

# LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: Litigators & Trial Attorneys



**T**HERE IS A SPECIAL BREED OF ATTORNEY THAT NEEDS TO TRANSCEND EXPERT COMPREHENSION OF THE LEGAL system – the litigator. Lawyers who go to the proverbial mat to fight for their clients before judges and jury have their own unique sets of skills. In this special section we share profiles of the very best litigators and trial attorneys in the region. These are the trusted advisors you want in your corner in court.

We've alphabetically compiled this lineup of superb litigation specialists, along with information about their careers, practice and relevant recent successes they've achieved. Congratulations to the attorneys who made our class of '22.

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



LOI: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



RYAN BAKER

Co-Founding Partner  
Waymaker LLP

One of California’s elite trial and appellate lawyers, Waymaker LLP co-managing and founding partner Ryan Baker regularly wins trial verdicts and appeals in high-stakes cases. A skilled litigator and trial lawyer who often deals with cases involving intellectual property and innovative or disruptive technology, Baker has built Waymaker (formerly Baker Marquart LLP) into one of the nation’s premiere trial and litigation boutiques. The firm regularly handles litigation at the intersection of innovative technology and complex legal issues and Baker himself has a stellar record of achievement at both trials and appeals in intellectual property cases.

In particular, Baker is known for presenting arguments in a clear, elegant, persuasive manner in his representation of industry innovators. Baker has tried cases and argued motions in state and federal courts across the country and has appeared in the courtrooms of no fewer than 15 states.



ERIC BAKEWELL

Partner  
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Eric Bakewell represents clients in entertainment, trust and estate, intellectual property, privacy, and other complex commercial litigation. This past year, Bakewell joined international law firm Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP as one of the first partners in Willkie’s new Los Angeles office. Bakewell’s corporate clients include entertainment and technology companies, financial institutions, and nonprofit organizations. He also represents high-net-worth individuals, entrepreneurs, entertainers, and intellectual property rights holders.

Among his recent work, Bakewell is currently defending Skidata and Sentry Control Systems, in a privacy class action in Los Angeles federal court. He is also on Willkie’s team representing Benjamin Chui, co-trustee of a family trust established by his grandparents who built a significant real estate empire in California. Co-Trustees have been in litigation involving the theft of tens of millions of dollars by Chui’s father and stepmother who took advantage of the patriarch’s decline.



KOREN BELL

Partner  
Larson LLP

Praised for her advocacy, Koren (Kori) Bell is a bilingual Spanish-speaking lawyer who litigates high-stakes trials and appeals in courtrooms across the country. She represents prominent clients in high-profile white collar defense matters—including as counsel of record in a case she advanced to, and argued before, the U.S. Supreme Court. She also represents individuals and companies as both plaintiffs and defendants in a broad array of complex civil litigation, including high-stakes commercial disputes and widely publicized civil rights suits, and in sensitive investigations.

A former supervising federal public defender who has litigated high-stakes cases in courtrooms around the country, Bell’s successes as a partner at Larson include her work as co-lead counsel for the former USC head water polo coach in the “Varsity Blues” college admissions case – one of the most publicized and widely followed criminal matters in the nation over the last three years.

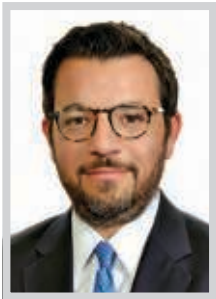


TERRY W. BIRD

Principal  
Bird, Marella, Boxer, Wolpert, Nessim, Drooks,  
Lincenberg & Rhow, P.C.

Peers, adversaries, and clients regard Terry Bird as a top-tier, respected figure in white-collar litigation. He has maintained his reputable practice for nearly five decades. Amidst the pandemic, Bird’s practice continued with two high-stakes and impactful cases. He led a pro bono partnership on two COVID-19 class action lawsuits against the administrators at Terminal Island and Lompoc federal prisons for the insufficient measures and inhumane treatment that led to several deaths and thousands of infections. Through the tangible success in these matters, the American Civil Liberties Union awarded Bird and team the 2021 Humanitarian Award.

In an earlier class action win, Bird played a key role in securing a complete dismissal of a consumer protection class action brought against a software and medical device company in Arizona Federal Court. The case involved health care providers’ storage of patient medical records and x-ray images to facilitate remote diagnoses.



OREN BITAN

Shareholder  
Buchalter

Oren Bitan has an extensive legal background that includes business, real estate, banking, receivership, consumer product, and commercial litigation. Bitan is known for his ability to solve complex business disputes for his clients in a strong but practical manner. He is a trusted advisor who guides his clients through their day to day legal concerns, and has particular expertise in matters involving real estate, banking and lending, creditors’ rights, wine, beer, liquor, cannabis, and intellectual property.

Bitan is co-chair of Buchalter’s Cannabis Industry Law Group and advises cannabis businesses on a wide variety of issues, including regulatory advice, banking, lending, financing, intellectual property, receivership, real property development and leasing, and assembling teams of attorneys to provide corporate and employment advice. He is also an experienced appellate lawyer and has successfully argued numerous times before the California Court of Appeal and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.



BRAD BRIAN

Partner and Firm Chair  
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

With a litigation career spanning four-decades, Brad Brian works with clients on their most important and complex cases. He has served as lead counsel for Fortune 500 corporations in multi-billion dollar cases that have shaped entire industries. He is one of the leading trial lawyers nationally, and his noteworthy work has captured both national and global interest.

One example is Brian’s work for PG&E as lead trial counsel in its historic settlement announced April 2022 with six Northern California counties, resolving disputes surrounding the Kincade Fire and Dixie Fire. Brian worked tirelessly with PG&E and district attorneys to resolve the cases on a civil basis and worked alongside company leaders to build trust between the government and the utility to architect these agreements. He also represented Katten Muchin in defense of a \$950 million malpractice claim brought by CashCall.

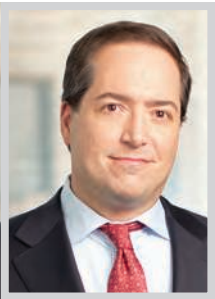


CARLETON BURCH

Partner  
Anderson, McPharlin & Connors LLP

Carleton Burch’s practice includes fidelity and other specialty lines insurance coverage and bad faith litigation, banking and bank operations litigation, construction and surety litigation, ERISA benefits litigation, business and title litigation, and intellectual property litigation. He also represents employers in employment matters. He has published extensively in the areas of fidelity insurance and insurance litigation.

Burch has handled complex insurance claims and litigation, including class actions, in California and Nevada in state and federal courts for those states. Burch’s work as a neutral has included numerous successful mediations in a variety of cases. He has substantial formal training in the field, including professional education course work through the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University School of Law. Among his recent work, Burch obtained grant of summary judgment in favor of defendant credit union in Federal Court in Nevada, affirmed on appeal.



MARSHALL CAMP

Partner  
Hueston Hennigan LLP

Marshall Camp is a skilled trial lawyer and a former federal prosecutor who handles complex, high-stakes business disputes. Camp has represented companies and individuals in commercial litigation and criminal and regulatory investigations and enforcement actions. He has successfully tried numerous civil and criminal cases in forums across the country, and has represented clients in a range of industries, including technology, entertainment, medical devices, insurance, and finance.

Camp has prevailed as lead or trial counsel in cases across the nation, including, a recent landmark trial victory for Endo Pharmaceuticals in a closely watched \$50 billion California opioid case alleging public nuisance, unfair competition, and false advertising. He also won a complete dismissal of a putative securities class action on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers; and recently obtained a complete dismissal of felony charges against a prominent attorney and former principal of the Jacoby & Meyers law firm following a lengthy evidentiary hearing.

# HUESTON HENNIGAN LLP

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Congratulations



## MARSHALL CAMP VICKI CHOU

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PAUL S. CHAN

Principal

Bird, Marella, Boxer, Wolpert, Nessim, Drooks, Lincenberg & Rhow, P.C.

Paul S. Chan leads a distinguished practice that regularly earns him recognition among “Best Lawyers in America” and “Top Minority Attorneys” lists. In addition to serving as Bird Marella’s Managing Principal for the past twelve years, his triumphant track record for some of the world’s largest companies solidifies his reputation as a leading commercial litigator.

For instance, Chan achieved a complete defense decision on behalf of his long-standing client, JM Eagle, the world’s largest PVC pipe manufacturer. The high-profile federal False Claims Act lawsuit involved 45 intervening government plaintiffs and over \$1 billion in claims. The victory followed another successful defense for JM Eagle in which he convinced the Court to first reduce the five plaintiffs’ claimed damages from \$58 million (before trebling) to only \$2 million – eventually leading to a mistrial. Currently, Chan also represents Fortune 500 testing laboratory Quest Diagnostics in multiple matters throughout the nation.



VICKI CHOU

Partner

Hueston Hennigan LLP

Vicki Chou is a key member of Hueston Hennigan’s White Collar and Investigations teams. She is a seasoned trial and appellate attorney and recently served as a deputy chief in the U.S. Attorney’s Office in the Central District of California.

Chou’s outstanding reputation for her public sector work has allowed her to quickly build a formidable private sector practice at the firm. Since joining the firm, Chou has been involved with developing strategies related to securing a unique plea agreement for one of the highest profile criminal defendants in the “Varsity Blues” college admissions case, securing a presidential pardon for Amir Khan, securing a declination for Southern California Edison in the criminal investigation of the deaths from the wildfires, and the upcoming jury trial in a criminal case alleging former Outcome Health CEO Rishi Shah and other executives ran a \$1 billion fraud scheme.



MORGAN CHU

Partner and Chair of the Litigation Group  
Irell & Manella LLP

Morgan Chu, a partner with Irell & Manella and chair of the firm’s Litigation group, has secured many of the world’s largest – and in some cases precedent-setting – verdicts, judgments and settlements. Chu has obtained more than \$9 billion in actual payments for clients. Defense representations have comprised an equal share of his career, and he has scored a series of wins that have been named top defense verdicts of the year.

Chu recently co-led an Irell team that secured a \$2.3 billion final judgment for VLSI Technology LLC in a suit against Intel Corp. involving two patents on technology used in Intel’s microprocessors. He is co-leading teams representing VLSI in several additional high-stakes infringement cases against Intel involving microprocessor technology. Also, Chu argued before and convinced the U.S. Supreme Court to rule 9-0 in favor of his client NantKwest, which is developing cancer treatments using natural killer cells.



TRENT COPELAND

Partner

Ellis George Cipollone O’Brien Annaghey LLP

Trent Copeland is one of the most active and sought after trial lawyers in the country. Having tried more than 75 cases – both criminal and civil – he has seen all aspects of civil litigation and criminal defense. He successfully represented a Muslim college professor in one of the government’s first investigations targeting a U.S. citizen as having potentially violated the Patriot Act. Following Copeland’s representation the government closed the matter without the filing of charges.

Copeland took over the representation of the former client of disgraced attorney Michael Avenatti who was victimized by Avenatti’s criminal extortion of Nike, Inc., which resulted in Avenatti’s federal prosecution and conviction. He also advised and counselled members of the Kennedy family in their public opposition to the proposed release of assassin, Sirhan Sirhan. Copeland also recently represented a high-profile news anchor in her claims for discrimination against a major news network.



AARON CRAIG

Partner

King & Spalding

Aaron Craig is one of the leading intellectual property and unfair competition business trial lawyers in California, representing clients in a wide variety of industries, including technology, pharmaceuticals, and logistics companies. Craig specializes in complex, bespoke cases, and has an undefeated record in both jury and bench trials as first or second chair.

Among Craig’s recent successes has been earning a total victory in a first-of-its-kind unfair competition lawsuit on behalf of Hope Pharmaceuticals, a small pharmaceutical manufacturer that developed and obtained FDA approval of Sodium Thiosulfate Injection as a treatment for acute cyanide poisoning. After a trial last summer, Hope won a total victory on the merits of its claims, including a finding that the defendants had violated the unfair competition laws of five states, which was based on a never-before-litigated provision of the U.S. Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act.



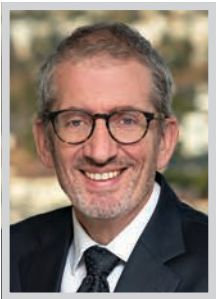
MICHAEL DE VRIES

Partner

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

At the forefront of the evolution of IP litigation legal work, Mike De Vries leads the legal industry in high-stake competitor cases – as evidenced by his string of successful outcomes over the last two years. During this time, De Vries has secured over \$2 billion in verdicts and settlements representing clients like Motorola, TriZetto, LivePerson, EagleView and APCON in major trials held throughout the US while also navigating courtroom protocols designed to keep courtroom participants safe during the pandemic. The results achieved by De Vries and his team will influence IP protection strategies in future litigations for years to come, and will guide the adaptation of trial advocacy in technology disputes during the ongoing pandemic.

Additionally, as IP litigation continues to become more high-stakes due to the growing importance of technology and the need to protect businesses’ innovations, De Vries and team are likely to be busier than ever.



JONATHAN M. DEER

Founding Partner  
Quantum Law Group, LLP

Jonathan M. Deer is equipped to handle a client’s litigation and transactional needs simultaneously, with an emphasis on matters in real estate and business law. His clients include celebrities, real estate investors and developers, brokers, lenders, and companies of all sizes. Whether they’re in need of an advisor at the forefront of transactional law or a dogged trial fighter, clients have consistently lauded Deer’s creative and thoughtful approach to problem-solving. Over the course of more than 30 years in practice, he has emphasized solutions that relate to the practical realities of business, avoiding the burden of unnecessary litigation or excessive attorney involvement.

Deer’s extensive litigation experience includes numerous trials in state and federal courts, arbitrations and mediations. Transactionally, Deer handles real estate purchases and financing, general business contracts, corporate and business entity formation and governance, and matters in licensing, business purchases and sales and numerous other business issues.



RITA DIAZ

Partner, Chair of Litigation Department  
Hahn & Hahn LLP

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

Recent matters have included trust administrations; preparing estate plans (both new and updated) for numerous families; assisting trustees with administration of trusts, including trusts with difficult beneficiaries and complex assets such as business interests, valuable artwork, firearms, and high-end vehicles; assisting executors with probate administrations; preparing and successfully prosecuted objections to an overreaching trustee’s accounting; and many other challenging processes on behalf of clients.

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**JAMES FEENEY**  
Member  
Dykema

Jim Feeney is a trial lawyer with a national reputation. He has represented corporations and individuals in countless high-stakes trials and serves as the go-to trial attorney for some of the world's largest companies. During the course of his 50-year career, Jim has been involved in more than 2,500 cases and tried more than 75 cases to verdict. He maintains an active trial practice, including five trials to verdict in recent years.

Feeney often handles high-stakes matters for the automotive industry, media companies, real estate developers, and equipment leasing and insurance companies. Among his most recent successful representations as lead trial counsel include a defense verdict in a three-week jury trial of a nationwide class action of truck dealers suing an automobile manufacturer for \$2 billion for a failure to sell company products at published prices; and a \$47.3 million verdict against a supplier for recall and warranty costs.



**TERRENCE FRANKLIN**  
Partner  
Sacks, Glazier, Franklin & Lodise LLP

With over three decades of experience handling some of the most significant and complex trusts and estates disputes, Terrence Franklin is regarded as one of the top litigators in the U.S. by clients and colleagues. He is responsible for several published appeals and the landmark *Moeller v. Superior Court* case, which was brought before the California Supreme Court and established a fiduciary exception to the attorney-client privilege for successor trustees.

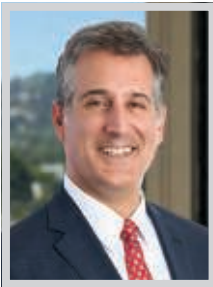
While Franklin is well-known in the legal community for his trusts and estates expertise, he is equally renowned for his commitment to furthering the advancement of minority lawyers. As a gay, African American lawyer, Franklin works tirelessly to bring awareness and educate others about the importance of diversity and inclusion. He holds countless leadership positions in organizations which impact the law and support his mission to "help bend the arc of history towards justice."



**JOHN GIBSON**  
Partner  
DLA Piper

John Gibson focuses on complex litigation, including antitrust, class action and multi-district litigation defense. In 33 years of practice, he has won high-profile trials and cases in California and around the nation for industry-leading companies, professional sports teams, and pro bono clients seeking social justice. These range from winning the "Trial of the Decade" in Los Angeles to winning the nation's first mandatory federal court injunction requiring a school district to accommodate the service dog of a student with autism.

Gibson's recent accomplishments include successfully arguing a motion for the transfer of multiple putative class actions around the nation to N.D. Cal. for a top Silicon Valley technology company. He also won summary judgment for a leading technology company, defeating an unfair competition law claim in a precedent-setting antitrust and contract litigation to determine fair, reasonable, and non-discriminatory licensing terms for a worldwide portfolio of standard-essential mobile-telecommunications patents.



**GEOFFREY GOLD**  
Partner  
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP

Geoffrey M. Gold is a partner in the Litigation, Real Estate and Land Use Departments at Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP. He is a trial lawyer specializing in business and real estate matters. Clients appreciate Gold's ability and proven track record in obtaining significant arbitration awards, favorable mediation results and settlements, grants of summary judgment and trial victories while keeping costs under control.

Gold has litigated to successful conclusion hundreds of cases over the past 30 years. He frequently acts as outside general counsel for small and medium size business clients and special counsel for large companies. He has expertise in working with developing businesses and assisting individual and corporate clients with their everyday legal affairs. Gold has substantial experience negotiating, documenting and closing difficult real estate transactions, and counselling clients on how not only to win, but to avoid litigation.

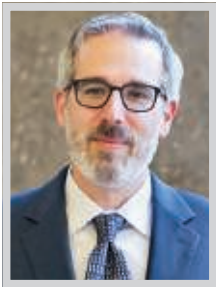
STROOCK

Congratulations to Stroock Partners  
**Arjun Rao** and **Julia Strickland** for being  
recognized in the Los Angeles Business Journal as  
**Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys.**





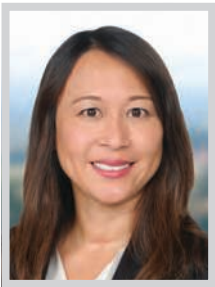
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**JUSTIN GOLDSTEIN**  
*Partner*  
Sklar Kirsh

Justin M. Goldstein is the chair of Sklar Kirsh’s Litigation Department and a member of the Management Committee. He has extensive trial and appellate experience handling a wide range of business, entertainment, and intellectual property disputes in state and federal courts, as well as in arbitration. Goldstein has spent more than two decades successfully counseling and representing some of the Fortune 500’s and entertainment industry’s most prominent entities.

Goldstein’s litigation experience includes handling disputes that involve unfair competition, partnership and shareholder claims, right of publicity and privacy, First Amendment, accounting and profit participation, fiduciary duties, personal service contracts, and infringement of copyright, trademark, trade dress, and trade secret interests. He has represented clients in industries including media and entertainment, technology, marketing and communications, retail, apparel, energy, manufacturing, finance, and real estate.



**VALERIE GOO**  
*Partner; Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office*  
Crowell & Moring LLP

For over two decades, Valerie Goo, managing partner of Crowell & Moring’s Los Angeles office, has represented some of the world’s leading companies in complex litigation involving trademark infringement, unfair competition, trade secrets, false advertising, and consumer class actions. She has tried numerous cases in federal and state courts across the country and holds a successful record representing clients in commercial litigation and intellectual property matters, including eight- and nine-figure disputes.

Goo represents several large companies in fiercely fought trademark and trade secret cases between competitors. Some example clients she has achieved recent successes for include Lockheed Martin and Molson Coors. She also obtained a unanimous defense verdict in consumer class action after a two-week jury trial in federal court on behalf of the world’s leading manufacturer of homeopathic drugs – a matter that was selected as one of the California Daily Journal’s 2016 “Defense Verdicts of the Year.”



**R.C. HARLAN**  
*Partner*  
Larson LLP

R.C. Harlan approaches each case with a blend of incisiveness, diligence, and camaraderie – he listens attentively to his clients and builds a working relationship with them to develop a customized, clear-cut strategy for success. With a focus on complex civil disputes, Harlan represents individuals and companies across a wide variety of industries, including high tech, sports and entertainment, towing and transportation, waste management, medical device, pharmaceutical, and healthcare.

Among Harlan’s accomplishments is his representation of a Southern California towing business in a civil rights suit against a city and its officials. The towing company’s claims spanned more than 15 years of constitutional rights violations related to the city’s alleged corrupt favoritism in granting no-bid tow contracts in exchange for political contributions. Harlan and his team negotiated a \$1.3 million settlement and he now handles government investigations and compliance work for the towing industry.



**ROBERT HUDOCK**  
*Founder, Managing Attorney*  
Hudock Employment Law Group

Robert Hudock founded Hudock Employment Law Group in 2015 to deliver tailored legal services to California companies that thrive in vibrant, creative work environments. His clients are often companies looking at new markets and competitive opportunities, that want to recruit the best talent available, while avoiding distracting workplace issues or lawsuits.

Hudock is a deeply experienced litigator with over 21 years of practice and has devoted his career to employment law for businesses for the last 16 years. He spent several years in “Big Law” and has experience managing large litigation teams. Hudock was drawn to the “human side” of employment law, helping clients overcome challenges presented by difficult issues and sparing them the angst of conflict and worry. Known for his careful case analysis and preparation, thoughtful counsel, and leadership skills, Hudock is a disciplined advocate and tenacious litigator for his clients.



**CHAD HUMMEL**  
*Partner*  
Sidley Austin, LLP

Chad Hummel, a litigation and trial partner based in Sidley’s Century City office, and co-leader of Sidley’s national trial practice, is one of the nation’s most recognized trial lawyers. He was inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and is listed among the country’s top litigators in the legal directory Chambers USA. Over his 30-year career, he has regularly achieved trial successes on behalf of both plaintiffs and defendants in bet-the-company matters.

Within the past year alone, he was lead trial counsel in a number of high-profile cases, including leading a trial team in obtaining a unanimous multimillion-dollar arbitration award for Cardinal Financial, a mortgage bank, against a former senior officer of the company for breach of fiduciary duty, breach of contract, and unfair competition by misappropriation, as well as over \$1 million in attorneys’ fees and all costs.



**ROLAND JUAREZ**  
*Partner*  
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

Roland Juarez is known for handling high-stakes labor and employment cases for some of California’s largest and most high-profile employers in the temporary staffing, service, manufacturing, and retail industries, successfully defending clients against the most challenging wage and hour, discrimination, non-compete and anti-raiding claims facing employers in California and across the nation. He is currently leading class, collective and other complex employment litigation and has developed a highly-successful unfair competition and employee raiding practice in California.

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



**RICHARD KAPLAN**  
*Founding Partner*  
Kaplan Marino

Criminal defense attorney Richard D. Kaplan manages serious criminal charges that threaten the livelihood and reputations of white-collar clients, including high net worth individuals, entrepreneurs, entertainers, corporations, and their officers and executives. During negotiations with authorities, Kaplan’s creative and novel strategies have led to numerous acquittals, no-charges-filed, probation, and record expungement outcomes for clients.

Kaplan’s experience includes a range of allegations: fraud, narcotics, DUI, vehicular manslaughter, and domestic violence, among others. Several recent representations have involved #MeToo allegations, building code violations, and overcharging claims issued by Kaplanights and measure agencies. He has built productive relationships across the legal profession, from the Los Angeles County and City Prosecuting Agencies to the U.S. Department of Justice to the National Conference of Bar Presidents, which he serves on its executive council.



**SARAH KELLY-KILGORE**  
*Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office*  
Greenberg Gross LLP

Managing partner of Greenberg Gross LLP’s Los Angeles office, Sarah Kelly-Kilgore has built a reputation as a highly skilled and innovative litigator and trial lawyer with the ability to persuade judges and juries in cases with the highest stakes. Clients have come to know Kelly-Kilgore for her ingenuity, skill and leadership, with one of the firm’s most high-profile clients praising her as a “platinum attorney who performs well beyond [her] experience.”

Kelly-Kilgore is co-lead counsel in landmark lawsuits filed for the Trustee of the PG&E Fire Victim Trust against former PG&E vegetation management contractors for their responsibility in contributing to the causes of deadly wildfires of 2017-2019 in Northern California. The Fire Victim Trust will distribute the funds to the 70,000 victims who lost their homes and businesses in the fires. Recoveries obtained for the Fire Victim Trust will benefit of the fire victims; damages could exceed \$750 million.

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**ERIC KENNEDY**  
*Shareholder*  
Buchalter

Eric Kennedy is a shareholder in the Los Angeles office of Buchalter. His practice focuses on complex litigation matters with an emphasis on consumer class action defense and disputes involving contracts, unfair competition, real estate, fiduciary relationships, false advertising, trade secrets, trademark and copyright infringement, and employment issues.

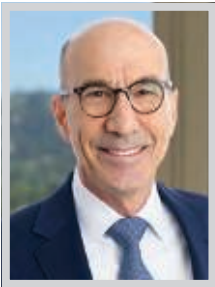
Kennedy represents clients in a variety of industries, including technology, retail, apparel, social media, consumer products, automotive, and real estate. Kennedy handles matters in both state and federal court and has tried cases on both coasts. In real estate, Kennedy has substantial experience handling real estate disputes, including representing owners, operators, investors, developers, landlords, and commercial tenants both in state and federal court and in arbitration. He has handled matters involving purchase agreements, partnerships/LLCs, leases, financing, construction and development, and land use and entitlements.



**LINDA KORNFELD**  
*Partner; Co-Chair, Insurance Recovery Practice*  
Blank Rome LLP

Linda Kornfeld, Blank Rome partner and co-chair of its nationally-recognized Insurance Recovery practice, is a member of the ultra-elite club of insurance recovery specialists. She is at the top of the highly competitive, male-dominated insurance policyholder bar – one of only six women ranked nationally by Chambers USA. Kornfeld has more than 25 years of experience representing corporate policyholders in high-stakes litigation, recovering hundreds of millions of dollars for her clients. She is well-known for her innovative approach, having often set precedents in court.

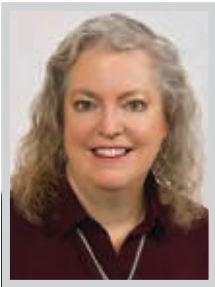
Kornfeld handles coverage matters that are frequently in the news, including data breaches, child sex abuse cases, wildfires, and other natural disasters. She and her team have reviewed hundreds of business interruption policies and developed nuanced arguments supporting coverage for businesses' multibillion-dollar losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She has developed some of the most cutting-edge legal theories favoring coverage for pandemic-related losses.



**RANDALL LEFF**  
*Co-Managing Partner*  
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP

Randy Leff is a co-managing partner of ECJ and a partner in the Litigation Department. For more than 30 years, he has tried and resolved “bet the company” business disputes in both state and federal court. His clients value his consistently customized, high-quality legal services with his signature enthusiasm, creativity, and passion.

Leff has many long-term clients in various industries, including technology, health-care, real estate, manufacturing, food and beverages, entertainment, biotechnology, and financial services. Leff has built his reputation by developing innovative strategies that recognize the relationship between the immediate legal and the long-term goals of the business. By working collaboratively with his clients, he is able to solve problems creatively and minimize the impact of litigation. Whether it be litigating a multi-state class action matter involving more than \$100 million, resolving a business dispute before the case is filed, or strategizing business expansion, Leff consistently delivers exceptional results.



**MARGARET (MEG) LODISE**  
*Partner*  
Sacks, Glazier, Franklin & Lodise LLP

Margaret (Meg) Lodise has established an impressive reputation in her thirty-plus-year career for handling some of the most complex and high-dollar trusts and estates disputes through trial and appeal. Among her high-profile representations, Lodise was appointed by the Probate Court as Guardian Ad Litem for the minor children of Michael Jackson, a responsibility she carried out soon after Jackson's death in 2009 and concluded in February 2020. Lodise advocated for the best interests of the performer's two sons and daughter due to disputes over Jackson's affairs.

Lodise's work stands out in the legal marketplace, not just for her successes on behalf of clients, but also for the ways in which she's helping to shape the future of trusts and estates law. For example, Lodise obtained a precedent-setting decision after successfully defending an appeal brought to challenge the exercise of a power of appointment to benefit her client.



**Oren Bitan**  
Shareholder



**Eric Kennedy**  
Shareholder

# Buchalter

*congratulates*

## Oren Bitan & Eric Kennedy

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### 2022 Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys

*Los Angeles Business Journal*

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**PAUL LOH**  
*Managing Partner*  
Willenken LLP

Managing partner Paul Loh is a founding member of Willenken LLP. Founded in 2002, Willenken is an elite minority-owned, majority women boutique litigation firm. Loh is Asian American and a native Mandarin speaker. He has nearly 30 years of experience representing major leading American and Asian corporations in both civil and criminal litigation matters. Loh represents Fortune 500 clients in high-stakes, complex commercial litigation matters, focusing on product liability and major torts, white collar defense and government investigations, and class actions cases. He is an outlier, compared to lawyers of his generation, in that he has spent much of his impressive legal career truly trying cases. In fact, he has tried over 120 jury trials, court trials, and arbitrations. As a result of his substantial trial experience, leading companies turn to him for some of the most challenging cases on their dockets.



**NEAL MARDER**  
*Partner*  
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Akin Gump partner Neal Marder is a highly accomplished trial lawyer and class action litigator in California and throughout the country, obtaining highly favorable outcomes for clients across myriad industries. Marder has achieved significant and precedent-setting victories in state and federal courts throughout the western region of the country. Further, Marder helms Akin Gump's litigation efforts in California and is co-chair of the firm's national class actions practice. Marder is a recognized leader in the areas of complex and class action litigation, known for employing innovative strategies and compelling case presentation gained from over 35 years of practice. Marder has achieved tremendous success trying bet-the-company cases with winning results for both plaintiffs and defendants in court and arbitration. He has tried to verdict and arbitrated over 50 cases on behalf of his clients, including AEG Presents, Eastman Kodak, McDonald's, The Cheesecake Factory and many more.



**NINA MARINO**  
*Founding Partner*  
Kaplan Marino

Nina Marino's complex litigation and white-collar crime practice is national and international. She negotiates with the U.S. Department of Justice, state attorneys general, District Attorneys, and Interpol in her defense of individuals alleged to be involved with Medicare fraud, Foreign Corrupt Practice Act violations and tax, cyber and other crimes. Quite simply, Marino likes to save people. Right from the start, clients understand that she takes their cases as personally as they do. Her presentations before U.S. Attorneys introduce new perspectives, compelling context and workable paths to resolution. Marino's unconventional combination of caring, integrity and formidable lawyering has earned her a national reputation and recognition. She discovers the shades of gray behind prosecutors' black-and-white arguments to shine new light on her clients' circumstances. Her team-driven, meticulously prepared strategies have repeatedly helped clients reach their objectives – from staying out of prison to defending allegations all the way to trial.



**DAVID MARTINEZ**  
*Partner & Elected Member, Executive Board; Member, Diversity Committee; Pro Bono Chair, California Offices*  
Robins Kaplan LLP

David Martinez is an equity partner and prominent leader at the national trial law firm, Robins Kaplan LLP. An elected member of Robins Kaplan's Executive Board, Martinez weighs in on major policy decisions of the 225-attorney firm. Along with his fellow Board members, he steers, shapes and advises on implementing the firm's diversity and inclusion initiatives and other policies on talent recruitment, retention, compensation and career development. Concurrently, he has litigated commercial disputes that have improved business practices, and has parlayed his professional capital to expand access to justice to underserved rural Californians. Resolving the most complex business disputes, Martinez represents U.S. and international clients in conflict resolution and business counseling. His integrity and insights have earned him a reputation as a "lawyer's lawyer." Martinez, for example, is currently guiding one major national law firm through its own high-stakes partnership dispute.



**MARCELLUS McRAE**  
*Partner*  
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Among the region's leading trial lawyers, Marcellus McRae has first-chaired numerous jury trials, bench trials, and arbitrations in both federal and state courts. During his tenure as a partner with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, McRae has honed his litigation and white-collar criminal defense practices to focus on a wide variety of complex business disputes, internal investigations, and criminal prosecutions including defense of individuals and corporations in cases involving allegations of: financial fraud, False Claims Act violations, public corruption, violations of federal and state environmental laws, health care fraud, wrongful death, criminal antitrust violations, and other matters. Recently, McRae and a Gibson Dunn team secured reversal from the California Court of Appeal of a judgment against the City of Santa Monica under the California Voting Rights Act and the California Constitution. The decision marked the first victory for any defendant in a California Voting Rights Act case.



**DAN MILLER**  
*Partner*  
Miller Barondess, LLP

An accomplished trial lawyer and founding partner of Miller Barondess, LLP, Dan Miller has successfully litigated cases all over the country including New York, Delaware, Washington, D.C., Florida, Nevada and South Carolina. Miller is sought out to handle complex business matters with a broad legal impact. He represented investment banks, two of the largest publicly traded banks in California, and a prominent private equity firm and venture capital company. In sports and entertainment, Miller represented an NFL head coach in arbitration in front of commissioner Roger Goodell, witnesses in confidential NBA internal investigations, NBA players in litigation, and a leading NBA sports agent. He litigated several cases on behalf of a leading artist management company and represented talent including Sean Connery and Rod Stewart. He recently secured a \$3 million settlement in an excessive force police shooting case against San Diego Police Department on the eve of trial.



**VIRGINIA MILSTEAD**  
*Partner*  
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Virginia Milstead is a partner in Skadden's renowned Los Angeles litigation group. She has a broad commercial practice, with a particular emphasis on securities class actions and shareholder and M&A litigation. She represents clients in both federal and state courts, and is known for developing shrewd, innovative arguments based on her encyclopedic knowledge of the law and thorough and precise analysis of the matters in which she is involved. Milstead is especially noted for her ability to secure early, pleading-stage victories for her clients through meticulously researched and written briefs and persuasive oral arguments, thus avoiding protracted litigation and a trial. Over the past several years, Milstead has had a remarkable track record in securing early dismissals of her matters, but particularly in her frequent cross-border work on behalf of Asia-based clients in litigation involving their listings on U.S. stock exchanges.



**ALI MOJIBI**  
*Partner*  
Covington & Burling LLP

Ali Mojibi is a dynamic trial lawyer who has tried cases for leading global businesses across a range of industries, including telecommunications, software, medical device, and biotech. Mojibi's diverse background in engineering, medical sciences, and technical sales enables him to quickly master a complex factual record and craft simple, compelling presentations that resonate with the fact-finder. Clients who trust Mojibi with their most challenging legal problems rely on his keen business sense. Mojibi's diverse background and presentation style have enabled him to appear as trial counsel in several challenging and high profile matters, where he has conducted tens of hours of direct and cross examination. For example, he served as trial counsel for Johnson & Johnson in a widely-reported trial initiated by the Office of California Attorney General that lasted nearly three months. Reports of his skillful cross examination of expert witnesses appeared in various publications.



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**JAMES MOLEN**  
*Partner*  
Greenberg Glusker LLP

James Molen is a partner in the Litigation Department of Greenberg Glusker. A passionate advocate, Molen has built a reputation for developing creative strategies and winning arguments for a wide variety of clients, including celebrities, athletes, real estate developers, beauty product manufacturers, food distributors, and technology firms.

Over the years, Molen has litigated numerous high-profile cases for both plaintiffs and defendants, with extensive experience handling partnership disputes, false advertising, unfair competition, intellectual property and breach of contract actions. No matter the size of the case, however, Molen is driven by a singular goal: delivering successful, cost-efficient results for his clients. Beyond his litigation practice, Molen also provides advice and counsel in connection with false advertising and intellectual property issues, as well as general business matters. Molen brings a sense of mindfulness and cordiality to his practice that tends to reduce the often-stressful nature of litigation on his clients.



**TODD MOORE**  
*Partner*  
Hahn & Hahn LLP

Todd Moore is a member of Hahn & Hahn LLP's litigation practice group. His practice focuses on commercial litigation, eminent domain and appellate advocacy. He is an experienced trial and appellate lawyer.

Moore's litigation and appeals practice has an emphasis in real estate issues, eminent domain, business disputes and trusts and estates. He enjoys new challenges in that many of his cases have unique and complicated facts, so his work is challenging and rewarding. His clients appreciate Moore's ability to distill a complicated situation into a simpler one and to give them a menu of options for resolving their problems. The hallmark of his representation is coming up with workable solutions. He helps clients navigate through an often long history of personal animosity and conflict with their opponents and chart a new course that frees them from the conflict and allows them to thrive.



**STEVEN MORRIS**  
*Founding Partner*  
Quantum Law Group, LLP

Steven Morris consistently achieves case-winning results for clients involved in complex commercial and business litigation, particularly when it comes to real estate matters and partnership disputes, the focus of his practice for nearly 40 years. Morris brings to bear the methods and resources necessary to resolve any matter swiftly and effectively, whether by friendly negotiation, aggressive litigation through trial, and everything in-between as circumstances require.

In partnership disputes, Morris works to mitigate the impact of litigation on the client as well as the business itself, pursuing and advising on any options for litigation avoidance or pre-trial resolutions. As a licensed and practicing mediator and arbitrator, he has resolved numerous cases without the need for trial. Real estate matters include licensing, commercial leasing, closing and financing, business purchases and sales, and corporate services including the formation, operation and governance of corporations, LLCs and partnerships.



**ANN MARIE MORTIMER**  
*Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office;  
Head of Commercial Litigation Practice*  
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

Ann Marie Mortimer is at the forefront of complex litigation in the field of cybersecurity. She counsels Fortune 500 companies – among them giants in their industries – on the novel challenges and regulations in our increasingly virtual world. Mortimer's combination of legal technical savvy blended with bottom-line pragmatism is the reason clients return to her repeatedly to navigate their most challenging class action, commercial and data breach cases.

On July 28, 2021, Mortimer led a decisive victory for Walmart when the court dismissed a data breach class action lawsuit in its entirety and with prejudice in one of the first alleged California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) actions in California. This pivotal win establishes an important precedent for existing and future CCPA litigation. Mortimer has received widespread recognition among her peers, most recently in Law360's "MVP in Cybersecurity and Privacy" (one of only five lawyers recognized nationwide).

ERVIN COHEN & JESSUP LLP

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Congratulations to our Partners **Randall Leff** and **Geoffrey Gold** for their nominations to the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* - **2022 Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys.**



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**SEAN MUNTZ**  
Co-Managing Partner  
RMO LLP

Sean D. Muntz manages RMO's Orange County office and serves as co-managing partner and practice management chair. Muntz is an experienced trial and appellate lawyer, with litigation experience spanning a broad range of subject matters, including banking, general commercial, employment, probate, real estate, securities, intellectual property, maritime and environmental disputes. Muntz has litigated matters in state and federal courts throughout California, and in alternative dispute resolution forums, including AAA and JAMS, and before the NASD/FINRA and Pacific Stock Exchange. Muntz's practice focuses on representing beneficiaries, professional and corporate fiduciaries (administrators, executors, trustees, conservators, and guardians) in contested trust, estate and probate litigation. Muntz previously was a partner at an international law firm in the firm's commercial litigation group, where he represented international financial institutions in litigation matters. Muntz has also worked as in-house counsel for a Fortune 100 aerospace manufacturer.



**THOMAS P. O'BRIEN**  
Partner  
Ellis George Cipollone O'Brien Annaguey LLP

Thomas P. O'Brien is a nationally recognized trial attorney and has successfully tried over 100 criminal and civil cases in federal and state courts throughout the nation. Recently, O'Brien and his law partners prevailed in the longest federal jury trial in district history, obtaining an acquittal for their physician client on all 33 felony counts while the two other defendants were convicted on all counts. O'Brien represented an individual prosecuted in the first "birth tourism" prosecution ever brought by the federal government. Despite the government seeking a criminal sentence of almost three years, O'Brien obtained for his client a criminal sentence of time-served and minimal supervised release, as well as recovering over \$3.5 million in seized assets. O'Brien also has had substantial success in civil matters, such as successfully representing a U.S. Army Special Forces veteran in an employment claim against a Russian oligarch.



**NATHAN O'MALLEY**  
Partner  
Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP

Nathan O'Malley is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Musick Peeler. He leads the firm's International Arbitration and Litigation Practice, where he focuses on representing parties involved in renewable energy and infrastructure projects. O'Malley has advised on and arbitrated matters arising out of a range of clean energy projects, including solar thermal power facilities, waste-to-energy plants, natural gas-fired facilities and other forms of clean and renewable energy projects. In addition to renewable/clean energy work, O'Malley has also acted in disputes concerning port and marine projects, pipe infrastructure and conventional energy projects. In the course of his career, O'Malley has appeared on behalf of clients in international arbitrations seated in various jurisdictions, including appearing before tribunals in Geneva, Zurich, Amsterdam, Brussels, The Hague, Frankfurt, Singapore and Abu Dhabi. O'Malley also acts for clients in matters seated in the United States, and has argued before state and federal courts.



**ANTHONY PACHECO**  
Shareholder  
VedderPrice

For more than 30 years, attorney Anthony Pacheco has been a pillar in the Los Angeles community, whether advising c-suite executives and not-for-profit leaders or spearheading pro bono efforts to provide legal help for people in need. Pacheco is a litigation shareholder at VedderPrice and a member of the firm's nationally recognized Government Investigations & White Collar Defense group, which focuses on white collar criminal defense, internal investigations and complex business litigation, including civil and criminal trials. Pacheco advises a range of organizations and individuals including public and private companies and nonprofits. Areas of focus include medical centers, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities and laboratories as well as physicians and physician groups. Included among his clients are studios, post-production companies, software companies, brokerage firms, financial institutions, municipal governments and universities. He has led more than 100 internal investigations and has managed sensitive public relations issues.



We proudly congratulate our colleague and L.A. office managing partner, Valerie Goo, on being named among the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2022 "Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys."

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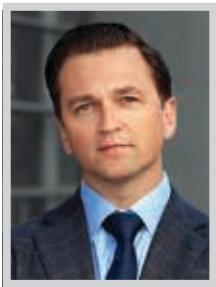


LOI: LITIGATORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS



**DEBRA E. POLE**  
*Partner*  
Sidley Austin LLP

Debra Pole, an award-winning trial attorney, has extensive jury trial experience in federal and state courts involving mass tort litigation, class actions, and complex litigation. She is a partner in Sidley’s Los Angeles Litigation Group and a former member of the firm’s Executive Committee. She trains, supervises, and manages many lawyers and paraprofessionals in the Products Liability and Mass Torts practice in Los Angeles and is internationally recognized as a leader in products liability. She is perhaps best known for supervising numerous defense law firms, both domestically and internationally, involved in complex pharmaceutical and medical device litigation. Throughout her career, Pole has played a major role in many high profile trials and registered important victories. A recent example is her work serving as co-lead partner representing Johnson & Johnson in *Kleiner v. Rite Aid Corporation*, for which a unanimous defense verdict was achieved.



**SCOTT RAHN**  
*Founder & Managing Partner*  
RMO LLP

Scott Rahn is regarded as a leading probate trial attorney, focusing on high stakes private wealth disputes, fiduciary litigation, and contentious trust, probate estate and conservatorship cases. Rahn helps guide clients – heirs, beneficiaries, trustees, executors, administrators, charities, creditors and conservators – through the emotional, legal and financial issues that arise when loved ones become compromised, taken advantage of, and after they pass, whenever theft, manipulation, fraud, abuse, and other misdeeds are revealed. Rahn advises clients on the best ways to protect and honor the legacy their loved ones intended for them by helping clients secure rightful inheritances, avoid having inheritances taken from them, and protecting against those who seek to thwart their loved ones’ intentions. Rahn regularly helps clients pursue and defend inheritance claims involving incapacity, incompetence, undue influence, breach of fiduciary duty, and other similar areas of dispute, including prevention and remediation of financial elder abuse.



**ARJUN RAO**  
*Partner*  
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP

Arjun Rao has built a national reputation for handling high stakes consumer class actions and financial services litigation including regulatory matters and government investigations, as well as defending companies in a wide range of actions. This past year he has worked with JPMorgan Chase, HSBC, Discover, American Express and BMW Financial Services in a range of individual and class actions relating to various consumer protection statutes and alleged unfair business practices. Rao represents Discover in a nationwide putative class action, presenting novel theories of lender liability under the discrimination laws. Recently, Rao’s team at Stroock obtained a favorable ruling on a motion to compel individual arbitration of claims brought by two of the three plaintiffs. Rao also recently obtained a very favorable ruling for Chase Bank in an action involving an alleged wire fraud scam perpetrated by unknown third-party fraudsters.



**STEPHEN RAUCHER**  
*Partner*  
Reuben, Raucher & Blum PC

Stephen Raucher’s practice emphasizes general business litigation, including real estate and contract disputes. He also has an impressive track record in helping clients resolve insurance coverage issues. Raucher has tried and arbitrated numerous cases to decision, and has extensive experience at the appellate level as well. He argued before the California Supreme Court in a case involving a non-profit corporation’s challenge to property assessments under Proposition 218, obtaining unanimous reversal. He also assisted a landlord in obtaining an insurance defense for habitability case and thereafter settling the case utilizing insurance proceeds. Raucher obtained an \$860,000 settlement on behalf of an insured client against a property insurer following water intrusion at the client’s property. After the insurer failed to pay the claims or even issue a coverage position, the firm vigorously pursued bad faith and breach of contract claims which resulted in the substantial settlement.

GlaserWeil  
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**Kerry Garvis Wright**  
*Partner & Chair of the Employment Department*

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KENT RAYGOR

Partner

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

Sheppard Mullin partner Kent Raygor obtained major wins for public health this year. He defeated an injunction that would have enjoined LAUSD and LA County Department of Public Health from requiring masks, testing protocols, and contact tracing for students and school staff as a condition for in-person learning. A parents group asserted substantive due process, equal protection, unlawful search and seizure, free school, and privacy claims. The court rejected virtually every argument and most of plaintiffs’ proffered evidence. Raygor also obtained dismissal of a suit by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco seeking to invalidate LA County’s 2019 ordinance banning the sale of flavored tobacco products. The ordinance was enacted to protect public health and counter tobacco companies’ efforts targeting Black communities with addictive menthol products and youth with flavored e-vaping products. Reynolds argued the County’s ordinance was preempted by the 2009 Tobacco Control Act. Raygor successfully moved to dismiss the case.



TIM REUBEN

Managing Principal / CEO

Reuben Raucher & Blum Law

Tim Reuben has litigated all types of business and tort cases, including real estate, construction, entertainment, copyright and trademark, trust and estates, employment, securities, antitrust, insurance, unfair competition, professional negligence and complex civil matters. In addition to extensive trial experience, Reuben is a tough and successful negotiator. Reuben has taught advanced litigation seminars on topics such as intellectual property litigation, entertainment litigation and cross-examination. He has served as a member of the L.A. County Bar Judicial Evaluation Committee and is on the L.A. County Bar Association Fee Arbitration Program’s Panel of Arbitrators. Reuben also is a past member of the California State Bar Committee on Administration of Justice and served on the Board of Directors of Public Counsel, the nation’s largest pro bono law firm. A prolific writer, Reuben has authored over 50 thought-provoking articles on a variety of legal issues.

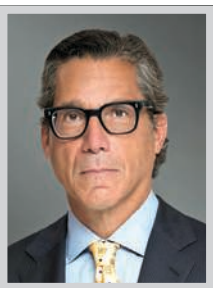


ALEX ROMAIN

Partner

Millbank LLP

Alex Romain is a national trial lawyer with more than 20 years of experience representing individuals and corporations in high-stakes complex commercial litigation, white collar defense, and internal investigations. His relentless advocacy has led to exemplary results for his clients. Romain was a member of the trial team that exonerated the late Sen. Ted Stevens, playing a key role in pursuing the exculpatory evidence that ultimately led to the senator’s exoneration. The American Lawyer described his team’s work on the case as “one of the best criminal defense performances in memory, resulting in a heightened scrutiny of prosecutors that will affect the Justice Department for years to come.” Romain also successfully represented the Baltimore Ravens and several of its senior personnel in connection with the independent investigation conducted by former FBI Director Robert Mueller into the National Football League’s handling of the Ray Rice domestic violence incident.



MATHEW ROSENGART

Litigation Shareholder

Greenberg Traurig, LLP

Mathew Rosengart is one of the nation’s foremost trial lawyers, with a unique preeminent practice, known for his innovative litigation skills and getting results for his clients, who range from Britney Spears to Julia Louis Dreyfus, Keanu Reeves, Steven Spielberg, Sean Penn, Verizon and Facebook. Known for getting results and what his former boss Supreme Court Justice David Souter called his “instinct and integrity,” Rosengart’s practice is unique in that he is a go-to lawyer for both A-list celebrities and corporate America. In the most-watched legal battle of the year, Rosengart led the historic courtroom fight to free music icon Britney Spears from a 13-year conservatorship which, among other things, stripped her of fundamental civil rights and liberties. With the added pressures of intense media interest and a massive, vocal fan base, Rosengart achieved three swift victories for his client in 2021.

Leader of Influence – Top Litigator & Trial Attorney

Congratulations, Mike!

A rare combination of qualities come together to make great leaders. We are fortunate to have some of Los Angeles’ best at Akerman. We salute our partner and colleague, Michael R. Weiss, on his well-deserved recognition and are grateful for his extraordinary commitment to our clients and community, which sets an example for us all.



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**BENAZEER (BENNY) ROSHAN**  
*Chair, Trusts and Probate Litigation Group*  
Greenberg Glusker LLP

**B**enazeer (Benny) Roshan chairs Greenberg Glusker’s Trusts and Probate Litigation Group. Her practice involves all aspects of litigation involving substantial trusts and estates, including contested conservatorships. For over 15 years, Roshan has successfully represented a wide range of fiduciaries and beneficiaries in disputes involving trusts, fiduciary appointments, accountings, removal, and surcharge actions. She is a respected trial attorney who fearlessly litigates her cases through trial and beyond. Roshan recently represented a group of trust beneficiaries before the 9th Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel on the issue of whether the bankruptcy debt of the beneficiaries’ parent impacted their contingent beneficial interest in their family trust. The court ruled in favor of Roshan’s client in holding that the bankruptcy debt did not extend to Roshan’s client’s beneficial share. She also recently represented a trust beneficiary in an action contesting an amendment to the beneficiary’s family trust.



**JONATHAN SHIN**  
*Counsel*  
King & Spalding

**J**onathan Shin represents hospitals, laboratories, medical device manufacturers and other healthcare providers in arbitrations and state and federal court actions throughout the country. Shin also defends providers against government investigations of fraud and abuse. He counsels and represents companies in matters involving managed care, insurance, fraud and abuse, e-discovery, trade secrets and intellectual property. He has been a member of and led trial and arbitration teams in matters that resulted in favorable outcomes for his clients. Shin is representing Vituity, the largest emergency physician staffing company in California, in two lawsuits against large health plans, regarding alleged substantial underpayments for out-of-network emergency physician services. He is also representing hospitals in a complex case against the County of Santa Clara dba Valley Health Plan. The case alleges substantial underpayments by an out-of-network county-run California- licensed health plan, for hospital services rendered.



**ROMAN SILBERFELD**  
*National Trial Chair and Los Angeles Partner*  
Robins Kaplan LLP

**R**oman Silberfeld is a titan of the trial bar in the Los Angeles legal community. With more than 80 trial wins to date, Silberfeld has influenced the entertainment industry’s business practices, safeguarded California consumers, and pursued justice for Californians harmed by the opioid health crisis. Silberfeld’s signature litigation style – compelling advocacy and statesman-like civility – has earned him the respect of judges, juries, and his peers, and elevated the profession. As Robins Kaplan’s first national trial chair, Silberfeld sets the tone from the top at one of the nation’s premier trial law firms. The firm’s tagline, “Rewriting the Odds,” aptly describes his nearly 50-year career. The \$320 million verdict in the “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire” case against Disney was the biggest award ever granted in a Hollywood accounting lawsuit. Silberfeld has also played a major role in multiple mass tort and complex litigation matters.



**ASHLEY SIMONSEN**  
*Partner*  
Covington & Burling LLP

**A**s a partner in Covington’s Class Action practice in Los Angeles, Ashley Simonsen has successfully represented clients in the technology, financial services, and consumer brands industries – including Afterpay, Aristocrat, City National Bank, Clorox, Intuit, JPMorgan Chase, Meta (formerly Facebook), Mondelez, Navient, and Uber – through all stages of litigation, including trial, with a strong track record of success on early dispositive motions. Simonsen led a Covington team in securing multiple victories for Facebook in a UCL class action in ND Cal. The plaintiff alleged that Facebook misrepresents on the Facebook app that advertisers will not be charged for clicks on the site from fake accounts. In June 2021, Covington defeated certification of a nationwide class of Facebook advertisers, and then won summary judgment in November 2021. These rulings will have important consequences for other technology companies facing UCL misrepresentation claims, particularly regarding invalid ad traffic.

Baker McKenzie.

Baker McKenzie congratulates our colleague

Perrie M. Weiner

Named a Leader of Influence: Litigators & Trial Lawyers by the Los Angeles Business Journal.



Legal 500



Chambers USA

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Baker McKenzie is a member of Baker & McKenzie International.



**Perrie M. Weiner**  
Partner-in-Charge, Los Angeles  
Chair, North America Securities  
Litigation Practice

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ADAM STREISAND

Partner; Leader, Private Wealth and  
Fiduciary Litigation Practice  
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

Adam Streisand is the estate litigator to the rich and famous, where his legacy in the courtroom looms large whenever it concerns a dispute involving trusts, estates and conservatorships including battles over inheritance, fiduciary conduct and business succession.

Streisand is best known for his victories in courtroom battles over celebrity estates and battles for control of the Lakers, Clippers and Chargers. After Streisand's successes involving family battles over ownership and control of the Lakers and Clippers, he now represents Dea Berberian Spanos, a co-trustee with brother Dean Spanos, of the Alex and Faye Spanos Trust, involving a family dispute over the future of the LA Chargers. In April 2021, Streisand filed a petition in Los Angeles County Superior court to put one-third of the teams' ownership stake up for sale, contending that mounting debt from the franchise is creating a costly yearly loss for the family trust.



JULIA STRICKLAND

Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office;  
Member, National Executive Committee;  
Chair, National Financial Services Litigation,  
Regulation and Enforcement Practice Group  
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP

As chair of Stroock's Financial Services Litigation, Regulation and Enforcement Group, a member of Stroock's national Executive Committee and managing partner of its Los Angeles office, Julia Strickland is often the first attorney called when a financial services company needs anything from practical guidance to the fierce defense of contentious and high-stakes litigation and regulatory enforcement matters. She also is routinely sought out for counseling on federal and state regulatory compliance matters and the full range of issues arising from lending and servicing, retail banking, real estate and unfair and deceptive practices.

Strickland represents various BMW entities as well as Mercedes-Benz in a series of separate individual and putative class actions filed in state and federal courts in late 2021 and early 2022.



PETER STRIS

Founding Partner  
Stris & Maher LLP

Peter Stris is the founding partner of Stris & Maher LLP, a roughly 20-lawyer litigation boutique that represents clients in novel and high-stakes business disputes. Based in Los Angeles, Stris leads the firm's nationwide trial and appellate practice. Over his 20-year career, he has successfully first-chaired a wide variety of bet-the-farm business cases to verdict or judgment. He has also handled dozens of high-profile business appeals, including 10 he personally argued before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Over the past 12 months, Stris delivered his clients major wins across all levels of the judiciary. Among his successes has been his recent work defending a \$100+ million Lanham Act case through jury verdict, bench trial, appeal, and remand proceedings. Another recent success was his work persuading the Ninth Circuit to revive environmental claims against Volkswagen which the automaker told the courts will subject it to over \$11 billion in liability.



Yael TOBI

Partner  
Munck Wilson Mandala

Yael Tob is a partner at Munck Wilson Mandala, practicing in the firm's complex litigation section. As a former professional tennis player, Tob spent most of her childhood traveling around the world, which led to her ability to relate and acclimate globally. At MWM, she has been a critical component in helping the firm expand in global markets. She provides representation to numerous foreign and domestic clients, including Fortune 500 corporations, public and private companies, law firms, and high-profile individuals in complex high-stake matters.

Tobi also has her real estate license and as a broker has boosted MWM's efforts to expand services to real estate clients. Her combined skills in law and real estate give her substantial experience handling transactions and disputes related to all facets of the real estate industry, including purchase and sale transactions, landlord-tenant disputes, real estate development, and valuation, ownership disputes, construction-related claims, and insurance.

Willkie congratulates  
partners **Eric J. Bakewell** and  
**Alex M. Weingarten**



Los Angeles Business Journal's  
2022 Leaders of Influence:  
Litigators & Trial Attorneys

**WILLKIE**  
WILLKIE FARR & GALLAGHER LLP

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Los Angeles Milan New York Palo Alto Paris  
Rome San Francisco Washington  
Est. 1888 | 1000 lawyers worldwide

Willkie is headquartered in New York City at 787 Seventh Avenue | Tel: 212.728.8000

Congratulations  
to our partners



Koren Bell  
R.C. Harlan

Leaders of Influence:  
Litigators & Trial Attorneys

**LARSON**  
larsonllp.com



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**JASON TOKORO**  
*Partner*  
Miller Barondess, LLP

Jason Tokoro is an accomplished trial lawyer who represents clients in complex litigation in the entertainment, sports, real estate, and financial industries. He is outside counsel for the County of Los Angeles and its Board of Supervisors. Tokoro won a summary judgment on behalf of the County in a FLSA class action lawsuit relating to the State’s IHSS program, in which the plaintiffs sought nearly \$50 million. Tokoro also represents the County in litigation regarding photographs taken following the tragic helicopter crash that killed nine individuals, including Kobe Bryant and his daughter. Tokoro is committed to helping the community during the pandemic. Over the past year, he has successfully represented LA County against numerous lawsuits challenging the enforcement of emergency health orders, such as contract-tracing, stay-at-home orders, and orders restricting activities to reduce the spread of the virus. These victories have ensured protection of County residents and set statewide precedents.



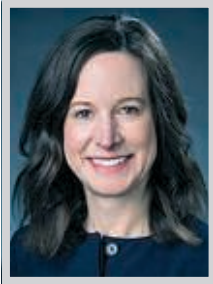
**TODD C. TORAL**  
*Partner*  
Jenner & Block LLP

Todd Toral’s career successes in complex matters on behalf of clients speak for themselves. In 2021, Toral and team secured the dismissal of a putative class action against Marriott arising from a property system incident. Following an investigation, Marriott confirmed that no sensitive information, such as social security numbers, credit card information, or passwords, was compromised in the incident. Judge David O. Carter dismissed all plaintiff claims, which included asserted violations of California’s unfair competition law and the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), because “sensitive information” was not involved. The ruling set a precedent for standing-based dismissals under the CCPA, which had only been in effect for one year when the decision was issued. Toral also led an arbitration in Montreal in which the arbitrators upheld and renewed a trademark license agreement in favor of his clients, petitioners 79411 USA Inc. (Fix Auto USA) against respondent Mondofix.



**TAMMY TSOUMAS**  
*Partner*  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

As one of Kirkland’s top litigation and trial lawyers, Tammy Tsoumas has served as lead counsel in several high-profile commercial and multidistrict litigation matters for leading U.S. and multinational corporations. She has extensive experience in contract disputes, false claims act, product liability and toxic tort, unfair competition and antitrust matters in state and federal courts in diverse industries, with a focus on aerospace and defense. Tsoumas has served as lead counsel to global aerospace and defense industry giants Aerojet Rocketdyne and The Boeing Company in various matters, including a first-of-its-kind, high-profile, bet-the-company qui tam case in which Tsoumas and her team successfully settled for Aerojet just last month. In addition to her litigation and trial work, Tsoumas, who is also widely known for her experience in antitrust matters, is often called on to assist Kirkland’s leading Private Equity Platform in assessing provisional purchase and sale agreements.



**MELANIE WALKER**  
*Partner; Co-Chair, Corporate and Securities Litigation*  
DLA Piper

After clerking for renowned District Court Judge Milton Shadur, Melanie Walker spent over 19 years at an AmLaw 10 firm in Chicago, where she served as deputy head of the 100+ lawyer litigation group. In 2021, Walker made the move to DLA Piper, and to Los Angeles, where she has made a substantial impact in a short time. Walker serves as co-chair of DLA Piper’s Corporate & Securities Litigation practice and head of the Los Angeles litigation group. She has been instrumental in growing DLA Piper’s Los Angeles litigation group, attracting and retaining high level talent. She is also strategically focused on growing DLA Piper’s securities litigation practice, particularly on the West Coast, and continuing to ensure it is best in class. Throughout her career, Walker has tackled novel issues in the securities litigation space and beyond. She was on the team that won Tellabs, Inc. v. Makor Issues & Rights, Ltd.

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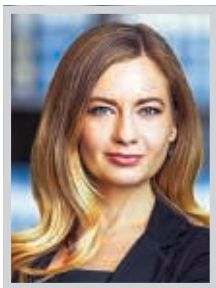
We congratulate our colleague **Alex Romain** on being named a **Leader of Influence: Litigator & Trial Attorney** by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*

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**JENIFER WALLIS**  
*Co-Managing Partner*  
Munck Wilson Mandala, LLP

In January, Munck Wilson Mandala partner Jenifer Wallis was promoted to co-managing partner of the Los Angeles office, making her the first woman at the firm to hold the title of managing partner.

Wallis' significant highlights and achievements in litigation include serving as first chair in various trade secret, trademark, and copyright infringement lawsuits. In early 2020, she successfully helped her client avoid millions in legal fees and damages when a California judge tossed the plaintiff's lawsuit accusing her client of stealing more than \$4.8 million in diverted corporate funds, finding that the importer made conclusions of theft without providing supporting evidence. She has also served as first chair in a complicated, multi-case intellectual property litigation involving coordination with state and federal cases and first chair in matters before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board and filings with the US Patent and Trademark Office and Copyright Office.



**KENNETH WATNIK**  
*Partner*  
Anderson, McPharlin & Connors LLP

Kenneth Watnik acts as trial counsel in state and federal court actions and appellate counsel in the California Court of Appeal and the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Watnik serves as coverage and litigation counsel for insurance companies in disputes relating to fidelity bonds, crime policies, directors and officers liability insurance policies, and property policies. He represents insurance brokers, lawyers, and other professionals in contract and negligence actions. He has represented plaintiffs and defendants in litigation matters, including contracts; joint venture and partnership disputes; letter of credit actions; fraud claims; logistics disputes; breach of fiduciary duty actions; and other tort claims.

Among Watnik's recent successes has been his work winning a Rule 12(b)(6) motion to dismiss with prejudice, in which the court ruled that Watnik's insurer client could not be held liable for an insurance broker's alleged negligence.



**PERRIE M. WEINER**  
*Partner in Charge*  
Baker McKenzie

Perrie Weiner is the partner in charge of Baker McKenzie's Los Angeles office and chair of the firm's North America Securities Litigation Group. He also is a leading member of the firm's Lease Litigation & Restructuring Practice, which he formed to address client issues associated with COVID-19, and has quickly become a thought leader in this emerging niche area. Weiner is also a core member of the firm's SPAC Rapid Response Team, that he created to address SEC enforcement and related securities litigation issues associated with SPACs and de-SPACs, with a recent focus on the Asian markets.

With more than 30 years of experience, Weiner's practice focuses on securities litigation and enforcement matters and complex business litigation. He advises private equity funds, including hedge funds, broker-dealers, underwriters, placement agents and issuers (including their officers and directors) in SEC and FINRA enforcement proceedings, and in white collar criminal proceedings.



**ALEX WEINGARTEN**  
*Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office;*  
*Chair, Entertainment Litigation Practice*  
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Alex Weingarten is a preeminent trial lawyer who represents talent and entertainment industry professionals in high-stake business, probate, and entertainment litigation. Clients look to Weingarten to handle "bet the company" cases, protect their integrity during the public litigation process, and suggest novel strategies. He is zealous and precise in optimizing results and finding the most direct route to victory.

2021 was a particularly busy and exciting year for Weingarten. In addition to serving his clients, he joined international law firm Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP as managing partner of the new Los Angeles office and co-led its launch and rapid expansion. Among Weingarten's high profile cases is his work representing Jamie Spears, the father and former 13-year conservator of Britney Spears, in a highly publicized matter regarding the transition of the pop star's conservatorship and potential claims that arise during the transition.



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**MICHAEL WEISS**  
*Los Angeles Office Managing Partner*  
Akerman, LLP

Michael Weiss counsels clients through complex disputes, including commercial and business disputes, real estate litigation, and complex insurance insolvency matters. He recently prevailed on two high-exposure commercial disputes. In March 2022, Weill obtained summary judgment on the eve of trial in favor of a multi-billion dollar international salmon fillet distributor against a former customer seeking over \$200 million for breach of contract and fraudulent concealment claims. Similarly, in May 2022, Weiss obtained summary judgment in favor of another multi-billion dollar group of companies in two related commercial class actions against collection companies seeking over \$100 million for statutory and breach of contract claims.

Weiss’ real estate litigation experience includes multimillion dollar easement, entitlement, and contract disputes commercial lease and purchase disputes and transactions, and real estate partnership disputes.



**JASON WILSON**  
*Partner*  
Willenken LLP

Willenken partner Jason Wilson has more than 30 years of litigation experience, including substantial trial and appellate experience. Jason has taken more than 15 civil matters to trial (both jury and bench) or binding arbitrations. His experience on the appellate side is equally deep. He started his career with two clerkships for two different judges on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and has handled over 40 different appellate matters in his career so far.

Wilson is frequently retained as trial counsel by Fortune 500 clients, often just weeks before trial. His practice focuses on complex commercial business litigation, representing Fortune 500 companies across a range of industries in real estate, energy and utilities, environmental, intellectual property, class action, and complex business matters. Wilson’s representative clients include AbbVie, Southern California Gas Company, Hilton, McDonalds, Starbucks, Southern California Edison, and Walgreens.



**GARY WINUK**  
*Managing Attorney*  
Kaufman Legal Group

Gary Winuk of Kaufman Legal Group leads a practice that is focused on providing campaign and governmental ethics advice to candidates, elected officials, ballot measure campaigns and other political entities. He is a recognized expert in the field and gives frequent lectures and media commentary on these issues, in addition to serving as an adjunct professor on campaign and ethics issues at McGeorge School of Law.

Before entering private law practice, Winuk was the chief of the Enforcement Division at the Fair Political Practices Commission from 2009-2015. The Enforcement Division prosecutes political ethics violations across state and local government, targeting campaign finance, conflict of interest, and money laundering violations, among others. Winuk prosecuted numerous major cases at the FPPC. Prior to working at the FPPC, Winuk was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger as chief deputy director and general counsel of the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security.



**KERRY GARVIS WRIGHT**  
*Partner; Chair, Employment Department*  
Glaser Weil LLP

Kerry Garvis Wright applies her tenacity, ingenuity and results-oriented approach to her clients’ legal problems, and she has emerged as her own force in the legal community. As a leading entertainment and employment attorney, Wright regularly represents clients, like William Morris Endeavor Entertainment, LLC and Gehry Partners. Indeed, their general counsel regularly call on Wright for advice regarding a wide range of issues.

Wright has tried a remarkable number of high-stakes cases on behalf of celebrities, production companies and other leading businesses in the entertainment world, and even athletes. Recently she has counseled a roster of notable clients including Special Committee of the Board of Directors of Guess?, Inc.; John Schnatter “Papa John,” and Mike Guirguis and MMG. One of Wright’s first successful entertainment litigation cases was as a junior lawyer representing Endemol in a legal battle with Mark Burnett over competing reality shows.

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2022 Leaders of Influence: Litigators and Trial Lawyers  
- Los Angeles Business Journal



Jason Tokoro



Dan Miller