international transfer pricing and planning issues. The team is experienced in handling tax controversy cases. It is well supported by its network of national and international offices.

Strengths

"There is never an issue for which Mayer Brown cannot provide a well reasoned solution to any problem we are facing."

"Mayer Brown has a tremendous breadth of knowledge and deep market experience."

"Mayer Brown's deliverables always get to the heart of our requests."

Work highlights

Mayer Brown represented General Motors Company in the formation of a joint venture with Samsung SADI Co.Ltd for \$3.5 billion.

Notable practitioners

Paul DiSangro and Remmelt Reigersman are key contacts.

McDermott Will & Schulte

What the team is known for

McDermott Will & Schulte is a respected team with notable expertise in federal tax and SALT matters. It advises on M&A and tax planning as well as controversy issues. The team acts for a varied client base, including private equity firms and technology companies.

Strengths

"They are client-centric and focused on delivering value for clients."

Work highlights

McDermott Will & Schulte advised on the tax structuring and diligence for Atlantic Street Capital Management in its acquisition of Dynamic Campus Solutions.

Notable practitioners

Charles Moll is recognized as an expert in SALT work and primarily concentrates his practice on contentious tax matters. **Strengths:** "Charles is widely respected for his brilliant legal mind and experience." **Marcy Jo Mandel** acts for clients on a broad range of SALT matters. She has experience in the technology sector. **Strengths:** "Marcy has an excellent mind coupled with wealth of experience."

Troy Van Dongen is a highly regarded tax attorney

recognized for his capabilities in SALT matters. He is especially adept at handling property tax-related issues. **Dominika Koryteck** is a highly skilled tax practitioner frequently sought by clients to advise on complex international tax matters. She is very knowledgeable on tax issues related to the technology sector. **Strengths:** "Dominika is personable, practical and technical with deep industry skills and networks."

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

What the team is known for

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius offers notable strengths in tax controversy in addition to expertise in tax planning. It calls upon a pool of talented tax litigators with in-depth experience in prior governmental roles, including within the DOJ and IRS. The team acts for an enviable client base consisting of high net worth individuals as well as corporations in the technology and life sciences sectors, among others.

Strengths

"Morgan, Lewis & Bockius consistently provides prompt and accurate advice."

"The firm is expert in its craft."

Notable practitioners

Barton Bassett is sought out for his expertise in transactional tax structuring matters, as well as controversy issues. He works with an extensive client base which includes West Coast-based and international corporations. **Strengths:** "Bart is exceptionally technical, practical and proactive." "Bart is pleasant to work with, I cannot praise him higher." William Gorrod is highlighted for his quality SALT practice. Clients look to him for counsel in complex matters of planning and compliance, and in the context of corporate transactions. **Strengths:** "William is always reaching out with ideas." "William is a superbly technical tax lawyer with a commercial eye." **Rod Donnelly** works with clients on a range of tax matters, including cross-border transactions and controversy work. He advises multinational corporations, among others. **Strengths:** "Rod is an exceptional tax professional. He is versatile on tax matters impacting our company." "Rod is a very thoughtful and technically excellent lawyer." **Sarah-Jane Morin** is an highly regarded practitioner who handles the tax aspects of transactions. Her clients include public and private companies. **Strengths:** "Sarah-Jane is able to condense complicated tax matters into information that is understandable by the business. This enables the business to make informed decisions."

Morrison Foerster

What the team is known for

Morrison Foerster is known for their impressive transactional expertise. Their client-base varies from real estate, energy, fintech and more.

Strengths

"The tax team is competent, well informed and professional."

"The team is expert in translating sophisticated advice into practical and actionable steps."

"The team takes the time to understand the client's business priorities, which enables it to provide context to tax issues which helps decision-makers use their advice most effectively."

Work highlights

Morrison Foerster advised Palo Alto Networks in its

definitive agreement to acquire Protect AI.

Notable practitioners

Bernie Pistillo is well regarded for his tax work related to high value acquisitions. His expertise extends to cross-border matters. **Shane Shelley** is sought out for his expertise in transactional tax matters. He also specializes in REITs and has notable experience advising on investments. **Strengths:** "Shane is creative and efficient, in understanding the pressure points and how to navigate through them."

O'Melveny & Myers LLP

What the team is known for

O'Melveny & Myers is a high profile tax practice in the California market, advising on matters such as M&A, financing and IPO work. The team services an array of clients including those from the entertainment and technology industries, as well as private equity investors. It demonstrates growing strength advising on cross-border matters, with niche expertise advising Asian clients doing business in the USA.

Notable practitioners

Luc Moritz is a specialist in the international tax area and regularly works on cross-border tax matters.

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

What the team is known for

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe handles tax issues arising from corporate transactions. The team is experienced in working with those in the technology and renewable sectors, among others.

Paul Hastings LLP

What the team is known for

Paul Hastings calls on notable strengths in transactional tax structuring. The team offers particular expertise in real estate and funds tax matters, alongside wider strengths in tax credits. Its enviable client base includes household-name financial institutions, technology companies and private equity firms.

Strengths

"Paul Hastings is able to deliver bespoke advice to our unique needs and communicate that guidance to us in a clear and precise manner."

Work highlights

Paul Hastings advised on the tax aspects of Fisher Investments' \$3 billion minority investment by Advent International and ADIA.

Notable practitioners

Michael Haun comes recommended for the depth of his knowledge in domestic and international tax matters. Areas of strength include advising in the context of corporate transactions and restructurings. **Strengths:** "Mike is very professional and responsive." **Lucas Rachuba** is noted for his expertise in the tax aspects of significant transactions. His client base includes public companies, private equity funds and portfolio companies.

Pillsbury

What the team is known for

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman is a strong tax practice based in San Francisco and Sacramento. The team is particularly active in tax controversy matters, with unrivaled strength in handling SALT

matters in California and nationally. Areas of expertise include income, franchising, sales and use tax issues. It also offers know-how in transactional tax planning.

Strengths

"Pillsbury is vigilant on issues that impact the company. It understands not only the current environment, but emerging trends in competition."

"Pillsbury demonstrated excellent technical skills, business acumen and provided practical advice."

"Pillsbury provided excellent guidance and leadership."

Notable practitioners

Julie Divola is co-leader of Pillsbury's Corporate Reorganizations practice, and a well-recognized lawyer who handles tax-related issues concerning transactions. She is adept at handling complex matters with cross-border elements. Carley Roberts is a preeminent practitioner who handles SALT issues. She leads the firm's state and local tax practice. **Strengths:** *"Carley Roberts is outstanding."* Jeffrey Vesely is a fine choice for income, franchise and employment tax issues, among other state and local tax issues. Robert Merten regularly acts on behalf of Fortune 500 companies on SALT matters. **Strengths:** *"He is an incredible strategist."* Senior associate **Jeffrey Phang** is recognized for his capabilities in state and local tax issues. He is based in the firm's Sacramento office. **Strengths:** *"Jeffrey Phang is amazing, incredibly thorough and just easy to work with."*

Proskauer Rose LLP

What the team is known for

The tax department at Proskauer Rose LLP is known for its transactional practice, providing US and cross-border tax advice, with strength in M&A, private equity, and work with private investment fund groups.

Strengths

"Their ability to pair deep technical knowledge with a pragmatic, investor-focused perspective makes them an invaluable partner in driving the success of our funds."

"Proskauer Rose is proactive in identifying issues early, always approaching them with a solution-oriented mindset."

"Proskauer brings a full team of legal experts from diversified practice groups to focus on transactions, ensuring every aspect of a transaction has been subject to their review."

Work highlights

Proskauer Rose LLP advised Zello Growth in its leveraged buyout of Cinelease, LLC.

Notable practitioners

Aaron Lee has experience advising on transactional tax matters, particularly in the formation of private investment funds. **Strengths:** *"Aaron is quick to jump in and provide clear and concise guidance."* *"Aaron has the ability to synthesize complex tax issues into clear, actionable insights that support effective decision-making."*

Sidley Austin LLP

What the team is known for

Sidley Austin is a widely respected tax team known for advising clients on tax aspects of corporate transactions. The team is strong in cross-border deals such as M&A. It has a broad client base which

includes those in the media, technology and real estate industries.

Strengths

"Sidley Austin do a phenomenal job connecting us with partners, investors, variety business developments and initiatives. I always feel like my interests are a top priority"

"The team is very responsive, providing outside the box ideas."

"Their quality of service is highly specialised."

Work highlights

Sidley Austin represented Clearlake Capital Group, L.P. in its \$7.7 billion take-private acquisition of Dun & Bradstreet Holdings, Inc.

Notable practitioners

Ivy Jones advises on tax issues concerning corporate transactions and is noted for her expertise in matters concerning REITs. **Idan Netser** is regularly sought by US and international companies on international corporate and partnership taxation matters. He is well versed in a broad range of issues including financing and acquisitions. **Strengths:** *"Idan's real strength is not just being a tax lawyer, he also has extensive corporate knowledge and expertise."* *"Idan is very smart and creative. I feel very comfortable relying on his advice, which I consider thoughtful and balanced."* *"Idan is one of the most client-focused attorney I have encountered."*

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates

What the team is known for

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom is particularly noted for its work in the transactional space, for which it draws on the firm's long track record of handling the most cutting-edge M&A matters. It offers full-service capabilities, with strengths in tax planning, transfer pricing, partnership and controversy matters. The team cultivates a strong client base among household names in the technology sector.

Strengths

"Skadden resolves the most complex tax issues with clarity, speed and confidence, making it the go-to firm for high stakes transactions and forward-looking tax strategy."

"Skadden has been really a full service from a tax perspective globally."

"Skadden has an industry leading corporate and personal international tax practice."

Notable practitioners

Nathan Giesselman guides clients through tax aspects of corporate deals. He is noted for his international tax planning expertise. **Strengths:** *"Nathan is a very sharp good negotiator."* *"Nathan is very thorough, proactive and he is able to articulate highly technical matters."* *"Nathan is extremely responsive and a pleasure to work with."* Emily Lam serves as co-head of the firm's global tax group. She advises on tax controversy matters, including audits and appeals. **Strengths:** *"Emily is commercial, thorough and extremely knowledgeable. She's highly responsive regardless of the time."* **Christopher Murphy** advises on both contentious and non-contentious tax matters. He often represents tech companies. **Strengths:** *"Christopher is a highly capable, smart and experienced tax litigator."*

Vallejo | Antolin | Agarwal | Kanter LLP

What the team is known for

Vallejo | Antolin | Argawal | Kanter LLP has a solid team of experts well versed in State and Local Tax. The firm is able to handle a wide range of issues in both contentious and transactional matters.

Notable practitioners

Edwin Antolin of Vallejo | Antolin | Argawal | Kanter LLP is highly regarded for leading his clients through contentious tax matters, as well as advising on tax issues emerging from transactions. He acts for a variety of clients, ranging from wealthy individuals to international corporations.

Vinson & Elkins LLP

What the team is known for

Vinson & Elkins stands out for its high quality tax offering which sees it routinely advise on complex domestic and cross-border M&A, reorganizations and joint ventures. Industry expertise includes strength in the renewable energy space.

Strengths

"The team provides excellence in its expertise combined with thorough business acumen."

Work highlights

Vinson & Elkins advised Swift Current Energy, LLC in the hybrid tax equity financing for the 800MWdc Double Black Diamond Solar Project.

Notable practitioners

Lauren Collins regularly handles tax matters related to transactions. She specializes in work in the renewables sector. **Strengths:** *"Lauren in highly technical yet creative."* **Jorge Medina** maintains an active tax practice that exhibits strength in controversy issues, tax policy and M&A. He is prominent in the renewable energy and energy transition spaces.

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

What the team is known for

Willkie Farr & Gallagher is recognized for its strong tax expertise covering M&A, private equity and restructurings, among other transactional matters. The firm is particularly well-known for its work in the entertainment industry.

Strengths

"The level of creativity and sophistication is as good as I have seen."

"The team demonstrates a strong grasp of our strategic priorities and tailored their advice to reflect practical, real-world considerations."

"Wilkie Farr provides responsive and customized advice, tailored to the needs of the transaction, with a sound understanding of the fundamental business objectives."

Work highlights

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP advised Venrock on the \$500 million formation of Venrock Healthcare Capital Partners XP, L.P.

Notable practitioners

Shane Nix is a skilled tax specialist who is strong across a broad range of transactional matters, including acquisitions, dispositions and restructuring. He is especially prominent in the entertainment industry. **Strengths:** *"Shane is the top tax counsel in the industry of entertainment."* **Bryan Kelly** is sought after by clients for his high quality tax advice in domestic and cross-border transactional matters. He represents family offices and public to private companies. **Strengths:** *"Bryan is*

a collegial, sophisticated and creative international tax attorney." "Bryan is a true expert. He is a trusted adviser to us, and he has delivered results for us that are hugely and positively impactful."

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

What the team is known for

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati is well regarded for its wealth of experience in state, federal and international transactional and planning matters. It offers particular strength in the technology and life sciences sectors, regularly advising Silicon Valley heavyweights and investors on high value M&A and structuring work.

Strengths

"Wilson Sonsini has incredible breadth and depth across the firm."

"They have a practical approach to dealing with tax issues."

"They approach tax questions with practicality and their business judgment is a unique skill that not many legal advisers have."

Work highlights

Wilson Sonsini advised Anduril Industries on its expanded partnership with Microsoft to advance the US Army's Integrated Visual Augmentation system (IVAS).

Notable practitioners

Myra Sutanto Shen is head of the firm's tax practice group. She is recognized for her expertise in transactional matters, particularly for life sciences clients. **Strengths:** "Myra is able to balance complexity and practicality." "Myra is a terrific tax professional." **Jonathan Zhu** works with clients on all aspects of tax structuring transactions and M&A. **Strengths:** "Jonathan is outstanding on all levels."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Terence Cuff of Loeb & Loeb offers a wealth of experience in tax matters, with particular expertise in REITs.

Elliot Freier of VLP Law Group advises on tax issues relating to M&A, bankruptcies and restructurings.

Maureen Linch of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP is a skilled tax attorney who is praised for her adept handling of M&A, joint ventures and restructuring matters. She is particularly experienced in the renewable energy space. **Strengths:** "Maureen is very responsive, easy to work with and demonstrates technical breadth." "Maureen is knowledgeable in M&A tax and also experienced in matters outside pure M&A."

Chad Nardiello is a highly experienced tax partner with deep experience in controversy and litigation matters. **Strengths:** "Chad is an outstanding tax controversy lawyer. He's a team player in large matters. He provides sophisticated legal advice on extraordinarily complex tax issues."

Paul Sczudlo of Withers is known for efficiently managing tax planning matters, including cross-border mandates. He is recognized for working with clients in the media and entertainment sector.

Strengths: "Paul is an unbelievably intelligent man and does not leave any detail out."

Amy Silverstein of Silverstein & Pomerantz maintains a well-regarded SALT practice which entails leading clients through a variety of tax issues.

Rishi Sodhi is an extremely skilled tax practitioner with in-depth knowledge of a wide range of transactional, multi-state and contentious matters. He is frequently sought to advise on insurance related

issues. **Strengths:** "Rishi is very client centered and wonderful at getting to the heart of the matter." "He is commercially aware and able to formulate a commercial view beyond the pure legal conclusions."

Jason Vollbracht of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP is a standout tax attorney whose practice concentrates on private equity, M&A and joint ventures.

Strengths: "Jason is an excellent lawyer who keeps a level head."

CALIFORNIA: A Technology Overview

AI Moves From Model and Software Narrative to New Reality of Digital Infrastructure

California remains the center of gravity for technology transactions in the United States, but the market's defining shift is that AI is no longer just a model and software story. It is increasingly an infrastructure business. Capital, talent and model quality still matter, but so do chips, cloud capacity, data-center buildouts, network infrastructure, power availability, and long-term commercialization channels. That shift is changing both the structure and the substance of technology deals. A defining characteristic of this new normal is that transactions now require deep integration across multiple disciplines – M&A, credit and leveraged finance, real estate, energy and project finance, and technology transactions must work together seamlessly to structure and execute these complex, multifaceted deals.

Firms with established strength across each of these practices, and a culture of cross-practice collaboration, such as Sullivan & Cromwell, are particularly well positioned to deliver results. The leading transactions are no longer merely acquisitions, divestitures or ordinary software partnerships; they are also strategic financings, compute arrangements, custom silicon collaborations, hyperscale supply agreements, real estate and power development, and commercialization alliances designed to secure scarce capacity and accelerate deployment. In California, where many of the market's most important AI companies, investors, chip providers and strategic counterparties are based, that shift has been especially pronounced.

Landmark AI Transactions Show How California Deals Are Being Built Around Compute, Commercialization and Scale

That shift has kept activity high. Over the past year, some of the most consequential California technology transactions have reflected the same core market priorities: securing access to compute, supporting commercialization, and positioning businesses to scale. Recent examples on which Sullivan & Cromwell advised include:

- OpenAI's October 2025 agreement with Microsoft, which preserves and builds on key elements of the parties' landmark partnership, including OpenAI's purchase of USD250 billion of Azure services;
- OpenAI's February 2026 strategic partnership with Amazon, including OpenAI's commitment to consume 2 gigawatts of Trainium capacity; and
- Broadcom's April 2026 expanded strategic collaboration with Google and Anthropic, under which Anthropic, beginning in 2027, will access through Broadcom approximately 3.5 gigawatts of next-generation TPU-based AI compute capacity.

These transactions underscore that the most strategically significant AI transactions now extend well beyond traditional software licensing or ordinary procurement models.

California Remains the Control Room, Even as Infrastructure Spreads Outward

California remains where many AI strategies are conceived, fi-

nanced and negotiated, even as the infrastructure required to support them is increasingly built out elsewhere. Silicon Valley continues to serve as a commercial and innovation hub, but the largest deployments often depend on access to power, land and permitting conditions that are easier to secure outside California, though the parties and deals originating in California remain critical.

Infrastructure Demands Are Reshaping Key Technology Deal Terms

The infrastructure-focused shift is changing the nature of technology transactions. Terms that might once have been peripheral in a conventional software deal – long-term capacity reservations, phased deployment rights, ramp schedules, energy strategy, resiliency planning and upgrade paths – are now often central. So too are provisions addressing supply constraints, changing technology roadmaps, and reliance on a small number of critical providers. In practical terms, AI companies and their counterparties are negotiating for capacity, time, certainty and optionality as much as price. In a market where delay can be as costly as spending, those provisions can determine whether a business is able to scale.

Commercialization Partnerships Are Becoming as Important as M&A

In many ways, these deals have become at least as important as traditional M&A in shaping competitive landscapes. The most valuable AI partnerships now solve multiple problems at once: securing the hardware supply chain at the chip and rack-level, locking in power and data center capacity, allocating supply chain risks, establishing compute services, enabling distribution of AI solutions, and – through it all – sourcing massive amounts of financing. Strategic collaborations have therefore become the driving force of the growth of an entire ecosystem of technology and infrastructure market participants. They help determine how products reach the market, how priority and exclusivity rights operate, and how parties preserve room to expand into adjacent offerings as technology develops.

This is one reason the current market cannot be understood through a conventional lens that separates financing, supply and commercialization into silos. A cloud relationship may also be a distribution arrangement. A chip or infrastructure commitment may also support a long-term product roadmap. A financing may accompany strategic rights and market positioning that matter well beyond the financing economics. Similar dynamics are emerging in semiconductor and custom compute arrangements, where the traditional lines between supply agreement, platform partnership, and ecosystem strategy continue to blur. At Sullivan & Cromwell, we have embraced these challenges by bringing together technology, financing and infrastructure practices to pioneer the leading transactions in this market.

The Next Phase Of California AI Dealmaking Will Be Bigger, More Integrated and More Operational

Technology & Outsourcing

Outsourcing
Leading Firms
Band 1
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Peters William J. Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Sanchez Vincent DLA Piper LLP (US)
Band 2
George Rohith P. Mayer Brown LLP *
Kalyvas James R. Foley & Lardner LLP (ORL) ♦ *
Krusmark Kari Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Manter Gregory A. DLA Piper LLP (US)
* Indicates individual with profile.
♦ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

A&O Shearman

What the team is known for

A&O Shearman's Palo Alto team offers significant strength across a range of transactions in the technology space. Expertise includes advising on licensing agreements, M&A involving technology companies and outsourcing mandates. Acts for clients across several key areas of the sector, including digital software, fintech and social media entities.

Strengths

"The team is very responsive and customer-oriented."

"Its depth of knowledge, experience and the creative alternatives it comes up with are all strengths."

"The team has very strong technical legal expertise and industry knowledge, as well as a strong appreciation of a client's needs. This means lawyers have the expertise to navigate the complexity, while distilling it down to the key issues we need to be aware of as clients."

"The A&O Shearman team is unique in its combination of legal expertise, industry knowledge, attention to client service, and a commitment to being commercial."

"A&O Shearman has the technical expertise and knowledge to tackle any complicated matter. Further, the team is incredibly responsive."

Work highlights

A&O Shearman advised DoorDash, Inc. on its acquisition of SevenRooms Inc. for \$1.2 billion.

Notable practitioners

Daren Orzechowski handles M&A as well as outsourcing transactions for a number of well-known technology companies. He is also well versed in licensing agreements. **Strengths:** "He knows how to get to the core of issues and provides great solutions." "He is sharp and has a good sense of the market." "Daren is a brilliant lawyer who understands all the issues possible in a deal." "He is very knowledgeable." **Alex Touma** is well-versed in advising on development, manufacturing and supply agreements for novel technologies, along with sourcing and IP licensing transactions. He has a high-profile client base in the fintech industry.

Technology
Leading Firms
Band 1
Fenwick
Latham & Watkins LLP
Morrison Foerster
Band 2
Cooley LLP
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Sidley Austin LLP
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Band 3
Covington & Burling LLP
Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve Franklin
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Band 4
A&O Shearman
Arnold & Porter
Goodwin
Hogan Lovells US LLP
Mayer Brown LLP
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
VLP Law Group LLP
White & Case LLP

Strengths: "Alex is a competent negotiator and zealous advocate. He's very practical and knows to get deals done." "He is a trusted legal advisor who understands our business needs implicitly." "Alex always knows how to handle negotiations and understands the key points of any deal. He is practical, efficient and certainly knows how to negotiate high pressure deals." "He is very business-minded and practical. He's always sharp and on-top of the most cutting-edge issues."

Arnold & Porter

What the team is known for

Arnold & Porter is an experienced and highly capable practice with particular expertise in BPO and ITO. Noted for advising both suppliers and buyers on outsourcing arrangements in the USA, as well as those with significant cross-border elements. Represents clients in a range of sectors, including automotive, financial services and software services. Provides further expertise in commercial transactions and routinely handles complex licensing, strategic partnerships and SaaS arrangements.

Notable practitioners

Thomas Magnani represents startups to blue-chip companies in sophisticated transactional matters. He possesses broad industry knowledge and is able to advise clients on innovative technologies such as AI and machine learning. He serves as head of the firm's technology transactions practice and cochairs its technology, media and telecommunications industry group. **Strengths:** "Tom has terrific instincts and judgment, and is very timely."

Cooley LLP

What the team is known for

Technology
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Bell Suzanne Y. Covington & Burling LLP
Villeneuve Tom Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve *
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Ballack Karen N. Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
Brockland John P. Hogan Lovells US LLP
Hayes David L. Fenwick
Mousavi Nader A. Sullivan & Cromwell LLP *
Schwartz Tessa Morrison Foerster
Schwartz William Morrison Foerster
Band 2
Berger Matthew Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP *
Kapoor Rahul Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Klein Anthony Latham & Watkins LLP *
Lee Tiffany Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP *
Meeker Heather J. Tech Law Partners LLP (ORL) ♦
Orzechowski Daren M. A&O Shearman
Pichler Rufus Fenwick
Sharron Stephanie L. Morrison Foerster
Shevell Adam Perkins Cole LLP (ORL) ♦ *
Band 3
Baca Megan R. Ropes & Gray LLP (ORL) ♦
Fronk Stephen M. Sidley Austin LLP *
Graham TJ. Cooley LLP
Greene Timothy D. Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Gross Michelle Ontiveros Latham & Watkins LLP *
Khorana Adit O'Melveny & Myers LLP (ORL) ♦
Kumayama Ken D. Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
Lee Victoria DLA Piper LLP (US)
Magnani Thomas A. Arnold & Porter
Mahmood Ghaith Latham & Watkins LLP *
McGaraghan John Latham & Watkins LLP *
Remis Anna J. Sidley Austin LLP *
Rubin Aaron P. Morrison Foerster
Rubin Tracy D. Cooley LLP
Schenck Joseph Fenwick
Soderstrom Rachelle Sidley Austin LLP *
Stanley Jennifer Fenwick
Taub Winslow Covington & Burling LLP
Touma Alex A&O Shearman
Yang Joseph PatentEsque Law Group, LLP (ORL) ♦
Yost Daniel Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Up-and-coming individuals
Haan Justin H. Morrison Foerster
Palmen Brandon Covington & Burling LLP
Schenkel Mark Sullivan & Cromwell LLP *
Scott Max Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Cooley LLP covers a wide range of IT and outsourcing issues and is routinely sought after for its strengths in technology-based transactions, including M&A and joint ventures. Well versed in both domestic and cross-border matters, and frequently engaged to advise on sophisticated IP work. Works with a broad range of companies with significant technology investment, including those in the software, semiconductor, digital media and telecommunications sectors.

Strengths

"The team is incredibly detailed and responsive with quick turnaround times."

"Cooley's technology team is outstanding and can

always advise clients on the most complex questions."

"They are extremely responsive with an excellent service level."

"Cooley provides practical, relevant legal advice that helps us to achieve our goals."

Work highlights

Cooley advised Red Canary on its acquisition by Zscaler.

Notable practitioners

TJ Graham is chair of the firm's technology transactions group. He is recognized for his experience advising significant industry clients on the most complex deals. Tracy Rubin is recognised for her work advising technology clients on such matters as M&A, IPOs and patent portfolio acquisitions. **Strengths:** "She is very careful, thoughtful and creative. She is a terrific lawyer and her client engagement is terrific." "She is very knowledgeable. She brings extensive experience and applies that experience to the unique circumstances of each deal." "Tracy is able to get straight to the sensitive and complex matters that were top-of-mind for our company."

Covington & Burling LLP

What the team is known for

Covington & Burling LLP demonstrates the ability to advise technology sector clients on both transactional and regulatory matters, ranging from strategic arrangements and M&A support to outsourcing and intellectual property concerns. Clients in fields as diverse as fintech, autonomous vehicles and digital health benefit from the firm's international reach.

Strengths

"Covington & Burling has a strong team which is detail-oriented and thinks deeply."

"They have great subject matter expertise."

"The team has the ability to understand complicated business models and provide tailored advice."

Work highlights

Covington & Burling advised Aristocrat on the sale of its mobile gaming subsidiary, Plarium, to Modern Times Group.

Notable practitioners

Suzanne Bell represents fintech, digital health and cloud computing companies, among others, and she focuses her practice on strategic alliances.

Strengths: "Suzanne is amazing." **Winslow Taub** is highly regarded for his ability to handle complex commercial technology and IP agreements. His client base includes well-known public and private companies and startups. **Strengths:** "He is client-driven, exceptionally service-oriented, practical and thoughtful." "He is responsive and detail-oriented in his approach, and gives very forward-looking advice." **Brandon Palmen** is an up-and-coming attorney who advises notable, well-known technology clients on issues such as licensing matters and M&A. **Strengths:** "He gives practical advice and provides a good balance of advice and support." "He is someone who is always very thoughtful, smart and hardworking."

DLA Piper LLP (US)

What the team is known for

DLA Piper LLP has a broad practice with a large roster of attorneys well equipped to handle sophisticated technology transactions for clients from a

number of industries, including healthcare, retail and hospitality. Strong expertise in IT, advising on cloud computing matters and software and internet licensing issues. Also noted for its adept handling of M&A, joint ventures and other commercial transactions. Covers cross-border work, with impressive international links to its foreign offices.

Strengths

"DLA is the prototypical professional expert. The team stands out for its exceptional work product and knowledge base."

"DLA has a great understanding of the commercial aspects of deals and an ability to adapt on the fly when new circumstances arise."

"DLA has a strong bench of lawyers to handle the matters important to us."

"DLA Piper has significant expertise in a broad number of areas of the law, and they provide prompt and reliable legal advice."

Work highlights

DLA Piper represented Safeguard Global in the intellectual property and commercial matters related to the carve-out sale of its enterprise payroll-processing division to Deel.

Notable practitioners

Vincent Sanchez is global cochair of the firm's technology transactions and strategic sourcing practice. He regularly works with well-known clients on high-profile deals and asset management matters. **Strengths:** "He is very experienced and a joy to work with." "Vinny is a great partner to our organization and takes the time understand our business." "He is an expert in the field and a very good negotiator. He was able to get my company everything it needed to have a successful project."

"Vinny is the consummate professional advisor for outsourcing legal issues." Gregory Manter focuses his technology sector transactional practice on IT development and licensing, workouts and both ITO and BPO arrangements, including those which span multiple jurisdictions. He is well versed in advising clients on ERP and other software implementation agreements. **Strengths:** "He's our go-to for the largest outsourcing transactions. We'd be at a loss without him." **Victoria Lee** is well respected for her transactional IP work. She is experienced in advising on cloud computing, open source and SaaS business models. She is the managing partner of the firm's Silicon Valley office. **Strengths:** "Vicky is an excellent commercial attorney who gives pragmatic advice." "She is very knowledgeable and great to work with."

Fenwick

What the team is known for

Fenwick is a respected technology transactional group, noted for its strengths in M&A and strategic alliances. Frequently sought after for its skills in licensing agreements and recognized across the market for its practitioners' expertise in advising emerging growth and startup companies. Also assists clients operating in the healthcare, financial services and life sciences sectors.

Strengths

"They consistently demonstrate a proactive, solutions-oriented mindset and a deep understanding of our business goals."

"I trust and value their business insight and expertise. They are incredibly knowledgeable."

"Fenwick has deep knowledge in technology transactions and provides practical, business-oriented advice."

Work highlights

Fenwick represented Wiz in its \$32 billion acquisition by Google.

Notable practitioners

David Hayes is active in M&A and licensing work and offers clients the benefit of his in-depth knowledge of copyrights and patents. **Strengths:** "David is a real legend in this space." **Rufus Pichler** is well versed at advising clients involved with technologies ranging from semiconductors to the Internet of Things. His experience includes licensing transactions and the IP elements of M&A. **Strengths:** "Rufus combines legal sophistication with practical business judgment, helping us strike the right balance between protecting our interests and building long-term, collaborative relationships."

Joseph Schenck advises clients on commercial transactions and related IP matters. He frequently acts for clients in the interactive entertainment and gaming industries. **Strengths:** "Joseph is an excellent attorney and a trusted advisor." "He gets stuff done correctly and is commercially-minded as well." **Jennifer Stanley** chairs Fenwick's copyright practice and serves as co-leader of its technology transaction practice. Her broad practice includes expertise in the gaming, retail and hardware spaces.

Strengths: "Jennifer is a superior legal business resource."

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

What the team is known for

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP is a preeminent outsourcing practice with a comprehensive team of expert technology lawyers. Possesses deep expertise in the IT and computing industries, while also regularly representing clients in the automotive, healthcare, engineering and hospitality sectors. Excels in BPO and ITO initiatives and well versed in issues concerning offshoring and shared services. Also noted for its handling of outsourcing negotiations and restructuring, as well as outsourcing-based strategic alliances.

Strengths

"They are clearly experts in this nuanced area of law and did an excellent job of explaining the issues involved."

Work highlights

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher advised Cardinal Health on the renewal and restructuring of a finance and accounting outsourcing transaction with Genpact.

Notable practitioners

William Peters has deep experience in outsourcing and technology transactions, and represents a broad array of companies. He is cochair of the firm's strategic sourcing and commercial transactions practice. **Strengths:** "Bill is a terrific lawyer who is great at thorny issues and solving tricky problems."

Goodwin

What the team is known for

Goodwin is commended for its representation of technology sector clients in a variety of corporate transactions. The team works with companies at all stages of growth with particular expertise in the startup space.

Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve Franklin & Hachigian**What the team is known for**

Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve Franklin & Hachigian enjoys an excellent standing in the market for its work with emerging growth technology companies and is also a fine choice of firm for venture capital and private equity investors. Handles a broad range of corporate work, including M&A, strategic alliances and financing, and also has significant expertise in IP licensing and other technology-related transactions.

Work highlights

Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve Franklin & Hachigian advised Everest Networks on its sale to Fortinet, Inc.

Notable practitioners

Tom Villeneuve is well known by others in the market for the depth of his expertise in technology transactions, including joint ventures and license agreements. He is one of Gunderson Dettmer's founding partners.

Hogan Lovells US LLP**What the team is known for**

Hogan Lovells offers notable expertise in tech sector M&A in California with a focus on representing large buy-side clients. The team is noted for its knowledge of the semiconductor, software and mobile sectors.

Strengths

"We are extremely satisfied with the overall assistance they bring to all of our matters."

"Hogan Lovells distinguishes itself through its commercial acumen and collaborative approach."

Work highlights

Hogan Lovells advised Autodesk on its acquisition of NAVASTO GmbH.

Notable practitioners

John Brockland has substantial knowledge of licensing and BPO agreements. He is well placed to advise on both the technology and IP aspects of corporate transactions such as joint ventures.

Strengths: *"John is extremely responsive. He provides expert, creative and practical advice for us, and is a very enjoyable person to work with."* *"John has a solid grasp of our strategic priorities and consistently aligns legal advice with broader business objectives."* *"He is highly competent and we really enjoy working with him."*

Latham & Watkins LLP**What the team is known for**

Latham & Watkins LLP has an excellent technology transactional practice with a fine track record for its cross-border work. Excels in IP-related technology transactions, including M&A, licensing, distribution and strategic collaborations. Represents a broad range of major companies, including those in the automotive and aerospace industries, retail and media and entertainment. Also advises on complex strategic alliances, joint ventures and, increasingly, data privacy concerns.

Strengths

"They are extremely helpful and add real value to our team."

"Their breadth of expertise has been super useful and helpful and really makes them shine as a firm."

Work highlights

Latham & Watkins advised AeroVironment on its acquisition of Blue Halo.

Notable practitioners

Anthony Klein covers a broad spectrum of domestic and cross-border matters, including service agreements and IP transactions. **Michelle Ontiveros Gross** has notable experience advising clients within the technology industry on matters such as M&A, particularly on the IP and data privacy aspects involved. **Strengths:** *"Her number one strength is her commercial awareness. She knows what to push on and how to push on it."*

Ghaith Mahmood advises technology sector companies and investors on many types of transaction, including licensing, IP commercialization and strategic partnerships. He works with clients in fields such as digital health, social media and augmented reality. He is global vice chair of the firm's data technology and transactions practice. **Strengths:** *"He is super responsive and up to speed on emerging technologies and business practices."* **John McGarraghan** is a talented technology attorney with a roster of public and private company clients who look to him for advice in licensing issues, M&A and financing matters, among other transactions.

Strengths: *"He gives responsive and sound advice and has a good understanding of transactions and business. You need to understand the overall picture and he does that."* *"He has a great blend of domain expertise, careful drafting skills, negotiating technique and practical business sense. I greatly enjoy working with him."* *"He is highly skilled, very responsive and pragmatic. He's a true pleasure to work with."* *"He quickly grasps issues, leverages his deep industry expertise and delivers practical solutions."* *"John has a great technical understanding of the subject matter."*

Mayer Brown LLP**What the team is known for**

Mayer Brown advises significant tech players on high-value mergers and acquisitions. The firm is experienced in numerous sectors, including fintech, blockchain and manufacturing. The team regularly assists clients with operational technology strategy.

Strengths

"The team is very accommodating, efficient and knowledgeable. They can provide the guidance we need."

"Mayer Brown consistently provides high service levels and responsiveness."

"They are extremely responsive and solutions-oriented. It is an innovative firm."

"They consistently provide an excellent work product under any necessary timeline."

"Mayer Brown is current on market positions and can advise accordingly. They are also pragmatic and are good at seeing the big picture."

Work highlights

Mayer Brown represented HCL Technologies Limited in the \$225 million acquisition of the Communications Technology Group business from Hewlett Packard Enterprise Company.

Notable practitioners**Notable practitioners**

Rohith George is experienced in the representation of technology industry clients in a range of matters. He is particularly well-versed in outsourcing work. **Strengths:** *"Rohith is very knowledgeable*

and very efficient. He provides very practical solutions." *"Rohith is super responsive and super collaborative."* *"He did a terrific job moving at the speed of the deal and keeping us on track to make sure everything was done on time."* *"He is a valued advisor on complex deals and offers direct and straightforward recommendations. He also understands the commercial motivations of his clients."*

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP**What the team is known for**

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP has broad experience in the technology sector, routinely representing clients domestically and internationally. The team regularly advise on licensing matters and commercial agreements, among other issues.

Strengths

"Its lawyers are exceptionally talented and combine deep subject matter expertise with a rare ability to understand and anticipate its clients' commercial objectives."

"The team delivers excellent and thorough work products."

"They are knowledgeable on the issues and timely in their help and responses."

Work highlights

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP represented SanDisk with respect to the commercial and IP issues related to its SD flash memory card joint venture with Kioxia Corporation and Panasonic Corporation.

Notable practitioners

Rahul Kapoor of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP handles joint ventures, distribution agreements, licensing issues and a range of strategic alliances. He represents national and international clients operating in the software, life sciences and motor sectors, among others. **Strengths:** *"Rahul Kapoor is outstanding. He combines deep technical expertise with exceptional client service, always makes himself available and ensures that our needs are addressed promptly and thoroughly."* *"He stands out for being able to distill very complex matters down to clear and concise explanations for business principals."* **Kari Krusmark** is well regarded for her ability to guide clients in their outsourcing initiatives, most notably in structuring and negotiating their modernization and digital transformation projects. She is also noted for counseling clients in restructurings, separations and terminations of outsourcing agreements. **Strengths:** *"I think very highly of Kari. Her strengths are that she's knowledgeable, responsive, very easy to work with and gives sound timely advice."* *"She is terrific at being able to read the room really well and focus on the things that are most important. She is very smart and creative when it comes to problem-solving."*

Morrison Foerster**What the team is known for**

Morrison Foerster is a market-leading practice featuring a talented team of lawyers who represent clients across the full range of technology transactional matters. Regularly engaged by clients in the life sciences, healthcare and consumer products arenas, in addition to advising major technology developers and manufacturers. Known for its ability to handle the complex IP aspects of M&A and strategic alliances. Also demonstrates impressive expertise in emerging areas of concern such as

financial technology and artificial intelligence.

Strengths

"They really demonstrate deep expertise in the subject matter and adopt a thoughtful and pragmatic approach."

"They are incredibly diligent subject matter experts. They jumped in to help with expertise in every area."

"They always respond promptly and the turnaround time on projects is fast. The work product is of very high quality."

"They are outstanding business-oriented lawyers and the best at tackling new business problems with creative solutions."

"The team's strength is in their ability to provide high-level strategies and detailed options."

Work highlights

Morrison Foerster advised SoftBank Group Corp on its acquisition of Ampere Computing Holdings for \$6.5 billion.

Notable practitioners

Tessa Schwartz represents companies from the healthcare, fintech and transport sectors, among others. She deals with a broad range of matters, including M&A, joint venture agreements and IP issues. **Strengths:** *"She is incredibly thorough, commercially-minded and well-versed in the most current topics." "Tessa has the great ability to draw on experience and provide practical and creative solutions" "Tessa is a skilled legal strategist who gets the best outcome for her clients."* **William**

Schwartz advises on a wide range of IT transactions, including those involving software and hardware, and often acts for international companies.

Strengths: *"He is very thoughtful in his approach and really cares." "William is an outstanding lawyer who can find commercial solutions for any new technology." Stephanie Sharron is a particular expert in data rights and analytics matters, including in the context of commercial transactions. She is experienced in issues relating to machine learning, fintech and cybersecurity, among others. Aaron Rubin is commended for his work on sophisticated transactional matters for large clients in the technology space. He serves as chair of the firm's technology transactions group. **Strengths:** *"His depth of experience, and understanding of nuanced company positions and how to protect us on those, is really amazing." "Aaron always provides excellent client service at the highest level of sophistication." "I appreciate his depth of knowledge, responsiveness and rapid turnarounds." "He is incredibly knowledgeable and also very helpful in emerging areas of law. He gives us perspective on where the market is going." Justin Haan is an up-and-coming talent who has experience in advising significant clients in the technology sector. He is especially knowledgeable of AI. **Strengths:** *"Justin is an excellent attorney. He has a good depth of expertise and is able to handle the most complex transactions."***

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

What the team is known for

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP is a well-balanced IT transactions practice, highly regarded for its work with startups and mature technology companies. Broad experience advising clients on a range of complex mandates, including M&A, financings and the movement of data. Notable for its work with the automotive industry, along with software devel-

opers, biotech companies, electronics manufacturers and clients in the energy sector.

Strengths

"Their approach to complex matters is not just about legal expertise but also about strategic partnership."

"What sets Orrick, and this department apart, is the combination of their responsiveness, breadth of expertise and genuine partnership. They are so quick to support."

"Orrick has a deep and unparalleled understanding of the technology industry."

"The firm takes a business-first approach in its legal guidance and is highly responsive across the board."

Work highlights

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe advised Weights & Biases on its \$1.7 billion acquisition by CoreWeave.

Notable practitioners

Timothy Greene centers his practice on technology and intellectual property transactions such as joint ventures and open source licensing. He also advises on the tech sector regulatory aspects of financings and M&A. **Strengths:** *"Tim knows his stuff. You trust that his advice comes from a place of true knowledge. He has got a good way of breaking things down to non-lawyers." "He is a great, practical lawyer who consistently gives actionable advice. I really appreciate that he doesn't just raise legal risks but accompanies his advice with recommendations based on past experience."* **Daniel**

Yost is well known for his ability to handle complex transactions for science-based technology companies. His work ranges from intellectual property and licensing to distribution agreements and cross-border collaborations. **Strengths:** *"Daniel is a very deep thinker about the problems he is facing and he does a good job at surfacing risks that are not apparent." "His commercial sense is exceptional and he provides a steady hand through complex transactions. His blend of business-savvy and legal knowledge is effortless."*

Sidley Austin LLP

What the team is known for

Sidley Austin LLP hosts a dedicated team of practitioners, fielding expertise in a broad range of technology and IP transactions, including M&A, joint ventures and licensing. Recognized experience in artificial intelligence and virtual reality, as well as financial technology transactions. Also involved in numerous digital health sector deals, assisting clients in the licensing and use of big data with respect to life sciences, healthcare and pharmaceutical technology.

Strengths

"We were impressed with depth of understanding and ability to convey simply with our business colleagues."

"Sidley has a depth of attorneys who are on top of the various aspects of the law and are able to bring that advice together into an actionable strategy. We have relied on Sidley to work as a team to address complex structuring issues."

Work highlights

Sidley Austin represented ChargePoint in its collaboration with Eaton regarding the deployment of EV charging infrastructure in the US, Canada and Europe.

Notable practitioners

Stephen Fronk is an experienced attorney who focuses on technology and intellectual property transactions. He regularly negotiates commercial agreements and partnerships on behalf of Fortune 500 technology companies. **Strengths:** *"Stephen is wonderful." Anna Remis is commended for her work in the technology sector. She is well-versed in a number of transactions. **Strengths:** *"She is very commercial and practical. She is focused on getting the deal done and is practical in addressing problems to solve them."* **Rachelle Soderstrom** is a skilled attorney with notable experience in commercial technology transactions. Clients also look to her for advice in M&A, joint ventures and strategic alliances. **Strengths:** *"Rachelle takes a very complex and technical field and is able to isolate the business and commercial elements in understandable way." "She very quickly learned what was important to us and made efforts not to complicate things otherwise. She played a key role in getting the deal done."**

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates

What the team is known for

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates advises clients in the technology sector on issues including M&A and licensing matters. The team has experience advising in the US and internationally.

Strengths

"They are very commercial and able to work with us to get deals done on the timeline we need."

"They are very responsive and their capabilities are amazing."

"They are always available to help and are responsive."

"Their business acumen, and ability to act as a true business partner, is phenomenal."

Work highlights

Skadden advised Scopely on its \$3.5 billion acquisition of the games business of Niantic, Inc.

Notable practitioners

Ken Kumayama is a talented attorney who handles complex IP, data privacy and cybersecurity issues within high-value and sophisticated M&A deals.

Strengths: *"Not only is Ken a very sophisticated lawyer but he also has a technical background that means he can really dive into issues." "Ken is fantastic. He is extremely knowledgeable, has an excellent way of getting to the point and is very good at negotiating." "He has a technical background so not only does he understand the nuance around very technical matters, but also can translate that to lay people." "Ken provides exceptional experience, guidance and responsiveness." "He is responsive and we really appreciate his performance."*

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

What the team is known for

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP deftly manages large transactions in the technology space, with growing experience in AI. The team demonstrates significant expertise at the intersection of IP and M&A.

Strengths

"The team is extremely responsive and very business-oriented. The lawyers can explain complex transactions in straightforward terms."

"Sullivan & Cromwell is the firm we go to for difficult

sticky issues. This is the team we call."

"They have a national and international practice and great resources across the firm. It's a full-service firm that provides top-notch legal advice."

"They are really good at understanding a tough problem and seeing different perspectives."

"They are very proactive and sophisticated. They know what is market, and understand us and our stakeholders."

Notable practitioners

Nader Mousavi is noted for his skilled handling of high-value technology transactions, as well as patent agreements. He also advises clients on a wide range of technology- and IP-related matters in the context of M&A and capital markets deals.

Strengths: "Nader is a strong practitioner. He is phenomenal." **Mark Schenkel** is an up-and-coming attorney in the technology space. He regularly represents clients in complex corporate transactions. **Strengths:** "He gives straightforward, easy to understand and deeply thoughtful advice."

VLP Law Group LLP

What the team is known for

VLP Law Group is a Silicon Valley-based boutique technology firm offering expertise in M&A, data security issues and cyber liability insurance policy matters.

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

What the team is known for

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP is noted for its IP expertise in large-scale and sophisticated transactions for market-leading clients. Also recognized for its experience in M&A, joint ventures and partnership agreements, and well versed in matters concerning social media, software and e-commerce.

Strengths

"They are so client-first and flexible. They always help us get the answers we need and further our business."

"They are incredibly responsive and produce excellent work."

"The team provides a client-centred focus, quick response time, high calibre legal work and emphasis on in-person and impactful work."

"The team is responsive, practical, experienced and thorough."

"They are able to quickly brainstorm potential solutions and offer potential compromises or resolutions on complex issues."

Work highlights

Weil, Gotshal & Manges advised H.I.G. Capital on the technology and IP aspects of its take-private acquisition of Converge Technology Solutions Corp.

Notable practitioners

Karen Ballack is respected for the depth of her knowledge of IP and other technology transactions, including joint ventures and acquisitions. **Strengths:** "Karen is a pleasure to work with and produces a fantastic work product." "She synthesizes complexity into actionable strategy, communicates with candour and tact and delivers practical, high-impact results. Her leadership inspires confidence at every stage." "Karen is an incredibly good drafter and has good attention to detail. She is a good negotiator as well, she is respectful but can argue our positions really well." **Max Scott** is an up-and-coming talent who attracts praise for his work in technology

transactions. He shows expertise in acquisitions, licensing issues and joint-development matters.

Strengths: "He didn't miss a beat." "Max is very client-focused and very flexible." "He is pragmatic and demonstrates expertise on the key legal issues we are working through." "He helps problem-solve and provides solutions."

White & Case LLP

What the team is known for

White & Case LLP has a long-standing technology practice with the experience to handle both transactions such as M&A, IP licensing and strategic partnerships, and the development and acquisition of new tech projects. Acts for a domestic and international client base of startups and established businesses, across disciplines ranging from digital health and fintech to autonomous cars and the Internet of Things.

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

What the team is known for

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP represents a substantial base of clients across various technology and life sciences disciplines, including biotech, software and semiconductors. Typically focuses on transactional matters running the gamut of M&A and joint ventures, cloud services, IP licensing and product development, among other areas.

Strengths

"They are very knowledgeable, responsive, easy to work with and personable."

"Willkie closes complex matters quickly and maintains a sharp focus on tactical concerns without losing sight of strategic imperatives."

"Their expertise, reliability and positive attitude make them a trusted partner for our most important matters."

"This team has been incredibly responsive and efficient in several high pressure situations."

"The key strengths that distinguish Willkie Farr's technology transactions department are its deep industry knowledge, holistic approach and forward-looking expertise."

Work highlights

Willkie Farr & Gallagher represented QuEra Computing in negotiating an API license and hardware access agreement with Amazon whereby QuEra Computing's technology was made available through Amazon Bracket.

Notable practitioners

Matthew Berger demonstrates notable experience in the semiconductor and hardware industries, advising on areas such as licensing and distribution. He is also adept at IP protection and the transfer of rights. **Strengths:** "He is very knowledgeable and helps me to see around corners that I don't think about. He is a consummate negotiator and I value his advice." "He is able to provide strategic and practical advice with an understanding of our short-term, as well as long-term, goals." **Tiffany Lee's** technology transactions practice encompasses everything from IP guidance to the creation of agreements for processes such as licensing and development. Her clients include both public and private companies across several tech-adjacent industries. **Strengths:** "Tiffany is very knowledgeable and very responsive. She is great at issue-spotting and finding solutions." "Tiffany is indispensable.

Her skill in negotiation, industry insight and incredible work ethic make her critical to the relationship between our company and the firm." "She is a great drafter and subject matter expert, and very easy to work with as well." "Tiffany is very attentive to the details and is able to provide us with guidance without missing important details."

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

What the team is known for

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati has an enviable technology transactions practice acting for an excellent roster of clients, often drawn from the pharmaceutical, software and cloud computing industries. Well regarded for its experience in IP-related issues and licensing work, the team is known for helping businesses develop and expand their technology assets. Continues to take on challenging, high-value M&A, joint ventures and strategic alliances for a varied list of brand-name clients.

Strengths

"They can carefully craft solutions to problems the other side doesn't even realize exist, and they always do the extra work to be prepared before things come up."

"The team are technically excellent. They provide very practical advice and have a good sense of what is typical and what is not."

"They have not only legal knowledge but market expertise and guidance."

"They consistently frame issues in a way that balances legal risk with business opportunity, enabling us to make informed decisions quickly and confidently."

"The firm is replete with skilled and experienced lawyers who can navigate complex and sophisticated matters in critical practice areas."

Work highlights

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati advised Ampere Computing on its acquisition by SoftBank Group Corp for \$6.5 billion.

Notable practitioners

Miranda Biven is a key contact.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Megan Baca of Ropes & Gray LLP is a respected attorney commended for her broad practice. She advises tech sector clients across IP, life sciences and media matters. **Strengths:** "Megan is very well-connected and respected in the industry, which makes her effective in arguing positions."

James Kalyvas of Foley & Lardner LLP has a wide array of expertise and regularly advises clients on IT matters, including outsourcing transactions, M&A and cloud computing.

Adit Khorana of O'Melveny & Myers LLP advises clients on an array of US and cross-border technology sector concerns, including licensing, intellectual property and strategic alliances. **Strengths:** "He is a smart and knowledgeable practitioner."

Heather Meeker of Tech Law Partners LLP represents technology companies in all manner of open source software licensing, sale and development agreements. **Strengths:** "She is the go-to in open source." "Heather is a terrific lawyer."

Adam Shevell of Perkins Coie LLP handles a range of corporate transactional matters for clients in the

tech sector. **Strengths:** “He doesn’t just advise; he anticipates, navigates and pushes us forward like a true business partner.” “He can anticipate how different parties will react and craft strategies that protect us legally and also position us advantageously. He has a rare ability to make complex legal situations feel manageable.” “He is one of the best

lawyers I know for providing truly practical legal and business advice without sacrificing depth.” “Adam is a highly expert lawyer on multiple domains and also an extremely practical commercial advisor.”

Joseph Yang of PatentEsque is a highly experienced technology specialist who is commended for his expertise in a broad range of transactions.

Venture Capital

Venture Capital	Venture Capital	
Leading Firms	Senior Statespeople and Eminent Practitioners	
Band 1	Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	Eminent Practitioners
Cooley LLP	Bochner Steven <i>Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati</i>	McCusker Anthony <i>Goodwin *</i>
Fenwick	Stevens Mark C <i>Fenwick</i>	Proffitt Rachel <i>Cooley LLP</i>
Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve Franklin		Zuklie Mitchell <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP</i>
Latham & Watkins LLP		
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati		
Band 2	Leading Individuals	
DLA Piper LLP (US)	Band 1	Brophy Fiona <i>Perkins Coie LLP *</i>
Goodwin	Bautista John <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP</i>	Bushnell Laura <i>King & Spalding LLP (ORL) ◇ *</i>
Morrison Foerster	Tanoury Mark <i>Cooley LLP</i>	Foster Troy <i>Perkins Coie LLP *</i>
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP	Band 2	Hanson Eric <i>WilmerHale *</i>
Band 3	Clarfield Hess Cynthia <i>Fenwick</i>	Harris Daniel <i>Morrison Foerster</i>
Perkins Coie	Esquivel Michael T <i>Fenwick</i>	Knapp Trevor <i>Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve *</i>
Pillsbury	Gaviria Ivan A. <i>Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve *</i>	Levine Steven <i>Fenwick & West (ORL) ◇</i>
Sidley Austin LLP	Potter Benjamin A <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>	Lewandowski Stan <i>Pillsbury</i>
WilmerHale	Socol Randy <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>	Mo Curtis L. <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>
Band 4	Taku Yoichiro <i>Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati</i>	Naftulin Danielle <i>Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati</i>
Foley & Lardner LLP	Werner Peter <i>Cooley LLP</i>	Oshinsky Matthew <i>Perkins Coie LLP *</i>
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP	Band 3	Pollick Josh <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP</i>
Reed Smith LLP	Angus Samuel B <i>Fenwick</i>	Rumberger Jr Todd <i>Pillsbury</i>
Ropes & Gray LLP	Bull Richard <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>	Sanders Michael <i>Reed Smith LLP</i>
Silicon Legal Strategy, A Professional Corporation	DeGraw Rebecca <i>Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati</i>	Sanderson Jason <i>Morrison Foerster</i>
* Indicates individual with profile.	Glaser Michael <i>Morrison Foerster</i>	Schmitz Craig <i>Goodwin Procter LLP</i>
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	Gottlieb Seth <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>	Voxman W Alex <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	Huda Shehzad <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>	Zimmermann Daniel R. <i>WilmerHale *</i>
	Indick Murray <i>Morrison Foerster</i>	Up-and-coming individuals
	Jacoby Craig <i>Cooley LLP</i>	Capsuto Tara <i>Cooley LLP</i>
	Lehot Louis <i>Foley & Lardner LLP *</i>	Casas Paul <i>Pillsbury</i>
	Moss Caine <i>Goodwin *</i>	Helfgott Seth <i>Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati</i>
	Netser Idan <i>Sidley Austin LLP *</i>	Kalansky Shai <i>Morrison Foerster</i>
	Patterson Brian <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>	Kassai Alex <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>
	Pearson Christina F. <i>Pillsbury</i>	Lorenat Linda <i>King & Spalding LLP (ORL) ◇ *</i>
	Venuto Stephen <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP</i>	Mann-Meginniss Emma <i>Cooley LLP</i>
	Young David R. <i>Cooley LLP</i>	Silva Alfredo <i>Morrison Foerster</i>
	Band 4	Associates to watch
	Axelrad Jonathan <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>	Bolduc Nicholas <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>
	Belt Dawn <i>Fenwick</i>	Chase Lauren <i>Morrison Foerster</i>

Band 1

Cooley LLP

What the team is known for

Cooley has a market-leading practice that caters to emerging companies, investors and venture capital funds in significant financing and corporate transactions. It offers first-class advice on fund formation and fund structuring. The firm has particularly impressive experience representing companies and funds active in the life sciences, technology, and artificial intelligence sectors.

Strengths

“Cooley’s combination of technical depth and practical execution distinguishes it as a top-tier choice for sophisticated matters.”

“Cooley’s expert counsel is pragmatic and focuses on the items that matter the most to us and our business.”

“They best understand the Silicon Valley ecosystem and our specific needs within it.”

“Cooley’s ability to analyze the deal structure and draft things in a clear way is second to none.”

Work highlights

Cooley represented Founders Funds on the closing of its USD4.6 billion third growth fund.

Notable practitioners

Cooley’s CEO **Rachel Proffitt** is notable for her ability to advise growing businesses throughout their life cycle. Her work in the venture capital space includes the representation of both company and investor-side clients in financing rounds.

John Clendenin advises on the life cycle of emerging companies. He has a wealth of experience advising sponsors on the raising and closing of funds. **Strengths:** “John is simply A+.” **John Dado** coheads Cooley’s fund formation practice

and advises an impressive roster of sponsors on the raising and closing of sector-focused investment vehicles. He has further experience in providing counsel to institutional investors. **Strengths:** “John is an amazing asset to the entire asset management community.” **Mark Tanoury** is especially well regarded for the advice he supplies to companies and investors in the technology industry. **Eric Doherty** represents venture capital firms in the closing of high-value funds targeting a span of innovative sectors, including artificial intelligence, consumer finance, deep tech, and software. **Strengths:** “Eric is an exceptional fund formation

Venture Capital: Fund Formation
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Caplice Sean Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve *
Clendenin John Cooley LLP
Dado John Cooley LLP
Franklin Steven R Gunderson Dettmer Stough *
Goudey Shane Sidley Austin LLP *
Band 2
Doherty Eric Cooley LLP
O'Donnell Ian Goodwin *
Silber Jordan Cooley LLP
Up-and-coming individuals
Reese Elizabeth Cooley LLP
* Indicates individual with profile.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

lawyer. He is very well-informed and essential to our business." **Jordan Silber** attracts particular attention for his knowledge of the Chinese market as it relates to fund formation. **Strengths:** "Jordan knows his domain very well and is able to give quick and actionable advice in a very concise fashion." **Peter Werner** is recognized for his prowess in advising leading startups and funds on high-value financings across artificial intelligence and defense sectors. **Strengths:** "Peter Warner is a go-to lawyer in the Bay area and nationwide for both company and fund-side work." "Peter is very pragmatic and doesn't overthink the problem. He is very responsive and thoughtful." **Craig Jacoby** is particularly adept at providing counsel to both investors and startups on early-stage financing. He represents clients from a broad spectrum of sectors including technology and software. David Young is held in high regard for his significant experience in advising both emerging companies and their investors in venture financing. **Strengths:** "David is a tremendous lawyer and has a phenomenal practice in Los Angeles." **Tara Capsuto** represents startups and investors in key venture capital sectors, including technology, climate, and artificial intelligence. **Strengths:** "Tara is terrific—she is a very capable and insightful lawyer." "She is outstanding." **Emma Mann-Meginniss** has a burgeoning venture capital practice. She represents clients in a range of industries, including climate tech and AI, and investors, across all stages of a company growth cycle. **Strengths:** "Emma is someone that I look forward to working with. She is very practical, but also aware of the limitations of her clients and looks for ways to take the stress off of them." **Elizabeth Reese** enjoys a flourishing fund formation practice in California. She is particularly involved in assisting emerging managers eyeing the fintech and cybersecurity sectors. **Strengths:** "One of the primary reasons I continue to use Elizabeth and her team is that they stand out at being very responsive and getting back to us quickly." "Elizabeth is great."

Fenwick

What the team is known for

Fenwick has an esteemed venture capital practice that houses an impressive bench of experienced practitioners. The firm acts for emerging companies in corporate and financing transactions and also offers significant expertise in late-stage funding. The practice group is particularly noted for its activity in the technology sector, with specific knowledge of

gaming, cryptocurrency, digital health, fintech, and artificial intelligence.

Strengths

"Fenwick's work quality is out of this world." "They have a very thoughtful understanding of board dynamics, company business models, and broader macro-economic considerations." "Fenwick is a power player in the market."

Work highlights

Fenwick represented Databricks in a USD5.25 billion credit facility and a USD10 billion Series J financing.

Notable practitioners

Mark Stevens services an impressive roster of company-side clients in the technology, gaming and other digital media industries. He has notable experience in advising companies on their fundraisings.

Cynthia Clarfield Hess cochairs the firm's startups and venture capital group, regularly representing emerging technology and healthcare companies in funding rounds. She possesses additional experience in IPOs and other matters. **Strengths:** "Cindy is an exceptional lawyer." "She is one of the preeminent lawyers in venture capital." Michael Esquivel has notable experience in advising technology startups throughout their life cycle, from formation to sale. A particular area of strength is advising clients on financing. **Strengths:** "We appreciate Michael because he is a business-oriented lawyer. He will help you analyze complex situations and boil them down to what actually matters." Samuel Angus's venture practice involves handling financings for both investor-side and company-side clients. His recent work includes funding rounds for early-stage players in the fintech sector. **Strengths:** "Sam benefits from good client relationships and a very calm demeanor. His quality of work is very good." **Dawn Belt** supports companies throughout their lifecycle, including during financings and formations. **Strengths:** "Dawn is excellent at giving quick, actionable advice." "She is an excellent partner."

Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve Franklin & Hachigian

What the team is known for

Gunderson Dettmer Stough is a formidable corporate boutique that maintains a strong position in the market, representing startups and emerging growth companies as well as providing fund formation advice. The firm is particularly adept at venture capital financing and also frequently advises on private and public offerings, M&A and corporate governance. It offers particular expertise counseling companies in the life sciences, technology and telecommunications sectors.

Strengths

"They are a powerhouse in fund formation." "Gunderson is a top firm."

Notable practitioners

Sean Caplice benefits from a remarkable reputation in the venture capital space. His extensive market experience makes him highly sought after by sponsors to advise on the formation of funds to be invested in the US and internationally. **Strengths:** "Sean is a rockstar, he's a really good lawyer." Steven Franklin receives high praise for his knowledge of all aspects of the raising and management of venture funds. **Strengths:** "He is the king of

fund formation." "He is one of the godfathers of the industry." Ivan Gaviria centers his practice on providing counsel to tech companies. He represents clients throughout their life cycle, offering significant experience in handling financing. **Strengths:** "Ivan is an awesome lawyer with a very good practice." **Trevor Knapp** assists venture-backed companies with corporate matters and funding rounds throughout their lifecycle. He is active in the technology, energy, and healthcare sectors. **Strengths:** "Trevor is an excellent lawyer."

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for

Latham & Watkins boasts a remarkable team of practitioners offering advice to emerging companies, venture capitalists and investment banks across the spectrum of financing transactions. It also offers advice to private companies on IPOs and M&A. The firm receives particular recognition for its life sciences expertise, particularly in pharmaceuticals. Additionally, the group fields significant strength in technology, with considerable experience in gaming, fintech, and software.

Strengths

"The Latham team is one of the most sophisticated in our space. It works on some of the most complex deals in the market, and uses its experience from those deals to benefit clients."

"Latham's team offers practical and creative advice measured to meet the risk appetite of my company."

"Latham & Watkins makes sure that we are always up to speed on regulatory developments in our industry. We consider them a strong business partner, not just a legal provider."

"Their depth of experience on novel issues is a big strength."

Work highlights

Latham & Watkins advised Abridge AI on their USD250 million Series D and USD300 million Series E.

Notable practitioners

Benjamin Potter leads a respected venture capital practice across the technology and life sciences sectors. His client base includes both emerging companies and investors. **Strengths:** "Ben is a very smart lawyer." As a global vice chair to Latham & Watkins' technology industry group, **Seth Gottlieb** represents high-growth companies and investors in venture capital transactions. He showcases involvement in deals at the intersection of technology, artificial intelligence and security. **Strengths:** "He is a great lawyer." "Seth has a solid practice in emerging companies and venture capital." **Brian Patterson** is the global vice chair of Latham & Watkins' venture capital practice. He is known for advising clients from inception to maturity, as well as for assisting investors in funding rounds. **Strengths:** "Brian has provided us with great service in a timely fashion, while taking a strategic and commercial viewpoint on how to approach legal structures." "Brian is a well-known, strong lawyer." Alex Voxman serves as cochair of the firm's internet and digital media practice. Based in Los Angeles, he regularly advises late- and early-stage companies in the entertainment and advertising industries. **Strengths:** "From a corporate governance standpoint and understanding what investors are looking for and what the downstream impacts will be as a business grows,

Alex offers significant years of experience." **Alex Kassai** provides counsel to emerging companies and venture capital investors in tech-driven sectors, including artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and fintech. He is also experienced in IPO transactions. **Strengths:** "Alex is incredibly bright and deeply knowledgeable about the needs of venture capital and startup clients, giving them very sound, practical and pragmatic counsel." "Alex Kassai does a great job at client service. He is very responsive and spends a lot of time getting to know our business."

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

What the team is known for

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati boasts an accomplished practice that offers substantial expertise in representing entrepreneurs and venture-backed companies in major financing and corporate transactions. Additionally, the group advises venture capital firms on investment and governance matters. The firm frequently counsels clients in the technology, healthcare and media sectors.

Strengths

"Wilson Sonsini has a deep institutional understanding and experience meeting the needs of startup firms and their evolution as private companies."

"The team at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati is tremendously supportive, efficient, and strategic."

"Wilson Sonsini distinguishes itself for its comprehensiveness, breadth of coverage, friendliness, and adaptability."

Work highlights

Wilson Sonsini represented Radical Ventures as a co-lead investor in Writer's USD200 million Series C financing valued at USD1.9 billion.

Notable practitioners

Steven Bochner has notable experience in handling venture financing on behalf of clients from the media and technology sector. **Yoichiro Taku** provides counsel to emerging tech companies throughout their lifecycle. He is also adept at counseling venture capital investors on financing rounds.

Strengths: "Yokum is a true startup lawyer." "He is an amazing lawyer." **Rebecca DeGraw** is recognized for her expertise advising investors and emerging companies throughout their life cycle. Her client base includes organizations driving technological innovation. **Strengths:** "Becky is fantastic to work with." "Rebecca is really hands-on and understands our business and needs." **Danielle Naftulin** regularly assists both investors and emerging companies on a range of formation and financing issues. She has considerable experience in advising clients on matters related to the life science and real estate sectors. **Strengths:** "Danielle makes herself available whenever needed for consultations and moves forward with all alacrity to execute once decisions are made." "Danielle's advice is always sound and provides clear guidance." **Seth Helfgott** has a burgeoning practice representing emerging companies, startups and investors in venture capital. **Strengths:** "What I appreciate is Seth will take the time to talk deeply through a scenario. Beyond just our counsel, he's a valued advisor in complex situations." "Seth has a very excellent understanding of complex dynamics."

Band 2

DLA Piper LLP (US)

What the team is known for

DLA Piper draws on its statewide, national and international capabilities to represent venture capital funds in major financing transactions. The practice group is also capable of advising venture-backed companies on financing throughout their life cycle. They are widely recognized for its expertise in the technology, life sciences and consumer sectors.

Strengths

"DLA gives a lot of peace of mind. We choose them because they help us with everything within and around venture capital deals."

"Beyond having a strong commercial grasp of the market, the DLA team is top-notch in their professionalism working with our companies and co-investors."

"They have seen it before and have the resources in house to respond to any situation I have required support."

"DLA Piper is very well-versed in market terms and expeditious in its turnaround."

Work highlights

DLA Piper represented Optilogic in its USD40 million Series B funding round.

Notable practitioners

Randy Socol applies himself vigorously to his work in early-stage financing. His clients include life sciences and technology companies as well as venture capital firms. **Strengths:** "Randy tells you what he would do from a legal standpoint or a business one. I really like that about him." "Randy is very good at distilling the core of the problem, finding options, and fighting for us in the right way. His strongest asset is his multi-decade experience in venture capital transactions." "Randy is a trusted advisor and confidant. I continue to turn to him for pivotal questions." "He is responsive and insightful, and more often than usual, he has an answer in real time. I have worked with other lawyers who are not able to do that." **Richard Bull** is experienced in providing counsel on series financings, particularly for clients in the healthcare and technology sectors. **Strengths:** "Rich is a great partner to work with, he is extremely responsive and has a strong commercial sense." "Rich is super responsive, and he and his team are so focused on attention to detail. They give us a lot of peace of mind." **Shehzad Huda** has a burgeoning practice in the space. He has experience in advising clients on a range of financings, including seed, early and late-stage deals.

Strengths: "Shehzad is always on, communicative, very detail-oriented while being highly strategic. He is also business-minded, very intelligent and experienced, and is great at trust-building." "It's a pleasure to work with Shehzad. He is smart, responsive, positive yet realistic, practical and experienced." "He is incredibly knowledgeable and available." **Jonathan Axelrad** represents clients from a range of industries on early-stage financings. He is adept at providing counsel to clients in the technology sector. **Strengths:** "Jonathan is one of our go-to lawyers for all financing and corporate matters." "Jonathan is not only extremely knowledgeable and provides excellent advice, but he is also a great mentor and is very compassionate to the struggles of founders and business leaders." "Jonathan has been an

incredible partner." Curtis Mo's investment practice sees him regularly advising clients in the technology and life sciences markets. **Strengths:** "Curtis provides timely, thorough, and thoughtful analysis of all the legal issues I face." "Curtis scores a 10 out of 10 on both responsiveness and expertise." **Nicholas Bolduc** is an associate with a burgeoning practice in the venture capital and emerging companies space. He regularly assists clients in financings and M&A. **Strengths:** "Nick is very motivated, clear, quick and concise." "Nick does great work in short time frames."

Goodwin

What the team is known for

Goodwin has noteworthy expertise in providing counsel to startup companies, especially those operating in the technology space in California. The firm acts for companies throughout their life cycles, with deals ranging from seed stage to Series G and IPO. The practice group excels at advising venture capital funds on formation and operational issues. It is particularly noted for its industry expertise in telecommunications, financial services and life sciences.

Strengths

"Goodwin provides very concise, effective and digestible advice tailored to our firm's unique structure and needs."

"The specialists on the Goodwin team always step in with advice and structures to help us navigate complexity, especially given the international spread of our operations."

Work highlights

Goodwin represented Applied Intuition in a USD600 million Series F and tender offer at a USD15 billion valuation.

Notable practitioners

Anthony McCusker has a preeminent venture capital practice and regularly advises both investors and early-stage technology companies on financing. **Ian O'Donnell** can offer considerable experience in the launching of funds for investment in technology companies and other growth organizations. **Strengths:** "He provides great advice." **Caine Moss** is a long-standing practitioner in the venture capital space. He regularly advises growing companies and their investors in the technology and financial sectors. **Craig Schmitz** cochairs Goodwin's technology practice and advises emerging growth companies and venture capital investors. **Strengths:** "He is a phenomenal lawyer."

Morrison Foerster

What the team is known for

Morrison Foerster offers advice to emerging companies and major investors in both early- and late-stage financings, as well as the full gamut of corporate and IP issues. It demonstrates significant strengths in life sciences, fintech and agriculture technology and has a particularly prominent practice in secondary market transactions.

Strengths

"Beyond knowledge of the law, Morrison Foerster excels in strategic advisory. They are highly commercial, put themselves in our shoes and therefore are true thought partners."

"Morrison Foerster is uncanny in their ability to analyze documents and think of every potential per-

mutation that needs to be covered in a partnership document or fundraise.”

“They offer incredible client service and timely responses.”

“Morrison Foerster is very proactive in making sure we are not dropping the ball in every aspect of our business.”

Work highlights

Morrison Foerster represented Verkada in its \$200 million Series E financing completed at a \$4.5 billion pre-money valuation.

Notable practitioners

Michael Glaser sits as cochair of the firm's emerging companies and venture capital practice and regularly advises emerging companies on their financing needs. His robust company-side practice sees him typically assisting those in the technology market. **Murray Indick** has significant experience in handling matters on behalf of both emerging companies and renowned venture capital investors.

Strengths: “Murray is an incredible lawyer, strategist and thoughtful partner.” “He is a very seasoned lawyer.” **Daniel Harris** of Morrison Foerster benefits from experience advising venture-backed companies on early-stage financings in the energy, bioscience, and food and beverage sectors. **Strengths:** “Dan is very well-versed and has a terrific demeanor.” “Dan has always been a phenomenal lawyer.”

Jason Sanderson is highly regarded for his expertise in venture capital and advises emerging companies and investors on funding rounds. **Strengths:** “Jason is super pragmatic, always available, and internationally experienced, which is very valuable to us.”

Shai Kalansky is highlighted for his ability to represent clients in the life sciences and healthcare space. He routinely provides counsel on early-stage financings and debt financings. **Strengths:** “Shai is client-focused, responsive, thoughtful, budget-sensitive and extremely smart and sophisticated.” “I can't speak more highly of Shai Kalansky and his desire to go above and beyond and be available for us.” “Shai Kalansky and his desire to go above and beyond and be available for us.”

Alfredo Silva cochairs Morrison Foerster's social enterprise and impact investing practice and regularly advises companies through early and later-stage financings. **Strengths:** “Alfredo is truly a jewel in the firm's practice. He takes a 360° approach to all problems, collaboratively and practically solving extremely complex problems.” “Alfredo is particularly creative at conceiving structures to solve your problem and advising on defensive actions to leverage your position.” “He's incredibly sophisticated, smart, and thoughtful.” **Lauren Chase** has a growing practice in the space. She has notable experience in assisting clients throughout various stages of the organization's life cycle, including early-stage financings and IPOs. **Strengths:** “Lauren is highly responsive, and is always moving quickly and solving matters.”

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

What the team is known for

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe has an esteemed venture capital practice with pronounced expertise handling issues for emerging companies in the technology space. The group represents a diverse range of clients within the industry, including food, cloud computing, fintech, and digital health compa-

nies. It advises startups and investors on an array of financing and corporate transactions.

Strengths

“Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe has a strong reputation in the early-stage scene.”

Work highlights

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe represented Speakeasy Labs in its USD78 million Series C financing.

Notable practitioners

The firm's global chairman **Mitchell Zuklie** is highly regarded for his impressive venture capital practice, which includes advising major technology companies on their venture financing. **John Bautista** enjoys a long-standing reputation acting for investors and leading technology companies in national and international financing. **Strengths:** “John is a legend who offers very practical advice and has seen everything at this point. He is a standout practitioner.” **Stephen Venuto** cochairs Orrick's technology practice and is regularly retained by marquee clients in the technology sector. **Strengths:** “He is an excellent all-around lawyer.” Santa Monica-based partner **Josh Pollick** serves as the global leader of Orrick's Technology & Innovation Sector. He is regularly called upon to advise early and later stage growth companies in the technology sector. **Strengths:** “He is a very good and active lawyer in the venture capital space.”

Band 3

Perkins Coie

What the team is known for

Perkins Coie has notable capabilities with respect to the representation of emerging companies, venture capital funds and other investors. The firm offers advice on venture capital financing, corporate governance and M&A. It features expertise covering a broad swath of industries, including technology, marketing, retail and entertainment.

Strengths

“Perkins Coie distinguishes itself through its deep expertise in venture and early-stage transactions, combined with a genuine commitment to community engagement and founder education.”

“Their responsiveness, practicality, and clarity make them an exceptional partner for early-stage organizations.”

Work highlights

Perkins Coie represented ProrataAI in its USD28.6 million Series A financing.

Notable practitioners

Fiona Brophy has considerable experience in handling seed financings and fund formations. Her clients stem from the technology, health and education sectors. **Strengths:** “Fiona has a good reputation.” **Troy Foster** cochairs the emerging companies & venture capital practice at Perkins Coie. He is regularly sought after by venture capital investors and startups in the technology industry. **Strengths:** “Troy is a tremendous lawyer.” “I've got a lot of respect for Troy.” **Matthew Oshinsky**

is the cochair of the emerging companies and venture capital group. He has experience of supporting organizations throughout their life cycle, from formation and seed financing, through to IPO.

Strengths: “Matthew is great to work with.”

Pillsbury

What the team is known for

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman possesses recognized investor and company-side capabilities. Its impressive client roster includes emerging companies in technology market, with expertise in gaming, software, e-commerce, and climate tech. The firm is able to advise companies throughout their life cycles, from early-stage venture capital to M&A and corporate governance.

Strengths

“Pillsbury's strength is not only in structuring venture capital deals but also in bridging the perspectives of founders and investors to create win-win outcomes.”

“Everyone from the lead partner to the other associates and senior leaders on our team is very astute and helpful.”

“Pillsbury is highly efficient in processing due diligence and flagging important items and providing very good advice on structuring complex transactions.”

“They excel in navigating California's competitive venture ecosystem, where speed, precision, and alignment of interests are crucial.”

Work highlights

Pillsbury represented Omnitron Sensors in its USD13 million Series A financing.

Notable practitioners

Christina Pearson cochairs Pillsbury's corporate and securities practice. She advises startups and investors in venture capital financings. **Strengths:** “Christina is a very experienced, firm, but also calm, negotiator. She won't back down under pressure.” “Christina's biggest strength is her creativity for problem solving. She's very unfazed.” **Stan Lewandowski** is noted for his Silicon Valley-based practice advising companies on early stage financings. His clients include digital health, AI and fintech firms, particularly those with international exposure.

Strengths: “Stan is really good at forming relationships, helping out clients and having a broad knowledge base. He knows what he can help with and points you in the right direction if he can't.” “He is extremely savvy on the tech side and has a lot of market info that helps us. He is super quick to respond and doesn't over elaborate with legalese. Able to explain complex things in laymans terms.”

Edwin Thom Rumberger's corporate practice involves acting on behalf of investors and startup organizations in venture financing and later-stage M&A. **Strengths:** “Todd is the rare lawyer who has all the qualities you'd want in your legal counsel—he is responsive and breaks down the important part of every document in a way that is digestible for a founder.” “His expertise is incredibly valuable.” “You need people who understand all sides of venture capital. This is why we choose Todd.”

Paul Casas cochairs Pillsbury's corporate venture capital practice. He is highly regarded for his expertise in advising startups through all stages of their lifecycle. **Strengths:** “Paul is very commercially aware.” “Paul's willingness to cultivate and build long-term partnerships with innovative technology companies at the earliest stage is exceptional.”

Sidley Austin LLP

What the team is known for

Sidley Austin's practitioners are experienced in

advising clients on early and late-stage financings and fund formations. The team is also adept at advising client on a range of transactional issues, including M&A, investments and joint ventures. The groups clients stem from the technology, life sciences, and retail sectors, among others.

Strengths

"Sidley Austin combines the sophistication of a global firm with the agility and pragmatism of a boutique."

"Not only are they able to distill complex concepts into manageable agreements, but they also educate me and my firm on areas to strengthen and protect ourselves."

"Sidley provides not only sound legal advice but also experienced business acumen."

"Sidley Austin offers highly proactive and responsive firm leaders, with deeply customized processes tuned to early-stage startups."

Work highlights

Sidley Austin represented Supira Medical in its USD120 million Series E financing.

Notable practitioners

Shane Goudey applies his considerable fund formation expertise to the representation of venture capital sponsors through all stages of the process. He is adept at advising on the formation of both domestic and international funds. **Strengths:** *"What distinguishes Shane is his deep venture literacy and his ability to translate that knowledge into practical, commercial guidance."* *"Shane is an irreplaceable part of our team, bringing a rare combination of professionalism, deep industry expertise, and unwavering responsiveness."* *"Whether supporting complex transactions, guiding strategic discussions, or responding to pressing matters with speed and precision, Shane exemplifies reliability and excellence."* *"Shane is awesome and terrific."* **Idan Netser** is skilled at assisting clients on seed, early-stage and late-stage financings. He is experienced in handling cross-border legal issues.

Strengths: *"Idan is very strategic and understands where clients need to go."* *"Idan is able to personally handle and successfully navigate every single issue we ever send his way."*

WilmerHale

What the team is known for

WilmerHale is a distinguished firm in the venture capital space with extensive experience in representing both emerging organizations and venture capital firms in financings. The group advises startups throughout their life cycle, from inception through to IPO and sale. Its specific strength lies in advising clients from the life sciences and technology sectors.

Strengths

"WilmerHale has very knowledgeable and experienced lawyers."

"WilmerHale's attorneys are responsive, knowledgeable and great to do business with."

"WilmerHale are very responsive and commercial. The firm puts clients first and is technically brilliant but married with a commercial practicality."

Work highlights

WilmerHale served as Tractian's counsel in its USD120 million Series C financing.

Notable practitioners

Eric Hanson is held in high regard for his ability to provide counsel on early-stage financing and investments into startup organizations. **Strengths:** *"Eric is extremely practical and efficient."* Daniel Zimmermann's venture capital practice involves advising startups and venture capital firms on early-stage financing. He is regularly sought out by emerging companies in the technology sector. **Strengths:** *"He is a great lawyer."* *"He certainly has a big name in Silicon Valley."*

Band 4

Foley & Lardner LLP

What the team is known for

Foley & Lardner LLP has a distinguished practice in venture capital, offering extensive expertise on fundraising and investments. The law firm caters to clients across the healthcare, technology and cybersecurity sectors.

Strengths

"Foley & Lardner's quality of work is top."

Work highlights

Foley & Lardner represented TCG Crossover in their investment into Aviceda Therapeutics' USD200 million Series C financing.

Notable practitioners

Louis Lehot possesses considerable experience representing investors in venture capital financing. His acumen also benefits from counseling emerging companies throughout their life cycles.

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

What the team is known for

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius' team is renowned for advising clients in the technology, healthcare and life sciences sectors. Its practitioners advise clients on a wide spectrum of issues, including seed financings, investments and IPOs. The team is experienced in providing counsel on issues containing cross-border elements.

Strengths

"Morgan Lewis has an excellent knowledge of current market terms and trends. The team is also exceptionally responsive and proactive."

Work highlights

Morgan, Lewis represented Translink Capital in the \$23 million Series A financing of Foundation LLM.

Key contact

Venture capital practitioner E. John Park is a key contact at the law firm.

Reed Smith LLP

What the team is known for

Reed Smith LLP is highly regarded for its expertise in venture capital. The law firm advises companies in early and later stage growth, across a range of industries including technology, cryptocurrency and artificial intelligence. Clients also benefit from Reed Smith's cross-border expertise.

Strengths

"The Reed Smith team brings a wealth of experience and takes a pragmatic approach to finding solutions."

"The team consistently exceeds our expectations with their resources and reach."

"Reed Smith has an expert for each area we need

to cover, and they have connections throughout the world to assist us."

Notable practitioners

Michael Sanders of Reed Smith is routinely called upon by emerging companies and investors to handle venture capital transactions. He has significant experience in providing counsel to companies within the life sciences sector. **Strengths:** *"Michael has a thorough understanding of our business and is highly engaged to achieve our strategic objectives."* *"Michael is always available and very responsive."*

Ropes & Gray LLP

What the team is known for

Ropes & Gray are well positioned in the venture capital market. The firm leverages deep expertise in capital markets, asset management and fintech, to advise on a range of fund formation matters for venture capital clients.

Strengths

"Ropes & Gray is extremely tactical and proactive."

"Ropes & Gray is a great firm for fund formation."

"Ropes & Gray had a deep awareness of market practice and current trends, was creative in offering solutions to meet our needs and worked efficiently against our target timelines."

Work highlights

Ropes & Gray advises venture capital firm, Standard Crypto, on regulatory and compliance matters relating to digital asset and venture investments.

Notable practitioners

Melissa Bender is a key contact.

Silicon Legal Strategy, A Professional Corporation

What the team is known for

Silicon Legal Strategy is a trusted boutique in the Bay Area specialized in venture capital and angel financings. The practice group led by founder Andre Gharakhanian is recognized for representing startups in funding rounds from inception through their early stages of development. The legal team is also well-versed in providing corporate counseling to clients.

Strengths

"Silicon Legal Strategy is extremely active in the Bay Area."

"Silicon Legal pulls off an impressive number of early-stage deals."

Key contact

Andre Gharakhanian is a key contact.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Laura Bushnell of King & Spalding attracts acclaim for her representation of investors and emerging companies. Her work involves dealing with startups and scale-ups at various stages throughout their life cycle. **Strengths:** *"Laura is a terrific lawyer."*

Steven Levine regularly advises companies and investors across technology sectors on venture financing matters. He is adept at providing counsel on fundraisings. **Strengths:** *"Steven is an excellent technical lawyer."*

Linda Lorenat of King & Spalding is an up and coming practitioner who advises emerging companies on early series and seed investment rounds.

Water Law

Water Law
Leading Firms
Band 1
Best Best & Krieger LLP
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
Downey Brand LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Somach Simmons & Dunn
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Garner Eric L. <i>Best Best & Krieger LLP</i>
McGlothlin Russell <i>O'Melveny & Myers LLP</i>
O'Brien Kevin <i>Downey Brand LLP</i>
Osias David L. <i>Allen Watkins (ORL) ♦</i>
Slater Scott S. <i>Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP</i>
Band 2
Bartkiewicz Paul <i>Paul Bartkiewicz Law Firm (ORL) ♦</i>
Bunn Thomas <i>Lagerlof, LLP (ORL) ♦</i>
Hastings Stephanie Osler <i>Brownstein Hyatt Farber</i>
Herrema Brad <i>Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP</i>
Hitchings Andrew <i>Somach, Simmons & Dunn</i>
Kline Matthew <i>O'Melveny & Myers LLP</i>
Nikkel Meredith E. <i>Downey Brand LLP</i>
Quass Lucas <i>Latham & Watkins LLP *</i>
Roos-Collins Richard <i>Water and Power Law (ORL) ♦</i>
Somach Stuart L. <i>Somach Simmons & Dunn</i>
* Indicates individual with profile.
♦ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Best Best & Krieger LLP

What the team is known for

Best Bets & Krieger has an experienced team of attorneys who provide support on water law issues, including on water right acquisitions, infrastructure development and quality compliance. They are able to support clients on litigation work and advisory issues and have experience working with key stakeholders and governmental agencies in the water law industry.

Work highlights

Best Best & Krieger represented Searles Valley Minerals in an ongoing groundwater adjudication to determine water rights.

Notable practitioners

Eric Garner is a go-to water rights attorney. He expertly advises on surface water and groundwater issues.

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

What the team is known for

Brownstein Hyatt is highly sought after by suppliers, providers and public and private water producers for complex water law matters. The group has wide-ranging expertise in acquisition, development, disposition and the regulation of any water supply. The group is also well-equipped to advise on litigation arising out of major water projects.

Strengths

"The team is pragmatic and efficient."

"The firm has a depth of expertise. The lawyers are accessible and are able to complex material and

identify alternatives."

"Brownstein has consistently stepped up to meet the challenge and provide exceptional legal counsel. I am extremely pleased with the work product and counsel they provide."

"Brownstein is one of the most knowledgeable, experienced firms with regard to water rights and water resources. The team is highly professional."

"Brownstein provides a team that does a good job of handling complex matters."

Work highlights

Brownstein Hyatt continues to advise the Central Coast Water Authority on transactional and litigation work relating to its water supply delivery, treatment activities and PFAS contamination matters.

Notable practitioners

Scott Slater is a top choice for clients seeking advice on water transactions and litigation arising out of major water projects. **Strengths:** *"Scott is the best in the business."* *"Scott is the most innovative lawyer in water law, particularly from a business problem solving point of view."* *"Scott is always working and always available. He is available on weekends. His communication and accessibility is great."* **Stephanie Osler Hastings** is recognized for her experience in contentious water law-related matters, such as groundwater adjudications.

Strengths: *"Stephanie is outstanding across the board. She is able to remember the smallest details and always approaches the issue in a calm and thoughtful manner. She is amazingly responsive."*

"Stephanie is a talented, knowledgeable professional that provides incisive and strategic advice."

"Stephanie is responsive. She seeks to understand our business and stays on top of emerging issues to flag areas of potential concern for us, so we can plan accordingly." **Brad Herrema** provides expert advice on litigation, strategic water supply planning and permitting. **Strengths:** *"Brad is an excellent strategic thinker, is highly knowledgeable, and is extremely responsive to clients."* *"Brad is very knowledgeable and highly responsive. He can simplify complex concepts and analyze issues quickly and well. He also has good commercial awareness."*

Downey Brand LLP

What the team is known for

Downey Brand LLP houses a deep bench of experienced water law attorneys. The firm offers noteworthy expertise in a range of regulatory, transactional and contentious water law matters, such as water rights, water supply and groundwater cases. The team is equipped to represent both private and public sector clients.

Notable practitioners

Kevin O'Brien of Downey Brand LLP is well-known for his strong track record representing clients before the SWRCB and in trial on complex water issues. Meredith Nikkel represents both private and public sector clients in a variety of water law-related matters, ranging from disputes to regulatory compliance.

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for

Latham & Watkins LLP represents both private and

public sector clients in contentious and non-contentious water law matters. The lawyers are experienced at handling groundwater rights cases and adjudications. In addition, the team provides advice on permitting matters and compliance with state regulations.

Strengths

"Latham & Watkins is very knowledgeable and responsive to questions. Water law in California is complicated and requires a niche expertise that not many lawyers have. Latham & Watkins is able to provide that expertise."

Work highlights

Latham & Watkins represented Clan Keith Real Estate Investments with its compliance efforts and maintenance of its water rights.

Notable practitioners

Lucas Quass has a strong water rights practice. He routinely advises clients on adjudication and regulatory approvals, as well as permitting.

O'Melveny & Myers LLP

What the team is known for

O'Melveny & Myers LLP is frequently sought after by major water users, agricultural companies, government agencies and water investors, as well as financiers facing a range of water law issues. The team is well-equipped to handle the full spectrum of water law matters, including major transactions, high-stakes litigation and complex regulatory issues.

Strengths

"The firm provides excellent litigation support."

"O'Melveny & Myers is knowledgeable of the water market, California and local idiosyncrasies. The lawyers are creative and clever."

"The firm is very experienced in complex water litigation."

"O'Melveny has a deep bench and is able to help with complicated legal matters. They also have a good business sense and consider the business implications of the advice they are giving."

Work highlights

O'Melveny is representing the Coachella Valley Water District and its board in a case brought by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians over tribal water rights claims.

Notable practitioners

Russell McGlothlin has a wide-ranging water law practice. He expertly counsels clients on SGMA, water rights permitting, compliance and reclamation issues, among other related areas. **Strengths:** *"Russell has excellent expertise and great bedside manner."* *"Russell is incredibly experienced, highly thoughtful, and has a great deal of commercial awareness."* **Matthew Kline** has noteworthy experience handling contentious water law matters, including groundwater adjudications and disputes over water rights. **Strengths:** *"He is an exceptional trial lawyer."* *"Matthew is a smart and steady presence in and out of court. He is an excellent advocate and litigator whether it be depositions, case management conferences, cross-examination in trial, or closing argument."* *"Matthew is a skilled litigator, who is also well aware of practical business matters."*

Somach Simmons & Dunn

What the team is known for

Somach Simmons & Dunn has a deep bench of experienced water law attorneys. The firm handles a variety of matters, including water rights, water supply, and water quality issues. Its client base ranges from government agencies to universities.

Strengths

"Somach Simmons & Dunn is a quality firm."

Notable practitioners

Andrew Hitchings is highlighted for his expertise in water rights and water transfer agreements. He has noteworthy experience representing public agencies. Stuart Somach is a highly regarded attorney who is regularly called upon by state governments to act on complex water law matters.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Paul Bartkiewicz offers deep experience in water law matters, ranging from water resource disputes to water rights. **Strengths:** *"Paul provides outstanding client service whilst addressing very complicated water law issues and cross-jurisdictional regulatory strategies."* *"Paul provides service at the highest levels for some of the most complex water related issues. He maps out plans and strategies for success in achieving the clients' objectives."*

Thomas Bunn of Lagerloff LLP represents both private and public sector clients in a variety of water law matters, including groundwater, water rights and water transfers. **Strengths:** *"He is an excellent attorney."*

David Osias of Allen Matkins has extensive experience handling water law matters. He is sought

after for his expertise in litigation. **Strengths:** *"David is always a pleasure to work with. He is incredibly insightful, prompt and extremely knowledgeable in water rights and water litigation. He suggests practical solutions to problems and is diligent in pursuing our matters to conclusion."* *"David is an experienced, extremely knowledgeable attorney with whom I have the utmost confidence."* *"David is fantastic. He is smart, practical, and has a lot of experience."*

Richard Roos-Collins, co-founder of Water and Power Law Group PC specializes in settlements in complex cases involving multiple parties. He has vast experience supporting clients such as public agencies, conservation groups and utility companies. **Strengths:** *"He is good at getting to solutions to work for everyone and is very practical."* *"Richard is outstanding."* *"Richard is fantastic."*

Leaders' Profiles in California

ABASCAL, Manuel A

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Manny Abascal is a partner in the Litigation & Trial Practice of Latham & Watkins and is based in Los Angeles. Manny handles complex and high-stakes litigation and government investigation matters for clients in several industries. Over his 20-year career at Latham, he has represented clients from several industries in their most important and challenging legal matters. He has been recognized by many organizations for his professional and community achievements, including receiving the Learned Hand Award from the American Jewish Committee, a professional achievement award from the Mexican American Bar Foundation, and a pro bono service award from the Los Angeles County Bar Association. Prior to joining Latham in 2000, Manny was an assistant United States attorney in Los Angeles, where he prosecuted and tried numerous and diverse fraud cases. Manny has played a leading role in various nonprofit and philanthropic organizations in Los Angeles, including serving as the founding Chairman of Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital, a safety net hospital based in Watts/Willowbrook, and as a director and board member of the Altadena Recovery and Rebuild Corporation.

ADKINS, Robb C

BakerHostetler LLP, San Francisco
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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Robb Adkins is a litigation partner in BakerHostetler's San Francisco and Los Angeles offices,

and serves as the head of the San Francisco office. His white collar and litigation practice is bolstered by his experience as a federal prosecutor and trial lawyer in private practice, enabling him to knowledgeably guide clients through internal investigations, corporate compliance, complex civil litigation and government enforcement defense. As a nationally recognized trial attorney, he has experience handling both complex criminal and civil litigation. He also has significant experience counseling clients on their most complex white collar matters, including those involving the Department of Justice, the Securities and Exchange Commission and various federal and state enforcement agencies. Robb previously held numerous leadership positions within the DOJ, including as the Executive Director of the Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force. As head of the Task Force, which was formed by the President and chaired by the U.S. Attorney General, he was responsible for directing the largest coalition ever assembled to combat financial fraud, working closely with the highest leaders of the DOJ, SEC, Commodity Futures Trading Commission and more than 25 other federal and state fraud enforcement and regulatory agencies. Prior to that role, Robb served as a federal prosecutor in U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California, where he was lead counsel in more than 50 prosecutions and numerous complex fraud trials, and served as the Chief of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Orange County. From 2005 to 2007, Robb was a member of the Enron Task Force, serving as a trial attorney in the landmark criminal trial against Enron CEOs Kenneth Lay and Jeffrey Skilling. **Professional Memberships:** American Bar Association, White Collar Crime

Committee -- Executive Co-Director (2021 to 2023) -- National Co-Chair (2019 to 2021) -- National Vice Chair (2018 to 2019)

AGRE, Lyn

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Lyn is a leading trial lawyer in white-collar criminal defense, internal investigations, and complex commercial litigation. She has represented major corporations, individuals, and witnesses in a wide range of criminal matters, including fraud, antitrust, securities, insurance, tax, health care, maritime law, environmental issues, and public corruption. Lyn has also conducted numerous internal investigations concerning, among other things, allegations of securities fraud, insider trading, FCPA violations, theft of trade secrets, accounting malfeasance, and obstruction of justice. Lyn is equally accomplished in the civil arena, representing clients in matters ranging from whistleblower complaints, employment disputes, and defamation actions to Title IX and ADA cases. Lyn has successfully tried numerous criminal and civil jury trials to verdict. Chambers quotes a source describing Lyn as "an outstanding trial lawyer, tactician, and strategist," adding that Lyn is "great with clients, and terrific in an urgent situation." From the outset of her career, Lyn has been committed to applying her legal skills for the benefit of the underserved and indigent in our community. She has continued to represent such individuals in both civil and criminal pro bono matters throughout her career. Before co-founding Glenn Agre Bergman & Fuentes, Lyn was a partner

of Kasowitz Benson Torres, an adjunct professor of law at Santa Clara University School of Law, and a deputy public defender for Santa Clara County. Lyn serves as a lecturer in the trial practice program at Stanford Law School. Lyn is also a board member of the Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts of the San Francisco Fine Arts Museums and member of the Women Criminal Defenders Association. She was also previously an adjunct professor of law at Santa Clara University School of Law.

AI, Bing

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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Post-Grant Proceedings Intellectual Property Law Patent Prosecution & Portfolio Counseling Patent Litigation ITC Litigation China Practice Trade Secrets Higher Education Patent Analytics, Strategy & Solutions Inter Partes Review (IPR) Covered Business Method Review (CBM) Reexaminations & Reissues Trade Secrets Semiconductor Communications Energy Infrastructure & Clean Technology Medical Device Internet & E-Commerce Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning 5G Technology Educational Institutions & Services Autonomous & Uncrewed Vehicle Systems (AUVS) Higher Education Life Sciences & Healthcare

Career: A physicist by training, Dr. Bing Ai brings more than 25 years of experience in patent procurement, patent strategies, and patent portfolio management in a wide range of technologies, including semiconductors, electronics, software, medical devices, and 3G, LTE/4G, and 5G wireless standard essential patents. He performs patent

due diligence for patent licenses, patent portfolio sales, corporate financing, investments, and mergers and acquisitions. Bing has extensive experience in patent reexamination, reissue, and other post-issuance proceedings. Notably, Bing handled highly valuable patent portfolios in key industries that led to industrywide patent licenses or were involved in significant patent litigation. Bing represents clients in patent disputes and conducts freedom to operate analyses, patent validity analyses, and infringement analyses. Bing assists clients in patent litigation at district courts and Section 337 investigations before the International Trade Commission and handles patent administrative trials before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, including inter partes reviews and post-grant reviews. With an emphasis on technology companies, Bing works with companies ranging from multinational corporations to midsized companies and startups; he also represents universities and research institutes.

AKROTIRIANAKIS, Joseph
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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Joe Akrotirianakis is a partner in the Business Litigation Practice Group. He is an accomplished trial lawyer who has first-chaired or co-chaired 35 trials and arbitrations. He has never lost a jury trial or bench trial. Mr. Akrotirianakis represents both plaintiffs and defendants across a broad spectrum of industries, including technology, pharmaceuticals and life sciences, and international shipping, transportation and logistics, among others. A seasoned commercial litigator, and a decorated former federal prosecutor, Mr. Akrotirianakis has litigated matters of the most complex and difficult caliber throughout his more than 25-year career. Mr. Akrotirianakis regularly practices before federal and state courts throughout California and nationally in matters involving complex commercial litigation, unfair competition, business torts, intellectual property, and federal and state regulatory investigations and defense. His work prosecuting and defending matters involving cutting-edge legal theories in high-profile matters brought under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (CFAA), the California Comprehensive Computer Data Access and Fraud Act, the Lanham Act, the California Unfair Competition Law and similar laws in other states has been repeatedly recognized in the legal press and mainstream media. Mr. Akrotirianakis was elected to the firm's Policy Committee in December 2021.

ALAVI, Sam
Paul Hastings LLP, Los Angeles
samalavi@paulhastings.com

Featured in Real Estate (California: Southern)

Practice Areas: Sam Alavi is a partner in the Real Estate practice of Paul Hastings and is based in the firm's Century City office. He regularly advises some of the world's largest private equity

funds, sovereign wealth funds, and other investment platforms on a wide variety of real estate-related transactions, including development, acquisition/disposition, finance, and joint venture transactions in major markets across the U.S. Sam has been instrumental in advising non-U.S. entities in their major investments in the U.S. real property market, including with regard to the sovereign wealth funds of the Emirate of Dubai and the State of Qatar, along with institutional Korean and Chinese insurance companies. In addition, Sam is the Executive Director of the US-GCC Development Council, which focuses on enhanced integration and commercial relations between the United States and the nations that form the Gulf Cooperation Council, particularly in the areas of private equity and asset management.

Professional Memberships: Adjunct Professor at University of Southern California, School of Public Policy Member, Milken Institute Chairman's Circle Executive Director, United States and Gulf Cooperation Council (US-GCC) Development Council

Personal: USC Gould School of Law, J.D. University of Southern California, B.S.

ALBRIGHT, Shane
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Featured in Life Sciences (California)

Practice Areas: Shane Albright is a partner in Goodwin's Life Sciences group. He represents life science and technology companies in a wide range of corporate, financing, licensing and commercial matters, with a particular emphasis on complex corporate partnering transactions. He has extensive experience counseling clients on collaborations, strategic alliances, joint ventures, royalty financings, licenses, and key commercial relationships, such as manufacturing and distribution arrangements. Shane's clients include companies in the biopharmaceutical, medical device, diagnostics, hardware, software, medical instrumentation, digital health, vaccine, and research reagent spaces, as well as entities that fund or conduct medical research.

Personal: JD, Stanford Law School (with distinction) 2002; Doctor of Philosophy, University of California, Berkeley 1999; BS, Biological Sciences, Stanford University (with distinction) 1991

ALVAREZ, Fred W
Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP, San Francisco
415.772.5740
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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Labor & Employment
Career: Fred Alvarez, one of the preeminent employment lawyers in the United States, combines a distinct blend of employment law experience, public service, and legal profession leadership. He has had an active individual and class action litigation practice devoted to defending employers in trial and on appeal

in claims brought by private and governmental parties and by former senior executives. He has led the employment practice of two major American law firms. Fred has represented employer clients in a range of industries, including energy, retail, communications, financial services, and technology. He currently focuses substantial attention on providing strategic and compliance advice, advising Boards and Special Committees of Directors as independent outside counsel, conducting sensitive internal investigations and serving in jointly- or court-appointed monitorships, as either Monitor, Independent Consultant, or Special Master of national employment class action decrees. He has testified before Congress on several occasions.

Professional Memberships: Fred is a co-founder of the American Employment Law Council and is a member of Law360's Employment Editorial Advisory Board. He was an adviser to the ALI Restatement of Employment Law and has been appointed to serve on judicial-selection committees. He is a former chair of the ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession, has served on the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession, and is a former president of the Bar Association of San Francisco. Fred serves on the board of directors of Equal Rights Advocates and the Latino Community Foundation. He is also a member and former chair of the board of governors of Public Advocates Inc.

ANDERSON, Dave
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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Dave is a former United States Attorney and former Supreme Court clerk. He represents leading technology and life sciences companies, large banks, telecommunications carriers, and high-profile individual clients. Clients turn to Dave with their most difficult trials and investigations. Throughout his career, Dave has devoted himself to a far-reaching trial practice. His experience includes white-collar investigations, board representations, patent, trade secret, and trademark litigation, and high-stakes commercial litigation. For eight years he was a prosecutor, and for more than 20 years he has served his clients in private practice.

ANDERTON, Thomas
Foley & Lardner LLP, San Francisco
tom.anderton@foley.com

Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Chemical, Biotechnology & Pharmaceutical, Intellectual Property

Career: Thomas (Tom) Anderton leverages his significant experiences as a general counsel and chief patent counsel in the life sciences sector to serve the unique business and intellectual property needs of both emerging and institutional companies in the space. Tom has a deep understanding of the intricacies involved in technology transactions

and intellectual property matters within the biopharmaceutical and medical devices industries, including in complex cross-border work in China and Europe. His transactional skillset encompasses licensing, research and development, manufacturing, distribution, service, financing, and partnering agreements, in addition to M&A and integration. Tom drafts and prosecutes patent applications for his clients and advises on freedom to operate matters, infringement avoidance, strategic planning, and the development, structure, and monetization of both U.S. and international patent portfolios. His patent portfolios are routinely ranked among the leaders in the industry. Prior to Foley, Tom was a partner in the San Francisco office of an international law firm, before which he led a 15-year career as an executive in the life sciences sector.

ARMBRUST, Sheila
Sidley Austin LLP, San Francisco
sarmbrust@sidley.com

Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: SHEILA ARM-BRUST is a former federal prosecutor with extensive investigations and trial experience. Companies, boards, and individuals, often in moments of crisis, retain Sheila to assist them in conducting internal investigations and responding to investigative demands from the Department of Justice (DOJ), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and state Attorneys General. Sheila also represents companies and individuals in high-stakes litigation in federal court. She counsels clients in the technology, artificial intelligence (AI), medical device, life sciences, and financial services sectors, and she advises companies on their compliance programs. Sheila rejoined Sidley after serving in trial-level and leadership positions in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California. While at the U.S. Attorney's office, she was a white collar prosecutor who led teams investigating and prosecuting crimes affecting the safe delivery of healthcare, including securities fraud, mail and wire fraud, violations of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, trade secret theft, trademark violations, computer fraud and abuse, money laundering, and drug trafficking.

ARONOFF, David
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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: A seasoned entertainment and media law attorney, David has more than 30 years of experience handling a variety of complex matters, including breach of contract, copyright, trademark, right of publicity, accounting and defamation claims. David regularly represents and advises a variety of business entities, including motion picture and television studios, production companies, broadcasters, Internet websites and podcasters, video game companies, music companies and

advertising agencies in their business and marketing decisions and disputes involving copyrights, trademarks, right of publicity, unfair competition, trade secrets, false advertising and contracts/accounting/finance. He has handled numerous infringement and idea submission claims concerning popular entertainment works and hit movies such as "Ad Astra," "The Last Samurai," "Along Came Polly," "Reality Bites," "There's Something About Mary" and "The Mask of Zorro." Among his recent cases, David conducted a two-week bench trial concerning the financing and distribution of the videogame "Def Jam Rapstar," defended the in-development spy-thriller project "Section 6" against claims that it infringed the copyrights in the character James Bond, and represented keyboardist-songwriter Jonathan Cain of the rock group "Journey" in successfully resolving trademark litigation between the band's members concerning the ownership and control of the "Journey" band name and trademarks.

ASHE, Brian T

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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Labor and Employment.

Career: Mr. Ashe likes to solve hard problems. He is a senior employment lawyer whose practice is dedicated to defending employers in class and collective actions and complex litigation. He has extensive experience representing employers in wage and hour matters, unfair competition litigation, discrimination, and wrongful termination actions. In his counseling practice, he enjoys providing creative solutions to complicated human resources management challenges. Mr. Ashe led the Seyfarth team on the unanimous U.S. Supreme Court ruling, *Somers v. Digital Realty Trust*, that defined the proper scope of whistleblower status under the Dodd Frank Act.

Publications: Mr. Ashe speaks widely to management groups, writes frequently on employment matters and is often quoted in newspapers and periodicals.

Personal: JD, George Washington University; BA, Boston College.

AVERY, Matthew

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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Artificial Intelligence, Intellectual Property, Intellectual Property Management, Life Sciences, Patent Prosecution

Career: Matthew Avery is a leading patent prosecution attorney and trusted strategic advisor to companies ranging from Fortune 500 multinationals to venture-backed startups, known for building high-value patent portfolios across cutting-edge technologies including artificial intelligence, life sciences, fintech, and clean energy. A prolific and widely cited scholar and professor whose work has

influenced courts and Supreme Court amicus briefing, he combines deep legal and technical training with business-focused counsel to help innovators protect core technologies, secure investment, and compete globally. In addition to providing legal services for his clients, Mr. Avery is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco, where he teaches courses on Patent Prosecution and Food & Drug Law. He previously taught at Santa Clara University, School of Law.

Professional Memberships: State Bar of California United States Patent and Trademark Office California Board for Professional Engineers

Publications: Patenting Working Animals, *Syracuse Law Review*, Vol. 75 (2025). The Myth of "Bad" Patents: Impact of Prosecution Length on Patent Litigation Outcomes, 38 *Harvard Journal of Law & Technology*, Vol. 38 (2024). Pre-Litigation Investigations and Due Diligence (Book Chapter), in *Pre-ANDA Litigation: Strategies and Tactics for Developing a Drug Product and Patent Portfolio* (Kenneth Dorsney ed., ABA Press 3rd ed. 2022). Animal-based Medical Diagnostics: A Regulatory Problem, *Food & Drug Law Journal*, Vol. 75 (2020). The Return of the Plague: Inequitable Conduct After *Regeneron v. Merus*, *Santa Clara High Technology Law Journal*, Vol. 34 (2018). Roberts Was Wrong: Increased Antitrust Scrutiny After *FTC v. Actavis* Has Accelerated Generic Competition, *Virginia Journal of Law & Technology*, Vol. 19 (2015). The New Plague: False Claims Liability Based on Inequitable Conduct During Patent Prosecution, *Fordham Intellectual Property, Media & Entertainment Law Journal*, Vol. 25 (2015). The Conflict Between the FDA's Pre-Launch Activities Importation Request Program and the Hatch-Waxman Act, *Hastings Science & Technology Law Journal*, Vol. 6 (2014). The Antitrust Implications of Filing "Sham" Citizen Petitions with the FDA, *Hastings Law Journal*, Vol. 65 (2013). The Roadblock for Generic Drugs: Declaratory Judgment for Later Generic Challengers, *North Carolina Journal of Law & Technology*, Vol. 15 (2013). FDA Enforcement of Criminal Liability for Clinical Investigator Fraud, *Hastings Science & Technology Law Journal*, Vol. 4 (2012). Bringing Smart Pills to Market: FDA Regulation of Ingestible Drug/Device Combination Products, *Food & Drug Law Journal*, Vol. 66 (2011). Baseless Paragraph IV Certifications and Shifting Obviousness Defenses, *Intellectual Property & Technology Law Journal* (May 2010). Personalized Medicine and Rescuing "Unsafe" Drugs with Pharmacogenomics: A Regulatory Perspective, *Food & Drug Law Journal*, Vol. 65 (2010). Continuing Abuse of the Hatch-Waxman Act by Pharmaceutical Patent Holders and the Failure of the 2003 Amendments, *Hastings Law Journal*, Vol. 60 (2008). **Personal:** J.D., University of California, Hastings College of the Law 2009 *summa cum laude* Production Editor, *Hastings Law Journal M.S.*, Chemical Engineering, Stanford University 2004 B.S., Chemical Engineering, Material

Science & Engineering (double major), University of California at Berkeley 2001

AXEL, Douglas A

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: DOUGLAS A. AXEL is a partner in Sidley's Los Angeles office and is a member of the White Collar, Securities Enforcement and Regulatory, and Commercial Litigation and Disputes practices. A former federal prosecutor, Doug focuses his practice on white collar criminal defense, government enforcement matters, internal investigations and commercial litigation and disputes. He has prosecuted and defended individuals and corporations in a wide range of white collar and government enforcement matters, including matters involving the False Claims Act, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, securities fraud, insider trading, consumer protection, healthcare enforcement and antitrust.

AXTELL, Sarah

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Featured in Capital Markets (California), Capital Markets (USA - Nationwide)

Practice Areas: Sarah Axtell serves as a strategic advisor on significant transactions to enable her clients to grow and succeed. She advises public and private companies, with a focus on advising technology companies and leading initial public offerings and other capital-raising transactions. As a nationally recognized lawyer, she brings particular experience handling transactional and corporate governance matters on behalf of growth-stage companies, including leading tech innovators. Sarah also represents venture capitalists and investment banks involved in private and public stock offerings. Her representative work includes: – Public offerings – Corporate governance – Public company representation – Venture capital financings – Mergers and acquisitions

AZHER, Atif

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Featured in Private Equity (California)

Practice Areas: A trailblazer in the technology sector and recent American Lawyer "Corporate Attorney of the Year," Atif Azher is Managing Partner of Simpson Thacher's Bay Area offices, where he represents clients in a wide range of complex corporate matters, with a focus on M&A and private equity. Having led some of the most successful and market-defining M&A transactions in recent years, he provides sophisticated transactional counsel to public and private companies, investment funds and financial institutions in a variety of domestic and cross-border transactions. He regularly advises on multi-billion-dollar mergers, acquisitions, divestitures and JVs, drawing on his substantial experience across a broad range of industries, including technology, technology-enabled service-

es, software, internet, sports and media, healthcare, fintech, retail and consumer products, infrastructure and real estate. Additionally, Atif has experience working on SPAC transactions, including advising target companies, SPACs and PIPE investors.

Career: Partner; Joined Firm in 2004.

Professional Memberships: American Bar Association and New York State Bar Association.

Personal: J.D., University of Pennsylvania Law School (2004); M.A., University of Pennsylvania (2004); B.S. and B.S.B.A., magna cum laude, University of Arizona (2000).

BACA, Elena

Paul Hastings LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Elena Baca is the global co-chair of the Paul Hastings Employment Law Department and leads a diverse group of more than 80 lawyers in 10 offices around the world. Elena is a first-chair litigator who regularly navigates high-stakes litigation, conducts sensitive investigations and advises C-suite executives and corporate boards on compliance and regulatory issues involving human capital. Under her leadership as practice co-chair, Paul Hastings' Employment Department has anticipated and led the response to evolving employment issues, including employee and shareholder activism, AI, COVID, DEI and CSR. Elena is recognized as a leading trial lawyer by many notable publications. An experienced trial lawyer, Elena has established an impressive record of defense verdicts and arbitration wins representing a wide variety of corporate clients. Her adversarial practice is primarily focused on employment-related issues, such as employee mobility, discrimination, wage and hour, and whistleblower issues. She is considered a "go-to" employment lawyer for many large employers with high-profile disputes involving high-level executives and contentious high-stakes litigation (including class action claims). She is regularly called upon to assist with crisis litigation, with its unique demands and need for an experienced, sophisticated and broad strategic focus. Elena is frequently called upon to turn around cases that have been mishandled by other law firms and take them to trial. Her clients include talent agencies, entertainment companies, web-based services, online social media and networking platforms, video game developers and publishers, financial institutions, medical technology and research companies, law firms, public utilities, major manufacturers, and leading consumer brands.

Personal: Notre Dame Law School, J.D. Arizona State University, B.S.

BADER, Martin

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP, San Francisco

Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Martin Bader is an experienced intellectual property trial lawyer and registered patent attorney who has obtained numerous high-profile victories for technology clients at trial and on summary judgment in district courts throughout the U.S. and at the International Trade Commission (ITC). He is nationally recognized for his work in high-stakes standard-essential patent (SEP) disputes.

BAIRD, Courtney

Duane Morris LLP, San Francisco

Featured in Litigation (California: San Diego)

Practice Areas: Ms. Baird is co-chair of the Commercial Litigation Division of the Firm's Trial Practice Group and a member of the Firm's governing Partners Board. Ms. Baird serves as outside counsel to businesses handling prosecution and defense of litigation and compliance and risk management issues. She has extensive experience in complex litigation, including defense of class actions, consumer claims (Consumer Legal Remedies Act, Unfair Competition and False Advertising Law), business to business disputes, trade secret misappropriation, anti-SLAPP, products liability, contract and tort. Her strategic approach, substantive experience and ability to cost-effectively optimize her clients' business and legal objectives has led to her representation of companies across the United States and internationally.

Career: Duane Morris LLP: Partner, 2014-present, Associate, 2006 – 2013; Cozen O'Connor: Associate, 2004 – 2006

Professional Memberships:

Steering Committee, University of San Diego School of Law Fourth Annual Class Action Law Forum; American Bar Association; California State Bar; San Diego County Bar Association; Duane Morris Women's Impact Network; San Diego Office Chair for Duane Morris Summer Associate Program; Vice Chair of Commercial and Antitrust Litigation Division, Duane Morris' Trial Practice.

Personal: University of San Diego School of Law, J.D., with Honors, 2004; San Diego State University, B.A., with Distinctions, 2000

BALDOCCHI, Jennifer

Paul Hastings LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Jennifer S. Baldocchi is a partner in the Paul Hastings Employment Department and the chair of the International Employee Mobility and Trade Secrets practice. Her practice focuses on employee mobility and intellectual property, including trade secrets, covenants not to compete, unfair competition and fiduciary duties. Jennifer has significant trial experience. She litigates trade secret misappropriation claims as well as disputes over restrictive covenants in employment-related agreements. She provides advice on best practices to protect and enforce intellectual property rights and restrictive

covenants. On the transactional side, she prepares employee and executive contracts, focusing on the protection of trade secrets and the prevention of improper customer and employee solicitations. Jennifer's practice also involves advising and defending employers in complex employment claims such as wrongful discharge, discrimination, retaliation and harassment. She defends class actions and multidistrict litigation, including disparate treatment, disparate impact and wage and hour class actions. Jennifer also counsels clients in wage and hour issues and investigations.

Personal: University of California, Berkeley, B.A. (with honors) Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, J.D., (Order of the Coif, Note and Comment Editor, Loyola Los Angeles Law Review, Member, St. Thomas More Law Honor Society)

BALLATI, Deborah S

JAMS, San Francisco

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Featured in Construction (California)

Practice Areas: •Business & Commercial •Construction •Construction Defect •Engineering & Construction •Governmental/Public Agency •Insurance •Special Master/Discovery Referee

Career: Deborah S. Ballati, Esq. brings to JAMS a broad range of civil and commercial litigation experience, with an emphasis on construction and insurance coverage, earned over her 42 years as an attorney. As a litigator, Ms. Ballati represented parties in commercial matters, including owners, contractors, subcontractors, sureties and design professionals in the construction industry. She has substantial experience with delay and defect claims arising out of commercial and residential construction projects, in addition to contract drafting negotiations and related insurance matters. Ms. Ballati has also represented policyholders in pursuing coverage under all types of insurance policies, including primary and excess general liability, environmental, property, professional liability and employment practice liability policies. Ms. Ballati is recognized as a leading California Construction Mediator in Chambers USA, 2020 – 2024 and served as the first female president of American College of Construction Lawyers (ACCL). She is recognized nationally for her expertise, and she lectures across the country on insurance, construction law, and dispute resolution.

Professional Memberships:

American College of Construction Lawyers •President, 2011–2012 •Fellow, 1997–present

BARCLAY, Cecily Talbert

Perkins Coie LLP, San Francisco
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Featured in Real Estate (California)

Practice Areas: Real Estate & Land Use Land Use & Development California Environmental, Land Use, Energy & Resources Environment & Natural Resources Land Development Housing Hospitality Wineries, Breweries & Distilleries Sports Clean Technology

Career: Cecily Barclay advises clients on land use and entitlements, real estate acquisition and development, and local government law matters. She assists with land use application processing, drafting and negotiating purchase and sale agreements, and negotiating and securing the approval of development agreements. She also handles general plan amendments, annexations, initiatives and referendums, and tentative and final subdivision maps. Cecily's projects include redevelopment of land for market rate and affordable housing, life science campuses, hotels and resorts, and transit-oriented mixed-use development projects. She has significant experience in processing entitlements for redevelopment and expansion of regional retail centers, resort hotels, entertainment centers, biotech/R&D campuses, large mixed-use master-planned communities, and multifaceted reuse of former military facilities and other infill development sites. Her work involves advising on land use initiatives, negotiating school fee mitigation agreements, preparing conservation easements to mitigate for loss of biological resources, and drafting affordable housing programs, Williamson Act contracts, and related issues pertaining to agricultural properties. Cecily works with local agencies on drafting ordinances relating to updating general plans and housing elements, planned development zoning, specific plans, mitigation fees, affordable housing, and growth management. She focuses on how agencies and developers can apply state housing laws, particularly anti-NIMBY (Housing Accountability Act) and density bonus laws.

BARRY, Jennifer

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Featured in Intellectual Property (USA

– Nationwide), Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Jennifer Barry, former Global Chair of Latham & Watkins' Intellectual Property Litigation Practice, represents clients in all aspects of general commercial litigation with a particular focus on intellectual property, including: – Trademark and trade dress infringement litigation, counseling, prosecution, and worldwide trademark portfolio management – Trademark licensing counseling and litigation – False advertising and unfair competition counseling and litigation – Copyright counseling and litigation – Trade secrets counseling and litigation – Defamation and right of publicity counseling and litigation Jennifer offers clients extensive experience in both procedural and substantive law, as she has successfully litigated before numerous federal and state courts as well as the Patent and Trademark Office's Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. Jennifer regularly tackles internet law matters and has successfully handled domain name portfolio management and recovery of domain names before the World Intellectual Property Organization, the National Arbitration

Forum, and the ADR.EU Center of the Czech Arbitration Court. She has also worked extensively on social networking and website/e-commerce issues and has been invited to speak on several panels in this area. Jennifer actively participates in the International Trademark Association (INTA) and has served on the Internet Committee/Online Trademark Use Subcommittee, including the Keywords and Web 2.0 Working Groups.

BARTLETT, Jaime A

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: JAIME BARTLETT's extensive trial experience informs strategy in her public company and individual representations in class actions, shareholder derivative, corporate governance litigation, civil fraud disputes and investigations in state and federal courts. Jaime has substantial experience representing companies and their officers and directors in shareholder class action litigation. Her representations have involved actions with complex circumstances and alleging billions of dollars in shareholder losses and include work on behalf of the following companies as well as their current and former officers and directors: ChargePoint Holdings, Inc.; Outset Medical, Inc.; Semtech Semiconductor, Inc.; and McKesson Corporation. Jaime serves on the editorial board of the Enhanced Scrutiny blog, where the Sidley team provides timely updates and thoughtful analysis on M&A and corporate governance matters from the Delaware courts.

BASILE, Katy

Reed Smith LLP, San Francisco

Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: The world's most iconic brands turn to Katy Basile for strategic trademark and brand advice. A former in-house counsel, Katy pairs a global portfolio owner's pragmatism with a litigator's instinct, delivering advice that is at once creative, comprehensive, and targeted. Katy draws on her experience spanning more than 30 years and 200 jurisdictions, including protection of nontraditional marks such as three-dimensional, sound, and color trademarks, as well as trade dress and product packaging. Katy's practice truly covers the full arc of trademark law—from brand creation, clearance, and prosecution to brand protection, both offensively and defensively. Katy appears regularly before the USPTO's Trademark Trial & Appeal Board and advises on federal trademark and unfair competition litigation. She has extensive experience managing multi-jurisdictional disputes, and has leveraged ADR proceedings to resolve numerous trademark infringement matters to her clients' satisfaction Managing Intellectual Property named Katy "Trademark Prosecutor of the Year (West)" in 2026, and the WTR 1000 reports that her clients observe she "has been able to secure favourable outcomes for us over and over again" and

that she “brings extensive in-house and commercial litigation experience to bear on her prosecution and enforcement practice,” noting that “she has a truly global outlook which no doubt contributes to her faultless track record.”

BAUER, Ashley

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Featured in Antitrust (California)

Practice Areas: Ashley Bauer has a wide range of experience in federal and state litigation and private arbitration, including antitrust litigation and cartel investigations, white collar criminal defense, and class action litigation. Ashley's antitrust practice includes regulatory investigations and the civil class action cases that typically follow. She has represented companies in cases involving alleged violations of state and federal antitrust laws brought by direct and indirect purchasers, including claims of: – Price-fixing – Market allocation – Monopolization – Unfair competition. Ashley also has extensive experience as global coordinating counsel on matters involving price-fixing investigations and private damages actions before regulators and courts in the US, Canada, Europe, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, South Korea, Singapore, and Australia. Ashley is the San Francisco Co-Chair of Latham's WEB program, and has served as a member of the firm's local Training and Career Enhancement and Mentoring Committees.

BAYSINGER, Kara

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Featured in Insurance (USA - Nationwide), Insurance (California)

Practice Areas: Kara Baysinger is a partner in the Corporate & Financial Services Department, Co-Chair of the Firm's Insurtech practice and a member of Willkie's Insurance Transactional and Regulatory Practice Group. She serves as Co-Chair of Willkie's Insurance Regulatory group. She has vast experience representing national and international insurance and reinsurance companies, insurance-related service companies, insurtech companies and technology companies on a wide array of insurance regulatory, compliance and strategic matters. She also advises clients on regulatory investigations and examinations (including multi-state examinations), innovation and digital transformation, licensing, transactional and M&A matters, reinsurance, cybersecurity, market conduct, sales practices, and product and market development issues. Kara began her career working in-house for insurance companies, where she led compliance, market conduct, product development and government relations functions. She is also the co-author of “Courageous Counsel: Conversations with Women General Counsel in the Fortune 500,” a groundbreaking look at the paths of women into the ranks of General Counsel.

BEKHEIT, Mark

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (California): San Francisco, Silicon Valley & Surround

Practice Areas: Mark Bekheit, Managing Partner of the Bay Area offices and former Global Vice Chair of Latham's M&A Practice, provides practical strategic advice to technology and life science companies at all stages in connection with mergers and acquisitions, minority investments, and other strategic corporate transactions. Mark's experience includes public and private company mergers, acquisitions and divestitures, tender and exchange offers, joint ventures, and minority investments for strategic and private equity clients, as well as general corporate representation and strategic planning for both publicly traded and privately held companies. Mark previously served as the lead in-house corporate lawyer of a Silicon Valley-based Fortune 500 company in its acquisitions and strategic investments in the consumer and enterprise data storage industries, which gives him first-hand experience into the relevant considerations and needs of corporations regarding strategic transactions.

BELL, Katherine E.

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Featured in Banking & Finance (California)

Practice Areas: Katherine Bell is a partner in the Paul Hastings Global Finance practice. Ms. Bell is based in the firm's Orange County office. Ms. Bell focuses her practice on commercial and corporate finance transactions. She regularly represents banks, investment banks, finance companies, private debt lenders, other lenders, and borrowers in working capital facilities (cash flow and asset-based), acquisition financings, structured financings, and restructurings and recapitalizations—both cross-border and U.S. focused. She has industry experience in a variety of business sectors including technology and software, healthcare, transportation and logistics, energy, retail, food and beverage, and manufacturing and industrials. Ms. Bell has significant experience negotiating intercreditor relationships, including 1st lien/2nd lien transactions, split collateral arrangements, and unitranche transactions. She represents clients in all parts of the capital structure—senior, junior, first lien, second lien, first out, last out, super-senior, and preferred equity. Ms. Bell is the co-author of Asset-Based Lending: A Practical Guide to Secured Financing (Practising Law Institute, 8th ed. 2015), which is generally considered to be the definitive treatise on asset-based lending.

Personal: J.D., from Cornell Law School B.A., from University of California at Irvine

BELL, Koren

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Koren (Kori) Bell is a partner in Willkie's Litigation Department. She focuses on complex commercial disputes and white-collar defense, including high-stakes trial work. A nationally recognized, first-chair trial lawyer and former Federal Defender, Kori has led the representation of clients in high-profile cases across the country, and counseled clients in sensitive investigations. A variety of clients—including Fortune 500 companies, entrepreneurs, and prominent individuals—seek out Kori's courtroom skill and business-oriented approach, entrusting her with their most significant and sensitive legal challenges. She has handled high-stakes matters across a range of industries—from entertainment to technology, healthcare, pharmaceutical, finance, real estate, transportation, art, and sports. She is known as a tenacious and creative advocate who delivers results for her clients inside and outside of the courtroom, at every stage of the proceedings, including in a case she advanced to and argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. Her successful representations span cross-border business disputes to crisis management and the full spectrum of civil and criminal trial matters. Kori is fluent in Spanish, and frequently represents Spanish-speaking clients.

Professional Memberships: Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers

BERGER, Matthew

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Featured in Technology (California)

Practice Areas: Matthew D. Berger is a partner in the Corporate & Financial Services Department and Chair of the IP, Technology & Commercial Transactions Practice, focusing on complex technology transactions and intellectual property counseling and advice. He advises clients generally in high technology industries such as the semiconductor, life sciences, and alternative energy industries. Matthew has extensive experience in negotiating and drafting agreements for the development, licensing, production, supply, and support of semiconductors and other hardware; software and data; pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical devices and systems; and multimedia and entertainment products and content. He has negotiated agreements for the protection and transfer of copyrights, trademarks, patents, trade secrets, and other intellectual property, and has litigated copyright, trademark, patent, trade secret, royalty, and domain name claims and disputes. In addition, Matthew represents technology, life sciences, and media and entertainment companies in financings, mergers and acquisitions, strategic alliances, and joint ventures, and other corporate structuring matters. He also represents emerging technology companies and ventures in

entity formation, and is experienced in structuring and negotiating angel and venture financing.

BERGSTROM, Luke J

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (California): San Francisco, Silicon Valley & Surround

Practice Areas: Luke Bergstrom draws on more than two decades of experience to regularly advise leading corporate and private equity clients on significant M&A transactions and related sensitive matters. He combines strong negotiation skills, a deep commercial sensibility, and a proven ability to lead teams that leverage the firm's global resources to help clients achieve their objectives in the most effective and cost-efficient manner. Consistently ranked among the top M&A lawyers in the country, clients describe him as a “sophisticated, pragmatic” lawyer who “looks for solutions and wants to facilitate a deal.” Luke is a former Global Co-Chair of the firm's Mergers & Acquisitions Practice as well as a former Global Vice Chair of the firm's Technology Industry Group. He currently serves as Chair of the firm's Finance Committee.

BERNS, Brandon C

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, San Francisco

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Featured in Capital Markets (California), Capital Markets (USA - Nationwide)

Practice Areas: Brandon C. Berns is a partner in the San Francisco office of Gibson Dunn where he practices in the firm's Transactional Department. He represents leading life sciences companies and investors on a broad range of complex corporate transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, asset sales, spin-offs, joint ventures, PIPEs, as well as a variety of financing transactions, including initial public offerings, secondary equity offerings and venture and growth equity financings. Brandon also serves as principal outside counsel for numerous publicly-traded life sciences companies and advises management and boards of directors on corporate law matters, SEC reporting and corporate governance.

Career: Prior to joining Gibson Dunn, Brandon was an associate in the Corporate Department of a global law firm in New York.

Personal: JD, Columbia University, 2012; Bachelor of Science, Brigham Young University, 2008

BETTINGER, Mike

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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: MIKE BETTINGER is an eminent national trial lawyer for patent, trade secret, trademark and other intellectual property cases. He has tried 33 cases to verdict, securing notable wins in Federal courts throughout the United States for premier technology companies in the software, semicon-

ductor, solar, telecommunications, networking and healthcare industries. Mike delivered a jury verdict of non-infringement and invalidity for Microsoft in a patent case involving Xbox video technology filed by competitor Biscotti in the Eastern District of Texas. He secured a defense jury verdict for Baxter Healthcare in a patent case involving intravenous drug pump technology filed by competitor Carefusion in the Southern District of California. Mike chalked up a jury defense verdict for Microsoft in a patent and trade secret case involving videoconferencing technology filed by competitor Placeware in the Northern District of California. He has also scored jury defense verdicts of non-infringement for Varian subsidiary Z-Axis in a medical device patent case filed by competitor Nomos in the District of Massachusetts, and for Novatell in a modern technology case filed by competitor DNT in the Eastern District of Virginia.

BJORK, Jeffrey

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Featured in Bankruptcy/Restructuring (California), Bankruptcy/Restructuring (USA - Nationwide)

Practice Areas: Jeff Bjork, Managing Partner of Latham's Los Angeles offices and former Global Vice Chair of the firm's Restructuring Practice, represents public and private companies, creditors, and investors in all aspects of restructuring. Widely recognized as a leading restructuring lawyer in the United States, Jeff is a fellow in the prestigious American College of Bankruptcy, and was named DealMaker of the Year by The American Lawyer in 2023 for leading Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals in its Chapter 11 restructuring. With nearly 30 years in practice, Jeff represents debtors, creditors, sponsors, boards of directors, and investors in all aspects of restructuring distressed companies. He regularly advises companies on successful strategies to address mass tort and legacy liabilities, including asbestos, environmental, and product related liabilities, and has represented clients in numerous mass tort bankruptcies. Jeff is a member of the Pepperdine University Board. He is a frequent lecturer, speaker, and writer on restructuring, bankruptcy, and insolvency topics. Jeff is also an Advisory Board Member at the Rand Kenneth R. Feinberg Center for Catastrophic Risk Management and Compensation.

BLAKE, Stephen

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Steve Blake focuses on resolving high-stakes shareholder litigation and securities regulatory matters. Steve regularly advises corporations, financial institutions, funds and advisors in connection with mergers and acquisitions, initial public offerings, legal compliance and commercial disputes. Steve focuses on complex disputes

involving corporate crises, cross-border transactions, business valuation and/or accounting matters. Steve also regularly represents entities and individuals in investigations before the Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC), Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) and stock exchanges concerning disclosure, accounting issues, anti-bribery and corruption and insider trading.

Personal: J.D., University of San Francisco, summa cum laude (2008); A.B., with Distinction in all subjects, Cornell University (2005).

BLOCK, Micah G

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, Redwood City
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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Micah is a member of Davis Polk's IP Litigation practice. Leading companies hire Micah to represent them in must-win cases. He is a seasoned trial lawyer with a deep understanding of technology and a proven track record of success. Micah is the hiring partner for Northern California. He is a Lawyer Representative to the Northern District of California, by appointment of Chief Judge Seeborg. In the Federal Bar Association, he is an officer of the Intellectual Property Section and the Northern California Chapter. His pro bono work includes civil rights and criminal justice matters.

BLUNSCHI, Melanie

Latham & Watkins LLP, San Francisco
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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Melanie Blunski, a nationally recognized class action litigator, primarily defends technology clients in business-critical disputes, with a focus on securities litigation as well as privacy and consumer class actions. With a track record of success before state and federal courts across the United States, Melanie aligns case strategies with clients' business priorities to help achieve the best outcome for each client's unique goals. Melanie is Deputy Office Managing Partner of the Bay Area offices and a Global Vice Chair of Latham's Retail & Consumer Products Industry Group. She previously served as Co-Chair of the Bay Area Litigation & Trial Department.

BOND, Pippa

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Featured in Capital Markets (California), Capital Markets (USA - Nationwide)

Practice Areas: Pippa Bond is a capital markets partner in the Los Angeles office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP. She has extensive experience in corporate finance and securities, including leveraged buyouts, acquisitions, liability management and restructurings. Pippa acts as counsel to issuers, sponsors and underwriters in initial public offerings and other registered offerings, block trades and private placements of debt and equity securities, including investment grade

and high yield debt and preferred stock, as well as tender offers and consent solicitations and take private transactions. Pippa also counsels institutional and corporate clients with respect to corporate governance and compliance. Her work spans a broad range of industries, with a specialized focus on financial services, retail and consumer companies, industrials, transportation and real estate.

Personal: New York University School of Law, J.D., 1998; Vassar College, B.A., 1995.

BOSWORTH, Jason

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Featured in Banking & Finance (California)

Practice Areas: Jason Bosworth, Global Vice Chair of Latham's Banking & Private Credit Practice, represents banks, private credit providers, and corporate borrowers on a full spectrum of finance transactions. Jason draws on more than two decades of experience overseeing hundreds of billions of dollars in deal value to advise clients on: - Acquisition financings in the private credit and broadly syndicated loan markets - Fund finance, including: - NAV facilities - Back-leverage facilities - Hybrid facilities - Subscription line facilities - Management company lines - GP line - Equity co-invest facilities - Asset-based financings - Corporate real estate investment trust (REIT) credit facilities A key member of the firm's global banking platform, Jason brings an innovative dealmaking approach to clients' most complex and consequential transactions. He regularly helps lenders and borrowers develop novel financing structures - such as joint ventures between private credit providers and commercial banks and first out/last out (FLO) financings - enhancing borrower access to direct lending and other credit products. Jason leverages a sophisticated global commercial perspective to respond quickly and effectively to clients' needs. He advises companies across a range of industries, including sports and entertainment, life sciences, and real estate/data centers. Jason previously practiced in Latham's Chicago and Orange County offices, and on secondment in Singapore, where he oversaw a series of high-profile deals in the oil and gas sector.

BOWLIN, Tyler

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Featured in Environment (California)

Practice Areas: Environmental Litigation Admiralty & Maritime Oil & Gas Energy & Utilities Transportation
Career: Tyler Bowlin is an effective defense attorney who protects clients in highly-regulated sectors, including petroleum, energy, and heavy industry. As National Coordinating Counsel for a global oil company, Tyler manages a portfolio with significant national exposure, directing strategy for environmental liabilities across the U.S. He oversees a wide range of matters, from legacy

contamination sites to active facility compliance, ensuring consistent defense and risk management across diverse jurisdictions. Tyler is known for bridging the gap between executive planning and field-level execution. Drawing on his background performing hands-on leak detection and repair services in California oil fields, he possesses a keen understanding of his clients' physical operations. This technical knowledge allows him to translate engineering concepts into effective legal defenses and work plans, ensuring that legal strategies are compliant and operationally practical. Tyler regularly advises on matters involving a broad spectrum of environmental laws and agencies. His experience spans federal statutes including CERCLA, RCRA, the Clean Water Act, and the Clean Air Act, as well as representation before the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In California, he frequently navigates regulations enforced by the Department of Toxic Substances Control, the State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards, CalGEM, and air quality management districts. His practice also extends to the Pacific Northwest, where he advises on compliance with the Washington Department of Ecology, the Model Toxics Control Act, and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Tyler is licensed in California, Oregon, and Washington.

Professional Memberships: Orange County Bar Association, Member American Bar Association & Environmental Litigation and Toxic Torts Committee, Programs Vice-Chair, 2020 - 2021 Energy Bar Association Western Chapter, Member American Chemical Society, Member Air and Waste Management Association, Member Young Professionals in Energy, Member National Conference on Weights and Measures, Member

BOYD, Karen

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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Karen is a partner in Thompson Hine's Intellectual Property & Technology Litigation practice group. She represents clients in intellectual property disputes with an emphasis on patent disputes. Karen's clients have ranged from solo inventors and universities to Fortune 100 companies, in technologies from pharmaceuticals to consumer electronics to medical devices. She also serves as a mediator, early neutral evaluator and an arbitrator in intellectual property disputes, serves on the mediation panel for the Northern District of California, and previously served on the mediation panels for the Federal Circuit and the International Trade Commission. Before joining Thompson Hine, Karen was a founding partner of Turner Boyd Seraphine, an IP litigation boutique in Silicon Valley. She served as a law clerk to Judge Paul Michel at the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and taught appellate procedure with Judge Michel at George

Washington Law School. She also taught Patent and Trade Secret Law at UC Law San Francisco and Biotechnology and Chemistry Patent Law at UC Berkeley Law School. An active supporter of the community, Karen is a director of the California State University, Northridge Foundation, president of the board of the Aurora Singers (a community choir based in Palo Alto), a board member of the Schola Cantorum (an auditioned Bay Area choir), and a supporter and past president of the Ronald McDonald House Charities Bay Area

BRANN, Elizabeth

Paul Hastings LLP, Los Angeles

Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Elizabeth Brann guides many of the world's largest technology and life sciences companies in navigating their most complex litigation. A formidable litigator, Elizabeth has appeared and won in trial courts across the United States, the International Trade Commission, and the U.S. Patent Trial and Appeal Board. Elizabeth works closely with clients to understand their business and objectives, guiding them in building an effective patent portfolio strategy to generate the most value. She has had a number of impressive accomplishments throughout her career. Elizabeth served as lead counsel in the closely watched, long-running dispute between client Align, the maker of Invisalign, and rival ClearCorrect. This 14-year battle required precise coordination among multiple firms and litigation in the U.S. district court, the Federal Circuit, the International Trade Commission. Elizabeth's tenacity helped secure a \$51 million settlement for Align. Elizabeth also participates in numerous community activities. She serves as chair of the board of the Emilio Nares Foundation, which helps families dealing with childhood cancer, and previously was chair of the board of the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program. Elizabeth has a strong background in both electrical and biomedical engineering, and has particular expertise in computer hardware and software, medical devices, telecommunications, semiconductors, and consumer electronics.

Personal: Harvard Law School, J.D. Marquette University, B.S.E.E.

BRODY, Sara B.

Sidley Austin LLP, San Francisco
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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: SARA BRODY is a commercial litigator whose practice focuses on securities litigation and corporate governance disputes. She is co-leader of the firm's Securities and Shareholder Litigation practice group and heads the Northern California litigation practice. She has extensive experience in securities litigation, defending issuers, officers, directors, underwriters and venture capital firms in shareholder class actions and derivative actions in state and federal courts throughout the United States. She regularly represents

companies and individuals in matters involving the Securities and Exchange Commission and various self-regulatory organizations. Sara also has extensive experience in conducting internal investigations and counseling clients on disclosure issues. She has written articles and lectures on a wide range of securities litigation topics in legal and business forums across the country.

BROOKS, Meegan

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Meegan Brooks is a seasoned litigator who has spent her career advising and defending retailers, e-commerce companies, and manufacturers. Meegan has defended hundreds of threatened or filed consumer class actions nationwide and has played a key role in numerous industry-shaping decisions, including wins at the Ninth Circuit, California Court of Appeals, and New Jersey Supreme Court. She is especially well-known for her decade-long work defending well over 100 actions concerning retailers' pricing, promotions, and fees, which included defending the only pricing case to go to trial in the last decade (where her team won), the only pricing case to win on the merits at summary judgment, and the only pricing case to have a dismissal affirmed at the Ninth Circuit. Meegan was one of the first retail lawyers in the country to become certified as a Certified Information Privacy Professional, United States (CIPP/US) by the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP), and routinely helps e-commerce companies navigate the quickly evolving technological and legal landscapes to get ahead of upcoming risks. She has defended retailers, e-commerce companies, and media companies in hundreds of matters alleging violations of CIPA, VPPA, the Song-Beverly Credit Card Act, and similar statutes across the country.

Career: Admissions: California Washington U.S. District Court for the Central District of California U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

BROOME, Shannon

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Featured in Climate Change (USA - Nationwide), Environment (California)

See under Nationwide for profile.

BROPHY, Fiona

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Featured in Startups & Emerging Companies (USA - Nationwide), Venture Capital (California)

Practice Areas: Emerging Companies & Venture Capital Law Corporate Law Mergers & Acquisitions Private Equity Venture Capital Family Office Services Latin America Practice Autonomous & Uncrewed Vehicle Systems (AUVS) Biotechnology & Pharmaceutical Interactive Entertainment Immersive Technology Apparel & Footwear Regulated Gaming Digital Media & Entertainment, Gaming & Sports Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning Life Sciences & Healthcare

Career: Fiona Brophy works with some of the world's most innovative companies and the venture capital (VC) funds that invest in them. Her clients span industries including consumer e-commerce, digital media, information technology, cloud infrastructure and services, artificial intelligence, and robotics. Fiona has advised private companies and VC funds in hundreds of transactions, including financing and private equity transactions, debt financings, complex restructurings, and spin-off transactions. Her emerging company clients include Box, Inc., CoreOS, Hound Technology, R-Zero Systems, Trulia, and Intrinsic Innovations. She also has a robust mergers and acquisitions (M&A) practice, advising private companies on the sell-side and serial public and private company acquirors. Fiona is nationally recognized by Chambers as a leading lawyer in startups, venture capital, and emerging companies, and by the Legal 500 for her M&A skills. In addition to serving clients, Fiona has held numerous leadership positions within Perkins Coie, including as co-chair of the Emerging Companies & Venture Capital practice and chair of the firmwide Partner Compensation Committee.

BROWN, Dan

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Featured in Insurance (California)

Practice Areas: Dan advises clients in the insurance industry on complex regulatory and corporate issues related to their business, including all aspects of the admitted, exempt, and surplus lines insurance markets in the United States. His clients include insurance companies, start-ups, agents, brokers, and other stakeholders in the industry. Dan has extensive experience advising foreign and alien insurers on how to comply with various state laws in placing business; early-stage and developed InsurTech entities on regulatory and corporate issues; insureds on exempt and specialty lines; producers on licensing, placement, and premium tax issues, including digitization of the process; and insureds on coverage and placement issues. He also advises London market participants on how to comply with US insurance laws, either by becoming admitted insurers or by using a variety of methods of covering US risks without being licensed. Dan addresses a variety of licensing and compliance issues on an international scale, including: entity formation and licensure,

mergers and acquisitions, resolution of broker compensation and disclosure issues, product development (both mandatory filing and exempt products), name changes and approval, preparation of licensing applications, preparation of applications for certificates of authority, and negotiations with departments of insurance regarding licensing and certification issues. He advises on exemptions, taxation, coverage levels, extraterritorial issues, the individual mandate, the employer mandate, and individual and group applications of the Affordable Care Act. He also helps clients draft, amend, advocate for, and seek department clarification regarding statutes or regulations affecting their businesses. Insurers and producers looking at affiliate transactions seek Dan's counsel on preparing the necessary applications and obtaining approvals from departments of insurance. He advises on pre-transaction strategies, preparation of necessary corporate documents and agreements, and execution of the application process.

BROWN, Dylan

Goodwin, San Francisco

Featured in Banking & Finance (California)

Practice Areas: Dylan Brown primarily represents private equity sponsors and private and public companies and lenders in structuring and negotiating secured and unsecured debt financing transactions, including leveraged buy-outs, acquisition-financings, recapitalizations, refinancings, and restructurings. He has represented clients across a range of industries, including the technology, software, healthcare, financial services, manufacturing, and retail sectors. He joined Goodwin in 2015.

Personal: JD, George Mason University School of Law (magna cum laude) 2010 / Artium Baccalaureus, Brown University 2003

BROWN, Patrick S

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Capital Markets (California), Capital Markets (USA - Nationwide)

Practice Areas: Capital Markets; M&A; Financial Services

Career: Partner since 2005. Managing Partner of S&C's Los Angeles office and member of the Firm's General Practice Group. Pat has more than 30 years of experience advising clients on a full spectrum of corporate matters including public and private mergers and acquisitions transactions; public and private offerings of equity and debt securities, including initial public offerings (representing both issuers and underwriters); and general corporate, corporate governance and securities advice. He has worked with clients in the United States, Latin America, Asia and Europe across a range of industries including financial services, technology, alternative investment management, real estate and healthcare, among others. Select clients include AT&T, Bancolumbia S.A., BRC Group Holdings, Banc of California, CIM Group, Columbia Banking System, Everforth, Jacobs Solutions, Oaktree Capital

Group and Zions Bancorporation, among others. Pat is regularly recognized at the top of the legal profession and was named a BTI Client Service All-Star, an award which honors lawyers who have "mastered the art of superior client service." Pat has also been recognized by Law360 as a Banking MVP and has served on Law360's Banking Editorial Advisory Board.

Professional Memberships: Board of Governors, Institute for Corporate Counsel at USC Gould School of Law; Advisory Board Member, Lowell Milken Institute for Business Law and Policy at UCLA School of Law

Personal: UCLA Law School (JD, 1995); UCLA (BA, 1991).

BROWN, Samuel L.

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Featured in Climate Change (USA - Nationwide), Environment (California)

Practice Areas: As a former US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) attorney, Mr. Brown utilizes his agency and practical experience to help his clients navigate environmental, energy, natural resource, sustainability, and climate-related concerns associated with US- and international-based facilities and operations. Mr. Brown's practice focuses on three core areas – navigating federal and state environmental laws, implementing sustainability and climate-related decarbonization strategies, and minimizing risks associated with international project development and operations. He is a former attorney with the EPA, in the Office of Regional Counsel in San Francisco (Region 9) and in New York (Region 2), and the Office of General Counsel in Washington, DC. In the US, he assists clients with complying with federal and state environmental laws, including compliance counseling, obtaining regulatory authorizations, facility and corporate audits, project and transactional due diligence, citizen suits, administrative and civil enforcement defense, and litigation. Mr. Brown advises clients on corporate social responsibility (CSR) and environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) risks and opportunities, and advises clients on emerging trends associated with environmental justice and human rights. For international matters, Mr. Brown works to ensure facility and corporate consistency with nation-based laws, international legal frameworks, and industry-specific environmental, health, safety, and social (EHSS) standards.

BRUINGTON, Nancy A

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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Transactional (California)

Practice Areas: Nancy Bruington is a partner in the firm's Finance Department and Entertainment, Sports & Media Practice. Nancy advises clients on entertainment, sports, and media finance. She represents studios, production

companies, equity sponsors, mezzanine investors, and financial institutions in motion picture, television, and digital content financing, and co-financing transactions, corporate finance transactions, financing of music assets, and the formation and capitalization of entertainment companies. She also represents financial institutions, team owners, and teams in sports lending and acquisition financing transactions. In addition to her entertainment, sports, and media work, Nancy has a broad corporate finance background. She has represented lenders, borrowers, and equity sponsors in leveraged financings for acquisitions, recapitalizations, and going-private transactions. She has advised underwriters, initial purchasers, and issuers in public and private debt and equity offerings for a range of industries.

BRUNER, Marc R

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Featured in Environment (California)

Practice Areas: Environment, Energy & Resources Environmental Litigation Land Use & Development Higher Education Infrastructure Development Educational Institutions & Services

Career: Marc Bruner represents governmental entities and private companies in a wide variety of environmental matters. He regularly works with clients in resolving complex compliance issues under the federal Clean Water Act, the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the federal and California Endangered Species Acts, the National Environmental Policy Act, the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Integrated Waste Management Act, and the full array of California laws and regulations governing water supply, air quality, coastal development, development along the banks of streams and rivers, historic resources, and the management and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes. Marc is particularly well-versed in the rules and regulations governing the management of industrial, municipal, and construction stormwater and the treatment and discharge of process wastewater under federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits and state law waste discharge requirements. He has extensive knowledge of the current regulatory landscape and the proceedings of the State Water Resources Control Board and the California Regional Water Quality Control Boards. Marc is co-author of the chapters covering wetlands and endangered species in Curtin's California Land Use and Planning Law, a leading treatise routinely relied upon by landowners, developers, and local governments throughout the state.

BULUT, Koray

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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Koray J. Bulut, Chair of Goodwin's Employment practice and

a leader of the firm's Trade Secrets, Employee Mobility + Non-Competes group, focuses his practice on employment law, with an emphasis on litigation matters. He is experienced litigating cases in both state and federal courts, as well as before administrative agencies, in a wide variety of disputes, including employment discrimination, harassment, retaliation, unfair competition, enforcement of non-competes and other restrictive covenants, misappropriation of trade secrets, wrongful termination and breach of contract. With more than a decade of experience collaborating with employers ranging in size from start-ups to large public companies, Koray advises employers on all facets of employment relationships, including establishment of employment policies and contracts, classification of employees, family and medical leave, workplace investigations, risk assessment of harassment and discrimination claims, terminations, reductions in force and post-termination protection of trade secrets. He is experienced in conducting onsite sexual harassment and discrimination training for clients as well as in conducting training on internal investigations for human resources professionals. Koray previously served as Co-Chair of Pride Inclusion Network.

Personal: JD, University of Minnesota Law School, 2002 (cum laude); BA, Carleton College, 1998

BURKE, Peter

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Featured in Banking & Finance (California)

Practice Areas: PETER BURKE

has practiced law for over 25 years in both the public and private sectors. Peter represents private credit funds, investors, hedge funds, traditional banks, and investment banks, as well as borrowers and sponsors. He specifically focuses his practice on complex finance transactions, including cash flow and asset-based financings, special situations financings, cross-border matters, and intercreditor arrangements. He negotiates intercreditor agreements, including first- and second-lien transactions, split collateral, and unitranche arrangements. Peter also has extensive experience with distressed situations, debt restructurings, and insolvency proceedings, including debtor-in-possession and exit financings, restructuring support agreements, credit bid arrangements, 363 sales, and Chapter 11 plans. He has advised banks, agents, private credit funds, and specialty lenders in Chapter 11 cases, out-of-court restructurings, and workouts. Additionally, he structures credit facilities with private equity and private credit funds in subscription, NAV, hybrid, and asset-based financings. Earlier in his career, Peter worked in the bankruptcy courts. He served in the U.S. Department of Justice's Trustee Office in Los Angeles, being admitted through the prestigious and highly selective U.S. Attorney General's Honors Program. He then transitioned to private practice, where he focuses on commercial and corporate

finance transactions, representing major banks, private credit funds, and other direct lenders in working capital facilities (cash flow and asset-based), acquisition financings, structured financings, restructurings, and recapitalizations – both cross-border and U.S.-focused. He has deep industry experience in various business sectors, including technology and software, healthcare, transportation and logistics, energy, retail, food and beverage, and manufacturing and industrials. He works on deals of all sizes, from bi-lateral financings and "club" deals for middle-market companies to widely syndicated credit facilities, as well businesses with cross-border operations or that are sponsor-owned.

BURKHARDT VICENTE, Emily

Hunton Andrews Kurth, London

Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Ms. Burkhardt Vicente co-chairs Hunton's firmwide labor and employment group and has a national practice focusing on complex employment and wage and hour litigation and advice. She is an accomplished trial lawyer who regularly defends employers across the US in California and FLSA wage and hour class and collective actions, California PAGA actions, employment discrimination, harassment and retaliation cases, and complex whistleblower matters. Ms. Burkhardt Vicente has successfully taken multiple class and collective actions to jury verdict. She also has a robust unfair competition, noncompete, and employee raiding practice. In addition to her litigation practice, Ms. Burkhardt Vicente helps employers develop forward-thinking compliance practices that reduce wage and hour disputes and help mitigate other employment-related risks while keeping her client's business goals firmly in mind. She regularly provides advice to clients on employment-related matters, including reductions in force, ESG initiatives, harassment and discrimination investigations, "me too" issues, fair-pay compliance, worker classifications, negotiation of employment contracts, and the use and implementation of artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technology in the workplace.

BURNS, Brett

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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: For more than thirty years, Michael Brett Burns has represented leading employers and management, particularly in the retail and professional services industries, in a wide range of employment, wage and hour, and public accommodations matters. Brett, a partner in the labor and employment practice at Hunton, focuses on complex litigation matters, and regularly defends clients in employment class actions, wage and hour class, collective, and PAGA representative actions, public accommodations class actions, and federal agency pattern

or practice matters (including lawsuits filed by the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and state attorneys general). He has led the defense of more than 200 class, collective, representative, and pattern or practice actions, tried complex class actions, collective actions, and pattern or practice cases to juries, and secured favorable verdicts for clients in multiple single-plaintiff jury trials, bench trials, and arbitrations, earning national recognition. Beyond his litigation and arbitration practice, Brett counsels clients on compliance and litigation avoidance strategies and develops practical, creative solutions for complicated employment, wage and hour, and public accommodation law challenges. For more information, please view his bio at <https://www.hunton.com/en/people/brett%2Dburns.html>.

BUSER, Scott

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Featured in Real Estate (California: Northern)

Practice Areas: Scott Buser is a partner in Mayer Brown's Real Estate Markets practice. He has substantial experience in counseling clients on the acquisition, financing and development of property for multi-family, single-family, self-storage, industrial, office and retail uses and is one of the few pre-eminent practitioners representing institutional equity investors in joint venture arrangements on the West Coast and throughout the Western US. He likewise assists foreign investors with in-bound US real estate investments and counsels clients on the acquisition of distressed debt, including portfolio recapitalization and the navigation of CMBS loan consent processes with special servicers and rating agencies. Additionally, he represents borrowers in complex real estate finance transactions as well as providers of preferred equity and mezzanine loans.

BUSHNELL, Laura

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Featured in Venture Capital (California)

Practice Areas: Laura Bushnell is a partner in the Corporate practice who counsels management and Boards of Directors of private and public companies, particularly in the life sciences and technology sectors, on capital raising matters, strategic transactions and corporate governance. Laura has represented issuers, investors and financial institutions in numerous capital-raising transactions, including venture capital and seed financings, crossover rounds, strategic investments, initial public offerings, follow-on and secondary offerings, recapitalizations and PIPE financings. In addition, Laura frequently serves as primary outside counsel to emerging growth companies. In this capacity, she advises management on such matters as corporate governance, disclosure and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) reporting obligations, employment

and equity compensation, fiduciary duties, strategic transactions and acquisitions, commercial agreements, and compliance with securities laws. Ms. Bushnell serves on the Board of Trustees of the UC Santa Cruz Foundation and previously served on the Board of Directors of the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County. She chairs the Dean's Advisory Council of the Baskin School of Engineering, University of California Santa Cruz.

C. VALCO, Nicole

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Nicole Valco, a partner in the Complex Commercial Litigation Practice, advises market-leading companies on range of disputes in federal and state courts. Nicole has experience successfully litigating high-stakes cases through trial to verdict. Her practice covers a broad range of business disputes, including: – Business torts – Consumer protection and unfair business practices – Contract – Fraud – Privacy – Trade secrets – Intellectual property She has particular experience with clients in several industries, including technology, energy, pharmaceutical, retail, financial, and fitness industries. Nicole is an active member of the firm's Training and Career Enhancement Committee and serves on the Board of Governors of the Northern California chapter of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers.

CALKINS, Dustin

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Featured in Real Estate (California: Northern)

Practice Areas: Dustin Calkins leverages his significant experience in representing leading public and private, and national and international real estate investors, developers, operators and sponsors on a broad array of commercial assets, including industrial, mixed-use, multifamily, office, hospitality, sports venues, and retail properties. Dustin guides clients throughout the lifecycle of their real estate investments and provides practical and succinct legal advice. He assists clients in forming joint ventures for large-scale investments, developments, recapitalizations, and financings. Dustin advises on acquisitions and dispositions from single assets to billion-dollar national portfolios, ground-up developments and large-scale redevelopments, commercial leases, and complex loan facilities.

Personal: JD, University of Michigan Law School 2007; BA, University of Michigan 2004

CALLAWAY, David R

Glenn Agre Bergman & Fuentes LLP, San Francisco
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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: David is a former federal and state prosecutor with more than 30 years of experience in criminal

law and trial practice, including 18 years as an Assistant United States Attorney. He has tried over 30 federal, state, and military cases to verdict. David is, first and foremost, a trial lawyer. He also advises individuals and public and private companies, ranging from Fortune 100 companies to tech startups, on a wide range of commercial litigation and internal investigations. He handles criminal matters related to economic crime, including securities and commodities fraud, national security, public corruption, privacy and cybercrime, trade secrets, enforcement by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), and money laundering. David speaks fluent Spanish and represents international clients, particularly in Central and South America. Prior to joining private practice, David served as Chief of the Criminal Division in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California, where he oversaw the prosecution of all federal criminal cases in the district, including those stemming from the bailout following the Great Recession. He also served as Chief of the Economic Crimes and Securities Fraud section, Chief and Deputy Chief of the San Jose branch office, and was a member of the Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property unit (CHIP), the first of its kind in the nation. Earlier in his career, David was a Deputy District Attorney in Santa Clara County, California, after beginning his legal career as a military prosecutor and defense attorney in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. Before joining Glenn Agre Bergman & Fuentes, David was a partner at Goodwin Procter.

CALLOBRE, Anthony R

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Featured in Banking & Finance (California)

Practice Areas: Commercial Finance Fund Finance
Career: Anthony R. Callobre is a Partner in the Firm's Los Angeles office, and Co-Chair of the Firm's Commercial Finance Practice, and Co-Chair of the Firm's Alternative Lenders practice group. Mr. Callobre concentrates his practice in the areas of commercial lending and corporate finance. His clients include credit providers, such as commercial banks, commercial finance companies, private debt, private equity groups, and other investors and lenders, as well as credit takers, both financial and strategic. Mr. Callobre practices across a broad spectrum of the commercial and industrial sector. His matters involve industries such as agriculture, apparel and textiles, beauty and other consumer products, engineering, construction and infrastructure, investment funds, sports and entertainment, retail, technology, and transportation. Mr. Callobre handles financing transactions ranging in size from middle-market to investment-grade credits. He has significant experience with a wide range of debt financing types, including: single lender and syndicated credits; senior-secured,

second-lien, mezzanine, unitranche, and unsecured facilities; leveraged loans; asset-based loans; fund financings (including capital call and subscription lines, NAV and "hybrid" loans, management company lines, and employee participation loans); entertainment finance (including single-picture production loans and multiple picture, "slate" financings); cash-flow loans; acquisition loans; recapitalization facilities, working capital loans; cross-border loans; problem loan restructurings and workouts; 363 sales; and debtor-in-possession financings. Chambers USA ranks Mr. Callobre as a leader in the field of banking and finance law. Chambers notes that sources say "Anthony's experience is evidenced by his ability to handle and manage complex, cross-border transactions in an efficient and expeditious manner"; "he is a pleasure to work with and is very experienced"; and he "has a really good strategic mindset and is able to think through various complex deals and structures."

Professional Memberships: American Bar Association Los Angeles County Bar Association Fellow and former member of Board of Regents, American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers Past Chair, Subcommittee on Letters of Credit, Uniform Commercial Code Committee, Section on Business Law, American Bar Association Past Chair, Subcommittee on Syndications and Lender Relations, Commercial Financial Services Committee, Section on Business Law, American Bar Association Past Co-Vice Chair, Uniform Commercial Code Committee, Business Law Section, State Bar of California American Bar Association Task Force on Model Intercreditor Agreement for Second-Lien Financing Transactions Financial Lawyers Conference Los Angeles County Bar Association, Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section Secured Finance Network, including its Education Foundation Adjunct Instructor for Secured Transactions, University of California, Irvine School of Law

CAMAHORT, Steve L

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (California: San Francisco, Silicon Valley & Surrounding)

Practice Areas: Steve Camahort is a partner in the Mergers & Acquisitions and Private Equity practices. He is also the co-chair of the firm's San Francisco office. Steve has extensive experience in M&A and related corporate governance issues. He has worked for corporate clients, private equity funds and financial advisors in negotiated and hostile transactions, with a particular emphasis on the technology and life science sectors. He also does extensive work for the portfolio companies of his financial sponsor clients.

Personal: University of California, Berkeley School of Law, J.D. Cornell University, M.S. Physics University of California, Santa Barbara, B.S. Physics (with high honors)

CAMP, Marshall

Hueston Hennigan LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Recognized as a "Litigation Star" by Benchmark Litigation, Marshall Camp is a skilled trial lawyer and former federal prosecutor who handles complex, high-stakes business disputes. Clients in Chambers have praised him as a "smart, savvy litigator" who "gets great results because he is always thinking like a trial lawyer." Mr. Camp's practice encompasses wide-ranging, complex commercial disputes, including contract, corporate control, securities, intellectual property, real estate, employment, professional liability, bankruptcy, tax, and other matters. He represents Fortune 500 companies, middle-market businesses, startups, and prominent individuals in numerous industries. A former assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, Mr. Camp also has extensive experience guiding clients through regulatory investigations and criminal enforcement actions, and he has obtained pre-indictment declinations and post-indictment dismissals in numerous cases. In his role as a federal prosecutor, Mr. Camp was lead or co-lead trial counsel in a wide range of criminal cases, including one of the largest criminal tax cases in U.S. history. Mr. Camp's effectiveness and accomplishments as a trial lawyer have been recognized with his selection as a Senior Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America, an invitation-only honorary society composed of less than one-half of one percent of American lawyers.

CAPLICE, Sean

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Featured in Venture Capital (USA - Nationwide), Venture Capital (California)

Practice Areas: Fund Formation Fund Operations and Compliance

Career: Sean is a partner in our Silicon Valley office. Sean's corporate and securities law practice focuses on the structuring, formation, organization and operation of venture capital and other private equity funds and their general partner and management company entities. Sean advises clients in the preparation of offering materials, negotiations with investors on fund formation matters, drafting partnership, LLC and other governance agreements, and counseling fund managers on all aspects of day-to-day operations. As fund counsel for a number of top-tier venture capital firms, Sean advises on securities laws and compliance with the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, ERISA, and other aspects of the regulatory framework applicable to formation and governance. In addition, Sean advises clients on investment matters related to tokens, coins, ICOs, cryptocurrencies and other digital assets. Some of Sean's representative clients have included: Andreessen Horowitz, August Capital,

Benchmark, Felicis Ventures, Liquid 2 Ventures, Meritech, Revolution Ventures, Section32, Serena Ventures, SV Angel, True Ventures, Unusual Ventures, Wing Ventures and Yosemite. Sean has been recognized as a leading fund formation attorney by Chambers USA, Who's Who Legal and Super Lawyers, has been featured in the Daily Journal as one of its "Top 100 Lawyers" in California, was named by Business Today as one of the "Top 10 US Attorneys Leading the Charge in Venture Capital Formation" and was selected as one of the Lawdrag on 500 Leading Dealmakers in America (2024). In addition, Sean is currently a Lecturer in Law at Stanford Law School, and was previously a Lecturer in Law at the UC Berkeley School of Law (2017 - 2022), where he teaches a course on venture capital fund formation. Prior to law school, Sean served in a variety of leadership positions as an Armor Officer and Jumpmaster in the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division, and left active duty as a Captain. Sean is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

CARLIN, Jeffrey

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Featured in Real Estate (California)

Practice Areas: For over 20 years, Jeff has represented clients in various industries in complex environmental and land use litigation and administrative proceedings. He has the experience and track record to favorably and efficiently resolve his clients' legal issues and to handle every aspect of the entitlement process from pre-acquisition diligence to permitting and, if necessary, subsequent litigation. Jeff advises clients and litigates cases implicating various state and federal environmental laws such as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), planning and zoning laws, CERCLA, the Clean Water Act, and state water quality laws. Jeff counsels clients to ensure that documents prepared in compliance with CEQA and other environmental statutes can be defended in litigation. Jeff frequently defends project approvals in trial and appellate courts, and represents petitioners challenging administrative decisions. His environmental litigation experience includes defending toxic tort actions as well as public nuisance cases involving environmental contamination claims. Jeff also represents clients in site clean-ups at federal and state Superfund sites involving a range of facilities including mixed-use landfills, manufacturing plants, and other industrial operations. He also has significant experience litigating CERCLA cost-recovery and contribution actions.

Professional Memberships: Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, board of governors and co-chair, Land Use, Construction, and Housing Council.

CARLSEN, Nicki

Alston & Bird LLP, Los Angeles
213 576 1128
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Featured in Real Estate (California)

Practice Areas: Nicki is a senior land use attorney providing counseling and litigation advice for clients with complex development projects and regulatory disputes. Nicki brings a strategic approach and thoughtful leadership to her clients - local, national, and international companies. Nicki has more than 35 years of experience with federal, state, and local regulations affecting development projects, including land use planning and subdivision laws, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), California Coastal Act, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Clean Water Act, endangered species acts, and cultural resources requirements. Nicki oversees the adequacy of CEQA/NEPA documents, and she has an in-depth understanding of issues related to transportation, greenhouse gas emissions, and air quality. Nicki's land use experience extends to all project entitlements, including general plan amendments, specific plans, development agreements, zone changes, subdivisions, use permits, and coastal development permits. She also provides guidance on specialized requirements for endangered species, historic resources, wetlands, affordable housing, and California's "vehicle miles traveled" method of evaluating transportation. Nicki seeks to achieve settlement to avoid protracted battles, but she also defends project approvals in trial and appellate courts and has also prosecuted actions on behalf of property owners to obtain land use entitlements.

CARLUCCI, Thomas F

Foley & Lardner LLP, San Francisco
415.984.9824
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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Antitrust & Competition, False Claims Act, Government Enforcement Defense & Investigations, Litigation, Tax Controversy

Career: Thomas F. Carlucci is a seasoned trial lawyer, trying more than 50 civil and criminal cases over the past 30 years at the federal and state levels. As managing partner of the firm's San Francisco office, Tom has extensive experience representing corporations, organizations, and individuals in white-collar matters, with a focus on False Claims Act (FCA), Antitrust & Competition, Tax, the Foreign Corrupt Practice Act (FCPA), and other government enforcement related actions. Tom routinely handles civil and criminal matters that are high-stakes and complex in nature, including serving as lead lawyer for Major League Baseball during the steroids investigation and recently avoiding indictment for a CEO in a criminal antitrust matter related to no-poach agreements. He is highly experienced in civil and criminal tax litigation, recently representing a party in a sealed crypto-related tax grand jury investigation that was argued before the United States Supreme Court. Tom is also handling multiple investigations before the CFTC, SEC, and USAO-SD-NY for a foreign company involved in the blockchain/cryptocurrency space. Tom draws on his 13 years as a federal

prosecutor to effectively represent clients facing investigations or trial involving government agencies. He served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in San Francisco, California, and prior to that, as a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice Tax Division in their Honors' Program. During his tenure at the U.S. Attorney's Office, he received the Attorney's General's John Marshall award, which is the Department of Justice's highest award for litigation. Tom is former chair of the firm's White-Collar Defense and Corporate Compliance & Enforcement Practice and a member of the Government Enforcement Defense & Investigations and Health Care Practices and the Health Care Life Sciences Sector.

CARPENTER, David R.

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: DAVID CARPENTER is the head of Sidley's West Coast Appellate practice and co-leads Sidley's Regulatory Litigation group. A member of the California Academy of Appellate Lawyers, David has handled dozens of appeals and writs in federal and state appellate courts, including briefing cases in the United States Supreme Court and arguing matters in California Supreme Court, California Court of Appeal, and multiple Federal Circuit Courts. David also frequently acts as embedded appellate counsel at trial, working with trial counsel to prepare key motions, trial briefs, and jury instructions, and to craft strategy and preserve issues for appeal. David's practice spans substantive areas of law, including class actions, products liability cases, antitrust matters, tax disputes, and complex commercial disputes. David also has extensive experience representing clients across industries in litigation challenging federal and state executive and agency actions, as well as local government regulatory actions.

CARPENTER, Michelle L.C.

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Featured in Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation (California: Los Angeles & Surrounds)

Practice Areas: Michelle Carpenter is a partner in the Tax Department of Latham & Watkins' Los Angeles and Orange County offices and previously served as a member of the firm's Executive Committee. Michelle advises clients on a broad range of compensation arrangements and benefit plans in a variety of industries, with extensive experience working with public and private companies. Michelle focuses her practice on: - Counseling on employee benefits and compensation aspects of mergers and acquisitions, IPOs, spinoffs, financings, and other corporate transactions - Structuring executive compensation arrangements, including employment agreements, separation / severance agreements, equity compensation arrangements, and deferred

compensation programs – Preparing executive compensation disclosures for proxy statements and other securities filings – Counseling on tax, securities, ERISA, and corporate law issues as they relate to executive compensation and employee benefits arrangements Prior to joining the firm, Michelle served as an extern for Judge Gary Allen Feess in the United States District Court for the Central District of California. Michelle is fluent in Swedish.

CARR, Christopher

Paul Hastings LLP, San Francisco
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Featured in Environment (California)

Practice Areas: Chris Carr is widely regarded as one of the leading environmental, natural resources and energy lawyers in the United States. Drawing on his experience with the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of State, Chris represents businesses, landowners, public agencies and non-profits in the development of complex projects and critical infrastructure. He has represented clients in a broad range of sectors, including renewable and conventional energy, residential and commercial real estate, manufacturing and recycling, transportation, water, forestry, mining, coastal and marine resources, and agriculture. In particular, his practice focuses on permitting and litigation under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Clean Water Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as well as their California counterparts: the California ESA, the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Chris frequently defends permits, approvals and environmental review documents for utility-scale renewable energy and other infrastructure projects in federal and state courts, and defends against “citizen suits” brought under federal environmental statutes. He is a regular speaker at Berkeley Law and Stanford Law School.

Personal: University of California, Berkeley: B.A., J.D., Ph.D.

CARUSO, Margret

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Featured in Intellectual Property (USA – Nationwide), Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Margret Caruso is Chair of the firm’s Trademark and Copyright Practice Group. She devotes a substantial portion of her practice to intellectual property litigation and appellate litigation, including copyright, trademark, and patent infringement, as well as unfair competition and false advertising. Her experience is broad based, with a focus on Internet, technology, entertainment, and consumer goods companies in the copyright, trademark, design patent, trade secret, and false advertising contexts. She has also represented plaintiffs and defendants in infringement actions concerning design, biochemical, computer, and mechanical patents. In addition

to her trial experience and litigation of numerous temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction motions, Margret has briefed appeals to the United States Supreme Court and the Second, Fourth, and Ninth Circuits on issues of copyright, trademark, false advertising, patent, and antitrust. World Trademark Review 1000 recognized her as a “go-to lawyer for internet, entertainment, and consumer goods companies” who is “fearless in high-stakes situations.” Margret is active in the International Trademark Association, where she has served as Chair of the Internet Committee, and is currently a member of the Copyright Committee, as well as in the Association of Business Trial Lawyers, where she serves on the Board for the Northern California chapter.

CASEY, Edward J

Alston & Bird LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Real Estate (California)

Practice Areas: With over 30 years of experience, Ed Casey has represented residential, retail, and commercial developers in land use matters, including those arising under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). His practice encompasses every facet of the entitlement process, from pre-acquisition due diligence to permitting, and he has defended CEQA and other land use lawsuits for a variety of major development projects. He also guides clients through water supply issues arising from development projects.

Personal: Multiple editions of The Best Lawyers in America®, including “Lawyer of the Year” in Litigation – Land Use and Zoning; “Top Litigator,” Los Angeles Business Journal; “Top Rated Lawyer in Energy, Environmental, and Land Use Law,” The Recorder; “Top 100 Lawyers in California,” Daily Journal; AV Preeminent® Peer Review Rating™ and AV Judicial Edition Preeminent Rating™, the highest possible ratings for both legal ability and ethical standards, Martindale-Hubbell®.

CHAPMAN, Laura

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP, San Francisco
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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Laura Chapman is a partner in the Los Angeles office and served as co-chair of the firm’s Intellectual Property Practice Group from 2014 to 2023. Laura Chapman is a partner in the Los Angeles office and served as co-chair of the firm’s Intellectual Property Practice Group from 2014 to 2023. Laura develops, protects and defends clients’ trademarks and copyrights.

Professional Memberships: Member, State Bar of California

CHATTERJEE, Neel

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Featured in Intellectual Property (USA – Nationwide), Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Neel Chatterjee is an internationally recognized technology litigator and trial lawyer. He has a proven track record handling hard-to-win technology cases for some of the world’s leading companies and newest disruptive technology companies. His cases often break new ground in undefined areas of the law or are existential disputes for product lines and new business models. Clients frequently turn to Neel shortly before trial to take over hard-to-win cases. Neel has substantial expertise handling disputes related to patents, trade secrets, copyrights, internet law, and complex commercial technology issues. Mr. Chatterjee has led matters for some of Silicon Valley’s most legendary companies in their most significant technology disputes including groundbreaking cases for Facebook, Oracle, eBay, NVIDIA, LinkedIn, Logitech, and others. Notably, Neel defended Mark Zuckerberg and Facebook in the famed Winklevoss case that later served as the inspiration for the Academy Award winning film “The Social Network.” He helped develop and then later defended eBay with respect to its online transaction business model, creating important fundamental law that validated internet business models related to user generated content. He has prosecuted, defended and tried cases involving global patent litigation for NVIDIA as part of the smartphone patent wars. He also represented Anthony Levandowski, the star engineer at the center of the complex intellectual property dispute between Google and Uber related to self-driving car technology. **Personal:** JD, Vanderbilt University, 1994 ; BS, Dartmouth College, 1991

CHEN, Betty H

Desmarais LLP, New York
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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Betty has two decades of experience successfully representing tech companies in more than 150 high-stakes Hatch-Waxman, trade secret, antitrust, breach of contract, fraud, and patent cases. She has taken approximately 20 cases to trial in a variety of forums across the country, including federal district courts, state courts, and the International Trade Commission. Betty’s practice also focuses on strategic patent prosecution and portfolio management, as well as IP due diligence — particularly in the pharmaceutical and medical device space — for major mergers and acquisitions. Her clients’ products include 5G wireless communication infrastructure, software and applications, medical devices and parts, semiconductors, hardware, consumer electronics, and other cutting-edge technologies.

CHENETZ, Sara L

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Featured in Bankruptcy/Restructuring (California)

Practice Areas: Bankruptcy & Restructuring Corporate Law Financial Transactions Music, Film & Television

CMBS and Real Estate Workouts Digital Media & Entertainment, Gaming & Sports Fintech & Payments Retail & Consumer Products Autonomous & Uncrewed Vehicle Systems (AUVS) Real Estate **Career:** In and out of courts and out of court matters throughout the country, Sara Chenetz guides clients through restructurings, workouts, and litigation, including identifying investment prospects, recovering amounts owed, enhancing business relationships, and improving governance and capital structures. Sara has first-chaired multiple trials, arbitrations, and mediations. She has also served as a court-appointed Chapter 11 trustee in the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts for the Central District of California and District of Nevada. She serves as a mediator in bankruptcy cases in California and elsewhere. Sara guides troubled businesses, their officers and directors, lien holders, buyers of assets, parties doing business with troubled businesses, official committees, trustees, assignees, and others. Clients benefit from Sara’s broad experience and niche knowledge in a variety of areas and industries, including entertainment, fintech, media licensing, real estate, senior living, technology, and wine. Ranked by Chambers USA, Sara was noted as “an outstanding lawyer and client manager; she is an excellent active listener, facilitator, and solutionist – she always provides practical strategies and solutions that move a matter forward” by a client.

CHO, Eric

Latham & Watkins LLP, Los Angeles

Featured in Tax (California: Southern)

Practice Areas: Eric Cho is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Latham & Watkins and is a member of the Tax Department. Eric’s practice focuses on US federal income tax matters, including the tax consequences of mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, reorganizations, restructurings, private equity investments and financing transactions. Prior to attending law school, Eric worked in New York City as an investment banking analyst at Merrill Lynch & Co. and as an associate at Behrman Capital. During law school, he worked in the legal department of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

CHOU, Vicki

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Described in Benchmark Litigation as one of the “brightest litigators across the U.S.” and Chambers as “incredibly smart” and “tenacious, engaging and hard charging,” Vicki Chou is an accomplished trial lawyer and a key member of Hueston Hennigan’s Trial Practice and White Collar and Investigations teams. She is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, the preeminent organization of trial lawyers in North America, which is composed of less than one percent of the total lawyer population of any state or province. Ms. Chou represents individuals and companies in high-stakes business disputes

and criminal matters, including complex commercial litigation, intellectual property matters, SEC enforcement actions, shareholder litigation and white collar criminal defense. She has earned high praise for her courtroom skills, including from the judge after a 10-week trial for an "unparalleled" and "extraordinary" performance. She is equally effective outside the courtroom, whether that be termination of a high-stakes criminal investigation or a quiet pre-litigation settlement in a sensitive matter. A former assistant U.S. Attorney in the Central District of California where she was a deputy chief, Ms. Chou represented the U.S. in hundreds of criminal cases including computer and internet fraud, intellectual property, money laundering, cryptocurrency, bank fraud, tax fraud, immigration fraud, drug trafficking and racketeering offenses. Ms. Chou is also an active member of the legal community. She serves on the boards of multiple organizations, including on the Merit Selection Panel for the Central District of California, where she assists in evaluating and recommending to the District Judges the best qualified applicants for appointment to the position of United States Magistrate Judge. She is also the immediate past president of the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association.

CHRISTIANSON, Greg A

Alston & Bird LLP, San Francisco
415.243.1012
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Featured in Environment (California)

Practice Areas: Greg has a proven track record representing clients in environmental litigation, with a particular focus on Superfund cost recovery, natural resource damage claims, toxic tort actions, and federal and state enforcement actions. Greg also achieves results for his clients using alternative dispute resolution methods, pursuing cost-effective, cooperative solutions with regulators, property owners, and potentially responsible parties to avoid litigation. Greg represents private and public entities at sites throughout the country, including various federal and state Superfund sites. Greg advises both individual clients and joint-defense groups at a wide range of facilities, including sediment sites, mixed-use landfills, former mines, and other industrial operations. He has also pursued CERCLA, RCRA, and common-law claims through litigation and mediations, obtaining substantial funds for clients' environmental cleanup work. In many cases, Greg has negotiated creative settlements, including multiparty federal and state consent decrees, and has defended settlements against third-party challenges at trial and appellate courts. Greg has significant experience working with experts in the technical aspects of litigation, including contaminant fate and transport, identification of potentially responsible parties, and the range of factors affecting multiparty cost allocation. Greg's work also includes defending clients in multiparty toxic tort actions

for personal injury, medical monitoring, and property damage claims based on alleged groundwater contamination, surface-water releases, and air emissions. **Career:** Co-chair, firm's Environment, Land Use & Natural Resources Group.

CHU, Lawrence

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*Featured in Corporate/M&A (California):
San Francisco, Silicon Valley & Surrounding*

Practice Areas: Larry Chu is a senior advisor to Goodwin. He previously was a senior partner in our Technology and M&A/Corporate Governance practices and served as the co-chair of the firm's Global M&A Group. He has represented domestic and non-US public and private companies in mergers and acquisitions, dispositions, joint ventures, and corporate finance transactions in the technology, internet, digital media and marketing, artificial intelligence, financial technology, e-commerce, and hardware and software industries, and also represents clients in the consumer products, FMCG, beverage, apparel, telecommunications, industrial products and manufacturing, banking and financial services, and asset management sectors. In addition, he has represented private equity funds in connection with the acquisition of, and investment in, certain public and private portfolio companies, as well as banking clients in connection with their roles as financial advisor and dealer/manager on M&A transactions. Larry was also a member of the firm's Fintech, Israel, and Cannabis practices. Larry's transaction experience includes public and private mergers and acquisitions, tender and exchange offers, carve-out transactions, asset acquisitions and dispositions, recapitalizations, management buyouts and going-private transactions, joint venture arrangements, and strategic alliances and minority investments. He also has extensive experience with cross-border transactions and has helped a number of serial acquirors manage their buy-side M&A programs.

Personal: JD/LLB, 1998 Osgoode Hall Law School BA, 1995 University of Western Ontario

CLARKE, Pablo

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*Featured in Real Estate (California):
Southern*

Practice Areas: Pablo Clarke is a partner in the Real Estate practice at Paul Hastings and is based in the firm's Century City office. Pablo advises clients on a full complement of real estate and finance transactions, including mortgage and mezzanine financing, preferred equity transactions, corporate REIT financing, acquisitions and dispositions, acquisition financing, joint ventures, and commercial leasing. He helps private equity firms, investors, REITs, and financial institutions on matters across a variety of real estate asset classes, including office, industrial, raw land, retail, hospitality, single and multifamily developments, and medical.

For lenders – including investors, mortgage REITs, private equity firms, and financial institutions – investing and lending up and down the capital stack, he advises on mortgage lending (CMBS and non-CMBS), construction financing, revolving borrowing base loans, mezzanine loans, preferred equity investments, and joint ventures. Pablo advises REITs and financial institutions on the origination and ongoing management of corporate credit products such as secured and unsecured term and revolving credit facilities, private placement notes, acquisition financing, and property-level financing. With developer and investor clients, Pablo negotiates and documents purchase and sale agreements, joint ventures, ground leases, and Easements (primarily for the construction, development, and repositioning of real property). He brings a broad understanding of real estate investment drawn from his previous experience as general counsel for a real estate focused private equity firm as well as from serving as an attorney-advisor for the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development on the acquisition, construction, and repurposing of multifamily units in the affordable housing and healthcare industries.

Personal: University of California, Berkeley, MBA University of Arizona, JD Princeton University, BA

CLIVNER, Dan

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Featured in Private Equity (California)

Practice Areas: DAN CLIVNER is a member of Sidley's Executive Committee and the managing partner of the greater Los Angeles offices. He previously served as a global co-leader of the firm's M&A and Private Equity group. Dan handles high-profile transactional matters for clients in the media and entertainment, telecom, technology, financial services, and retail industries. He has extensive experience advising both domestic and international private equity and corporate clients on a variety of matters related to M&A, corporate governance, and securities law matters such as leveraged buyouts, joint ventures, public company acquisitions, and restructurings. Dan also advises boards, management, special committees, and investment banking firms on domestic and international corporate transactions.

COCCI, Meghan

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*Featured in Leisure & Hospitality (USA)
– Nationwide, Real Estate (California):
Southern*

See under Nationwide for profile.

COFFILL, Eric J

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Featured in Tax (California)

Practice Areas: Eric J. Coffill has over 40 years of experience counseling clients on state and local tax controversy and

litigation matters at the administrative, trial and appellate levels, particularly those involving the California Franchise Tax Board and the California Department of Tax & Fee Administration. His practice includes advising high-net-worth individuals on their most significant matters, including California residency and sourcing issues. Eric is a frequent speaker and the principal author of more than 100 articles on a variety of state tax topics.

COHEN, Nathan

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Featured in Construction (California)

Practice Areas: Construction & Infrastructure Public-Private Partnerships Business Litigation Construction Contracts & Risk Management Internal Investigations Real Estate Law

Career: Nathan A. Cohen is managing partner in Peckar & Abramson's Los Angeles office, Chair of the Corporate & Real Estate Practice and Co-Chair of the Government Contracting & Infrastructure Practice, leading the firm's infrastructure and public-private partnership (P3) efforts. Nate focuses on construction and infrastructure law, corporate compliance/internal investigations, commercial litigation and real estate related issues. Nate's diverse construction experience includes assisting clients in all phases of the construction process including but not limited to claims, litigation contract negotiation and serving as project counsel. In 2021, Nate completed FIDIC Certified Course Module 2: Claims and Disputes Resolution. He is a frequently sought-after speaker and lecturer on issues related to construction and infrastructure projects. Among his current and recent matters, Nate is: Currently assisting with multiple claims on large airport project on the West Coast Representing clients on claims both during and after completion of projects Representing civil contractors on all areas of risk and claim mitigation Prior to returning to Peckar & Abramson in 2018, Nate was Chief Legal Officer for a large privately-held real estate company based in Los Angeles. He actively managed and oversaw the day-to-day legal matters impacting the company while reporting directly to the Board of Directors. Prior to that, Nate was a senior associate with Peckar & Abramson where he actively participated in all aspects of the litigation process and provided clients with corporate ethics and regulatory compliance advice. Prior to Nate's time at P&A he served as an Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia where he successfully prosecuted individuals accused of such felony offenses as complex narcotics distribution conspiracy and weapons charges.

Professional Memberships: California Bar Association Los Angeles County Bar Association

Publications: "Tariffs and the Art of the Price Escalation "Deal", P&A Client Alert, January 2025 (co-author) "Identifying and Mitigating Risk in an Ever-Changing Construction Market," Engineering News-Record's – Law &

Risk Mitigation Today II, December 2023 (author) "California Employers Beware: SB 1162 Expands Pay Data Reporting and Transparency Requirements," P&A Client Alert, March 2023 (co-author) "California Employers Beware: SB 1162 Expands Pay Data Reporting and Transparency Requirements," P&A Client Alert, March 2023 (co-author) "Highest California Court Issues Two Decisions on the Prevailing Wage Law Narrowing the Scope of its Coverage," P&A Client Alert, November 2021 (co-author) "Selecting the Right Delivery Method for the Job," Construction Dive, August 2021 (co-author) "AB 685 and COVID-19 Workplace Exposure: New California Notice and Reporting Requirements of COVID Exposure Starting January 1, 2021," P&A Client Alert, January 2021 "How Will Today's Pandemic Impact Tomorrow's Construction Contracts?," ConsensusDocs Newsletter, October 2020 (co-author) "Going Back to Work – Starting or Restarting a Construction Project During the Pandemic," P&A Client Alert, May 2020 (co-author) "Planning Now to Prove Your COVID-19 Damages and Delays Later," P&A Client Alert, March 2020 (co-author) "AB5: New Requirements for Independent Contractor Classification, and its Potential Impacts on the Construction Industry," P&A Client Alert, December 2019 (co-author) "AB 3018: Amendments to the Skilled and Trained Workforce Requirements on California Public Projects," P&A Client Alert, January 2019 (co-author) "As steel tariffs come into play, contractors should review contracts," Daily Journal, May 2018 (co-author)

COHEN, Russell

Dechert LLP, San Francisco

Featured in Antitrust (California)

Practice Areas: Russell P. Cohen is a partner in Dechert's antitrust/competition group, representing some of the world's top technology companies in their most complex antitrust and business disputes. An experienced litigator, Mr. Cohen focuses his practice on antitrust and unfair competition disputes, venture capital and other high-stakes litigation, particularly in the technology sector. Mr. Cohen recently defended Microsoft in a high-profile lawsuit brought by Elon Musk which sought to unwind Microsoft's strategic partnership with OpenAI. In May 2026, a unanimous nine-member jury ruled in Microsoft's favor, and the court subsequently dismissed all remaining claims, including Musk's claim that Microsoft aided and abetted the alleged breach of charitable trust – marking a complete trial win and earning American Lawyer's Litigator of the Week distinction. He has represented market-leading companies, including Netflix Inc., LinkedIn and Zillow Group, in federal and state court and arbitration proceedings. He is lead trial counsel representing LinkedIn in an antitrust class action challenging its API partner program and was part of the trial team that secured a complete victory for Zillow in a high-stakes antitrust litigation case, which was widely covered by Law360, Bloomberg Law,

and Reuters Legal. This significant win led to Mr. Cohen and Dechert partner Jay Jurata being honored as runner-ups in American Lawyer's Litigator of the Week. Mr. Cohen maintains an active pro bono practice, acting as counsel in the successful Alien Tort Statute case against an assassin involved in the murder of Archbishop Oscar Romero in El Salvador. Other pro bono matters include representing a parent and child separated at the southern border of the United States, former Guantanamo detainees pursuing damages for torture and unlawful detention, and a group of Canadian and international human rights organizations and scholars in the U.S. Supreme Court in *Arar v. Ashcroft*.

COLLI, Garrett

Perkins Coie LLP, San Francisco
GColli@perkinscoie.com

Featured in Real Estate (California)

Practice Areas: Environment, Energy & Resources Real Estate & Land Use Land Use & Development Data Centers and Digital Infrastructure Land Development Energy Infrastructure & Clean Technology Real Estate

Career: Representing developers, financial institutions, landowners, energy companies, and public agencies, Garrett Colli assists clients with land use and environmental matters. Garrett coordinates and then successfully implements land use entitlement and environmental compliance strategies for residential, commercial, industrial, and renewable energy projects. He also negotiates purchase and sale agreements, leases, easements, and related transactional documents in support of development projects, with an emphasis on post-entitlement project implementation and the use of streamlining mechanisms. Garrett has deep experience in subdivision mapping, street and utility construction and dedication, and negotiation of related agreements with public agencies and utilities. Garrett regularly advises clients regarding California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance and secures approvals under the Subdivision Map Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Federal Land Policy Management Act. He frequently represents clients at public hearings to obtain zoning approvals and has also defended clients in regulatory enforcement proceedings, including actions by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, regional water quality boards, and local agencies. Garrett represents major mixed-use developers of projects in the Bay Area encompassing more than 20,000 units of housing with related commercial and retail components, among other projects. He also represents major energy companies in solar; wind; battery storage; and transmission project permitting, development, acquisition, and disposition.

COOPER, Ellyce R

Sidley Austin LLP, Century City
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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: ELLYCE COOPER serves as a co-leader of the firm's

globally recognized Crisis Management and Strategic Response team and helps companies across industries facing significant crises situations and government investigations. She guides companies in developing comprehensive, thoughtful and responsive strategies. Ellyce is adept at handling multi-faceted matters involving a number of numerous government and regulatory agencies and parties. Ellyce's diverse white-collar experience includes representing clients in internal investigations and high-profile government facing investigations involving the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Ellyce also has extensive experience handling complex civil litigation and is a member of Sidley's Consumer Class Actions and Corporate Governance practices. Ellyce's clients include notable companies in the technology, healthcare, pharmaceutical, accounting, financial, defense and automotive industries. Ellyce's practice includes representing clients in matters involving trade secret theft, sanctions, fraud and False Claims Act matters, and investigations. She has defended clients through various stages of litigation, from trial preparation through verdict, including in a significant ongoing matter pending trial.

COTTLE, Lisa A

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Featured in Energy & Natural Resources (California)

Practice Areas: Lisa Cottle is a partner in the Real Estate, Energy, Land Use & Environmental Practice Group in the firm's San Francisco office, and a member of the Energy, Infrastructure and Project Finance Team. Lisa's practice focuses on energy project development and regulatory matters in the electric power industry. She is recognized by Chambers USA, The Legal 500, Lawdragon, and Best Lawyers in America as a leading practitioner in these areas. Testimonials in these publications include: "She is incredibly responsive, a creative thinker, and very persistent in finding and developing the right answer;" and "She has a deep knowledge of how utilities approach negotiations and how to get power purchase agreements approved."

COWAN, Tom

Knobbe Martens, Seattle

Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: IP Transactions, Agreements & Venture Capital Patent Strategy & Prosecution Trade Secret Trademark & Brand Protection
Career: Tom is Chair of our Mechanical Engineering Practice Group and has practiced intellectual property law for more than a decade. As a former aerospace engineer at NASA and Northrop Grumman, and with a master's degree in biomedical engineering, he is a trusted IP partner to aerospace and medical technology companies. Clients rely on Tom to develop and execute IP strategy tailored to specific business goals. He counsels

companies on overall IP strategy, performs IP audits, prosecutes patents, develops trade secret protections, conducts pre-litigation enforcement of IP rights, negotiates licenses, and conducts offensive and defensive diligence such as patentability and infringement studies. Tom has deep experience helping startup clients develop IP assets and defend diligence for financing and M&A activities. Since 2016, he has prosecuted patents and conducted IP diligence in deals cumulatively valued at over \$800M, including over \$700M for medical device clients and over \$100M for aerospace and mechanical clients. Tom was in the firm's San Diego office for 10 years and is currently based out of southwest Florida.

COWIE, Paul

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP, Los Angeles

Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Paul Cowie advises and defends employers in all types of employment-related disputes. He has extensive experience serving clients in the transportation industry, including major airlines, gig economy companies and leading trucking companies. Paul serves as the leader of the firm's Transportation industry team. He also has deep experience in a range of industries, including retail, technology and manufacturing.

COYLE, Sean P.J.

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: White collar criminal and enforcement matters, regulatory proceedings

Career: Sean Coyle is an experienced trial lawyer who helps clients solve complex problems. Sean has worked on a broad range of cases, including commercial litigation, white collar criminal and enforcement matters, regulatory proceedings, government tort claims, coverage disputes, tax controversies, and securities litigation. Sean recognizes that the impact of any given case on a client is rarely limited to the forum in which the controversy is litigated. He takes a holistic approach to advising clients so that they can achieve the right result in the litigation in a manner that best serves their overall interests. Sean has represented clients in major civil and criminal cases and sensitive investigations involving publicly traded companies, corporate officers, and public agencies and officials. He has substantial experience defending clients in regulatory investigations, including before the Securities and Exchange Commission and the California Public Utilities Commission. Sean has conducted internal investigations of public entities and corporations concerning accounting, financial compliance, grants management, and ethics issues, including as part of a federally appointed monitorship. He has litigated in state and federal courts and before regulatory agencies, including

extensive experience in regulatory rate-making proceedings before the California Public Utilities Commission concerning billions of dollars in funding. His clients regularly turn to him for common sense legal advice to fit sophisticated business solutions. Prior to joining Coblenz, Sean served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Major Frauds and Special Prosecutions Section of the United States Attorney's Office in San Diego. He investigated and prosecuted cases involving virtually every kind of fraud, including securities and insider trading, defense procurement, health care, and tax and bank fraud, as well as cases involving public corruption, obstruction of justice, and money laundering crimes. As a prosecutor, Sean worked extensively on criminal matters that included parallel civil enforcement and qui tam proceedings with agencies such as the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Department of Health and Human Services. Sean served as the Southern District of California's Health Care Fraud Coordinator, responsible for overseeing the district's healthcare and life sciences-related criminal investigations.

Professional Memberships: Sean is a member of the California State Bar, the Bar Association of San Francisco, and the Conference of California Public Utility Counsel.

CRISP, Julie

Latham & Watkins LLP, New York

Featured in Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation (California: Los Angeles & Surrounds)

Practice Areas: Julie Crisp advises clients on the full spectrum of employee benefits and executive compensation matters that can shape market-changing transactions and sustain businesses. Julie leverages a sophisticated understanding of clients' commercial objectives to craft practical solutions to the complex benefits and compensation issues involving: – The executive compensation and employee benefits aspects of mergers and acquisitions, financings, initial public offerings, spinoffs, and other corporate transactions – Employment, severance, and change-in-control agreements – Deferred compensation plans, as well as equity and other incentive compensation plans and arrangements – Compliance with applicable tax and securities laws, including ERISA – Compensation disclosures for proxy statements and other public filings She forges trusted relationships with private equity funds, public and private companies, and executives across industries to help clients achieve their business objectives, unlocking resources across the firm's global platform. A recognized leader at the firm, Julie serves on the Associates Committee. She previously was a member of the Pro Bono Committee and served as Vice Chair of the firm's Global Recruiting Committee. Julie prioritizes giving back to the community, particularly through initiatives that support equity and inclusion within the legal profession. She served on the Board of Trustees for

the NALP Foundation for Law Career Research and Education and is a member of the Leaders Network Advisory Council for the Ron Brown Scholar Program, a college scholarship and leadership program for African American students.

CRUDO, Timothy P.

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: White collar defense and investigations

Career: A trial lawyer and former federal prosecutor, he helps companies and individuals in investigations and cases brought by federal and state criminal authorities and government enforcement agencies. Tim also counsels and defends clients in securities, corporate governance, and other complex business and civil matters involving shareholders, consumers, and competitors. In addition, he is tasked by companies and Boards of Directors to lead sensitive internal investigations. Tim's extensive criminal and civil jury, bench, and arbitration trial experience includes several prominent white collar criminal trials, the longest civil trial (a securities fraud class action) in the Northern District of California, the then-largest arbitration award in the history of the International Chamber of Commerce, and one of the largest regulatory enforcement trials in U.S. banking history. Over the years his matters have covered the gamut of substantive areas including securities and investment fraud, tax fraud, healthcare fraud, antitrust violations, audit and accounting misconduct, and public corruption. From 2003 to 2009, Tim served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Securities Fraud Section of the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California, where he investigated, prosecuted, and tried white collar and securities fraud crimes, including complex accounting fraud, insider trading, market manipulation, investment fraud, and bankruptcy fraud cases. During his career with the Department of Justice, Tim was the lead trial lawyer on a number of prominent securities and corporate fraud matters, including the nation's first two stock option backdating trials; the trials of the Board Chairman, CFO, and General Counsel of a Fortune 50 company on charges of accounting fraud; the investment fraud trial of a high-profile real estate developer in northern California; a \$100 million Ponzi scheme operated by the owner of a major sports franchise; insider trading investigations arising from the acquisition of a large financial institution and conduct at a major global private investment firm; and numerous investigations of companies and individuals based in Silicon Valley and beyond. He also argued several cases before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Tim was named Chief of the Securities Fraud Section in 2007.

Professional Memberships: Tim is a member of the American Bar Association, the California Bar Association,

the Federal Bar Association, and the Association of Business Trial Lawyers. He also is a member of the Executive Committees of the Bar Association of San Francisco's Securities Litigation Section and Criminal Justice Section.

CULLEN, Brendan P

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Litigation, Securities Litigation, Antitrust, Criminal Defense & Investigations, FCPA & Anti-Corruption, Intellectual Property & Technology Litigation

Career: Brendan Cullen is a partner in S&C's Litigation Group. He has litigated a broad range of matters, including complex securities, commercial, intellectual property and antitrust cases, frequently with a substantial technological element. He has advised and represented clients in arbitrations, in cases in state and federal trial courts and on appeals before state and federal appellate courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. He also has conducted numerous confidential internal investigations, including investigations related to issues of corporate governance, securities matters and Foreign Corrupt Practices Act compliance, and involving numerous countries throughout Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Latin America. Brendan's corporate clients have included Australia and New Zealand Banking Group, BHP Billiton, Caterpillar, Cutera, Dolby International AB, EchoStar, Goldman Sachs, Intel, Madison Square Garden, Meta, Microsoft, Philips Electronics, Rolls-Royce, Tenaris, UBS, Verifone, Vista Equity Partners, Wells Fargo and X.AI. Brendan co-lead the team at S&C that partnered with Stanford Law School to launch the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act Clearinghouse, a public database that aggregates and curates source documents and provides analytic tools related to enforcement of the FCPA since its enactment. Clerk, Hon. Clarence Thomas, United States Supreme Court. Clerk, Hon. Laurence H. Silberman, United States Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit.

Professional Memberships: Co-chair, The Campaign for Legal Services; Member, Stanford Law School Dean's Advisory Council; Member, National Leadership Council, Positive Coaching Alliance.

Personal: Stanford Law School (JD, 1995); University of Oregon (BA, 1991).

CUSKELLY, Gabrielle

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Featured in Leisure & Hospitality (USA – Nationwide), Real Estate (California: Southern)

Practice Areas: Clients ranging from private equity funds to institutional lenders turn to Brielle for all their financing, acquisition, disposition, and other transactional matters. Her dedication to understanding her clients' objectives and the market's dynamics allows her to deliver commercial and practical

solutions to challenging commercial real estate issues. Brielle guides private equity funds, management companies, investment banks, institutional lenders, life insurance companies, and other real estate investors through cross-border and domestic real estate finance and other real estate transactions. The complex financings span the full range of commercial real estate asset classes, including office, hospitality, retail, health care, multifamily, industrial, and mixed-use properties. Brielle has significant expertise in organizing permanent, bridge, or construction mortgage and mezzanine loans, negotiating intercreditor and co-lender relationships, joint ventures, and portfolio and "one-off" acquisitions and dispositions.

DAVIS, Eva

Winston Taylor LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Private Equity (California)

Practice Areas: Eva Davis, Winston's Managing Partner – External Affairs, concentrates on U.S. and cross-border complex business transactions with a particular focus on mergers and acquisitions and private equity. As an advisor to strategics and private equity funds and their portfolio companies, she has counseled domestic and international clients in public and private M&A transactions, public and private debt and equity financing transactions, including initial public offerings, and distressed sales and investments in and out of bankruptcy. Eva has also represented public companies and their boards of directors and special committees in connection with enterprise-transformative business opportunities and legal challenges, as well as providing corporate governance advice. Eva has served as lead deal counsel and negotiated and completed transactions in a wide variety of industries, including aerospace, automotive, business and financial services, consumer products, energy, entertainment, industrials and manufacturing, medical devices, pharmaceutical, retail, semiconductor, software, technology and telecommunications. Her transactional experience includes deals ranging from tens of millions of dollars (for initial private equity investments and financings) to more than \$5 billion (for acquisitions, industry consolidations and dispositions). **Personal:** Eva graduated cum laude in 1990 from Harvard Law School and summa cum laude in 1987 from Duke University, where she double majored in Economics and Political Science and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

DAVIS, Felicia A

Paul Hastings LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Felicia Davis is a partner in the Employment Law Department of Paul Hastings and works in the firm's Los Angeles and San Francisco offices. Her practice focuses on pay equity and discrimination class actions, as well as systemic government investigations,

where she has led the defense of some of the largest matters across the country. Her clients span all industries, with an emphasis in media, entertainment and technology companies. Felicia also represents employers in other aspects of labor and employment law, including single plaintiff pay equity, discrimination, retaliation, harassment and religious accommodation claims, as well as wage and hour issues in both single-plaintiff and class action matters. She also represents clients in background check litigation under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, workplace investigations, labor grievances and collective bargaining. In addition to litigation, Felicia regularly helps employers review and revise their employment policies and procedures, including policies on employee background checks, paid sick leave, and wage and hour issues, and provides anti-harassment training to management and executives. She also works with employers to review and analyze their hiring, compensation and promotion practices for equity and legal compliance and advises on ESG reporting and diversity programs. Felicia frequently advises and speaks on the intersection of technology and employment law and is a past co-chair of the ABA Labor and Employment Law Committee on Technology in the Practice and Workplace. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Personal: UCLA School of Law, J.D. Claremont McKenna College, B.A.

DE VRIES, Michael

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Featured in Intellectual Property (USA – Nationwide), Intellectual Property (California)

See under Nationwide for profile.

DEL PRETE, Keith Hayden

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Featured in Leisure & Hospitality (USA – Nationwide), Real Estate (California: Southern)

Practice Areas: KEITH HAYDEN DEL PRETE is co-leader of the firm's Global Hospitality group. Keith's multidisciplinary practice focuses on all aspects touching hospitality and real estate. He is regularly called upon to provide strategic advice and guidance to boards of directors and senior management of operating businesses on various cross-border and domestic matters. Keith has advised on billions of dollars of hospitality, real estate, corporate finance, and M&A deals, including domestic and cross-border leveraged private equity deals.

DENENBERG, Alan

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Featured in Capital Markets (USA – Nationwide), Capital Markets (California), Capital Markets (USA – Nationwide), Corporate/M&A (California: San Francisco, Silicon Valley & Surrounding)

See under Nationwide for profile.

DEUTSCH, Kenneth

Paul Hastings LLP, Century City

Featured in Media & Entertainment: Transactional (California)

Practice Areas: Ken Deutsch is co-chair of the Entertainment and Media practice of Paul Hastings and is based in the firm's Century City office. He represents a broad array of operating entities in the entertainment and media industries, including film and television studios, streaming platforms and independent media companies, advising on their most significant corporate transactions as well as on a variety of film, television and other commercial ventures. Ken also routinely represents financial institutions, investment funds, high-net-worth individuals and other media and content financiers in evaluating and executing on investment and acquisition opportunities in the entertainment space. He has particular experience in structuring complex equity and debt financings, content funds and strategic joint venture arrangements.

Personal: Harvard Law School, J.D. Columbia University, B.A.

DHILLON, Navi

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Featured in Environment (California)

Practice Areas: Recognized as one of the leading lawyers for complex disputes or special situations in the United States, Mr. Dhillon serves as a trusted advisor to diverse clients ranging from public companies, private investment funds (private equity, hedge funds) state, local and tribal governments to infrastructure, renewable energy, natural resources, project development, real estate and technology companies. He has served as lead counsel in matters with an aggregate amount at stake in excess of \$20 billion. Mr. Dhillon is a go-to-lawyer to navigate distressed assets or special situations in a range of contexts, including mass torts, legislative or regulatory challenges, government or environmental enforcement actions, preliminary injunctions, class actions, MDL proceedings, and mandamus proceedings. Prior to joining private practice, Mr. Dhillon clerked in a specialized business court focused exclusively on complex litigation, where he managed more than 100 high-stakes disputes involving mass actions, class actions and other multi-party litigation and more than a dozen trials, jury and bench. As lead trial counsel, Mr. Dhillon has litigated dozens of cases to judgment in high-stakes matters involving a range of sensitive business concerns. Navi is particularly skilled at developing and implementing winning strategies that enable the trier of fact to understand complex scientific, regulatory and other technical issues. Outside the courtroom, Navi is a highly-skilled negotiator and regularly handles complex negotiations with local, state, and federal agencies, as well as private transactions for clients seeking to create and expand business opportunities in emerging areas or

special situations. Mr. Dhillon regularly advises clients seeking difficult regulatory approvals for large-scale projects. His experience includes utility-scale renewable energy, master planned communities, surface mining, timber harvesting, utility-scale desalination, and other major infrastructure projects around the globe. Navi Dhillon is the co-chair of the global Environmental Litigation practice. He is also co-chair of the firm's San Francisco office.

Personal: University of California, J.D., magna cum laude University of San Francisco, B.A., cum laude

DILLMAN, Ted

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Featured in Bankruptcy/Restructuring (California)

Practice Areas: Ted Austin Dillman represents debtors, creditors, private equity sponsors, investment funds, and buyers in corporate restructuring, distressed M&A, and out-of-court workouts, as well as special situations finance and corporate matters. Ted serves as Global Vice Chair of the firm's Retail & Consumer Products Industry Group as well as on the firm's Ethics Committee. Ted helps clients navigate large-scale corporate bankruptcies, cross-border restructurings, and a variety of special situations financing and M&A transactions across industries. Ted is a past president of the Financial Lawyers Conference and a member of its Board of Governors. He often writes and speaks on intellectual property, M&A, and finance-related issues, including: – Co-author "Intellectually Bankrupt?: The Comprehensive Guide to Navigating IP Issues in Chapter 11," published by ABI Law Review – Co-author of the Model Asset Purchase Agreement for Bankruptcy Sales published by the ABA – Co-author of the debtor-in-possession financing chapter of Reorganizing Failing Businesses, published by the ABA Ted is a fellow of the prestigious American College of Bankruptcy and is consistently acknowledged for his excellence.

DINTZER, Jeffrey D

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Featured in Environment (California)

Practice Areas: A leading attorney both in California and nationwide, Jeffrey Dintzer represents energy, manufacturing, and defense industry clients in complex environmental, toxic tort, land use, and class action litigation. Over the course of his 37-year career, Jeffrey has played a prominent role in precedent-setting cases affecting the way industries do business in California. His deep expertise in hydrogeology, toxicology, epidemiology, and other life sciences helps his clients navigate ecological personal injury and property damage claims, particularly those involving emerging chemicals such as PFAS and perchlorate. As one of the deans of the environmental bar in California, Jeffrey represents California's major oil and gas

interests on upstream matters, helping them navigate the growing complexity of the state regulatory landscape and the challenges of increasingly litigious nongovernmental organizations.

Personal: Former law clerk, Judge Alice-Marie Stotler, C.D. California; Daily Journal, "Top 100 Lawyers in California" for 2019, 2020, and 2024.

DIXON, Douglas

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Douglas J. Dixon is a first-chair trial lawyer recognized by Chambers for his general commercial litigation work. Described by clients to Chambers as "an amazing force" and "phenomenal courtroom lawyer" who "has unbelievable credibility with judges and juries," Mr. Dixon navigates and advises clients on complex technological, regulatory, and business matters across multiple areas of the law. Mr. Dixon's practice focuses on complex business litigation, mass torts litigation, antitrust litigation, intellectual property litigation, securities litigation, and other high-stakes commercial disputes. In addition to being ranked by Chambers, Mr. Dixon has consistently been recognized as a national "Litigation Star" by Benchmark Litigation as well as in The Best Lawyers in America in the area of commercial litigation. The Los Angeles Business Journal has also repeatedly listed him among its "Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys," and the Daily Journal has recognized him among its "Leading Commercial Litigators." Lawdragon ranked him among the "500 Leading Global Antitrust & Competition Lawyers," and Legal 500 named him to its "U.S. Elite (Los Angeles)" list. Mr. Dixon serves as the immediate past chair of the J. Reuben Clark Law Society-Orange County. He previously served on the board of directors of Public Law Center, the Constitutional Rights Foundation, and the Federal Bar Association. He is also active in providing service in his community.

DIZ, Michael

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (California: San Francisco, Silicon Valley & Surrounding)

Practice Areas: Michael is the head of Davis Polk's Northern California office and a member of the firm's Mergers & Acquisitions practice. He has a broad-based practice advising public and private companies, private equity firms and special committees on mergers and acquisitions, equity investments, spinoffs and other transactions. He also advises companies and their boards on corporate governance and fiduciary duty matters. His work has spanned a range of industries, including tech, media and telecom; industrials; and consumer products.

DONNELLY, Rod

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Featured in Tax (California: Northern)

Practice Areas: Rod Donnelly focuses his practice on the federal tax aspects of complex international corporate transactions. Representing large multinational corporations, his experience includes complex, high-dollar-value transfer pricing issues, especially with an intangible property component, at both the planning and controversy stages. Rod's experience also includes FDII, Subpart F, and foreign tax credits, as well as tax-related aspects of manufacturing supply chain and research and development, at both the planning and controversy levels. Rod has drafted for clients many comment letters on Treasury regulations and OECD public discussion drafts and has drafted and submitted briefs dealing with complex tax issues to trial and appellate courts.

Personal: University of London, 1980, B.Sc.; Memorial University, 1984, M.Eng.; Carleton University, Canada, 1988, Ph.D. in Mathematics; University of Toronto, Canada, 1999, J.D.

DOOLIN, Michelle

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Featured in Litigation (California: San Diego)

Practice Areas: MICHELLE DOOLIN is a nationally recognized class action and commercial litigator who represents leading retail, consumer products, and technology companies in their most high-stakes disputes, and serves as global co-leader of Sidley's Consumer Class Actions practice. She has a distinguished track record defending companies in consumer protection, privacy, employment, and product-related class actions across the country. Michelle regularly handles high-stakes commercial litigation matters, with particular depth in nationwide and statewide class actions filed in California. Michelle is regarded as a go-to strategist for consumer-facing brands navigating bet-the-company class actions. She has defended more than 150 consumer class actions and has secured decisive wins at every stage of litigation, including dismissals with prejudice, denials of class certification, grants of summary judgment, and appellate victories. She has also obtained jury trial wins in commercial litigation cases. Her practice spans false and deceptive advertising claims, product defect and warranty litigation, pricing and promotional practices (including hidden fees), food and beverage advertising and health-related ingredient claims, privacy and data collection-related class actions, and complex wage-and-hour disputes.

DORF, Michael

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (California: San Francisco, Silicon Valley & Surrou)

Practice Areas: Michael has extensive experience in domestic and cross-border public and private M&A transactions, carve-outs, venture capital financings, strategic investments and joint ventures. He has represented public and private companies, private equity funds, sovereign wealth funds and corporate venture capital investors in the technology, biotechnology, renewable energy, consumer products and other industries.

DRAGNA, James J

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Featured in Environment (California)

Practice Areas: James Dragna is a partner in the litigation practice at Morgan Lewis and leader of the firm's environmental practice. Jim represents energy, aerospace, and manufacturing clients in environmental matters nationwide, including air, water, and wastewater enforcement and litigation. His practice includes the representation of clients in multi-party, multi-claim litigation following environmental crises, infrastructure litigation, hazardous waste proceedings, and municipalities in water treatment, collection, and discharge infrastructure matters. Jim also serves as group or common counsel to several multiparty Superfund groups. Jim serves several major municipalities as special counsel in wastewater litigation and permitting issues. For more information, please view his bio at <https://www.morganlewis.com/bios/jimdragna>.

Personal: University of California, Irvine, 1976, B.A., Cum Laude; Loyola Law School, 1979, J.D.

DUBOFSKY, Josh

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (California: San Francisco, Silicon Valley & Surrou), Corporate/M&A (New York)

Practice Areas: Josh Dubofsky, a leading M&A lawyer and Global Co-Chair of the firm's market-leading Shareholder Activism & Takeover Defense Practice, advises clients on a full spectrum of strategic transactions and corporate governance matters. Josh draws on almost 25 years of experience representing companies and private equity firms in their most complex domestic and cross-border transactions. A trusted boardroom advisor, he helps boards of directors, management, and shareholders navigate: – Mergers, acquisitions, and other strategic transactions – Activism defense and takeover planning – Growth investing – Public and private equity and debt financing – General corporate representation of both publicly traded and privately held companies Josh regularly represents leading global companies across a range of industries, including technology, life sciences, retail, financial services, and transportation. A former software engineer, he also brings a sophisticated understanding of emerging technologies to a range of matters involving artificial intelligence, digital

media, Web3, semiconductors, and other advanced systems. A recognized thought leader, Josh frequently speaks to board and C-suite audiences on M&A, activism, and corporate governance matters.

DUCHENE, Stephanie

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Featured in Insurance (California)

Practice Areas: Stephanie Duchene is a partner in Wilkie's Corporate & Financial Services Department, Co-Chair of the Firm's Insurtech practice and a member of the Insurance Transactional and Regulatory Group. She is based in Los Angeles and San Francisco. She focuses her practice on representing insurance companies, producers and other insurance licensees and insurance-related service providers in complex and sensitive regulatory matters, including negotiating and resolving significant single and multi-state market conduct and financial examinations and Department of Insurance investigations; counseling on compliance with licensing, claims handling, marketing and advertising rules; regulatory requirements and filings relating to acquisitions, mergers and demutualizations of insurance companies; and advising on the development of new insurance products from initial concept through regulatory approval and into the market. Ms. Duchene regularly counsels insurtech companies, traditional carriers and non-insurance entities on the intersection of insurance law and innovation in the industry. She advises clients on all lines of insurance, including accident, life and health, property and casualty, title as well as surplus and excess lines.

DUSENSING, Edward

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: As the founder and lead counsel at Dudensing Law, Edward P. Dudensing specializes in representing plaintiffs in elder abuse cases, with a particular focus on neglect and abuse that takes place in assisted living facilities and nursing homes.

Career: Widely recognized as one of the nation's most successful and knowledgeable elder abuse attorneys, Mr. Dudensing serves clients across California, including Sacramento, the San Francisco Bay Area, Santa Barbara, and Los Angeles. His ability to navigate the intricacies of elder law and his relentless pursuit of justice have solidified his standing as a leader in the field. During his 23+ year career dedicated to compassionately representing victims of elder abuse and their families, Mr. Dudensing has successfully brought cases against some of California's largest assisted living facilities, nursing homes, and healthcare conglomerates, securing well over \$250+ million in recoveries on behalf of his clients. He has achieved multiple significant elder abuse jury verdicts, including a \$29.1 million verdict

in 2010, a \$42.5 million verdict in 2019, and a \$30.9 million verdict in 2023. Most notably, in March 2026, a Sacramento County jury awarded \$110 million against Colony Capital, the publicly traded Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT), and Formation Capital, the private equity investment firm that oversaw Greenhaven Estates. The verdict is the largest elder abuse verdict against an assisted living facility in California history. The case involved Mildred Hernandez, a 100-year-old woman with Alzheimer's dementia who wandered from the facility in the middle of the night and died of hypothermia. Also in 2026, his legal team secured a \$15.75 million total jury verdict in a case involving a senior named Ruby Evans who suffered severe neglect at Windsor Vallejo Care Center and developed devastating pressure sores as a result. His track record also includes dozens of multimillion-dollar settlements in cases involving preventable deaths, understaffing, fraudulent business practices, medication mismanagement, and systemic corporate negligence. In 2025, Mr. Dudensing negotiated more than \$25 million in recoveries, and in 2024, Mr. Dudensing secured several large resolutions for his clients, totaling nearly \$20 million in recoveries, many of which were against large, for-profit skilled nursing homes and assisted living facilities that prioritized profits over care. Additionally, Mr. Dudensing has served as lead counsel in appellate cases that have established significant legal precedents in elder law. His legal expertise extends beyond the courtroom, where he has earned a reputation for his tenacious advocacy and has a deep understanding of the complexities surrounding elder abuse cases. Mr. Dudensing is a vocal advocate for policy reform and better enforcement of elder care regulations. In 2010, he worked alongside The Sacramento Bee to explain the labyrinthine corporate structure of nursing homes that has led to an increase in elder abuse and neglect cases. Mr. Dudensing's commentary has been featured in The New York Times, The Hill, The Los Angeles Times, The Sacramento Bee, The Mercury News, ABC7 San Francisco, CalMatters, Healthcare Dive, Fierce Healthcare, Daily Journal, and more. In 2025, Mr. Dudensing was named to the Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC) Board of Directors, where he will help shape policy, guide advocacy efforts, and advance CAOC's mission to protect the rights of consumers and vulnerable communities. Mr. Dudensing is the sole author of the Rutter Group's treatise addressing elder abuse litigation, which came out in 2025. He is also a frequent speaker at California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR), the state's largest nursing home advocacy organization, and an adjunct professor at the UC Law San Francisco (formerly Hastings), where he teaches law students about elder abuse litigation. As a member of the National Consumer Voice for Long-Term Care, CANHR, CAOC, the American Association of Justice's Nursing Home Litigation Group, the Sac-

ramento County Bar Association, and the State Bar of California. Mr. Dudensing is actively engaged in the legal and advocacy communities. In recognition of his work, Mr. Dudensing has been selected as a Super Lawyer from 2011 to 2026. In 2026, he has been named an Attorney of the Year Finalist for Law.com's 2026 California Legal Awards, named to Lawdragon's 2026 500 Leading Lawyers in America guide, and named to Lawdragon's 2026 100 Managing Partners You Need to Know guide. In 2025, he was ranked in the Litigation: Mainly Plaintiffs category by the USA Chambers Guide for California. Further, in 2025, he was selected as a Top 100 Lawyer by the Daily Journal, received the William F. Taylor Memorial Award from the California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform, received the Mentorship Award from the Law.com/ALM California Legal Awards, was named a finalist for SFGate's Best Attorneys and Best Personal Injury Attorney in the Bay Area, and was named a finalist for "Sacramento's Favorites" by The Sacramento Bee. Dudensing Law was recognized with several prestigious awards in 2024, including being named among the Top Boutique Law Firms by the Daily Journal, acknowledged as Top Lawyers in Sacramento by Sactown Magazine, and honored with the Distinguished Leader Award by The Recorder and Law.com. In 2023, he was awarded Advocate of the Year by the Capital City Trial Attorneys. After graduating from law school and passing the bar in 1994, Mr. Dudensing clerked for the Honorable Robert C. Broomfield, Chief Judge of the Federal District Court in Arizona, for two years. From 1996 to 1999, he was a litigation associate at the international law firm Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe. From 1999 to 2003, Mr. Dudensing was a Deputy District Attorney in Sacramento County. In that role, Mr. Dudensing first-chaired more than 50 trials to verdict. As a prosecutor, Mr. Dudensing tried cases of murder, attempted murder, rape, child molestation, and gang crimes, among many others. He also handled financial elder abuse cases, which sparked his passion for advocating for this vulnerable population. At UC Davis School of Law, Mr. Dudensing graduated in the top 3% of his class and was inducted into the Order of the Coif for academic excellence. Mr. Dudensing also served as the Executive Editor of the UC Davis Law Review. Mr. Dudensing was also elected to the Order of the Barrister for his skills in oral advocacy, which included his membership on the law school's traveling mock trial team. Following graduation, Mr. Dudensing coached the UC Davis traveling mock trial teams for many years.

Professional Memberships: Board of Directors, Consumer Attorneys of California, 2025 Member, State Bar of California, 2025 Member, Sacramento County Bar Association, 2025 Member, California Advocates For Nursing Home Reform (CANHR), 2025 Member, American Association of Justice Nursing Home Litigation Group, 2025 Member, The National Consumer Voice for Long-Term

Care, 2025 Adjunct Professor, UC Law San Francisco, 2025

Publications: Daily Journal, Author, Why Loosening Sedative Rules in Nursing Homes Would Put Vulnerable Patients at Serious Risk, 2026 Law.com, Author, How I Founded a Law Firm: 'Take Your Time to Build Foundational Skills,' Says Edward Dudensing of Dudensing Law, 2026 The Rutter Group Civil Litigation Series, Author, Elder Abuse Litigation, 2025 The University of California College of the Law, San Francisco (formerly Hastings), Adjunct Professor, 2025 California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR), Speaker, 2025 California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR) Conclave, Speaker, "Hidden Games And Scary Pitfalls", 2025 California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR) Conclave, Speaker, "CC 3345 & Punitive Damage Denominator Issues", 2024 CANHR Annual Conference, Speaker, "Post-Mortem On Rios Trial", 2023 CANHR Annual Conference, Speaker, "Limitations On Punitive Damages", 2023 Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC) Annual Conference, Speaker, "Securing Punitive Damages", 2023 Capitol City Trial Lawyers Association (CCTLA), Speaker, "Document Requests & Methods to Combat Defense Concealment Tactics", 2023 CANHR, Speaker, "LRS Training Series", 2022 CAOC Annual Conference, Speaker, "Getting DPH Violations Admitted", 2020 AAJ, Speaker, "Champions of the Courtroom: Winning Techniques for Nursing Home Litigation Seminar", 2019 CANHR, Speaker, "AB 1629 – Bad Deal, Bad Care", 2019 Justice.org, Speaker, "Nursing Home Verdicts", 2019 American Association for Justice (AAJ) Nursing Home Litigation Group, Speaker, "Post-Mortem on Tanner Trial", 2014 CAOC Annual Convention, Speaker, "Effectively Using DPH Records to Prove Recklessness in Nursing Home Litigation", 2012 Kaiser, CAOC/ San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association (SFTLA), Speaker, "Choosing Between Arbitration & Trial, and Challenging Kaiser's Arbitration Agreements", 2011 AAJ, Speaker, "Litigating Nursing Home Cases Seminar: Proving Systemic Corporate Neglect", 2010 (Kim Stone as moderator), Debater, Debate Re Arbitration The University of California Davis Law Review, Executive Editor

ECHAVARRIA, Lorraine B

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Lorraine Echavarría represents public companies, corporate officers, financial institutions, hedge funds and other financial market participants facing government investigations and enforcement actions. She conducts internal investigations for boards and audit committees, and provides advice and guidance to businesses on corporate governance and compliance issues. Ms. Echavarría previously spent more than 15 years at the US Securities and Exchange Commission, where she most recently served as Associate Regional Director

and head of the enforcement program for the Los Angeles Regional Office. In this role, Ms. Echavarría oversaw all the office's attorneys and accountants in the investigation and litigation of federal securities law violations in Southern California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii and Guam. She supervised a broad range of investigations involving every major subject area in the SEC's enforcement program, including financial reporting and disclosure, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, securities registration and offering fraud, insider trading, hedge fund regulation, market manipulation, investment adviser and broker-dealer regulation, and matters arising out of all of the SEC's specialized units. In 2025, Ms. Echavarría was elected to SEC Historical Society Board of Trustees for a term of three years.

EHRHART, Kevin

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Featured in Real Estate (California: Southern)

Practice Areas: Kevin represents some of the world's largest private equity sponsors, investment managers, strategic operators and real estate platforms in complex real estate and digital infrastructure transactions. His practice focuses on joint ventures, platform investments, acquisitions and dispositions, recapitalizations and debt financings across the capital stack. Kevin has extensive experience advising clients in the data center and digital infrastructure sector, including hyperscale data centers, AI-focused campus developments and large-scale digital infrastructure platforms. He advises global sponsors, developers, operators and investors on the acquisition, financing, development and capitalization of mission-critical digital infrastructure assets and institutional-scale data center platforms. He represents leading global sponsors and institutional investors, including Ares, GLP, Brookfield and Blackstone, in connection with high-profile real estate, logistics, digital infrastructure and platform transactions, as well as on capital raising initiatives and broader strategic planning for global private equity real estate platforms. His work also includes programmatic and single-asset joint ventures, large-scale portfolio transactions and the formation and recapitalization of real estate operating platforms. He also advises on large-scale, multi-disciplinary real estate and digital infrastructure investments requiring coordinated real estate, infrastructure, private equity, investment funds and finance expertise.

Personal: University of Southern California, Gould School of Law, J.D., 1997, Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service, B.S.F.S., 1994.

ELIZABETH, Sierra

Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Los Angeles
sierra.elizabeth@kirkland.com

Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Sierra is an experienced trial lawyer in Kirkland's Los Angeles office with a wide-ranging complex

commercial litigation practice including product liability, intellectual property and breach of contract cases. Since the pandemic, Sierra has tried and won five bet-the-company jury trials, serving as lead counsel in some of the country's biggest civil litigation. Her trial achievements have recently been highlighted by Los Angeles Business Journal's "Top 100 Lawyers," 2024 and Daily Journal's "Top 40 Under 40," 2023. She has also been recognized by Law360, The American Lawyer, Benchmark Litigation, and Legal500, among others. She has an unmatched dedication to her clients and a passion for the law and has become a dominate force in the courtroom. Alongside her busy practice, Sierra continues to be a leader at Kirkland and beyond. She plays a vital role in mentoring young attorneys through her work with the John M. Langston Bar Association of Los Angeles and the Women in Law Empowerment Forum Global Advisory Board and education reform through her pro bono work and board position at Notre Dame High School. Through her advocacy work, Sierra also fulfills her passion for creating opportunities for both women and minorities as future leaders.

Professional Memberships: Member of the Women in Law Empowerment Forum (WILEF) Global Advisory Board; Member of the John M. Langston Bar Association of Los Angeles

Personal: Duke University School of Law, J.D., cum laude; Duke Graduate School, M.A., Psychology; University of Michigan, B.A., Psychology

ELLIS, Clare

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Featured in Environment (California)

Practice Areas: Clare's practice focuses on air quality and climate change regulatory compliance, litigation, and enforcement matters impacting multiple industry sectors. Practicing out of Hunton's San Francisco office, Clare's focus has been largely on mobile and stationary source emissions and air quality regulations, climate change, accidental release prevention, and energy transition. Clare advises on both federal and state environmental and transportation safety programs, including California Air Resources Board (CARB) regulations impacting vehicle, equipment, and parts manufacturers, risk management program (RMP) compliance, and the rules and regulations of the various California air quality management districts. She also has experience in an array of regulatory matters related to transportation and energy industry project permitting, construction, recordkeeping and regulatory compliance. Finally, she advises clients on all phases of incident response—including proactive contingency planning, compliance with release reporting and other post-incident requirements, handling agency investigations, and addressing environmental liability and remediation obligations.

ELLISON, Robert

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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Rob Ellison, Vice Chair of the firm's Southern California Litigation & Trial Department, advises clients in the areas of real estate, entertainment, sports, and media, and general commercial litigation. He is also a member of the Complex Commercial Litigation Practice. He has successfully represented clients ranging from public companies, real estate developers and firms, private equity backed portfolio companies, and sports franchises to leading internet, entertainment, and emerging companies. Rob is a seasoned trial lawyer and has co-first chaired numerous successful arbitrations. He also has extensive experience conducting highly sensitive internal investigations and regularly consults on transactional matters with an emphasis on limiting clients' litigation exposure. Since joining the firm, Rob has also actively participated in the firm's pro bono activities, ranging from helping Holocaust survivors secure reparations from the German government to advising the Humane Society of the United States and other animal rights organizations. Rob currently serves on the firm's Ethics Committee, and he previously served on the firm's Recruiting and Training & Career Enhancement Committees.

ELLS, Lisa

Rosen Bien Galvan & Grunfeld LLP,
San Francisco

Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Appeals Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Land Use and Fair Housing Commercial Litigation

Career: Lisa Ells is a partner at Rosen Bien Galvan & Grunfeld LLP. She assists clients in difficult and complex matters involving actual or potential litigation. Ms. Ells maintains a diverse practice, successfully representing clients in a variety of First Amendment, commercial, constitutional law, disability access compliance, land use, attorneys' fees, legal malpractice, civil rights, and intellectual property disputes. Ms. Ells is particularly experienced in appellate law. She serves as a member of the Ninth Circuit Advisory Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, previously served as a Ninth Circuit Appellate Lawyer Representative from 2022 – 2025, and is an elected member of the California Academy of Appellate Lawyers. Ms. Ells has briefed numerous appeals, writs, and dispositive motions in the United States Supreme Court, the Ninth and Federal Circuit Courts of Appeals, and the California Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal. She has argued more than a dozen times before the Ninth Circuit and the California Courts of Appeal. Ms. Ells's appellate matters have addressed constitutional law, commercial real estate and land use disputes, disability access compliance, employment law, attorneys' fees entitlements, and complex questions involving

the scope of federal courts' equitable powers, jurisdiction, and procedural and statute of limitations issues. Ms. Ells has played a key role in some of the most significant civil rights class action cases on behalf of prisoners and parolees in California. She was a member of the legal team that successfully proved after a contested trial that California's extreme prison overcrowding violates prisoners' Eighth Amendment rights to adequate medical and mental health care, and that required California to take steps to reduce the level of crowding. The Supreme Court upheld that ruling in 2011 in *Brown v. Plata*. Ms. Ells was also instrumental in securing a Ninth Circuit ruling in 2014 requiring California to take steps to ensure the federal rights of prisoners and parolees with disabilities are accommodated when the state chooses to house them in third-party county jail facilities. Ms. Ells is a graduate of Columbia Law School, where she was an Editor of the *Columbia Law Review* and a James B. Kent and Harlan Fiske Stone scholar, and of Duke University. Prior to joining RBGG, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable James R. Browning of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and to the Honorable David O. Carter of the United States District Court for the Central District of California. Ms. Ells received California Lawyer Attorney of the Year (CLAY) awards for 2018 and 2020, and was selected by the *Daily Journal* for its Top Women Lawyers list for 2021 – 2026. Ms. Ells was named to the Northern California Super Lawyers list for 2018 – 2026, and as a Rising Star from 2012 – 2016. She serves as Treasurer of the Board of Directors for the First District Appellate Project, and as a Grants Co-Chair and Board Member for the Berkeley Law Foundation.

Professional Memberships: Ninth Circuit Advisory Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure Ninth Circuit Appellate Lawyer Representative (2022 – 2025) California Academy of Appellate Lawyers Bay Area Appellate Inn of Court Treasurer and Board Member, First District Appellate Project Grants Co-Chair and Board Member, Berkeley Law Foundation

EPSTEIN, Alan J

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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Transactional (California)

Practice Areas: Alan Epstein is a partner in the Corporate & Financial Services Department and chair of the firm's Entertainment Transactions Practice. Alan focuses on business transactions for public and private companies principally in the entertainment and media industry, including mergers and acquisitions, financing transactions, joint ventures, licensing matters and executive compensation. He also represents production companies and studios, celebrities, professional athletes, musicians, content creators, public personalities and influencers in connection with their business activities and transactions.

ESPINOSA, Hector H.

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Featured in Construction (California)

Practice Areas: Hector Espinosa is a partner at PKEC and focuses his practice in the construction industry, working with clients from the onset of a project and contract formation to the resolution of claims through settlement and litigation. Mr. Espinosa represents general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, and owners in a broad range of private and public projects. His experience includes prosecuting and defending construction contract, delay, impact and defect claims across a variety of projects ranging from hotels, theaters, and condominiums to civil and infrastructure projects such as wastewater treatment plants, roads, and bridges. Mr. Espinosa also represents contractors in bid protest and licensing matters, among other areas.

EVANSON, Blaine

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Blaine H. Evanson is a partner in Gibson Dunn's litigation department, practicing primarily in the Appellate and Constitutional Law Practice Group. He has represented clients in matters before the Supreme Court of the United States, in every federal circuit court of appeals, and in several state appellate courts. He has experience across a broad array of industries and subject matter areas, at all stages of litigation. He regularly joins trial teams in the lead up to trial to assist with complex briefing, strategy, and preservation of issues for appellate review.

Career: Before joining the firm, Blaine served as a law clerk for Judge A. Raymond Randolph of the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. **Personal:** JD, Columbia Law School, 2006; Bachelor of Science in Information Systems, Brigham Young University, 2003.

FARAG, Shareef

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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Shareef Farag serves as the co-leader of BakerHostetler's Wage and Hour team, as well as the Los Angeles Office Team Lead for the Labor and Employment Group. He assists employers with wage and hour compliance and defending class and representative actions across a wide array of industries. His experience as first and second chair in trials and arbitrations provides him with the insight to advise clients on how to avoid and mitigate risk in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Shareef places a high importance on the client's business goals and proactively educates employers on new laws and regulations, ensuring they are prepared when new legislation comes into effect. Additionally,

he assists clients in business-related issues, including single plaintiff and commercial litigation matters. By gaining a deep understanding of a client's business from the outset, Shareef provides a high level of service that is focused on meeting client goals with an eye toward the client's bottom line.

Professional Memberships: California Minority Counsel Program (CMCP) National Employment Law Council

FIFE, Joan B. Tucker

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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Joan heads the firm's San Francisco Labor & Employment Practice and represents employers throughout the country in class action employment litigation. Joan was recently named *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2025 "Lawyer of the Year" for Employment Law – Management, San Francisco, an honor presented annually to a single, outstanding lawyer in each practice area and designated metropolitan area. Clients praise her "very good courtroom demeanor" and describe her as "one of the best attorneys for wage and hour class actions" that is "great at strategy and thinking about the best way to handle things" and knows "when it's appropriate to be aggressive." Joan has more than 35 years of experience as a labor and employment litigator. She has had lead responsibility for over 100 class or collective actions across the country. She has defeated conditional certification in nationwide FLSA actions a number of times, including in claims alleging overtime resulting from alleged off-the-clock work, misclassification of employees, and misclassification of independent contractors. In one collective action, she secured more than US\$800,000 of her client's attorney's fees from the individual plaintiffs after prevailing on summary judgment on all counts. She has never had a Rule 23 class certified against any of her clients. Joan represents employers throughout the country in class action employment litigation and has repeatedly been named one of the *Daily Journal's* "Top Women Litigators in California" and "Top Labor and Employment Lawyers." She was also named to the *San Francisco Business Times's* "Most Influential Women in the Bay Area" and *The Recorder's* list of "Women Leaders in Law." For 15 years, Joan has been the lead attorney defending one of the nation's largest financial institutions in numerous wage and hour class and FLSA collective actions in California and across the country. Joan's wage and hour class and collective actions have involved misclassification issues, off-the-clock claims, meal and rest break claims, donning and doffing claims, rounding claims, "seating claims," stand alone PAGA claims, and failure to reimburse claims, among others. She has spent months as trial counsel defending hundreds of individual wage and hour damages claims. She also has extensive

experience conducting investigations in heavily regulated industries, defending whistleblower claims, handling significant employment discrimination claims, and representing companies in trade secret/noncompete litigation.

FLANAGAN, Sharon R

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Featured in Capital Markets (California), Capital Markets (USA - Nationwide), Corporate/M&A (California: San Francisco, Silicon Valley & Surrounding), Life Sciences (California)

Practice Areas: SHARON FLANAGAN

is a member of the firm's Management Committee and Executive Committee and has over 25 years of experience representing companies in a broad range of merger and acquisition transactions, securities offerings and corporate governance matters, with a particular focus on the life sciences/healthcare and technology industries. Sharon also serves as the San Francisco office managing partner, and is a leader of the firm's Global Life Sciences practice. Sharon also advises a number of public companies on corporate governance, disclosure and other SEC compliance matters, as well as proxy advisory firm matters, stockholder proposals and corporate governance best practices.

FONDO, Grant P

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Grant Fondo, a former

Assistant US Attorney in the Northern District of California, is a partner in the firm's Securities Litigation & White Collar Defense group. Grant also formerly served on the firm's Executive Committee in addition to serving as founder and Co-Chair of the firm's Digital Currency & Blockchain practice and currently serves as Co-Chair of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act practice. He represents technology, fintech, blockchain, digital currency, private equity, venture capital, and individual clients in a wide range of regulatory and contested matters. Grant has significant experience conducting trials and representing individual and corporate clients regarding governmental investigations and enforcement actions. He focuses his practice on white collar criminal defense, blockchain and digital currency, securities and class action litigation, federal and state regulatory matters including before the DOJ, SEC, CFTC, FTC, State Attorneys General, District Attorneys, and FinCEN, cybersecurity and privacy matters, internal investigations, and commercial disputes, and often advises boards on a variety of matters. Grant is recognized by Chambers USA for his White Collar Defense practice and ranked as a leading lawyer by Chambers FinTech for his work in blockchain and cryptocurrency and crypto-asset disputes. Grant's clients note that he has "a very strong nose for business and is ultra-sophisticated when it comes to the commercial aspects of

the practice of law in the FinTech space."

Grant has also been recognized for his work by publications such as The Legal 500 US, Daily Journal, The National Law Journal, and US News Best Lawyers and has received numerous awards and features such as the Am Law Litigation Daily 2023: "Litigator of the (Past) Week Shout Out" for his successful defense of a major US cryptocurrency exchange and by The American Lawyer as "Litigator of the Week" for successful defense at trial of former J.P. Morgan Securities LLC analyst Ashish Aggarwal on 30 counts of criminal conspiracy, insider trading and wire fraud charges.

Personal: JD, 1993 University of Virginia School of Law (Omicron Delta Kappa - National Honor Society) BA, 1990 University of Vermont (cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Alpha Theta - National History Honor Society)

FORD, Brian

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Featured in Banking & Finance (California)

Practice Areas: Brian Ford is a corporate partner in Kirkland's Los Angeles and Bay Area offices. He represents private equity firms, commercial lending institutions and other private and public companies in connection with the negotiation, structuring and documentation of secured and unsecured financing transactions for both borrowers and lenders, including syndicated and direct lender financings, recurring revenue financings, acquisition financings and dividend recapitalizations. He also has significant experience with liability management exercises, loan workouts and restructurings, including debtor-in-possession and exit financings. Brian has led some of the most complicated and highest-profile financings over the last several years.

Personal: Georgetown University Law Center, J.D., 2006; University of Notre Dame, B.A., 2003.

FOSTER, Troy

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Featured in Venture Capital (California)

Practice Areas: Emerging Companies & Venture Capital Law Corporate Law Latin America Practice Private Equity Interactive Entertainment Blockchain & Digital Assets Biotechnology & Pharmaceutical Digital Media & Entertainment, Gaming & Sports Fintech & Payments Life Sciences & Healthcare

Career: Troy Foster's practice bridges the present and the future by helping emerging growth companies, investment banks, and venture capital firms bring new technology to market. Business lawyer Troy has focused on emerging companies for his entire career. Troy provides leadership for mid- to late-stage emerging growth companies and pre-IPO candidates on all of their legal, compliance, and related matters. He has significant domain experience in climate tech, renewable energy, biotech, and fintech/secondary trading. Some of Troy's

clients include Autonomy, LimeCharlie, Storj Labs, MindZero, and Flutterwave.

FOWLER, John

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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Entertainment, Complex Business Litigation, Intellectual Property

Career: John is a Founding Partner of Kibler Fowler & Cave LLP. He specializes in complex business, intellectual property, media, entertainment, cannabis, privacy, reputation and brand protection litigation in federal and state courts, and arbitrations. John handles a variety of litigation matters including disputes involving copyright, trademark, idea theft, anti-SLAPP, right of publicity, Talent Agencies Act, management and agent commissions, and other disputes in music, film and television. John has achieved noteworthy results for a variety of significant clients. His cases and trial victories have been featured in The Hollywood Reporter, Variety, Deadline, Forbes, Gizmodo and numerous other publications. John regularly advises clients on their disputes in the cryptocurrency, NFT and DeFi realms with an expansive practice toeing the line between Hollywood, Crypto, Cannabis and Business. He has represented individuals, businesses, artists, production companies, and major corporate entities as both plaintiffs and defendants. John is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and earned his law degree from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. While at Loyola, he served as the General Managing Editor of The Los Angeles Public Interest Law Journal, and as a member of Loyola Law School's Scott Moot Court Honors Board (winning the Scott Moot Court competition, competing in the National Moot Court Competition, and serving as an Appellate Advocacy teaching assistant). Following Loyola, John practiced entertainment, media and general business litigation prior to co-founding Kibler Fowler & Cave.

Publications: Co-Author, "Why Tennessee's ELVIS Act Is the King of Artificial Intelligence Protections," Vanderbilt's Journal of Entertainment & Technology Law, Volume 27, Issue 2 (Spring 2025) Co-Author, "California Litigation Toolkit: Seeking an Order Requiring an Undertaking from Out-of-State or Foreign Plaintiffs" (KF&C California Law Blog, February 27, 2025) Co-Author, "California Court of Appeal Declines to Enforce Forum Selection Clause in Consumer Warranty" (KF&C California Law Blog, October 15, 2024) Co-Author, "California Proposition 65 Warning for Water Pipes Used to Smoke Marijuana: The Court of Appeal Says No" (KF&C California Law Blog, November 18, 2022) Author, "Practical Considerations in Starting a Solo Law Practice," Los Angeles Lawyer (a publication of the Los Angeles County Bar), December 2016 Co-Author, Chapter, Neville Johnson and John Fowler, Litigation: How to Draft

Defensively Without Killing the Deal in Licensing of Music from BC to AD (Before the Change/After Digital), International Association of Entertainment Lawyers annual journal (2014) Author, "Guidelines For a Successful Lateral Job Search," Los Angeles Lawyer, November 2014

FOX, Cameron

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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Cameron W. Fox is the chair of the Los Angeles office and chair of the firm's Traditional Labor Practice Group. She works in the firm's Los Angeles and San Francisco offices. Cameron represents employers in the areas of employment law and traditional labor, with a particular emphasis in the technology industry. Employment Law. Cameron has successfully defended employers in numerous jury trials and bench trials, in arbitration, and on appeal against claims of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wrongful termination, breach of contract, and defamation. For example, she has secured full defense verdicts in high-profile state court cases involving allegations of retaliation against whistleblowers and in cases alleging discrimination and retaliation for political and religious expression in the workplace. She has also secured several full defense verdicts in arbitration on behalf of employers. Cameron is experienced in handling the press with regard to high-profile cases, and she works closely with her clients on communications strategy. Cameron also has nearly a decade of experience representing institutions of higher education in matters involving student and faculty discipline, allegations of sexual harassment and sexual assault (including litigation of and related to Title IX actions), free speech and academic freedom, and allegations of wrongful termination and retaliation. In addition, Cameron has a robust advising practice. She has extensive experience advising employers on the handling of employee activism in the workplace, and sensitive workplace investigations. Cameron also advises employers working to adapt to the fast-changing new realities of the workplace, including on matters of workplace safety and whistleblowing. She regularly assists employers with separations of high-level officers and managers, as well as the drafting and negotiation of non-disclosure agreements and employment agreements. Traditional Labor. Cameron represents employers in traditional labor matters, including collective bargaining, unfair labor practice charges, election petitions, and organizing campaigns. Cameron has represented clients in multiple unfair labor practices cases before the National Labor Relations Board, including several cases that have involved multi-day trials before various Administrative Law Judges. She has also represented employers on appeal to the National Labor Relations Board in Washington D.C. and to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeal. On

the union election side, Cameron has successfully represented major employers in responding to election petitions, including handling complex representation case hearings involving novel issues of law, and representing employers in all aspects of Board procedure with regard to representation cases, up through and including tests of cert in the U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals.

Personal: Northwestern University, B.A. (Mortar Board Scholar) University of California, Davis, J.D. (Lead Advocate, National Moot Court Team)

FRANKLIN, Steven R

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Featured in Venture Capital (USA – Nationwide), Venture Capital (California)

Practice Areas: Fund Formation Fund Operations and Compliance Tax

Career: Steve is a founding partner of the firm and heads our global Fund Formation practice. Steve is recognized globally as a leading authority on issues related to the formation and operation of both U.S. and international venture capital and private equity funds and other partnership arrangements. He has been named a Super Lawyer and a Chambers & Partners “Band 1” practitioner, with clients and other market observers describing Steve to Chambers over the years as: a “phenomenal” practitioner, a “leading light,” the “heart and soul of the practice” and “without hesitation the premier venture capital fund lawyer and adviser.” Steve’s practice encompasses both (i) representing a dominant share of the preeminent venture capital funds globally, and (ii) advising promising emerging fund managers in their quest to become the market leaders of the future. As a complement to his practice, Steve has taught partnership tax at Stanford Law School, serves as an adviser to the National Venture Capital Association (NVCA), and frequently lectures and publishes on topics relating to venture capital and private equity funds. Organizations and publications for which Steve has presented or published include: the Venture Capital Journal, the Kauffman Fellows Program, the NVCA, Haas School of Business at the University of California, CVCFO (China Venture Capital Finance Organization), First Republic Bank Future CFO conference, Stanford Law School, the New York Capital Roundtable, the Bank of America Venture Fund CFO Roundtable, the Institute for International Research, the American Bar Association, the California State Bar, Practising Law Institute, Financial Research Associates LLC, the International Private Equity Fund Formation & Operations Forum, the Pennsylvania Private Equity CFO (PEFCO), and the International Association of Financial Planners. Earlier in his career, Steve lectured as an Adjunct Professor in the Golden Gate University, Masters of Taxation Program. He is also a contributing editor to two treatises: The Acquisition and Sale of the Emerging Growth Company: The

M&A Exit and Formation and Financing of Emerging Companies, as well as an Advisory Board Member to The M&A Tax Report.

FREEDMAN, Jason

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Featured in Private Equity (California)

Practice Areas: Jump to: Experience Related Insights Related News & Events Jason Freedman is a preeminent and award-winning private equity and M&A lawyer whom clients rely on to execute complex and transformative transactions. He has been described by clients as a “problem solver,” “closer,” “great leader,” and their “most trusted advisor.” Clients rely on Jason’s “encyclopedic knowledge of the law” and his practical, solutions oriented approach to clearing obstacles and delivering dependable outcomes. He regularly advises on groundbreaking leveraged buyouts, cross border transactions, and public and private M&A, and structures and negotiates PIPEs and strategic transactions. He has broad sector experience, including technology, software, media, entertainment, healthcare, infrastructure, and business services. Jason is a trusted advisor to leading private equity sponsors, including TPG, Altamont Capital and Genstar Capital, as well as their portfolio companies, guiding them to achieve their strategic objectives. He has been honored as a leading private equity and M&A lawyer by Chambers USA, The Deal, and IFLR1000, and honored as Law360’s 2022 Private Equity MVP.

FREESE, Tad

Latham & Watkins LLP, Menlo Park
Featured in Capital Markets (California), Capital Markets (USA – Nationwide)

Practice Areas: Tad Freese represents technology companies, investment banks, and other public and private companies in their corporate transactions. Tad currently serves as a member of the firm’s Executive Committee. He previously served as Managing Partner of the Bay Area offices, as well as Vice Chair of Latham & Watkins’ Global Corporate Department. He helps clients navigate significant transactions and key strategic legal issues to enable them to grow and succeed. Specifically, he advises on: – Initial public offerings (IPOs) – Mergers and acquisitions – Other public and private debt and equity securities offerings – Corporate governance issues – Public company disclosure issues – Federal and state securities law compliance Tad draws on more than 30 years of experience at Latham, advising technology companies in Silicon Valley through all market conditions. He has also advised all of the major investment banks on IPOs (for example: Angie’s List, Arista Networks, SurveyMonkey, Twilio, and Wageworks) as well as other significant transactions.

FREY, Christopher

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Christopher D.

Frey, a former federal prosecutor, an experienced trial attorney, and a partner in the firm’s San Francisco office, focuses his practice on white collar and regulatory defense, government and internal investigations, and high-stakes civil litigation. Christopher regularly advises major global companies and leading financial institutions, individual executives, and Boards of Directors in highly sensitive and confidential matters. He routinely provides counsel to clients facing investigations involving the US Department of Justice, the US Securities and Exchange Commission, and other federal and state regulatory bodies, and has amassed significant experience in matters related to the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), money laundering, economic sanctions, securities fraud, and cryptocurrency. Christopher also routinely provides strategic counseling on compliance issues and crisis management. Before joining Latham, Christopher was a partner in the Tokyo office of another global law firm, where he advised clients based in Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan, Singapore, and elsewhere in Asia. Christopher also served as the head of that office for approximately two and a half years. Earlier in his career, Christopher served for over six and a half years as an Assistant US Attorney in the Criminal Division of the US Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York. As a member of the Securities & Commodities Fraud Task Force as well as the Complex Frauds and Cybercrime Unit, he investigated and prosecuted a wide array of complex white-collar matters, including FCPA violations, insider trading, accounting fraud, market manipulation, investment fraud, money laundering, intellectual property, cybercrimes, and criminal tax offenses. During his tenure as a prosecutor, Christopher was the lead trial lawyer in numerous jury trials, and he has substantial appellate experience, having briefed and/or argued over a dozen appeals before the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Christopher is a recipient of the US Department of Justice’s John Marshall Award for Outstanding Legal Achievement. From 2014 to 2015, Christopher served as Associate Counsel in the Office of the White House Counsel under President Barack Obama. In that capacity, Christopher helped develop and execute the White House’s response to various Congressional investigations and related hearings, and provided legal and strategic advice to White House staff and Executive Branch officials on compliance, oversight, and risk management issues. Christopher also maintains an active pro bono practice, which focuses on LGBTQ rights and the representation of indigent criminal defendants, among other matters. Christopher has previously served on both the New York City Bar Association’s Criminal Advocacy Committee and its Judiciary Committee, which reviews and evaluates all judicial candidates for the federal and state courts in New York City. Christopher is currently a member of BALIF (the Bay

Area’s LGBTQ Bar Association) and Le-Gal (the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York).

FRONK, Stephen M

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Featured in Technology (California)

Practice Areas: STEPHEN FRONK is a co-leader of Sidley’s Technology and Life Sciences Transactions practice and a founding member of the Entertainment, Sports and Media group. He advises clients in the media, sports, technology, food, nutrition, and other industries, who have said “Stephen is an excellent outside counsel that has helped us support some of our most complex partnerships, consistently demonstrates high judgment on both legal and business issues and solutions, and is adept at explaining and guiding clients on both – Stephen reliably and consistently delivers high-quality work product” and “Can always count on Stephen and his time for high-quality support that’s responsive, attentive to business goals, and practical. A pleasure to work with.” Stephen advises emerging and public companies, venture funds, entrepreneurs, and individuals on a wide range of intellectual property-related issues, including copyright, patent, trademark and trade secret licensing, protection and enforcement, software and hardware development and distribution, and the establishment and operation of internet-based businesses and services. He also routinely counsels clients on the intellectual property-related aspects of mergers, acquisitions, spin-offs, and strategic investments. In particular, Stephen has deep experience advising clients on digital media-related transactions and for many years has negotiated digital entertainment content distribution deals with leaders in the movie, television, music, publishing, and consumer electronics industries. Representative clients include Amazon.com, Churchill Downs, eBay, Hulu, Microsoft, PayPal, Splunk, Salesforce.com, Twitch, and Vital Proteins.

FURST, Jamie

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Featured in Construction (California)

Practice Areas: Jamie advises clients in the construction industry by guiding them through construction disputes and contract issues on complex public and private projects. She primarily represents large general contractors and developers in negotiating contracts and in all stages of construction disputes litigation involving claims of defective work or design, professional negligence, delays, disruptions, changed conditions, and contract terminations.

GALLIGAN, Lynda

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Featured in Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation (California: San Francisco, Silicon Valley & Surrounding)

Practice Areas: Lynda Galligan is co-chair of Goodwin’s Business Law department. She practices in the area

of executive compensation and benefits and was formerly the co-chair of the firm's ERISA & Executive Compensation practice group. Lynda is a member of the firm's Executive Committee and Management Committee. She previously served on Goodwin's Allocations Committee and Partnership Committee. She is a former chair of Goodwin's Silicon Valley office. Lynda represents clients in all aspects of executive and employee compensation. For over 15 years, her focus has been almost exclusively on emerging growth companies in technology and life sciences. She advises both public and private companies, including companies planning initial public offerings, on tax and securities law issues in connection with equity-based arrangements and other types of incentive plans. She regularly advises clients on the unique compensation issues that arise in the context of corporate transactions. She represents both employers and executives in the negotiation of employment, change in control, severance and equity participation agreements. Lynda also has experience advising venture capital and private equity funds on compensation matters impacting their portfolio companies.

Personal: JD Boston College Law School (cum laude) BA Purdue University

GAMIEL, Amir

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Featured in Bankruptcy/Restructuring (California)

Practice Areas: Bankruptcy & Restructuring Business Litigation Corporate Law Financial Transactions & Regulation Litigation Trade Secrets Hospitality Outdoor Retail & Consumer Products CMBS and Real Estate Workouts Real Estate Food & Beverage

Career: Amir Gamliel is a Chambers-ranked litigator who guides major companies through complex bankruptcy, restructuring, and high-stakes commercial litigation. Leveraging his background in economics and accounting, Amir helps clients manage high-stakes litigation, resolve complex business disputes, and navigate financial restructurings and distressed acquisitions. Amir advises public and private companies on intricate financial, commercial, and real estate matters across healthcare, technology, hospitality, and real estate finance industry sectors. Amir's experience spans state and federal courts and arbitration, covering thorny contract disputes, business tort claims, commercial bankruptcies, financial transactions, trade secrets, receiverships, and judgment enforcement. Clients rely on him for his practical, strategic approach and proven ability to deliver results in the most challenging business environments.

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Featured in Immigration (California)

Career: Frieda is BAL's Managing Partner and directs the firm's delivery of worldwide immigration services to

multinational clients, impacting tens of thousands of their employees around the globe. She plays a critical role in developing and implementing the firm's strategic plans and objectives, navigating challenges in the immigration landscape in order to provide exceptional service. Frieda ensures BAL doesn't follow trends — it sets them. Her unique approach to leadership nurtures an organizational model that incentivizes collaboration and teamwork instead of competition — a rare feat in the legal industry. This oneBAL culture frees BAL from the traditional limitations of law firms. BAL attorneys share information and resources across teams and offices, enabling clients to gain efficiencies and benefit from the expert knowledge of the entire firm. Highly regarded for her legal expertise, Frieda represents leading multinationals in Silicon Valley, overseeing some of the largest global mobility programs in the technology, finance and travel-service industries. She advises on global immigration initiatives, the development and implementation of best-in-class global programs and compliance obligations. Frieda inspires the next generation of lawyers not only through her successful career but also by generously giving her time. As a working mother, she mentors young attorneys, especially women, in building their practices and balancing work and family life. Frieda blazed trails throughout her life, from her childhood in war-torn El Salvador to her role as the first Hispanic and first female managing partner in BAL's history — the highest-ranking female partner at the second largest immigration firm in the country. Her family's own immigrant experience motivated Frieda to pursue immigration law, and her childhood challenges shaped her strong belief in inclusiveness. Frieda is an active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and was named a Top Latino Lawyer by Latino Leaders Magazine. Learn more about Frieda: bal.com/people/frieda-garcia/

Professional Memberships: American Immigration Lawyers Association

GARCIA, Jason

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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Advising clients both in the United States and internationally, Jason Garcia concentrates his practice on trademark counseling, clearance, prosecution, portfolio management, and enforcement. Jason brings deep experience in guiding clients through the selection, use, and protection of trademarks and brands. This also extends to copyrights, licensing, domain name disputes, advertising, unfair business practices, compliance programs, and negotiating a broad range of intellectual property agreements. Jason's practice spans a broad array of industries, among them consumer electronics, retail and online marketplaces, food and beverages, wine and spirits, clothing, beauty and cosmetics, medical and health, financial

services and cryptocurrency, social-media and other internet-based businesses. Jason's professional experience includes working at international law firms and serving as in-house counsel for Fortune 500 companies. He began his legal career at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) as an examining attorney, where he received specialized training in U.S. trademark law and prosecution. While at the USPTO, he examined thousands of trademark applications and submitted trademark appeal briefs on behalf of the USPTO to the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board.

GARDINER, Drew

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Featured in Insurance (USA - Nationwide), Insurance (California)

Practice Areas: Drew Gardiner counsels clients on strategies for maximizing insurance coverage and represents policyholders in complex insurance coverage disputes. Drew is one of the nation's leading experts on D&O (Directors and Officers) liability coverage, annually advising more than 250 clients on D&O related issues in connection with corporate transactions, restructurings, securities litigation, and government investigations. Drew has also prosecuted coverage claims involving a variety of first- and third-party policies, including commercial general liability, D&O, E&O (Errors and Omissions), property, and environmental impairment policies. Drew was a guiding force behind the revision to the Delaware Corporations Code to allow companies to use captive insurers to meet their Side A D&O insurance needs, and since that development has drafted D&O policies for use by several clients' captive insurers. Drew is co-lead counsel in Montrose Chemical Corporation of California's coverage litigation against over 40 excess insurers, in which Montrose seeks coverage for more than US\$250 million of environmental liabilities. The long-running case has led to numerous decisions by the California Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal, and is currently in the appellate courts on another issue of national import. Drew was recently elected to the prestigious American College of Coverage Counsel.

GARFINKLE, Jeffrey

Buchalter, LLP, Irvine
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Featured in Bankruptcy/Restructuring (California)

Practice Areas: Insolvency & Financial Law Group Health Care Law Equipment Leasing Fiduciaries, Receivers & Trustees Consumer Products & Apparel Entertainment Industry Law Health Care & Life Sciences Alternative Lenders
Career: Jeff Garfinkle represents secured and unsecured creditors, creditors' committees, trustees, equity receivers, debtors, and other parties in a variety of bankruptcy, restructuring cases and collection matters, including out of court workouts. Jeff also specializes in matters pertaining to Articles 2 and 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code and asset

sales of bankrupt and financially-troubled companies. Jeff is regarded as one of the nation's leading healthcare and pharmaceutical insolvency attorneys. For 25 years, he has served as primary U.S. insolvency, bankruptcy and collections counsel to the world's largest healthcare corporation. In this capacity, Jeff has handled hundreds of healthcare and pharmaceutical-related bankruptcy and restructuring matters. Beyond this work, Jeff has represented committees, debtors, creditors and other parties in dozens of other healthcare bankruptcy cases. The depth and extent of Jeff's healthcare and pharmaceutical bankruptcy expertise is unparalleled. As a recognized expert on bankruptcy, healthcare, pharmaceutical, debt financing, and commercial law issues, Jeff has spoken at numerous conferences, including those held by the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, American Bankruptcy Institute, and American Bar Association. For 2025, Jeff again is recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America in the area of Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights, Insolvency and Reorganization Law, and Banking and Finance Law. He is recognized by Chambers USA as a leader in the field of Bankruptcy/Restructuring. Jeff is the immediate past President of the Board of Governors of the Financial Lawyers Conference and recently served as Chair for the Commercial and Regulatory Law Committee of the American Bankruptcy Institute. Jeff joined Buchalter in 2003 following 12 years with an international law firm and a one-year clerkship with the Honorable Louise DeCarl Adler, United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of California. In addition to practicing before the United States Supreme Court, Jeff has argued appeals in six Federal Courts of Appeals and handled bankruptcy and bankruptcy-related litigation matters in dozens of districts throughout the United States.

GASS, Andrew

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Featured in Artificial Intelligence (USA - Nationwide), Intellectual Property (California)

See under Nationwide for profile.

GAVIRIA, Ivan A.

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Featured in Startups & Emerging Companies (USA - Nationwide), Venture Capital (California)

Practice Areas: Mergers & Acquisitions Fund Investments in Companies Seed, Venture and Growth Financings
Career: Ivan's practice consists of representing venture backed technology companies at every stage from two founders with a deck to publicly traded companies. Ivan got started in the early days of the dotcom boom, and he has helped clients navigate through thousands of financings and exit transactions through every boom and bust cycle since. His goal is to leverage that

experience for every client—whether it's their first startup or their tenth—to give creative, pragmatic and cost effective advice. Ivan serves on the General Counsel Advisory Board of the National Venture Capital Association.

GAW, Randolph

Gaw | Poe LLP, San Francisco
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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Antitrust litigation Catastrophic injury Class actions Complex commercial litigation

Career: Founding Partner; Gaw | Poe LLP (and predecessor) -- September 2012-present. Counsel; O'Melveny & Myers LLP -- June 2007-September 2012 Associate; Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, P.C. -- September 2002-March 2007 Randolph Gaw founded Gaw | Poe LLP and has been practicing law since graduating in 2002 from Stanford Law School with his co-founder Mark Poe. Solely during his time with Gaw | Poe, Mr. Gaw has been a first or second-chair of at least ten different trials and arbitrations and has obtained verdicts, judgments, or arbitration awards in those matters valued at over \$70 million. He has also been appellate counsel of record on eleven appeals and writ petitions to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals or the California Court of Appeal and prevailed in most of them. Mr. Gaw practices primarily in the fields of antitrust litigation and class action litigation, but will also take select catastrophic injury cases. Prior to co-founding Gaw | Poe, Mr. Gaw spent more than ten years of litigation practice at international law firms O'Melveny & Myers and Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati. During his time at O'Melveny & Myers, he was a member of its Business Litigation and Trial practice and helped to successfully defend Lenar Corporation in an 11-month bench trial held in San Diego County Superior Court over nearly \$200 million in claims regarding the development of the Bridges master-planned community in Rancho Santa Fe, California. He was also part of a team that successfully defended an Israeli company called NDS in a 1-month federal jury trial held in the Central District of California where the plaintiff--The Dish Network--sought damages and restitution of nearly \$2 billion for alleged trade secret misappropriation. Mr. Gaw also had two appellate oral arguments before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and was also part of an appellate team that helped to successfully vacate a multi-billion dollar judgment against Ford Motor Company. During his time at Wilson Sonsini, he practiced securities litigation and helped to obtain the dismissal of numerous securities fraud class action lawsuits. Mr. Gaw was also part of an arbitration team that successfully defended Goldman Sachs against \$30 million in claims from a disgruntled investor, and was part of a different arbitration team that successfully represented a prominent private equity managing director who brought claims that he was not paid the amount of carried interest owed to him by his private equity firm.

He also helped Wilson Sonsini start its New York litigation practice and was the firm's first California-based associate to work out of the New York office. At Stanford Law School, Mr. Gaw was a member of the winning team in the moot court competition and also won the award for giving the best individual oral argument. Before attending Stanford, Mr. Gaw graduated from U.C. Berkeley with high distinction with a degree in political science and economics. He was also one of only twenty students invited to early membership in Phi Beta Kappa during his junior year. Mr. Gaw also participated in the Associated Students of the University of California and was elected to the campus-wide position of Student Advocate for his senior year.

Professional Memberships: Senior Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America Super Lawyer, Northern California American Bar Association Bar Association of San Francisco Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area

Personal: Mr. Gaw has been married for 17 years and has two children, ages 14 and 11. He has spent most of his life living in the San Francisco Bay Area, but has also resided for at least a year in Berlin, New York City, and San Diego. He is a proud supporter of the California Golden Bears football team, and is a member of its San Francisco Grid Club. Mr. Gaw is also a graduate of Bellarmine College Preparatory in San Jose, California and tries to help out fellow Bells whenever he can. When he is not attending his children's school or club volleyball games, Mr. Gaw enjoys skiing, playing Texas hold'em poker, and poorly hitting golf balls using a 7-iron.

GEIST, Laura

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, San Francisco

Featured in Insurance (California)

Practice Areas: Laura Geist is a partner in the Litigation Department. Her practice focuses on complex commercial litigation, particularly consumer class actions related to unfair competition and false advertising. Laura has significant experience in life insurance and financial services litigation. Her practice includes defense of rising InsurTech and FinTech companies as well as Fortune 500 companies in consumer claims regarding loss of insurance, policy pricing, Cost of Insurance, sales practices, and consumer fraud. Laura's practice includes the defense of parallel regulatory and governmental actions to civil litigation. Laura's practice includes risk consulting and litigation for emerging industries, technology companies and startups. Laura has extensive trial and arbitration experience.

GENNIS, Alan C

Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP, San Francisco
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Featured in Real Estate (California: Northern)

Practice Areas: Commercial real estate transactions, including acquisitions and dispositions, as well as commercial leasing

Career: Alan Gennis's real estate practice emphasizes acquisitions and dispositions, as well as commercial leasing matters. With an M.B.A. and experience in the business world, Alan has special insight into the complexities and challenges his clients face. Working with impeccable responsiveness, he assists his clients in getting their transactions completed quickly and effectively. Alan has nearly 35 years of experience in negotiating and drafting purchase and sale, lease, construction, and finance documents for Fortune 500 Companies, technology companies, and both large institutional and smaller real estate developers. He has represented national real estate companies, such as Equity Office, Lincoln Property Company, The Carlyle Group and Grosvenor Americas, in various development, leasing and purchase and sale transactions in Northern California. He is the firm's lead transactional real estate partner in its representation of the San Francisco 49ers with respect to its leasing of Levi's® Stadium in Santa Clara, California. Alan is also the firm's lead real estate partner in its representation of Uber in connection with the development of its corporate headquarters in San Francisco, and he also represents Sunset Development Company in connection with its leasing of more than 6 million square feet of office space at Bishop Ranch.

Professional Memberships: Alan is a member of the Real Property Sections of both the American Bar Association and the California State Bar. He has spoken on leasing issues at professional conferences, has authored articles on complex leasing issues, and, for more than ten years, was the contributing author of the California chapter of the State by State Guide to Commercial Real Estate Leases (CCH Incorporated).

GEORGE, Rohith P.

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Featured in Outsourcing (California)

Practice Areas: Rohith George is an experienced technology lawyer who companies turn to in order to plan, structure, and execute complex transactions. His practice involves helping companies with a range of commercial, strategic, and technology transactions, including contracting for digital infrastructure, outsourced services, cloud solutions, embedded financial services, and emerging technologies. He also advises companies on the technology and related integration issues associated with mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, and other complex corporate transactions.

GERBER, Seth M

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Featured in Intellectual Property (USA - Nationwide), Intellectual Property (California)

See under Nationwide for profile.

GIBBS, Kenneth C

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Featured in Mediators (USA - Nationwide), Construction (California)

Practice Areas: Business Commercial Construction Energy & Utilities Engineering & Construction Insurance International & Cross Border Real Property Surety
Career: Kenneth Gibbs is a leading neutral worldwide with expertise mediating and conducting neutral evaluations of construction, engineering, real estate, energy, surety, insurance and business disputes. Mr. Gibbs has received the highest-level ranking in construction mediation every year since the publication's 2005 inception. The 2023 edition of the guide describes Mr. Gibbs as "one of the pillars of the construction mediation industry." Previously, the 2022 edition describes him as "one of the best construction ADR professionals in the U.S.," and in 2021, he was referred to as "the dean of construction dispute resolution." Previous guides note that he is "universally acclaimed as one of the best practitioners out there," a "construction law guru" and a "leading figure in the field of mediation," and have acknowledged him for his "skills as a mediator and arbitrator on both a national and international level." Mr. Gibbs has mediated over 2,500 cases and arbitrated over 200 cases in 25 states involving collectively billions of dollars in claims. He is known for his ability to establish great rapport with parties and help them evaluate their risks. Attuned to pressures facing parties in dispute, he can quickly assess the strengths, weaknesses and nuances of each side's position. He gives his undivided attention to the parties and the matter at hand, a requisite to resolving complex, multi-party disputes.

GIBSON, Benjamin D.

Latham & Watkins LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Environment (California)

Practice Areas: Ben Gibson defends corporations in the chemicals, defense, and manufacturing sectors against environmental claims. Ben helps clients navigate litigation and administrative proceedings involving contaminated properties, as well as regulatory compliance matters concerning water quality, air quality, and hazardous waste. He advises on the full life cycle of environmental issues, including: - Cost recovery and contribution litigation under Superfund regulations and state counterparts - Site investigation and remediation - Environmental litigation - Consent decrees - Private-party settlements - Emerging chemicals, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) - Storm water compliance - Hazardous waste management - Waste water compliance - Pre-transaction due diligence - Administrative enforcement matters - Environmental permitting He draws on his experience as a public affairs consultant within the environmental space to mitigate regulatory risk and advance clients' business objectives.

Ben combines technical acumen and extensive legal experience to design effective strategies to clients' most sensitive environmental challenges. Ben negotiates with supervising agencies, including the US Environmental Protection Agency and state analogs, to identify opportunities to minimize or avoid client liabilities. Ben's active pro bono practice in immigration and family law includes representing clients in asylum and guardianship matters, advising nonprofits on compliance and internal governance issues, and developing model language for future African mining laws' environmental provisions. While in law school, Ben interned at the North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association and served as a student attorney with the Duke Environmental Law and Policy Clinic, where he focused on public trust issues and the Clean Water Act.

GILLISON, Robert

Buchalter, LLP, Los Angeles

Featured in Banking & Finance (California)

Practice Areas: Commercial Finance Private Equity and Venture Capital Fund Finance Aviation Finance and Leasing Alternative Lenders Health Care & Life Sciences Family Office & Wealth Management Wine, Beer, and Spirits Industry Law Aircraft Finance Asset-Based Lending Acquisition Finance Securities-Based Lending

Career: Robert Gillison is a Partner in the firm's Los Angeles office, Co-Chair of the Firm's Commercial Finance Practice, and serves as Chair of the Aviation Finance and Leasing Practice and Co-Chair of the Firm's Aviation Industry Law Practice. He brings more than 26 years of experience representing banks and non-bank lenders and is widely recognized as a leading commercial finance attorney among lenders and borrowers alike. Mr. Gillison has handled hundreds of lending transactions involving billions of dollars in aggregate commitments. He advises on a broad range of complex financings, including bilateral and club deals, syndicated loans, cross-border transactions, unitranche and multi-tranche facilities, inter-creditor arrangements, and liability management transactions. He regularly represents administrative agents and lead lenders in highly structured credit facilities. His experience spans acquisition and leveraged financings, asset-based lending, aircraft finance, cash flow loans, and subscription and NAV-based facilities, as well as securities-backed, healthcare, and technology and IP-based financings. Mr. Gillison frequently handles multi-national financings, coordinating with counsel across Europe, Asia, the Caribbean, and North America to ensure cross-border enforceability. Mr. Gillison is consistently ranked by Chambers USA as a leading Banking & Finance attorney and recognized by Legal 500 U.S. Elite for his work in Banking & Finance. He was also named as a "Leader of Influence" by the Los Angeles Business Journal in 2025 and a "Banking & Finance Visionary" by L.A. Times Studios in 2026.

Professional Memberships: Member, Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section, Los Angeles County Bar Association Member, Commercial Transactions Committee, Business Law Section, California Lawyers Association Director, Secured Finance Network (SFNet)

GLASSMAN, Austin

Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Los Angeles

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Featured in Banking & Finance (California)

Practice Areas: Austin Glassman is a corporate partner in Kirkland's Los Angeles office. He represents top-tier private equity sponsors, investment funds, public and private companies and capital sources in complex financing transactions, including leveraged buyouts, take-privates, cross-border financings, recapitalizations, in- and out-of-court restructurings, liability management exercises and other special situations. Austin handles a variety of financing structures, including syndicated and direct lender debt financings, first- and second-lien financings, bank-bond facilities, recurring revenue financings, split collateral structures, asset-based loans, unitranche financings, subordinated financings, venture financing, debtor-in-possession and exit financings and preferred equity issuances. Austin has led financings ranging in size from the tens of millions to over \$20 billion, handling some of the most complex and notable transactions in industries including software, technology, AI, industrials, healthcare, retail, media, dining, entertainment and energy. Representative clients include Vista Equity Partners, Hellman & Friedman, HGGC, Hg Capital, GI Partners, Unity Partners, Diversis Capital, Energize Capital, Cloud Software Group, e.l.f. Cosmetics and Claritev, among others.

Personal: University of California at Los Angeles, School of Law, J.D., 2012; John Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, M.A., 2012; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, S.B., 2008.

GODLEY, Tamerlin

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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Tamerlin Godley is a partner in Willkie's Litigation Department, where she serves as Chair of the Entertainment Litigation Practice Group. She is based in the Firm's Los Angeles office. Tammy maintains a robust litigation practice, representing studios, networks and Fortune 500 companies in complex business litigation disputes. Tammy also excels in guiding high-profile sensitive investigations in times of crisis, often avoiding litigation. Clients regularly turn to Tammy to protect their most significant assets.

GOLINVEAUX, Jennifer

Alston & Bird LLP, San Francisco

jennifer.golinveaux@alston.com

Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Jennifer is a trusted and precedent-setting intellectual property trial lawyer guiding technology, media, and consumer brands through high-stakes copyright, trademark, and innovation-driven litigation. She guides clients through disputes at the intersection of intellectual property law, technology, and business strategy when legal outcomes have significant operational or reputational impact. Through her litigation and advisory work, Jennifer helps clients protect and enforce intellectual property assets while navigating evolving legal standards governing online content and brand use. Jennifer represents clients across a variety of industries, including digital media, technology, consumer products, financial services, and food and beverage. Her work centers on disputes involving copyright, trademark, trade dress, design patents, right of publicity, and internet based claims, often arising from digital platforms, online publishing, and emerging technologies. Jennifer regularly handles complex matters involving the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, secondary liability, and generative AI (GenAI). Her experience includes representing media and technology companies and online platforms in claims related to use of content online, enforcing, defending, and prosecuting trademark rights for global brands, and litigating unfair competition and false advertising disputes. She also represents clients in high stakes matters involving digital media distribution, online marketplaces, GenAI, and content moderation issues.

GORSEN, Maureen F

Sidley Austin LLP, Los Angeles

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Featured in Environment (California)

Practice Areas: MAUREEN GORSEN practices at the intersection of public policy, litigation, and regulatory advocacy with a keen sense of her clients' business objectives. She is a member of Sidley's Environmental practice, focusing on enforcement defense and regulatory compliance. Maureen has defended clients in both federal and state enforcement matters, including hazardous waste, stormwater, air quality, AB 32 (carbon credits, LCFS, GHG and ESG disclosures), Prop 65, product labeling, food packaging, gasoline market regulation and business and tax regulation. She develops strategies for regulatory and permit compliance for environmental, financial, tax, consumer products, and supply chain regulation issues. Maureen also assists clients in developing corporate policies to reduce product liability risks and meet sustainability, ESG, climate, supply chain, anti-slavery and human trafficking, and conflict minerals statutes. She has a proven track record of coordinating responses to corporate emergencies, surprise government investigations, and catastrophic events, where quick action and strategic insight are critical to protecting a company's brand. Maureen is the former general counsel of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and the California

Natural Resources Agency, with broad oversight of all California state, regional, and local environmental agencies (e.g. CARB, CEC, CalGEM, RWQCBs, AQMDs, and County DAs). In both roles, she was involved in the enforcement of California's environmental laws, including AB 32, Prop 65, the Endangered Species Act, Coastal Act, and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

GOTTILIEB, Seth

Latham & Watkins LLP, San Francisco

Seth.Gottlieb@lw.com

Featured in Venture Capital (California)

Practice Areas: Seth Gottlieb, Global Vice Chair of the Technology Industry Group, represents private and public companies, entrepreneurs, and venture capital investors in a broad range of corporate transactions. Seth counsels high-growth companies throughout their life cycle, guiding them from their first financing as a startup through IPO and beyond. He advises clients on corporate governance, financing, securities, and M&A transactions in multiple cutting-edge sectors, including: – Software – Artificial Intelligence – Cybersecurity – Consumer products – Digital health – Medical device – Biotechnology – Fintech A trusted advisor to boards and management teams with deep corporate and securities law experience, he helps companies navigate their most significant business and legal matters. Seth also advises venture capital and growth-focused private equity firms on their strategic investments, and he works closely with investment banks to facilitate their underwriting of public offerings. Before joining Latham, he was co-chair of the emerging companies and venture capital practice at another global law firm.

GOUDEY, Shane

Sidley Austin LLP, Palo Alto

sgoudey@sidley.com

Featured in Venture Capital (USA - Nationwide), Venture Capital (California)

Practice Areas: SHANE GOUDEY is the leader of Sidley's Venture Funds practice. Shane focuses his practice on all aspects of the formation and operation of domestic and international investment funds, including venture capital, private equity, fund of funds, corporate, secondary market, debt, and a variety of other types of funds. He has represented sponsors in the formation of thousands of funds, ranging from multibillion-dollar venture capital and leveraged buyout funds to smaller firms forming early-stage venture capital, angel, pledge, and similar micro-funds, with just several million dollars in committed capital. Shane also regularly advises accelerator, venture studio, and incubator firms with respect to their organizational, operational, investment, and fund formation matters. As fund counsel, Shane regularly advises his clients on all aspects of the fundraising process and the management and operation of their investment funds throughout their life cycles, including providing sophisticated market intelligence on fund terms, fund structures, investor profiles, industry

trends and market conditions, counseling on all internal firm planning, management and compensation matters, advising his clients with respect to their co-investment programs and transactions, reviewing and preparing all fundraising documentation (e.g., private placement memoranda, roadshow presentations, diligence materials, etc.), formulating fundraising marketing plans and strategies, preparing all governing agreements, leading negotiations with various participants in the fund formation process (including investors, private placement agents, and gatekeeper organizations) and advising on fund and portfolio management and liquidation matters. In connection with his fund practice, Shane possesses extensive knowledge of various securities laws, tax planning and accounting issues, and other regulatory matters affecting investment firms and the funds they manage.

GRAY, Matthew S

Perkins Coie LLP, San Francisco
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Featured in Real Estate (California)

Practice Areas: Land Use & Development Real Estate & Land Use Environment, Energy & Resources Data Centers and Digital Infrastructure Land Development Hospitality Energy Infrastructure & Clean Technology Mining Real Estate

Career: Matt Gray handles land use entitlement processing, environmental compliance, and real estate transactions for developers, landowners, and local agencies. He negotiates and secures approval of development agreements, general plan amendments, specific plans, zoning, subdivision approvals, and annexation of property into cities and special districts; regularly appears before planning commissions and city councils; and advises clients on compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and other federal and state regulations. Matt develops and implements strategies for leveraging California's housing and development streamlining laws; negotiates affordable housing agreements, mitigation fee agreements, and conservation easements; advises clients on issues relating to water supply; and uses the initiative and referendum process in the land use planning context. Additionally, he negotiates purchase and sale agreements; site development agreements; covenants, conditions, restrictions, and easement agreements; and related transactional documents in connection with mixed-use, commercial, and residential development projects. Matt's experience spans a variety of land use projects throughout California, including large urban redevelopment projects, military base reuse projects, mixed-use waterfront developments, renewable energy and related infrastructure projects, regional shopping centers, and master-planned residential communities.

GRINBERG, Ora

Goodwin, San Francisco

Featured in Tax (California: Northern)

Practice Areas: Ora Grinberg is a partner in the firm's Business Law Department and Tax practice. Ms. Grinberg focuses on U.S. corporate and international taxation, with an emphasis on mergers, acquisitions and restructurings. She represents buyers and sellers in domestic and cross-border merger and acquisition transactions. She regularly represents serial acquirers and has extensive experience advising on sophisticated corporate transactions.

Personal: JD University of California, Berkeley School of Law (Order of the Coif) 2011; BA, Economics, University of California, Davis (highest honors, Phi Beta Kappa) 2008; BA, Philosophy, University of California, Davis (honors, Phi Beta Kappa) 2008

GROSS, Michelle Ontiveros

Latham & Watkins LLP, Menlo Park
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Featured in Technology (California)

Practice Areas: Michelle Ontiveros Gross advises clients on a range of intellectual property and privacy and cybersecurity matters, including in connection with strategic alliances, joint ventures, M&A and financing transactions, intellectual property strategy and commercialization, development agreements and other commercial arrangements, product development, and privacy and data initiatives. Michelle helps companies successfully develop and protect their technology assets, drawing on her breadth of experience in the industry. Her practice spans a variety of issues including artificial intelligence and machine learning, intellectual property, and privacy and data security, with a particular focus on complex technology transactions, licensing arrangements, and collaboration agreements, as well as large-scale mergers and acquisitions and capital markets offerings. Her transactional work includes advising on the technology and data privacy aspects of: – Mergers and acquisitions – Joint ventures – Capital markets transactions and financings – Integration of business units and product lines in connection with mergers and acquisitions Michelle has deep experience advising on intellectual property strategy and commercialization, including: – Copyright, patent, and trademark matters – Development and distribution agreements – Software licensing and services agreements – Open-source counseling – Patent licensing – Joint development of technology She also regularly advises clients on data privacy and security matters, including: – Privacy and data security policies and data processing agreements – Cybersecurity and privacy terms in commercial transactions – SEC cybersecurity disclosure – Privacy and cybersecurity compliance – Privacy and data security issues in connection with product development, including the integration of blockchain and AI technologies into new products – Data ownership and data rights – Privacy and data security regulations, including: – The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) – The California Consumer

Privacy Act (CCPA) and other State Privacy Laws – NYDFS Cybersecurity Regulation – Gramm-Leach Bliley Act (GLBA) – Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) – The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) – Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act (BIPA)

GROSSMAN, Paul

Paul Hastings LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Paul Grossman is a partner in the Employment Law practice of Paul Hastings and is based in the firm's Los Angeles office. Paul represents major private employers in all aspects of employment law, including class action, wage and hour, wrongful discharge, discrimination, sexual harassment and whistleblower cases. He is the general counsel of the California Employment Law Council (CELC), an organization of approximately 70 of California's largest employers. Its mission is the development of moderate employment law through amicus briefs, education and legislative activities. Paul began mediating employment class actions in 2017, and has had about 55 such mediations. All or substantially all settled, normally during one mediation session. Paul is the co-author of Lindemann, Grossman & Weirich Employment Discrimination Law, the official book of the American Bar Association in its field – the fifth edition was released in 2013. It has been cited on multiple occasions by the U.S. Supreme Court and the courts of every circuit and is generally regarded as the principal publication in its field.

Personal: Yale Law School, J.D. (Member, Board of Editors, Yale Law Journal) Amherst College, B.A.

GROVES, Amanda

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Amanda is the immediate past co-chair of the Firm's Complex Commercial Litigation group. She has successfully represented consumer product companies, national retailers, technology companies and lending institutions in high-stakes disputes since 1996. Amanda is recognized for her work in commercial litigation by Chambers USA and The Legal 500 US, and has been named by the Charlotte Business Journal as an Outstanding Woman in Business. Amanda focuses her practice on consumer class actions, business to business contract and tort disputes, and other high-stakes litigation matters. She has a national practice with a particular emphasis on California and its unique legal landscape, including its consumer fraud statutes, arbitration procedures and enforcement issues, and commercial law. With her extensive experience with consumer protection statutes, Amanda successfully defends clients in consumer class actions by obtaining dismissal orders and summary judgment, and

negotiating settlements with no cash payments by the client. These cases include nationwide consumer class actions brought on behalf of millions of plaintiffs, as well as statewide cases alleging false advertising, unfair competition, warranty claims fraud, and violation of consumer privacy statutes. Amanda's clients benefit from her ability to prepare accurate budgets and her practical, problem-solving approach to litigation issues.

GUMPORT, Anna

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Featured in Bankruptcy/Restructuring (California)

Practice Areas: ANNA GUMPORT is a senior managing associate in the Los Angeles office and is a member of the firmwide Restructuring group. Anna represents clients in a wide variety of in-court and out-of-court restructuring matters. Anna's public and non-public representations have included providing strategic advice for companies in addressing their liabilities; preparing companies for chapter 11 filings; negotiating, drafting, and implementing chapter 11 plans of reorganization; drafting and negotiating sale documents and requests for court approval of section 363 asset sales; negotiating and securing court approval of debtor-in-possession financing facilities and use of cash collateral; bankruptcy-related appeals; and providing general advice and litigation support in complex chapter 11 cases and other restructuring and insolvency-related matters. Anna has experience representing debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, purchasers and other interested parties in these matters.

GUSTAFSON, Timothy A

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Featured in Tax (California)

Practice Areas: Tim Gustafson is the Eversheds Sutherland Sacramento Office Managing Partner and counsels clients on all aspects of state and local tax controversy, including audits, administrative appeals and litigation. With a particular focus on California and other Western states, Tim is extensively experienced on issues and matters before the California Franchise Tax Board, the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, the California Office of Tax Appeals, the Oregon Tax Court, the Utah State Tax Commission, and other courts and administrative bodies. Tim routinely advises retailers and manufacturers, telecommunications companies, technology service providers, and financial institutions on income and franchise taxes, sales and use taxes, and key related issues including apportionment, nexus, business and nonbusiness income, penalties, deductions and credits. Tim's past experience includes serving as a Captain in the US Army Judge Advocate General's Corps at the Netherlands Law Center for three years. His duties included representing the United States in military courts-mar-

tial and advising the local command on numerous legal issues.

GUY III, G Hopkins

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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Hopkins Guy has extensive expertise in patent, trade secrets and commercial contract litigation involving all areas of Web-based telecommunications, electronics and computer technologies. He provides intellectual property counsel to technology companies from start-up to mature companies, particularly in clean-tech, hydrogen and solar technologies. His most recent interests involve the current generation of fusion technologies. Mr. Guy's patent and trade secrets litigation experience has involved technologies in Web-based payment systems, social networking, wireless and satellite communication equipment and routing, semiconductor processing, packaging and equipment, microprocessors, power semiconductor devices, flash memory technology and solar technologies. Over the past two decades, Mr. Guy's representations have included DISH, DraftKings, Recentive, Toshiba, Apple, Applied Materials, Intel, Cisco, eBay, PayPal, BrightEdge and Cambium.

Career: Mr. Guy was the recipient of the 2003 CLAY Award in Intellectual Property for his work on the Cisco v. Huawei case, a case that continues to be relevant today. Mr. Guy also represented Facebook in its defense against the ConnectU and the Winklevoss twins which subsequently became the subject of the movie The Social Network. In 2023, he was lead counsel for DISH in the largest patent verdict of the year in ClearPlay v. DISH.

Professional Memberships: ALL; Cal State, USDistCt for Nd, CD, SD, 9th and 5th Cir. Virginia, USPTO Registered Patent Attorney.

Personal: Mr. Guy is an avid skier, hiker, mountain biker and sailor. He spends time in the mountains of California and Colorado and on his farm in Virginia.

H KOH, Jonathan

Sidley Austin LLP, Los Angeles

Featured in Real Estate (California: Southern)

Practice Areas: JONATHAN KOH counsels clients on a broad range of real estate transactions, including purchase and sale transactions, mortgage and mezzanine loan originations and restructurings, joint ventures, and leasing. These matters involve a wide variety of asset types, including hotel and hospitality, restaurants and retail, office, healthcare, multi-family, industrial, and mixed-use projects. Prior to joining Sidley, Jonathan was an associate at another international law firm where his practice focused on real estate and corporate matters. Jonathan earned his J.D. from the University of Southern California Gould School of Law, where he was senior editor of the Southern California Law Review. He graduated from the University of California, San Diego with a

B.A. in both Economics, cum laude, and in Classical Studies, magna cum laude.

HAAG, Melinda

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Attorney bio can be found here: <https://www.paulweiss.com/professionals/partners%2Dand%2Dcounsel/melinda%2Dhaag>

HAMILTON, Joshua

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: A nationally recognized first-chair trial lawyer and immediate past Co-Chair of the Los Angeles Litigation & Trial Department, Josh Hamilton represents companies, boards of directors, and senior executives in high-stakes complex commercial and securities litigation matters in both California and across the nation. His clients range from emerging growth-stage through Fortune 500 companies, financial institutions, sports, entertainment and media companies, large distribution companies, investment firms, and partnerships. A key member of the firm's interdisciplinary Data Center team, Josh is a leading litigator at the forefront of representing companies in the data center space on cutting-edge litigation matters. Josh has also served in leadership roles in the Los Angeles County, Federal Bar Associations, and the Association of Business Trial Lawyers. Josh has an extensive track record of achieving successful results for clients in complex litigation, trials, arbitrations, and appeals. Josh represents clients in mission-critical commercial disputes involving the sports, media and entertainment, food and beverage, technology, healthcare, and real estate industries. Josh has significant experience representing clients in high-stakes disputes arising from commercial contracts, founder and corporate ownership claims, competitor interference, class actions, fiduciary duties, debt and equity raises, and consumer protection. Josh also regularly represents clients on pre-litigation strategies and diligence, resulting in many disputes that are resolved or avoided outside of litigation. Josh is consistently named as one of the top securities litigators in the country. In securities and corporate governance litigation, Josh has substantial experience representing public companies, private equity and venture capital firms, investment advisors, special purpose entities, investment banks, and officers and directors in securities class actions, shareholder derivative actions, corporate/derivative governance disputes, "deal cases" challenging mergers and acquisitions, and other investor-related disputes. Many of these cases involve claims arising out of public offerings, disclosure obligations, proxy contests, alleged insider trading, accounting practices, or allegations of breaches of

fiduciary duties. Josh also represents clients in internal investigations and in investigations and proceedings initiated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), US Department of Justice (DOJ), and other government agencies. He regularly counsels public and private companies and their boards on corporate governance and disclosure issues. Community and Professional Involvement Josh is very active in bar and community activities. He currently serves as a member of the Board of Governors for the Association of Business Trial Lawyers in Los Angeles. He is on the Board of Trustees of Crossroads School for Arts & Sciences and a member of the Board of Directors of the Sprint Football team for Cornell University. Josh is the former chair of the Executive Committee of the Litigation Section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association and continues to serve on the committee. He also served for many years on the Complex Courts Committee for LACBA and the Board of Trustees of Los Angeles Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. He was also a longstanding member of the Board of Directors of the Western Center on Law and Poverty and the Independent School Alliance for Minority Affairs (ISA), and in 2016 received the Impact Award at the ISA's annual Gala.

HANOVER, John D

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Featured in Construction (USA - Nationwide), Construction (California)

Practice Areas: Counsels clients across all roles of the building process for private and public works. Represents his clients in high-dollar disputes in court, arbitrations, and mediations involving matters ranging from contract scope disputes, delay and acceleration claims, unforeseen conditions, and payment remedies and defective work.

Career: Former leader, firm's Construction & Government Contracts Group. Previously served as Managing Partner at Pecker & Abramson P.C. (West Coast).

Professional Memberships:

American Bar Association, Forum of the Construction Industry; Los Angeles County Bar Association, Construction Subsection, Past President.

HANSON, Eric

WilmerHale, Palo Alto

Featured in Venture Capital (California)

Practice Areas: Eric Hanson is a partner in the Corporate Practice Group. He represents entrepreneurs, startups, high-growth, and public companies as well as venture capital funds and other investors in both ongoing counseling and transactional matters. In addition, his practice focuses on mergers and acquisitions as well as debt, capital market and other strategic transactions. Mr. Hanson's clients operate across industries including software, big data and healthcare, cleantech, energy, fintech, telecom, consumer products, food and agtech, and mobile. Mr. Hanson has counseled numerous clients from early stages to exit transactions, and all phas-

es in between. Along the way, he helps clients navigate the complex issues that arise during the corporate lifecycle from formation, fundraising and financing strategies to board and governance issues. When his clients approach the growth stage, he provides strategic advice on exit transactions, including public offerings and mergers and acquisitions. Mr. Hanson has represented pro bono clients in matters relating to children's education and health, elections and disaster relief. Prior to beginning his legal studies, Mr. Hanson worked in database and software engineering roles at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, the University of Washington and IBM's T.J. Watson Research Center.

Personal: JD, Santa Clara University School of Law, 2008 BS, Computer Science, Case Western Reserve University, 2001

HARGREAVES, Amy

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Featured in Healthcare (California)

Practice Areas: Amy Hargreaves, San Diego Local Litigation & Trial Department Chair, helps clients navigate internal investigations, False Claims Act defense, and compliance-related matters within the healthcare industry. She assists clients within the healthcare industry with internal investigations, government investigations, OIG and CMS self-disclosures, compliance program development, and referral source/HCP relationship advising. Amy spends the majority of her time defending her clients against False Claims Act qui tam investigations and litigations. Her clients include large hospital systems as well as medical device and pharmaceutical companies at varying stages of development. Amy has advised clients on a wide range of compliance issues, from the proper structuring of physician arrangements, to the development of compliant billing and coding processes, to the development of pharmaceutical and medical device promotion practices.

HART, Colleen

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Featured in Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation (California: Los Angeles & Surrounds)

Practice Areas: Colleen Hart is a partner in Proskauer's Tax Department and a member of the Compensation & Benefits Group. Colleen advises companies, executives and boards on complex executive compensation matters. She offers a multidisciplinary approach to compensation and benefits issues with a focus on tax planning, securities laws and corporate governance. Matters she handles include the negotiation, structuring and implementation of employment and change-in-control agreements and deferred compensation, equity and incentive compensation plans. She advises on golden parachute and deduction limitation rules, securities reporting, registration and disclosure requirements

and California employment laws. In addition, Colleen has extensive experience advising clients on compensation and benefits issues arising in mergers and acquisitions, initial public offerings, bankruptcies and finance transactions. Colleen is a contributing author of The 409A Handbook (BNA 2016) and lectures frequently on executive compensation matters. As a U.S. Navy veteran, Colleen devotes a substantial amount of time to organizations that provide legal and support services to U.S. veterans.

HART, Ross R.

Hart ADR, Newbury Park
rossrhart@gmail.com

Featured in Construction (California)

Practice Areas: National experience mediating complex, high-stakes, multi-party construction and construction-related disputes. These include private and public works construction claims (e.g., delay, loss of productivity, unforeseen conditions, extra work, and payment disputes), construction and design defect claims, soils and landslide claims, insurance coverage disputes, product liability class actions, architectural and engineering malpractice claims, real estate agent/broker liability claims, real estate sales, leasing and secured transactions, construction site accident bodily injury claims and other types of business litigation.

Career: 2016 – Present: Full-time Mediator 1995 – 2015: Full-time Neutral; Mediator, Settlement Referee, Discovery Referee, Special Master, Umpire and Arbitrator. 1980 – 1994: Partner. Irsfeld, Irsfeld & Younger, Glendale, California. 1976 – 1979: Associate. Irsfeld, Irsfeld & Younger, Hollywood, California.

Professional Memberships: Los Angeles County Bar Association, Member Arbitration and ADR Committee; American Bar Association, Member committee on Manufacturer's Liability Litigation; Southern California Mediation Association; AAA Center for Mediation, Judicial Task Force; Recipient, Distinguished Service Award 1991 – American Arbitration Association; Testified before Senate and Assembly Judiciary Committees regarding Senate Bill 1001 (Arbitral Immunity) at request of California State Bar (1984); Testified before Assembly Judiciary Committee regarding Civil Code § 1375 and ADR models (2001); Arbitration Panel Member: AAA Large Complex Case Panel; Certified Arbitrator, California Public Works Contract Arbitration Panel; Panel Member, Cal Trans Dispute Review Board; Trained by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a Partnering Facilitator; Member, ICBO; Profiled in article on Alternative Dispute Resolution in Fall 1994 Loyola Lawyer; Profiled in Los Angeles Daily Journal October of 1996, January 1999, November of 2002 and November of 2007; Selected one of California's top 20 neutrals by Daily Journal November 2002; Contributing Editor Shepard's California Construction Law Reporter; Recipient: West Coast Casualty's Jerrold S. Oliver Award of Excellence (1996); Member CAMCA (Commercial Arbitration and Mediation

Center for the Americas) Multi-National Panel of Arbitrators for resolution of NAFTA disputes; AAA Law Practice Panel; AAA National Mass Torts Panel; AAA President's Panel of Mediators; Member CDRC (California Dispute Resolution Council); Panel Member: International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR); AAA Panel for USA Track & Field Doping Grievances; Panel Mediator/ Arbitrator, Tribunal Arbitral du Sport, Lausanne, Switzerland. Recipient: Legend of an Era Award (West Coast Casualty 2013). Recipient: Silver Star Award for the Best Mediator (West Coast Casualty 2018, 50th Anniversary); Recipient Best Mediator Award 2024 (West Coast Casualty)

HARTLIN, Jeffrey T.

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Featured in Capital Markets (California), Capital Markets (USA – Nationwide), Life Sciences (California)

Practice Areas: Jeff Hartlin is a partner in the Corporate Department of Paul Hastings and is based in the firm's Palo Alto and San Diego offices. Jeff concentrates his practice in corporate law, capital-raising, mergers & acquisitions and securities and has represented public and private companies in the software, hardware, information technology, biotechnology/biopharmaceutical, medical device, Web 3.0, semiconductor, clean technology and financial industries. His experience in all aspects of the capital raising process includes representing issuers, underwriters, venture capital firms and placement agents in IPOs, SPAC financings, registered directs, at-the-market offerings and rights offerings, as well as venture and angel-backed private placements, PIPEs, debt financings, Rule 144A transactions, reverse mergers and Regulation S offerings. Jeff also routinely represents startup and other early-stage companies from incorporation through early financing, pre-IPO capital raising, IPO and eventual sale. Jeff has represented several public and private companies in equity and debt private placements with a combined value of several billion. He also represents Nasdaq and NYSE companies with their periodic reporting requirements and listing qualification issues. He regularly advises boards of directors and management of public and private companies regarding corporate governance issues, including the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the Dodd-Frank Act and the JOBS Act. Jeff also represents public and private corporations in merger and acquisition transactions, de-SPAC transactions, joint ventures, leveraged and non-leveraged acquisitions, spinoffs, spin-ins and dispositions. He is frequently engaged to advise companies in activist stockholder matters.

Personal: University of Virginia School of Law, J.D. (Editor-in-Chief of the Virginia Tax Review) University of California Davis, B.A. (Phi Beta Kappa)

HASKO, Judith

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Featured in Life Sciences (USA – Nationwide), Life Sciences (California)

Practice Areas: Judith Hasko is the Chair of the Transactional Department and Co-Chair of WilmerHale's Life Sciences Practice. She provides counsel to life sciences companies and their investors on strategic, intellectual property and technology-based commercial transactions. Companies in the biotechnology, pharmaceutical, medical device and diagnostic product sectors, along with their investors, depend on Ms. Hasko for guidance and execution of licensing, corporate partnerships, joint ventures, co-promotion arrangements, manufacturing and distribution agreements, asset purchases and royalty stream transactions. Widely recognized for her market-leading transactional work, Ms. Hasko brings complementary business and scientific perspectives to her legal representations. She is ranked in Band 1 by Chambers USA in Life Sciences: Corporate/Commercial in both California and nationwide, and is consistently recognized by The Legal 500 United States, IAM Patent and LMG Life Sciences. Clients rely on her for her business acumen and knowledge of the life sciences industry, with one telling Chambers USA she "is an insanely talented attorney and a force of nature in this space." Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Hasko was a partner in the Silicon Valley office of another major international law firm, where she served as vice chair of their Healthcare & Life Sciences Practice.

Personal: JD, University of Wisconsin Law School, 1994 MPhil, University of Sussex, 1988 BA, Vassar College, 1986

HAUN, Michael D

Paul Hastings LLP, Los Angeles

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Featured in Tax (California: Southern)

Practice Areas: Michael Haun is a partner in the Tax practice of Paul Hastings and is based in the firm's Los Angeles office. He provides tax and business advice to a broad range of domestic and international clients in a wide variety of partnership and limited liability company transactions; acquisitions, mergers and dispositions; and financing arrangements. Two particular focuses of his practice include (1) tax-subsidized transactions where he represents insurance companies, investors, lenders, sponsors and syndicators with respect to investments involving renewable energy tax credits; low-income housing tax credits; historic tax credits; new markets tax credits; and opportunity zones; and (2) fintech and cryptocurrency tax matters. Michael lectures frequently on tax credit and opportunity zone, cryptocurrency, business, and merger and acquisition issues. He has spoken in various forums sponsored by various organizations, including the USC Gould School of Law Tax Institute, American Management Association, Multi-Housing

World, and numerous other panel discussions and seminars.

Personal: New York University School of Law, LL.M. University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law, J.D., (Florida Journal of International Law, Senior Research Editor) University of Central Florida, B.S.B.A.

HAYES-KIBREAB, Amanda

King & Spalding LLP, Atlanta

Featured in Healthcare (California)

Practice Areas: Amanda Hayes-Kibreab specializes in complex business litigation, arbitration and dispute resolution on behalf of providers, with an emphasis on managed care litigation. As a partner in the Healthcare practice, Amanda applies a practical and creative approach to her matters to achieve favorable results for her clients. As a healthcare litigator, Amanda has extensive experience managing large multi-party, multi-million dollar disputes, litigating business contract and tort disputes, prosecuting and defending actions brought by large healthcare payors against hospital providers, heading up international white collar crime investigations for global healthcare device manufacturers, and providing advice on healthcare law and reform topics. She represents hospitals and hospital systems, provider groups, surgery centers, individual physicians, and other healthcare entities. Ms. Hayes-Kibreab advises clients on the full scope of health care law including the Affordable Care Act, Covered California's health care exchange, Sequestration, California's Health and Safety Code, the Knox Keene Act, the False Claims Act, Employment Law, ERISA litigation, RICO actions, HIPAA, Healthcare Reform, and numerous other substantive areas relevant to our clients.

HEISLER, Ellie

Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP, Los Angeles

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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Transactional: Mainly Talent (California)

Practice Areas: Entertainment & Media Intellectual Property Corporate & Finance Social Media Music Advertising, Promotions & Rights of Publicity Copyright, Trademark & Media Litigation Intellectual Property Transactions

Career: Ellie Heisler is a Manatt Entertainment partner with 18 years of experience advising individuals and companies worldwide on brand building, licensing and intellectual property strategy, particularly in food, fashion and beauty. She works across every dimension of the creator economy—representing creators, influencers, celebrities, athletes, brands, tech companies, founders, as well as various platforms and agencies that support them. Her focus is helping these clients grow, protect and diversify their businesses. Widely recognized as a top transactional attorney, Ellie handles the heavy lifting for the most prominent creators and digital media companies, building the legal framework to turn their influence into lasting businesses. Her practice covers everything from celebrity

driven joint ventures and licensing deals to FTC compliance, ensuring her clients are protected as they scale. What sets Ellie apart is her ability to translate complex legal concepts into clear, actionable business guidance. As an entrepreneur in the food space herself, she understands that legal advice only adds value when clients can understand it, act on it and use it to protect their bottom line. She doesn't over-lawyer deals—she ensures her clients grasp the key points, that deal terms are fair, and that the business fundamentals are protected. This approach makes her invaluable to clients who need a lawyer that speaks their language and focuses on what actually matters to their business. Prior to joining Manatt, Ellie was a partner and head of the entertainment group at a global law firm, where she built the entertainment practice one client and hire at a time.

Professional Memberships:

Women's Leadership Network, Executive Council Loyola Law School Entertainment Fellow, Mentor American Bar Association Beverly Hills Bar Association Los Angeles County Bar Association

HENDRICKS, Sharon J

Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve Franklin & Hachigian, Silicon Valley
650-463-5252
shendricks@gunder.com

Featured in Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation (California: San Francisco, Silicon Valley & Surroundings)

Practice Areas: Executive Compensation

Career: Sharon is a partner in our Silicon Valley office. Sharon focuses her practice exclusively on executive compensation and remuneration, corporate governance and employee benefits matters. She represents and advises emerging growth and public technology companies on executive compensation, employment and benefits matters, equity compensation plans, corporate governance, executive employment and severance arrangements, insider transaction and restricted securities matters, including in connection with public offering, M&A, venture financing and other corporate transactions. She also represents public company board compensation committees on executive compensation and corporate governance, as well as individual executives in negotiating their employment and separation arrangements. Sharon is a nationally recognized executive compensation attorney, who speaks and writes for various professional organizations. Sharon has been recognized as a leading employment, benefits and compensation lawyer by Chambers USA, named a Northern California Super Lawyer, and named one of The Best Lawyers in America in the specialty of Employee Benefits Law. She is an active member of the Subcommittee on Employee Benefits, Executive Compensation and Section 16 of the ABA Section of Business Law, Federal Regulation of Securities Committee.

HEPWORTH, Adam

Foley & Lardner LLP, Chicago
aheworth@foley.com

Featured in Healthcare (California)

Practice Areas: Corporate, Health Care

Career: Adam J. Hepworth's practice focuses on Medicaid and Medicare, administrative appeals, health privacy laws, and compliance with health care fraud and abuse laws. He is a partner in the firm's Health Care and Life Sciences Sector. Adam has represented hospitals, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), DME suppliers, and other providers in numerous Medicaid administrative appeals. He argued *Tulare Pediatric Health Care Center v. State Department of Health Care Services*, resulting in a decision from the California Court of Appeals recognizing the state's obligation to pay FQHCs a Medi-Cal per-visit rate that reflects their full costs when they contract with an outside medical group. Adam has written, presented, and counseled clients on how to navigate federal and state health privacy laws—including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and the federal substance use-disorder privacy regulations at 42 C.F.R. Part 2—when developing integrated models of care that address the social determinants of health. Adam has special expertise advising California public hospitals, health plans, and hospital authorities on complex health care issues at the intersection of local government law and federal and state health care programs, including prosecuting and defending writs of mandate. He has also worked on state legislation addressing FQHC reimbursement, health privacy, managed care network adequacy, clinic licensure, hospital authority governance, telehealth, Medicaid supplemental payments, and behavioral health delivery systems. Adam has often assisted health care providers to comment on federal and state rules addressing Medicaid managed care, Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement, HIPAA, the federal substance use-disorder privacy regulations and Knox-Keene licensing requirements. Prior to joining Foley, Adam was a law clerk for Judge Harris L. Hartz on the 10th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

Professional Memberships: Past Chair, Health Law Committee of the California Lawyer's Association Member, California Society for Health Care Attorneys Member, American Health Lawyer's Association Member, Los Angeles County Bar Association (Health Law Section)

HERNAND, David

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, Los Angeles
david.hernand@stblaw.com

Featured in Corporate/M&A (California: Los Angeles & Surroundings)

Practice Areas: David Hernand is a Partner in Simpson Thacher's Mergers and Acquisitions Practice. Based in the Firm's Los Angeles office, David advises a wide variety of clients on complex, high-profile transactions in the entertainment, media and technology industries,

including companies, boards of directors and special committees, private equity and venture capital firms and high net worth individuals and families. David also counsels clients with interests across the consumer and retail space. He advises on the full spectrum of corporate transactions, including public and private M&A, corporate control contests, strategic partnerships and joint ventures, public and private capital raising deals and other general corporate matters.

Career: Partner, joined Firm in 2024.

Personal: Georgetown University Law Center (J.D. 1992); University of California, Los Angeles (B.A. 1989)

HERZINGER, Kenneth

Paul Hastings LLP, San Francisco
415 856 7040
kennethherzinger@paulhastings.com

Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Ken Herzinger is the co-chair of the Investigations and White Collar Defense practice at Paul Hastings, based in the firm's San Francisco office. His practice focuses on Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) investigations and enforcement actions, securities litigation, global and domestic internal investigations, and fintech regulatory matters and litigation. A former SEC Enforcement Division attorney, Ken defends individuals and companies before the SEC and other federal and state agencies. According to his clients, Ken is the "best SEC lawyer [they] have worked with" and "is an all-around excellent lawyer who deeply understands risks and the sensitivities of corporate investigations." Ken has 25 years of experience defending companies and individuals in regulatory matters, litigation and investigations concerning a wide range of matters including accounting and financial statement fraud, internal controls, insider trading, cybersecurity, blockchain, cryptocurrency, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), Sarbanes-Oxley and Dodd-Frank Acts whistleblower retaliation claims, and BSA/AML enforcement. A seasoned securities litigator, Ken has defended officers, directors and companies in dozens of high-stakes securities class actions, derivative actions and M&A litigation. He has tried cases in federal and state court and in arbitration proceedings and was a member of the trial team that obtained a jury defense verdict in one of only 16 securities class action jury trials in the country to be tried to verdict since the passage of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act in 1995. Ken has also conducted over 50 global and domestic internal investigations for public and private companies and audit committees regarding myriad issues. Ken is also a member of the Securities Litigation and Fintech practices of Paul Hastings.

Personal: Seton Hall University School of Law, J.D. Clemson University, B.A., English

HILDEBRANDT, Jennifer B

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Featured in Banking & Finance (California)

Practice Areas: Jennifer B.

Hildebrandt is a partner in the Global Finance group of Paul Hastings. Jennifer represents banks and other lenders in commercial finance matters (including asset-based loans and cash flow loans), restructurings, workouts and special situation lending. Jennifer has extensive experience in multi-tranche and multi-lien transactions. In particular, Jennifer has extensive experience representing lenders in two lien deals, split collateral deals and first-out / last-out unitranche transactions. In addition, she has experience in various business sectors including healthcare, software, retail, insurance, media, franchise, restaurants, casinos, manufacturing, and vehicle and airline transportation, and in cross-border transactions. Prior to joining Paul Hastings, Jennifer practiced in bankruptcy courts in the Central District of California. Jennifer has led presentations and training programs on a variety of topics, including restructuring and workouts, agreement among lenders, intercreditor agreements, split collateral intercreditor agreements, trends in commercial loan documentation, unitranche facilities, financial covenants, credit agreements and due diligence.

Personal: Pepperdine University School of Law, J.D. (cum laude, member of the Law Review) Pomona College, B.A.

HILLIER, Kate

Latham & Watkins LLP, Menlo Park
650 843 5896

Featured in Life Sciences (California)

Practice Areas: Dr. Kate Hillier advises clients in the healthcare and life sciences industry on complex transactions and licensing issues. Kate represents public and private companies on a range of matters related to discovering, developing, and marketing: – Biopharmaceuticals – Vaccines – Medical devices and diagnostics – Digital health and AI-enabled platforms and products. Kate draws on her academic and clinical experience to maximize the value of clients' products and technologies, regularly advising companies on strategic intellectual property licensing, collaboration agreements, and structuring and negotiating critical transactions. She also counsels clients on matters involving foundational in-licenses and complex commercial arrangements. Before her legal career, Kate worked as a qualified anesthesiologist in Australia and the UK, completing her residency in anesthesiology and intensive care. She also worked as a consultant anesthesiologist at a hospital in the UK, where she was a member of the ethics committee.

HINTON, Jane

Huntun Andrews Kurth LLP, Los Angeles

Featured in Real Estate (California: Southern)

Practice Areas: With European and global banking roots, Ms. Hinton brings a sophisticated, commercially informed perspective to complex commercial real estate and finance transactions and the issues most critical to their stakeholders. She represents financial institutions,

investment funds, and other market participants in highly structured single-asset and portfolio commercial real estate transactions. Her practice spans all aspects of commercial real estate transactions, including joint ventures, acquisitions and dispositions, leasing, and portfolio property management, with a particular focus on structuring debt and equity transactions. Ms. Hinton has experience across a broad range of asset classes, including office, construction, retail, mixed-use, hotels and resorts, multifamily, including affordable housing, and industrial, as well as projects in the energy and infrastructure sectors. She advises lenders and borrowers on complex mortgage financings, mezzanine financings, preferred equity, and other structured capital transactions. Ms. Hinton is also experienced in construction financings, leasehold mortgage financings, syndications, co-lending, and loan participations, and advises parties on workouts, cash-in refinancings, and other equity restructurings. She also has experience in the origination of mortgage loans for commercial mortgage-backed securities issuances and other capital markets transactions, including repurchase agreements and warehouse facilities.

HOLSCHER, Mark
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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Mark Holscher is a partner in Kirkland & Ellis' Los Angeles office and a member of the Commercial Litigation Practice Group. A Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, as well as former Assistant United States Attorney, he is widely regarded as a go-to trial lawyer for high-stakes matters, having secured over \$1.4 billion in verdicts and settlements and successfully defended clients against billion-dollar claims. Since 2023, Benchmark Litigation has named Mark to its lists of the "Top 20 Trial Lawyers in California" and the "Top 100 Trial Lawyers in America". Since 2008, Mark has been selected every year as one of the Top 100 Lawyers in California by the Daily Journal and in 2025 was named to its inaugural "Distinguished Counsel" list recognizing Mark's 17 years as one of "California's Top 100 Lawyers." In addition, Mark has been recognized with the Daily Journal's "California Lawyer Attorney of the Year" (CLAY) Award three times, in 2000, 2013, and 2026, for having handled the most significant pro bono case in California on behalf of individuals who cannot afford counsel. The Legal 500 U.S. has lauded Mark as being "among the top litigators in the country."

Personal: University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, J.D.; University of California, Berkeley, B.A.

HOLT, Josh
Latham & Watkins LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Banking & Finance (California)

Practice Areas: Josh Holt represents lenders in a wide range of commercial financial transactions. Josh draws on a sophisticated understanding of the market and deep industry relationships to advise banks, commercial finance companies, business development companies, private credit funds, and other financial institutions on structuring, negotiating, and documenting: – Secured and unsecured credit facilities – Leveraged acquisition financings – Working capital financings – Private placements – Cross-border financings – Lending to the artificial intelligence sector and adjacent industries Josh previously served as Regional Department Chair of the firm's Finance Department in California. Outside the firm, he serves as a board member for a nonprofit that provides educational opportunities to local youth.

HOWARD, Andrew
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Featured in Construction (California)

Practice Areas: For clients engaged in complex construction projects and government contracting matters that have the potential for tens of millions of dollars in claims, Andy provides counseling and advice that reduces the risk of costly litigation. When disputes do arise, Andy relies on his 20+ years of litigation experience to protect his clients' interests in court, arbitration, or administrative tribunals. Andy represents clients across a wide range of industries, including real estate, construction, health care, aerospace, defense, energy, and technology, in both contested and transactional matters. Andy's practice involves representing both real estate and construction industry professionals and federal, state, and local government contractors. In his construction practice, Andy represents developers and large general or specialty contractors involved in complex commercial and public works construction projects in both transactional matters and litigation of disputes involving claims for extra work, defective work or design, delay, and other time-impact claims. In his government contracts practice, Andy counsels government contractors on the unique procurement and contracting policies and procedures applicable to federal, state, and local public contracting; on compliance with and negotiation of government agreements; on the standards for the protection of classified information; on small business contracting and subcontracting programs; and in internal investigations and other compliance matters. As a litigator, Andy has prosecuted and defended bid protests at the federal, state, and local levels; litigated public records requests as the requestor and submitter of information under FOIA and analogous state laws; prosecuted claims in the Court of Federal Claims and the Boards of Contract Appeals; and defended companies and investigations and related prosecutions under the False Claims Act.

Career: Member, firm's Partners Committee.

HOWARD, Robert
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Featured in Environment (California)

Practice Areas: Robert Howard retired from the partnership in December 2023 and is currently Of Counsel. Robert represents clients in the oil and gas, power, aerospace, defense, chemical, and cleantech industries. Robert has tried high-profile criminal and civil cases in federal and state courts. He handles governmental civil and criminal enforcement actions, clean water matters, toxic tort and product liability cases, public nuisance, asbestos matters, ocean sediment contamination, natural resources damages, federal facility divestitures, brownfield redevelopment, renewable energy projects, government contractor disputes, environmental litigation, and permitting cases. Robert formerly chaired the San Diego office's Environment, Land & Resources Department. Robert has published articles on criminal environmental enforcement, evidentiary issues, CERCLA cost recovery, and military base and federal war plant closures. His articles have been cited by the Supreme Courts of Michigan, Florida, New Mexico, and Wisconsin. Robert also speaks regularly on environmental and litigation topics at law schools and industry groups. Prior to joining Latham & Watkins, Robert served as a judicial clerk for Judge Jerry E. Smith of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He graduated from Duke Law School with honors and served as a notes editor on the Duke Law Journal. Robert is also a retired lieutenant colonel in the United States Marine Corps Reserve.

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Featured in Real Estate (California)

Practice Areas: Maria Pilar Hoyer advises clients on land use, environmental, and regulatory issues associated with entitling, developing, remediating, and managing complex developments in California. Maria focuses her practice on obtaining land use entitlements and environmental approvals for major real estate and development projects in California. She advises clients involving planning and zoning regulations as well as related environmental issues, including state and federal land use and environmental laws. Maria also advises on the evaluation of potential environmental liabilities, environmental regulatory compliance, and negotiation of environmental agreements for real estate and other business transactions. Maria is on the Board of Valley Industry Commerce Association and on the Board of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, and she previously served on the Board of PUENTE Learning Center. Maria formerly served as Chair of the Environment, Land & Resources Department in Latham's Los Angeles and

San Francisco offices. She is a former adjunct professor of Environmental Law at the University of Southern California Law School. She has previously served on a number of firm committees including Latham's Training and Career Enhancement and Finance Committees.

HSIAO, Peter
King & Spalding LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Environment (California)

Practice Areas: Peter Hsiao has 40 years of experience as a first-chair trial lawyer. He is head of the West Coast Environmental, Health & Safety Practice. Drawing upon his chemical engineering background, he is one of the nation's leading attorneys in environmental, natural resources, climate change and toxic tort law. Peter is a Fellow and former Chair of the Board of Regents of the American College of Environmental Lawyers. He is also former Chair of the State Bar of California's Environmental Law Section and a former member of the ABA's Standing Committee on Environmental Law. Mr. Hsiao is the editor of the California Environmental and Natural Resources Law Handbook. He is past-president of the Board of Directors for the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Counsel for Justice. He is a life fellow of the American Bar Foundation, former chair of the State Bar of California Committee on Legal Services to the Poor, and recipient of the Wiley W. Manuel Award for pro bono legal services.

HUANG, Kathy
Alston & Bird LLP, Los Angeles
Featured in Insurance (California)

Practice Areas: Kathy is a strategic legal advisor and seasoned litigator who represents major insurers and financial institutions in class actions and high-exposure business disputes. Her ability to navigate state and federal trial and appellate courts, as well as arbitral forums, ensures that her clients receive comprehensive protection through every phase of litigation. Kathy routinely counsels clients on matters that can have a significant impact on a company's operations and reputation and has served as co-lead defense counsel for multiple insurers in litigation across the United States. Kathy is recognized for her effectiveness and creativity in navigating the intricacies of California insurance statutes and nationwide consumer protection and privacy laws. Her practice is distinguished by a proven track record of defeating class certification, securing full defense verdicts, and achieving favorable settlements in some of the industry's most critical disputes, including cost of insurance, life and annuity sales practices, notice-lapse statutes, fraud, and breach of fiduciary duty cases.

Professional Memberships: Public Counsel, executive board, Corporate Governance Committee; firm's Pro Bono Executive Committee.

Publications: California Class Actions chapter, A Practitioner's Guide to Class Actions (American Bar Association).

HUESTON, John C

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Featured in Litigation (USA - Nationwide), Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: John Hueston has been described by Chambers as “the best lawyer of his generation” with a “commanding reputation for his trial advocacy.” “One of the top trial attorneys in the country” (Chambers), Mr. Hueston has been recognized as a “U.S. General Commercial Litigator of the Year” (2025), a “Trials MVP,” a “Competition MVP,” a “Lawyer of the Decade” and twice as a “California Lawyer of the Year,” including for his recovery of \$5.15 billion after trial. A fellow of both the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, Mr. Hueston represents Fortune 500 companies and governments as lead counsel in their most challenging and high-profile cases and investigations. His work ranges from winning and defeating multibillion-dollar actions to terminating some of the nation’s most significant regulatory and criminal investigations and cases. A former lead prosecutor for the Enron trial of Kenneth Lay and Jeffrey Skilling, Mr. Hueston is also noted for “his deftness with sensitive, white collar matters and investigations” (Benchmark Litigation). In these matters, his unrelenting focus is not just on winning, but also on avoiding reputational damage. As noted by Benchmark Litigation, “as great as he is with high-profile work, he is equally great with deliberately ‘low profile’ stuff—the matters his clients don’t want you hearing about.”

HURDLE JR, Steven E

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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Transactional (California)

Practice Areas: Steve Hurdle is a partner in the Corporate & Financial Services Department and the Entertainment Transactions Practice. Steve advises investors and companies on mergers and acquisitions, strategic relationships and joint ventures, and equity offerings at all stages. Steve’s practice crosses a wide variety of industries, including media, entertainment and technology; real estate; food and beverage; consumer products; aerospace and defense; and professional services. Among the other industries in which Steve advises clients, he has developed particular experience helping celebrities, entertainment companies and sources of capital in business formation, fundraising, investing, and business combination transactions. He has represented television production companies, film studios, digital and post-production companies, AI companies, content distributors, music publishers, talent management firms, talent agencies, business management firms, influencers, professional athletes, musicians and other public personalities, and regularly provides cutting-edge counsel to clients

at the forefront of the entertainment industry. Steve also advises innovative technology startups and their founders and investors, and has extensive experience working with entrepreneurs creating new digital media technologies that disrupt the way content is created, consumed and monetized.

HYMAN, Erik

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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Transactional: Mainly Talent (California)

Practice Areas: Erik Hyman is co-chair of the Entertainment and Media practice and chair of the Century City office. Erik is well known in the entertainment industry as a cutting-edge dealmaker and a fierce protector of his clients, which include award-winning movie stars, high-level television creators and show-runners, lead cast members of popular programs on scripted and unscripted television, “first-dollar-gross” producers and preeminent writers and directors. He is a tenacious champion for his diverse clients, whether they are creative individuals, film financiers or high-net-worth families making entertainment and media industry investments. Erik also works closely with multiple publicly traded, nonentertainment companies, steering their television and motion picture industry strategies and branded entertainment projects. Erik negotiates vanguard talent transactions; structures the financing, acquisition and sale of independent films; and builds major endorsement campaigns and product lines. He also advises companies regarding strategies for the production and exploitation of content for digital platforms. Erik is a frequent public speaker and serves as chairman of the board of the Herb Ritts Foundation, a private charitable foundation focused on HIV/AIDS research and advocacy.

Personal: Columbia Law School, J.D. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, B.A.

IANCU, Andrei

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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Intellectual Property and Technology Litigation; Artificial Intelligence

Career: Andrei Iancu is Co-Head of S&C’s Intellectual Property & Technology Litigation Group and is one of the leading voices in intellectual property law and innovation policy. He is a former Undersecretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property in the U.S. Department of Commerce and former Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), a position to which he was confirmed unanimously by the Senate. Andrei has decades of experience representing plaintiffs and defendants in IP matters across the technical and scientific spectra, including medical devices, genetic testing, therapeutics, the Internet, telephony, TV broadcasting, video game systems and computer peripherals.

He represents clients in litigation and trials before the district courts, the U.S. International Trade Commission and the USPTO, the Federal Circuit and U.S. Supreme Court, and also counsels clients on obtaining, licensing, enforcing and defending against IP rights globally. During his tenure at the USPTO, Andrei served as the administration’s principal advisor on domestic and international IP issues and created the National Council for Expanding American Innovation, a group of industry, academia and government leaders tasked with helping the USPTO develop a comprehensive national strategy to broaden participation in the innovation ecosystem demographically, geographically and economically. Throughout his career, Andrei has been widely recognized for his achievements and contributions to IP law and policy. He has been inducted into the IAM Hall of Fame by Intellectual Asset Management and named one of the “50 Most Influential People in IP” by Managing IP, and has received the American Intellectual Property Law Association’s “Excellence Award,” the Intellectual Property Owners Education Foundation “IP Champion Award” for “his extraordinary leadership in advocating for the value of intellectual property to stimulate the progress of innovation,” and the IEEE-USA “Award for Distinguished Public Service” for “restoring balance and confidence in the U.S. patent system.” He has earned accolades from leading publications, including Chambers USA, The Best Lawyers in America, Daily Journal, California Lawyer, Los Angeles Business Journal, Legal 500 and many others. Andrei is a prolific writer and sought-after speaker, and has received a “Distinguished Legal Writing Award” at Law360’s Burton Awards and a Cicero Speechwriting Award in two separate categories, Public Policy and Technology, for his speech “The Future Keeps Coming.”

Professional Memberships: Chairman of the Board, UCLA Technology Development Group (TDG); Co-founder and Chairman of the Board, Council for Innovation Promotion (C4IP); Co-founder and Senior Adviser, Renewing American Innovation Project, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) **Personal:** UCLA School of Law, J.D., 1996; University of California, Los Angeles, M.S., 1990; University of California, Los Angeles, B.S., 1989

IMWALLE, Miles

Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP, San Francisco
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Featured in Real Estate (California)

Practice Areas: Real Estate and Land Use

Career: Miles Imwalle is the chair of Coblentz’s Real Estate practice group. He advises clients on all aspects of the land use entitlement process and has shepherded some of the largest, most complex and controversial projects through the state’s notoriously difficult entitlement process, finding the most practical, efficient, and defensible path to obtaining entitlements. Miles has a

sophisticated understanding of the byzantine regulatory process development projects face, including compliance with state and federal environmental review statutes (NEPA and CEQA), the federal and California Endangered Species Acts, the Williamson Act, emerging California regulations addressing climate change, and local zoning and related laws and regulations. He understands these projects often require approvals from several local, regional, state, and federal agencies, each with different objectives and cultures. Miles works creatively and collaboratively with regulators to navigate potential pitfalls while seeking pragmatic solutions to seemingly intractable problems. Miles also has developed a deep interest and expertise in California’s evolving housing laws and has pioneered the use of recent legislation, including SB 35, the Housing Accountability Act, and recent reforms to the State Density Bonus Law. Miles works with a variety of clients and has successfully navigated entitlements for projects ranging from corporate R&D and office campuses, mix-use, housing rich transit-oriented developments, industrial facilities, and renewable energy projects. His work has helped with the approval of thousands of residential units, millions of square feet of office and R&D development and gigawatts of renewable energy.

J DOLAN, Matthew

Sidley Austin LLP, San Francisco

Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: MATTHEW J. DOLAN is a partner in the firm’s Palo Alto office. Matt maintains a broad-based commercial securities litigation practice, focusing on the representation of corporate and individual clients in the technology and life sciences industries in class action, shareholder derivative, and corporate governance litigation in state and federal courts in California, New York, and Delaware. He regularly represents public companies and individuals in matters involving the Securities and Exchange Commission and conducts internal investigations and counsels technology and life sciences companies on disclosure issues. Matt also has extensive experience representing issuers and underwriters in class action litigation in state and federal courts throughout the West Coast and Texas regarding securities offerings. Matt routinely represents public companies in the technology and life sciences industries in securities class action litigation and derivative litigation. Representative clients include Dendreon Corporation, Iovance Biotherapeutics and Nektar Therapeutics. Matt also devotes a substantial portion of his practice to representing technology companies in confidential internal investigations and SEC investigations, including representation of a public technology company in an alleged stock price manipulation scheme and representation of a public technology company CFO in an alleged accounting fraud.

JACOBS, Alex

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Featured in Real Estate (California: Southern)

Practice Areas: Alex Jacobs is a partner in the firm's Real Estate group and serves as co-chair of its Real Estate Joint Ventures and Real Estate Finance & Restructurings practice. His practice focuses on the representation of private and institutional investors, owners and developers in connection with the acquisition, disposition, development, and financing of commercial real estate properties. He also negotiates and structures complex joint venture arrangements between sponsors and capital providers. Alex represents clients acquiring, developing, repositioning and investing in a wide range of asset types including land for residential development, multifamily residential projects, retail properties, office buildings, and hotels and resorts.

Career: JD, 2000 University of Southern California, Gould School of Law BA, 1997 University of California, Berkeley

JACOBS, Matthew

Baker Botts L.L.P., San Francisco
matt.jacobs@bakerbotts.com

Featured in Litigation (California)

Career: As a highly regarded former federal prosecutor, Matt Jacobs represents public company boards, audit committees, companies and executives in anti-corruption, fraud and related internal and government investigations. Matt also advises on due diligence and compliance matters and helps his clients navigate around and through issues that threaten their reputations and their business. Additionally, he serves as Chair of Baker Botts' Litigation practice in California. As a federal prosecutor in the Justice Department, Matt successfully co-lead the prosecutions of Enron's energy traders for their roles in the manipulation of California energy markets. He won an FBI Director's Award for that work, and another Director's Award for a first-of-its-kind prosecution of a medical device manufacturer for deaths caused in the malfunction of a heart stent. Matt was based in the Northern District of California and served in the white collar and securities enforcement sections. In that capacity, Matt led a series of significant investigations and prosecutions in the securities, energy, healthcare, insurance and technology sectors and conducted a number of money laundering and cross-border investigations. He is an experienced trial lawyer who has tried more than a dozen cases to verdict. For the last 17 years, Matt has been on the defense side and has served as lead counsel representing major technology companies as well as firms in the financial services, energy, heavy industry and healthcare sectors. Matt is particularly known for giving practical and strategic advice, and for his doggedness in fighting for his clients' interests. Matt is skilled in handling antitrust (cartel) matters before US and foreign antitrust authorities, Foreign Corrupt

Practices Act investigations, financial fraud and whistleblower allegations. Matt is particularly effective in dealing with high profile and politically sensitive cases. Before he was a lawyer, Matt was an award winning journalist for a daily newspaper in Shreveport, Louisiana. While serving in the Justice Department, he was appointed by Robert S. Mueller III, who was then serving as US Attorney for the Northern District of California, as spokesman for the Department in Northern California and handled all media and press inquiries regarding federal criminal matters for six years. Matt also has an active pro bono docket and has served for many years on the Criminal Justice Act Panel based on an appointment from the judges of the Northern District of California, representing indigent criminal defendants in federal cases, as well as handling appeals before the Ninth Circuit US Court of Appeals. He graduated Order of the Coif from Stanford Law School and served as an editor on the Law Review, and also holds a Master's degree in Journalism with honors from the Medill School at Northwestern University. He served as a law clerk to the Honorable Walter J. Cummings on the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals based in Chicago.

JEFFRIES, Andrea Weiss

Jones Day, Los Angeles

Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Career: Andrea Jeffries is an IP-focused trial lawyer with over 30 years of experience. Andrea leads significant patent and trade secret matters across a range of technologies, including pharmaceuticals, medical devices, semiconductors, and wireless communications. In the life sciences arena, Andrea has represented major pharmaceutical companies in high-stakes Hatch-Waxman litigation, competitor patent infringement litigation, and trade secret cases involving cutting-edge therapies and treatments. In the technology sector, Andrea has handled complex matters for prominent companies as well as for universities. Andrea has written and spoken extensively on IP topics, including on cross-border trade secret litigation and patent damages. She has been active in the Sedona Conference, serving as chair and chair emeritus of the Patent Damages & Remedies Working Group and vice chair and vice chair emeritus of the Patent Litigation Best Practices Working Group, both since 2015. In addition, Andrea has served on the Executive Committee of the University of Southern California Intellectual Property Institute (USC IPI) since 2016. Andrea is recognized among the top IP and technology lawyers in California.

JOHNSON, Arwen

King & Spalding LLP, Los Angeles

Featured in Media & Entertainment: Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Arwen Johnson is a trial lawyer who delivers results in high-stakes cases and regularly wins dispositive motions. Arwen specializes in intellectual property, employment, and

class action disputes for entertainment, tech, and healthcare companies. Arwen's clients rely on her expertise in trade secrets, employee mobility, partnership disputes, copyright infringement and idea theft, defamation and high net worth litigation. They also count on her extensive knowledge of emergency and provisional remedies, the anti-SLAPP statute, class action procedures, and trial motion practice and appeals. Ms. Johnson also serves as the Managing Partner of the firm's Los Angeles office.

JOHNSON, Kendall K

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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Transactional (California)

Practice Areas: Kendall Johnson works at the intersection of sports and entertainment, drawing on her unique level of crossover experience to handle transactions spanning across the industry. Combining broad transactional experience and sophisticated industry knowledge, Kendall regularly navigates complex transactions in the sports and entertainment business. She works with a mix of clients based both in the US and internationally, including: – Professional teams, governing bodies, and other major sports rightsholders – Networks, studios, streaming platforms, and independent production companies – Digital and new media content creators and distributors – Private capital and strategic investors – High-level individual talent Her practice work includes: – Licensing of media, sponsorship, and other commercial rights for college, international, and professional sports organizations – Private capital investments, strategic joint venture arrangements, and industry specific M&A – Film and television financing and distribution transactions – Complex content, brand licensing, and strategic talent arrangements Prior to joining Latham, Kendall worked in the Stanford University athletic department, where she acted as the primary public relations contact for various teams, collaborated closely with television networks, and coordinated media efforts for numerous NCAA Championship events.

JOHNSON, Kevin

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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Kevin Johnson, who has an electrical engineering degree from Cornell, serves as lead counsel for companies such as Samsung, Sony, MediaTek, Natera, and Salesforce, to name a few. He has tried many cases to verdict for these and other clients throughout his career. His practice focuses on litigating patent infringement, trade secret, unfair competition, trademark, copyright, and licensing actions in Federal and State courts, as well as the International Trade Commission. His experience ranges from representing Fortune 50 companies to smaller, rapidly growing technology

companies in disputes related to smart-phones, microprocessors, wireless communications, semiconductor processing equipment, liquid crystal devices, consumer electronics, medical devices, biotech and life science products, software and graphics, telecommunications, and optical devices.

JOHNSON, Michele D

Latham & Watkins LLP, Costa Mesa
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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Michele Johnson, Global Chair of the Litigation & Trial Department, is consistently recognized as a leading national trial lawyer. Michele represents industry-leading companies, officers and directors, special committees, and financial institutions in connection with: – Securities class actions – Shareholder derivative litigation – Mergers and acquisitions litigation – Battles for corporate control – Fiduciary duty cases – Proxy contests – SEC enforcement actions – Internal investigations – Other complex, high-exposure litigation Michele's recent representations include securities class action trials, special committee engagements in controlling stockholder transactions, multi-jurisdictional litigation arising out of solicited and hostile takeover attempts, and investigations and litigation on behalf of special committees and boards of directors related to public company crises. She has significant trial experience involving securities, contract, product liability, unfair business practices, intellectual property, tax, and insurance bad faith trials. Michele is a former member of Latham's Executive Committee and the former Managing Partner of the Orange County office. She has served on the firm's Pro Bono and Associates Committees as well. She serves on the boards of the Georgetown University Law Center, Berkeley Center for Law and Business, and Orange County Bar Foundation's Project Youth, is a member of the American Bar Association's Corporate Laws Committee, and is past president of the Orange County chapter of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers.

JOHNSTON, Pamela L

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Consumer Law, Finance & Class Action Group, False Claims Act, Financial Institutions, Government Enforcement Defense & Investigations, Litigation, Privacy, Security & Information Management, Securities Enforcement & Litigation, State Attorneys General

Career: Clients facing investigations by the Department of Justice (DOJ), the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and other agencies turn to Pamela Johnston for her sound judgment. Informed by her extensive trial experience, successful handling of various types of fraud and corruption investigations, depth in the area of par-

allel False Claims Act (FCA) and criminal investigations, and her understanding of the criminal system and ability to navigate effectively that system on behalf of her clients, Pam's clients value her ability to defend them effectively in court when required. She is a partner in the firm's Government Enforcement Defense & Investigations and Securities Enforcement & Litigation Practice Groups as well as the Health Care & Life Sciences Sector. Pam represents companies and individuals in investigations and cases involving the False Claims Act (FCA), health care fraud, complex criminal laws, SEC/DOJ securities issues, customs / tariff FCA and criminal enforcement, immigration workplace enforcement investigations targeting companies, and criminal environmental. She is an experienced trial lawyer who has tried more than 30 cases in federal and state courts and has written more than 60 federal appellate briefs. Pam honed her trial skills during her 14 years as an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA), ending her DOJ tenure in the Los Angeles United States Attorney's Office as a Deputy Chief of the Major Frauds Section. She began that tenure as a civil AUSA, prosecuting FCA, FIRREA, and forfeiture cases. Pam is well known as a Los Angeles insider-trading and health care lawyer. Pam also represents companies in complex commercial disputes. According to Chambers USA, clients and market sources describe Pam as a "really fine lawyer" who particularly stands out for her "tremendous insight" into the strategies of government agencies." They also say she is "very strong and very effective," "extremely knowledgeable and experienced," and has "impeccable judgment." Pam has "strong litigation credentials and expertise" in False Claims Act cases and a "range of white-collar criminal matters, including securities enforcement." A client noted, "I was very pleased with her availability to promptly get back to me anytime, day or night," adding, "She has great judgment and is tough when she needs to be."

JONES, Hannah

Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP, San Francisco

Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Employment litigation, investigations and counseling

Career: Hannah Jones has a multi-faceted litigation, investigations and counseling practice focused on the legal issues affecting today's employers. She represents clients in individual and class action litigations and administrative proceedings involving employee mobility and intellectual property issues (including non-compete agreements, trade secrets, employee raiding, invention assignment rights, and non-solicitation obligations), discrimination, wage and hour practices, and wrongful termination. Hannah also works directly with clients to solve thorny pre-litigation counseling matters including managing internal investigations, risk management and compliance, negotiating and preparing employment-related

agreements, conducting workplace trainings, and formulating corporate policies and manuals.

Professional Memberships: Hannah is an Association of Workplace Investigators Certificate Holder (AWI-CH). AWI is a professional association for those who conduct or manage workplace investigations.

JONES, Julie

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Featured in Environment (California)

Practice Areas: Environment, Energy & Resources Land Use & Development Real Estate & Land Use Infrastructure Development Land Development Real Estate

Career: Julie Jones represents clients in environmental and land use counseling and litigation for complex development projects. She resolves issues that arise under the California Environmental Quality Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Water Act, federal and state species protection statutes, and various other local, state, and federal statutes and common law doctrines that affect land use. Julie assists private and public entities in permitting major university, traditional and renewable energy, water supply, marine terminal, residential, and commercial projects.

JONES, Peter

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, Palo Alto

*Featured in Corporate/M&A (California):
San Francisco, Silicon Valley & Surround*

Practice Areas: M&A, Technology, Digital Infrastructure, Private Equity, Corporate Governance, Shareholder Activism

Career: Partner at S&C since 2024 and prior to that a partner at another tier 1 firm. Peter Jones is a partner in Sullivan & Cromwell's M&A, Technology, Digital Infrastructure and Private Equity Groups and is resident in the Firm's Palo Alto office. Peter represents clients across a range of corporate transactions with a particular focus on technology clients and financial sponsors. Peter was named a "Rising Star" in Technology by Law360, was selected to Daily Journal's "40 Under 40" and sits on Law360's M&A editorial board.

Personal: College of Law, London, Legal Practice Course, 2010; College of Law, London, Diploma in Law, 2009; University of St. Andrews, M.A., 2008.

JONES-MCKEOWN, Meredith A

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Featured in Construction (California)

Practice Areas: Construction Business Litigation Infrastructure Development Land Use & Development Litigation Real Estate & Land Use Trial Practice Energy Infrastructure & Clean Technology Land Development Real Estate

Career: Meredith Jones-McKeown's legal experience spans construction law, environmental issues, government contracts, and real estate litigation and transactions. She is adept at negotiating and structuring complex contracts for

large-scale construction projects across California. Her courtroom successes are complemented by her skill in handling various aspects of construction projects for a diverse clientele that includes property owners, universities, hospitals, energy providers, contractors, and more. Meredith is a trial lawyer with a distinguished national construction practice. In the past three years, she has dedicated more than six months to trial work and notable achievements, including securing a unanimous jury verdict on all counts after a two-month jury trial in Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles. She secured one of the largest prompt payment awards in California history, approximately \$124 million, following a bench trial. Meredith has successfully tried cases in state and federal court as well as private arbitration. In her practice, Meredith drafts and negotiates a range of agreements, including engineering, procurement, and construction contracts; design-build contracts; and professional/consultant contracts, and modified American Institute of Architects documents. Her project portfolio is extensive, encompassing solar-generation facilities, major commercial ventures, mixed-use developments, medical facilities, and public-bond funded constructions. Recognized for her significant contributions to the field, Meredith was named one of the "Most Influential Women in Bay Area Business" by the San Francisco Business Times.

JULIAN, Robert A

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Featured in Bankruptcy/Restructuring (California)

Practice Areas: Robert Julian has more than 40 years of experience resolving complex litigation involving multiple parties and claims. Robert's experience includes mass torts and fire litigation, complex contract disputes, unfair competition and trade secret litigation and breach of fiduciary duty cases and related corporate investigations, with an emphasis on such cases in an insolvency or company restructure setting. In the past several years, Robert has successfully defended more than \$1 billion in five defense cases, recovered more than \$1 billion in plaintiffs' cases and led the mass tort fire claimants committee that recovered \$13.5 billion for victims in the historic PG&E bankruptcy case. He has substantial experience with issues that arise in troubled company settings, including fiduciary duty and agency disputes; insider control; director, officer and professional liability claims and related authority issues; direct vs. derivative shareholder claim ownership disputes; treatment of insurance coverage; fraudulent and preferential conveyances; joint venture disputes; pension claim disputes; disguised loan and other property of the bankruptcy estate disputes; alter ego and equitable remedies; lender-debtor disputes; mandatory and equitable subordination claims; right to jury trial and bankruptcy

jurisdiction battles; resolution of plaintiff claims in bankruptcy; withdrawal of the reference; centralization of tort claims in the bankruptcy and district courts; abstention over claims in favor of state court; and insurance receivership disputes; and bank and bank holding company failures.

JURA, Perlette Michèle

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Featured in Food & Beverages (USA - Nationwide), Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Perlette Jura is a partner in Gibson Dunn's Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. offices, where she serves on the Firm's Executive Committee. Her practice focuses on complex litigation. She co-chairs the Firm's Consumer Products and Retail Group and is also the co-founder and co-chair of its Transnational Litigation and ESG Risk Groups. She has played a leading role in a number of the Firm's most high-profile matters for clients across a range of industries, including food and beverage, technology and energy.

Career: Perlette operates at the cutting edge of litigation affecting consumer product and tech companies, both domestically and internationally. She has taken on critical leadership roles in high-stakes consumer product and supply chain disputes at the trial and appellate levels, including before the U.S. Supreme Court, and has been central to cases that have shaped the law in these areas. She regularly counsels clients on regulatory strategy and litigation risk, with particular expertise in navigating sensitive matters that carry overlapping legal, reputational, and media dimensions with global implications.

Professional Memberships: Perlette is a member of the Pacific Council on International Policy and a member of the Women of Stanford Law. Perlette served on the Board of Directors for the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, where she is a lifetime member. Perlette is deeply committed to pro bono work: she has received the Firm's annual award for successfully litigating the Firm's Most Challenging Pro Bono Matter, served as a Military Commission Observer for the 9/11 proceedings in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and she has partnered with Lawyers Without Borders to do important cross-border pro bono work.

Personal: JD, Order of the Coif, Stanford Law School; B.A., Summa Cum Laude, University of California, Santa Barbara. Perlette clerked for The Honorable Pamela Ann Rymer, United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit.

KABA, Moez

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Featured in Litigation (USA - Nationwide), Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Managing partner of Houston Hennigan, Moez Kaba is a nationally recognized trial lawyer ranked Chambers Band 1 in U.S. Trial Lawyers

and General Commercial Litigation. Praised as “a master in the courtroom,” “outstanding in his trial capabilities,” and a client’s “secret weapon,” Mr. Kaba routinely captures among the country’s highest-profile trial and appellate victories. Named a “Trials MVP” by Law360, he has been lauded in national rankings as a “powerhouse” lawyer and “trial specialist.” Chambers, for example, has named him as one of the best trial lawyers in the U.S., and Benchmark Litigation listed him as one of the “Top 100 Trial Lawyers in America”—he was the youngest lawyer nationally on the list—and among the “Top 20 Trial Lawyers in California.” Mr. Kaba is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, which is recognized as the preeminent organization of trial lawyers in North America. He is also a fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, a group of “truly elite trial lawyers who have achieved a career of excellence through demonstrated skill and ability in jury trials.” This invitation-only organization is limited to 500 active U.S. trial lawyers. Mr. Kaba is one of a select group who are members of both organizations. Representing a variety of clients from Fortune 500 companies to entrepreneurs and high-profile individuals, Mr. Kaba develops creative and disruptive strategies to solve business’ unique objectives in a broad array of general complex civil litigation, including commercial disputes, securities, trade secrets, entertainment and intellectual property matters. As touted in Chambers, Mr. Kaba is “one of the best” trial lawyers in the country, “tries a lot of cases and wins, which is what it’s all about” and “there’s nobody quicker or more consistently on the money when complex judgment calls need to be made.” Clients also say Mr. Kaba is “innovative, smart and able to see problems from various perspectives. His oral advocacy skills are second to none,” and “he has a remarkable ability to home in on the most salient issues immediately.” Clients describe him as “an incredibly strong trial lawyer and effective cross-examiner” who is “excellent on his feet” with “outstanding instincts.” In addition to his litigation practice, Mr. Kaba dedicates considerable time to pro bono work focusing on access to justice and social issues. Among his pro bono achievements, he obtained a preliminary injunction for Freedom for Immigrants (FFI) in an important, closely watched First Amendment case, ordering U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement to restore FFI’s National Immigration Detention Hotline. He also represented the Council for American-Islamic Relations in its efforts to support a San Diego school district regulation that was designed to protect Muslim students who are particularly at risk of being bullied. Additionally, he represented Equality California in challenging the constitutionality of California’s ban on same-sex marriage in the U.S. Supreme Court. For several years, he represented various women’s rights groups in cases challenging the constitutionality of the Defense of

Marriage Act (DOMA) and state bans on same-sex marriage.

KABLER, Kevin

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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Kevin Kabler is a partner in Goodwin’s nationally recognized Life Sciences group. His practice focuses on developing and implementing value-creating patent portfolio strategies for emerging and mature life sciences companies. Dr. Kabler integrates with his clients, fully understands their business goals, and works directly with them to build comprehensive and efficient patent portfolio strategies to advance those goals. Dr. Kabler’s practice also involves strategic patent counseling and intellectual property due diligence for his life sciences clients, including companies and investors. His diligence work includes acting as lead patent counsel on behalf of his clients in mergers, acquisitions, and strategic partnership formation with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. He has extensive experience advising his clients in assessing competitive landscapes, complex intellectual property assets, associated risks, and thoughtful mitigation of those risks. His deep diligence experience and strategic insights have made him one of the most preferred diligence counsel in California for life sciences companies and their investors.

Personal: JD, University of California College of the Law, San Francisco (magna cum laude, Order of the Coif, Thurston Honor Society); PhD, Immunology, Baylor College of Medicine; BS, Microbiology, Kansas State University (cum laude)

KALYVAS, James R

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Featured in Outsourcing (California)

Practice Areas: Cybersecurity, Intellectual Property, Privacy, Security & Information Management, Technology Transactions, Cybersecurity, and Privacy

KAMBER, Matthias

Paul Hastings LLP, San Francisco
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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Matthias Kamber is a partner in the Intellectual Property practice of Paul Hastings and is based in the firm’s San Francisco office. Matthias focuses on litigating intellectual property cases and has tried approximately ten jury and bench trials. In particular, Matthias has handled patent cases involving internet advertising and telephones, smartphones and microprocessors throughout the country and before the U.S. International Trade Commission. Matthias has also handled trade secret, copyright and trademark matters, as well as commercial, employment and antitrust matters. Regardless of the type of case or technology, he focuses

on identifying key issues early, setting a targeted legal strategy and balancing corporate objectives. This approach has resulted in favorable pre-trial dispositions, successfully negotiated resolutions and victories both at trial and on appeal. It has also earned him numerous public recognitions. Matthias currently serves as a member of the Board for the Federal Circuit Bar Association. He previously served as co-chair of the Amicus Committee and, prior to that, co-chair of the Veterans Pro Bono Committee (he has also represented veterans in pro bono appeals to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims). From 2015 – 2021, Matthias also served on the Advisory Council of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Personal: The George Washington University Law School, J.D. Cornell University, M.S.

KANCHANAPOOMI, Nisha

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Featured in Banking & Finance (California)

Practice Areas: Nisha Kanchanapoomi is a corporate partner in the Los Angeles office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP whose practice focuses on all aspects of debt financing transactions. She represents private equity sponsors, hedge funds, public and private companies and capital sources and has experience with a variety of transaction structures, including secured and unsecured financings, senior, mezzanine and subordinated financings, cash-flow and asset-based loans, leveraged buyouts, recapitalizations, workouts and restructurings (including debtor-in-possession and exit financings). Nisha has handled transactions in a diverse group of industries, including technology, consumer products, business services, industrial growth, entertainment and media, retail, healthcare, fitness, luxury brands and life sciences.

Personal: University of Southern California, Gould School of Law, J.D., 2006; University of California, Berkeley, B.A., English, 2002

KANE, Matthew C

BakerHostetler LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Matthew Kane is a Co-Leader of the firm’s Employment/Wage & Hour Class Actions practice team. For almost three decades, as a lawyer in private practice and in-house counsel for a Fortune 50 company, he has been providing clients with proactive, pragmatic and cutting-edge strategies for preventing, resolving and defending employment and other business disputes and issues. Matt is passionate about delivering exceptional client service and work product and finding the shortest and most cost-effective path to a positive outcome for his clients, however they may define that. He has been recognized as a West Trailblazer by The American Lawyer, a BTI Consulting Client Service All Star, a Lawdragon 500

Leading U.S. Corporate Employment Lawyer, a Human Resources Executive Most Powerful Employment Lawyer, and is Chambers-rated for Labor & Employment – California. Matthew Kane represents businesses in preventing, litigating and resolving employment-related claims, including wage and hour class actions and collective actions, California Labor Code Private Attorney General Act (PAGA) representative actions, misappropriation of trade secrets and non-competition agreement claims, and labor-management relations issues. Matt has significant experience representing clients in the financial services, food and beverage, hospitality, manufacturing, real estate services, retail, transportation and third-party logistics and distribution industries.

Professional Memberships: California Lawyers Association -- Labor and Employment Section -- Litigation Section Los Angeles County Bar Association -- Labor and Employment Section -- Litigation Section Association of Southern California Defense Counsel Retail Litigation Center, Defense Division, Employee Defense Premier Member Representative (2019 to 2021)

KASSAI, Alex

Latham & Watkins LLP, San Francisco
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Featured in Venture Capital (California)

Practice Areas: Alex Kassai represents high-growth emerging private and public companies, as well as institutional and corporate venture capital investors, on a wide range of complex transactions. Alex counsels companies at every stage of their life cycle, including: – Pre-incorporation planning – Company formations – Fundraising strategies – Private financings – IPOs – Follow-on equity and debt offerings – M&A, spinoffs, and other complex business collaborations – Corporate governance and SEC reporting He has advised clients in hundreds of private financings and M&A transactions, as well as many high-profile IPOs and public offerings, including Corsair, Pure Storage, Roku, Snap, Snowflake, and Zoom. Alex’s practice spans the full spectrum of high growth industries, including biotechnology, medical devices, software, social media, and technology.

KATZ, Ori

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Featured in Bankruptcy/Restructuring (California)

Practice Areas: Ori Katz has over two decades of experience helping clients navigate challenging business bankruptcies, restructurings and insolvency matters. He is a member of the Finance and Bankruptcy group and serves on the firm’s Executive Committee. A Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, Ori represents debtors, creditors, committees and asset purchasers in significant bankruptcy cases and litigation. He advises lenders on loan workouts, foreclosures and borrower bankruptcies, having handled portfolios

exceeding \$1 billion in funded debt. Ori has successfully reorganized companies across industries including real estate, retail, biotech, agriculture, telecommunications and media. With strategic insight and a results-driven approach, Ori helps clients navigate distressed asset sales, resolve creditor disputes and emerge from intricate reorganizations.

Professional Memberships: Member, Insolvency Law Committee, Business Law Section, State Bar of California Member, Bay Area Bankruptcy Forum Member, State Bar of California Member, American Bar Association Member, Bar Association of San Francisco

KAVCIOGLU, Armenak

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Featured in Construction (California)

Practice Areas: Mr. Kavcioglu's practice focuses on public works and commercial construction projects. He counsels construction industry clients in matters relating to procurement, scope of work disputes, cost growth, delay, disruption, labor inefficiency, loss of production, differing site conditions, and all types of change order claims. He works with clients to resolve disputes as they arise during construction projects. He has settled numerous disputes arising from changes, delays, impacts, and other issues while the project is in progress, without resorting to litigation.

KAY, Randy

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Featured in Intellectual Property (USA - Nationwide), Intellectual Property (California)

See under Nationwide for profile.

KEANE JR, Robert M

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Featured in Real Estate (California: Southern)

Practice Areas: Robert Keane is a real estate partner in the Los Angeles office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP. He concentrates his practice primarily on the representation of private equity firms, opportunity funds, domestic and international companies, investment banks, commercial banks, non-regulated lenders and pension funds in real estate-related equity investments, joint venture formations, lending, acquisitions and dispositions and debt restructuring, workouts and reorganizations.

Personal: Loyola Marymount University, B.A.; Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, J.D.

KELLY, Brian

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Featured in Insurance (California)

Practice Areas: Brian A. Kelly represents clients in connection with commercial, environmental and insurance matters. Mr. Kelly is a trial attorney with extensive jury and court trial experience.

His practice involves counseling clients in all stages of risk, and he is frequently retained before a lawsuit is filed in an effort to manage risk. Mr. Kelly has extensive experience representing clients in arbitrations, mediations and all other types of alternative dispute resolution. In all engagements, Mr. Kelly works closely with his clients to achieve defined goals in the most cost-effective manner.

Career: Duane Morris LLP: Partner, 2006-present; Hancock Rother & Bunshoft LLP: Partner, 1993 – 2005, Associate, 1986 – 1992; Courtenay, Forstall, Grace & Hebert: Associate, 1984 – 1986

Professional Memberships: Bar Association of San Francisco; American Bar Association

Personal: Loyola University School of Law, J.D., 1984; California State University, B.A., 1980

KELLY, Bryan

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Featured in Tax (California: Southern)

Practice Areas: Bryan Kelly is a partner in the Tax Department. He advises private and public companies and family offices on the tax aspects of sophisticated domestic and cross-border transactions. Bryan helps clients to identify opportunities and manage risk in relation to business expansions, dispositions and restructurings; the development and exploitation of intellectual property; and mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and financings, including pre- and post-acquisition restructurings. Bryan also provides tax advice to successful families, and advises individuals in connection with matters such as pre-immigration and exit tax planning, inbound investment into the United States, including investment in U.S. real estate, and the income tax aspects of intra-family wealth transfers. In addition to providing U.S. tax advice, Bryan regularly coordinates with advisors across multiple jurisdictions to manage the global design and implementation of structuring and restructuring projects. In addition, Bryan represents sponsors and investors in connection with the formation and operation of private investment funds, including buyout, mezzanine capital, special situations, infrastructure and real estate funds, as well as funds of funds.

KENNEDY, Shayne

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Featured in Capital Markets (California), Capital Markets (USA - Nationwide)

Practice Areas: Shayne Kennedy advises clients on capital markets, with a particular emphasis on public and private securities offerings for issuers and underwriters in a range of industries including biotechnology, medical devices and medtech, pharmaceuticals, health-care, digital health, technology, and consumer products. He also represents various public and private companies in

general corporate and securities matters including corporate governance, public company reporting, and stock exchange rules and requirements. Shayne currently serves as Global Chair of Latham & Watkins' Healthcare & Life Sciences Industry Group. He is the former Managing Partner of the firm's Orange County office, the former Global Co-Chair of the firm's Capital Markets Practice, and a former Vice Chair of the firm's Associates Committee.

KESHAVARZI, Moe

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Healthcare (California)

Practice Areas: Moe is a trial and appellate litigator and represents healthcare entities in a variety of disputes. He has been recognized by both Chambers and Legal 500 as a leading healthcare lawyer in the United States and has been lead counsel in a number of landmark healthcare cases. In 2024, the Los Angeles Business Journal recognized Moe as one of the Top 100 lawyers in Los Angeles. Since 2020, the Daily Journal has recognized eight of Moe's wins as Top Verdicts in California. Moe also represents clients in connection with governmental investigations and enforcement actions involving state and federal agencies. He also regularly represents clients in litigation involving challenges to statutes and regulations on constitutional grounds.

KHODADAD, Mehdi

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Featured in Private Equity (California)

Practice Areas: MEHDI KHODADAD serves as global co-leader of the firm's M&A and Private Equity group, and a member of the firm's Management Committee and Executive Committee. His practice focuses on representing leading technology and life sciences companies and their private equity and other investment sponsors. He counsels corporate clients, entrepreneurs, and investors on a wide variety of transactions, including private and public financings, corporate restructurings, mergers and acquisitions, leveraged buy-outs and related private equity transactions, cross-border, and other structured corporate transactions. Mehdi also regularly advises the boards of directors, management, and special committees of corporate clients and their investors on a wide variety of securities law and corporate governance matters.

KIDD, Allison H.

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Featured in Real Estate (California: Northern), Real Estate (California)

Practice Areas: Allison is a partner in Gibson Dunn's Real Estate and Land Use practices. She represents private equity funds, institutional and non-institutional investors, and developers in a wide variety of commercial real estate transactions including acquisitions and dispositions; joint ventures and preferred equity investments; mortgage, mezzanine,

and construction financing; and loan restructuring and workouts. Her practice spans all asset classes including office, industrial, residential, student housing and senior housing, with particular focus on real estate development and complex mixed-use projects. Allison has significant experience structuring and implementing large-scale, multi-phase development projects, including public-private partnership structures, ground leases and development agreements. Representative development matters include Brookfield's 28-acre mixed-use development at San Francisco's Pier 70, The Related Companies' 300-acre mixed use development in Santa Clara, and the Golden State Warrior's Chase Center in San Francisco.

Personal: JD, University of California (LA), 2008. Master of Public Policy, University of California (LA), 2008. BA, Columbia University, magna cum laude, 2001.

KIM, Anne

Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Los Angeles
+1 310 552 4224
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Featured in Tax (California: Southern)

Practice Areas: Anne's practice focuses on advising public and private companies in both taxable and tax-free mergers and acquisitions, divestitures, cross-border transactions, recapitalizations and formation of joint ventures. She has significant experience representing private equity firms and asset managers in all aspects of transactions, including secondaries transactions, liquidity solutions for private fund sponsors and asset management M&A. She also advises clients on the tax aspects of capital markets transactions and debt restructurings. Anne has over the years been recognized in International Tax Review, The Legal 500, LA Times Studios and Los Angeles Business Journal.

Personal: Columbia Law School, J.D., 2003; Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar; Yale College, B.A., magna cum laude, 1997.

KLEE, Peter

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Featured in Insurance (California)

Practice Areas: Peter Klee is an experienced litigator and trial lawyer who defends insurance companies and their affiliates that are sued in individual actions and class actions for bad faith, fraud, unfair competition and other torts. He has handled over 3,000 such cases throughout the country over the past 35 years. Representing major insurance carriers doing business in California and nationwide, Peter has built a reputation as a leading trial lawyer in the insurance field. He has successfully handled dozens of jury trials and appellate matters, in both state and federal courts, consistently achieving favorable outcomes for clients. His defense verdicts have been recognized among California's top defense verdicts of the year multiple times. Peter is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) and

a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, which limits its membership to the top one percent of trial lawyers in the United States and Canada. He is top-ranked (Band 1) by Chambers USA for insurance law. A co-author of the Rutter Group's Insurance Litigation California Practice Guide—the leading treatise on insurance law in the state—Peter frequently lectures on insurance issues and conducts training seminars for insurance organizations and lawyers.

KLEIN, Anthony

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Featured in Technology (California)

Practice Areas: Anthony Klein retired from the partnership in December 2025. He was a leader of the firm's Digital Health initiative, counseled emerging growth and established technology and service companies, negotiating their strategic alliances and technology/IP-related transactions. Anthony provided clients with practical legal advice to facilitate their strategic business transactions. He leveraged a sophisticated understanding of the intricacies of dynamic technologies, drawing on more than 30 years of experience in Silicon Valley and around the world.

KLIEGER, Robert

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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Robert N. Klieger has earned a national reputation as a go-to litigator and trusted advisor to media and entertainment clients. Mr. Klieger resolves high-stakes disputes for clients in the motion picture, television, and video game industries. Fortune 500 companies and leading executives alike value his exceptional courtroom skills and successful outcomes in a broad array of matters, including copyright, trademark, profit participation, licensing, and shareholder derivative suits. Among his accolades, Mr. Klieger has been named "Entertainment Litigation Attorney of the Year" by Benchmark Litigation and has been recognized on The Hollywood Reporter's "Power Lawyers" list and Variety's "Legal Impact Report." He's also been honored as an Entertainment Law "MVP" by Law360 and as a leading lawyer in Media and Entertainment and General Commercial Litigation by Chambers. In March 2025, Mr. Klieger secured a complete defense verdict for The Walt Disney Company and its subsidiaries in a high-profile suit brought by an animator who alleged the blockbuster movie "Moana" infringed his copyrights. Mr. Klieger is currently representing the major record labels, including UMG Recordings and Sony Music Entertainment, in high-stakes copyright litigation against two leading generative AI music companies, Suno and Udio. He is also representing the successor to the rights of Michael Crichton, the acclaimed author and filmmaker who created the television series "ER,"

in a high-profile suit filed against Warner Bros., John Wells, and Noah Wyle related to the HBO Max series "The Pitt." Mr. Klieger served as lead counsel for media mogul Sumner M. Redstone in one of the most dramatic and high-stakes entertainment industry showdowns in decades. The battle for control of Mr. Redstone's \$40 billion media empire played out in a series of high-profile legal proceedings in the courts of Delaware, Massachusetts, and California that were front-page news in mainstream and industry publications, including Fortune, The Hollywood Reporter, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and Variety. Through across-the-board victories in these actions, Mr. Klieger helped restore Mr. Redstone's control of Viacom and cleared the way for sweeping changes in the management and strategic direction of the company. In addition to his litigation engagements, Mr. Klieger regularly advises motion picture studios, broadcast and cable television networks, and video game publishers in connection with a wide variety of intellectual property, privacy, and contract issues. He is frequently consulted in connection with the negotiation and drafting of complex motion picture licensing and distribution agreements. Mr. Klieger served on the board of directors of CBS Corporation from 2017 through 2019 and on the board of directors of ViacomCBS, Inc., subsequently renamed Paramount Global, from 2019 through 2024.

KLINE, Richard A

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*Featured in Capital Markets (California),
Capital Markets (USA - Nationwide)*

Career: Rick Kline, Chair of Latham's Technology Industry Group and Bay Area Corporate Department, advises leading innovators and financiers on a full spectrum of corporate and securities matters. Rick combines his keenly pragmatic approach with a sophisticated understanding of the tech sector, including software, digital health, digital media, and information technology, to guide clients on: - Complex equity securities offerings, including IPOs, direct listings, 144A offerings, and follow-on stock offerings - Venture financings - M&A transactions - Corporate governance matters He forges trusted relationships with CFOs, CEOs, and general counsel to help clients meet the challenges that arise at any stage of a company's growth, particularly as they approach life as a public company. Rick unlocks the resources of the firm's robust global platform to craft practical commercial solutions, including relating to employee benefits and M&A.

KNAPP, Trevor

Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve Franklin & Hachigian, Silicon Valley
tknap@gunder.com

Featured in Venture Capital (California)

Practice Areas: AI & Machine Learning Corporate Governance & Strategy Fund Investments in Companies Mergers & Acquisitions Seed, Venture and Growth Financings

Career: Trevor is a partner in our Silicon Valley and San Francisco offices. Trevor provides strategic, practical advice to high-growth companies and investors as they encounter legal and business challenges. He specializes in the representation of emerging growth companies often starting from the moment of inception and continuing through their achievement of scale and, most often, a sale event. Trevor is broadly experienced with corporate formation and governance matters, venture capital financing transactions, and a variety of M&A transaction structures. He represents a wide variety of technology companies from consumer internet, consumer hardware, enterprise software, digital health, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and a host of other technology industries. He also represents many of the leading venture funds in their investment transactions in these technology-centered industries. Over the course of his career, Trevor has advised companies on hundreds of venture capital and M&A deals. Trevor leads the firm's Silicon Valley and San Francisco offices. Trevor lives in the Bay Area with his wife, two children and dog. He is an avid runner and has a twin brother who is a serial startup entrepreneur.

KNEIB, Lewis

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*Featured in Capital Markets (California),
Capital Markets (USA - Nationwide), REITs
(USA - Nationwide)*

See under Nationwide for profile.

KNOPP, Gregory W

Proskauer Rose LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Gregory (Greg) Knopp is a partner in Proskauer's Labor & Employment Law Department in the Los Angeles office. Greg defends companies in class and collective actions and other complex disputes. He has argued successfully before state and federal courts across the country and has obtained dismissals of class actions in dozens of high-profile, highly consequential matters. Greg's clients range from entertainment companies to prominent retailers to professional sports leagues. He has also worked with financial services and other professional services firms, along with clients in the technology, transportation and healthcare spaces. All look to Greg for his ability to quickly spot legal issues and to determine strategies to maximize advantage. With more than 20 years of experience in employment litigation, Greg has represented clients in a wide range of employment disputes involving wage and hour issues, issues specific to California employment law, sexual harassment, and arbitration compulsion.

KO, Jonathan

Paul Hastings LLP, Los Angeles
213 687 5000

*Featured in Capital Markets (California),
Capital Markets (USA - Nationwide)*

Practice Areas: Jonathan Ko is a partner in the Securities and Capital Markets

practice and is based in the Los Angeles office. Jonathan represents public and private companies, investment banks, private equity firms and other institutional investors in a wide range of capital market transactions across various industries, including financial services, gaming, hospitality, real estate, retail and technology. These transactions include initial public offerings, follow on and secondary offerings, and public and private offerings of investment grade debt, high-yield debt and equity securities. He has handled the financing and securities law aspects of mergers and acquisitions transactions. In addition, Jonathan counsels clients on SEC reporting and compliance obligations as well as other corporate and securities law matters. He also has extensive experience in liability management transactions and out-of-court restructurings, advising clients on debt tender and exchange offers and consent solicitations.

Personal: Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, J.D. Loyola Marymount University, B.A.

KORYTECK, Dominika

McDermott Will & Schulte, San Francisco

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Featured in Tax (California: Northern)

Practice Areas: Dominika Korytek focuses her practice on international tax planning, with an emphasis on technology companies. She advises clients on tax strategies for international expansion, domestic and international acquisitions, reorganizations and dispositions.

KOZERSKI, Danna

Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP, San Francisco

Featured in Real Estate (California: Northern)

Practice Areas: Commercial real estate transactions including financing, leasing, and acquisitions and dispositions

Career: Danna Kozerski represents developers and companies in a wide range of commercial real estate transactions including financing, leasing, and acquisitions and dispositions of office buildings, museums, shopping centers, residential developments and mixed-use projects. She specializes in public/private partnerships and the formation of joint ventures. Danna counts among the most satisfying aspects of her practice the representation of clients from the inception of their projects to their completion.

Professional Memberships: Danna is an elected member of the Policy Advisory Board for the University of California, Berkeley's Fisher Center for Real Estate and Urban Economics, an elected member of Lambda Alpha International, and an elected Fellow of The American College of Real Estate Lawyers (ACREL), the premier organization of U.S. real estate lawyers. She is admitted to practice in the States of California and Michigan and is a member of the Real Property Law Section of the State Bar of California. Danna is also a long-standing member of Commercial Real Estate

Women in Detroit and San Francisco and of the International Council of Shopping Centers. She is a frequent speaker on leasing, financing and acquisition topics, including presentations for the American Law Institute Continuing Legal Education (ALI CLE), the California Continuing Education of the Bar and the Practising Law Institute. From 2003 to 2009, Danna served as a director and vice president of Habitat for Humanity San Francisco.

KRAUSE, Jeffrey

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Featured in Bankruptcy/Restructuring (California)

Practice Areas: Jeffrey C. Krause is a partner at Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP. He has a broad corporate restructuring practice that handles significant debtor and creditor representations, lessors, landlords, secured and unsecured creditors, and acquirers of assets from chapter 11 debtors. He represents companies, lenders and landlords in out of court restructurings and chapter 11 cases in multiple industries, including hospitality, food service, healthcare, commercial real estate, and multi-family residential. His current representations include a large landlord and secured lender in the chapter 11 case of Genesis HealthCare, which is pending in Dallas, and the first lien lender in obtaining dismissal of a chapter 11 case for the owner of the San Jose Signia Hotel and related litigation. Jeff frequently advises boards and shareholders on fulfilling fiduciary duties and minimizing litigation risks when faced with financial distress. He also represents defendants in preference actions, fraudulent transfer actions and large, complex commercial disputes, including lender liability claims and advises lenders on how to minimize the risks of being subjected to such litigation. He enforces secured loans out of court, including advising on conducting real estate foreclosure sales and UCC Article 9 dispositions.

Professional Memberships: Fellow, American College of Bankruptcy; Past-President, TMA Southern California, Trustee of Turnaround Management Association Board of Trustees, Past-Chair, LACBA Debtor Assistance Program, Past Chair, ABA Litigation Section Bankruptcy Committee; Past-Board Member, Financial Lawyers Conference.

Personal: JD, UCLA, Order of the Coif, UCLA Law Review.

KRAUTHEIMER, Eric M

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (California: Los Angeles & Surrounds)

Practice Areas: M&A.

Career: Partner since 2003. Eric Krautheimer is Co-Managing Partner of Sullivan & Cromwell's General Practice Group globally and serves as Co-Head of the Firm's Media & Telecommunications Group. Highly regarded as one of the elite M&A lawyers on the West Coast,

he has been named American Lawyer's "Dealmaker of the Year" twice: for advising AT&T in its spin-off of WarnerMedia followed by the merger of Discovery and WarnerMedia (the largest media and entertainment deal of 2021), and its acquisition of Time Warner. He was also named American Lawyer's "Dealmaker of the Week" for advising AT&T in its proposed acquisition of T-Mobile USA from Deutsche Telekom AG. For more than 30 years, Mr. Krautheimer has successfully represented many of the largest and most prominent corporations in a range of domestic and cross-border M&A transactions, including negotiated and hostile acquisitions of public companies, negotiated sales of private companies, subsidiaries and divisions, private equity transactions, leveraged buyouts, formation of joint ventures and asset sales. He has extensive experience representing buyers, sellers and financial advisers in numerous industries, including consumer and retail, energy, financial services, healthcare and life sciences, sports and entertainment, technology and telecommunications. Mr. Krautheimer has advised global leaders such as Amazon.com, AT&T, Axon, Barclays, Bayer, BP, CBRE, Diageo, Merck KGaA, Microsoft and Teva Pharmaceuticals, among others. Mr. Krautheimer received his BA from SUNY Binghamton, JD from Western New England College School of Law and LL.M. from NYU School of Law. **Professional Memberships:** Board Member, Fulfillment Fund

KROMM, Dana

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Featured in Private Equity (California)

Practice Areas: Dana Kromm is a partner in the Private Equity and Mergers & Acquisitions practices at Paul Hastings. Dana has over 20 years of experience representing private equity funds and corporate clients in public and private merger, stock and asset acquisitions and divestitures, joint ventures, complex carve-out acquisitions, minority investments and corporate partnering transactions. Her experience includes representing clients in transactions with significant cross-border elements. Her experience has spanned industries, but she has a particular emphasis on the technology, life sciences and fintech sectors.

Personal: University of California, Davis, School of Law, J.D. UC Santa Cruz, B.A.

KUNG, Viola

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Featured in Life Sciences (California)

Practice Areas: Intellectual Property Law Patent Prosecution & Portfolio Counseling Biotechnology & Pharmaceutical Medical Device Life Sciences & Healthcare

Career: A seasoned inventor herself, Viola Kung assists chemical, pharmaceutical, biotech, and life science clients with their patent needs. She is experienced

in patent prosecution, reexamination, and appeal proceedings before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Viola's other counseling activities include opinion work, freedom-to-operate, validity, and due diligence evaluation. Viola's practice has spanned industries and products, including methods for treating cancer, inflammatory diseases, ophthalmic diseases, neurological diseases, neuropsychiatric diseases, pulmonary diseases, autoimmune diseases, and pain. She has also worked on matters involving immunotherapy, CAR T-cells, checkpoint inhibitors, pharmaceutical formulations, new chemical entities, chemical processes, medical devices, in vitro diagnostics, next-generation sequencing, gene expression, tumor suppressor genes, fusion proteins, CRISPR/Cas9, and carbon nanotubes. Viola is a scientist by training and worked in research and development labs for more than 15 years. Through her extensive research and industrial training as a development director and research scientist, Viola has broad research and development experience in pharmaceutical formulation, assay development, in vitro diagnostics, protein and DNA interaction, lipid bilayer membrane, conjugation chemistry, and molecular biology. Viola is an inventor of a total of 21 U.S. patents in the areas of immunoassay, conjugation chemistry, liposome formulation, DNA detection methods, and medical devices. Her scientific work has been published in many scientific journals.

KURLAND, Gerald (Jerry)

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Featured in Construction (California)

Practice Areas: Business/Commercial Construction Defect Construction Employment Engineering & Construction Entertainment & Sports Environmental Insurance Intellectual Property Personal Injury/Torts Professional Liability Real Estate & Real Property Surety Gerald A. Kurland, Esq. is well-known as one of the leading construction mediators and special masters in the state and also for his ability to continually achieve consensus in the most difficult and complex matters in a wide variety of practice areas. Over the past 30 years, Mr. Kurland has successfully mediated thousands of disputes involving billions of dollars in claims collectively. Mr. Kurland's construction and real estate dispute resolution experience includes virtually all types of commercial, industrial, public works and residential projects. Most of his cases also involve complex insurance issues. Jerry received his J.D. from the UC Berkeley School of Law, where he was a member of the California Law Review. He also graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from UCLA, where he served as undergraduate student body president.

TABLE, Cori A.

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Cori concentrates her practice on advising multinational clients globally on risk management and investigations into issues such as financial fraud, bribery and corruption, and economic sanctions and trade compliance. Cori has extensive experience working with clients in the private equity, asset management, hospital, pharmaceuticals, industrials, and real estate sectors facing regulatory and criminal enforcement actions related to potential violations of U.S. securities, health care fraud, trade compliance, and export controls statutes, and in coordinating responses to multinational criminal enforcement and investigations. She also regularly advises clients on portfolio-wide compliance risk assessments and due diligence related to international investments and acquisitions, with a special focus on Asia; and provides advice on the design and implementation of international risk compliance programs. She previously spent ten years working in Hong Kong, where she launched Kirkland's Government and Internal Investigations practice in that city.

Personal: Yale Law School, J.D.

Cambridge University, M.Phil., Historical Studies Yale University, B.A., History, magna cum laude

LAGUARDIA, Daniel

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Daniel Laguardia is co-chair of Paul Hastings' Securities Litigation practice and is based in the firm's San Francisco and New York offices. Daniel is a leading practitioner addressing shareholder disputes and crisis management, and he has represented individuals, corporations and various financial institutions in securities litigation, internal investigations, regulatory matters and complex commercial litigation. He has extensive litigation experience across a broad spectrum of substantive areas, including securities and complex financial products, financial markets, mergers and acquisitions disputes, shareholder actions, distressed debt and bankruptcy issues, and commercial contracts, and he has achieved a strong record of success for clients in trial and appellate courts. In addition to representing clients in all aspects of strategic litigation planning and practice, Daniel regularly counsels clients on pre-dispute situation management, risk control, high-exposure transactions, compliance and board governance issues. He conducts internal investigations for clients and board committees and reviews and advises on corporate compliance provisions, governance structures and controls. Daniel was a law clerk to Judge Anthony J. Scirica of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit from 1999 to 2000 and to Judge David G. Trager of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York from 1998 to 1999.

Personal: New York University School of Law, J.D. The University of Chicago, B.A.

LALLY, Amy

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Featured in Food & Beverages (USA – Nationwide), Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: AMY LALLY is a trial lawyer who practices in all areas of litigation, including class actions, false advertising claims, contract disputes, and real estate litigation. She serves as a global co-leader of Sidley's Consumer Class Actions practice. She has broadly represented the consumer products and services industries in litigation arising under state and federal laws including California's Proposition 65, Consumer Legal Remedies Act (CLRA), and the California Invasion of Privacy Act (CIPA); false advertising and unfair competition laws in California, New York, Illinois, and other states; and the Federal Wiretap Act, TCPA, Lanham Act, and other federal laws, regulations and guidance documents, including the FTC's Green Guides. Amy is a leading member of Sidley's California Consumer Privacy Litigation Task Force, a dedicated group of lawyers focused on the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) and California Privacy Rights Act (CPR), counseling clients on how to assess and mitigate litigation risks by putting in place the policies, procedures, and protocols that comply with the new laws. Her clients include numerous consumer goods manufacturers and retailers, including vitamin and dietary supplement companies, cosmetic companies, conventional food and beverage companies, pharmaceutical companies, apparel and fashion companies, furniture and home goods companies, and e-commerce companies. Amy has represented a wide variety of other businesses such as financial institutions, hedge funds, accounting firms, and oil and gas companies.

LANGDON, Robert T

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Featured in Private Equity (California)

Practice Areas: Robert Langdon is a leading private equity and M&A lawyer with more than 25 years of broad experience representing private equity sponsors and their portfolio companies in high-stakes matters. Robert has advised numerous private equity funds, including Carlyle, EQT Partners, Francisco Partners, Hellman & Friedman, KSL Capital Partners, Silver Lake, Technology Crossover Ventures, True Wind Capital and Warburg Pincus.

Career: Joined Simpson Thacher as Partner in 2014, having previously been a Partner at another major U.S. law firm since 2009.

Personal: J.D., St. John's University School of Law (2000); B.S., Syracuse University (1996).

LANIER, Greg

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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Intellectual Property; Technology; Health Care & Life Sciences
Career: Greg Lanier is an accomplished trial lawyer with more than 35 years experience leading major intellectual property (IP) and business disputes for companies around the globe, covering a wide range of technology. Greg has tried cases to juries, judges and arbitrators across the United States, including in California, Delaware, Indiana, Texas and Washington.

LARSON, Cheston

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Featured in Capital Markets (California), Capital Markets (USA – Nationwide), Life Sciences (USA – Nationwide), Life Sciences (California)

Practice Areas: Cheston Larson's practice covers a broad range of general corporate matters, including counseling public and privately-held companies, as well as representing venture capital and investment banking firms, in private and public financing transactions. Cheston advises clients on the formation of new businesses and their capital raising transactions, spanning the spectrum from angel and venture financings to IPOs, follow-on offerings, PIPEs, and debt financings. He also represents clients in mergers and acquisitions and other strategic transactions, as well as SEC disclosure and reporting requirements, Nasdaq and NYSE compliance, and corporate governance matters. Cheston routinely counsels clients in the life sciences, software, telecommunications, cleantech, and other technology industries. Cheston is a frequent speaker on IPO and securities law-related topics. In law school, Cheston was an editor of the Harvard Law Review and worked for the SEC's Enforcement Division as part of Harvard's Clinical Practice Program.

LAYNE, Jonathan K

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (California: Los Angeles & Surrounds)

Practice Areas: Jonathan Layne has extensive experience in public and private company mergers and acquisitions, public offerings of equity (including IPOs) and debt, corporate finance and securities law, and board of directors, special board committee and corporate governance representations.

Professional Memberships: Former member, firm's Executive and Management Committees. Former member, Board of Directors, California Chamber of Commerce; Emeritus Trustee and former Vice Chair, Board of Trustees, Emory University; Chair, Board of Directors, Tower Cancer Research Foundation.

Publications: Frequent author/ lecturer, M&A and securities law topics.

Personal: JD, Emory University School of Law, 1979, Order of the Coif, Managing Editor, 'Emory Law Journal'. MBA, Emory University Goizueta Business School, 1979, Beta Gamma Sigma.

LAZERSON, Wendy

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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: WENDY LAZERSON is the co-chair of Sidley's Labor and Employment international practice group and a partner in Sidley's San Francisco and Palo Alto offices. Wendy is ranked by Chambers USA and a recipient of the BTI Client Service Award for excellence in service to clients. She has received many other awards including Benchmark Litigation as a "Litigation Star – California" and "Labor and Employment Star, Daily Journal Top Labor and Employment Lawyer, LawDragon's 500 Leading Corporate Employment Lawyers – Labor & Employment Litigation among others. Clients turn to Wendy to handle their most challenging matters regardless of venue, due to her reputation as a thoughtful, pragmatic, and strategic thinker. Wendy is retained companies and their boards to conduct independent investigations on matters of importance and ranging from allegations of sexual misconduct to retaliation to financial improprieties and other ethical issues. She also represents employers in litigation including class actions and single plaintiff cases regarding discrimination, retaliation, trade secret theft, sexual harassment whistleblowing, wage and hour, and other workplace disputes. Wendy regularly works with clients based in China and other parts of Asia and their U.S. subsidiaries. Wendy also advises clients on the myriad of issues impacting employers in California. She also trains workforces with regard to legal compliance and best practices to proactively avoid employee claims. Wendy has a long record of success with juries, arbitrators and judges. Wendy has defeated class certification and obtained summary judgment allowing for prompt results. Wendy is comfortable in front of a jury, a judge, or an arbitrator. Wendy works with clients in a wide variety of industries ranging from tech and bio-tech to hedge funds and large retailers. Wendy is on the Employment Panel of the American Arbitration Association and serves as an arbitrator. Wendy serves in several firm leadership roles. In addition to being co-chair of the international Labor and Employment group, Wendy served on the Firm's COVID 19 Task Force and is the former local chair of SidleyWomen.

LEBEL, Philippe

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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Philippe (Phil) A. Lebel represents employers in all aspects

of employment litigation, including wage and hour, wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, defamation, trade secrets, and breach of contract litigation, in both the single-plaintiff and class- and/or representative-action context, at both the trial and appellate levels, as well as before administrative agencies. In addition to his litigation work, Phil regularly advises clients regarding compliance with federal, state and local employment laws, and assists a variety of companies and financial firms in evaluating labor and employment issues in connection with corporate transactions. Phil also has experience assisting employers with sensitive employee investigations, cutting edge-trainings, pay equity analyses and comprehensive audits of employment practices. Phil has assisted clients in a wide array of sectors including in the biotech, education, entertainment, fashion, financial services, fitness, healthcare, high-tech, legal services, manufacturing, media, professional services, retail, sports, and staffing industries, among others. Before law school, Phil was an intern with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, during which he assisted on political campaigns in Alabama and Georgia. Phil is a former member of the Board of Directors of the AIDS Legal Referral Panel.

LEE, Aaron

Proskauer Rose LLP, Los Angeles

Featured in Tax (California: Southern)

Practice Areas: Aaron Lee is a partner in Proskauer's Tax Department. Aaron works predominantly on transaction tax matters, with extensive experience in structuring of domestic and international private investment funds and advising on their investments and operational issues, as well as structuring taxable and tax-free mergers and acquisitions. Aaron also advises fund sponsors in complex GP-led fund restructurings and secondary transactions. In addition, Aaron regularly advises operating companies on a broad range of tax issues and counsels sports leagues on various tax matters relating to formation, operations and team expansions.

LEE, Belinda S

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Featured in Antitrust (USA – Nationwide), Antitrust (California)

Practice Areas: Belinda Lee, former Global Vice Chair of Latham's Antitrust & Competition Practice, represents global companies in high-stakes litigation and investigations, with particular experience defending private damages actions and navigating clients through international jurisdictions. Belinda represents global companies in antitrust and complex litigation matters pending in courts throughout the United States, and before government regulators in the Americas, Europe, and Asia. Belinda has extensive experience defending and advising companies in the technology, consumer products, transportation, and manufac-

turing industries. She has represented these companies in consumer class actions, price-fixing, monopolization, unfair competition, and licensing disputes. She has defeated class certification several times and regularly guided clients through criminal investigations that close without enforcement action. Belinda is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and serves by appointment on the Law360 Editorial Board for Competition and the Executive Committee of the Antitrust & Unfair Competition Section of the California Lawyers Association. She serves on the Board of Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus and is a frequent author and speaker on legal issues relating to expert witnesses, antitrust compliance, and law firm diversity. As the former Global Chair of Latham's Training and Career Enhancement Committee, Belinda oversaw the formal and informal training programs for all Latham attorneys, from summer associates to senior partners. Under Belinda's leadership, Latham's training programs received numerous awards and accolades, including the highest possible rankings by Vault Law 100 for Informal Training, Mentoring & Sponsorship.

LEE, Grace

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Featured in Tax (California: Northern)

Practice Areas: Grace M. Lee is a tax partner in the San Francisco office of Latham & Watkins and focuses on US federal income taxation. Grace advises clients on US federal income tax matters relating to mergers and acquisitions, investments, and other transactions. She has substantial experience representing strategic and financial buyers and sellers, public and private companies, and investors in connection with US and cross-border mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and partnerships, reorganizations, and financing transactions. Prior to joining Latham in 2007, she practiced in New York. Grace clerked for Judge Susan Oki Mollway, US District Court for the District of Hawaii, from 2002 to 2003.

LEE, Sabling

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Featured in Life Sciences (California)

Practice Areas: Advertising, Media & Entertainment Practice Copyright Data Privacy IP Transactions, Agreements & Venture Capital Litigation Patent Strategy & Prosecution Trademark & Brand Protection

Career: Sabling H. Lee's practice includes strategic patent procurement, patent portfolio management, intellectual property due diligence and general counseling on infringement, licensing, international IP protection and post-grant proceedings. Sabling currently represents clients in a wide range of technologies, with an emphasis on medical devices and procedures and materials science. Sabling co-chairs the firm's Medical Devices and Procedures group. In the medical device field, he has

worked extensively with cardiovascular, orthopedic, wound care and healthcare AI technologies. Sabling has guided the IP strategies for investments and acquisitions valued in excess of \$12 billion dollars, including ev3 (acquired by Covidien), CardiAQ Valve Technologies (acquired by Edwards Lifesciences), Tornier/Wright Medical (acquired by Stryker), HealthpointCapital (acquisition of SteriCUBE), Paragonix Technologies (acquisition by Getinge), and CathWorks (acquired by Medtronic). Sabling currently serves on the Board of Directors for Octane, an organization that drives technology industry growth and innovation in Orange County by connecting ideas and people with resources and capital. Sabling has been recognized among the Top Intellectual Property Lawyers in California by Daily Journal for 2025, and was cited for outstanding work in patent law in the 2024 edition of the Intellectual Asset Management (IAM) "Patent 1000 Guide" for Prosecution. In addition, he has been named a Patent Star in Managing IP's "IP STARS" guide for his outstanding intellectual property legal work in 2018 – 2024. He has received "Star" recognition in the "Life Sciences Survey" published by Legal Media Group (LMG) Life Sciences from 2012 – 2019 and 2022 – 2024. He was noted as being among the top patent strategists in the country for his patent prosecution, patent advisory, strategy and management practice. Sabling was selected for inclusion in the "Southern California Super Lawyers" list for his work in intellectual property law from 2013 – 2018 by Super Lawyers magazine, and was named to the Daily Journal's list of the "Top Intellectual Property Attorneys of 2014", where he was recognized among the Top 25 Portfolio Managers & Patent Prosecutors of Intellectual Property. Sabling joined the firm in 1997 and became a partner in 2003.

Professional Memberships: Octane – Board of Directors (August 2015 – Present) American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA) International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI) Orange County Bar Association

LEE, Stephen

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Featured in Private Equity (California)

Practice Areas: Stephen Lee is a partner in Goodwin's Private Equity group. He co-chairs the firm's Search Fund practice and is also a member of its Technology and Life Sciences Emerging Companies group. He is also the chair of Goodwin's Private Equity group Attorney Development Committee and co-chair of the Attorney Review Committee. He advises private equity funds, entrepreneurs, and corporate clients regarding mergers and acquisitions. Stephen structures, negotiates, and documents a wide array of transactions, including carve-outs of business divisions, asset and stock acquisitions and sales, mergers, leveraged buyouts, and auction transactions.

Stephen regularly represents buyers and sellers in cross-border transactions. He also has particular expertise in the aerospace, software, technology, automotive, and medical device industries, where, in addition to mergers and acquisitions, he advises companies regarding joint venture, joint development, licensing, and manufacturing arrangements.

Personal: JD, 2000 Cornell Law School BA, 1995 Princeton University

LEE, Tiffany

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Featured in Technology (California)

Practice Areas: Tiffany Lee is a partner in the Corporate & Financial Services Department and Managing Partner of the firm's Palo Alto office. She focuses on a wide variety of technology transactions. Her practice includes counseling and advising clients on intellectual property issues, and drafting development, licensing, manufacturing, distribution, and other agreements in a wide range of industries including AI and emerging technologies, social media, life sciences, healthcare, electronics, semiconductor, and media and entertainment. Tiffany has represented publicly traded companies and privately held companies in a variety of corporate law matters, including general corporate counseling, mergers and acquisitions, and private equity financing. Tiffany is fluent in written and spoken Cantonese and has a working knowledge of Mandarin.

LEHOT, Louis

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Featured in Startups & Emerging Companies (USA – Nationwide), Venture Capital (California)

Practice Areas: Domain experience in public offerings and private placements of equity, equity-linked, and debt securities, mergers, acquisitions, dispositions, spinoffs, strategic investments, and joint ventures. Excels in cross-border deals, having represented public and private clients in the US and globally. Regularly represents US and non-US registrants before the SEC, FINRA, NYSE and NASDAQ. Admitted to practice in California and New York. Fluent in French and English. Also advises entrepreneurs and their management teams, investors and financial advisors at all stages of growth, applying a broad array of legal and business processes and strategies. Guides emerging private companies as they secure venture capital financing, prepare for IPO or de-SPAC, and navigate the exit. Louis especially enjoys being able to help his clients achieve hyper-growth, go public and successfully obtain optimal liquidity events.

Career: Previously recognized by The Legal 500 US in the fields of mergers & acquisitions/corporate and commercial. Identified as a California leader in Capital Markets: Debt & Equity, Chambers USA (2012 – 2015). Two-time faculty member at the world-renowned Stanford Directors' College. Louis has been ranked

in Chambers USA for four consecutive years from 2021 – 2024 in the Venture Capital practice.

Professional Memberships: ABA Business Law Committee, Subcommittee on Negotiated Acquisitions. Association of Corporate Counsel, Bay Area Corporate and Securities Law Committee. Silicon Valley Association of General Counsel.

LEMASTER, Kelsey

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Featured in Tax (California: Northern)

Practice Areas: Kelsey Lemaster is Co-Chair of Goodwin's Tax practice. His practice includes mergers and acquisitions, fund formations, private equity and venture capital investment structuring, QSBS, transactions and tax planning matters for blockchain companies, real estate and venture capital fund formations, private equity and venture capital investment structuring, REITs, real estate and related transactions, and joint venture and other partnership transactions. **Personal:** LLM, Boston University School of Law, 2008; JD, Georgetown University Law Center, 2002 (cum laude); BA, Boston University, 1999 (magna cum laude)

LESLIE, Michael R

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Featured in Environment (California)

Practice Areas: Mike Leslie is an accomplished trial lawyer and negotiator who focuses on complex environmental litigation, including litigation brought under CERCLA, CEQA, common law environmental torts, and California's Proposition 65. Mike is a leader in the fields of ESG, "Greenwashing," and state and federal Environmental Justice issues and has published and spoken widely on these topics. Mike also has deep expertise in complex commercial litigation, having prevailed in cases involving real estate, class actions, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, misappropriation of trade secrets, and Section 17200, California's unfair business practices statute. Mike has a long-standing record of successfully representing clients in the litigation and trial of high-stakes complex actions. Mike regularly represents Fortune 500 corporations, multinational energy companies, governmental agencies, and small businesses. He has tried numerous cases to verdict, negotiated complex multi-party consent decrees with state and federal agencies, and won both significant plaintiff and defense verdicts. In addition to his busy trial practice, he has also won important appeals for his clients before the California Court of Appeal and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Leslie is a leader in many of the leading environmental bar organizations and is also a frequent speaker on complex litigation and trial practice.

LEVEE, Jeffrey A

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Featured in Antitrust (California)

Career: Jeff LeVee focuses on antitrust litigation, health care litigation, class action litigation, and litigation related to the Domain Name System of the Internet. Jeff has successfully litigated and arbitrated matters in courts and other administrative bodies throughout the United States. His current clients include health care providers, real estate companies, manufacturing companies, and a major private University. In addition, Jeff has been the primary outside counsel for ICANN since it was formed in 1998. Jeff was an active member of the ABA Antitrust Section's leadership from 1997 to 2018; he was the head of the Los Angeles Office's litigation practice from 2017 to 2025; and he was the Partner-in-Charge of Jones Day's Silicon Valley Office from 2008 to 2011.

LEWIS, Anthony

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Litigation; Artificial Intelligence; Criminal Defense & Investigations; Cybersecurity; Digital Assets; Economic Sanctions & Financial Crime; False Claims Act; FCPA & Anti-Corruption; National Security; Privacy; State Attorney General Investigations & Litigation

Career: Anthony Lewis is Co-Head of Sullivan & Cromwell's National Security Practice, a member of the Firm's Criminal Defense and Investigations Group, and Co-Head of the Firm's Cybersecurity Practice. His practice focuses on international and government investigations and on cybersecurity incident response and advice. Mr. Lewis has represented clients in internal investigations and regulatory enforcement proceedings, including with the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), and with financial regulators. He has advised clients in a wide range of industries, including aerospace and defense, technology, industrials, financial services and consumer goods. Widely recognized for his work in counterintelligence, cybersecurity, and defense, Mr. Lewis received the Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service twice as well as recognition from the U.S. Intelligence Community. He previously served as Deputy Chief of the Terrorism and Export Crimes Section of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California.

Personal: Stanford Law School (J.D., 2003); Yale University (B.S., 2000)

LEWIS, Jessica

WilmerHale, San Francisco

Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Jessica Lewis is a Silicon Valley-based litigator specializing in high-stakes securities litigation,

complex class actions and corporate governance disputes. Her strategic insight and trial-readiness make her a trusted advocate for organizations navigating significant legal challenges. Jessica's career blends expertise, innovation and a results-driven approach to deliver exceptional outcomes for her clients. **Securities Litigation Expertise:** Early in her career, Jessica played a leading role in defending the embattled blood-testing technology company, Theranos, in numerous investor class actions. Despite the odds, Jessica and her team successfully defeated numerous investors' attempts to certify class actions against the company. Since then, she has leveraged her securities law and corporate governance expertise to handle disputes involving shareholder derivative claims, regulatory actions and governance challenges. Jessica has extensive experience with Delaware law, addressing mergers-related challenges and governance disputes in the country's most prominent corporate law jurisdiction. **Complex Class Action Expertise and Trial Advocacy:** Jessica's practice extends to managing complex class actions, including cases involving claims under RICO, California's Unfair Competition Law (UCL), federal securities laws and state consumer protection statutes. Her trial-readiness is a cornerstone of her practice. Early in her career, Jessica served as a Special Assistant District Attorney, where she first-chaired 15 trials and over a dozen hearings, gaining invaluable courtroom experience. Since then, Jessica's ability to craft compelling narratives, manage intricate procedural hurdles and collaborate effectively with trial teams has consistently delivered favorable outcomes for her clients in class actions, securities disputes and regulatory enforcement matters. Commitment to Pro Bono: Jessica has played a pivotal role in landmark initiatives, including an extraordinary writ petition challenging California's death penalty under the state's Equal Protection guarantees. Jessica has also achieved meaningful outcomes in individual pro bono cases, including securing a rare jury verdict with punitive damages in a First Amendment retaliation case.

Personal: JD, Harvard Law School, 2012 cum laude Advising Committee Chair, Board of Student Advisers, Line Editor, Harvard International Law Journal BA, Public Policy and Hispanic Studies, Hamilton College, 2007 summa cum laude Phi Beta Kappa

LIN, Geoffrey

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Featured in Life Sciences (California)

Practice Areas: Leading global companies, investors and academic institutions turn to Geoffrey Lin to monetize, manage and protect their most critical intellectual property assets. Based on the West Coast and a member of the firm's award-winning IP transactions team, Geoffrey offers clients an unparalleled understanding of how complex IP

issues play out in the Asia life sciences, private equity and technology markets. Geoffrey has more than two decades of experience advising clients on cutting-edge IP matters across industries, including pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, healthcare, technology, electronics and telecommunications. He has worked in both Asia and the United States, and on both inbound and outbound transactions. Geoffrey also has deep experience working with clients through varying economic cycles. Clients appreciate Geoffrey's responsiveness and skillful, practical advice, as well as his focus on their business goals. He has been ranked as a leading practitioner in a number of prestigious directories, including The Legal 500. In addition, Chambers Global, in which Geoffrey has been ranked for 12 years, cites his "deft handling of life sciences-related IP mandates."

LISSON, David

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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: David is a member of Davis Polk's IP Litigation practice. Technology companies rely on him in their highest-stakes disputes. He has tried nine cases in courts nationwide and in the International Trade Commission, securing substantial jury verdicts and settlements on behalf of plaintiffs, and pre- and post-trial judgments on behalf of defendants. He also handles appellate proceedings and works closely with clients to resolve business-critical IP matters outside the courtroom. David heads Davis Polk's GenAI litigation initiative, focused on developers, enterprise technology companies and organizations implementing GenAI. David is co-chair of the New York City Bar Association's subcommittee on AI-related liabilities and remedies.

LORANG, Karen A

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Featured in Real Estate (California: Southern)

Practice Areas: Karen Lorang is a partner in the Real Estate Department in Willkie's Los Angeles office. Her practice is focused on representing investors and developers in connection with complex real estate developments. Her transactional practice includes purchase and sale, finance, leasing, land use and environmental issues. She also advises clients in connection with large-scale, complex development projects.

LORENAT, Linda

King & Spalding LLP, Silicon Valley

Featured in Venture Capital (California)

Practice Areas: Linda Lorenat focuses on general corporate and securities law matters and transactions, particularly for emerging growth companies in the technology and life sciences industries. As a partner in the Mergers & Acquisitions practice, Linda represents entrepreneurs

and emerging growth companies, the investors who fund them and the investment banks and the financial advisors who advise them. Ms. Lorenat represents issuers and venture capital and strategic investors in the initial formation, financing and sale of technology and life sciences companies. Linda's experience with general company representation also includes advising on employment and equity compensation matters, fiduciary duties, commercial agreements and compliance with federal and state securities laws. Her corporate transactional experience includes representing issuers and investors in convertible debt and preferred stock financings, mergers and acquisitions, public offerings and financings, recapitalizations, spin-outs and strategic transactions.

LOVEJOY, Britt

Latham & Watkins LLP, San Francisco

Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Britt Lovejoy represents technology companies in copyright, music royalty rate-setting, and other high-stakes litigation related to the use of digital content. A skilled litigator, Britt works with her clients to develop winning strategies and is recognized for her ability to translate complex technologies and subject matter into compelling themes before both judges and juries. Her work representing Oracle in a copyright jury trial in the Northern District of California was recognized by Law360, The American Lawyer, and others. The case was named a Top Verdict by Daily Journal and an Impact Case by Benchmark. Britt also has experience counseling software companies, internet platforms, and streaming services on product development and licensing matters, including advising on the unique legal risks associated with user-generated content and generative AI. From early-stage startups to platforms with global reach, Britt provides her clients with nuanced legal advice informed by her deep knowledge of the issues that technology companies face in acquiring and distributing digital content. Britt frequently helps clients at the absolute technological cutting-edge mitigate risk through pragmatic, business-minded solutions. Britt regularly speaks and writes on legal developments relating to copyright, generative AI, and other intellectual property matters. Britt currently serves on the Bay Area WEB Committee. She has previously served in a number of other management roles at the firm, including on the Pro Bono Committee, as Co-Chair of the San Francisco Women Lawyers Group, as Chair of the Bay Area Parent Lawyers Group, and on the Bay Area Mentoring Committee.

LOWERY, Michelle S.

McDermott Will & Schulte, Chicago

Featured in Antitrust (California)

Practice Areas: litigation matters. She has nearly two decades of experience achieving exceptional results for clients in antitrust and unfair competition litigation and investigations, including class actions. Michelle routinely achieves vic-

tories for her clients in high-stakes cases on the papers and in the courtroom.

LUCAS, Carol

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Featured in Healthcare (California)

Practice Areas: Health Care Corporate Law Mergers & Acquisitions Telehealth Health Care & Life Sciences

Career: Carol K. Lucas is Co-Chair of the Firm's Health Care Practice Group and focuses her practice on healthcare law and general business law. She has extensive experience in mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, securities, private placements, state and federal regulations, entity formation and corporate representation of both public and private companies in the healthcare industry. Over the last several years, Ms. Lucas has represented numerous clients in connection with issues and disputes related to payment for healthcare services. She is also an expert on the establishment and representation of Federally Qualified Health Centers and related issues such as governance requirements, issues raised by hospital sponsorship of FQHCs, application issues, and the impact of health care reform on these entities. She also specializes in the representation of ambulatory surgery centers, med spas, imaging centers, and other ancillary providers in a variety of medical specialties, and in the legal and business issues that confront independent practice associations and other physician organizations.

Professional Memberships: – Member, American Health Lawyers Association – Member, Los Angeles County Bar Association – Member, State Bar of California – State Bar Business Law Section – Current Secretary, Section's Insurance Law Committee – Past Chair, Section's Executive Committee – Past Co-Chair, Section's Corporations Committee and Health Law Committee – Past Vice Chair, Section's Opinions Committee

LUSKEY, Randy

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Attorney bio can be found here: <https://www.paulweiss.com/professionals/partners%2Dand%2Dcounsel/randy%2Dluskey>

LYNCH, Niall

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Featured in Antitrust (USA – Nationwide), Antitrust (California)

Practice Areas: Niall E. Lynch, nationally recognized litigator and former DOJ Antitrust Division prosecutor, represents global companies in all aspects of complex criminal antitrust investigations and follow-on litigation. Niall combines strength and poise under fire and commercial pragmatism to help clients navigate the intricacies of DOJ antitrust investigations. He deftly handles every stage of criminal antitrust investigations,

including: – Negotiating compliance with agency subpoenas, including grand juries – Strategically defending clients and executives – Resolving agency investigations with no enforcement action – Securing favorable terms in plea and deferred prosecution agreements – Winning at trial He regularly guides multinationals and their executives in criminal and administrative price-fixing investigations in international antitrust and competition matters involving information exchange, algorithmic pricing, cartels, government contracts, civil conduct, and criminal investigations. He also seamlessly handles follow-on class action litigation, antitrust and compliance training, and FTC conduct investigations. Before joining Latham, Niall served as Assistant Chief in the DOJ's San Francisco Field Office. He led several of the division's most significant criminal prosecutions, including the liquid crystal display (LCD) and dynamic random access memory (DRAM) grand jury investigations, which resulted in US\$1.6 billion in criminal fines and dozens of individual prosecutions. He also prosecuted numerous cases in the General Crimes Section while serving as a Special Assistant United States Attorney. Niall tried several jury trials and received numerous awards during his tenure at the DOJ, including the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award, the second-highest award for DOJ employee performance. A recognized leader in the antitrust bar, Niall is Co-Chair of the American Bar Association Antitrust Section's Cartel & Criminal Practice Committee and chaired the Executive Committee of the California State Bar's Antitrust and Unfair Competition Law Section. He also previously served as Local Chair of Latham & Watkins' San Francisco Litigation & Trial Department. He is local partner in charge of mentoring for the Bay Area and has served as Vice Chair of the firm's Recruiting Committee and on the Associates Committee. Niall maintains an active pro bono practice, including serving on the Criminal Justice Act Panel for the US District Court for the Northern District of California.

LYONS, Michael J

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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Patent litigator Michael Lyons leads the Silicon Valley litigation practice and brings more than 25 years of experience to his intellectual property (IP) rights practice. Michael's patent, copyright, trade secret, and other technology-focused litigation involves tools that range from video streaming and consumer electronics' circuit architecture to medical devices. Michael's experience includes litigating cases that involve semiconductor processing, software, and optoelectronic transceivers. Suits related to ink jet and laser printers, hard disk drives, hardware for graphics image production, and circuit architecture of chips also have come across his

desk. In addition to litigation, Michael frequently handles adversarial Patent Office proceedings such as inter partes reviews, post-grant reviews, and ex parte reexaminations. Michael also lectures on IP topics and has served as a guest speaker on IP enforcement at Boalt Hall School of Law.

Personal: Georgetown University Law Center, 1992, J.D. Pennsylvania State University, 1989, B.S.

MACHALA, Angela M

Winston Taylor LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Angela is the managing partner of Winston's Los Angeles office. She represents business entities and individuals in federal grand jury, SEC, and other government investigations. Angela has successfully defended clients charged with or investigated for theft of trade secrets, securities fraud, health care fraud, environmental crimes, FCPA violations, and defense contractor fraud. She has extensive experience in conducting sensitive internal investigations for organizations. In the civil arena, she has represented businesses accused of negligence in hiring, Lanham Act, and civil RICO claims, as well as breach of fiduciary duty, usurpation of corporate opportunity, and fraud claims. Angela represents companies, corporate officers and directors, and executives in high-profile white-collar criminal cases, securities and regulatory enforcement matters, and in related state and federal litigation. Angela has extensive experience advising clients in a broad range of industries, including financial services, health care, environmental, and technology, in matters involving securities fraud, health care fraud, theft of trade secrets, environmental crimes, FCPA violations, and other alleged offenses. She also advises clients on negotiating with the government and responding to civil investigative demands and broad investigative subpoenas. In addition, Angela regularly assists companies in conducting sensitive internal investigations. In the civil arena, Angela has represented businesses and individuals accused of negligence in hiring, Lanham Act and civil RICO claims as well as breach of fiduciary duty, usurpation of corporate opportunity, and fraud claims. Angela was formerly managing partner of a white collar and litigation boutique law firm in Los Angeles. She currently serves on the board of directors for Teach Democracy (formerly the Constitutional Rights Foundation) and is a member of the governor's Judicial Selection Advisory Committee for Los Angeles County. She is also active in the Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA), serving for many years on both the Judicial Appointments Committee (including for two years as the committee's Vice Chair) and the Litigation Section Executive Committee (including one year as its Chair). Angela has spoken as a panelist at both the ABA White Collar Crime National Institute and the NACDL West Coast White

Collar Seminar. After graduating from Yale Law School in 2001, she clerked for the Honorable Nora M. Manella in the Central District of California, as well as the Honorable Pamela Ann Rymer in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Angela is a member of Winston's Opportunity & Inclusion Committee, is active in the Latino(a) Lawyer Alliance at Winston, and was a member of the Latinx Law Students Association at Yale Law School.

MADIGAN, Camarin

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Featured in Real Estate (California: Northern)

Practice Areas: Leasing Real Estate & Land Use Data Centers and Digital Infrastructure Energy Infrastructure & Clean Technology Sports Digital Media & Entertainment, Gaming & Sports Real Estate

Career: Camarin Madigan practices on the cutting edge between real estate, land use, and environmental laws. Collaborating with colleagues across multiple disciplines, she advises on all aspects of complex development projects, including acquisitions, dispositions, joint ventures, leasing, and financing. Camarin also handles land use entitlements and environmental permitting for similar projects and is recognized for her exceptional proficiency and deep knowledge of ground lease work. Camarin's clients include developers, landowners, lenders, and public agencies. She manages real estate issues for a wide range of properties, from renewable energy projects to multi-family projects. Additionally, Camarin manages real estate work for a major higher education institution. Prior to joining the firm, Camarin lived in Japan as part of secondment to the in-house legal department of a Japan-based international trading, investment, and service company. In this role, Camarin managed the legal affairs of the client and its subsidiaries in North, Central, and South America involved in various industries, including energy and natural resources, agricultural resources, and information technology.

MAHMOOD, Ghaith

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Featured in Technology (California)

Practice Areas: Ghaith Mahmood, Global Chair of the firm's Data & Technology Transactions Practice, advises clients on all aspects of intellectual property and technology transactions — from developing, licensing, and commercializing IP assets, to advising on the IP aspects of strategic transactions. Ghaith is a leader of the firm's Artificial Intelligence Practice, the Video Gaming & esports Practice, and a key member of the firm's Digital Assets & Web3 Practice. Ghaith handles a full spectrum of IP and technology matters, including: – Licensing agreements involving technology, software, trademarks, and/or content – Strategic alliances, partnerships, and joint ventures – Video game development

and publishing agreements – Manufacture, supply, and resale agreements – Open-source licensing – Customer and end-user arrangements – Consumer protection and advertising matters – Licensing and other commercial issues surrounding non-fungible tokens (NFTs) He also regularly collaborates with corporate colleagues to provide counseling on IP and technology matters in the context of: – Mergers and acquisitions – Corporate financings – Bankruptcy and restructurings Drawing on experience with both traditional and innovative technologies, Ghaith regularly advises companies in the following technology sectors: – Adtech – Blockchain and digital assets – Digital and social media – Digital health – E-commerce – Information technology – Software – Transportation – Video games – Virtual and augmented reality Complementing his commercial work, Ghaith passionately advocates for pro bono clients in the technology industry, and also serves as lead counsel representing asylum seekers, abused children, and the homeless.

MARENBERG, Steven

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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Steven Marenberg is the chair of the firm's Entertainment and Media Litigation Group. Steve's practice encompasses a wide range of complex commercial litigation matters in various industries, with particular concentrations in media and entertainment litigation, technology-related disputes, copyright, trademark and other intellectual property litigation, and antitrust and business tort disputes. His clients have included some of the nation's leading technology companies, motion picture studios, television networks, production companies, music companies, interactive game companies and high-net-worth individuals. Steve has also been recognized as one of the country's foremost litigators by publications including Legal 500, Benchmark Litigation, Lawdragon, National Law Journal, Best Lawyers in America, Super Lawyers and the Los Angeles Daily Journal, among others. The Los Angeles Business Journal has listed him as among Los Angeles' most influential attorneys. He has been named to the Variety Impact and Hollywood Reporter's Power Lawyers list every year since their inception. In its Chambers USA guide, Chambers & Partners has consistently ranked Steve in Band 1 or Band 2 for Media and Entertainment litigation, citing client comments such as: "He's fantastic. There isn't a single case that I wouldn't trust Steve to handle and give me the best representation on" and "He is an exceptional litigator who understands complex situations and knows how to drive efficiently to the required result." In a recent Guide, Chambers reported another client's praise: "Steve Marenberg is a great strategist and effective advocate. Judges love him." One peer described him as an "excellent lawyer," "I love to

have him on my side and hate to be against him." Another reviewer lauded his "excellent" trial skills, in particular his connection with the jury," and highlighted his ability to be "aggressive without being unpleasant," noting that "he is very professional, very smart, and willing to think independently and creatively." Steve has extensive trial experience in both federal and state courts, and arbitrations.

Personal: The University of Chicago Law School, J.D. Wesleyan University, B.A.

MCCUSKER, Anthony

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Featured in Startups & Emerging Companies (USA - Nationwide), Venture Capital (California)

Practice Areas: Anthony McCusker serves as Chair of Goodwin. In this role, he is responsible for Goodwin's overall strategy, cultural initiatives, client relations, and external communications. He chairs the firm's Executive Committee and is a member of its Management Committee and Allocations Committee. Anthony previously co-chaired the firm's Technology practice and chaired the firm's Silicon Valley office. Widely recognized as a preeminent advisor in Silicon Valley, he specializes in all areas of corporate, securities, and partnership laws, with a primary focus on advising technology companies and their investors. Anthony's company representation spans the entire corporate life cycle, including pre-incorporation planning, general corporate representation and counseling, venture capital financings, corporate governance, joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, and public offerings. He also works with venture capitalists, private equity investors, and investment banks involved in private and public stock offerings.

Personal: JD, University of California Hastings College of the Law 1995; BA, University of California, Berkeley 1992

MCGARAGHAN, John

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Featured in Technology (California)

Practice Areas: John McGaraghan advises companies at all stages of growth on complex intellectual property transactions, with a particular focus on the software, semiconductor, and AI sectors. John draws on deep industry knowledge and hands-on technology experience to guide public and private companies through a full range of high-stakes matters involving: – Corporate and strategic transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, investments, and divestitures – Intellectual property counseling and licensing – Complex commercial and product-related agreements – Open-source software licensing and compliance – Capital markets and financing matters He regularly helps technology companies structure, draft, and negotiate agreements that build and protect enterprise value. John's practice spans a broad range of technology-driven

industries, including SaaS, hardware, automation, and big data. He also counsels chip companies and IP vendors on all aspects of their technology licensing operations, from development to core licensing to manufacture and supply. In the open-source arena, John advises companies on implementing ingestion and contribution policies, audits and remediation in connection with corporate transactions, and establishing and managing open source software projects. A recognized thought leader, John is a member of the American Bar Association's Intellectual Property Section and the American Society of Composers and Producers. He also teaches a course on intellectual property licensing at the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco. John is certified as a Black Duck Legal Professional. Before joining Latham, John was a partner at another global law firm, where he led a technology transactions practice in the Bay Area. Prior to law school, he worked as a software developer and as a singer, songwriter, instrumentalist, producer, and performer.

MCINTYRE, Stephen

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Featured in Antitrust (California)

Practice Areas: Steve McIntyre is a partner in the Antitrust and Competition practice of Paul Hastings and is based in the firm's Los Angeles office. He represents clients in investigations, government enforcement actions and high-stakes private litigation. He brings skill, insight and practicality to each matter — be it a nationwide class action, a suit against a client's chief competitor or an inquiry from a federal or state antitrust enforcer. He has secured victories for clients in the pharmaceutical, technology and entertainment industries, among others. Mr. McIntyre is widely respected among peers, clients and adversaries alike. He also is an active contributor to the antitrust community. He has served on the Executive Committee of the California Lawyers Association's Antitrust & Unfair Competition Law Section and on the Executive Committee of the LA County Bar Association's Antitrust & Unfair Business Practices Section. He has also served as editor-in-chief of the journal Competition. Fluent in Mandarin Chinese, Mr. McIntyre maintains an active pro bono practice representing refugees and asylum seekers.

Personal: Duke University, M.A. Duke University School of Law, J.D. Brigham Young University, B.A.

MCLAUGHLIN, Nicole

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Featured in Environment (California)

Practice Areas: Environmental Litigation Intellectual Property Land Use Oil & Gas Energy & Utilities
Career: Nicole McLaughlin's practice focuses on environmental law and complex commercial litigation. Nicole advises and represents clients throughout the country in a wide array of cases

including environmental, breach of contract, franchise dispute, premises liability, and intellectual property matters. In her environmental practice, Nicole works on complex, multi-party, federal and state Superfund sites across the country involving claims under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and its state law equivalents. Nicole counsels energy company clients in environmental and franchise matters and business clients on a multitude of issues. Nicole has substantial experience in all facets of civil actions in state and federal court, from successful challenges to initial pleadings, through discovery, law and motion, mediation, and trial. She frequently helps resolve disputes in the early stages of litigation and has also successfully obtained plaintiff and defense verdicts at trial on behalf of her clients. Nicole is licensed in California, Oregon, and the District of Columbia.

Professional Memberships: Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, Member Los Angeles County Bar Association, Member & Environmental Section, Member San Luis Obispo County Bar Association, Member Energy Bar Association Western Chapter, Member

MCNIVEN, Carolyn

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Featured in False Claims Act (USA - Nationwide), Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Clients rely on Carolyn McNiven to handle their most challenging government enforcement problems because she is a strong client advocate, whether the matter is criminal, civil or both. Although her local roots are generations deep, Carolyn's practice is national in breadth and takes her wherever clients need her deft hand — whether conducting a sensitive internal investigation or going toe-to-toe with government enforcement authorities. With a focus on health care enforcement defense, Carolyn represents public companies and individuals under U.S. Department of Justice (U.S. DoJ) investigation and defends civil enforcement matters triggered by qui tam (whistleblower) complaints. View more at: <https://www.faegredrinker.com/en/professionals/m/mcniven%2Dcarolyn%2Ddfitzhugh#tab%2DOverview>

MCPEAKE, Brian C.

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Featured in Private Equity (California)

Practice Areas: Brian McPeake is a partner and Co-Chair of Goodwin's Global Private Equity group and a former member of the firm's Executive Committee. He focuses his practice on advising private equity sponsors and their portfolio companies. Brian advises clients on a range of domestic and cross-border transactional matters, including leveraged buyouts, acquisitions and divestitures, growth equity investments, joint ventures, recapitalizations and general corporate and securities law matters. He also has experience advising

private equity funds on structuring and completing investments and managing portfolio companies across a range of industries, including technology and software, financial services and fintech, healthcare, and business services.

Personal: JD, 2004 Boston College Law School (cum laude) MS, 2004 Boston College BA, 2001 Boston College (cum laude)

MEDINA, Damaris

Buchalter, LLP, Los Angeles

Featured in Healthcare (California)

Practice Areas: Health Care Dispute Resolution Litigation Health Care White Collar & Investigations Latin America Practice State Attorneys General Managed Care Litigation Health Care & Life Sciences Health Systems & Hospitals

Career: Damaris Medina, Co-Chair of the Health Care Practice Group, Co-Chair of the Health Care Dispute Resolution Practice Group, Co-Chair of the Health Care & Life Sciences Industry Group, and Chair of the Firm's Health Systems & Hospitals Industry Group, is a Partner in Buchalter's Los Angeles and Orange County offices. A nationally recognized health care attorney, Ms. Medina brings more than 15 years of experience representing hospitals, health systems, and other health care providers in complex litigation, reimbursement, and regulatory matters. Ms. Medina's practice focuses on managed care litigation involving commercial and Medicare/Medicaid plans, where she has successfully litigated numerous high-value reimbursement disputes against major health plans—recovering millions of dollars for her provider clients. Her experience spans both out-of-network disputes, where she establishes the reasonable value of hospital and physician services, and in-network matters involving unfair payment practices, medical necessity, and coding denials. She represents clients in arbitration, state, and federal courts nationwide. Beyond litigation, Ms. Medina provides strategic counsel to hospitals and health systems on managed care contracting, revenue cycle optimization, regulatory compliance, and risk management. She also defends providers in government and private payer audits, False Claims Act investigations, and enforcement actions brought by agencies such as the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Office of Inspector General (OIG).

Professional Memberships: – Urgent Care Association of America, Director of the Board and Past-Treasurer – California Urgent Care Association (California Chapter of UCAOA), Director of the Board and President-Elect – California Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians – Orange County Bar Association, Co-Chair Activities Committee, Health Care Law Section – American Bar Association, International Law Section – Los Angeles County Bar Association, Health Care Law Section

MERANI, PH.D, Salima

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Featured in Life Sciences (California),

Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Advertising, Media & Entertainment Practice Copyright IP Transactions, Agreements & Venture Capital Litigation Patent Strategy & Prosecution Trademark & Brand Protection

Career: Salima Merani, Ph.D. is the Co-Chair of the firm's Medical Device Group. Salima has over 25 years of experience leading high-stakes transactions and building patent portfolios for global life sciences companies, including medtech, biopharma, and biotech companies. She also has extensive experience in conducting complex patent due diligence for investors. Recognized in prestigious publications as “a great strategic advisor with a proven track record” and deemed “a favorite of venture capitalists,” Salima has been lead IP counsel in numerous successful funding rounds, mergers, and acquisitions. Internationally recognized as a visionary and highly strategic counselor, Salima is on the Advisory Board of Vesana Capital, and serves as an advisor and mentor to several tech CEOs and other executives, in-house counsel and venture capitalists. As an influential trailblazer in the industry, Salima's unique business-focused approach to IP law provides an invaluable perspective to both investors and emerging growth companies with her wide-ranging experience in US and international patent and trademark portfolio management, licensing, strategic offensive positioning, enforcement, IPOs, acquisitions, and global IP risk mitigation. With her impressive technical background and doctorate degree, Salima has successfully guided companies in the fields of dermatology, orthopedics, cardiovascular, gynecology, urology, oncology, and neurology. She has extensive experience with surgical implants, drug-device combinations, neurostimulation, medical imaging, nerve denervation, tissue ablation, regenerative technology, hypertension, stroke, diabetes, ultrasound, nutraceuticals, cosmetic formulations, and aesthetics. Clients consistently praise Salima for her extraordinary negotiation skills and fearless support of their companies. Salima has received multiple awards and has been honored in both national and international forums for her significant legal accomplishments. Her stellar reputation has been repeatedly recognized in Chambers, where she is doubly ranked in both the Patent Prosecution and Life Sciences: IP/Patent Litigation categories and where clients have noted that “Salima has been phenomenal, she is the best I've worked with. She's very strategic, has unique capability, looks at the big picture and can be extremely detail-oriented.” Salima was named “Life Sciences Lawyer of the Year” by LMG Life Sciences and was recently inducted to the Legal 500's “Hall of Fame”.

She has been lauded as an IP Star by Managing Intellectual Property, which also honored her in their global “Top 250

Women in IP” list. She was the recipient of the coveted “Client Choice Award” for Intellectual Property (Patents, California) by International Law Office (ILO). Legal Media Group named her “Patent Prosecution Attorney of the Year” in the “LMG Life Sciences Annual Awards”. She was featured in The National Law Journal's “IP Hot List” and named a “Life Sciences Trailblazer”. In Intellectual Asset Management's “IAM Patent 1000” lists, Salima was praised for her skills in brokering blockbuster life sciences deals and described as “a true global leader in medical device patenting.” Salima was also honored in the “Life Sciences” survey for Intellectual Property, The Recorder's list of Women Leaders in Tech Law, and the Daily Journal's list of the Top IP Lawyers in California and Top Women Lawyers. Salima has been recognized in the Daily Journal's list of the Top Intellectual Property Attorneys, where she was identified among the Top 25 Portfolio Managers & Patent Prosecutors of Intellectual Property. Salima's numerous accomplishments are detailed in the Recognition section. Salima is past Vice Chair of the AIPLA (American Intellectual Property Law Association) USPTO Inter Partes Patent Proceedings Committee. She also served on the AIP- LA's Special Task Force on AIA (America Invents Act) Rulemaking. Salima is also a founding member of the Firm's USPTO Trials and Post Grant Proceedings Practice Group, and has represented clients in multiple patent disputes before the USPTO and international patent and trademark offices.

Professional Memberships: Past Vice Chair of the AIPLA (American Intellectual Property Law Association) USPTO Inter Partes Patent Proceedings Committee, which oversees the Interference, Reexamination, and Derivation subcommittees Served on the AIPLA's Special Task Force on AIA (America Invents Act) Rulemaking

MESHKI, Hamed

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Featured in Private Equity (California)

Practice Areas: Hamed Meshki is a senior corporate partner Kirkland's Los Angeles office. His practice primarily focuses on highly structured and complex private equity transactions, including mergers & acquisitions, leveraged buyouts, restructurings, recapitalizations, and financings. He represents several of the world's leading private equity and asset management firms and their portfolio companies, as well as several public and private companies, in their most significant and complex matters.

Personal: University of Chicago Law School, J.D., 2003 with Honors; University of California at Los Angeles, B.A., Political Science, 2000.

METZ, James

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Featured in Employee Benefits &

Executive Compensation (California: San Francisco, Silicon Valley & Surrou)

Practice Areas: Jay Metz, Vice Chair of Latham & Watkins' Tax Department, advises individual executives, public and private companies, and compensation committees on a broad array of compensation and benefits issues in the context of day-to-day business, corporate transactions, and crisis situations. Jay regularly designs compensation plans and advises clients with respect to tax, securities, and corporate law issues that arise in connection with establishing and administering plans, including: – Stock option and other equity incentive plans – Phantom equity, carveout, and other retention plans – Employee stock purchase plans – Nonqualified deferred compensation plans – Incentive compensation plans and arrangements Jay represents clients with respect to compensation and benefits issues in a variety of corporate transactions, including: – Corporate mergers and acquisitions – Spinoffs – Initial public offerings He regularly works with employers and executives to negotiate, design, and document executive employment, change in control, and severance agreements. In addition, he advises companies on matters affecting tax-qualified retirement plans, and health and welfare programs. Prior to attending law school, Jay was the Chief Financial Officer of an independent physician association and health maintenance organization. He also served several years in the United States Air Force as a cryptologic linguist.

MIHLSTEN, George

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Featured in Real Estate (California)

Practice Areas: George Mhlsten retired from the partnership in September 2023 and is currently Of Counsel. He has substantial experience in real estate, regulatory and legislative issues at the local, state and federal level. His work often includes real estate projects and transactions including securing regulatory approvals for large scale development projects. In addition, George has broad experience in complex regulatory and legislative issues. George's work includes securing approvals for complex development projects, navigating environmental clearances pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act and coordinating policy issues and legislative changes addressing issues affecting development and industry. George has extensive experience in coordinating large teams in connection with these projects including architects, engineers, environmental scientists, community relations and communications specialists, and media relations experts. George also works with many community and business leaders, representatives of organized labor, and elected officials in connection with many

of these projects and issues. Projects on which he has advised include studios, resorts, office complexes, mixed use projects, hospitals, high-rise condominium projects, shopping centers, oil fields, refineries, residential projects, port facilities, and sports facilities. George has served on a number of task forces dealing with issues such as housing policies, transportation policies, permit streamlining and environmental review processes.

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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Transactional: Mainly Talent (California)

Practice Areas: Darrell is the Founding Chair of the Entertainment & Sports Law Department. A prominent entertainment lawyer with more than 20 years' experience in entertainment law, Darrell focuses his practice on transactional law with an emphasis on the motion picture, television, music, theater and multimedia industries. As a testament to his effective brand-building strategies, Darrell is consistently listed among Hollywood's top dealmakers by national industry publications such as *Variety* and *The Hollywood Reporter*. Darrell has aided and assisted clients in all areas of entertainment law, including: motion pictures, television, music, theatre, new media, live-stage production, touring, literary property, licensing agreements, collaboration agreements, partnerships, incorporations, merchandising, intellectual property, syndication, literary book publishing, executive employment agreements, development agreements, production agreements, and distribution agreements. As a former singer and performer, Darrell has a deep understanding of the creative talent he represents, as well as the knowledge and savvy of a seasoned entertainment attorney. Darrell's clients include diverse and visionary individuals and entities, reflecting his commitment to developing multimedia opportunities within the convergent climate of today's entertainment industry. His commitment to providing superior personal service has resulted in long-standing relationships with studio executives and creative personnel, representation of actors, writers, directors and producers associated with a variety of television programs and motion pictures including "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," "Fast X," "9 – 1 – 1," "The Lost City," "Uncharted," "Damsel," "Heist 88," "61st Street," "Black Godfather," "Thor: Love and Thunder," "Ambulance," "On the Come Up," "House Party," "WandaVision," "The Academy Awards," "Karma's World," "The NAACP Image Awards," "The Idol," "The Holdovers," "Black Mafia Family," "Taylor Tomlinson: Look at You," "Spiderman: No Way Home," "Winning Time," "Lady in the Lake," "You," "Sidney," "Outer Range," "The Big Cigar," "CSI-Las Vegas," "They Cloned Tyrone," "Phat Tuesdays," "The Book of Jose" and "Imperial." Darrell is

the managing partner of the firm's Los Angeles office.

Career: Darrell launched his own private practice in 1996, where he served as production counsel on television, cable and film projects. The firm expanded to Miller & Pliakas LLP in 2001, in which Darrell was a partner and co-founder. Darrell began his legal career with the national law firm Lord Bissell and Brook, where his practice included litigation and general corporate law, representing domestic and international companies, business executives, entertainment production companies and performing artists.

Professional Memberships: Beverly Hills Bar Association | Los Angeles County Bar Association | American Bar Association (Section Member, Forum on Entertainment and Sports Industries) | Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association (Past Chairman of the Board of Directors, President and Executive Committee Member) | Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (Past Member Board of Governors and Executive Committee and Past Chair of Membership and Diversity Committees) | The Grammy Recording Academy

MISHRA, Sourabh
Hueston Hennigan LLP, Los Angeles
Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Named one of five "Trials Rising Stars" in the country by *Law360* in 2024, Sourabh Mishra is a trial lawyer who focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation, intellectual property litigation, white collar criminal defense, and investigations. Clients have described him to Chambers as "super smart" and "a really persuasive writer," and he brings both to bear for individuals and companies in high-stakes disputes across a wide range of industries — among them medical devices, information analytics, food and beverage, telecommunications, biopharmaceuticals, and technology hardware and equipment. Mr. Mishra builds his cases around the facts and issues that will decide them at trial, and he has worked at every stage of litigation, from pre-complaint investigation through post-verdict briefing. He has prevailed on motions of every kind — motions to dismiss, for summary judgment, and for judgment on the pleadings, along with Daubert and post-trial motions. And his work culminates in the courtroom, where he has conducted direct and cross examinations of key fact and expert witnesses at multiple trials. His clients have included Amazon, Monster Energy, Jazwares, Walmart, Micron, Disney, Gallant Capital, and Bausch Health.

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Featured in Tax (California: Northern)

Practice Areas: Katharine Moir, Global Chair of the firm's Tax Department, advises leading private equity firms and companies on tax issues arising in their largest and most complex transactions. Katharine provides comprehensive tax

counsel in connection with a range of domestic and international transactions and is widely recognized as a leading private equity tax lawyer. Her work includes advising on tax issues related to complicated US and international transactions, including: – Mergers and acquisitions – Joint ventures – Recapitalizations – Structured investments – Formation of private equity funds – Securities offerings. Katharine regularly represents leading private equity firms, as well as top technology and other companies. Her experience spans a number of landmark and high-value deals — including advising Dell in the largest technology deal to date. Prior to joining Latham, Katharine served as a tax partner and head of the West Coast tax practice at a leading international law firm.

MONTGOMERY, Sandra Lee
Proskauer Rose LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Private Credit (USA – Nationwide), Banking & Finance (California)

Practice Areas: Sandra Lee Montgomery is co-chair of Proskauer's Corporate Department and a nationally recognized leader in banking and finance. She works with institutional investors, direct lenders, private debt funds and investment banks on complex, high-value transactions nationwide. Clients rely on Sandra for clear judgment, commercial focus and a strong command of sophisticated capital structures when financing matters are business-critical. In addition to her practice leadership, Sandra has played an active role in Firm governance. Prior to being appointed co-Chair of Proskauer's Corporate Department, she served on the firm's Executive Committee and the Women Partners Advisory Committee, and she is a former co-chair of the New Business Committee. Sandra also mentors through the Firm's Diverse Lawyer Mentoring Circle Program. Sandra focuses on acquisitions, recapitalizations and other leveraged financings, including cash flow and asset-based facilities, debtor-in-possession and exit financings, cross-border financings, unitranche and mezzanine transactions and complex restructurings. She advises clients across a broad range of industries, including retail, technology, transportation, manufacturing, distribution, general industrial, import/export, agriculture and services. Sandra has extensive knowledge of Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code and other laws governing secured transactions. Her international experience includes cross-border transactions involving parties in Australia, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, the Cayman Islands, England, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Puerto Rico, Scotland and Singapore.

MOORE, Christopher R
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, Palo Alto
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Featured in Corporate/M&A (California: San Francisco, Silicon Valley & Surrounding)

Practice Areas: Chris Moore's practice focuses on public and private company

mergers and acquisitions, carve-outs, joint ventures, and other transformative transactions. He advises boards of directors, management teams, and investors on strategic transactions and corporate governance matters, with significant experience representing companies in the technology sector. Chris was named a 2025 "Dealmaker of the Year" by *The Recorder* and has been recognized as a leading advisor by numerous industry publications and directories. His recent experience includes representing Synopsys in its \$35 billion acquisition of Ansys and in connection with NVIDIA's \$2 billion investment in Synopsys and concurrent entry into a strategic partnership; T-Mobile in its \$4.3 billion acquisition of USCellular's wireless operations and select spectrum assets; and OpenText in its \$2.275 billion sale of its application modernization and connectivity business to Rocket Software.

MOORE, DJ
Paul Hastings LLP, Century City
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Featured in Real Estate (California)

Practice Areas: DJ Moore is a partner in the Real Estate practice at Paul Hastings and is based in the firm's Century City office. DJ helps clients obtain and defend land use and environmental approvals from government agencies for major infrastructure, energy and development projects. He advises developers, landowners, institutions and utilities before local, state and federal agencies and regulatory bodies, and he defends project approvals from those entities in court. His practice involves counseling clients on numerous development regulations and environmental laws affecting development and infrastructure, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the California Coastal Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Rivers and Harbors Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Endangered Species Act, the California Subdivision Map Act, and many other federal and state laws and regulations. **DJ Personal:** University of Virginia, School of Law, J.D. University of Virginia, B.A.

MOORE, Wendy
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Featured in Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation (California: San Francisco, Silicon Valley & Surrounding)

Practice Areas: Tax Law Corporate Law Emerging Companies & Venture Capital Law Corporate Governance Labor & Employment Public Companies Mergers & Acquisitions Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation Blockchain & Digital Assets Communications Digital Media & Entertainment, Gaming & Sports Interactive Entertainment Immersive Technology Music, Film & Television Related Gaming Sports **Career:** With more than 25 years of Silicon Valley experience, Wendy Moore represents companies, management teams and individual executives on

executive and equity compensation, employment matters, and corporate governance. In designing, implementing, and modifying compensation programs, Wendy encourages clients to consider not only market-based benchmark data but also the unique skills and contributions of the service recipients, the current and expected opportunities and challenges that clients face in their industry, the administrative costs, the potential employee response, and how these programs may be judged by potential third parties in hindsight. Wendy's industry experience includes AI/ML, cybersecurity, data analytics, SaaS, cleantech/renewable energy, fintech, gaming, blockchain/distributed ledger technology, health tech, biotech, medical devices, real estate, and traditional industrial companies. Wendy enjoys working with companies to create equity and phantom equity programs, long-term and annual cash-based incentive programs, deferred compensation arrangements, severance and retention programs, liquidity tender offers, and carve-out/change of control bonus plans. Wendy regularly represents executives and venture capitalists in their own individual compensation negotiations, whether as part of entering or exiting their companies or funds, or as part of significant transitions like acquisitions, IPOs, material refresh grants, or secondary liquidity sales. Wendy has pioneered solutions in token-based compensation in conjunction with our Blockchain & Digital Currency industry group and our Emerging Companies & Venture Capital practice, helping to advise clients on the launch of commercial platforms powered by blockchain tokens. Wendy also works with boards as well as clients' external auditors and compensation consultants. Wendy is particularly skilled in areas involving U.S. Tax Code sections 409A, 83, 280G, and 162(m) and securities issues involving Rule 701, annual proxy reports, and the tender offer rules. In addition to her counsel on various compensation plans, she has been involved in issuers' annual compensation calendars, including issue spotting on plan design changes, drafting CD&As and proxy proposals, and supporting shareholder outreach campaigns. Wendy has also provided board and management education on legal changes and works with clients to minimize the risk of compensation-based litigation. Ranked by Chambers USA, Wendy is a member of the American Bar Association and regularly presents on emerging issues in executive and equity compensation.

MORGAN, Rees F

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: White collar defense and investigations, commercial litigation
Career: Rees Morgan is a trial attorney with a practice focusing on white collar criminal defense; SEC and other regulatory enforcement actions; securities,

shareholder and derivative litigation, including complex Board governance issues; and the trial of business disputes in federal and state courts. His clients include individuals, directors, and companies in a variety of industries, including technology, cryptocurrency, telecommunications, health care, venture capital, financial services, and government. He has tried to verdict multiple matters, including as first chair in five federal jury trial victories. Rees has litigated more than a dozen writs and appeals, and argued before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to joining the firm, Rees served as an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) in the Southern District of California, where he prosecuted cases involving fraud and identity theft, organized crime and racketeering, and narcotics and firearms trafficking conspiracies. While serving as a federal prosecutor, Rees tried to verdict and won eight federal felony cases and served as lead prosecutor in a fraud investigation involving over 200 victims in three states and millions of dollars in losses. He was specially designated as an Anti-Gang and Violent Crime AUSA tasked with developing and implementing gang eradication efforts on behalf of the office and served as co-lead AUSA in a federal RICO investigation resulting in the indictment of 38 members and associates of a criminal enterprise engaged in the sex trafficking of minors.

Professional Memberships: Rees is a member of the California State Bar, the American Bar Association, and the Bar Association of San Francisco. Rees has been appointed to the Northern District of California's Criminal Justice Act Panel, a panel of attorneys serving indigent defendants charged with federal crimes, and was named by the City Council of Lafayette, California to Lafayette's Crime Prevention Commission. He serves on the Pro Bono Advisory Board of Swords To Plowshares, an organization dedicated to assisting military veterans, and serves on the management committee of the Firm.

MORIN, Sarah-Jane

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, San Francisco
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Featured in Tax (California: Northern)

Practice Areas: Sarah-Jane Morin focuses her practice on transactional tax issues and is an authority on US federal income tax matters. She represents public and private companies, private equity funds, venture capital funds, corporate venture funds, sovereign wealth funds, taxable and tax-exempt investors, real estate funds, infrastructure funds, portfolio companies, and alternative investment vehicles in the tax aspects of complex business transactions and fund formations. Sarah-Jane advises on domestic and cross-border investment strategies, sponsor investment strategies (UBTI/ECI/CAI management), mergers, acquisitions, integrations, buy-outs, recapitalizations, debt and equity restructurings, entity formation, and

ongoing operations and tax compliance issues.

Personal: University of California, Berkeley School of Law, 2009, J.D. University of California, Berkeley, 2004, B.A., National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Order of Omega Honor Society

MORRISON, Robert

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Featured in Banking & Finance (California)

Practice Areas: Rob is a member of Davis Polk's Finance practice. He has a wide-ranging practice advising agent banks, senior lenders, lead arrangers, investors, private equity funds and other borrowers in connection with secured and unsecured syndicated credit facilities, direct lending facilities and leveraged acquisition financings in the United States and globally. He also has extensive experience advising clients on infrastructure financing matters.

MOSS, Caine

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Featured in Venture Capital (California)

Practice Areas: Caine Moss is a partner in Goodwin's Technology group, and one of the four founding partners of Goodwin's West Coast Technology companies practice. He previously served on the firm's Executive Committee and was a former Business Law department Leader for the firm's Silicon Valley office. He is currently a regional leader in the firm's Technology practice and a leader in the firm's AI practice. He has significant experience working with AI, infrastructure, consumer and financial services companies through all stages of their growth. In addition, he has broad transactional expertise, particularly in the areas of venture capital (from early stage to growth / late stage), public and private mergers and acquisitions, and representation of issuers and underwriters in public equity offerings. He is a key contributor to Goodwin's Founders Workbench, an online resource for start-ups, emerging companies and the entrepreneurial community.

Personal: JD, Harvard Law School 1996; BA, Stanford University 1993

MOUDGIL, Bharat

Proskauer Rose LLP, Los Angeles

Featured in Banking & Finance (California)

Practice Areas: Bharat K. Moudgil is a partner in Proskauer's Corporate Department and a member of the Private Credit Group. He represents lenders across a broad range of financing structures, including traditional senior secured and hybrid capital arrangements. His clients include a wide array of credit providers, including private debt funds, BDCs, banks and other institutional investors, in connection with acquisition financings, restructurings and recapitalizations in direct, club and syndicated deals in the middle and upper middle markets. His experience spans a variety of industries, including software and technology, business services, professional services

platforms and alternative business structures and life sciences and healthcare businesses, including developers of pharmaceuticals, medical devices and other therapeutics. During law school, Bharat served as managing editor of the University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law and was a judicial intern for the Honorable James S. Moody of the United States District Court.

MOUSAVI, Nader A

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Featured in Technology (USA - Nationwide), Artificial Intelligence (USA - Nationwide), Technology (California)

Practice Areas: Intellectual Property & Technology Transactions, Artificial Intelligence, Digital Infrastructure, Healthcare & Life Sciences, Technology

Career: Recognized as a 2024 "Deal-maker of the Year" by The American Lawyer, the 2023 "Attorney of the Year" by The Recorder and as a Band 1 practitioner in California Technology and Nationwide Artificial Intelligence by Chambers USA, Nader is widely regarded as one of the world's leading technology deal lawyers and one of the foremost advisors in artificial intelligence. For more than 25 years, Nader has served as a strategic advisor to clients at the forefront of major breakthroughs in technology and human health. Today, Nader is the leading practitioner globally on high-stakes AI and digital infrastructure transactions, having advised on AI compute transactions valued well in excess of \$1 trillion. Nader has led the representation of OpenAI in its strategic partnerships, including in its ground-breaking transactions with Amazon (including 2 gigawatts of Trainium capacity), AMD (for 6 gigawatts of GPUs), Cerebras (for 750 megawatts of ultra-low latency compute), CoreWeave (for over \$22 billion of compute), Google Cloud, Microsoft (including their 2023, 2025 and 2026 agreements), Oracle (for 4.5 gigawatts of compute), SB Energy (for development of multi-gigawatt AI datacenter campuses), and SoftBank Group (in a joint venture to deploy Advanced Enterprise AI in Japan). Nader also serves as lead counsel to Broadcom in its strategic AI compute initiatives, including in transactions with Anthropic and Google (for 3.5 gigawatts of TPU-based capacity, as well as \$21 billion of Google TPU chips), Meta (for more than 1 gigawatt of Meta AI accelerator capacity), and OpenAI (for 10 gigawatts of customer AI accelerator capacity). In addition to extensive experience in AI and AI infrastructure, he advises clients across a wide range of industries on the adoption, implementation and governance of AI. Nader also advised the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) on the formation of the Broad Institute and UCLA on the formation of the California Institute for Immunology and Immunotherapy (CIIL). As co-head of Sullivan & Cromwell's Technology Group, the Firm's IP and Technology Group, the Firm's AI Practice and the Firm's Digital

Infrastructure Practice, Nader brings extensive experience guiding industry leaders, innovators and investors on transformative transactions driven by technology and intellectual property, including collaborations, joint ventures, acquisitions, divestitures, licenses, strategic supply and settlements. Nader also serves as Co-Managing Partner of the Firm's Palo Alto office. Nader serves on the Advisory Council of the Stanford Institute for Human-Centered AI (HAI), the world's leading institute for the advancement of AI research, education, policy and practice. He has been a Lecturer in Law at Stanford Law School since 2016, where he teaches a popular course on the Business and Law of Technology and Patent Licensing. He also serves on the Board of Visitors for Stanford Law School and is a recipient of the Governors' Award for outstanding service to Stanford University. Earlier in his career, he served as the general counsel of a fast-growth company through its acquisition. During his undergraduate studies at UCLA, Nader studied abroad at the University of Bologna for a full academic year.

Personal: Stanford Law (JD, 1997); UCLA (BA, 1993).

MUGMON, Michael
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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Companies and individuals rely on Michael Mugmon to guide them through multifaceted legal challenges that threaten their business and their reputation. The partner-in-charge of WilmerHale's San Francisco office, Mr. Mugmon maintains a wide-ranging national and international practice advising clients across many industries as they navigate complex and high-profile investigations, regulatory inquiries, litigation and other threats. Taking into account each client's unique situation and goals, he charts strategies that resolve thorny problems and allow companies and individuals to stay focused on what matters. Mr. Mugmon regularly conducts US-based and global internal investigations and compliance reviews, defends clients facing significant government enforcement actions involving the US Department of Justice, the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), state attorney general offices, various international regulators, and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, and handles complex commercial and securities litigation in federal and state courts. He has experience in matters related to financial fraud, accounting irregularities, anti-money laundering, insider trading, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, sanctions and export controls, compliance and risk management, internal controls, and disclosure issues. His clients include companies and individuals in a range of industries, from technology, social media, cryptocurrency and blockchain, and artificial intelligence to financial services, energy, construction and real estate. Mr. Mugmon joined

WilmerHale's Washington DC office in 2003 and has since helped the firm establish its West Coast presence, first as a founding member of its government investigations and litigation practice in Palo Alto in 2007, and then as a founder of its San Francisco office in 2019. He was named partner-in-charge of the San Francisco office in 2021. Mr. Mugmon also chairs the Hiring Committee for the San Francisco office and serves on the firm's Pro Bono and Community Service Committee and Ethics Committee.

NARANJO, Minna
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, San Francisco

Featured in Antitrust (California)

Practice Areas: Minna Naranjo represents clients in high-stakes antitrust, commercial, and regulatory matters. She has worked on litigation, investigation, and counseling matters across a range of industries, including pharmaceutical, technology, real estate, airline, oil and gas, and ridesharing. Her experience includes multidistrict litigation, class action and direct action defense, litigation against the US Department of Justice (DOJ), the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and state attorneys general, and various state agencies, defending against claims of price-fixing, resale price maintenance, artificial intelligence (AI)-drive collusion, market allocation, exclusive dealing, monopolization, tying, bundling, wage fixing, information sharing, breach of contract, fraud, and unfair competition.

Personal: American University Washington College of Law, 2008, J.D., cum laude University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Business, 2005, B.S., cum laude

NARDALI, Ali
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Featured in Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation (California: San Francisco, Silicon Valley & Surround)

Practice Areas: Ali Nardali is a partner in the firm's Capital Markets practice group and is a member of the firm's public company Executive Compensation practice group. He regularly advises companies, boards, compensation committees, and senior executives on executive compensation matters, with specific focus on structure, governance, disclosure, and transition issues. Ali previously took leave from the firm to lead the executive compensation legal function at a large US registrant, assisting the registrant with three CEO and two President transitions, as well as ongoing engagement with institutional stockholders and proxy advisory firms. A recognized leader in the field, Ali has advised senior members of the executive and legislative branches of the US government, as well as interested parties in many of the most significant and high-profile management compensation matters of the last two decades. Ali has been cited by numerous publications and treatises, and recent articles by Ali have appeared in Bloomberg and Har-

vard Law School's Forum on Corporate Governance, including the Forum's seminal article on using cryptocurrencies as compensation. Ali holds a J.D. from Yale Law School, where he served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Yale Law Journal, and a B.A. in mathematics, Phi Beta Kappa and with highest distinction, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Publications: "Keeping Up With the Times: SEC Proposes to Modernize Ability of Companies to Grant Equity Compensation," JD Supra, December 2020 "An Early Holiday for Gig Workers: SEC Proposes to Expand Ability of Companies to Grant Equity Compensation to Gig Economy Workers," JD Supra, November 2020 "Stock Option Repricing Considerations During the Pandemic," Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance, May 2020

NATLAND, Susan
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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Intellectual Property Global Trademark and Brand Protection

Career: Susan Natland, a Chambers-ranked attorney, is co-lead of the Global Trademark and Brand Protection team and advises clients on all aspects of domestic and international trademark and brand protection and enforcement, advertising law, unfair competition, copyrights and data privacy. She dedicates time to understanding each client's business and goals to deliver practical, efficient solutions that advance their brand strategies. Known for being responsive, accountable and results-driven, Susan builds trusted relationships as both a legal and business advisor. Susan's practice covers domestic and foreign trademark selection and clearance, trademark prosecution, ex parte and inter partes proceedings before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB), licensing, trademark audits, domain name disputes, trademark strategy and procurement, counterfeited enforcement, customs matters, entertainment law, rights of publicity and intellectual property issues involving artificial intelligence. She also handles copyright protection, enforcement and litigation and has even attended raids of counterfeit warehouses in China. In addition, she has served as virtual in-house counsel for one of the largest e-commerce and technology companies in the world, adding unique insight into business drivers and goals. Appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Susan served as chair of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's Trademark Public Advisory Committee (TPAC), where she directly advised the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and the Director of the USPTO on trademark policy, performance and fee structures. During her tenure, she submitted a report to the President of the United States and established the USPTO's first-ever stakeholder trademark award. An active

member of the International Trademark Association (INTA), Susan served as chair of the Enforcement Committee, participated in multiple Presidential Task Forces and is a member of the INTA Political Action Committee (PAC) Board. Most recently, she co-chaired the INTA Presidential Task Force "Unlocking IP." She also contributed to advancing innovation policy through her work on the Advisory Board of Counsel for Innovation Promotion (C4IP) and as vice-chair of the USPTO ChIPs Chapter. She has also taught Advanced Trademark Law at her alma mater, UCLA School of Law. In addition to her trademark and brand protection work, Susan is a registered patent attorney with the USPTO and holds an IAPP CIPP/US Data Privacy Certification. Her clients range from fast-growing startups to established global brands across industries including entertainment, fashion, food and beverage, automotive, cosmetics, health and wellness, finance, software, telecommunications, e-commerce, consumer goods and sports.

Professional Memberships: International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP) (2015 to present) International Trademark Association (INTA) (2000 to present); Political Action Committee: Board Member (2023 to present); INTA PAC Capitol Club: Rotunda (2021 to present); Women's Leadership Initiative Project Team (2024 to present); Academic Committee (2024 to present); Professor and Adjunct Subcommittee (2024 to present) Council for Innovation Promotion (C4IP); Advisory Board of Directors Member (2025 to present) USPTO Trademark Public Advisory Committee (TPAC); Chair (2021 to 2022); Member (2019 to 2022)

NETSER, Idan
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Featured in Startups & Emerging Companies (USA - Nationwide), Tax (California: Northern), Venture Capital (California)

Practice Areas: IDAN NETSER serves as co-leader of the firm's Emerging Companies and Venture Capital (ECVC) practice. Idan focuses his practice on advising international high growth emerging technology companies, venture capital investors and large multinational corporations. Idan's vast experience extends to corporate and partnership matters, including cross-border international investments, joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, international tax, transfer pricing, tax planning and restructurings, international IP planning and exploitation, and tax controversy. Idan is particularly experienced working with Silicon Valley, Korea, India and Israel's thriving technology sectors that have been a key focus of U.S. technology investment and M&A activity

NGUYEN, Lisa
Paul Hastings LLP, Palo Alto
Featured in Intellectual Property (USA - Nationwide), Intellectual Property (California)

See under Nationwide for profile.

NIX, Shane

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Featured in Tax (California: Southern)

Practice Areas: Shane Nix, a partner in the Firm's Tax Department and the Entertainment Transactions Practice, counsels companies and individuals on various business transactions, with an emphasis on transactional tax matters relating to the acquisition, disposition, and restructuring of businesses, corporations, and partnerships. Shane's practice primarily focuses on the entertainment industry and is comprised of a wide array of clients including songwriters, recording artists, record labels, actors, actresses, producers, directors, athletes, public personalities, influencers, novelists, comic book creators, and other celebrities. Shane's prior experience as the Vice Chair of the Entertainment Tax Group at an Am Law 100 law firm and as an attorney at a global law firm in Silicon Valley enables him to serve as a bridge for clients between entertainment and technology as the two industries converge. He also brings experience from a global accounting firm where he structured domestic and cross-border M&A transactions for public companies and private equity firms. Shane often acts as general outside tax counsel to business management firms and entertainment law firms, and is an adjunct professor at the University of California Irvine teaching entertainment industry taxation.

NORTON, Fred

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Practical, creative, and tough, Fred Norton is both an accomplished trial lawyer and a business oriented adviser. He focuses on complex civil litigation, including antitrust, intellectual property, and government investigations. Fred began his career at the preeminent national law firm of Boies, Schiller & Flexner, where he was a partner from 2006 to 2012. He then joined SolarCity as the company's Vice President and Deputy General Counsel for Litigation, and continued in that role at Tesla after Tesla acquired SolarCity in 2016. In June 2017, Fred returned to private practice and founded The Norton Law Firm. In the courtroom, Fred has established a track record of significant successes at every stage of litigation, on behalf of both plaintiffs and defendants, including a \$1.3 billion jury verdict for plaintiff Oracle against rival SAP and a complete defense win for American Express in a nationwide class action seeking over \$500 million for breach of contract, fraud, and unfair business practices. At the same time, he knows what it takes to make a trial win stick, and to turn around a trial court defeat: he has represented clients on appeal in the United States Supreme Court, the federal courts of appeals, and the state courts of appeals in California, New York, and Arizona. Not every case

will go to trial; not every case should. Cases are won when clients achieve their practical goals – a lawsuit may be defanged more easily than defeated outright, and the client equally happy with either result. Every case, however, requires an in-depth appreciation of the client's overarching objectives, thorough preparation, a relentless focus on the strategy that secures those objectives – and a sound understanding of what will be decisive if the case nonetheless must be tried. Fred is able to provide precisely that as a result of his combination of extensive courtroom experience and the perspective gained managing litigation and investigations at SolarCity and Tesla, multi-billion dollar, publicly traded companies with thousands of employees and customers. Whatever the case, whatever the stakes, Fred is able to identify the strategy, the law, and the facts that will get our client the best result at the earliest practical stage of litigation – whether that stage is before any complaint is ever filed, or even after judgment has been entered.

O'BRIEN, Ana G

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Featured in REITs (USA – Nationwide), Tax (California: Southern)

Practice Areas: Ana O'Brien, Global Co-Chair of the REIT Industry Group, Deputy Office Managing Partner for the firm's Los Angeles offices, and former Chair of the Los Angeles Tax Department, advises clients on federal taxation of REITs, corporations, and partnerships in a variety of US and international contexts. Ana advises clients on tax issues associated with: – Mergers and acquisitions – Securities offerings – Financing transactions – Joint ventures Ana regularly speaks on tax issues related to real estate investment trusts (REITs) and other tax matters.

O'BRIEN, Harry

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Featured in Real Estate (California)

Practice Areas: Real estate development, land use, and commercial real estate transactions

Career: Harry O'Brien practices real estate, development, and land use law, with an emphasis on representing real estate developers in the entitlement, finance, and construction of large commercial, residential, and institutional development projects, as well as in public/private partnerships. He has represented both the San Francisco Giants in the development of Oracle Park (formerly AT&T Park) and the San Francisco 49ers in the development of their stadium in Santa Clara, California.

Professional Memberships: Harry is a member of the American Bar Association in the sections of Real Property, Trust & Estate Law, Construction Industry and State & Local Government Law. He is also a member of the California State Bar, the Bar Association of San

Francisco, the Urban Land Institute, San Francisco Planning & Urban Research and the Golden Gate Chapter of Lambda Alpha International.

O'DONNELL, Ian

Goodwin, San Francisco
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Featured in Venture Capital (USA – Nationwide), Venture Capital (California)

Practice Areas: Ian O'Donnell is a partner in Goodwin's Private Investment Funds group. He specializes in the formation and representation of U.S. domestic and international venture capital, growth equity and private equity funds. Ian has represented sponsor organizations in the formation of 100+ fund programs, ranging from multibillion-dollar venture capital and private equity funds to early stage venture capital, angel, pledge and microfunds. As fund counsel, Ian regularly advises on all aspects of the fundraising process, including providing market intelligence on fund terms and conditions, review and preparation of all fundraising documentation, formulation of marketing plans and strategies, and leading negotiations with various participants in the fund formation process. He has extensive experience in advising on all facets of internal management structuring, governance and compensation matters. He also counsels both domestic and international institutional clients regarding investments in private investment funds.

Personal: JD, Georgetown University Law Center 1999 (cum laude); BA, Yale University 1994 (cum laude)

O'NEILL, Rita-Anne

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Featured in Private Equity (California)

Practice Areas: M&A, Private Equity.

Career: Rita O'Neill is a partner in S&C's Los Angeles office, a member of the Firm's M&A Group and co-head of the Firm's Global Private Equity Group. A leader in strategic and Private Equity M&A, Rita's ability to seamlessly transition between strategic M&A and Private Equity makes her a go-to advisor for highly complex transactions and competitive auction processes – particularly for clients eager to capitalize on current market disruptions – including taking private undervalued public companies by sponsors, as well as executing strategic minority investments. Over the course of her career, Rita has been sought out by leading global clients within a variety of industries, including consumer and retail, financial services, healthcare and life sciences, industrials, semiconductors, telecommunications and transportation. Recent clients include Ares Management, Crescent Capital, FTX, Grupo México Infraestructura, Lion Capital, Oaktree Capital, Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, TPG Angelo Gordon and Wren House Infrastructure, among others. Rita is chair of the ABA M&A Committee. She is the former chair of the ABA's Acquisition of Public Companies Subcommittee, its Market Trends Sub-

committee and its Deal Points Study on Carveout Transactions. Rita is a member of S&C's Women's Initiative Committee and is the co-founder and co-chair of a national Women in M&A Network (WiMA), a network of senior women dealmakers. Rita is co-chair of the Tulane Corporate Law Institute and the Cambridge Forum on US Private Equity, and regularly participates on panels and guest teaches classes at law schools related to substantive M&A topics. She is a member of the Boston College Law School Dean's Advisory Board. Rita has been named a "Top Woman in Dealmaking" by The Deal twice and was named among the most influential Women in Mid-Market M&A by Mergers & Acquisitions. She was also shortlisted for "Private Equity Lawyer of the Year" by Euromoney Women in Business Law Awards. She has also been recognized by the Los Angeles Business Journal as one of the "Most Influential Private Equity Investors and Advisors" and as one of the "Women Making a Difference" in Los Angeles. Before earning her JD from Boston College Law School, Rita graduated from Wellesley College with a B.A. Following law school, she clerked for the Honorable Norman H. Stahl on the Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Professional Memberships: ABA M&A Committee (Chair); Women in M&A Network (WiMA) (Co-Founder and Co-Chair); Tulane Corporate Law Institute (Co-Chair); Cambridge Forum on US Private Equity (Co-Chair); Boston College Law School Dean's Advisory Board (Member)

O'REILLY, Benet

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (California: San Francisco, Silicon Valley & Surrounding)

Practice Areas: Benet J. O'Reilly is a leading M&A lawyer who advises clients on complex, high-stakes transactions, with a focus on public and private M&A, cross-border deals, carve-outs, divestitures and restructuring-related matters. With more than two decades of experience, he is known for bringing strategic judgment, practical advice and steady execution to transactions involving significant business, regulatory and timing pressures. Benet's practice is particularly focused on technology, life sciences, healthcare and other innovation-driven sectors, where clients rely on him to navigate transformative transactions and complex deal dynamics. His recent matters include representing Shionogi in its \$2.5 billion acquisition of global rights to RADICAVA ORS and IV RADICAVA and its acquisition of Qpex Biopharma; GSK in its acquisitions of Aiolos Bio and Boston Pharmaceuticals' lead asset efimosfermin; Synovis in its \$35 billion acquisition of Ansys; Atlassian in its \$975 million acquisition of Loom; American Tower in its \$10.1 billion acquisition of CoreSite and \$3.5 billion acquisition of InSite; and IFF in its \$45.4 billion Reverse Morris Trust merger with DuPont's

Nutrition & Biosciences business. As a founding partner of Cleary's San Francisco office, Benet leads the firm's West Coast M&A work for technology, life sciences and other innovation-driven companies. Other clients have included Alphabet/Google, Asahi Kasei, FullBeauty Brands, Goodyear, Hewlett-Packard, Juul Labs, Levi Strauss & Co., Post Holdings, Schibsted and Surescripts.

OFFSAY, Rick

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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Transactional (California)

Practice Areas: Rick Offsay, Global Co-Chair of the firm's Entertainment, Sports & Media Practice, provides strategic advice to clients on a full spectrum of complex transactions across the entertainment, sports, and media industries. Rick combines sophisticated industry knowledge with a deep understanding of the businesses of both investors and strategics to help clients navigate: – Mergers and acquisitions – Strategic joint ventures and capital raises – Financing transactions – Complex commercial arrangements He devises creative transaction structures to help clients maximize opportunities and deploy capital across geographies and in a wide range of industry sectors, including film, television, and other content production, financing, and distribution; sports; live events; music; and digital and interactive media.

ONCIDI, Anthony J

Proskauer Rose LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Anthony J. Oncidi is the Co-Chair Emeritus of Proskauer's Labor & Employment Law Department and heads the West Coast Labor & Employment group in the firm's Los Angeles office. Tony represents employers and management in all aspects of labor relations and employment law, including litigation and preventive counseling, wage and hour matters, including class actions, wrongful termination, employee discipline, Title VII and the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, executive employment contract disputes, sexual harassment training and investigations, workplace violence, drug testing and privacy issues, Sarbanes-Oxley claims and employee raiding and trade secret protection. A substantial portion of Tony's practice involves the defense of employers in large class actions, employment discrimination, harassment and wrongful termination litigation in state and federal court as well as arbitration proceedings, including FINRA matters. Tony is the author of the treatise titled *Employment Discrimination Depositions* (Juris Pub'g 2020; www.jurispub.com), co-author of Proskauer on Privacy (PLI 2023), and, since 1990, has been a regular columnist for the official publication of the Labor and Employment Law Section of the State Bar of California and the Los Angeles Daily Journal. Tony has

been a featured guest on Fox 11 News and CBS News in Los Angeles. He has been interviewed and quoted by leading national media outlets such as The National Law Journal, Bloomberg News, The New York Times, and Newsweek and Time magazines. Tony is a frequent speaker on employment law topics for large and small groups of employers and their counsel, including the Society for Human Resource Management ("SHRM"), PIHRA, the National CLE Conference, National Business Institute, the Employment Round Table of Southern California (Board Member), the Council on Education in Management, the Institute for Corporate Counsel, the State Bar of California, the California Continuing Education of the Bar Program and the Los Angeles and Beverly Hills Bar Associations. He has testified as an expert witness regarding wage and hour issues as well as the California Fair Employment and Housing Act and has served as a faculty member of the National Employment Law Institute. He has served as an arbitrator in an employment discrimination matter. Tony is an appointed Hearing Examiner for the Los Angeles Police Commission Board of Rights and has served as an Adjunct Professor of Law and a guest lecturer at USC Law School and a guest lecturer at UCLA Law School.

ORR, Cheryl D.

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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Employers nationwide make Cheryl Orr their first call for their most complex employment law matters. Cheryl focuses on strategically resolving federal and state class, collective and California Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) actions, as well as particularly sensitive and thorny single-plaintiff matters. Her litigation experience positions her to work with employers to prevent and/or remedy underlying issues. She and her team provide the full range of employment law counseling, investigation, training and audits (wage and hour, pay equity and human resources compliance) services. Cheryl also leads the firm's San Francisco office. View more at: <https://www.faegredrinker.com/en/professionals/o/orr%2Dcheryl%2Dd#tab%2DOverview>

OSHINSKY, Matthew

Perkins Coie LLP, San Francisco

Featured in Venture Capital (California)

Practice Areas: Emerging Companies & Venture Capital Law Corporate Law Mergers & Acquisitions Private Equity Blockchain & Digital Assets Fintech & Payments Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning Autonomous & Uncrewed Vehicle Systems (AUVS) Semiconductor Communications Healthcare Immersive Technology Life Sciences & Healthcare **Career:** Matt Oshinsky leads emerging growth companies through the most critical legal and business events in their life cycle and develops proactive strategies to maximize shareholder value. He also

works with a range of venture capital investors and has extensive experience representing leading technology companies in mergers, acquisitions, and strategic investments. The Legal 500 United States has recognized Matt for his work in counseling emerging companies and venture capital firms.

OTUM, Peggy O

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Featured in Environment (California)

Practice Areas: Peggy Otum is chair of WilmerHale's Energy, Environment and Natural Resources group. Ms. Otum represents large corporations, public companies and universities in federal and state environmental enforcement matters and litigation. Drawing on more than 18 years of environmental enforcement defense experience, Ms. Otum routinely assists clients in conducting internal investigations and responding to multi-faceted governmental investigations brought by a range of federal and state environmental, health, and safety regulators, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB), California's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (better known as Cal/OSHA) and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control. As a leader in the firm's ESG cross-functional group, Ms. Otum actively advises clients on evolving legal and business considerations related to ESG risks and opportunities, including climate change, environmental justice, and racial equity. Ms. Otum has been consistently ranked by Chambers USA, Best Lawyers, and Legal 500, among others, and is noted for her "robust command of the law and nuances, as well as the political dimensions of negotiations" and her "ability to handle matters with strength and diplomatic skill."

Professional Memberships: Ms.

Otum is a fellow of the American College of Environmental Lawyers and serves on the Board of Directors of the Environmental Law Institute. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Bar Association of San Francisco and is a member of the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) Advisory Council.

Personal: JD, Howard University School of Law; BSc, Psychology, University of Toronto

OWENS, Keith

Fox Rothschild, San Francisco

Featured in Bankruptcy/Restructuring (California)

Practice Areas: Keith is a strategic ally for clients involved in bankruptcy proceedings, workouts and other insolvency matters, including receiverships and assignments for the benefit of creditors and creditors' rights litigation. A former bankruptcy appellate law clerk who has argued before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court, he is experienced in all

facets of bankruptcy, insolvency, distressed acquisitions and dispositions. He concentrates his practice on: Chapter 11 plan restructuring and related litigation, Subchapter V bankruptcy, Section 363 sales and sales pursuant to a Chapter 11 Plan, out-of-court workouts, valuation disputes, single-asset real estate cases, structured and closed debtor-in-possession (DIP) financing, cash collateral transactions on behalf of lenders and debtors, adversary proceedings including fraudulent conveyance, preference and D&O litigation, bankruptcy appeals. Keith represents commercial debtors, creditors' committees, secured and unsecured secured creditors, officers, directors and equity holders before bankruptcy and federal district courts throughout the United States, as well as landlords and tenants, licensors and licensees, counterparties to contracts and other major constituencies. His clients include businesses and individuals in a wide range of industries, including entertainment and sports, health care, cannabis, alcohol and beverage, technology, credit card processing, construction, commercial real estate and hospitality. In addition to his federal work, Keith has led creditors' rights litigation in California state courts. Lenders and Loan Servicers Keith also works extensively with lenders and commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS) servicers regarding real property secured loan litigation and real estate owned (REO) disposition matters. **Career:** Prior to joining Fox Rothschild, Keith was a Partner in the Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights Practice at two AmLaw 100 law firms. Keith began his legal career as a trial law clerk for the Honorable Christopher M. Klein of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of California, and as an appellate law clerk to the Honorable John E. Ryan, who served on the United States Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the Ninth Circuit. Prior to attending law school, Keith worked as a writer for Tig Productions and various Los Angeles-based entertainment magazines.

Professional Memberships:

American Bankruptcy Institute | Financial Lawyers Conference | Beverly Hills Bar Association (2011), Executive Committee of the Bankruptcy Section and former Section Chair | Los Angeles County Bar Association, Executive Committee of the Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section | Los Angeles Bankruptcy Forum | Orange County Bankruptcy Forum | Turnaround Management Association | Musica Angelica, Board of Directors (2014 – 2015)

PAK, Sean

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Featured in International Trade (USA – Nationwide), Intellectual Property (USA – Nationwide), Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Sean is Co-Chair of the firm's National Intellectual Property Litigation Practice and founding member of its AI Practice Group. Sean is a trial

lawyer with extensive experience in litigating patents, trade secrets, copyrights and other intellectual property in “bet the company” cases on behalf of both plaintiffs and defendants. As noted in Chambers USA 2019, “he has all of the trial skills you’d hope for, an unusually deep technical background and is one of the best at jumping into the subject matter and coming up with creative solutions.” Sean received his J.D., cum laude, from Harvard Law School, and B.S. and M.Eng. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from MIT, and has engineering experience at Intel Corporation and the MIT Artificial Intelligence Laboratory. He is also a Fellow in The American College of Trial Lawyers, an honor attainable by no more than 1% of the attorneys practicing in each state. In 2024, Sean was honored as one of the Daily Journal’s Top Intellectual Property Lawyers. In 2023, Sean and his team were recognized by the American Lawyer as “Litigators of the Week” for their work on the Sonos v. Google trial, resulting in a complete defense win for Google. During the same year, Sean was lead counsel for Samsung Electronics in the Evolved Wireless v. Samsung trial in Marshall, Texas, in which Sean and his team obtained a complete defense verdict. And in 2022, Sean’s work as lead counsel in The Hillman Group v. KeyMe trial was featured as one of two cases by Law360 in recognizing the firm with its “Trials Group of the Year” award. According to the 2016 IAM Patent 1000: The World’s Leading Patent Professionals guide, “Sean Pak’s star is in rapid ascendance thanks to major victories, such as his \$283 million jury verdict for satellite designer and developer ViaSat in a dispute with a contractor.” In the 2014 version of the same guide, Sean was described as “the complete package, combining a great understanding of the finer technical elements to a case with superb trial craft and courtroom presence. He has a calm disposition, but can be aggressive when he needs to be.” In 2013, Sean was named an Intellectual Property Rising Star under the age of 40 nationwide by Law360. In 2008, The Times of London named Sean a “Future Star of America” and cited his “intellectual prowess, industry expertise, and people skills.”

PALAO-RICKETTS, Cisco

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Featured in Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation (California: San Francisco, Silicon Valley & Surround)

Practice Areas: Cisco Palao-Ricketts is a partner in and co-chair of the firm’s ERISA & Executive Compensation practice. He handles the full range of executive compensation and employee benefits matters, but has had a particular focus on the executive compensation and benefits aspects of M&A, IPO, acquire, and de-SPAC transactions. Cisco is experienced in advising start-up, emerging growth and public companies

regarding compensation and employee benefit issues.

Personal: LLM, Georgetown University Law Center 2004; JD, Syracuse University College of Law 2003; BA, Political Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 1999

PARIS, Adam S

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Featured in Antitrust (California)

Practice Areas: Litigation; Antitrust; Criminal Antitrust; Criminal Defense & Investigations; Healthcare & Life Sciences; Intellectual Property & Technology Litigation; International Arbitration and Global Dispute Resolution; Media & Telecommunications; Securities Litigation; Sports & Entertainment; Technology
Career: Adam Paris is a member of S&C’s Litigation Group and has been a partner of the Firm since January 2006. Prior to joining S&C, Mr. Paris was a Law Clerk to Judge Pamela Ann Rymer of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and, before that, to Chief Judge Marilyn Huff of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California. Adam has more than 20 years of experience advising clients on a variety of complex business litigation matters, with particular concentration on antitrust/unfair competition matters, mergers & acquisitions litigation, complex commercial litigation, and securities litigation. He regularly appears in federal and state courts throughout the country, has first-chaired civil jury and bench trials and handled domestic and international arbitrations through hearings on the merits. Adam’s antitrust practice has included the defense of private class action litigation, criminal investigations by the Department of Justice, and merger clearances (including six multi-billion-dollar transactions) before the Federal Trade Commission and Department of Justice. Regarded as one of the country’s leading litigators, Adam is regularly recognized by such authorities as Chambers USA, The Legal 500 and Who’s Who Legal. Adam has been repeatedly named a BTI Client Service All-Star, an award which honors lawyers who have “mastered the art of superior client service,” and was selected for the Los Angeles Business Journal’s 2022 “Leaders of Influence: Thriving in Their 40s” list. In 2020, Adam was recognized by the National Law Journal as a “Litigation Trailblazer” for delivering successful outcomes in some of S&C’s highest-stakes antitrust and competition cases, including serving as lead trial lawyer in a crucial court battle for Pabst Blue Ribbon. Adam has also served on Law360’s Competition Editorial Advisory Board (2022). Adam has an abiding commitment to pro bono legal and community services. In addition to litigating a number of pro bono matters throughout his career at S&C, Adam serves on the boards of several nonprofit organizations committed to providing legal, educational and cultural services to disadvantaged and underserved communities in Los Angeles.

Professional Memberships:

Director, Friends of the Los Angeles Law Library; Director, Los Angeles Legal Aid Foundation; Director, Western Center for Law & Poverty; Trustee, The Country School; Member, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS); Member, American Chemical Society (ACS)

Personal: Harvard Law School, J.D., 1997; Yale University, B.S., 1994; Clerkships for Hon. Pamela Ann Rymer, United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit (1998 – 1999) and Hon. Marilyn L. Huff, United States District Court, Southern District of California (1997 – 1998)

PARK, Sam

Alston & Bird LLP, Los Angeles

Featured in Insurance (California)

Practice Areas: Sam is a seasoned litigator who has dedicated his career to representing life insurers in high-stakes disputes and advising on complex regulatory matters. He has played a pivotal role in defending insurers in some of their most consequential litigation, securing significant victories at the class certification and summary judgment stages. His experience includes representing clients in class actions arising from the sales and marketing of fixed index annuities, including claims brought under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, state unfair competition and business practices statutes, and common-law fraud. He has also defended life insurers in breach of contract class actions involving cost of insurance provisions in universal life and interest-sensitive whole life policies, helping to obtain favorable rulings denying class certification and granting summary judgment. More recently, Sam’s practice has focused on defending clients in the evolving wave of life insurance class actions targeting the sales and marketing of proprietary market indices associated with fixed index annuities and index universal life products. In addition, Sam has extensive experience handling a broad range of insurance disputes, including matters involving lapse notices, interest adjustment and market value adjustment provisions, interest crediting methodologies, and alleged violations of state insurance regulations. He has also represented insurers and reinsurers in reinsurance arbitrations and continues to advise life insurers on emerging regulatory developments. Sam is a frequent speaker and author on litigation trends affecting the life insurance industry and class actions.

PATTERSON, Brian

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Featured in Venture Capital (California)

Practice Areas: Brian Patterson, Global Vice Chair of the firm’s Emerging Companies & Growth Practice, advises emerging companies through all stages of growth, as well as the venture capital and private equity funds that invest in them. Brian combines more than two decades of experience and his passion for entrepreneurship to counsel clients

— from solo founders to seasoned fund managers — on a full spectrum of emerging company and venture capital and private equity-related topics, including: – Corporate formation and governance – Deal structuring – Equity and debt financing – Public offerings – M&A transactions, joint ventures, strategic, partnering, licensing, and commercial transactions – Venture capital and investment fund formation He serves as a trusted advisor to clients and unlocks the firm’s robust global platform to connect founders and management teams with the resources they need to navigate complex engagements with boards and investors, cutting-edge product development, and go-to-market strategy. A recognized leader both within and outside the firm, Brian serves on the board of the Berkeley Center for Law & Technology, where he has presented on startup and venture capital law and business. He teaches a regular module on investment fund-backed boards for Santa Clara University’s Black Corporate Board Readiness program, which accelerates diverse representation in corporate governance through structured executive education, and regularly speaks on public board issues for the African American Directors Forum.

PEREZ, Trajan

Miller Nash LLP, Portland
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Featured in Environment (California)

Practice Areas: Environmental Litigation Oil & Gas Admiralty & Maritime Renewable Energy Product Liability Energy & Utilities Transportation Class Actions
Career: Trajan Perez focuses his practice on litigation and environmental issues, whether commercial or regulatory, and is committed to saving clients time and costs to ensure success and long-term viability. His breadth of experience includes issues spanning environmental liability, toxic tort claims, products liability, establishing and maintaining federal and state regulatory compliance, and brownfield redevelopment issues, as well as handling sophisticated contract and commercial disputes. Trajan represents manufacturers, energy companies, industrial facilities, waste and recycling entities, and other highly regulated businesses. He is known to take his clients’ problems as his own, which is reflected in his acute knowledge of their businesses and adjacent sectors and industries, as well as a robust understanding of the regulations that govern their operations. Trajan represents large multinational entities with growing and interconnected challenges, risks, and opportunities. In both administrative hearings and in trial, Trajan represents clients against local and state agencies to successfully resolve municipal challenges and/or disputes. On the environmental side, he litigates federal cases arising under CERCLA and RCRA Superfund statutes, handling all aspects of the litigation process, including negotiations with responsible parties, contribution and allocation remedies, and cost recovery.

He advises on matters concerning federal regulations, including the Petroleum Marketing Practices Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Clean Air Act, as well as various state-law equivalents. Additionally, he negotiates with state and federal environmental agencies, manages environmental response activities, and advises on obtaining environmental permits, CEQA permitting, and EIR challenges. He is familiar with all aspects of ADR and has recently begun to offer his services as a mediator. Trajan is also experienced with admiralty and maritime law, including arrests and attachments. Trajan represents clients in class action litigation in state and federal courts. He handles matters involving toxic torts, wage and hour, and consumer protection. Trajan is highly adept at achieving early motions to dismiss and favorable class-wide settlements. Trajan is licensed in California, Oregon, Washington, Texas, New York and the District of Columbia.

Professional Memberships: Harvard Law School, Mediation and Conflict Management Program, 2025 OC Human Relations, Basic Mediation Training Certification, 2022

PERIGOE, Kelly
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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Kelly Perigoe focuses on appeals and critical motions in state and federal appellate courts, and advises trial teams on key issues and in pre-trial and post-trial motion practice. Kelly's practice covers a wide variety of substantive areas, including complex commercial litigation, intellectual property law, and class actions. A former Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals judicial clerk, Kelly has over a decade in federal and state courts, throughout the United States and internationally, and from the pre-litigation to appellate phases. She is regularly tapped to draft dispositive motions involving thorny issues, and leads appellate strategy in clients' most critical and impactful matters. In addition to litigating, Kelly counsels clients on novel and complex legal issues affecting their businesses. Ms. Perigoe is also a member of the Los Angeles Leadership Committee of Lambda Legal, a national legal organization whose mission is to achieve full recognition of the civil rights of LGBT people and people with HIV. She was a 2019 fellow in the Leadership Counsel on Legal Diversity program, where she continues to serve as a mentor.

PETRETTI, Richard S
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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Transactional (California)

Practice Areas: Commercial Finance Entertainment Industry Law Financial Services Regulatory

Career: Richard Petretti is a Partner in the Firm's Los Angeles and San Diego offices and a member of the Commercial Finance practice group. Mr. Petretti counsels clients on a broad range of financing transactions, with a particular

emphasis on the media and entertainment industry. His extensive experience includes handling syndicated loans, leveraged acquisition financings, recapitalizations, DIP financings, exit financings, and a broad array of other financial and capital markets products, such as letters of credit, repurchase agreements, forward purchase contracts and secured notes. He also has experience representing debtors, creditors, agents for lender syndicates, and investors in complex restructurings, workouts, bankruptcies and acquisitions of troubled companies. Mr. Petretti's media and entertainment experience includes secured and unsecured film, television and music financings, production and acquisition facilities for slates and single-pictures, library financings, music catalog financings and financings for companies providing services to the entertainment industry in lending, debt restructurings and corporate matters. Mr. Petretti advises banks and other major financial institutions as well as major studios, mini-majors, independent film companies, joint ventures and special purpose entities. His finance practice also extends beyond the entertainment world, with extensive experience representing clients across a broad range of other industries and asset classes, including financial services, healthcare, satellites, undersea fiber optic cables, hospitality, aviation, shipping, energy, chemicals and infrastructure. Transactions often involve complex Intercreditor or cross-border issues. Mr. Petretti has always enjoyed new product development. Prior to practicing law, Richard did graduate work focusing on the Law of the Sea and the interplay between ocean policy and the law, as well as working briefly with a consulting environmental engineering firm.

Professional Memberships: American Bar Association: Member, Committees on Uniform Commercial Code, Legal Opinions and Business Bankruptcy Member, Beverly Hills Bar Association Member, New York City Bar Association

PFEIFFER, Alfred
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Featured in Antitrust (California)

Practice Areas: Alfred C. Pfeiffer, Jr., former Global Vice Chair of Latham's Litigation & Trial Department and former Co-Chair of the Antitrust & Competition Practice, represents clients in civil antitrust matters and other complex commercial disputes. Al, a trial lawyer, represents Fortune 500 companies across industries in high-stakes antitrust and complex commercial litigation. Drawing on more than 30 years of trial experience, he guides clients to successful resolutions, regularly winning at all stages of litigation, including when cases go to trial. He has developed a particular focus on antitrust claims involving dominant firm conduct. Al's work includes representing clients, as both plaintiffs and defendants, in dozens of jurisdictions across the country, including:

– Federal district courts – United States Courts of Appeal for the Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, and Eleventh Circuits – Arbitration tribunals He has also successfully represented clients involved in investigations conducted by the US Department of Justice and the California Attorney General. Leadership Al has been active for many years in the leadership of the ABA's Section on Antitrust. He serves on the Long Range Planning Committee and previously served on the leadership Council, as chair of the Intellectual Property Committee, on the Committee Operations Task Force, and as chair of the Communications Industry Committee. He co-authored the ABA Antitrust Section's Telecom Antitrust Handbook.

PHILLIPS, Robert
Alston & Bird LLP, San Francisco
Featured in Insurance (California)

Practice Areas: When companies are embroiled in high-stakes class action litigation, they turn to Bo, relying on his decades of experience winning cases in state, federal, and appellate courts to help them through cases involving claims ranging from alleged unfair competition to alleged product defects and from advertising and labeling issues to the performance of life insurance products and annuities. Bo is a business litigator with decades of experience assisting numerous companies in high-stakes class actions and other litigation related to unfair competition, false advertising, privacy issues, products liability, labor and employment, life insurance, financial services, trade secret litigation, and food labeling. Bo's counsel extends to litigation involving financial products, consumer products, life insurance and annuity sales, advertising and labeling cases against manufacturers and retailers, employment issues, antitrust, and product liability. In addition to serving clients throughout California, Bo serves as lead counsel in national class actions in jurisdictions across the country and has won numerous cases in state, federal, and appellate courts.

PHILLIPS, Robert N
Reed Smith LLP, San Francisco
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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: A nationally recognized litigator and trusted mediator, Robert N. Phillips (Rob) is a seasoned attorney with decades of experience resolving complex business and intellectual property disputes. Named a Global Leader and awarded the coveted Gold Band by WTR 1000, Rob has been described as a "master strategist" and "insanely dedicated to his clients." He is known as an "honest," "hardworking," and "detail-oriented" advocate who is "tough when he needs to be while remaining highly likable." Corporations rely on Rob to handle their high-stakes matters. Often, he is appointed by courts to help resolve cases on the eve of trial and brings credibility and practical judgment to every dispute. As a mediator, Rob is known for his detailed

preparation, insight, and calm, approachable style. He listens closely, manages interpersonal dynamics effectively, and guides negotiations at a thoughtful and productive pace. With persistence and sound judgment, he helps parties find common ground and reach lasting resolutions. Rob has received top rankings from multiple leading legal industry publications.

PIEPMEIER, Sarah
Perkins Coie LLP, San Francisco
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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Intellectual Property Law Patent Litigation Trademark, Copyright, Internet & Advertising Trade Secrets Litigation ITC Litigation Technology & Communications

Career: Sarah Piepmeier has devoted more than 20 years to guiding technology companies through their most significant intellectual property (IP) disputes and has earned a reputation as an accomplished and agile first-chair trial lawyer. Her practice concerns all aspects of IP and technology-related commercial litigation, with a particular emphasis on patent litigation. She regularly advises Fortune 500 clients on technology issues related to semiconductors, networking, wireless standards, relational databases, social networking, and encryption software. Sarah is ranked as a leading patent litigator in California by Chambers USA, which noted client feedback that "Sarah is the whole package: she is excellent in court, a great oral advocate, and is very strategic in her approach." Sarah was also honored with a 2019 California Lawyer of the Year for Intellectual Property Award, and she was previously named one of the Top Women Lawyers in California by the Daily Journal, a Woman Leader in Tech Law by The Recorder, and one of the Top 40 LGBT Lawyers Under 40 in 2011.

PIERCE, Timothy
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Featured in Construction (California)

Practice Areas: Mr. Pierce is the managing partner and one of the founders of our firm. Mr. Pierce's practice almost exclusively involves legal matters in the construction industry. He works with construction industry clients from the inception of a project and the formation of contracts to the resolution of claims in litigation. As an experienced litigator, Mr. Pierce looks for unique solutions to construction disputes to achieve solutions that are efficient and cost effective for his clients. Mr. Pierce has had extensive trial experience in construction matters having tried 17 cases to verdict and having completed a similar number of arbitration hearings. The trials range in length from 3 to 12 weeks and include two verdicts in favor of his clients in excess of \$30 million. One such verdict in 2005 resulted in a \$37 million judgment on behalf of a contractor on a power plant project. The case was one of the top ten California

jury trial verdicts in 2005. In 2006, Mr. Pierce successfully defended a contractor in a false claims case by the City of Los Angeles in which a unanimous jury found in favor of his client. The client also recovered its attorneys' fees under the California False Claims Act.

PISANO, Nicola

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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Nick is internationally recognized for his experience in patent procurement, strategic patent portfolio management, and licensing in the medical device start-up space. He has advised dozens of national and international venture capital firms and hundreds of start-up companies in advancing their medical technologies to the forefronts of their respective fields. His clients have been acquired by leading strategics for more than \$3 billion USD. Nick also serves as lead trial counsel, litigating patent and trade secret matters in federal district courts throughout the U.S., before the International Trade Commission, in contested cases pending before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and in appeals before the Federal Circuit. Nick has litigated a vast array of technologies, including medical devices, electronics, computers, wireless communications, nuclear fuel, anti-malware, vibro-acoustics, and biometric software. Nick's 37 years of experience have earned him peer recognition, including multiple years in San Diego Super Lawyers, The Best Lawyers in America®, Chambers, and an AV Preeminent ranking in Martindale Hubbell.

POON, Julian W.

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Julian has handled a broad range of cases at the appellate and trial court levels, in federal and state courts across the country, including several major class actions, as well as other complex commercial litigation. His first-chair appellate experience includes presenting oral argument to the Third, Ninth, Eleventh, D.C., and Federal Circuits, and to the California Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal.

Career: Julian serves as one of the nationwide co-chairs of our firm's Appellate & Constitutional Law Practice Group. Appointed by the Chief Justice of California to the Judicial Council's Advisory Committee on Civil Jury Instructions, 2012, 2015, 2018, 2020, 2022, 2025. He was a law clerk to Justice Antonin Scalia, U.S. Supreme Court, and to Judge J. Michael Luttig, formerly of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Personal: Harvard Law School, 1999, summa cum laude; recipient of Fay Diploma (first in his class); Note Editor, Harvard Law Review.

POSIN, Kimberly

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Featured in Bankruptcy/Restructuring (California)

Practice Areas: Kim Posin, a restructuring partner, draws on nearly two decades of experience to advise debtors and creditors on high-profile matters and on a range of restructuring related transactions. Kim regularly represents corporate debtors, secured lenders, creditors, and other interested parties in all aspects of distressed situations, including: – Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings – Out-of-court restructurings – Foreclosures – Assignments for the benefit of creditors (ABC) – Related disputes and litigation Kim's clients range from name-brand global companies to Silicon Valley startups in a diverse range of industries. She leverages excellent problem-solving skills and Latham's global platform to help clients develop comprehensive plans to restructure and resolve distressed situations. She frequently handles matters in all of the major US jurisdictions, including Delaware, New York, and Texas. Kim is a fellow in the prestigious American College of Bankruptcy, and regularly speaks and writes about restructuring issues, including in the ABI Law Review.

POTASH, Aron

Latham & Watkins LLP, Los Angeles
Featured in Environment (California)

Practice Areas: Aron Potash is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Latham & Watkins, where he has practiced since 2007. Aron's practice focuses on environmental law, with a special emphasis on air quality and climate change matters. He handles regulatory, transactional, and litigation matters. Aron represents clients in: – Permitting, compliance counselling, variances, and enforcement defense – Transferring, financing, siting, and developing properties and facilities – Assessment and remediation of contaminated sites – Agency rulemaking – Disputes involving environmental matters and claims Aron represents domestic and international businesses, including many in the petrochemical, energy, cleantech, manufacturing, REIT, and pharmaceutical sectors.

POTISCHMAN, Neal

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Neal leads Davis Polk's West Coast commercial litigation practice. He represents companies, their executives and directors in high-stakes civil and regulatory matters. He focuses on class actions, including securities, antitrust, RICO and consumer protection matters, as well as complex commercial disputes. Neal also handles internal investigations and regulatory matters. His clients span industries such as technology, life sciences, media, telecommunications, financial services, insurance and aviation. From 2021 through 2025, Neal

served as the co-head of Davis Polk's Northern California office. He is active in the Bay Area legal community.

POTTER, Benjamin A

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Featured in Startups & Emerging Companies (USA - Nationwide), Venture Capital (California)

Practice Areas: Ben Potter advises private and public companies, venture capital, and private equity firms, as well as investment banks involved in the technology, life sciences, and other growth industries. He serves as Global Chair of the Emerging Companies & Growth Practice and is the former Global Chair of the Technology Industry Group. Ben provides clients timely hands-on support and leverages access to the full resources of the firm's global platform. He draws on considerable legal insight and complementary prior experience at IBM Global Services and two education startup companies in New York City. Ben provides clients with company representation on a full range of matters and transactions, including: – Public and private financing transactions – Mergers and acquisitions – Formation issues – Employment matters – Equity incentives – Securities law compliance – License agreements – Corporate governance matters

POTTER, John

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: John Potter is a nationally renowned trial lawyer with a practice focused on civil litigation and white collar criminal defense. Mr. Potter has been repeatedly recognized as one of the best lawyers in the United States by Chambers, USA, The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers, Who's Who Legal Investigations, The Legal 500, The Expert's Guide to the World's Leading Lawyers, and The Best Lawyers in America. The authoritative professional resource, Chambers, USA, has given Mr. Potter its highest ranking and described him as "extraordinarily talented," a "great strategic thinker," and "an outstanding trial lawyer." Lawdragon named Mr. Potter to its list of the 500 leading lawyers in America. Other peer-reviewed, legal publications have characterized Mr. Potter as a "high powered trial lawyer," an "A-List" defense counsel, and "the best in the business." Mr. Potter is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, an honor attainable by no more than 1% of the attorneys practicing in each state. Mr. Potter serves as the Co-Chair of the Firm's White Collar and Corporate Investigations Practice Group and Chair of the Antitrust Investigations and Government Enforcement Practice Group. He previously served as Co-Chair of the American Bar Association's White Collar Committee for the Northern District of California and as the National Co-Chair of the ABA's Criminal Antitrust

Committee. A former federal prosecutor, Mr. Potter has conducted numerous internal investigations at the request of corporations, boards of directors, audit committees and special committees. Mr. Potter has also represented corporations, directors and officers in a wide array of civil matters including healthcare, securities, and false claims actions, as well as unfair competition, libel, breach of contract and employment cases. An experienced trial lawyer, Mr. Potter has tried over 50 cases. Mr. Potter taught trial advocacy to federal prosecutors as part of the Attorney General's Trial Institute Program. Mr. Potter has given presentations throughout the world including Asia, Europe, and the United States on a variety of topics including internal investigations, health care fraud, the False Claims Act, securities fraud and the Economic Espionage Act. Mr. Potter previously held a number of high-ranking positions within the United States Attorney's Office, where he received professional commendations from the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Defense and the United States Customs Service. The Attorney General of the United States personally presented Mr. Potter with a Director's Award for his successful prosecution of a United States Congressman. Mr. Potter also received a Department of Justice commendation for the successful civil rights prosecution of the Los Angeles Police Officers involved in the Rodney King beating.

PRICE, William C

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: A federal judge once described a Bill Price cross-examination as both a "symphony" and a "bloodletting." Fitting words to describe the work of a man widely recognized as one of the nation's premier trial lawyers – a master of the craft. With Price, the superlatives pile high: "Trial ace," "attorney of the year," "litigator of the week," "top gun trial lawyer," "fantastic trial lawyer who specializes in bet-the-company cases," "devastating in court," and so on. The founder and co-chair of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan's National Trial Practice Group, Price is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is resident in the firm's Los Angeles office. One need only look at the two month period of December 2019 to January 2020 to observe the impact and versatility of Price's trial skills. In December 2019, Price successfully defended Elon Musk in a \$190 million defamation suit brought by one of the men who had assisted in the rescue of 12 children trapped in a cave in Thailand. Musk had called plaintiff, among other things, a "pedo-guy". It took the jury less than an hour to reach a verdict in favor of Musk. The press reported that the "killer blow" to plaintiff's case was Price's cross-examination of the plaintiff.

View press coverage here. Just a few weeks later, Price was trial counsel on the plaintiff's side, representing the California Institute of Technology in a patent infringement trial against Apple and Broadcom. After a two-week trial the jury found that Apple and Broadcom had infringed Caltech's patents and awarded over \$1.1 billion in damages. View press coverage here. Price has followed up those trials with multiple trial victories, including obtaining a defense verdict in another high-profile case involving Elon Musk—the multibillion dollar securities trial over Musk's go-private tweets. Again, Price's cross-examinations of the lead plaintiff and lead process/"go private" expert were key. View press coverage here. Those are just two examples of a long history of accolades and high-profile trial wins. The National Law Journal has named Price one of the top ten winning trial lawyers in the U.S. an unprecedented four times – the only trial lawyer so recognized this century, and one of only two so recognized since the annual list was started. As a result of his stunning trial victories, Price has been named "Litigator of the Week" four times by The American Lawyer, which noted, "he has quietly and quickly developed a record that rivals those of the best in the business." Price has been ranked by Benchmark Litigation as a Top 100 Trial Lawyer (2023 – 2026), additionally ranked as Top 20 Trial Lawyer. In 2020 Law360 ranked Price Top MVP in Trials. The Recorder (another top legal publication) named Price one of the California "Attorneys of the Year" in 2011. Chambers USA (2012) called him, "a top gun trial lawyer, who is well versed in trial work." The Daily Journal named him one of the "Top 100 Lawyers in California" in 2012. Chambers USA (2013) reported that Price is a "fantastic trial lawyer who specializes in bet-the-company cases" and is "devastating in court; he's one to keep your eye out for." Chambers USA (2014) said Price is "experienced in handling high-stakes disputes" and noted that "he recently defended Micron in a patent infringement case worth over \$1 billion." Benchmark Litigation also named him one of its 2016 National Litigation Stars. In 2015, Price was selected to be profiled in Law360's inaugural "Trial Aces" series, which identified him as a lawyer "to call when losing is not an option." In 2019, Legal 500 included him in "The Legal 500 Hall of Fame" for "Dispute Resolution – Leading trial lawyers," one of only 45 individuals across the U.S. to be so included. Price's then-longest trial winning streak—30 trials—was profiled in 2000 in the California Law Business section of the Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journals. The streak ultimately extended to 35 trials. The majority of Price's appearances have been for the defense, and almost all have resulted in defense verdicts. In one notable example of a "bet the company" case, he successfully defended Micron Technology, Inc., as noted above, in an antitrust case involving random access memory chips during a three-month jury trial against Rambus, Inc. Prior to trial,

one of the alleged co-conspirators had settled for \$1 billion. Rambus asserted claims for violations of the Cartwright Act and sought \$4 billion in compensatory damages, trebled to \$12 billion under the Cartwright Act, as well as other relief. The jury rejected Rambus' claims and awarded no damages. On the plaintiff's side, in addition to the \$1.1 billion verdict obtained for Caltech, Price has obtained four nine-figure verdicts, and several eight-figure verdicts. In 2018 Price first chaired a trial on behalf of ResCap Liquidating Trust in a case arising from the mortgage lending crisis. In June 2019, a federal judge entered a final judgment of \$68 million for ResCap, the plaintiff. In issuing her ruling, the judge wrote, "This was an extremely complicated, aggressively litigated case... This case required the top-notch legal counsel that ResCap retained... The excellent reputation of Plaintiff's counsel is well-deserved."

PUJARI, Davina
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Featured in Environment (California)

Practice Areas: Davina Pujari is an accomplished trial lawyer who assists clients with complex environmental litigation, environmental criminal defense, toxic torts and mass actions, and crisis response. She leverages more than 25 years of experience in public and private practice, including as a federal and state prosecutor and an EPA enforcement attorney. In private practice, Davina represents companies and individuals in complex, high stakes matters involving environmental and business litigation, environmental and white collar crimes, investigations, False Claims Act matters, and regulatory compliance and defense. When representing clients in government investigations and enforcement actions, Davina offers an understanding of governmental priorities, procedures, and tactics founded on her years of public service investigating and prosecuting environmental and white collar cases. She also applies her breadth of experience to conducting internal investigations and representing clients before arbitrators, administrative judges, regulatory agencies, and mediators. Davina's government experience includes serving as an assistant US attorney in the White Collar Crimes and Major Crimes Sections of the US Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California, a senior assistant district attorney in the Special Prosecutions Division of the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, and an EPA enforcement attorney. In these roles, she investigated and prosecuted environmental cases under the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, Lacey Act, and other federal and state environmental statutes. Davina has also prosecuted and tried white collar cases involving bribery, false statements, fraud, identity theft, and use of the internet for criminal purposes.

Personal: JD, Lewis and Clark Law School, 1992 BA, North Carolina State University, 1988

PUTNAM, Marvin
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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Marvin Putnam, an industry-leading trial lawyer, represents high-profile clients, drawing on an exceptional combination of litigation experience and keen insight on the entertainment industry. He serves as Global Chair of the firm's Entertainment, Sports & Media Industry Group and previously served as Chair of the Litigation & Trial Department in Los Angeles. Marvin has successfully represented clients ranging from individual authors and producers, to leading entertainment companies and investment banks. His accomplishments at trial and appellate courts, both state and federal, as well as internationally, have earned Marvin a reputation as a market-leading entertainment litigator. He has a demonstrated skill in handling a range of high-profile disputes, including intellectual property and business torts. Complementing his trial work, Marvin provides prepublication review for national news, variety, and talk show programs, national publications as well as film and television studios. Given his litigation skills, Marvin also often advises on complex entertainment and media transactional matters with an eye to limiting clients' potential litigation or exposure.

QUASS, Lucas
Latham & Watkins LLP, San Diego
Featured in Water Law (California)

Practice Areas: Lucas Quass advises clients on environmental matters, including land use, regulatory approvals, water resources, and related litigation. Lucas helps clients develop a full spectrum of projects in the western United States and along the California coast. From project inception to completion and ongoing monitoring, he helps clients navigate: – Regulatory approvals and permitting (including CEQA, the Coastal Act, and local planning and zoning laws) – Water rights and adjudication – Project opponents and community relations – Related litigation from local courts through to the California Supreme Court Lucas has a sophisticated understanding of the interplay of regulation, water rights, and environmental factors that affect residential, commercial, and industrial development projects. He provides clients an unusual complementary litigation strength to his regulatory work, having litigated one of only a handful of water basin adjudications in California and successfully representing clients in disputes in state and federal courts. Lucas has been steeped in water issues his whole career; prior to graduating law school, he worked for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the largest supplier of treated water in the United States. Lucas currently serves as the Vice Chair of the American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy and Resources. He frequently writes and speaks on water and environmental

issues, including CEQA, the Subdivision Map Act, and Prop 65. He also maintains an active pro bono practice, including representing the Pacific Marine Mammal Center in Laguna Beach, California.

QUINN, John B
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Featured in Litigation (USA – Nationwide), Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: John B. Quinn is the Chairman and Founding Partner of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP, a global disputes law firm with over 1,300 attorneys in 35 offices in 12 countries. In surveys of 350 General Counsel by the BTI Consulting Group, the firm has been named the most feared law firm in the world 4 of the last 5 years. A 2016 survey by Bloomberg Law named Mr. Quinn the most famous practicing lawyer in the world practicing at a large law firm. Described as a "master strategist" by American Lawyer and a "Legal Legend" in the 10th Anniversary edition of the Lawdragon: The 500 Leading Lawyers in America, Mr. Quinn was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Law by the Busan University of Foreign Studies, in Busan, Korea, in July 2024 for his contributions to the legal profession and his global impact on business litigation. Mr. Quinn has amassed a trail of victories second to none in the field of business litigation. His practice ranges across the full spectrum of business litigation cases. A very small sample of the types of cases Mr. Quinn has won include: obtaining a \$1.1 billion settlement for General Motors in an action against Volkswagen, certain VW directors and officers, and GM's former head of sourcing in Detroit for stealing secret GM documents; winning a jury verdict establishing liability in an insurance coverage case for Occidental Petroleum regarding business interruption losses from over two hundred terrorist bombings of an oil pipeline in Colombia, leading to a nine-figure settlement; defending the University of Southern California in a retrial against a dental implant manufacturer seeking more than \$1 billion in lost profits and prevented the plaintiff from receiving any lost profits; and obtaining a \$150 million settlement from Deloitte & Touche on behalf of Dr. Enrico Bondi, Extraordinary Commissioner of Parmalat S.P.A., in three separate lawsuits against Grant Thornton, Bank of America, and Citigroup arising out of the largest bankruptcy in European history ("Europe's Enron"), for aiding and abetting Parmalat's insiders in the commission of fraud and for auditor malfeasance. A few of his other victories include: winning \$176 million as lead trial counsel for Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong and his companies in an arbitration against Sorrento Therapeutics, Inc. and its CEO Dr. Henry Ji; obtaining a \$295 million jury verdict for two former Bertelsmann AG executives against Bertelsmann AG; defending Samsung Electronics Company in Apple Inc.'s "holy war" against the Android

smartphone operating system where, after a trial held in Apple's backyard, the jury awarded less than 5.5% of the amount Apple sought and decided that Apple itself infringed one of Samsung's counterclaim patents; and obtaining a \$2.1 billion settlement for two dozen hedge fund plaintiffs—including Elliott, Davidson-Kempner, Appaloosa, and Angelo Gordon—as holders of Yosemite and Enron Credit-Linked (ECLN) Notes in the Yosemite v. Citibank action in the Enron MDL. For 33 years, Mr. Quinn served as General Counsel to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the organization that gives out the Oscars. In 2026, Mr. Quinn was named a Milken Institute International Fellow. Mr. Quinn's podcast, Law, disrupted has over 1 million streams and downloads and addresses the most pressing legal issues of our time with top experts in the field. The podcast tackles cutting-edge legal issues, such as SPACs, generative AI, litigation finance, ransomware, climate change, and beyond. Mr. Quinn received an Honorary Doctorate in Law from the Busan University of Foreign Studies. He earned his J.D. from Harvard Law School, cum laude, where he was an editor of the Harvard Law Review and a Knox Fellow. He graduated, magna cum laude, with a B.A. from Claremont McKenna College.

RACHUBA, Lucas

Paul Hastings LLP, Los Angeles

Featured in Tax (California: Northern)

Practice Areas: Lucas Rachuba is a partner in the Tax practice based in the San Francisco and Century City offices. Lucas focuses on private equity and public company M&A, credit funds, hedge funds, venture capital and real estate transactions. His clients include private equity firms, portfolio companies, public companies and stand-alone fund clients. He works with private equity principals, boards of directors and members of senior management. He also advises on various topics related to transaction and fund structuring, including on international issues, taxation of carried interests, QSBS and tax elements of compensation structuring.

Personal: Harvard Law School, J.D. Dartmouth College, A.B.

RAHMANI, Frank

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Featured in Life Sciences (California)

Practice Areas: FRANK RAHMANI focuses his practice on advising emerging growth companies and investors in the life sciences and technology industries. Working closely with founders, executives, boards of directors, investors and underwriters, Frank counsels clients in a broad range of matters, from new entity formation and spinoff transactions, to financings and public offerings, governance, mergers and acquisitions, strategic collaborations and technology acquisition and licensing matters. Frank has represented company clients, investors and underwriters in over five hundred financings and securities offerings ranging from venture financings to underwritten

public offerings, and over one hundred strategic partnering, mergers and acquisitions and commercial transactions.

RAMANI, Ashok

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Featured in Intellectual Property (USA - Nationwide), Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Ashok heads Davis Polk's IP Litigation practice. A Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, he has represented leading technology and healthcare companies. For his plaintiff clients, he has secured over \$800 million in collected judgments and settlement payments (not simply verdicts only a fraction of which are ever paid). For his defendant clients, he has repeatedly secured complete defense verdicts at trial before juries and judges in cases in which the plaintiff sought billions or hundreds of millions in damages. Outside of Davis Polk, Ashok serves on the boards of Bay Legal and the Association of Business Trial Lawyers-Northern California.

RANSOM, Rollin A

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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: ROLLIN RANSOM serves as co-leader of Sidley's global Commercial Litigation and Disputes practice, and of the Entertainment, Sports and Media group. He is managing partner of the Los Angeles office and also head of the Greater Los Angeles Litigation group. Rollin's leadership extends to Sidley's firmwide Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, where he serves as co-chair. Representing both individuals and corporations, Rollin has extensive experience prosecuting and defending lawsuits involving a wide variety of intellectual property claims, including copyright and theft of idea, trademark, false advertising, trade secret and unfair competition actions. Rollin's clients cover an array of industries, including media and entertainment, technology and financial services companies. He also regularly counsels clients outside of litigation on a variety of intellectual property, advertising and internet-related matters.

RAWLINS, Justin

Paul Hastings LLP, Century City
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Featured in Bankruptcy/Restructuring (California)

Practice Areas: Justin Rawlins is a partner in the Financial Restructuring Group and a member of the Global Finance practice at Paul Hastings and is based in the firm's Century City office. Justin has extensive experience and is consistently ranked as a leading lawyer in top legal directories. He principally represents asset managers and lenders investing in private businesses with an emphasis on complex financings, special situations and restructurings.

Personal: Loyola Law School. J.D. (cum laude, National Jesuit Honor Society, Alpha Sigma Nu; Order of the Coif) Universities of Southern California, B.A., 1997

RE, Joseph R

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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Antitrust & Patent Misuse Litigation Opinions & Counseling Appellate Litigation ITC Litigation Medical Device Litigation Trade Secret & Employment Mobility Litigation Trademark & Brand Protection Litigation Patent Office Litigation

Career: Mr. Re is a nationally recognized trial attorney, having tried numerous high-stakes medical device cases before juries throughout the country over the past thirty-five years. Mr. Re's trial success before juries against some of the country's largest medical device companies has been extraordinary. When leading trial teams representing the firm's longstanding Orange County based clients, Masimo and Applied Medical, Mr. Re has obtained four nine-figure jury verdicts averaging over \$400 million each. The most recent included a \$382 million verdict against medical-device giant Medtronic for violating various anti-trust laws when selling numerous devices to hospitals in bundled contracts. Mr. Re also led trial teams to help Masimo protect its ground-breaking patient-monitoring technology against its primary rival, where the Federal Circuit affirmed a \$134 million award and ordered the entry of a permanent injunction. Those victories allowed Masimo to garner several hundred million in damages and ongoing royalties and to go public. Years later, Mr. Re and his colleagues asserted Masimo patents against patient-monitoring giant Philips. The jury awarded Masimo over \$466 million while rejecting Philips infringement claims. The National Law Journal featured the verdict as a top verdict of the year. After the court upheld the verdict, the parties settled in a blockbuster deal where Philips paid Masimo over \$300 million and agreed to a joint marketing and sales program in which Philips would integrate Masimo technologies in its patient monitors. Finally, Mr. Re led trial teams in various patent and trade secret cases against Apple and a former employee concerning the Apple Watch. Those cases resulted in various rulings and verdicts including a \$636 million jury verdict for patent infringement and declarations that Apple and the employee misappropriated trade secrets. They also included an exclusion order from the International Trade Commission blocking Apple from importing various versions of its Apple Watch. Mr. Re's success representing accused infringers has been just as impressive. In all of the numerous cases he has taken to trial, no jury has ever awarded any figure above \$5 Million, and in every case, he obtained reversal of those awards or his clients ended up paying nothing

upon resolution of the case. Mr. Re is a very experienced appellate advocate, often selected to argue appeals in cases handled by his colleagues and other law firms. He has argued dozens of appeals over the past thirty-five years, the bulk of which were before the United States Court of Appeals of the Federal Circuit on behalf of both intellectual property holders and accused infringers. Mr. Re served as the President of the American Intellectual Property Law Association, the Federal Circuit Bar Association, and the Federal Circuit Historical Society. He was a founder and President of the Howard T. Markey American Inns of Court. He served on the Federal Circuit's Advisory Council for nine years. Mr. Re has also written and spoken extensively on patent law and federal practice and procedure. Since 1990, Mr. Re has authored numerous appellate briefs on behalf of the American Intellectual Property Law Association as amicus curiae before the Supreme Court of the United States and various appellate courts. The National Law Journal has named Mr. Re one of the "100 Most Influential Lawyers in America" and as a "Winning Litigator." The Daily Journal has repeatedly named Mr. Re as one of the top "100 Leading Lawyers in California." In 2014, Mr. Re was recognized as "MVP of the Year - Intellectual Property" by Law360. In 2004, The California Lawyer named Re "California Attorney of the Year." Mr. Re's numerous awards and honors are detailed below. Before joining the firm in 1987, Mr. Re served for two years as a law clerk to the Honorable Howard T. Markey, the first Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. He became a partner of the firm in 1990 and after 36 years as a partner still has a very active trial and appellate practice today.

Professional Memberships: United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit - Advisory Council (2005 - 2015) Federal Circuit Bar Association - President (2008 - 2009) - President-Elect (2007 - 2008) - Vice President (2006 - 2007) - Treasurer (2004 - 2006) - Board of Directors (2001 - 2004) American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA) -President (2020 - 2021) -President-Elect (2019 - 2020) -First Vice President (2018 - 2019) -Second Vice President (2017 - 2018) - Board of Directors (2003 - 2006) - Chairman of the Amicus Committee (1997 - 1999) - Authored numerous amicus curiae briefs for AIPLA in landmark patent cases such as Markman, Festo, Cardinal Chemical, Florida Prepaid, College Savings Bank, Microsoft v. AT&T, and Gunn v. Minton, each before the Supreme Court of the United States

REISNER, Jeffrey M

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Featured in Bankruptcy/Restructuring (California)

Practice Areas: Corporate | Insolvency & Restructuring | Crisis Management

Career: Jeffrey M. Reisner, global co-chair of Steptoe's Restructuring & Insolvency practice, advises clients on corporate, litigation, and reorganization and bankruptcy matters. Drawing on nearly 30 years of restructuring experience, Jeff represents formal and informal creditors' committees, debtors, acquirers of assets, investors, independent directors, boards of directors, trustees, lenders and unsecured creditors in bankruptcy cases and out-of-court restructurings throughout the United States. Jeff also advises clients in the acquisition and disposition of assets from healthy and troubled companies in both traditional sales and auctions. These transactions have involved clients in a wide range of industries, including aerospace and defense, energy, entertainment, financial services, healthcare, real estate, restaurant and hospitality, sporting goods, telecommunications, and transportation. In addition to representing clients in transactional matters, Jeff frequently advises corporate boards in connection with internal investigations related to alleged sexual misconduct, corporate and financial malfeasance, and other topics. He also counsels senior executives in connection with their employment and separation agreements and related matters. Jeff also represents clients in defense of lender liability, avoidance actions, breach of fiduciary duty and other claims in state and federal courts throughout the country.

Professional Memberships: Board of Directors, American Bankruptcy Institute Board of Directors, Orange County Chapter, Association for Corporate Growth Fellow, American College of Bankruptcy Lawyers Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America Member, United Way Tocqueville Society and Real Estate Community Builders Past President, Southern California Chapter, New York University Stern School of Business Alumni Association Former board member, Southern California Chapter, Turnaround Management Association

REISS, Michael

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Michael.Reiss@lw.com

Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Michael J. Reiss is a member of the Litigation & Trial Department and the Complex Commercial Litigation Practice. Michael advises clients on a wide range of complex commercial litigation, including sports and entertainment litigation, insolvency litigation, financial institution litigation, and intellectual property litigation. Michael is a seasoned litigator who has first chaired and co-first chaired all manners of complex business, sports, bankruptcy, and financial institution disputes. Michael's clients include private equity firms, sports teams, utilities, and leading internet and software companies. Michael has extensive experience in all aspects of federal and state civil litigation, including conducting direct and cross-examinations and delivering closing statements at trial, drafting and

arguing dispositive motions, taking and defending depositions, and leading his litigation teams in all facets from pre-litigation through trial, as well as negotiating favorable settlements to avoid trial. Michael maintains an active and dedicated pro bono practice, and has successfully represented Holocaust survivors to ensure that they receive tens of thousands of dollars owed to them by foreign governments, tenants who have received threats that they will be unlawfully evicted from their homes, and employees whose employers have unlawfully withheld earned wages.

REITER, Joseph

Hueston Hennigan LLP, Newport Beach

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: With a track record of high-profile wins at trial and on appeal, Joseph Reiter has been named a Trials "Rising Star" by Law360 and a finalist for "Young Lawyer of the Year" by The American Lawyer. Recognized by Chambers for his litigation work, clients have noted his impressive and forceful advocacy. Mr. Reiter has obtained favorable results across a broad range of complex litigation, including healthcare, antitrust, trade secret, class action, False Claims Act, whistleblower retaliation, employment, patent, and tax cases. Regardless of the subject matter, clients rely on Mr. Reiter for creative and winning strategies in some of their most significant matters. He has been instrumental in securing wins for Amazon, Match Group, Kaiser Permanente, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Deloitte, the California Institute of Technology, Acorn Technologies, BlackBerry, and the State Bar of California, to name a few. With 12 trials under his belt, Mr. Reiter has deep courtroom experience that includes delivering opening and closing arguments, examining witnesses, and arguing motions and appeals. In addition, his written advocacy has secured the dismissal of multiple cases through dispositive motions and a victory before the U.S. Supreme Court.

REMIS, Anna J

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Featured in Technology (California)

Practice Areas: Anna Remis advises companies, investors, and strategic acquirers on intellectual property and technology matters in complex corporate transactions, as well as the development, commercialization, and protection of intellectual property assets. She represents clients across the innovation economy, with a particular focus on artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data-driven technologies. Anna is known for combining practical commercial judgment with creative structuring solutions in transactions involving emerging technologies and evolving market standards. She advises clients in the technology, fintech, climate tech, digital health, manufacturing, automotive, and aviation sectors. Her practice focuses on the intellectual property and technology

aspects of domestic and cross-border transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, venture and growth investments, joint ventures, strategic collaborations, carve-outs, and spin-offs.

RESSLER, Alison S

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Featured in Capital Markets (California), Private Equity (California), Capital Markets (USA - Nationwide), Corporate/M&A (California: Los Angeles & Surrounds)

Practice Areas: M&A and Private Equity

Career: Alison S. Ressler is a leading authority on M&A, corporate governance and capital markets. She provides advice to U.S. and non-U.S. corporations, boards of directors and special committees of global companies, private equity investors and financial advisers for a wide range of transactions in regulated and unregulated industries. Regularly cited at the very top of the legal profession in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, private equity, corporate governance and capital markets, Ms. Ressler has been named American Lawyer's "Dealmaker of the Year" and "Dealmaker of the Week" multiple times. Other recognitions include The Deal's "Women in M&A: The Powerhouse 20", a Law360 MVP in M&A and Private Equity and being named one of the 10 most innovative lawyers in North America by the Financial Times. She is regularly recognized at the top of the profession by additional leading industry publications, including Chambers USA, Legal 500, IFLR 1000, Lawdragon, Euromoney, The Lawyer, M&A Advisor, Los Angeles Business Times and Forbes. Ms. Ressler serves as co-head of the Global Private Equity Group and is responsible for the Firm's practice in California. She served as a member of the Firm's management committee for over 20 years. With a career spanning four decades, Ms. Ressler has played a key role in some of the world's most significant deals. Headline M&A Transactions •Purchase of Activision Blizzard shares from Vivendi, as counsel to ASAC II, an investment vehicle led by Activision CEO Bobby Kotick and Co-Chairman Brian Kelly •AT&T in its joint venture with DOCOMO •ATL Investco's acquisition of the Atlanta Hawks and in connection with Dyal HomeCourt Partners' minority equity investment in the Atlanta Hawks •Barclays' sale of Barclays Global Investors to BlackRock (named "Dealmaker of the Year" by The American Lawyer) •California Resources Corporation in its \$717 million acquisition of Berry Corporation, creating a combined entity valued at more than \$6 billion; its \$2.1 billion all-stock combination with Aera Energy; its joint venture with Brookfield Renewable to create a carbon management partnership; its previous successful emergence from Chapter 11; and its \$825 million infrastructure joint venture and equity investment with Development Capital Resources •Central Pacific Financial Corp.'s unsolicited acquisition of CB Bancshares, Inc. •Chiron Corporation's

acquisition by Novartis AG, representing Novartis' entry into the global vaccine and diagnostics market •Christopher Cole and certain other executives in connection with the \$11.2 billion acquisition of Cole Real Estate Investments by American Realty Capital Properties and Cole Holdings Corporation in connection with its sale to Cole Capital Properties Trust III (thereafter known as Cole Real Estate Investments) •Clear Channel Communications' \$23.9 billion acquisition by a private equity group comprised of Thomas H. Lee Partners and Bain Capital Partners, as counsel to Goldman Sachs, financial adviser to Clear Channel •Cymer's \$3.9 billion acquisition by ASML Holding N.V. •Dell's acquisition by investor group led by Michael Dell and Silver Lake Partners and financed in part by Microsoft, as counsel to Microsoft •Dole Foods' acquisition by an investor group led by Dole Chairman and CEO David Murdock, as counsel to Dole's special committee •eBay's \$1.5 billion acquisition of PayPal •Hilton Hotels' \$26.7 billion acquisition by The Blackstone Group •Joe Tsai, chairman and co-founder of Alibaba Group, in his purchase of a 49% interest in the Brooklyn Nets from owner Mikhail Prokhorov •Kite Pharma's \$11.9 billion acquisition by Gilead Sciences •Microsoft's acquisition of Skype Global from investor group led by Silver Lake, as counsel to both Skype and Silver Lake (recognized as a "Dealmaker in the Spotlight" in The American Lawyer and as a "Dealmaker of the Week" by Am Law Daily) •Organon in its \$11.75 billion pending acquisition by Sun Pharmaceutical Industries •Philips Electronics in its joint venture with LG Electronics •RedBird Capital Partners in connection with Skydance Investor Group's investment of more than \$8 billion as part of the acquisition of National Amusements and control of Paramount through a merger of Skydance Media and Paramount Global •SDL's acquisition by JDS Uniphase Corporation (the largest technology deal at the time) •Spieker Properties' \$7.2 billion acquisition by Equity Office Properties •Sumitomo Pharma's \$2.9 billion acquisition of Myovant Sciences •Twitter's \$44 billion acquisition by an entity wholly owned by Elon Musk, as counsel to Goldman Sachs and J.P. Morgan, financial advisers to Twitter •Valeant's \$15.8 billion acquisition of Salix and \$55 billion unsolicited offer to acquire Allergan

Personal: Columbia Law (JD, 1983); Brown (BA, 1980) Co-chair of the Dean's Council, Columbia Law School. Board and Executive Committee Member, LA28 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Member, Corporation of Brown University. Trustee, Harvard-Westlake School.

RICHARDSON, David

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Featured in Bankruptcy/Restructuring (California)

Practice Areas: David Richardson is a member of the firm's national Restructuring and Bankruptcy and Litigation teams.

He has more than 30 years of experience in restructuring and commercial litigation, with a focus on complex litigation in bankruptcy cases, and representation of committees of unsecured creditors in industries as diverse as energy, telecommunications, art sales, transportation, construction and consumer products.

Professional Memberships:

American Bankruptcy Institute Los Angeles LGBTQ+ Bar Association: Board Member (2020 to 2024)

RICHARDSON, Kelly E

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Featured in Environment (California)

Practice Areas: Kelly Richardson is former Co-Chair of Latham & Watkins' Global Chemical Regulation & Contaminated Properties Practice. He handles a variety of environmental compliance, transactional, and litigation matters, including: – Cost recovery litigation – Site cleanups – Storm water compliance – Hazardous waste management – Waste water compliance – Air issues – Due diligence – Administrative enforcement matters – UST compliance – Environmental permitting – Environmental litigation – Insurance coverage litigation Kelly is an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of San Diego Law School and is the former Co-Chair of the San Diego County Bar Association's Environmental Section. He is a frequent speaker at environmental conferences and has published articles on various environmental issues. Prior to joining Latham, Kelly gained nearly a decade of experience in chemical engineering and environmental compliance with an international oil company, including regulatory counseling for a refinery, pipelines and terminals, and a nationwide service station network. Kelly is a member of the State Bar of California, San Diego County Bar Association, Nevada Bar Association, Hawaii Bar Association, and American Bar Association.

RIFENBARK, Richard

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP, Los Angeles

Featured in Healthcare (California)

Practice Areas: Richard (Rick) Rifenbark is a partner in the Corporate Practice Group in the firm's Century City office. He is also a member of the firm's Healthcare team. Rick's practice consists of a blend of healthcare regulatory compliance and transactions. He regularly advises healthcare companies such as hospitals, medical groups, laboratories, and pharmacies, on healthcare fraud and abuse laws and other regulatory issues, including the federal anti-kickback statute, Stark physician self-referral law, false claims act, state licensing issues, corporate practice of medicine doctrines, and state fraud and abuse laws. Rick also negotiates and drafts transactional agreements, including merger and acquisition, affiliation, professional services, and management agreements. Having practiced healthcare law in California for over 20 years, he has significant

experience with California's healthcare regulatory landscape.

RING, Kristopher

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Featured in Banking & Finance (California)

Practice Areas: Kristopher Ring is a partner in Goodwin's Private Equity group and a member of the firm's Debt Finance practice. He is also a former Business Law Office leader for Santa Monica. He focuses on all aspects of corporate finance – including the representation of private equity groups, private credit clients, hedge funds, venture capital firms, public and private companies, royalty monetization investors, financial institutions, family offices, independent sponsors, and other capital sources – in a host of complex financing arrangements of all dollar sizes, including leveraged buyouts, cross-border transactions, recapitalizations, royalty and synthetic royalty financings, workouts and restructurings, special-situation financings, and subscription facilities. Kristopher has extensive experience negotiating, documenting, and closing transactions for companies and lenders involved in a diverse group of industries in a wide range of transaction structures, including, among others, senior secured and unsecured financings, first lien and second lien financings, asset-based loan facilities, cash flow facilities, mezzanine and other subordinated financings, unitranche financings, split collateral structures, debtor-in-possession financings, exit financings, capital call facilities, NAV facilities, structured financings, and payment systems/ sponsorship arrangements.

Personal: JD, Washington University in St. Louis School of Law; BBA, Western Illinois University, summa cum laude

RINGLER, Michael

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, Palo Alto
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Featured in Corporate/M&A (California: San Francisco, Silicon Valley & Surround)

Practice Areas: M&A, Technology, Digital Infrastructure, Corporate Governance, Shareholder Activism
Career: Partner at S&C since 2024. Co-Managing Partner of the Firm's Palo Alto office and Co-Head of the Firm's Technology Group and Digital Infrastructure Group. Mike is a nationally recognized M&A adviser focusing on technology-related industries where he regularly advises companies on mission-critical and transformative M&A transactions. He represents large industry-leading companies, as well as industry disruptors, in a broad range of technology sectors, including the semiconductor, networking, software, internet and artificial intelligence industries. At S&C, he has represented xAI in connection with its \$250 billion sale to SpaceX, creating a combined company valued at \$1.25 trillion (largest private company merger in history); Elon Musk, xAI and X on the \$113 billion merger of xAI and X; xAI in its \$20 billion and \$5.5 billion equity financings, \$5 billion debt

financing and numerous confidential acquisitions; Elon Musk and xAI on their investment in the AI Infrastructure Partnership (AIP) and participation in AIP's \$40 billion acquisition of Aligned Data Centers; and Shield AI, on debt and equity financing aspects, in connection with its pending acquisition of Aechelon Technology and its \$1.5 billion Series G funding. Among other accolades, he was recognized by Law360 as a Technology MVP in 2025 and an M&A MVP in 2021 and by The American Lawyer as a 2021 and 2015 Dealmaker of the Year. He has been recognized numerous times as one of the Top 100 Lawyers in California by the Daily Journal.

Personal: J.D., Georgetown University Law Center; B.S., University of Michigan

ROBERTS, Emily

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Featured in Capital Markets (California), Capital Markets (USA - Nationwide)

Practice Areas: Emily is a member of Davis Polk's Corporate practice. She advises companies on corporate and securities matters, including public company reporting and compliance, mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance transactions and corporate governance. Issuers and investment banks regularly seek her advice on a broad range of capital markets transactions. Her mergers and acquisitions experience includes acquisitions of public and private companies, carve-outs, joint ventures and minority investments. Emily has experience across a variety of industries, with a particular focus on technology and life sciences.

ROBERTS, Katherine A

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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: KATHERINE ROBERTS is the co-chair of Sidley's Labor, Employment and Immigration group whose experience extends to all aspects of employment litigation, counseling and labor relations. She routinely handles wage and hour class and collective actions involving state and federal overtime exemptions, meal and rest period claims and claims under the California Private Attorney General Act (PAGA). Kate also defends employers against claims of discrimination, harassment, wrongful termination, failure to accommodate and other causes of action arising under state and federal law. Kate partners with her clients to complete efficient, timely factual investigations and legal evaluations to help them make informed decisions about litigation strategy and deployment of resources. Kate has extensive experience representing management in traditional labor matters arising under the National Labor Relations Act including negotiating and administering complex collective bargaining agreements, guiding employers targeted by strikes and other job actions, handling union representation and decertification elections,

advising clients on union avoidance, defending employers against unfair labor practices and representing management in grievance arbitrations. In addition, she regularly counsels healthcare, waste/recycling, retail, media and performing arts clients on labor relations issues.

ROSS, Benjamin S

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (California: Los Angeles & Surrounds), Media & Entertainment: Transactional (California)

Practice Areas: Ben advises companies, private equity and venture capital firms, and high net-worth individuals in mergers and acquisitions, equity investments, joint ventures, restructuring transactions and general commercial arrangements. He works with companies in a broad array of industries, and has extensive experience working with media, entertainment and technology clients.

Professional Memberships: California Bar and New York Bar.

Personal: JD, New York University, 2004. BA, Princeton University, magna cum laude.

ROZANSKY, Daniel

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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: LITIGATION & DISPUTE RESOLUTION BRAND & REPUTATION MANAGEMENT ENTERTAINMENT & MEDIA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LITIGATION SPORTS NAME, IMAGE & LIKENESS (NIL) CLASS ACTIONS AND MULTI-DISTRICT LITIGATION

Career: Daniel A. Rozansky has decades of experience as a commercial litigator, with significant emphasis on brand and reputation management in the media and entertainment industry. Dan represents clients across multiple media and entertainment platforms, including film, television, music, concerts and touring and digital media. He advises clients, including Fortune 100 companies, on best practices for recording communications, and protecting trade secrets and other confidential information; identifying and avoiding potential liabilities in television pilots, screenplays and other creative material in development; and exit strategies for unfavorable business relationships. Dan has achieved wins in some of Hollywood's most significant cases in the areas of copyright, trademark, First Amendment, profit participation, licensing, advertising, reality television, right of publicity, right of privacy and breach of implied contract. Dan has also successfully represented clients in the real estate, toy, banking, insurance, restaurant, clothing, luxury goods, pharmaceutical and travel industries, in areas including trade secrets, partnership, contract, and unfair competition disputes. Dan is ranked as a top entertainment and media litigator in Chambers USA and has been featured in Variety's "Legal

Impact Report," which names the top lawyers who make a significant impact in the entertainment industry. Dan sits on the board of directors at the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to finding the causes, treatments and cures for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, and improving the quality of life of children and adults affected by these diseases.

Professional Memberships:

Law360, Media & Entertainment Editorial Advisory Board Member, 2026 Board member, Association of Business Trial Lawyers

RUBINO, Kevin

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas:

KEVIN RUBINO is a former federal prosecutor and experienced civil litigator who represents leading technology companies in their most significant investigations and disputes. A seasoned trial lawyer, he has won numerous complex civil and criminal jury trials in state and federal court. Kevin previously served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of California, where he investigated and prosecuted a wide range of offenses, including wire fraud, bank fraud, and violent crimes. During his time as a federal prosecutor, he secured felony convictions in multiple jury trials and oversaw several long-term, complex investigations involving large criminal organizations, including one of the largest RICO cases in California. Since his return to private practice in 2024, Kevin has led several large internal investigations and obtained multiple declinations from the Department of Justice.

RUCK, Charles K

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (California: Los Angeles & Surrounds), Life Sciences (California)

Practice Areas: Charles Ruck primarily advises on mergers and acquisitions, capital markets, and general corporate and securities matters. He serves as primary outside counsel to a number of public and privately held companies and he regularly represents boards of directors and special committees in complex strategic corporate governance matters. Charles is the Global Department Chair of Latham & Watkins' Corporate Department, a former member of Latham's Executive Committee, and former Chair of the firm's Strategic Client Initiative. Charles has experience advising on a variety of transactions, including: – Corporate governance and special committee matters – Activism and stockholder matters – Hostile takeovers and going private transactions Charles formerly served as a clerk to Judge David M. Ebel, on the US Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, and as negotiator for the US Trade Representative at the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

RUSSELL, Jason D

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Jason is the head of Davis Polk's Los Angeles office. He represents a wide variety of clients in commercial litigation disputes in federal and state courts throughout the country, as well as in international forums. He has earned a reputation as an adept litigator with particular experience litigating some of the most high-profile cases in the sports and entertainment field, as well as complex class actions. Jason has extensive experience in and takes an innovative approach to all aspects of complex litigation matters, ranging from jury trials and appellate arguments to mediation and arbitration.

Career: Law clerk to the Hon. Frank X. Altamir, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Professional Memberships: Fellow, American Bar Foundation; Board Member, Public Counsel; Los Angeles County Bar Association, Antitrust and Trade Regulation Section; Board Member, Association of Business Trial Lawyers, Los Angeles; American Bar Association; Board Member, Planned Parenthood Los Angeles

RYAN, Jake

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Featured in Litigation (California: San Diego)

Practice Areas: Jake Ryan is the Regional Chair of Latham's Litigation and Trial Department in Southern California. He is a trial lawyer who represents corporations and individual executives in complex litigation and government investigations. Jake formerly served as the Global Co-Chair of Latham's Complex Commercial Litigation Practice. Jake tries cases in courts across the United States. He has tried more than two dozen jury trials to verdict as lead trial counsel. Jake is ranked in Band One by Chambers USA. Jake has prevailed in jury trials or on pretrial motions in numerous subject matter areas, including the following: – Breach of contract – Healthcare fraud – Breach of fiduciary duty – Trade secret misappropriation – Unfair competition – Financial and tax fraud – Biotech patent litigation – Toxic torts Before joining Latham, Jake served as a federal prosecutor in Chicago for five years. Before law school, Jake was a Navy Pilot. He served in the Arabian Gulf and Somalia and was commended for bravery for his actions during an inflight emergency. Jake served in the Department of Justice as an Assistant United States Attorney where he prosecuted cases in the area of "white collar" fraud, terrorism, tax evasion, and organized crime. During his tenure with the Department of Justice, he was appointed as Special Attorney to the US Attorney General for the purpose of defending an Assistant US Attorney and a US Attorney's Office in a criminal contempt

action. As an Assistant US Attorney, Jake prosecuted two of the largest and most significant organized crime cases in the US; approximately 50 defendants were indicted in each case. Jake was a law clerk for Chief Judge Michael J. Melloy of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Iowa.

SACKS, Robert A

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, Los Angeles
(310) 712-6640
sacksr@sullcrom.com

Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas:

Litigation, Securities Litigation, Antitrust
Career: Partner since 1990. Responsible for S&C's litigation practice on the West Coast. Extensive experience representing many of the largest and most influential businesses and prominent individuals in a wide range of complex business disputes, including securities and other class action litigation, M&A, antitrust, corporate governance, antitrust, and regulatory and internal investigations. Appears in federal/state courts around the country, including most frequently in California, Delaware, and New York, and handles arbitrations, and proceedings before the SEC and other agencies. Has substantial jury and non-jury trial experience. Select clients include AB InBev, California Resources Corporation, Caruso, CIM Group, Financial Technology Partners, Goldman Sachs, Houlihan Lokey, JPMorgan Chase, RedBird Capital, Edison Int's directors, Stifel Financial, Upbound Group, and Thomas Weisel. University of Texas Law School (JD, 1982); Harvard University (AB, 1979).

Professional Memberships: Member, California and New York Bars; ABA

SAGER, Heather

Perkins Coie LLP, Seattle

Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Labor & Employment Class-Action Defense Emerging Companies & Venture Capital Law Data Centers and Digital Infrastructure Retail & Consumer Products Technology & Communications Financial Services & Investments Apparel & Footwear Sports Digital Media & Entertainment, Gaming & Sports Music, Film & Television Interactive Entertainment Immersive Technology Regulated Gaming

Career: Heather Sager has wide-ranging experience litigating complex wage-and-hour matters brought under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and similar state laws, including California's Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA). Heather's practice was established at the forefront of the wage-and-hour class and collective actions that are now commonplace throughout the country. She emphasizes proactive risk management to avoid litigation and employs efficient and aggressive strategies to help her clients minimize exposure when faced with class, collective, representative, multi-plaintiff, or single-plaintiff lawsuits. As part of due diligence, Heather also provides risk assessments of potential labor and employment exposure in target

entities and conducts policy and procedure audits both pre- and post-merger. Heather is active in counseling and training employers on workplace harassment prevention and unconscious bias and regularly conducts investigations into allegations of inappropriate workplace conduct. She is adept at helping startup clients understand the importance of compliant policies and practices beginning at formation and frequently advises clients on leave issues, employee classification, and independent contractor status, as well as strategies for preventing and addressing misappropriation of trade secrets and unfair competition. Heather's experience also extends to the traditional labor realm, where she has helped clients prevail in elections, obtained injunctive relief to stop inappropriate union conduct, defeated organizing campaigns, and appeared before the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) on countless issues.

SAGERMAN, Eric E

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Featured in Bankruptcy/Restructuring (California)

Practice Areas: In his 35-year career, Eric Sagerman has served at the highest level of senior management in two Am Law 100 firms. He has served on their respective boards of directors, compensation committees and operating groups and as office managing partner and chair of one firm's National Restructuring and Insolvency Practice. Eric's capabilities include distressed capital raising, restructurings and workouts, dispositions, liquidations and other debt, and operational and financial restructurings. As a pivotal player in BakerHostetler's West Coast expansion, Eric maintains an office in Los Angeles as the firm's West Coast senior consultant and as part of the Firmwide Office of the Chair.

Publications: Eric is co-author with Patrick A. Murphy and David Neier of the treatise Creditors' Rights in Bankruptcy (2nd Ed.), an editorial board member of the Bankruptcy Strategist, and the author of numerous articles.

SAMPLIN, Ilissa

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Featured in Intellectual Property (USA – Nationwide), Litigation (California), Intellectual Property (California), Media & Entertainment: Litigation (California)

Practice Areas:

Ilissa Samplin serves as Co-Chair of the firm's Media, Entertainment & Technology and Trade Secrets Practice Groups. Ilissa is an accomplished litigator and trial lawyer whose practice focuses on complex commercial litigation, entertainment and technology disputes, and intellectual property litigation and counseling. She has represented corporate and individual clients in the media, entertainment, and technology industries in a wide range of litigation in federal court, state court, and arbitration, including breach of

contract, unfair competition, copyright, trade secret, trademark, and profit participation matters. She also regularly advises clients on intellectual property compliance, as well as entertainment clients on profit participation and related accounting practices.

Personal: JD, Stanford University, 2011; BA, Dartmouth College, 2008.

SANFORD, Misty M

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, Los Angeles
+1 310 855 3160
msanford@willkie.com

Featured in Real Estate (California: Southern)

Practice Areas: Misty Sanford is a partner in the Real Estate Department in Wilkie's Los Angeles office, where she serves as Chair, Real Estate – West Coast. Her sophisticated and broad-based real estate transactional practice involves all aspects of real estate, with an emphasis on loan workouts, real estate finance, public/private partnerships (PPPs), complex mixed-use developments, purchase and sale, joint ventures, environmental issues, land use and leasing, which allows her to assist with the full lifecycle of real estate assets. Whether leading transformational real estate transactions or creating innovative diversity programs, Misty is a mover and shaker in real estate law and the legal community. Misty's work includes representation of some of the world's leading institutional investors, private equity firms, developers, multinational corporations, REITs, foundations, non-profits and individual entrepreneurs. Clients turn to her with their most complex transactions. She regularly advises clients on the risk allocation and due diligence areas of all types of real property developments and transactions. Her pro bono practice has included representation of park development, homelessness and affordable housing organizations such as Homeboy Industries, Community Coalition, the Downtown Women's Center, T.R.U.S.T. South LA and the Los Angeles River Revitalization Corporation.

SAVVA, John L

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Featured in Capital Markets (California), Capital Markets (USA – Nationwide)

Practice Areas: Capital Markets
Career: Partner, Palo Alto office. Member, Firm's General Practice Group. For over 35 years, John has successfully represented prominent and cutting-edge corporations and emerging growth companies in their most significant public and private financings, mergers and acquisitions and private equity transactions, derivatives transactions and venture capital investments. John has extensive experience advising clients across a wide range of industries, including technology, media and telecommunications, biotechnology and other healthcare and life sciences, financial institutions, retail and e-commerce. John has advised on initial public offerings by Anaplan, AZEK, Columbia Sportswear,

Confluent, CoSine Communications, Credo, Data Domain, FibroGen, Hortonworks, Levi Strauss & Co., Madison Air, Marvell Technology Group, Mobileye, ON24, ONI Systems, Palm, Paula Financial, Robinhood Ventures Fund I, SINA.com, Toast, Turnstone Systems, Unity Software, Universal Access, Upstart Holdings, Weave Communications and Yodlee, as well as numerous follow-on offerings, issuer private placements and private secondary share placements. John represented SoftBank in connection with its \$10 billion monetization of a portion of its interest in Alibaba through the second-largest mandatory exchangeable security offering ever conducted. He advised OpenAI in its \$11.9 billion strategic deal with CoreWeave to deliver AI infrastructure to OpenAI and its strategic partnership with SB Energy, as part of Stargate. John has also advised clients on a variety of corporate governance and disclosure issues, including issues relating to the governance implications of artificial intelligence, financial statement restatements, disclosure policies and procedures, non-GAAP financial measures and Regulation FD, and has participated in a number of internal inquiries and investigations.
Personal: Partner since 1997. Loyola Law School, J.D. (summa cum laude) 1988. Pitzer College, B.A. 1985.

SCHENKEL, Mark

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Featured in Technology (California)

Practice Areas: Intellectual Property & Technology Transactions, Artificial Intelligence, Digital Infrastructure, Privacy
Career: Recognized as a 2024 "Deal-maker of the Year" by The American Lawyer, one of Bloomberg Law's 2024 "They've Got Next: The 40 Under 40," and recognized as "Up and Coming" in 2025, and 2026 California Technology by Chambers USA, Mark is widely regarded as one of the leading technology deal lawyers of his generation. Mark has advised growth-stage and established companies at the cutting edge of technology, life sciences, and finance on transformative, IP- and data-driven transactions. Drawing on his broad experience, Mark is now one of the leading advisors on high-stakes AI and digital infrastructure transactions, having advised on AI compute transactions valued in excess of \$1 trillion. Mark has played a central role in OpenAI's strategic partnerships, including its groundbreaking transactions with Amazon (including 2 gigawatts of Trainium capacity), AMD (for 6 gigawatts of GPUs), Cerebras (for 750 megawatts of ultra-low latency compute), CoreWeave (for over \$22 billion of compute), Google Cloud, Microsoft (including their 2023, 2025, and 2026 agreements), Oracle (for 4.5 gigawatts of compute), SB Energy (for development of multi-gigawatt AI datacenter campuses), and SoftBank Group (in a joint venture to deploy Advanced Enterprise AI in Japan), as well as OpenAI's launch of DeployCo. He has also advised a number of other

AI startups, including Character.AI, World Labs and Twelve Labs, in strategic compute partnerships with hyperscalers and neoclouds. Mark also plays a central role in representing Broadcom in strategic AI compute initiatives, including transactions involving Anthropic and Google (for 3.5 gigawatts of TPU-based capacity, as well as \$21 billion of Google TPU chips). In addition to extensive experience in AI and AI infrastructure, Mark advises clients across a wide range of industries on AI adoption, implementation, and governance; privacy and cybersecurity; open source; and other complex technology and IP issues. His broader transactional practice includes technology-intensive mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, joint ventures, collaborations, licensing arrangements, commercial agreements, strategic supply arrangements, and IP litigation settlements. As a partner in Sullivan & Cromwell's Intellectual Property and Technology Transactions Group and a member of the Firm's AI Practice and Digital Infrastructure Practice, Mark brings deep experience advising industry leaders, innovators, investors, and emerging companies on transactions driven by technology, intellectual property, data, and regulated innovation.
Personal: UC Hastings College of the Law (JD, 2010); Tufts University (BS, 2007).

SCHEPER, David C

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: David Scheper is a partner in the firm's Los Angeles office who focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation, internal investigations, and white collar criminal defense. A Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, David is described in the authoritative Chambers USA professional directory as a "premier, go-to lawyer." In the civil arena, David's practice is both international and varied; he has represented numerous businesses and financial institutions in federal and state courts throughout the country. He served as lead counsel for an international law firm facing allegations arising out of its defense of a client that operated a Ponzi scheme. After granting in its entirety a motion to dismiss, the Los Angeles Superior Court Judge stated that David's client was "fully entitled to hire the A-team and get a great service as they did. I've never used the word 'superb' before in a fee motion and I don't know if I'll ever use it again, but [your] work was certainly superb." In recent years, David served as lead counsel for a German-based manufacturer of wind turbines in multiple international arbitrations involving allegations of design defects and fraudulent inducement. His white collar practice is similarly diverse. He currently serves as lead counsel for a partner of an international law firm facing conflict of interest charges, and recently negotiated a deferred prosecution agreement in a food contamination case for an international restaurant chain.

SCHOENHOLZ, William

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Featured in Banking & Finance (California)

Practice Areas: Commercial Finance
Alternative Lenders Consumer Products & Apparel Solar & Renewable Energy Law Agribusiness Wine, Beer, and Spirits Industry Law Asset Based Lending DIP Financing First Lien Credit Facilities Foreclosures on Collateral (Private, Public and Strict) Intercreditor Agreements Second Lien Credit Facilities Secured Lending Uniform Commercial Code Workouts and Restructuring

Career: William Schoenholtz has extensive experience in complex domestic and international financing transactions, representing banks, commercial finance companies, funds and other institutional investors. He has structured, negotiated, and documented a wide variety of financing arrangements ranging from acquisition financing (including leverage buyouts and the financing of tender offers), bridge financing, and working capital financing. These transactions typically involve multi-facility secured credit arrangements that often include multiple borrowers and cross-border elements. Mr. Schoenholtz also has considerable experience representing agents in syndicated and club loan transactions and in negotiating and documenting various inter-creditor arrangements. In addition to Mr. Schoenholtz's "front-end" practice, he often represents lenders in workouts and forbearance arrangements. In this connection, he has substantial experience in the enforcement of secured creditor remedies under the Uniform Commercial Code.
Professional Memberships: Board Member, Financial Lawyers Conference Member, Business Law Section of the California State Bar

SCHREIBER, John E

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Co-chair of Winston's Securities Litigation Practice Group and Chair of Winston's Los Angeles Litigation Practice, John is consistently recognized by legal directories—including Chambers USA, Legal 500 US, and Benchmark Litigation US—as "a wonderfully talented advocate" (Chambers USA) with "excellent courtroom judgment" (The Legal 500 US) and "credibility with judges" (Law360). Clients describe him as "a brilliant lawyer with a wonderful personality" who "is pragmatic," "commercially savvy," and "has a great ability to communicate with public board members." (Chambers USA). Having started his career in New York, John focuses his bi-coastal practice on federal securities class actions, SEC investigations and enforcement actions, pre- and post-closing M&A litigation, shareholder derivative suits, board-level investigations, and other corporate governance matters. In his over 20-year career, John has successfully represented clients in a variety

of industries, including technology, financial services, pharmaceutical, medical device, private equity, infrastructure, retail and consumer products, food and beverage, and sports and entertainment.

SCHUMAN, Brett

Goodwin Procter LLP, Boston
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Featured in Cannabis Law (USA - Nationwide), Intellectual Property (California)
See under Nationwide for profile.

SCHUSSMAN, Barbara J

Perkins Coie LLP, San Francisco
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Featured in Environment (California)

Practice Areas: Environment, Energy & Resources Real Estate & Land Use Land Use & Development Infrastructure Development Energy Infrastructure & Clean Technology Forest Products Housing Land Development Educational Institutions & Services Higher Education Real Estate

Career: Barbara Schussman provides strategic guidance to client teams, helping navigate complex regulations, secure project approvals, reduce risk, and resolve litigation through collaborative solutions. Barbara helps clients obtain federal, state, and local agency approvals required to develop a variety of private and public projects. Projects include university campuses, hospitals, research and development facilities, water infrastructure, renewable and clean energy, wind and solar facilities, port and airport expansions, and mixed-use developments. Barbara has successfully defended approvals and environmental permits in state and federal courts, including the California Supreme Court. She counsels clients on compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as well as legislative and quasi-judicial approvals required under the California Planning and Zoning Law. She also advises on permits and approvals required by other land use and environmental regulations, including the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, federal and state endangered species acts, California Coastal Act, and the Subdivision Map Act. Barbara is the author of the CEQA chapter of Curtin's California Land Use and Planning Law and serves on the firm's management and executive committees.

SCHWARTZ, Robert

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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Robert M. ("Bobby") Schwartz is a partner in Quinn Emanuel's Los Angeles office and co-chair of the Media & Entertainment Industry Practice. Over the last 30 years, Bobby has become a nationally recognized leader in large-stakes and often precedent-setting cases, particularly in the entertainment and media fields. He has represented every major motion picture

studio and broadcast network, as well as film production companies, pay TV services, video game developers, record companies, recording artists, producers, writers, directors, and actors. He has had extensive experience and success in copyright, trademark, unfair competition, royalties and participations, First Amendment, defamation, employment, and complex business disputes. As noted in the Notable Representations tab, he has also handled substantial disputes for companies well outside the media industry and entertainment industries.

SCOTT, McGregor W

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: A former two-time U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California, a 34-county district headquartered in Sacramento with an area that stretches from the Oregon border to Bakersfield, Greg Scott is an experienced trial lawyer who represents major companies facing government investigations and litigation, with a focus in the healthcare, retail, and construction industries. He has extensive knowledge on matters involving consumer protection, construction accidents, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) and the False Claims Act (FCA). The combination of his vast experience as a prosecutor and conducting internal investigations as a defense attorney consistently leads to great results for his clients. Greg represents corporations under criminal and/or civil investigation by Federal, state, and local prosecutors' offices. He has extensive experience conducting internal investigations for companies under scrutiny in a wide-range of subject matters, including health care, consumer protection, the False Claims Act, and Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. Greg has been on the opposite side of the table in investigations brought by multiple Federal agencies, the California Attorney General, and several California District Attorneys. The combination of his experience as a prosecutor and as a defense attorney and his stature among prosecutors in California has led to great results for his clients. Mr. Scott also served as an Adjunct Professor of National Security Law at the McGeorge School of Law following his first term as U.S. Attorney for the E.D. of California. He retired as a lieutenant colonel from the U.S. Army Reserve after 23 years of service as an infantry officer.

SEKHON, Vijay

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Featured in Private Equity (California)

Practice Areas: VIJAY SEKHON's practice focuses on mergers, purchases, sales and reorganizations of businesses and special situations for companies and private equity and hedge funds. Vijay also focuses on public debt and equity offerings, private placements, and purchases and sales of debt and equity, and general corporate and securities

law, including advising companies and private equity and hedge funds on their disclosure obligations under the federal securities laws. He has represented Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., The Blackstone Group, L.P., TPG Capital, KKR & Co., Inc., Cerberus Capital Management, L.P., Elliott Management Corp., Citizens JMP Group, LLC, EQT Partners, Canyon Partners, Franklin Templeton Investments, Pine River Capital Management, L.P., TowerBrook Capital Partners, The Yucaipa Companies, LLC, Levine Leichtman Capital Partners Inc., Siris Capital Group, LLC, Fast Retailing Co., Ltd., Universal Studios Japan, Polar Asset Management Partners Inc., Bear Creek Asset Management LLC, Fundamental Advisors LP, Z Capital Partners, L.L.C., Faraday Future, QVT Financial, JHL Capital Group, Glendon Capital Management LP, Tribune Publishing Company, Castle Creek Capital LLC, Dwayne Johnson, Dany Garcia, and certain of their affiliates, Banc of California, Zelnick Media Capital, Hello Alfred, and ICON Aircraft, Inc. Vijay is also an adjunct professor at Berkeley Law and served as senior counsel in the Office of the General Counsel of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission from 2009 to 2011, and an adjunct professor at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law from 2014 to 2017. He was a judicial intern for former Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist in the United States Supreme Court and the Honorable Ellen Segal Huvelle in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Vijay has published numerous articles related to law, business and finance in respected academic and practitioner journals, including the Stanford Journal of Law, Business & Finance, the Berkeley Business Law Journal, the Securities Regulation Law Journal, the New York Business Law Journal, The Real Estate Finance Journal, Pratt's Journal of Bankruptcy Law and the Review of Banking & Financial Law as well as a book titled Corporate Acquisitions and Mergers in the United States (Wolters Kluwer ed. 2024).

SELESNICK, Andrew

Buchalter, LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Healthcare (California)

Practice Areas: Dispute Resolution Litigation Health Care Law White Collar & Investigations

Career: Andrew Selesnick is a Partner in Buchalter's Los Angeles office and Co-Chair of the firm's Health Care Dispute Resolution Practice Group, as well as a member of its Litigation and Health Care Practice Groups. With more than 20 years of experience as a health care and commercial litigator, Mr. Selesnick represents health care providers in numerous areas of litigation, such as seeking reimbursement from insurance companies or defending government investigations. He also advises management on how to successfully navigate a complex regulatory environment to take advantage of business opportunities

while minimizing risk. Mr. Selesnick has taken approximately 15 jury trials (to verdict), multiple bench trials, and more than 75 arbitrations.

SEYMOUR, Laurence

Latham & Watkins LLP, Los Angeles

Featured in Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation (California: Los Angeles & Surrounds)

Practice Areas: Larry Seymour, Global Chair of the firm's Executive Compensation, Employment & Benefits Practice, represents public and private companies, firms, and executives in designing, negotiating, and drafting cash and equity-based incentive compensation, employment agreements, severance, transaction incentive, and other executive arrangements and programs in both corporate transactions and non-transactional settings. Larry regularly negotiates executive employment and related agreements and designs stock option plans, employee stock purchase plans, "profits interest" and phantom equity arrangements, deferred compensation plans, and various other types of annual and long-term incentive compensation plans and arrangements. He also advises clients with respect to all tax, securities, employment law, and other issues that arise in connection with the establishment and administration of such arrangements. Larry's practice spans all executive compensation and benefits issues arising in connection with mergers and acquisitions, spinoffs, initial public offerings, and other corporate transactions, including with respect to deferred compensation and golden parachute considerations. He also regularly advises companies on matters affecting tax-qualified retirement plans, and health and welfare programs. Larry counsels issuers and investment banks with regard to ERISA "plan asset" issues affecting various collateralized loan obligation transactions. Larry formerly served as Office Managing Partner of the firm's Los Angeles office, and prior to that served as the firm's Global Chair of Attorney Recruitment. Community and Professional Involvement In addition to his law practice, Larry is a member of the Board of Directors of Special Olympics Southern California and previously served as a Trustee on the Board of Trustees for the National Association for Law Placement (NALP Foundation).

SHADI, Sabrina

BakerHostetler LLP, Washington, DC
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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Sabrina Shadi is an experienced, full-service employment attorney who represents management-side clients of varying sizes and industries, including hospitality, manufacturing, transportation, retail, technology and healthcare. She handles administrative agency investigations and claims, and litigates in state and federal courts regarding a broad range of issues arising from the employer-employee relationship. She has notable experience handling allegations of disability discrimination

and failure to accommodate disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act and California law, as well as other equal employment opportunity-related claims such as age, sex, race, national origin and religious discrimination and harassment claims. Sabrina also has significant experience representing clients in wage and hour matters, including class and representative Private Attorneys General Act actions. Additionally, she represents clients in matters relating to trade secret misappropriation, unfair competition, workers' compensation discrimination and Cal/OSHA issues. Sabrina also regularly advises buyers and sellers in transactional matters regarding employment law issues.

Professional Memberships:

American Bar Association: Labor and Employment Law Section
The State Bar of California

SHAFFER, K John

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Featured in Bankruptcy/Restructuring (California)

Practice Areas: K. John Shaffer is recognized as one of the nation's leading restructuring lawyers. His extensive experience includes representing debtors, creditors, and purchasers of assets in connection with a wide-range of industries, including financial services, real estate, healthcare, natural resources, and transportation. In addition to in-court representations, Mr. Shaffer has been involved in numerous out-of-court workouts, and he regularly advises hedge funds and other investors in distressed debt. Mr. Shaffer's clients also have included creditors with significant positions in SIPC and FDIC-led receiverships, including Washington Mutual Bank and Lehman Brothers, Inc. In addition to an active and sophisticated practice, Mr. Shaffer has been involved in the development of the nation's bankruptcy laws and rules of practice. Mr. Shaffer was appointed by the Chief Justice of the United States to the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, which he served on from 2000 to 2006. Mr. Shaffer also chaired the Judicial Conference's Joint Subcommittee on Chapter 11 Venue Issues, and was a member of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Advisory Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure from 2006 to 2012. Mr. Shaffer chaired the National Bankruptcy Conference's Business Bankruptcy Committee, and he has served as Secretary of the Conference and as a member of its Executive Committee. He is also a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, and has been President of the Los Angeles Bankruptcy Forum and a member of the Board of Governors of the Financial Lawyers Conference. Mr. Shaffer twice has served as a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judge's Educational Committee, and he is a frequent speaker on bankruptcy-related topics. Mr. Shaffer clerked

for the Honorable Anthony M. Kennedy, Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, from 1990 to 1991, and the Honorable Alex Kozinski, U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, from 1989 to 1990. Various publications have recognized Mr. Shaffer as a leading insolvency professional, including Law & Politics Magazine's Super Lawyers, Southern California's Best Lawyers in America, and Who's Who Legal (Insolvency & Restructuring). He is described as a "dazzlingly bright but also practical" lawyer who is "very personable" (Chambers USA). He is also rated AV® Preeminent™ 5.0 out of 5.0. Mr. Shaffer is a member of the California bar, and he is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court as well as many other courts around the country.

SHALLA-STRONG, Hilary

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Featured in Real Estate (California: Southern)

Practice Areas: Hilary Strong, Global Vice Chair of Latham's Real Estate Practice and Co-Chair of the firm's interdisciplinary Data Center team, advises clients on a full array of complex commercial real estate transactions, including real estate investment trust (REIT) matters. Drawing on her breadth of experience in the real estate market, Hilary delivers pragmatic and commercially driven counsel to REITs, private equity sponsors, sovereign wealth funds, individuals, and other institutional clients across a multitude of asset classes, including: – Data centers – Healthcare and life sciences – Senior housing – Logistics. She regularly advises on acquisitions, dispositions, and joint ventures involving complex real estate portfolios, as well as the development of commercial real estate. Hilary brings particular experience advising on REIT transactions, including in connection with roll-ups, initial public offerings, mergers, and matters involving sovereign wealth funds. She also guides clients on converting commercial property owners and operators to REITs, as well as on acquiring stock in commercial property owners and operators and concurrent asset restructuring for REIT compliance. Hilary serves as a go-to advisor to many clients throughout their growth stages. She offers first-hand insight into real estate investment companies' and developers' needs by leveraging her prior experience as Vice President, Senior Counsel of Irvine Company. A recognized leader at the firm, she has served as Local Chair of Latham's Orange County Corporate Department, Chair of the firm's Mentoring Committee, and Co-Chair of the Orange County office's WEB Committee, as well as on the firm's Associates Committee.

SHANKAR, Anil

Foley & Lardner LLP, Los Angeles
213.972.4584

ashankar@foley.com

Featured in Healthcare (California)

Practice Areas: Corporate, Health Care

Career: Anil Shankar is a partner and health care lawyer with Foley & Lardner LLP, and a member of the firm's Health Care Practice. He provides strategic counsel to health care providers as they navigate complex regulatory and reimbursement matters, with a particular focus on the Medicaid program and issues affecting safety net providers. Anil is a lecturer at the UCLA School of Law, where he teaches Health Care Compliance. Anil advises hospitals, clinics, health systems, other providers, managed care plans, and governmental entities on their participation in Medicaid programs. He has helped develop innovative new programs, including Medicaid supplemental payments, quality networks, state and local provider taxes or assessments, and public-private partnerships. He has extensive experience in the use of health care funding to address the social determinants of health and helped to design and implement California's Whole Person Care pilots, which operate innovative programs for individuals experiencing homelessness, individuals leaving incarceration, individuals with significant mental health disorders, and other vulnerable populations. He advises clients on a numerous Medicaid reimbursement and compliance issues, including overpayment investigations and analyses. He has also assisted numerous companies seeking to enter into the Medicaid program. Anil also has deep knowledge of Medicaid managed care and has helped plans and providers evaluate regulatory changes and structure alternative payment methodologies to meet their goals. Anil heads the firm's robust 340B Drug Pricing Program practice, which counsels hospital systems, federally qualified health centers, and federal grantees with regard to their obligations and opportunities under the program. He advises clients on compliance and overpayment issues, self-disclosures, internal and governmental audits, 340B contracting, and has helped to restructure entities to maximize 340B Program savings. Anil has extensive experience advising clients on behavioral health reimbursement, operational, and compliance issues. He has counseled hospitals on health systems seeking to expand their behavioral health offerings, including strategic counseling to avoid licensing, regulatory, and reimbursement pitfalls. In addition, Anil has helped design systems to protect and share confidential patient information, including behavioral health information. He works with local behavioral health directors, providers, and managed delivery systems on issues related to funding, reimbursement, program development, and strategic implementation. Anil advises health care providers and companies to track and oversee federal grants and reimbursement, including hemophilia treatment center funds, Ryan White funds, 340B funds, FQHCs, and has advised them during related audits. During the coronavirus pandemic, Anil advised hospitals, health systems, governmental entities, nursing facilities and other health care providers and companies

with regard to their application, receipt and use of federal relief funds, including the Provider Relief Fund and Coronavirus Relief Fund. He has recovered millions of dollars by successfully challenging Medicaid reimbursement audit findings.

Professional Memberships: Faculty lecturer at the UCLA School of Law Member, American Health Lawyer's Association Member, Los Angeles County Bar Association (Health Law Section) Member, American Bar Association (Health Law Section)

SHAPIRO, Jonathan

Goodwin, San Francisco
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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Jon Shapiro is a partner in the firm's Complex Litigation & Dispute Resolution practice. His practice is focused on securities litigation, government enforcement actions, and commercial litigation. Jon has expertise in a wide range of securities matters, including class actions, securities fraud, and M&A litigation. He has litigated class actions, challenges to corporate transactions and governance, and other matters regarding allegations of fraud and breach of fiduciary duty, including jury and bench trials. Jon regularly defends and conducts internal and regulatory investigations on behalf of clients facing actions by the SEC, DOJ, FINRA, and other entities.

Personal: JD, 1994 Boston College Law School (summa cum laude, Order of the Coif) BA, 1991 Brandeis University (cum laude, Highest Departmental Honors)

SHERIDAN, Stephanie A

Ballard Spahr LLP, San Francisco

Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Stephanie Sheridan is one of the nation's most prominent retail and e-commerce attorneys. She is Ballard Spahr's San Francisco Office Managing Partner and leader of the firm's Retail & E-Commerce Industry Team. She was among the earliest lawyers to build a retail-focused practice aimed at providing a "one-stop shop" for retailers throughout the industry. Stephanie has represented many of retail's most iconic brands, ranging from luxury houses, to department stores, and emerging online startups, as well as hotels and restaurants. Stephanie has defended hundreds of consumer class actions brought under an array of consumer statutes, involving allegations of deceptive pricing, false advertising, federal and state privacy laws (CIPA, CEMA, VPPA, Song Beverly, FACTA), "Made in the USA" claims, and automatic renewal laws, gift card law violations, call-recording law claims, ADA website and Braille access cases, and violations of California **Career:** Admissions: California U.S. District Court for the Central District of California U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan U.S. Court

of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Professional Memberships: California Retailers Association, Member, Board of Directors, and Executive Committee Member

SHERIFF, Nora

Buchalter, LLP, San Francisco
nsheriff@buchalter.com

Featured in Energy & Natural Resources (California)

Practice Areas: Energy & Natural Resources Law

Career: Nora Sheriff is a Partner in Buchalter's San Francisco office and a member of the Firm's Energy & Natural Resources Practice Group. With decades of experience in the energy industry, Nora focuses her practice on electric and natural gas regulatory and administrative litigation, legislative efforts, and end-use contractual transactions; she works to ensure clean energy tools are available for large end-use customer use to help mitigate the impacts of the high cost of California power on California manufacturing and avoid carbon emissions leakage by keeping manufacturing in California. Her clients include cement, steel, industrial gas, medical gas, energy infrastructure, minerals processing, beverage, and cold storage industry corporations, oil and gas energy companies working to advance a lower carbon future, the largest provider of renewable natural gas for transportation in North America, the only private, all-electric, high-speed rail provider, investment banks and lenders, clean energy companies offering scalable, low-carbon solutions to end-users, Municipal Utilities, Cities, Water Agencies, as well as wholesale demand response providers, scheduling coordinator/distributed energy resource aggregators, integration technology solutions providers and renewable energy systems developers. Nora represents large power customers and clean power stakeholders, informs, and helps shape California's energy policy debates, and advocates for clean energy and large end-user ratepayer interests. In 2025, Nora Sheriff was recognized as one of the San Francisco Business Times' Most Influential Women in Bay Area Business. Nora is recognized by Chambers USA as a leader in her field in the area of Energy, State Regulatory & Litigation (California) and in the Best Lawyers in America, Energy Law and Natural Resources Law, since 2023. She served as President of the Conference of California Public Utility Counsel (CCPUC) for the 2023 – 2024 term and on the CCPUC Board (2018 – 2024).

Professional Memberships:

Member, Former President (2023 – 2024) and Board of Directors (2018 – 2024), Conference of the California Public Utility Counsel Member, Power Association of Northern California Member, Association of Women in Water, Energy, and the Environment Member, Women in Energy Member, Women in Public Utilities Former Admiral of the St. Ignatius Parent Navy (2020 – 2021) Former President (2016 – 2017, 2013 – 2014) and Board

Member (2011 – 2017) for the Parent Board of St. Gabriel School in San Francisco.

SHEVELL, Adam

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Featured in Technology (California)

Practice Areas: Technology Transactions & Privacy Law Emerging Companies & Venture Capital Law Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning Blockchain & Digital Assets Digital media & Media Entertainment, Gaming & Sports Fintech & Payments NewSpace Immersive Technology

Career: Adam Shevell advises leading Silicon Valley companies on complex commercial transactions involving cutting-edge technologies. He represents technology companies and their investors in sectors such as artificial intelligence (AI) and generative AI, e-gaming, web3 and blockchain, decentralized finance (DeFi), augmented reality/virtual reality (AR/VR), autonomous mobility, fintech, digital health, cleantech, robotics, and other emerging sectors. Adam is a trusted advisor to startup founders at all stages of the startup lifecycle, helping with product launch, fundraising, partnerships, scaling, and exit transactions. He has a strong reputation for negotiating high-stakes deals for startups and is known for his tailored and practical advice focused on achieving valuable business outcomes. Adam speaks regularly on issues that are relevant to startups and venture investors, such as intellectual property questions around generative AI, and has been featured on the This Week in Startups podcast and quoted in the Wall Street Journal on matters relating to technology and the law.

SHILLING, Monica J

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Featured in Capital Markets (California), Capital Markets (USA – Nationwide)

Practice Areas: Monica Shilling is a transactional partner in the Los Angeles office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP. She has a broad M&A, securities law and corporate practice that focuses on advising asset managers, private equity funds, and their portfolio companies on the full lifecycle of transactions. She also represents public companies, financial advisors, investment banks and issuers. She has over 30 years of experience with mergers and acquisitions, capital markets offerings, leveraged buyouts, general corporate law and corporate governance, securities laws, and NYSE/Nasdaq compliance. The Los Angeles Business Journal notes that Monica's "diverse practice and her understanding of the financial markets and industry expertise have propelled her as one of the leading women attorneys steering private equity's recent entertainment boom." Monica also focuses on specialty finance companies, where she advises companies on the establishment of business development companies (BDCs),

special purpose acquisition companies (SPACs) and other private and public equity vehicles.

Professional Memberships: Member of the Board, KCRW Foundation, Inc., 2012–Present; Chair of the Board, KCRW Foundation, 2019–Present; Fellow, American Bar Foundation, 2021–Present

Personal: Georgetown University Law Center, J.D., magna cum laude, Order of the Coif, 1995; University of Redlands, Johnston Center for Integrative Studies, B.A., Phi Beta Kappa, 1992

SHUSTER, Michael J

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Featured in Life Sciences (California), Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Michael Shuster is a partner in Goodwin's Life Sciences group, providing strategic intellectual property advice to biotechnology, chemical, pharmaceutical, and other life sciences companies. He handles an array of IP matters – including patent prosecution, portfolio analysis, due diligence, litigation, and opinion work – for clients ranging from startups to established biotechnology companies, venture capital firms, and research universities and hospitals. He also provides IP evaluation and counseling for companies raising and investing growth capital, executing strategic partnerships and M&A transactions, and going public. Leveraging a background in science, Michael has advised extensively on IP issues related to immunotherapy, antibody technologies, microbiome-based technologies, ag biotechnology, biologics, gene therapy, therapeutic vaccines, synthetic biology, small molecule therapeutics, and drug formulations, among other complex technologies. Before attending law school, he was part of a Columbia University team, led by Professor Eric Kandel, that conducted research into the mechanisms underlying short-term memory storage. Kandel was awarded the 2000 Nobel Prize in Medicine for a body of work that included that project. **Personal:** JD, University of San Francisco School of Law, 1997 (cum laude); PhD, Columbia University, The Department of Physiology and Molecular Biophysics, 1986; BA, Biophysics, Brandeis University, 1981 (magna cum laude)

SILVERA, Jason H

Latham & Watkins LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Private Equity (California), Corporate/M&A (California: Los Angeles & Surrounds)

Practice Areas: Jason H. Silvera is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Latham & Watkins. Jason advises private equity firms and public and private companies on mergers and acquisitions in a broad range of industries, including retail, sports, entertainment and media, internet and technology, real estate, defense, logistics, and manufacturing. Jason is the former Global Vice Chair of the firm's Corporate Department, and Chair of the firm's Recruiting Committee.

Jason regularly garners recognition for his skill in handling high-profile transactional work on behalf of private equity firms. Jason serves as a board member of the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank and Los Angeles Team Mentoring.

SIMMONS, Richard

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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Richard is a lawyer's lawyer and represents employers in wage-hour, PAGA (Private Attorneys General Act), discrimination, contract and wrongful discharge lawsuits. He has represented employers in over 100 class action lawsuits and landmark decisions. When the California Industrial Welfare Commission (the agency responsible to issue the state's Wage Orders) was sued, it asked Richard to defend the case over all other firms. Richard represents employers in various employment law matters involving litigation throughout the country and general advice regarding state and federal wage and hour laws, employment discrimination, wrongful discharge, employee discipline and termination, employee benefits, affirmative action, union representation proceedings and contract arbitrations.

Professional Memberships: Member, California Society for Health Care Attorneys Member, American Society for Health Care Attorneys Member, Labor Law and Tax Sections, American and Los Angeles Bar Associations Member, National Advisory Board, Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law, published by Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California in Berkeley

SITZMAN, Michael

McDermott Will & Schulte, San Francisco

michael.sitzman@mcdermottlaw.com

Featured in Life Sciences (California)

Practice Areas: Michael Sitzman is an accomplished first-chair trial lawyer in high-stakes biologic and drug patent litigation. He represents biotechnology and innovator pharmaceutical companies in patent litigation, including abbreviated new drug application (ANDA) litigation under the Hatch-Waxman Act, and other intellectual property matters across the life sciences industry.

SMITH, Colleen C

Latham & Watkins LLP, San Diego
(858) 523 – 3985

Colleen.Smith@lw.com

Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Colleen Smith, a nationally recognized trial lawyer, serves as Global Vice Chair of the firm's Securities and M&A Litigation Practice, as well as Global Vice Chair of the Public Company & Board Representation Practice. Colleen helps public companies successfully prevent or navigate litigation related to: – Securities class actions – M&A, activism, and Delaware corporate governance – SEC enforcement matters – Other shareholder disputes Colleen brings a well-honed strategic view to

her representations, leading teams that have saved clients billions of dollars at all stages of litigation, set precedent, and protected brand-name companies from enterprise-threatening liability. She has secured award-winning defense verdicts at trial for clients across a range of industries, including technology, and healthcare and life sciences. Before becoming a lawyer, Colleen served as a US Naval Surface Warfare Officer on the guided missile destroyer USS Decatur (DDG 73) and was one of the first women to serve in a combatant role. After law school, she served as a law clerk for Judge David R. Thompson of the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and Judge James H. Michael of the US District Court for the Western District of Virginia.

SODERSTROM, Rachelle
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Featured in Technology (California)

Practice Areas: RACHELLE SODERSTROM advises world-leading technology companies on how to navigate their most critical IP needs. Rachelle provides companies at all stages of development with thoughtful and solution-oriented advice in connection with complex commercial transactions, as well as day-to-day operations. Rachelle has extensive experience counseling emerging companies and venture capital investors on the development, protection, and commercialization of cutting-edge technology, with a particular focus on generative AI. In addition, Rachelle provides more established Fortune 50 companies with practical and strategic advice on a wide range of intellectual property issues, including strategic collaborations with, and acquisitions of, emerging technology companies. Representative clients include Meta, Amazon, eBay, PayPal, Salesforce, United Airlines, and GE Aviation.

SODHI, Rishi
Foley & Lardner LLP, Los Angeles
Featured in Tax (California: Southern)

Practice Areas: Corporate, Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation, Insurance, Insurance Taxation, Taxation, Transactions

SOLOMON, Glenn
King & Spalding LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Healthcare (California)

Practice Areas: Glenn Solomon specializes in commercial and government managed care, complex business litigation, arbitration, mediation, class action, investigations, and other dispute resolution matters. As a partner in the firm's Healthcare practice, his diverse clientele includes prominent hospitals and health systems, medical groups, independent physician associations, management services organizations, and other health care providers and entities. On behalf of providers, he has both resolved significant disputes with health plans and negotiated high-profile contracts with them, as well as solved disagreements with

other providers. He has helped providers obtain several hundred million dollars through underpayments recoveries, contract improvements, and negotiations. He also has successfully defended against similarly large amounts of alleged overpayments. Glenn's expertise allows him to break down complex disputes to identify and achieve the best options for his clients, whether that be through litigation, arbitration, mediation, or resolved through contractual negotiation. His clients have recovered combined awards and settlements totaling over several hundred million dollars on the plaintiffs' side; and have successfully avoided alleged financial exposures of similar figures on the defendants' side. Over the course of his career, Mr. Solomon has litigated, arbitrated, mediated and resolved disputes involving managed care, contracting, management services, class actions, internal and external investigations, fraud and abuse, business relations, reimbursement, trade secrets, misappropriation, real estate, employment, and discrimination. His broad health industry experience involves dealings with health plans, insurance companies, ERISA plans, self-funded plans, qui tam relators, employees, other providers and the government. Glenn's versatile background has allowed him to be a court-designated expert witness.

SOMOGYI, Megan
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Featured in Energy & Natural Resources (California)

Practice Areas: Megan's practice focuses on California-regulated energy, water, and transportation utilities and the markets in which they operate. Megan represents a broad range of clients, including electric, water, and natural gas utilities; Community Choice Aggregators; crude oil pipelines; vessel and ground transportation providers; developers; financial institutions; commercial and industrial landlords; agricultural property owners; and cities, counties, and other government entities. Megan's work covers the full scope of administrative and regulatory matters, from routine compliance to litigation and appellate review. Megan has extensive experience representing clients before the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in utility rate cases, utility certification and service expansion proceedings, transfer of control applications, sale and encumbrance of utility property, market design and procurement rulemakings, financing applications, enforcement proceedings, investigations, and complaints. Megan advises clients on power supply planning and negotiation of power supply agreements, regulatory due diligence in connection with the purchase and development of utility-scale generation projects, and land use matters involving regulated utility infrastructure. Megan also represents clients in matters relating to utility operations, rates, infrastructure, and safety, including nuclear power plant decommissioning, the siting and construction of utility infrastructure, and the permitting and construction of railroad crossings. Megan is well-known for her work regarding wildfire preparedness and wildfire mitigation activities, including utility de-energization programs.

SPARKS, Lindsay
Paul Hastings LLP, Houston
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Featured in Banking & Finance (California)

Practice Areas: Lindsay R. Sparks is a partner in the Corporate Department at Paul Hastings and is based in the firm's San Francisco and Houston offices. Her practice encompasses a wide range of finance transactions, including acquisition and other leveraged financings, investment grade financings, asset-based financings, and structured credit financings and other debt capital market transactions. Lindsay has particular experience in secured lending matters, including first and second lien syndicated credit facilities, asset-based revolving and unitranche credit facilities. Her structured credit practice includes NAV facilities, capital call facilities and single-asset and portfolio back-leverage transactions secured by debt, equity and other asset classes. Lindsay also has significant transactional experience in a variety of industries, including technology and software, asset management and energy. She also has extensive experience in healthcare, datacenters, retail, manufacturing, agriculture, ski resorts and transportation and distribution industries and cross-border transactions. **Personal:** University of California Hastings College of the Law, J.D. University of California Berkeley, B.A.

SPERTUS, James
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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Appeals, Civil Litigation, Consumer Class Actions, Student Discipline and Title IX, Trials, and White Collar Criminal Defense/Government Enforcement Actions **Career:** James W. Spertus is an experienced trial attorney and a former federal prosecutor who has been litigating cases in federal and state courts for approximately 30 years. He has successfully argued numerous cases in federal, state, trial, and appellate courts throughout the United States and has tried dozens of cases to favorable jury verdicts. Broad trial and appellate experiences help Mr. Spertus quickly identify essential issues, facts, documents, and witnesses necessary to achieve extraordinary results. He is nimble, focused, aggressive and decisive. Mr. Spertus has received many peer reviewed accolades including: Litigation Star Award, Benchmark Litigation (2026); Lawdragon 500 Leading Litigators in America (2025 - 2026); Legal 500 Los Angeles City Elite: White Collar Crime (2026); Doyle's Guide Preeminent

Criminal Defense Lawyer (2026); Top 100 Criminal Lawyer, Daily Journal (2024); Top 100 Lawyer, Daily Journal (2023); Chambers USA (2019 - 2026); U.S. News and World Reports' Best Lawyers in America (2012 - 2026); Southern California Super Lawyers (2008 - 2026). Mr. Spertus has also been recognized as a superior trial attorney by The National Trial Lawyers Top 100, Lawyers of Distinction, AVVO, and Top 100 Lawyers. Mr. Spertus was a Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representative from 2012 through 2016, and served on the Board of Directors of the ABA White Collar Crime Subcommittee, Los Angeles Chapter, and the FBA Rules of Criminal Procedure and Evidence Subcommittee. From 1996 to 2004, Mr. Spertus was a federal prosecutor in the Criminal Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California, where he spent nearly eight years as a trial attorney prosecuting major frauds, major crimes, and computer crimes in a wide variety of areas. Mr. Spertus became a founding member of the Computer Crimes and Intellectual Property Section in 2000 and spent many years as an intellectual property prosecutor supervising complex investigations involving trade secret theft, computer intrusions, and intellectual property. Mr. Spertus has also lectured at numerous training sessions for federal agents and Assistant United States Attorneys, including advanced training sessions at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. From 1992 to 1996, Mr. Spertus was an associate at the Los Angeles law firm Irell & Manella, specializing in civil litigation. From 1991 to 1992, Mr. Spertus clerked on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit for the Honorable Procter Hug, Jr. He earned his law degree from the University of Southern California Law Center in 1991, where he was Order of the Coif (Top 10%), Phi Kappa Phi (Top 5%), and Managing Editor of the Southern California Law Review. Mr. Spertus spent his first three undergraduate years at the University of California, Berkeley, and then transferred to the University of California, Los Angeles where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1988. **Professional Memberships:** James serves on the Board of Directors of the ABA White Collar Crime Subcommittee, Los Angeles Chapter, and the FBA Rules of Criminal Procedure and Evidence Subcommittee. He is admitted to the California state bar.

SPIRIDONOV, Deyan P
Paul Hastings LLP, San Diego
Featured in Corporate/M&A (California: San Diego)

Practice Areas: Deyan P. Spiridonov is a partner in Paul Hastings' Mergers & Acquisitions practice and is based in the firm's San Diego office. He is a member of the California State Bar Association. Deyan practices in the area of mergers and acquisitions and has represented public and private companies in the telecommunications, semiconductor, software, technology-related defense contracting, biotechnology and financial

industries. Deyan has experience in structuring and negotiating all aspects of acquisition transactions, including stock acquisitions, asset acquisitions, mergers, tender offers, going-private transactions, leveraged buyouts and joint ventures. In addition, Deyan represents companies and special committees to the board of directors in connection with hostile takeovers and anti-takeover defenses, including poison pills and general anti-takeover planning and strategic advice. Deyan is a frequent lecturer on mergers and acquisitions topics and has authored articles on mergers and acquisitions issues.

Personal: University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, J.D. University of California, Berkeley, B.A.

STAPLETON, Beau

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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Music & Talent (California)

Practice Areas: Beau Stapleton is a partner in Willkie's Los Angeles office, where he is a member of the Corporate & Financial Services Department and the Entertainment Transactions Practice. Beau advises a wide range of stakeholders in the entertainment industry on complex and multidisciplinary deals. His transactional practice spans varied industries, including music, film, television and digital media. He represents some of the nation's most well-known artists, studios, investment firms, media companies, directors, producers, publishers and composers. Beau has been recognized for his work by numerous leading entertainment and legal publications, including Billboard, Variety and The Best Lawyers in America.

STEBBINS BINA, Jessica

Latham & Watkins LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Jessica Stebbins Bina, a seasoned commercial litigator, represents market-leading companies in complex, high-stakes, and reputationally sensitive disputes and investigations, particularly within the media, entertainment, and technology industries. Jessica draws on extensive first-chair experience and her creative approach to litigation strategy to counsel clients from the earliest stages of investigation through state and federal court trials and successful appeals. She defends clients against a range of complex claims, including: – Copyright – Trademark – Contract – Fiduciary breach – Privacy – Fraud. Complex tort actions including personal injury and employer liability. She has tried complex cases to successful jury verdicts, and regularly achieves client victories in arbitration and mediation. She understands clients' business objectives and guides them toward obtaining early, favorable settlements. Jessica regularly represents clients in the film, television, music, radio, and internet industries, as well as within the sports, technology,

video game, and real estate sectors. In addition to her litigation practice, Jessica counsels clients facing reputational risk, coordinating structural advice and public relations to reduce exposure. A recognized leader within and outside the firm, Jessica is a member of Latham's WEB Committee in Los Angeles and is Treasurer of the Board for the Disability Rights Legal Center. She is also a member of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers. Jessica maintains an active pro bono practice, including matters involving children's rights and immigration.

STEINTHAL, Kenneth

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Featured in Intellectual Property (USA – Nationwide), Intellectual Property (California), Media & Entertainment: Litigation (California), Media & Entertainment: Music & Talent (California)

Practice Areas: Kenneth Steintal, known for litigating matters in the intellectual property/media sector, is a widely recognized leader in his field. Ken has four decades of experience litigating matters spanning the IP/media sector, in jury and bench trial settings and before copyright tribunals in the U.S. and internationally. Ken's practice is focused on copyright, DMCA and antitrust/rate-setting cases involving the distribution of audio and audiovisual content. His litigation matters typically involve the defense of copyright infringement claims, the application of DMCA safe harbors and the establishment of structures and rates for the exploitation of copyrighted works in both traditional (e.g., cable, satellite, broadcast) and new media distribution environments. In just the last few years, Mr. Steintal has led teams on behalf of Google, Peloton, the Radio Music License Committee (representing the interests of the U.S. broadcast radio industry), NPR/PBS, The Orchard, ESPN and Pandora before different courts and tribunals (including the U.S. Copyright Royalty Board) in defense of copyright infringement claims and establishing rate structures governing his clients' exploitation of music licensed by publishers and labels (and their representative organizations).

STELLA, Walter

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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Walter is a senior employment law attorney with more than 30 years of experience advising employers on challenging workplace issues and providing practical solutions that minimize legal exposure in a heavily regulated business environment. Walter represents some of Silicon Valley's most dynamic corporate players, from Big Tech giants and high-profile tech-adjacent foundations to emerging businesses and ambitious startups. He frequently operates as outside general counsel to clients on employment law matters. Clients rely on him as their first point of contact when employment issues arise.

Walter is widely respected for his ability to assess problems, design smart legal strategies, and oversee cost-effective resolutions. In his own day-to-day practice, Walter handles employment law litigation, settlement negotiations, and arbitrations; negotiates executive contracts and advises directors and officers on personal liability and indemnification matters; and provides proactive state and federal regulatory counseling.

STELLENBERG, Dan

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Featured in Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation (California: San Francisco, Silicon Valley & Surrounding)

Practice Areas: Dan Stollenberg is a partner in the Tax practice at Paul Hastings, focusing on executive compensation and employee benefits. Dan's practice encompasses four broad areas: (i) support of the firm's overall transaction practices, including Private Equity, M&A, Capital Markets and Corporate Restructurings, (ii) employment restructurings, (iii) outside compensation/benefits counsel, and (iv) representations of individual executives and management teams. More specifically, Dan's practice focuses on transactional employment matters, including advising on tax, accounting, employment and securities law issues in connection with executive employment and separation agreements, equity compensation arrangements and bonus plans. Dan's experience also encompasses employee integration and retention, due diligence, golden parachute analysis, deferred compensation issues and public company disclosure guidance. Dan regularly advises public companies, their boards and their compensation committees, private-equity firms and their portfolio companies, and private companies ranging in size from single-person startups to large "unicorn" companies. Prior to joining Paul Hastings, Dan practiced at three other Am Law 100 firms. His previous experience also includes working at a compensation consulting firm, where he provided independent advice to technology companies' boards of directors and compensation committees. Before becoming an attorney, Dan worked as a software engineer at a semiconductor company and he holds four United States patents relating to software modeling of semiconductor devices.

Personal: Santa Clara University, School of Law, J.D. Santa Clara University, M.S. Carnegie Mellon University, B.S.

STEMP, Albert

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Featured in Real Estate (California: Southern)

Practice Areas: Al Stemp is a partner in the Real Estate Practice Group in the Los Angeles office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP. Al represents leading private equity funds, institutional capital sources, hospitality companies, REITs, data center developers and retail operators,

among others, in connection with their investments across all commercial real estate asset classes, including, data centers, industrial, office, multifamily, hospitality and retail. Al advises clients in structuring and negotiating partnership and joint venture agreements for all types of investments in commercial real estate assets and related debt instruments, including, development deals and preferred equity structures. He regularly works on data center development matters including leases/customer contracts and financing. Al handles acquisitions and dispositions across real estate asset classes ranging from single asset to large portfolio deals, whether as standalone transactions or as part of broader M&A, rollout or reorganization deals. Al regularly represents borrowers and lenders in all types of real estate finance transactions, including single and multi-tranche mortgage, mezzanine and construction loans in the debt fund, securitization, balance sheet and syndicated markets. Al also advises clients in connection with the purchase and sale of performing and distressed real estate debt instruments.

Personal: B.A., Pennsylvania State University; M.A., University of Colorado at Boulder; J.D., University of Colorado at Boulder

STODDARD, F. Jackson

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Featured in Energy & Natural Resources (California)

Practice Areas: Jack's practice is primarily focused on energy and transportation-related regulatory matters and proceedings before state and federal agencies. Jack has represented clients before the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the California Air Resources Board, the California Energy Commission, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and in state court. Jack also assists and counsels clients in connection with preparation and negotiation of commercial agreements—including power purchase and interconnection agreements—and project development work. Jack represents a diversity of clients including: a major autonomous vehicle company, electric and natural gas utilities, electric service providers, electric transmission project companies, independent power producers, and large commercial and industrial end users. Jack is an experienced litigator and advocate and has handled numerous adjudicatory, ratemaking, and rulemaking proceedings. Jack has represented clients in defending against a range of agency enforcement actions, including staff inquiries and investigations, notices of violation, citations and citation appeals, orders to show cause, and adjudicatory enforcement proceedings. Jack has also obtained favorable outcomes for clients in licensing, certification, transfer of control and other formal application proceedings before the CPUC, in addition to quasi-legislative rulemaking proceedings.

Professional Memberships: Western Energy Bar Association Conference of California Public Utility Counsel

STOKDYK, Steven B

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*Featured in Capital Markets (California),
Capital Markets (USA - Nationwide)*

Practice Areas: Steven Stokdyk advises companies, principal investors, and investment banks on their most complex securities, finance, acquisition, and governance matters. He is the former Global Co-Chair of the firm's Public Company Representation Practice and Los Angeles Chair of the Corporate Department. Steven draws on decades of practical experience to advise clients on the full spectrum of strategic transactions, including: – Mergers and acquisitions (M&A) – Initial public offerings (IPOs) – High-yield, convertible, and secured debt offerings – Recapitalizations – Private equity and debt investments He also regularly advises public and private clients on corporate governance and structure, as well as securities law compliance. A leading corporate lawyer, Steven represents clients in a wide range of industries, including technology, financial institutions, healthcare, gaming, and real estate. He regularly navigates cross-border regulatory complexity and brings an innovative and commercial approach to clients' highest-stakes matters.

SWALWELL, Chauncey

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*Featured in Real Estate (California:
Southern)*

Practice Areas: Chauncey Swalwell, a partner in Goodwin's Real Estate Industry group, focuses his practice on commercial real estate and represents private and institutional investors and lenders in connection with the acquisition, sale, development, leasing and financing of hotels, student housing facilities, industrial parks, office buildings, regional shopping centers and other projects, including the structuring of complex transactions involving public and private REITs, TICs, and other investment and lending vehicles. Chauncey has extensive experience structuring and negotiating joint venture agreements on behalf of private equity and institutional investors and promoters in a broad array of real estate transactions. He also represents both lenders and borrowers in negotiating a variety of commercial lending transactions, including the origination and restructuring of such transactions. In addition, his practice includes representing both buyers and sellers in the negotiation of purchase and sale contracts, along with a wide range of other real estate-related transactions and issues. Chauncey has expertise in the intricacies of California's unique foreclosure framework, including the so-called "one action" and "anti-deficiency" statutes and their effect on the rights and remedies of lenders, borrowers and guarantors. He has also been involved in numerous judicial foreclosure,

receivership, and other real estate-related litigation matters.

Personal: JD, Loyola Law School Los Angeles 1990; BA, University of California Los Angeles 1986

TANG, Petra

BAL LLP, San Francisco

Featured in Immigration (California)

Career: Petra is a Partner at BAL's San Francisco office. She is a decades-long fan of the firm's oneBAL mindset, bringing it to the forefront in her relationships with clients. Petra's immigration practice focuses on helping her clients navigate immigration complexities so that the business can focus on what's important – executing on achieving its goals. Petra empathetically advises and represents clients of all sizes and in a variety of industries, with a focus on technology. With her extensive experience as well as dedication to her clients, Petra provides guidance to businesses and multinational corporations, offering expert advice on a wide range of corporate immigration matters, such as compliance, the immigration impact of corporate reorganizations, nonimmigrant work visas, complex PERM programs and permanent residency matters. Petra was born in the United States but grew up in Hong Kong and traveled extensively to the U.S., Europe and Australia. Petra is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has been named in Best Lawyers since 2017. Learn more about Petra: <https://www.bal.com/people/petra%2Dtang/>

Professional Memberships: American Immigration Lawyers Association

TANNER, Lorna

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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Lorna Tanner helps life sciences companies protect innovation, navigate regulatory challenges and manage portfolios, from their first patent filings to their global intellectual property strategies. She leads the Life Sciences team and serves on the firm's Executive Committee. Lorna's work spans patent strategies for therapeutics worldwide, including portfolio management for drugs and biologics. She has been involved in patent strategies for 20 approved drugs and biologics, guiding clients through each stage of product development and launch. Her experience covers patent term extensions, Orange Book listings and pre- and post-grant challenges, helping clients maintain a competitive edge. While Lorna's emphasis is in small molecules in clinical development, she also has in depth experience with antibodies, modified proteins and viruses; immunotherapy such as CAR T; biopolymers; drug delivery, including pulmonary, topical, and pharmaceutical formulations. Lorna also has experience with green technologies and agricultural products. Clients have commented that Lorna is "an exceptionally good life sciences practitioner."

TAUB, David

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Featured in Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation (California: Los Angeles & Surrounds)

Practice Areas: David Taub, Chair of the Los Angeles Tax Department, advises clients on executive compensation and employee benefits matters, with specific emphasis on high-level executive compensation arrangements and mergers, acquisitions, financings, IPOs, and other corporate transactions. He represents employers and issuers in a variety of industries, and has extensive experience advising real estate investment trusts and other real estate companies. David represents employers and issuers in structuring and implementing various types of compensation arrangements for senior executives and other employees, including: – Employment agreements – Equity arrangements – Change in control arrangements – Incentive compensation He also counsels public and private companies, as well as private equity funds, on all employee benefits and compensation aspects of corporate transactions, including: – Golden parachutes – Executive compensation – Pension and welfare plan issues – ERISA "plan asset" issues David has lectured on a broad range of executive compensation and employee benefits topics, including at the University of Southern California Tax Institute and numerous conferences sponsored by the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts (NAREIT). He has also authored articles and other writings on these subjects for various tax publications, including Practical US/Domestic Tax Strategies and volumes published by the University of Southern California Tax Institute.

TAYBACK, Christopher

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Christopher Tayback enjoys a reputation as a lawyer's lawyer – a fiercely accomplished litigator who has won cases of all varieties in venues of all kinds. An esteemed and trusted leader within the firm, he serves as Co-Managing Partner of Quinn Emanuel's Los Angeles office. Mr. Tayback's experience as a trial lawyer covers a wide range of practice areas and subjects, including antitrust, bankruptcy, consumer class actions, criminal defense, defamation, employment matters, environmental cases, fraud, patent and intellectual property litigation, and qui tam, to name just a selection. He has won record-setting patent verdicts, criminal cases, and even a history-making contract case for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (of which his father was a member.) Before joining Quinn Emanuel in 1997, Mr. Tayback spent eight years as a prosecutor – first as a Deputy District Attorney in Los Angeles County and later as an Assistant United States Attorney, also in Los Angeles. He received nu-

merous awards from the various federal, state and local law enforcement agencies with which he worked, and the Los Angeles Times once took note of his bravura "courtroom performer" style in its coverage of a high-profile murder case he prosecuted. Today, he is a nationally recognized litigator and a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. In his four-decade career, Mr. Tayback has tried or arbitrated more than 100 cases – civil and criminal – in jurisdictions across the country. In recent years, Mr. Tayback has obtained a \$128 million patent infringement verdict at trial, a \$120 million jury verdict in a property dispute, and a jury finding of zero damages in defense of a \$200 million+ consumer class action. For over two decades, Mr. Tayback has served as a visiting trial instructor at Harvard Law School. He is listed in Best Lawyers in America and is a member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum, the Association of Business Trial Lawyers, and is routinely recognized as one of Southern California's "Super Lawyers." He has also been ranked for commercial litigation by Chambers USA, which stated, "Christopher is a terrific lawyer ... aggressive in court in a professional way." A former child actor, Tayback is the son of a revered television and movie actor, the late Vic Tayback (who played Mel on the sitcom "Alice" in the 1970s and '80s.)

TAYLOR, Jeremy

Baker Botts L.L.P., Houston

Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Intellectual Property, Intellectual Property Litigation

Career: Jeremy Taylor works closely with high-tech clients on intellectual property disputes and counseling. By developing deep relationships with technology companies in the San Francisco Bay Area and across the country, Mr. Taylor understands the goals of his clients and works to solve IP disputes accordingly. In addition to handling active lawsuits, as a trained engineer Mr. Taylor understands the needs of his clients and their respective industries allowing him to proactively identify emerging legal issues and minimize risks in future intellectual property disputes. In 2016, Mr. Taylor helped open the San Francisco office of Baker Botts.

Professional Memberships: State Bar of California District of Columbia Bar United States Patent and Trademark Office United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas San Francisco Bar Association, Intellectual Property Section Executive Committee Member

Personal: J.D., New York University School of Law 2006 B.S.E., Mechanical Engineering & Mathematics, Walla Walla University 2000 magna cum laude

TELLADO, Christina

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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Tina Tellado represents employers in all aspects of employment and labor law. Her focus

includes wage-and-hour complex collective, class and representative litigation as well as discrimination and harassment claims. With over a decade of experience, she has served as first and second chair in federal, state and arbitration matters nationwide. Tina's extensive experience involves defending employers in nationwide class and collective actions and complex employment litigation. This includes disputes concerning alleged overtime, minimum wage, off-the-clock work, exempt or nonexempt status, independent contractor misclassification and meal and rest break claims. She directs teams through fact development, discovery, class certification and trial involving large-scale employee groups. Tina also manages eDiscovery processes to efficiently handle extensive data and documents. In addition to litigation, Tina provides counsel to employers on compensation plans, wage-and-hour compliance, compensable time, wage deductions, commissions and employer classification issues. She advises on workforce reductions, workplace investigations, hiring practices, disability accommodations, medical leaves, termination decisions, senior management contracts, severance negotiations, employee handbooks, policies, arbitration agreements and other workforce matters. Tina contributes extensively to the field of labor and employment law through her writings. Her articles have appeared in *Law360*, *The National Law Journal*, *Bloomberg Law*, *The Practising Law Institute*, *The Daily Journal* and *The Legal Intelligencer*. She has also authored pieces on emerging legal issues, including a notable article in *The National Law Journal* titled "Continued Emphasis on Diversity & Inclusion on the Horizon, but Not Without Its Challenges," published in February 2020.

THEODORE, Mark

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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Mark Theodore is a partner in Proskauer's Labor & Employment Law Department. He has devoted his practice almost exclusively to representing management in all aspects of traditional labor law matters throughout the U.S. He is Co-Chair of Proskauer's Labor-Management and Collective Bargaining Practice Group. Some recent highlights of his career include: Successfully defended client against allegations that it had terminated a union supporter and isolated another. *T-Mobile USA, Inc.*, 365 NLRB No. 15 (2017). Successfully appealed NLRB findings that certain of client's written policies violated the National Labor Relations Act. *T-Mobile USA, Inc.*, 363 NLRB No. 171 (2016), *enfd* in part, *rev'd* in part 865 F.3d 265 (5th Cir. 2017). Represented major utility in NLRB proceedings related to organizing of planners. Secured utility-wide bargaining unit. Bargained on behalf of grocery chain. After negotiations reached an impasse, guided the

company through lawful implementation of five year collective bargaining agreement. Coordinated employer response in numerous strike situations including a work stoppage across 14 western states of the client's operations. Mark has extensive experience representing employers in all matters before the NLRB, including representation petitions, jurisdictional disputes and the handling of unfair labor practice charges from the date they are filed through trial and appeal. Mark has acted as lead negotiator for dozens of major companies in a variety of industries, including national, multi-unit, multi-location, multi-employer and multi-union bargaining. Mark has handled lockout and strike situations, coordinating the clients efforts. In addition, Mark has handled hundreds of arbitrations involving virtually every area of dispute, including contract interest arbitration, contract interpretation, just cause termination/discipline, benefits, pay rates, and hours of work.

THOMPSON, Matthew C

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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Transactional (California)

Practice Areas: MATTHEW THOMPSON is co-leader of the Entertainment, Sports and Media group firmwide. He represents entertainment companies and sources of capital in complex M&A and financing transactions, as well as general corporate matters. He also represents entertainment companies and other similar parties in a wide variety of industry-focused commercial transactions. Matt currently serves as a member and is co-chair emeritus of the UCLA Entertainment Symposium Advisory Committee; is a member of the Ziffren Institute for Media, Entertainment, Technology and Sports Law Advisory Board; and is a member of the USC-BHBA Entertainment Institute Advisory Board. He holds a number of leadership positions at Sidley including serving on the Greater Los Angeles Practice Development Committee; SidleyWomen; and the Greater Los Angeles Finance Committee.

THOMPSON, Scott

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, San Francisco

Featured in Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation (California: San Francisco, Silicon Valley & Surround)

Practice Areas: Scott Thompson is a partner in the Executive Compensation & Employee Benefits Department. He has significant experience advising public and private companies and partnerships, boards of directors, board committees and management teams regarding complex equity and incentive compensation arrangements as well as executive compensation and employee benefits matters more generally. He has significant experience in designing equity compensation plans, performance bonus plans, deferred compensation plans, and various other types of incentive plans and arrangements. He also advises on the tax, securities, and corporate law

issues arising from the establishment and administration of such plans, including any related public company reporting and disclosures. Scott regularly represents both corporations and partnerships in complex negotiations, including in negotiations of partnership agreements and in connection with large change in control transactions (including M&A transactions, restructurings and reorganizations, asset sales, and financings). He also has extensive experience in designing, negotiating, drafting and implementing carefully tailored plans, programs and policies for compensating, attracting and retaining key executives, employees, partners and board members, including employment, severance, retention, change-in-control, deferred compensation, and equity plans and agreements. He also regularly represents employers and individual executives in negotiating high-stakes executive employment and separation agreements.

TIERNEY, Sean

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Featured in Public Finance (California)

Career: Sean has devoted his legal career to public finance, serving as bond counsel, disclosure counsel, underwriters' counsel and bank counsel. Sean opened the San Francisco office of Hawkins in 2000 and serves as its managing partner. His practice areas include government finance, nonprofit corporation finance and representation of banks, including direct placement loans. His government clients include the City and County of San Francisco, the cities of Oakland and San Jose and the counties of Alameda, Santa Clara and Solano. Sean has recently worked on nonprofit corporation financings for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, California Academy of Sciences, Claremont McKenna College, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Salk Institute, Scripps Research Institute and Stanford University. Sean frequently represents banks in connection with a variety of credit facilities, including direct placement loans. Sean has extensive experience serving as bond counsel and disclosure counsel to public agencies in general obligation and lease financings, water, sewer and other enterprise financings, transportation and redevelopment and multifamily housing bond financings. He has worked with numerous California counties and cities, including the counties of Alameda, Solano, San Francisco, Santa Clara and Tehama and the cities of Oakland, Roseville, Salinas, San Mateo, San Jose, Tulare and Watsonville. Sean has also worked with a variety of special districts including the Central Marin Sanitation Agency, Oro Loma Sanitary District, Santa Clara Valley Water District and Sausalito-Marín City Sanitary District. In Hawaii, Sean has served as bond counsel and disclosure counsel to the State of Hawaii, the University of Hawaii, the County of Maui and other public agencies in the State of Hawaii. Sean is

active in the area of nonprofit corporation finance, including higher education, K-12 private schools, cultural institutions and research and scientific institutions. He frequently serves as bond counsel, disclosure counsel, lender's counsel, and underwriters' counsel for financings in this area. Sean has worked with a variety of nonprofit institutions, including the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, California Academy of Sciences, Claremont McKenna College, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Los Angeles Natural History Museum, Loyola Marymount University, the New Museum of Contemporary Art, the Salk Institute, Scripps College, Stanford University, University of San Francisco and numerous other educational and cultural institutions. Sean has worked with a wide variety of primary and secondary private schools, including the Branson Country, Francis Parker School, La Jolla Country Day School, Marin Academy, Menlo School, Polytechnic School and University High School. As part of his higher education practice, Sean has worked with public universities such as California State University and the University of Hawaii, and, earlier in his career, the State University of New York. Sean is a frequent speaker at bond finance conferences, including conferences sponsored by the American Association of Port Authorities, The Bond Buyer, the California Association of Museums, the California Society of Municipal Analysts, the Association for Governmental Leasing and Finance and the California Debt and Investment Advisory Commission. Sean was a guest lecturer at Stanford University for the class Redesigning Finance for Sustainable Cities in the Stanford University Department of Management Science & Engineering. Sean is the past President of the Bay Area Municipal Forum, served on the Board of Trustees, and the Finance and Audit Committees, of the San Francisco Asian Art Museum and served as a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Marin Municipal Water District.

Professional Memberships: National Association of Bond Lawyers

TOOCH, Daron

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Featured in Healthcare (California)

Practice Areas: Daron Tooch specializes in managed care litigation, and has recovered hundreds of millions of dollars for healthcare providers in civil actions and arbitrations against health plans. As a partner in the Healthcare practice, Daron represents hospitals, medical groups, physicians, pharmacies, laboratories, surgery centers, and home health companies in arbitrations in federal and state courts. With decades of trial experience, Daron has tried over 100 cases before juries, judges and arbitrators in federal, state and administrative courts. In 2017 and 2019, he obtained the second and highest verdicts for breach of contract cases in California. Representing all types of healthcare providers, Daron has

recovered hundreds of millions of dollars against health plans in jury trials, arbitrations and class actions. For 30 years, Mr. Tooch has represented many individuals and entities in white collar criminal cases in both federal and state cases. His cases have included allegations of government contractor fraud, financial and tax fraud and healthcare fraud. Daron has negotiated corporate integrity agreements with the Office of Inspector General, has conducted numerous internal investigations, and has helped develop compliance programs.

TSEREGOUNIS, Helena

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Featured in Bankruptcy/Restructuring (California)

Practice Areas: Helena Tseregounis serves as Regional Department Vice Chair of Latham & Watkins' Finance Department in California. Helena represents clients in all aspects of domestic and cross-border corporate reorganizations and restructurings. Helena guides companies, creditors, buyers, creditors' committees, and other interested parties across the insolvency life cycle, including: – Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings – Distressed asset acquisitions – Bankruptcy-related litigation – Out-of-court restructurings Helena also regularly advises companies on successful strategies to address mass tort and legacy liabilities including those relating to asbestos, talc, environmental manufacturing, and all other product liabilities, and has represented clients in numerous in and out-of-court mass tort restructurings. Helena is a current member of the Recruiting Committee. Active in promoting inclusion and opportunity in the legal industry, Helena has supported a variety of programs related to career development and attorney retention. She is also a former Co-Chair of Los Angeles Women Lawyers Group and a former member of the Los Angeles Pro Bono Committee. While in law school, Helena was involved with the Federal Criminal Justice Clinic and externed for Judge Robert E. Gordon, Appellate Court of Illinois.

TURNER, Ellisen

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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Lead trial lawyer and IP strategist Ellisen S. Turner is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Kirkland & Ellis. The former managing partner of Irell & Manella has helped clients secure victories in patent and trade secret litigations that led to billions in client compensation, while successfully defending matters with billions at stake. As a seasoned negotiator, he has closed numerous, complex IP licenses and technology transactions. He combines his business acumen with a deep understanding of IP law to support his clients' business goals and maximize the value of their technology. Known for his

sophisticated understanding of the high tech sector, he has represented leading companies across multiple technology and life sciences industries. Beyond representing both plaintiffs and defendants in high-stakes litigation, Mr. Turner helps clients develop strategies to protect and monetize their tangible and intellectual assets. He counsels businesses on IP portfolio mining and development, licensing programs, and patent strategy. He also advises on IP commercialization and due diligence matters. Mr. Turner earned his J.D. cum laude from the University of Michigan, and his B.S. in Computer Engineering and Computer Science magna cum laude from the University of Southern California.

ULLMAN, Howard

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Featured in Antitrust (California)

Practice Areas: Howard Ullman is counsel in the firm's antitrust/competition group, focusing his practice on trade regulation, unfair competition, class actions and complex litigation. A seasoned trial lawyer, Mr. Ullman has wide-ranging experience advising on a variety of matters, including Section 1 and Section 2 issues, distribution law and system issues, competitor collaborations, joint ventures, pricing issues, non-price restraints and dealer termination issues. Mr. Ullman regularly advises on matters at the intersection of antitrust and intellectual property, as well as matters involving the Robinson-Patman Act, the California Unfair Practices Act and Cal. Bus. and Prof. Code Section 17200. His clients include top healthcare, technology, financial services and retail companies. Some of Mr. Ullman's key matters include acting for Delta Dental of California and other Delta Dental entities in multi-district litigation, Nanya Technology Corporation and Nanya Technology Corporation USA in one of the largest national DRAM antitrust price-fixing cases and Microsoft on a variety of intellectual property related antitrust matters. His other clients have included PG&E Corporation, Equifax, Dow AgroSciences, Boiron, Fujifilm, Fortress Investment Group and One Technologies, among others. An active member in the legal community, Mr. Ullman frequently writes on antitrust law and has spoken before the American Bar Association, the California Bar Association, Ohio Bar Association and Cincinnati Bar Association. He also formerly served as an adjunct instructor of law at the University of Cincinnati College of Law and has spoken at the University of California Hastings College of Law and at the Santa Clara University Law School.

VAN AELSTYN, Nicholas

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP, San Francisco

Featured in Environment (California)

Practice Areas: Nicholas van Aelstyn is an environmental lawyer who advises clients on both traditional environmental matters as well as matters related to

climate change. He is leader of the ESG and Sustainability team.

VANZURA, Glenn

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: For nearly three decades as an attorney and an economist, Glenn Vanzura has led the defense of shareholder and securities litigation-related matters. He is widely regarded as a trusted advisor for public company issuers, directors, officers and board committees facing their most consequential and complex legal and reputational challenges. Glenn's practice spans securities class actions, shareholder derivative suits, parallel SEC and DOJ actions, special committee representations, and internal investigations. He is known for employing his intellectual rigor, strategic creativity, and ability to manage "bet-the-company" matters and to consistently achieve exceptional results for his clients. He also combines his highly regarded courtroom and boardroom credibility and experience with a calm, strategic approach to high-stakes decision-making. Clients rely on Glenn's ability to distill complex legal and business risks into clear, actionable guidance, and they appreciate the holistic perspective he brings to each matter, coordinating litigation and investigation strategies with regulatory exposure, reputational considerations, and long-term business objectives.

VAQUERANO, Heidy

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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Music & Talent (California)

Practice Areas: Co-Chair of the firm's Entertainment & Sports Law Department, Heidy is an experienced entertainment attorney who provides advice and representation on a broad range of intellectual property and transactional matters. Clients in the music industry rely on Heidy to negotiate music publishing and recording agreements, master use and synchronization licenses, marketing and promotion agreements, as well as work for hire agreements, merchandising agreements and production agreements. She also handles a wide range of deals related to all aspects of live tours, including sponsorships, personnel, marketing and promotion as well as photography and video licenses. In addition, Heidy registers recordings with the Copyright Office and performance rights organizations, and handles copyright, trademark and name and likeness licensing. Her clients include Grammy-nominated musicians, actors, global merchandise companies, film and television producers, writers, production companies, independent record labels, and tech startups.

Career: Before joining Fox Rothschild, Heidy was a senior attorney in the Entertainment & Intellectual Property Practice of a California-based law firm.

Professional Memberships:

PBS SoCal, (2024-present) | Southwestern Law School, Board of Trustees (2021 – 2025) | SXSW Pitch, Advisory Board (2018 – 2023) | WiSTEM LA, Advisory Board (2020 – 2022) | Women in Film Women in Music | National Academy of Arts and Sciences (NARAS) | Moms in Music | National Association of Latino Independent Producers

VASEGHI, Maj

Latham & Watkins LLP, Menlo Park

Featured in Employee Benefits &

Executive Compensation (California: San Francisco, Silicon Valley & Surrou)

Practice Areas: Maj Vaseghi, Global Vice Chair of the firm's Public Company & Board Representation Practice, advises a wide variety of clients on corporate governance, executive compensation, and employee benefits, including: – Representation on ongoing executive compensation and employee benefits matters, including advising board compensation committees and senior executives with respect to employment arrangements, equity and cash-based incentive plans, deferred compensation plans, and preparation of proxy materials and other securities filings related to executive compensation matters – Corporate transactions, including M&A and IPOs, where she advises companies on employee benefit and executive compensation aspects, including negotiating transactional documents, drafting disclosures and identifying issues arising under, and assisting in complying with, the Internal Revenue Code, labor laws, federal and state securities laws and applicable exchange rules – Public company representation, including advising companies on corporate governance, securities law reporting and compliance, and proxy advisory and institutional stockholder voting guidelines Maj leverages experience representing dozens of public companies across multiple industries and complementary perspectives on tax and securities matters to advise clients regarding their most sensitive issues. Drawing on her previous role as in-house securities and corporate governance counsel at VMware, Maj keenly understands the business issues that large public companies commonly face. She frequently writes and speaks on executive compensation, corporate governance, and tax-related issues.

VETTER, Jeffrey R

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Featured in Capital Markets (California), Capital Markets (USA – Nationwide)

Practice Areas: Corporate Governance & Strategy Life Sciences Public Companies/Public Offerings Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) & Direct Listings

Career: Jeff chairs the firm's Public Offerings/Public Companies Practice Jeff chairs the firm's Public Offerings/Public Companies practice, concentrating on public and private offerings of securities for both issuers and underwriters, mergers and acquisitions, counseling public

and late-stage private companies on corporate governance and other securities law matters. Jeff has handled nearly 100 IPOs during his career, both as company and underwriter counsel. His work includes offerings for leading technology companies including Wish, Facebook, Hims, Barkbox, Workday, Veeva, Pivotal Software, and Zuora, as well as Salesforce and eBay. For public companies, he provides ongoing support for their capital markets, corporate governance or compliance needs. Jeff also brings significant mergers and acquisitions experience, with transactions for public and private companies that have a total deal value well in excess of \$40 billion. As a leading practitioner in the space, Jeff has received countless accolades, including being named 2015 Capital Markets MVP by Law360 and 2012 "Attorney of the Year" by The Recorder. Jeff is listed annually in Chambers USA, Legal 500, U.S. News' Best Lawyers, and Thomson Reuters' Super Lawyers. Jeff also appeared on the Daily Journal's Top 100, the publication's annual list of California's leading attorneys.

VIA, Tay

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Featured in Real Estate (California)

Practice Areas: Commercial real estate and land use and development
Career: Tay Via advises clients on commercial real estate and land use and development. She specializes in large public/private projects and represents real estate companies, nonprofit entities, professional sports teams, and other businesses, identifying strategies for navigating the increasingly complex real estate development process. Her experience includes the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and laws and regulations regarding housing, climate change, sustainability and resilience, life sciences, waterfront development (including the Bay Conservation and Development Commission and State Lands Commission), historic resources, and transportation. Tay has served as lead counsel or played a primary role in providing CEQA and land use advice for the following matters: Mission Rock, the development of a 28-acre, \$1.6 billion project adjacent to Oracle Park by Seawall Lot 337 Associates, LLC, an affiliate of the San Francisco Giants. 5M, a 1.8 million square foot mixed-use development venture of Brookfield Properties (formerly Forest City) and the Hearst Corporation at the juncture of San Francisco's Downtown, South of Market (SoMa), and Mid-Market neighborhoods. California Pacific Medical Center's \$2.5 billion Long Range Development Plan, including two new hospitals and three new medical buildings in CPMC's five-campus system. Oracle Park (formerly AT&T Park), the 42,000-seat waterfront ballpark/mixed-use project developed for the San Francisco Giants at China Basin. Murphy's Bowl, LLC, the development entity for the LA Clippers NBA basketball franchise, in the development of its new

\$1.8 billion, 18,000 seat state-of-the-art basketball arena and event center in Inglewood, California, which includes a practice and training facility, sports medicine clinic, team offices, and associated retail and community facilities and programs. Google in the planned redevelopment of an underutilized 81-acre area surrounding Diridon Station in San Jose, California, into a new mixed-use extension of the downtown area. At full buildout, the project plans to include 7.3 million square feet of office, 5,900 residential units, and 500,000 square feet of retail and other uses. The Exploratorium, the internationally renowned museum of science, art, and human perception in its relocation to piers 15 - 17 on the San Francisco waterfront.

Professional Memberships: Tay is a member of Lambda Alpha International and the Urban Land Institute.

VILLENEUVE, Tom

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Featured in Technology (California)

Practice Areas: Strategic Transactions & Licensing Data Privacy Mergers & Acquisitions Fund Investments in Companies Seed, Venture and Growth Financings

Career: Tom is a founding partner of the firm. Tom is a nationally recognized authority and leading practitioner in the areas of corporate partnering, strategic alliances, joint development and technology/IP strategy, protection, licensing and commercialization, both domestic and international. He has extensive experience and expertise in representing start-up businesses, emerging growth companies and multinational corporations in these areas. Mr. Villeneuve has represented clients in major corporate partnering and/or licensing arrangements opposite, among others: ABC, ADP, Alcoa, amazon.com, American Airlines, American Home Products, Amgen, Ampex, AMEX, AOL, Apple, ARM, AT&T, Bard, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Borland, BMG, Bunge, Cadence, CalTech, CBIS, CBS, Chugai, Ciba Geigy, Cingular, Cisco, Claris, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Compaq, Crowdstar, Cybercash, Daikin, Debiopharm, Dell; Digital Garage, Disney, Dow, DEC, EA, EDS, Encore Computer, Eunet; Facebook; Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Fujitsu, GE, Glaxo, Google, GSK, Harris, Hitachi, HNC, HP, Hynix, IBM, IDT, Intel, Interactive Imagination, Kanematsu, LG, LSI, Lucent, Mark Twain Bank, Mars, Marubeni, MasterCard, Microsoft, MIPS, MIT, Mitsui Toatsu, Monsanto, Motorola, National Semiconductor, NBA, NBC, NEC, Netscape, Neverhood, Nextel, NFL, Nintendo, Nokia, Nortel, Novell, NTT, NYNEX, Omni, Oracle, Orange, Ortho, Palm, Pfizer, Philips, Prasage, Prime, Procter & Gamble, Qualcomm, Qwest, Reuters, RIM, RSA, S3, SAP, Salk Institute, Samsung, SBC, Searle, Seiko, Shinko, SmithKline Beecham, Sony, St. Jude Medical, Stanford University, Sun Microsystems, Sweden Post, Tandem,

Teradata, TI, Time Warner Cable, TRW, TSMC, UAL, UMC, University of California (various campuses and administered national labs), University of Illinois, University of Texas, University of Washington, Wonderware, Varian, Verity, Verizon, Visa, Vodafone, Xerox, Yahoo, Zapata, among many others.

VISCOUNTY, Perry J

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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Perry Viscounty is a nationally recognized trial attorney who handles high-stakes cases for companies ranging from Fortune 100 to emerging companies. He handles intellectual property and technology litigation with an emphasis on complex jury trials. Perry is a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America, a member of the International Trademark Association, and an arbitrator for the World Intellectual Property Organization. He has been a guest lecturer at USC and UCLA, and has taught numerous seminars regarding effective presentations for jury trials and arbitrations.

VOXMAN, W Alex

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Featured in Startups & Emerging Companies (USA - Nationwide), Venture Capital (California)

Practice Areas: Alex Voxman, former Co-Chair of the firm's Los Angeles Corporate Department, advises clients primarily on mergers and acquisitions, venture capital transactions, public and private securities offerings, and general company representation. Alex has represented a broad range of domestic and international businesses, including numerous clients in the internet and digital media, e-commerce, software, entertainment, life sciences, aerospace, and food and beverage industries. Alex is an adjunct professor of law at the University of Southern California Law School and has taught courses on emerging companies, venture capital, and mergers and acquisitions.

WAGNER PARTIN, Sally

Sidley Austin LLP, San Francisco

Featured in Corporate/M&A (California: San Francisco, Silicon Valley & Surrounding)

Practice Areas: SALLY WAGNER PARTIN represents companies in a broad range of merger and acquisition transactions involving public and private entities, strategic alliances, securities offerings and corporate governance, with a particular focus on life sciences/healthcare, financial services and technology companies. Sally regularly represents companies in their cross-border M&A transactions. Sally also is experienced at advising public companies on corporate governance and best practices, disclosure and other SEC compliance issues, as well as ISS and proxy advisory firm matters, shareholder engagement and activism and provides strategic counseling to private companies, ranging from

newly-formed start-up teams to mature late-stage private companies, on matters spanning the entire corporate life-cycle, including pre-incorporation planning, general corporate representation and counseling, venture capital financings and joint ventures.

WALTZ, Judith A

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Featured in Healthcare (California)

Practice Areas: Corporate, Health Care

Career: Judith (Judy) A. Waltz is a health care partner with Foley & Lardner LLP. Her practice focuses on government investigations, false claims acts, corporate integrity agreements (CIAs), reimbursement strategies, bankruptcy, Medicare and Medicaid compliance counseling, and Medicare/Medicaid overpayments and enrollment disputes. Judith works with clients in various areas of the health care industry. She is the chair of the firm's Health Care Practice Group and co-chair of the Health Care & Life Sciences Sector's Providers of Health Care Services Area of Focus. Judith is also a member of the Government Enforcement Defense & Investigations and Bankruptcy & Business Reorganizations Practices. Fraud and Abuse, FCA and Health Care Fraud Investigations. Judith regularly advises clients who are the focus of government investigations and other enforcement actions and has negotiated false claims act settlements with the U.S. Department of Justice as well as corporate integrity agreements (CIAs) with the Office of Inspector General. She then has worked closely with those clients to implement their CIAs, including ongoing advice in connection with IRO audits and reviews. At the state level, she has been involved with various Medi-Cal audits, payment suspensions, and investigations, including a matter involving allegations of inflated drug pricing by a major pharmaceutical company. Medicare and Medicaid Judith also provides ongoing compliance counseling and Medicare and Medicaid payment advice to clients, which include hospices, large physician practices, county health systems, hospitals, durable medical equipment suppliers, clinical laboratories, dialysis companies, skilled nursing facilities, ambulance companies, pharmacies, managed care providers, and a variety of other health care entities. She has also served as special Medicare counsel in the bankruptcy of San Diego Hospice, a large not-for-profit entity. Judith has advised clients (including physician practices, hospices, and hospitals) undergoing UPIC, ZPIC, RAC audits, other Medicare or Medicaid audits, overpayments, and pre-pay reviews. She is experienced in Medicare and Medi-Cal provider enrollment appeals and Medicare billing number revocations and other enforcement actions. Prior to joining the firm in 1998, Judith served as assistant regional counsel for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in San Francisco, primarily han-

ding Medicare issues including survey and certification and various types of reimbursement disputes. In that position, she appeared frequently before the Ninth Circuit and other federal courts in matters primarily involving payment disputes (including PRRB appeals), bankruptcy issues, and Medicare Secondary Payer (MSP) disputes. She held collateral appointments as a special assistant United States attorney for the Eastern and Northern districts of California. Health Care Litigation As assistant regional counsel for the Department of Health and Human Services for 12 years, Judith represented the secretary in the Ninth Circuit and other federal courts in matters primarily relating to disputes regarding Medicare payments to providers and suppliers. These cases included several court appeals of Provider Reimbursement Review Board decisions involving Medicare cost reports. In the bankruptcy and district courts, she represented the Department of Health and Human Services in a precedential case, *In re TLC Hospitals, Inc.*, later decided by the 9th Circuit in 224 F.3d 1008 (9th Cir. 2000), upholding Medicare's ability to recoup pre-petition overpayments from post-petition overpayments. She also represented the government in various bankruptcy court actions involving the assumption of the Medicare provider agreement as an executory contract, a debtor's challenge to a hospital decertification action taken post-petition, and post-petition payment suspension actions. As an additional part of her government representation, she served as primary counsel in various proceedings involving the Medicare Secondary Payer (MSP) provisions. Judith has represented providers and suppliers who are under investigation relating to their participation in the Medicare and Medi-Cal programs, including negotiating settlements and corporate integrity agreements relating to issues including hospice admissions, clinical laboratory claims, partial hospitalization services, inpatient short stays, costs claimed on cost reports, oxygen (DME) billing, and assorted allegations of upcoding. She also served as lead counsel in an administrative appeal of the imposition of a Medi-Cal civil money penalty. She has appeared in several administrative appeals before the federal HHS Departmental Appeals Board, including decertification actions taken under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act (CLIA), civil monetary penalties and adverse enrollment actions, and in overpayment appeals heard by the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals. In addition, she has represented providers and suppliers in the OIG's Self-Disclosure Protocol, and in CMS's Self-Disclosure Referral Protocol. Telemedicine Experience Judith has advised on compliance and reimbursement issues relating to business structures for providing telemedicine, requirements of the Medicare Conditions of Participation for hospitals that are participating in telemedicine services, applicable Medicare and Medicaid enrollment issues for telemedicine providers, and operational

issues such as supervision of non-physician practitioners across sites. She has also worked extensively with the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act (CLIA), payer, and compliance requirements regarding laboratory verbal and electronic orders and results.

Professional Memberships: Heath Law Section Leader of the American Bar Association for the 2024 – 2025 Bar Year Served as chair and vice chair of the Regulation, Accreditation, and Payment Practice Group of the American Health Lawyers Association (AHLA). Past chair of the Women's Network Steering Committee at Foley. Member of the Health Law Committee of the Business Law Section of the State Bar of California, the American Bar Association's Health Law Section, the California Society for Healthcare Attorneys, and the Health Care Compliance Association. Board Member of Visitors for Indiana University's Maurer School of Law.

WARSHAW, Daniel
Pearson Warshaw, LLP, Sherman Oaks
818 – 205 – 2805
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Featured in Antitrust (California)

Practice Areas: Antitrust, complex litigation, class actions, and consumer protection

Career: Daniel L. Warshaw, a founding partner of Pearson Warshaw, LLP, is a civil litigator and trial lawyer who focuses on antitrust, complex litigation, class actions, and consumer protection. Mr. Warshaw has held leadership roles in numerous state, federal and multidistrict class actions, and obtained significant recoveries for class members in many cases. These cases have included, among other things, antitrust violations, high-technology products, automotive parts, entertainment royalties, intellectual property and false and misleading advertising. Mr. Warshaw has also represented employees in a variety of class actions, including wage and hour, misclassification and other Labor Code violations. Mr. Warshaw's cases have received significant attention in the press, and Mr. Warshaw has been profiled by the Daily Journal for his work. In 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 Mr. Warshaw was named by the Daily Journal as one of the Top 100 Lawyers in California. In 2019 and 2020, Mr. Warshaw was named as one of the Daily Journal's Top Plaintiff Lawyers. And in 2020, 2022, 2024 and 2025 he was also named one of the Daily Journal's Top Antitrust Lawyers. Additionally, Mr. Warshaw has been selected by his peers as a Super Lawyer (representing the top 5% of practicing lawyers in Southern California) every year since 2005. Additionally, Mr. Warshaw is ranked by Chambers and Partners for antitrust litigation. He has also attained Martindale-Hubbell's highest rating (AV) for legal ability and ethical standards. Mr. Warshaw played an integral role in several of the firm's groundbreaking cases. In the *In re TFT-LCD (Flat Panel) Antitrust Litigation*, 3:07-md-01827-SI (N.D. Cal.) he assisted in leading this multidistrict to trial and securing \$473 million in recover-

ies to the direct purchaser plaintiff class. After the firm was appointed as interim co-lead counsel in *In re Credit Default Swaps Antitrust Litigation*, Mr. Warshaw along with his partners and co-counsel successfully secured a \$1.86 billion settlement on behalf of the class.

Professional Memberships: American Bar Association, Association of Business Trial Lawyers, Consumer Attorneys of California, Los Angeles County Bar Association, Plaintiffs' Class Action Roundtable.

WASHINGTON, Laura
Latham & Watkins LLP, Los Angeles
Featured in Media & Entertainment: Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Laura Washington is the Global Vice Chair of the firm's Complex Commercial Litigation Practice. She is also a member of the Entertainment Sports & Media Practice. She represents high-profile clients in complex business disputes and intellectual property litigation. Laura has been praised for her creative and strategic approach to litigation. Her wide-ranging litigation experience includes pre-litigation counseling, trial, and appellate work. She has extensive motion and discovery experience, conducted internal investigations, and managed crises responses. Her practice covers a broad range of business disputes, including unfair business practices, false advertising, fraud, contract, trade secret misappropriation, trademark and copyright infringement, and business torts. In addition to her litigation practice, Laura frequently consults on Entertainment, Sports & Media transactional matters. Laura previously served on the firm's Recruiting Committee. She currently serves on the Board of Teach Democracy (formerly the Constitutional Rights Foundation), a non-profit, non-partisan, community-based organization dedicated to educating young people about the importance of civic participation in a democratic society.

WEBER, Bradley
Goodwin, Redwood City
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Featured in Capital Markets (California), Capital Markets (USA - Nationwide)

Practice Areas: Brad Weber is co-chair of Goodwin's global Capital Markets practice and is a partner in the firm's Technology Companies business unit. He specializes in sophisticated capital markets transactions for companies across industries. Brad is a regular speaker and author on complex securities law subjects.

Personal: J.D., 2002, Columbia Law School (Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar); B.A., 1999, Princeton University (magna cum laude)

WEDEL, Collin
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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: COLLIN WEDEL regularly represents clients in the United States Supreme Court and throughout the federal and state appellate courts around the country, personally arguing

several cases in the Ninth Circuit and in state supreme and appellate courts. Recently, Collin was part of Sidley appellate teams that won two cases in front of the California Supreme Court on the same day, setting new precedents about the recoverability of trial costs and the interpretation of non-disparagement agreements. Collin also brings an appellate perspective to cases at the trial and post-trial stage, where he recently completed a month-long trial. He frequently appears in state and federal courts and arbitration tribunals, where he has tried issues relating to state-law contract and tort claims, products liability, federal preemption in the banking, healthcare and FDA contexts, federal antitrust laws, federal anti-discrimination laws, state and federal employment statutes, insurance regulation and "bad faith" litigation, eminent domain and the mortgage-backed securities market.

WEINER, Genevieve
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Featured in Bankruptcy/Restructuring (California)

Practice Areas: GENEVIEVE WEINER focuses her practice on representing debtors, lenders and other key stakeholders in various bankruptcy matters, general assignments, receiverships and out of court restructurings and work-outs. She has represented clients across multiple industries including health-care, retail, hospitality and real estate. Genevieve has also advised financial and strategic purchasers on acquisitions of distressed companies and discrete assets through section 363 and foreclosure proceedings. Genevieve earned her J.D. from Pepperdine, where she graduated magna cum laude. She served as lead articles editor for the Pepperdine Law Review. She earned her B.A. in rhetoric from the University of California, Berkeley with a minor in philosophy.

WEINGARTEN, Alex M
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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Alex Weingarten serves as Managing Partner of Willkie's Los Angeles Office. Alex is a leading commercial trial lawyer who represents clients in all facets of entertainment, probate and business litigation. Alex has been recognized by publications including Los Angeles Business Journal, California Daily Journal, Variety and Billboard, as one of the top 100 lawyers in California, one of the top 50 trial lawyers in Los Angeles, one of the top entertainment litigators in the nation and one of the 500 most influential business leaders in the region. Benchmark Litigation ranks Alex as a Litigation Star, where is he described as "a terrific litigator" and "unbelievable." Clients look to Alex to handle "bet the company" cases, protect their integrity during the very public litigation process, provide a fresh

approach, and suggest novel and over-looked strategies. He is aggressive in optimizing results and prides himself on finding the most direct route to victory. Alex is known for his trademark tenacity and his creative and zealous advocacy on behalf of his clients.

WEISE, Steven O

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Featured in Banking & Finance (California)

Practice Areas: Steve Weise is a partner in Proskauer's corporate department, practicing in its Los Angeles office. He practices in a wide range of commercial law. He spends much of his time on matters arising under the Uniform Commercial Code, especially under Article 9 – Secured Transactions. He is a nationally-recognized expert in these matters. Steve is also authoritative on third-party opinion letters and contract law matters, especially online contracting, plain English drafting, contract drafting, and boilerplate. Steve is a member of the Permanent Editorial Board for the Uniform Commercial Code and of the Council of the American Law Institute. For thirty years, Steve has been on many Uniform Commercial Code drafting committees, including the comprehensive revision of UCC Article 9 in 1999 and the 2022 UCC Amendments addressing digital assets as collateral. Steve is a Lecturer in Law at UCLA Law School, where he teaches Uniform Commercial Code – Secured Transactions. Steve was instrumental as an Adviser in the preparation of the recently-completed American Law Institute Restatement of the Law, Consumer Contracts and is active in many other Restatement projects. Steve is the former chair of the American Bar Association's Section of Business Law and its Legal Opinions Committee. He has been the Reporter for many TriBar Opinions Committee reports on opinions under the UCC and has long been a member of the board of the Working Group on Legal Opinions.

WEISSER, Tamera M

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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Intellectual Property; Health Care & Life Sciences

Career: Dr. Tamera (Tammy) Weisser, Ph.D. leads Jones Day's global patent prosecution group in 15 offices across the U.S., Europe, and Asia. Recognized as an "IP Trailblazer" by The National Law Journal and ranked Band 2 by Chambers, she unites more than 25 years of sophisticated IP legal counsel with deep laboratory expertise, particularly in the areas of immunology and virology. Dr. Weisser architects and defends business-critical portfolios for emerging and multinational biopharma innovators, encompassing cutting-edge diagnostics, vaccines, and antibody, protein, cell, and gene therapies targeting oncology, metabolic, enzymatic, and infectious diseases. Beyond strategic prosecution, she advocates before the

USPTO's Patent Trial and Appeal Board, routinely prevailing in complex inter partes review proceedings involving blockbuster therapeutics. Clients equally depend on her for incisive freedom-to-operate and validity opinions, value-driven diligence in financing and M&A transactions, and strategic cross-border portfolio management across all product development stages. Her uncommon fusion of scientific rigor, commercial insight, and global regulatory acumen positions Dr. Weisser as a trusted advisor to life sciences innovators seeking to secure and defend a decisive competitive advantage in the industry.

WEST, Hartley

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Hartley M.K. West is an accomplished litigator and trial lawyer with extensive experience advising on high-stakes government enforcement defense and asset forfeiture matters, often involving a connection between Asia-Pacific and the United States. Ms. West frequently advises corporations and executives facing investigations into alleged violations of antitrust, fraud, corruption, trade secret and money laundering laws. From 2002 to 2017, Ms. West served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of California, including as Deputy Chief of its Economic Crimes and Securities Fraud Section. She also clerked for the Honorable John T. Noonan Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Prior to joining Dechert, Ms. West served as a partner at another international law firm.

WESTHOFF, Pamela L

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Real Estate (California: Southern)

Practice Areas: Pamela Westhoff is an experienced transactional real estate lawyer valued by her clients for her creative business acumen and ability to get deals done regardless of the challenge. Pam handles a wide variety of transactions, including acquisitions, dispositions, commercial leases, financing and complex development. She has developed special expertise in corporate real estate, ground leasing and real estate deals involving telecommunications and broadcasting. Clients look to Pam as a steady and strategic advocate who builds relationships and brings a business mindset and a creative, flexible negotiating style to every deal. She is a trusted counselor to a broad variety of successful real estate industry leaders, including institutional and portfolio investors, family offices, REITs, lenders and developers. In her free time, Pam enjoys spending time outdoors. She has summited Mount Kilimanjaro and has run a marathon on every continent.

Professional Memberships: President of the Board of Directors, NAIOP (2021), President Southern California

Chapter (2020), Board of Directors (Commercial Real Estate Development Association) Southern California Chapter (2010-Present), Executive Committee, 2013 Programs and Education Chair and 2012 UCLA/USC Real Estate Challenge Chair Board Member, Leasing Committee Chair, American College of Real Estate Lawyers Chair, Leasing Committee, American College of Real Estate Lawyers Member, Executive Committee, California Lawyers Association Real Property Law Section Chair, Board of Directors of the Building Owners and Managers Association of Greater Los Angeles (2005 – 2006); Board Member (1992-Present) Program Chair, Practising Law Institute's Commercial Real Estate Financing: What Borrowers and Lenders Need to Know Now (2004-present) Executive Committee, Real Property Section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association Board Member, UCLA Finance and Investment Conference (2001 – 2006) Board Member, USC Crocker Symposium on Law and Business (2003-present); Planning Committee Chair (2007)

WESTLING, Richard

Proskauer Rose LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Richard is a partner in Proskauer's Litigation Department and a member of the Health Care and White Collar Defense & Investigations practices. A seasoned litigator and accomplished trial lawyer, Rich represents executives and corporations in high-stakes government enforcement actions and complex litigation. He brings deep experience defending clients in healthcare fraud allegations, including in criminal investigations and False Claims Act matters, including qui tam litigation, arising from claims of Stark Law and Anti-Kickback violations, billing and coding irregularities, and questions of medical necessity. His practice also spans a wide variety of white collar matters, including tax violations, environmental crimes, bank fraud, public corruption, money laundering and asset forfeiture. Rich's most impactful successes often occur behind the scenes, where he skillfully persuades government agencies not to pursue charges. When litigation is unavoidable, clients benefit from his formidable courtroom experience, having tried more than 25 federal cases to verdict before juries across the country and argued over a dozen federal appeals. With over three decades of experience, Rich's advocacy is shaped by a multifaceted career that includes roles as a corporate general counsel, white collar defense attorney and federal prosecutor. He spent more than eight years at the U.S. Department of Justice, serving as First Assistant U.S. Attorney and Assistant U.S. Attorney in New Orleans, where he held leadership roles such as Health Care Fraud Coordinator and Asset Forfeiture Chief. Rich also served in Washington, D.C. as Special Assistant to the Assistant Attorney General for the Tax Division and as a Trial Attorney in the Division's Criminal Section.

WETZEL, Joseph R

Latham & Watkins LLP, San Francisco
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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Joe Wetzel is a trial lawyer with decades of experience litigating cutting-edge copyright issues in bet-the-company disputes. He serves as Co-Chair of Latham's Bay Area Litigation & Trial Department and on the Brown University Artificial Intelligence Advisory Committee. Joe's roster of clients spans the tech and music industries, including entities from emerging companies to the biggest household names. And his work on their behalf has been widely recognized across the media, tech, and AI industries.

WHITING, Evie

Sidley Austin LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Transactional (California)

Practice Areas: EVIE WHITING is a trusted adviser to motion picture studios, television studios, production companies, investment funds, team owners and acquirers of professional sports teams, owners and acquirers of music catalogs, and financial institutions, blending complex, highly technical deal work with a deep entertainment, sports, and media knowledge base. She regularly counsels clients in a variety of matters related to the entertainment, sports and media industries, including film and television production facilities, film slate financing, single picture financing, production and distribution of motion pictures, television, and digital content, complex commercial arrangements in the entertainment sports and media space (including joint ventures), buying and selling of content-related assets, as well as a variety of financing-related issues in the sports and music businesses.

WICKER, Mark

Perkins Coie, Palo Alto

Featured in Life Sciences (California)

Practice Areas: Technology Transactions & Privacy Law Product Innovation & Market Development Biotechnology & Pharmaceutical Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning Interactive Entertainment Immersive Technology Digital Media & Entertainment, Gaming & Sports Life Sciences & Healthcare

Career: Mark Wicker, a partner in the Technology Transactions & Privacy practice, advises clients in all aspects of acquiring, developing, commercializing, and licensing new technologies and products. His clients range from startups to well-established firms in the life sciences, technology, wireless, social media, clean technology, chemical, and material sciences industries. During his many years of practice, Mark has built a reputation for developing sophisticated business models and formulating business-centric legal solutions to the complex challenges biotechnology and life sciences companies face as they bring novel therapeutics and diagnostics

to market. He also works in tandem with colleagues in the area of intellectual property and patent litigation to develop adversarial licensing programs and to negotiate settlement and key licensing agreements. Additionally, Mark has significant corporate experience in areas such as venture capital financing, public securities offerings, and mergers and acquisitions. Mark regularly speaks and offers commentary on life sciences and technology issues, including startup capital raising and formation and licensing transactions.

WICKERSHAM, Matthew

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Featured in Environment (California)

Practice Areas: Matt represents clients in a wide variety of federal and state environmental litigation, including toxic tort litigation and class actions, citizen lawsuits, and environmental enforcement actions. He has extensive experience resolving land-use disputes and disputes under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Matt also has substantial experience in cost-recovery litigation in state and federal courts under California's Superfund law and Hazardous Substance Account Act (HSAA) and the federal Superfund law (CERCLA). Matt regularly helps clients devise solutions to difficult regulatory problems, represents clients in administrative proceedings, and assists clients with deals and development projects. Matt also advises clients on regulatory programs related to environmental warning labels, underground storage tanks, environmental disclosure laws, brownfield laws, water rights, and land-use regulations.

WILLIAMS, Bart H

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Featured in Litigation (USA - Nationwide), Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Bart Williams is one of the nation's most sought after trial lawyers and commercial litigators. A Fellow of The American College of Trial Lawyers, he has served as lead counsel for numerous companies in their most challenging and high-profile cases and investigations. Bart has represented Fortune 500 companies in multiple industries, including: sports, media and entertainment, financial services, consumer products, technology and telecommunications, pharmaceutical, and private equity. He has represented multiple major law firms in their most serious professional negligence cases. He has also represented celebrities, government officials and corporate executives individually in high-stakes matters. Bart was appointed by United States Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts to serve a three-year term (beginning January 2026) as one of the four practitioner members of the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Judicial Conference of the United States, which drafts and recommends new federal rules of practice, procedure, and evidence. A

leader within Proskauer, Bart is a past member of the Firm's Executive Committee and serves as worldwide chair of the Litigation Department and head of Proskauer's Los Angeles office. Bart served as an assistant U.S. Attorney in the Central District of California where he concentrated on complex criminal prosecutions involving allegations of fraud or other business crimes. He obtained convictions in 11 out of 11 jury trials. He received several special commendations during his tenure, including one from the Honorable Louis J. Freeh, then-director of the FBI. Bart is a graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School. He was a starting guard for four years on the Yale Varsity Basketball Team, and received the George McReynolds Award as the team's Most Valuable Defensive Player his senior year.

WILLIAMS, Valerie C

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Featured in Antitrust (California)

Practice Areas: Fortune 100 companies rely on Valerie to resolve critical multinational antitrust issues in the boardroom and courtroom. Known for her strategic expertise, Valerie has defended clients of all sizes in high-stakes litigation. Her innovative strategies for determining the optimal timing and jurisdiction to bring antitrust claims have resulted in substantial recoveries for her clients. She focuses on cartel litigation with a multinational dimension. Clients also depend on Valerie to help navigate complex regulatory landscapes, including government and civil challenges to mergers and acquisitions.

Career: Co-chair, firm's Antitrust Group; partner-in-charge, firm's San Francisco office.

Professional Memberships: Bar Association of San Francisco Leaders Circle Managing Partners; ABA Antitrust Section, Governing Council (former), International Cartel Task Force, and Global Private Litigation Committee (vice chair).

Publications: Editorial board, "Antitrust Law Developments," 8th edition; "Competition Laws Outside the US," 2nd edition; "To Favor or Not to Favor? Self-Preferencing in Antitrust Litigation: A Comparative Analysis," American Bar Association Antitrust Law Section; "California Prohibits Shared Pricing Algorithms and Eases Antitrust Pleading Standards," The Journal of Robotics, Artificial Intelligence & Law.

WILLINGHAM, David

King & Spalding LLP, Los Angeles
 213-218 4005

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: David Willingham focuses on white-collar criminal defense and complex litigation matters. He has represented numerous individuals and entities facing governmental investigations and other complex litigation issues in both state and federal courts around the country. David has deep experience in dealing with high-profile cases, having prosecuted and defended many matters

of public interest, including those involving health care fraud, financial fraud and money laundering charges. He has handled numerous parallel investigations with the SEC and other regulatory bodies, as well as numerous successful appeals before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to entering private practice, David was the Deputy Chief of the Major Frauds Section of the United States Attorney's Office in the Central District of California. In that capacity, he spent two years supervising the subsection responsible for all health-care-fraud-related prosecutions within the district. Mr. Willingham is a respected member of the legal community. He previously served as the president of the Federal Bar Association of Los Angeles, and the co-chair of the Lawyer Representatives for the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference.

WILLNER, Robert A

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Featured in Banking & Finance (California)

Practice Areas: Commercial Finance Equipment Leasing Leveraged ESOP Finance Fund Finance Alternative Lenders Sports Industry Law Non-Profit Organization Law

Career: Robert A. Willner is a Partner in the firm's Commercial Finance Practice Group and Chair of the Leveraged ESOP Finance Practice Group. Robert provides practical, business oriented, legal advice to his clients on how to best structure, document, and manage their commercial lending transactions. Robert's practice covers a broad spectrum of middle-market, senior and second lien lending, in both bilateral and agent or club deals, including: asset-based lending cash flow lending leveraged ESOP finance lender finance fund finance (including capital call and subscription facilities, and NAV and hybrid loans) unitranche finance acquisition finance dividend recaps equipment leasing floor finance aircraft and ship finance tech finance healthcare finance cross-border transactions (Mexico, Canada, Europe, Asia) FCC license finance debtor-in-possession financing trade finance factoring problem loan workouts and restructurings, liquidations and foreclosures Robert's clients include commercial banks, alternative lenders, commercial finance companies, equipment leasing companies, factors, and other financial institutions. He is recognized by Chambers USA as a leader in the field of Banking & Finance, and is a frequent lecturer on issues related to commercial finance. Robert was also named one of The Best Lawyers in America®, for Commercial Finance Law in 2025 and 2026.

Professional Memberships:

Member, National Center for Employee Ownership (NCEO) Member, Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) Association Past Chair, Commercial Law Committee of the Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association Past Member of Board of Trustees, University Synagogue in Brentwood, California Past Member

of Board of Directors, Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corporation, a non-profit corporation charged with overseeing the operations of the landmark Santa Monica Pier.

WILSON, Bobbie

Perkins Coie LLP, San Francisco
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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Litigation Trade Secrets Patent Litigation Class-Action Defense ITC Litigation Trademark, Copyright, Internet & Advertising Privacy Class Action Defense Biometric Law Retail & Consumer Products Food & Consumer Packaged Goods Litigation

Career: Bobbie Wilson focuses on IP, trade secrets, privacy, and class-action litigation, as well as corporate and government investigations. Bobbie has extensive experience in complex civil litigation, primarily in the areas of intellectual property and class action. She also serves as the lead trial counsel in intellectual property, trade secret, political law, and complex class-action cases. Trusted with her client's most sensitive and high-profile matters, Bobbie has led the workplace investigation for her rideshare client, which involved allegations of sexual harassment and workplace violations. She also leads workplace investigations involving privacy violations, fraud, sexual abuse, and compliance issues being investigated by the DOJ and state attorneys general offices. Bobbie gets results for clients all over the country whether it is a high-profile investigation, defeating class certification for a billion-dollar corporation, or a \$56.00 punitive damages award as new trial counsel. In recognition of her accomplishments, Bobbie has been recognized by The Recorder as a "power player" on its list of Women Leaders in Technology Law in California.

WILSON, John

Latham & Watkins LLP, San Diego

Featured in Insurance (USA - Nationwide), Insurance (California)

Practice Areas: John Wilson is a partner in the San Diego office and member of the Litigation & Trial Department. As Chair of Latham's Insurance Counseling & Recovery Practice, John represents policyholders in complex insurance coverage and bad faith disputes, as well as environmental and business litigation. John represents clients at all stages of claim counseling and litigation, from motion practice to trial and through the appellate process, in federal and state court litigation, international arbitration, and high-stakes mediation. John advises clients and litigates first- and third-party insurance disputes, including: – Commercial general liability – Errors and omissions / professional liability – Cyber – Directors and officers liability – Property / business interruption A recognized leader of the policyholder insurance bar, he was elected as a Fellow of the American College of Coverage Counsel in 2023.

WINSTON, Eric

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP, Los Angeles
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Featured in Bankruptcy/Restructuring (California)

Practice Areas: Mr. Winston's practice includes all areas of corporate insolvency and reorganization and insolvency and valuation related litigation. He has represented debtors, creditors' committees, secured and debtor in possession lenders, unsecured bondholders, distressed debt traders, trade creditors, and asset acquirers, across numerous industries, out of court and in connection with chapter 9, chapter 11, chapter 15, and involuntary bankruptcies, post-confirmation litigation, SIPA proceedings, and SEC receivership cases. Mr. Winston routinely advises private equity firms, hedge funds and other investors in distressed companies, whether in court or out of court, with respect to indentures, credit agreements, asset sales, fraudulent transfer and fiduciary duty considerations, and other capital structure and corporate governance issues. He further advises and appears for intellectual property counterparties with respect to the intersection of intellectual property and insolvency law, and has developed expertise representing plaintiffs in class action matters where defendants face insolvency risk. Recent representative cases include Core Media (AOG Entertainment), Avianca Brasil, SH130, Oro Negro, Taberna Preferred, Orexigen, SandRidge Exploration, Circuit City, Relativity Media, Gaming & Leisure Properties/Cannery Casino, Lehman Brothers Holdings, Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities/Fairfield Sentry, Residential Capital, Town of Mammoth Lakes, Avaya, Eastman Kodak, Station Casinos, SemGroup, Fontainebleau Las Vegas, and SK Foods. Mr. Winston frequently speaks at panels and conferences around the country and has guest lectured at Loyola and University of Southern California law schools. He has written several law review articles, co-authored a chapter in a leading valuation treatise, been interviewed by Bloomberg Quint concerning international insolvency, is the LEXIS practice advisor on claims trading, and has been a member of the State Bar of California Insolvency Law Committee and the United States District Court for the Central District of California Attorney Discipline Committee.

WISE, Michael

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mwise@perkinscoie.com

Featured in Life Sciences (California)

Practice Areas: Patent Litigation Patent Prosecution & Portfolio Counseling Post-Grant Proceedings ITC Litigation Intellectual Property Law Litigation Biotechnology & Pharmaceutical Healthcare Medical Device Interactive Entertainment Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning Educational Institutions & Services Digital Media & Entertainment, Gaming & Sports Life Sciences & Healthcare

Career: With more than 35 years of practice, Michael Wise handles district court patent litigation, inter partes review and interference matters before the U.S. Patent Trial and Appeal Board. He assists clients with patent counseling and portfolio management with a focus on the life sciences industry. He regularly advises academic institutions, research institutions, emerging companies, privately held companies, and publicly traded companies with respect to protecting and enforcing their IP rights. Michael handles a wide variety of technologies, including biologic and small molecule therapeutics, diagnostics, medical devices, software, and electronics. Michael has been an active member of the Southern California Biomedical Council for more than two decades, serving as the chair of the annual SoCalBio Investor Conference and is currently the secretary of the board of directors.

WOLFSON, Adam

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Featured in Antitrust (USA - Nationwide), Antitrust (California)

Practice Areas: Adam Wolfson is a partner in Quinn Emanuel's San Francisco and Los Angeles offices, where he serves as Chair of the firm's Plaintiffs' Litigation Practice. His work, however, focuses on both plaintiff and defense-side representations, in a wide variety of high-stakes complex commercial and intellectual property disputes. As lead counsel, Adam has tried multiple cases to verdict, and he has extensive experience in all types of complex litigation, with a particular focus in cases involving antitrust law, products liability, class actions, unfair competition, trade secret misappropriation, and patent and copyright infringement. Adam is Co-Leader of the firm's Tariff Refund Task Force, advising clients on potential refund rights both prior to and following the Supreme Court's recent decision in *Learning Resources Inc. v. Trump*. To date, Adam has helped our clients obtain more than \$15 billion in recoveries, stemming from both trial verdicts and settlements. On the defense side, he has helped our clients avoid liability for multiples of that number. Adam currently serves on the Board of Visitors for UCLA's Political Science Department and regularly publishes on issues related to trial practice and the areas of law in which he practices. He has been recognized by Chambers and Partners in its Antitrust categories at both the National and California levels, and has been named both a Rising Star and MVP in class actions by national legal journal *Law360*, a Future Star by Benchmark Litigation, one of the top 500 plaintiffs' attorneys in the nation by *Lawdragon*, as a Recommended Lawyer in the Antitrust Litigation category by *Legal 500 USA*, and as one of the top Antitrust Lawyers in California by the *Daily Journal*.

WONG, Maggie L

Goodwin, Los Angeles
415 733 6071
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Featured in Capital Markets (California), Capital Markets (USA - Nationwide), Life Sciences (California)

Practice Areas: Maggie Wong is a partner in Goodwin's nationally recognized Life Sciences group. She represents private and public companies in the biotechnology, pharmaceutical, digital health and medical technology industries, serving as a legal and business adviser across their entire corporate lifecycle. Maggie provides strategic and legal advice to clients as they develop, in-license and acquire intellectual property and other assets, raise capital to fund their operations, execute on strategic alliances and engage in exit transactions. Maggie regularly counsels clients on pre-incorporation planning, seed, venture and late-stage private financings, IPOs and other capital markets transactions, SEC compliance, corporate governance, and mergers and acquisitions. She also has substantial experience advising on licensing, collaboration, partnering, distribution, and other commercial agreements. Maggie is a member of Goodwin's Partnership Committee and Opinions Committee. Maggie is also a member of Goodwin's PropSci practice which is focused on supporting the intersection of real estate and life sciences through thoughtful collaboration across the two practice areas.

Personal: JD University of California, Berkeley, School of Law (Order of the Coif) BA Yale University (cum laude)

WONG, Michael Li-Ming

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, San Francisco
415-858-7474
mlwong@willkie.com

Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: Michael Li-Ming Wong is Co-Chair of the firm's Global White-Collar Defense Practice Group, and a partner in Willkie's Litigation Department. Based in Willkie's San Francisco and Palo Alto offices, Michael is a former federal prosecutor, and also a former U.S. Supreme Court law clerk. Michael focuses his practice on white-collar criminal matters, complex civil litigation, data privacy matters, and internal investigations. He has tried more than twenty civil and criminal jury trials in federal and state courts, including multiple multiweek jury trials in recent years. Three times the *Daily Journal* has recognized his trial and litigation victories as Top Defense Verdict of the Year in California. Michael is regarded as a leading attorney in his field, having earned numerous national and regional accolades from legal media and directories for his work. Prior to entering private practice, Michael served for more than eight years as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of California, where he was lead counsel on some of the district's most significant and high-profile matters. During his tenure as a federal prosecutor, Michael served for several years as Chief of the

White Collar Crimes Section, supervising investigations, prosecutions and trials involving white-collar fraud and public corruption. Michael was also Chief of the Major Crimes Section. He is a two-time winner of the U.S. Department of Justice Director's Award for Superior Performance as an Assistant United States Attorney.

WRIGHT, Ian A

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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Clients turn to Ian for practical guidance on employment issues affecting their businesses long before disputes arise and for effective advocacy when litigation becomes unavoidable. His experience in the courtroom and at the negotiating table enables him to help companies navigate the financial and operational risks that frequently arise in employee disputes. He is a go-to employment lawyer for companies facing high-profile or otherwise high-stakes disputes. Ian represents employers in federal and state courts throughout California and the nation in a wide variety of complex commercial and employment-related litigation, including trade secret and employee mobility disputes. He also has considerable experience defending claims of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wrongful termination, and wage-and-hour class and representative actions. He emphasizes proactive counseling and training to help organizations stay compliant, mitigate risk, and avoid costly problems down the road.

WRYSINSKI, Matthew J

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Featured in Banking & Finance (California)

Practice Areas: Matthew's background representing both lenders and borrowers gives him a perspective that expedites transactions. His primary emphasis is on representing private equity funds and their portfolio companies, as well as other public and privately held borrowers, in various types of secured and unsecured financings (including revolving credit and term credit facilities, senior, subordinate, second-lien, mezzanine, and other working capital facilities). He also focuses on representations in bankruptcies, liquidations, and other insolvency proceedings.

Career: Co-chair, firm's Corporate Area; former co-chair, firm's Finance Group.

WU, David

Dickinson Wright PLLC, Mountain View
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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Artificial Intelligence, Intellectual Property, Patent Prosecution
Career: David Wu's practice centers around protecting the intellectual property and R&D investments of clients. He has extensive experience advising clients on patent strategy and portfolio development, as well as patent enforcement

and defensive strategies. David works closely with clients to understand their business and technologies and tailors IP strategies to help achieve their business goals effectively and cost-efficiently. He has helped clients prosecute a variety of technologies, including artificial intelligence, machine learning, computer vision, natural language processing, prediction and recommendation systems, cryptography, computer graphics, image and video compression, virtual-reality and augmented-reality devices and platforms, operating systems, application frameworks, cloud infrastructures and services, desktop and mobile applications, UX/UI designs, mapping systems, social media platforms, hardware accelerators, telecommunication, network technologies, fleet-management systems, autonomous vehicles, micro-mobility vehicles, sensor calibration, sensor-data processing, power-management devices, medical devices, and the mechanical arts. In addition to patent prosecution, David also provides freedom-to-operate assessments and provide counsel on product development to help clients minimize the risk of patent infringement. Prior to practicing law, David was a software engineer at IBM, where he designed and developed enterprise system software and oversaw software development operations in China.

Professional Memberships: State Bar of California United States Patent and Trademark Office

Personal: J.D., USC Gould School of Law 2009 M.Eng., Computer Science, Cornell University 2002 B.S., Computer Science, Cornell University 2001 cum laude

WYMAN, Alex

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Featured in Litigation (California)

Practice Areas: A former federal prosecutor and accomplished trial lawyer, Alex Wyman represents clients in complex litigation and regulatory investigations. Alex advises individuals and organizations on business-critical matters relating to: – Complex civil trial litigation – Government investigations – White collar criminal litigation – Internal corporate investigations – Regulatory compliance and enforcement – Class action defense A first-chair trial lawyer with wide-ranging trial experience, Alex has tried both criminal and civil cases to verdict, he has tried cases in both federal and state courts, and he has achieved victories in jury trials, bench trials, and arbitration hearings. He has also successfully argued before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in defending his trial victories on appeal. Alex draws on his extensive government experience to help clients navigate their highest-stakes litigation and investigations. Prior to joining Latham, he served as an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) for five years in the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California, where he was the Corporate Fraud

Coordinator and Securities Investment Fraud Coordinator in the Major Frauds Section. As an AUSA, Alex successfully prosecuted diverse fraud crimes and served as the lead or co-lead prosecutor on numerous jury and bench trials. For his role as the co-lead prosecutor in a complex insurance fraud and murder prosecution that resulted in across-the-board guilty verdicts following a three-week jury trial and the maximum sentence allowable by law, Alex earned the Director's Award for Superior Performance as an Assistant United States Attorney – Criminal, one of the highest awards available to federal prosecutors. Before becoming a federal prosecutor, Alex was an associate at an international law firm, where he represented clients in complex commercial litigation and in federal criminal investigations. He previously served as a law clerk to Judge Beverly Reid O'Connell in the Central District of California. In addition to his practice, Alex is actively involved in the Los Angeles community. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Counsel for Justice, an organization that helps deliver legal services to the most vulnerable people in Los Angeles, as well as the Board of Directors for the Western Justice Center, a non-profit organization designed to develop the conflict resolution skills and capacity of youth, educators, schools, and community partners in the Los Angeles community. He also serves on the ScholarBridge Board of Directors for the Fulfillment Fund, an education-based non-profit organization designed to help students in under-resourced communities in Los Angeles pursue a college education. Alex also serves on the Board of Directors for the Los Angeles Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. During law school, Alex served as executive editor of the Virginia Law Review.

YAMAGUCHI, Nancy

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, San Francisco
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Featured in Corporate/M&A (California)

Practice Areas: Nancy Yamaguchi advises global technology companies on cross-border mergers and acquisitions (M&A), strategic and venture capital investments, joint ventures, strategic alliances, and technology transactions. With more than 25 years of experience, Nancy is a trusted advisor to private and public multinational companies, especially those based in the United States, Japan, and Taiwan, for all aspects of their corporate legal needs, including inbound and outbound corporate and technology transactions. Nancy is a member of the firm's Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) Working Group and advises on foreign direct investment (FDI) and national security issues in the United States and Japan. **Personal:** Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, 1998, J.D., cum laude Harvard University, 1993, A.M. Georgetown University, 1989, B.A.

YANG, Irene

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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: IRENE YANG, co-leader of the firm's global IP Litigation practice, is a trial lawyer representing clients in the high tech, medical device, and life sciences industries in their intellectual property and complex commercial disputes. Irene has secured high profile wins in jury trials and has led litigation teams to pre-trial success. As lead counsel for her clients' critical disputes, she leverages her background handling disputes involving complex technologies as well as her understanding of her clients' business objectives to develop successful IP and litigation strategies. Her litigation experience spans patents, trade secrets, commercial disputes and business torts, trademarks and trade dress, antitrust, and copyrights. Irene's matters have covered a diverse set of products and technologies, such as networking and telecommunications, software, semiconductors, cybersecurity, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and consumer devices. In addition, she has litigated and counseled clients on FRAND obligations for standard-essential patents.

YATES, Christopher S

Latham & Watkins LLP, San Francisco
1-415-395-8157
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Featured in Sports Law (USA - Nationwide), Antitrust (California)

Practice Areas: Chris Yates, former Global Co-Chair of the firm's Antitrust & Competition Practice, litigates precedent-setting cases across the US, with particular focus on monopolization and sports antitrust litigation. One of the few repeat American Lawyer Litigator of the Week winners and hailed by the press as an "elite attorney" and one of "the most celebrated sports litigators in America", Chris leverages more than three decades experience at the forefront of antitrust law to guide household brands and world-leading sports and entertainment properties through nuanced and novel competition issues, including: – Defending challenges to sports governing bodies and organizations – Claims at the intersection of IP and antitrust – Protecting distribution, pricing policies, and go-to-market strategies – Industry group's ability to set standards – Allegations of aftermarket monopolization – Successfully mitigating class actions He has a track record of success in federal trial courts across the country, including in California, New York, Florida, North Carolina, Texas, Illinois, and Delaware, and has won appeals before the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and other courts of appeal. Chris regularly speaks on current antitrust litigation issues and is an active member of the American Bar Association Antitrust Law Section. Chris maintains an active pro bono practice, including work on behalf of seniors — for which he and his team received the Justice Walker Pro Bono Award — as well as

for veterans and Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), an organization that focuses on unaccompanied and separated children's rights in the US. Chris also served on the firm's Associates Committee and Income Partner and Counsel Committee.

YOUNG, Patricia

Latham & Watkins LLP, New York
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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Patricia Young, Global Vice Chair of Latham's Intellectual Property Practice, represents market-leading companies in intellectual property litigation, particularly high-stakes, complex, multi-patent, and multi-jurisdictional cases. Patricia is a first-chair trial lawyer who litigates patent and trade secrets cases for a broad spectrum of companies, both as defendants and plaintiffs. She regularly tries cases across the country, including in state and federal courts, and before the International Trade Commission (ITC). She deftly synthesizes technical, economic, and legal perspectives to develop unique, winning litigation strategies. As an incisive and trusted advisor for patent and trade secret matters, she is also well-positioned to counsel clients on intellectual property issues in corporate matters. Patricia has developed an impressive record of leading and managing complex, multi-product, multi-claim disputes. Her experience spans industries from LiDAR, semiconductors, RF technology, memory, microprocessors, Wi-Fi routers and mesh network devices, file system and storage software and hardware, networking, gaming, e-commerce, telecommunications, UV LEDs, biotech, biologics, protein engineering, sequencing technology, microcoils, medical devices, and pharmaceuticals to consumer products. Her pro bono work addresses Social Security disability, domestic violence, veteran disability benefits, housing, and §1983 civil rights actions. She served on the firm's Pro Bono Committee and received the California State Bar Wiley M. Manuel Award for pro bono service in 2013.

ZADIKANY, Ruth

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Featured in Labor & Employment (California)

Practice Areas: Ruth Zadikany is Co-Leader of Mayer Brown's US Employment Litigation and Counseling Group and a partner in the firm's Los Angeles office. A seasoned litigator, Ruth focuses her practice on representing clients across a broad spectrum of labor and employment matters, as well as other high-stakes, complex litigation. Ruth has been recognized as a leading employment lawyer by prominent legal publications, including Chambers USA, Legal 500 US and Benchmark Litigation. Ruth brings extensive experience defending employers in wage-and-hour class actions and PAGA representative actions. Her work in this area encompasses claims involving employee

misclassification, meal and rest break violations, failure to pay overtime, work-off-the-clock and rounding of time records, inaccurate pay statements, failure to reimburse necessary business expenses, and waiting-time and other penalties. She also regularly represents employers in individual, class and collective actions involving claims of wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment (including sexual harassment), retaliation (including whistleblower-type claims), and unequal pay. In addition, Ruth represents companies in a variety of other complex disputes, including actions to enforce or defend against violations of restrictive covenants, as well as actions under the Fair Credit Reporting Act and the Telephone Consumer Protection Act.

ZADRA-SYMES, Lynda

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Featured in Intellectual Property (California)

Practice Areas: Advertising, Media & Entertainment Practice Copyright IP Transactions, Agreements & Venture Capital Litigation Patent Strategy & Prosecution Trade Secret Trademark & Brand Protection

Career: Lynda is a litigation partner with the firm, where she has practiced for over 36 years. Lynda is chair of the firm's trademark litigation practice group and co-chair of the firm's copyright litigation practice group. She represents clients through all stages of U.S. litigation, from pre-suits through trial and appeal, in federal courts throughout the country, the ITC and before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. Her practice involves all types of intellectual property, including patents, trade secrets, trademarks, copyrights, false advertising, unfair competition, and rights of publicity. She also advises on issues relating to customs and anti-counterfeiting, international trademarks and copyrights, advertising, social media, competition and passing off. Lynda works with clients in numerous industries, including food & beverage, fashion and beauty, medical device and healthcare, software and hardware, financial and professional services, sports and entertainment. Lynda has received multiple awards and has been honored in both national and international forums for her legal accomplishments. For her work in IP litigation, she was named a "National Litigation Star" and "California Litigation Star" by Benchmark Litigation and recognized in the Legal 500 "United States" Guide for trademark litigation (2020 – 2025). She has been ranked in the "Chambers USA Guide" for Intellectual Property Trademark, Copyright & Trade Secrets in California (2023 – 2025) and included in Legal Media Group's (LMG) "Best of the Best USA" guide as one of the top 30 trademark practitioners in the U.S. The World Trademark Review (WTR) 1000 guide recognized her as a "Leading Trademark Lawyer," describing her as a skilled litigator through all phases of litigation with the ability to take on any

IP case – a "backbone of the litigation practice." She has also been included in The Best Lawyers in America® guide (2016 – 2023) and recommended by Super Lawyers for nearly 10 consecutive years. Lynda has been named among the "Most Influential Women in IP" by World IP Review (WIPR), repeatedly been named in Legal Media Group's "Women in Business Law" guide, recognized as a Trademark Star in Managing IP's "IP STARS" guide for her outstanding intellectual property legal work, named as one of the world's leading trademark and patent practitioners in the "Who's Who Legal: IP" list by Law Business Research, and nominated by in-house counsel and her peers around the world to appear in Euromoney Legal Media Group's Guide to the World's Leading Trademark Law Practitioners. She has also been listed in the Expert Guides as one of the "World's Leading Advisors Chosen by their Peers" for Trademarks and recognized in Lawyer Monthly magazine's "Women in Law Awards" for her outstanding achievements in the legal profession. Lynda is a Domain Name Dispute Panelist for the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and an active member of the International Bar Association (IBA). She currently holds the position of Co-Chair of the IBA Regional Fora Coordination Committee. Previously, she served as Co-Chair of the IP & Entertainment Committee and the North American Regional Forum. Lynda is a founding Board Member of RX Ballroom Dance, which provides free dance classes to persons suffering from Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and other neurological conditions. Lynda is also a Board Member of the Ocean Institute in Dana Point, California.

Professional Memberships: International Bar Association (IBA) International Trademark Association (INTA) American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA) Orange County Patent Law Association Inner Temple Inn of Court, London

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Featured in Offshore Energy (USA – Nationwide), Environment (California)

See under Nationwide for profile.

ZALTZMAN, Haim

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Featured in Banking & Finance (California)

Practice Areas: Haim Zaltzman advises private capital, growth equity, and emerging growth clients – particularly in the technology and healthcare industries. Haim serves as Global Vice Chair of Latham's Emerging Companies & Growth Practice and as a member of the firm's Strategic Initiative and Private Capital Committees. Haim represents borrowers, sponsors, financial institutions, and emerging companies in debt financing transactions. He also represents growth companies, sponsors, financial institutions, and other participants in the growth space in private capital transac-

tions, with a focus on structured equity debt and other corporate transactions. Over nearly two decades he has helped clients execute: – More than US\$100 billion in growth debt transactions (venture, structured, royalty, and lower middle-market deals) – Hundreds of billions of dollars worth of private equity and growth equity financings (acquisitions, add-ons, refinancings, etc.) – Tens of billions of dollars worth of leasing, royalties, and other asset-backed transactions As a thought leader in the industry, Haim regularly writes and speaks about topics relevant to growth companies in the tech and life sciences industries. He frequently appears in media outlets, including CNBC, Bloomberg, The Washington Post, CFO Magazine, The Recorder, Law360.com, The Daily Journal, the International Financial Law Review, and VCExperts.com.

ZIMMERMANN, Daniel R.

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Featured in Startups & Emerging Companies (USA – Nationwide), Venture Capital (California)

Practice Areas: Daniel Zimmermann is an accomplished lawyer with extensive experience in complex corporate transactions and venture technology issues. For more than 20 years, he has advised entrepreneurs, emerging companies and technology startups, and draws on his global experiences counseling companies in the United States and Europe. His technology clients span the industry, including telecom, infrastructure, digital media, software, energy, clean tech, e-commerce, FinTech, edtech, digital health and healthcare IT, robotics and big data. Mr. Zimmermann works with leading artificial intelligence (AI) companies in areas such as measurement and detection of high harm content and actors for internet platforms, AI/machine learning autonomous anti-drone solutions, and AI solutions for complex air operations. Mr. Zimmermann provides sophisticated counsel on a variety of corporate governance and finance matters, as well as exit transactions, such as public offerings and mergers and acquisitions. He further counsels Silicon Valley-based venture capital firms, as well as global venture and private equity funds in their portfolio investments in the US and abroad. International in scope, his practice involves the regular representation of clients in global expansions and off-shore acquisitions by US companies. From 2007 to 2008, he was seconded to a London-based law firm where he worked on private equity, capital markets and venture capital transactions. He serves on the Firm's Global Management and Compensation Committees, as well as on the Palo Alto Hiring Committee. **Professional Memberships:** Mr. Zimmermann is a member of the California and New York Bar Associations and the International Law Sections of the American, California and New York Bar Associations. Mr. Zimmermann has served as Chair of the Executive

Committee of the International Law Section of the State Bar of California and as Chairman of the Board of the German American Business Association. Mr. Zimmermann also previously served as president and board member of Alto International School in Menlo Park and serves as primary pro bono counsel to the School.

Publications: 2026 M&A Report

– WilmerHale SEC Exemptive Order Authorizes Accelerated Tender Offers – WilmerHale 2023 Venture Capital Report – WilmerHale

ZOMORODI, Parris

Latham & Watkins LLP, Los Angeles

Featured in REITs (USA – Nationwide), Tax (California: Southern)

Practice Areas: Parris Zomorodi advises US and international public and private companies, including REITs, private equity firms, and investment banks, on tax aspects of complex transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, spinoffs, and joint ventures. Parris regularly counsels clients on structuring taxable and tax-free mergers, acquisitions, dispositions, and spinoffs. She draws on considerable experience advising private equity firms, entertainment companies, and strategic buyers and sellers in public and private transactions. Parris often advises REITs on the tax aspects of formation transactions, mergers and acquisitions, securities offerings, and ongoing operational matters. She has also helped clients obtain private letter rulings from the IRS on a number of tax matters. Parris formerly served as Deputy Office Managing Partner of the firm's Los Angeles office.

ZOVOD, Shawn

Troutman Pepper Locke LLP, San Francisco

Featured in Environment (California)

Practice Areas: Shawn's practice focuses on sophisticated environmental and natural resources law and strategy, with deep experience in the Clean Water Act (CWA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and their California counterparts, the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, California ESA, and Lake and Streambed Alteration program. She is well versed in the preparation of environmental documents under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Shawn advises clients on Environmental, Social, and Governance and climate-related reporting, including guidance to clients on the applicability of and compliance with California's Climate Corporate Data Accountability Act (SB 253) and the Climate-Related Financial Risk Act (SB 261). Shawn represents a diverse array of clients, including developers, local agencies, institutions, energy companies, public utilities, resource extraction companies, and other property owners in negotiations with federal and state regulators, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish

and Wildlife, California Office of Historic Preservation, and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards. She has extensive experience with Section 7 consultations under the ESA, and in preparing and processing Incidental Harassment Authorizations, Habitat Conservation Plans, Safe Harbor Agreements, complex individual CWA permits, Nationwide Permit authorizations, Streambed Alteration Agreements, Special Area Management Plans, Historic Property Treatment Plans, NEPA and CEQA documents, conservation easements, and mitigation funding agreements. Shawn has successfully represented clients throughout California and the western states in evaluating the suitability of properties for development, securing federal and state resource permits, complying with Tribal consultation requirements, implementing wetland and species permits and mitigation plans, and when necessary, resolving violations and securing after-the-fact permits. She also provides guidance to wetlands conservation organizations. In addition to her legal practice, Shawn frequently authors articles on trends in natural resources law and speaks at professional conferences, sharing her insights with peers and industry leaders.

ZUCKER, Sam

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Featured in Life Sciences (California)

Practice Areas: Sam Zucker is a partner in Goodwin's Technology Companies and Life Sciences group. He has years of experience working on corporate transactions for high-growth life sciences, healthcare, and technology companies globally, representing investors as well as portfolio companies. Sam has advised both buyers and sellers in a wide range of mergers and acquisitions, including joint ventures, strategic alliances, collaborations, and divestitures. He also has extensive financing experience, ranging from venture capital, startup, and private equity financings to public company securities offerings such as initial public offerings, follow-ons, confidentially marketed public offerings (CMPOs), registered directs, and private investments in public equity. He also handles regulatory matters involving the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and Nasdaq. In addition, Sam advises management and boards of directors on corporate governance and critical strategic matters – from general corporate, public company reporting, and market regulatory issues to acquisitions, corporate development, and capital market strategies.

Personal: JD, Yale Law School, 1995; BA, Columbia University, 1992 (magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa)

ZUCKERMAN WILLIAMS, Susan

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Featured in Media & Entertainment: Transactional (California)

Practice Areas: Susan Williams is a partner in the Entertainment and Media practice of Paul Hastings and is based in the firm's Century City office. She is chair of the firm's Entertainment and Media Finance group. Highly regarded as one of the entertainment industry's top deal-makers, Susan is frequently sought to represent clients on some of their most significant finance and restructuring transactions. Susan represents financial institutions, senior, mezzanine and equity funds, major independent production companies, and high-net-worth individuals in a wide variety of capital transactions involving film and television content. Her vast experience includes overall company capital raises, slate financings, first and second lien financings, single-picture production loans, print and advertising financing, securitizations, structured financing transactions, co-productions, and domestic and foreign tax-incentivized financings, as well as distressed debt and restructuring transactions. She handles numerous transactions involving new and emerging distribution platforms and represents companies at the intersection of entertainment, media and technology that are involved in various content transactions, including distribution and co-financing agreements with major studios and with international distribution companies. In

addition, she has significant experience handling private equity, M&A and joint ventures, and has extensive experience successfully guiding secured creditors through the unique issues surrounding entertainment and media assets in bankruptcy. Widely recognized as one of the most influential women in Hollywood, Susan has been named multiple times to The Hollywood Reporter's annual "Power Lawyers" list of the 100 most influential entertainment attorneys in America, has been repeatedly recognized in Variety's annual "Dealmakers Impact," "Legal Impact" and "Women's Impact" issues, and has been repeatedly named among the Daily Journal's Top Women Lawyers. She is also ranked by Chambers USA in California Media & Entertainment, where clients note that she is "highly experienced in the entertainment space" and a "very strong technical lawyer who also brings a commercial sensibility to the legal aspects" of the industry. Beyond her legal accomplishments, Susan dedicates a significant portion of her time to mentoring and serving as a role model to the next generation of female lawyers. She is a partner advisor to our Women's Paul Hastings Affinity Network whose mission is to promote inclusion, while providing various leadership, professional and business development opportunities for women at the firm. She is also a regular speaker on promoting women in the legal profession.

Personal: USC Gould School of Law, J.D. Tufts University, B.A.