

# LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: Minority Attorneys



**L**OS ANGELES IS TRULY A NATIONAL LEADER WHEN IT COMES TO INFLUENTIAL PROFESSIONALS WITH MINORITY backgrounds – and the field of law is certainly no exception. There are many superb attorneys in the LA region who happen to be minorities, which is an important benchmark for an effective legal landscape. The California State Bar has reported that having a diverse legal profession positively impacts the administration of justice, ensures fairness, and promotes the rule of law.

We've alphabetically listed 85 of the very best of those professionals here, along with insights and information about their careers, practice and success they've achieved. For our coverage in this issue, we have profiled those standout minority attorneys considered to be particularly impactful on the legal scene while serving as trusted advisors in the LA region. Congratulations to the attorneys who made this list and thank you for working to keep the people and businesses of Los Angeles on the right track.

*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. The professionals were chosen based on a demonstration of impact made on the profession and on the Los Angeles community.*

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



**CLIFTON W. ALBRIGHT, JR.**  
*Partner*  
Albright, Yee & Schmit, APC

Clifton Albright Jr. is a dedicated attorney at Albright, Yee & Schmit, APC (AY&S), where he specializes in general and complex business litigation, with a focus on labor and employment matters.

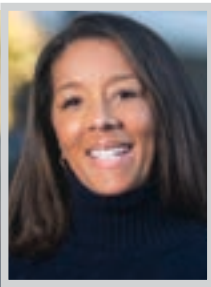
Albright’s accolades, though early in his career, are enviable: from the privilege of being part of the Byrne Trial Advocacy Team to his enriching clerkship under the Honorable Carol Rose. A defining moment in his legal career came in 2022, when he took on the challenging responsibility of representing the renowned Tiffany Haddish. Against the backdrop of a high-stakes sex abuse and molestation lawsuit, Albright’s expertise was evident as he swiftly led the case to dismissal in just 18 days, ensuring justice while preserving the reputation of his client.



**MIKE ARIAS**  
*Managing Partner*  
Arias Sanguinetti Wang & Team, LLP

For decades, Mike Arias has shaped the landscape of consumer protection, class actions, mass torts, and civil rights litigation, not only through extraordinary case results, but through his leadership in the trial lawyer community.

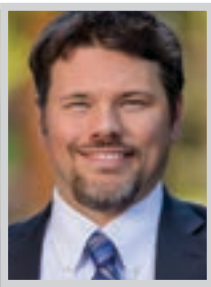
Across his career, Arias has secured more than \$1.5 billion for clients, including numerous, historic eight- and nine-figure results. His practice spans consumer and employment class actions, catastrophic personal injury, wrongful death, institutional and individual sexual assault, disability rights, environmental litigation, and more. He has played a leading role in some of the most consequential civil cases of the last decade, representing survivors of sexual abuse, whistleblowers, injured workers, consumers defrauded by major corporations, and vulnerable individuals harmed by systemic failures.



**GINA BIBBY**  
*Partner, IP, Technology; Global Head, Fashion Technology*  
Withers

Former software engineer and current global fashion-tech practice lead, Gina Bibby, is a trailblazer in the fashion technology space, serving emerging and established companies that are innovating at the intersection of fashion and technology. From ‘Big Law’ in Silicon Valley to forming her own firm to leading at Withers, Bibby’s innovative legal practice is opening paths for innovators, women and women of color.

Bibby is a partner in Withers’ business group focusing on technology, fashion, and fashion technology, helping clients protect their innovation through commercial agreements, litigation, and patent, trademark and copyright procurement. She leads a global practice focused on advising fashion-tech clients on matters involving corporate formation, venture capital.



**MICHAEL BROPHY**  
*Partner; Los Angeles Office Managing Director; U.S. Regional Divisional Leader, Private Client and Tax Division*  
Withers

Michael Brophy is a partner in Withers’ trust, estate, inheritance disputes team, is the office managing director of the Los Angeles office, and the regional divisional leader of the firm’s Private Client & Tax division. Brophy is also a member of the firm’s Recruitment Committee, where his contributions include actively participating in diversity initiatives at law schools.

Brophy has extensive experience representing prominent individuals, families, charities, corporate trustees, private professional fiduciaries, and creditors in high-stakes litigation involving complex trusts and estates. His practice covers a broad range of complex matters including will and trust contests, accounting disputes, elder abuse and conservatorship disputes, and other matters.



**PATRICIA BRUM**  
*Partner*  
Snell & Wilmer

Throughout her career, Patricia Brum has distinguished herself as one of Los Angeles’ most dynamic and accomplished business litigators. A partner in the Los Angeles office of Snell & Wilmer, Brum represents major financial institutions and Fortune 500 companies in high-stakes consumer and commercial disputes, including matters involving cutting-edge data privacy protection laws.

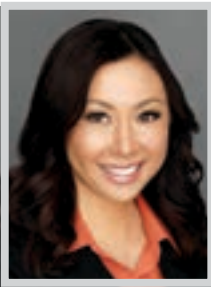
A Brazilian native, Brum brings more than 15 years of international business experience to her legal practice. Before becoming an attorney, she worked as an international trade specialist with organizations such as the United Nations, EY, and several multinational corporations. Brum’s representative experience includes defending and prosecuting multimillion-dollar commercial matters around the country.



**JOSÉ CABADA**  
*Principal*  
Scali Rasmussen, PC

José Cabada is an experienced civil litigator who represents automotive dealerships and other businesses in commercial and employment-related disputes. He has a strong track record defending clients in matters involving breach of contract, wage and hour claims, discrimination, harassment, wrongful termination, and business torts. Cabada’s practice spans both individual and class claims, and he regularly appears before state and federal courts throughout California.

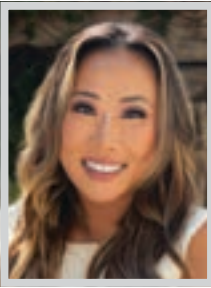
In every case, Cabada brings a pragmatic, solutions-oriented mindset, balancing legal risk with client priorities. He is deeply familiar with the unique legal challenges facing California employers—particularly in the automotive sector—and provides counsel that is as efficient as it is strategic. Clients value Cabada’s responsiveness, attention to detail, and ability to remain calm and focused under pressure.



**CYNDIE CHANG**  
*Managing Partner*  
Duane Morris LLP

Cyndie Chang advises and partners with clients to enforce their rights, mitigate exposure and litigate their commercial disputes involving complex, class action or B2B disputes involving contracts, licensing, products liability, product safety and recall, unfair competition, fraud, construction defect, trademarks, trade secrets, California Proposition 65, COVID-19 and real estate.

Chang also advises insurance companies on environmental, asbestos, toxic tort and commercial general liability insurance coverage claims, as well as subrogation, contribution, bad faith, extracontractual and reinsurance disputes. Her services span various industries, including manufacturing, retail, fashion, consumer goods, financial services and banks, healthcare, insurance, cannabis, education, energy, utilities, transportation, auto and telecommunications.



**JENNIFER CHANG**  
*Education Rights Attorney*  
Law Offices of Jennifer Chang

With more than a decade of experience in special education law, Jennifer Chang has built a career centered on protecting the rights of students with disabilities and ensuring families understand and can exercise those rights. She guides families through the complexities of California’s public school system and has helped countless students secure the services and support they are legally entitled to receive. Her commitment to restoring stability and hope for families who often feel they have nowhere else to turn defines her work and fuels her success.

Chang’s advocacy safeguards a fundamental principle: that every child has the right to a free and appropriate public education. Her work ensures that students with disabilities receive the curriculum, services, and access they need to participate meaningfully in general education.



**TIM CHANG**  
*Partner*  
Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP

Tim Chang is a partner in Musick Peeler’s Los Angeles office whose practice centers on complex business transactions, mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance, real estate and cross-border wealth planning. He represents multinational public companies, privately held businesses, and high-net-worth individuals, providing strategic guidance on high-stakes matters that shape client growth and operations across industries.

Chang plays a pivotal role in US–Asia transactional work, regularly advising clients on cross-border deals involving China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the United States. He frequently serves as outside General Counsel for Asian companies with US operations, coordinating litigation and intellectual property strategy. His thought leadership includes published articles on doing business in Vietnam and China.



**CHAD CHEN**  
*Equity Partner*  
Yoka | Smith, LLP

Chad Chen represents national and multinational clients in both litigation and non-litigation matters. Chen’s litigation practice includes representing corporate clients in commercial and business disputes, product liability defense, and class action defense.

Chen has represented small and large companies in commercial matters, as both plaintiff and defendant, involving breach and/or termination of complex contracts, misappropriation, patent and trademark infringement, breach of warranties, unfair competition and fraud. Chen also routinely counsels corporate clients in pre-suit investigations, pre-suit demands and advises clients on liability and damage exposure analysis in pre-litigation matters. Chen’s non-litigation practice encompasses work from the daily management of client contracts to counseling on business transactions.



# HUESTON HENNIGAN LLP

---

**Congratulations**



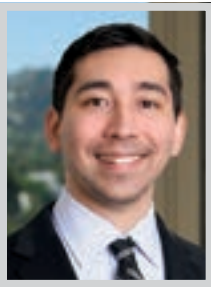
## KAREN DING STEPHANIE XIAO

**Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys**

—*Los Angeles Business Journal*

---

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



ELLIOT CHEN

Partner  
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP

Elliot Chen is a partner in the Ervin Cohen & Jessup Litigation Department, where he focuses his practice on intellectual property, insurance coverage, and complex commercial litigation. He is widely regarded for his strategic approach to high-stakes business disputes and his ability to navigate the intersection of law, technology and risk. Chen represents a diverse range of clients, including national retailers, technology companies, local businesses, and high-net-worth individuals, in complex matters involving trademark, copyright and patent issues, as well as sophisticated contract and commercial disputes in both federal and state courts.

In addition to his litigation work, Chen advises and tries cases involving insurance coverage, with a particular emphasis on complex technical issues.



SHIRLEY CHO

Partner  
Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP

For over a quarter of a century, Shirley Cho, Partner at Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP (PSZJ), has represented some of the largest companies in America to restructure billions of dollars of debt, as well as acquirers of assets out of bankruptcy, and creditors pursuing significant claims in chapter 11. Recent engagements include representing a multi-national biopharma company, Athenex, Inc., the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of Cineworld Group (more than \$5 billion), and Daewoo Shipbuilding Marine Engineering in its \$1.2 billion claim in Seadrill.

An active member of the legal community, Cho is currently serving as senior vice chair of the International Bar Association’s Insolvency Section and was formerly the co-chair of the International Bar Association Creditors’ Rights Subcommittee.



ESTHER CHO

Partner-in-Charge, Southern California  
Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP

Esther Cho is a nationally respected litigator and one of the driving forces behind Stradley Ronon’s expansion into Southern California, where she serves as partner-in-charge and sits on the firm’s board of directors. As co-chair of the firm’s Financial Services Litigation & Enforcement practice, she brings more than two decades of experience navigating high-stakes financial, regulatory and employment matters for some of the country’s most prominent financial institutions.

Cho has built a reputation for her ability to manage and win complex cases in state and federal courts and before major arbitration forums. She has handled hundreds of matters spanning allegations of unsuitable investment recommendations, fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, and supervisory failures.

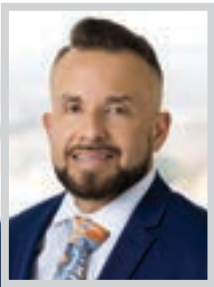


EMAHN COUNTS

Founder; Managing Attorney  
Counts Law Firm PC

Emahn Counts is a distinguished attorney and legal strategist whose career is defined by exceptional achievements, groundbreaking casework, and a relentless commitment to justice. As the founder and managing attorney of Counts Law Firm, PC, he has built a thriving legal practice specializing in business litigation, real estate disputes, and family law. His ability to navigate complex legal matters with precision and tenacity has earned him a stellar reputation among clients and peers alike.

Counts has demonstrated legal expertise in securing multi-million-dollar victories and case dismissals across multiple practice areas. Notably, he successfully defended a client against a \$5 million construction lawsuit, reducing liability to just \$10,000-\$20,000, and secured the outright dismissal of a \$4 million fraud case.



MIGUEL CUSTODIO

Partner  
Custodio & Dubey

Miguel Custodio focuses on personal injury and wrongful death cases. He has worked with hundreds of accident victims and their families over the years. When a client comes to him, it’s not the accident he focuses on, it’s the person; he actively ensures that they’re treated like family, taking care of them in the present and in the future. Custodio is committed to helping provide justice and opportunities for people who might otherwise be overlooked, left out, or intimidated by the legal system, and giving them the best representation possible.

Custodio’s dynamic approach has brought justice to hundreds of clients, compelled manufacturers and retailers clean up thousands of dangerous or cancer-causing products, and resulted in nearly \$100 million in settlements.



TANJA DARROW

Shareholder  
Littler Mendelson P.C.

Tanja L. Darrow is a highly accomplished litigation attorney whose career is defined by excellence, leadership and a deep commitment to justice and equity. As co-chair of Littler’s Litigation and Trials Practice Group and a core member of the Complex Litigation and PAGA Practice Group, she has built a reputation for handling complex, high-stakes labor and employment law matters with precision and strategic insight. Her experience spans a wide range of issues, including wage and hour disputes, discrimination, harassment, and compliance with key employment laws such as Title VII, ADA and FMLA.

Darrow’s courtroom success is particularly noteworthy. She has served as lead counsel in hundreds of cases, consistently securing complete defense verdicts in every trial she has conducted.



VICTOR DE LA CRUZ

Partner  
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

Having successfully guided his clients through some of the most complex, high-profile land use and real estate matters in Southern California for more than 20 years, Victor De la Cruz has become recognized as one of the leading land use and government attorneys in Los Angeles. As leader of Manatt’s Land Use practice group, his work has been instrumental in shaping the Los Angeles landscape.

Among De la Cruz’s recent notable successes has been his work leading Manatt’s team which served as land use counsel for Mount Saint Mary’s University (MSMU). In 2024, he successfully defended the entitlements for MSMU’s Wellness Pavilion in three lawsuits brought by different homeowner groups under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).



KAREN DING

Counsel  
Hueston Hennigan LLP

With a focus on complex commercial litigation that often involves bet-the-company matters, Karen Ding is a core member of teams on many of Hueston Hennigan’s highest profile victories. Her practice ranges from anti-trust, false advertising and trade secrets cases, to breach of contract, class action and False Claims Act disputes.

In September 2025, Ding successfully defended Amazon and three Amazon executives against a historic FTC lawsuit targeting its Prime membership. Described as a win for Amazon in the press and by other commentators, the case settled after three days of trial with no admissions of liability. Ding also was on the team that prevailed at the California Court of Appeal for McDonald’s, persuading the court in March 2025 to unanimously affirm the dismissal of a \$100 million fraud suit.



VINEET DUBEY

Partner  
Custodio & Dubey

Vineet Dubey has dedicated his law career to pursuing environmental litigation, primarily suing companies that are selling goods to the public containing toxic and cancer-causing chemicals. Over the past 10 years, he has brought forth notable lawsuits against numerous high-volume food manufacturers and grocery stores, including: Nurture Inc. (producer of Happy Tot), Beech-Nut Nutrition Corp., Gerber Products Co., Target, Kroger and Trader Joe’s. Because of Dubey’s advocacy, thousands of products tainted with lead, cadmium, phthalates and other cancer-causing chemicals have been taken off the shelves or reformulated.

According to the California Attorney General’s Office, Dubey has settled more Proposition 65 matters than any other attorney in the country for each of the last three years.



TERRANCE J. EVANS

Partner, San Francisco and Los Angeles  
Offices; Co-Leader, Banking and Financial  
Services Practice  
Duane Morris LLP

Terrance J. Evans is a nationally recognized trial lawyer with substantial appellate experience who has secured victories for clients in numerous multimillion-dollar cases in federal and state trial and appellate courts across the United States. During his more than 20 years of practice, Evans has made history multiple times and distinguished himself as a leader in several of the largest bar associations in the United States. Evans is also a dynamic speaker who gives presentations on legal issues across the United States and around the world.

Evans is a partner in the San Francisco and Los Angeles offices of Duane Morris LLP, where he serves as the co-leader of the firm’s Banking and Financial Services Practice, focused on representing clients in federal and state trial and appellate courts.



LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



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

For more than three decades, Terrence Franklin has been at the forefront of the most significant and complex trust, estate and probate litigation, representing beneficiaries, trustees, individuals and institutions throughout California. Franklin's career highlights include 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. Franklin also worked pro bono on one of the most important housing discrimination cases in Los Angeles County. At the time, he was a pro bono staff attorney on the Independent Commission investigating the LA Police Department. Franklin is recognized as a trailblazer in advancing DEI within the profession.



**TAANI FUAHALA**  
*Attorney*  
Baron Family Law

Taani Fuahala is a family law attorney based in Los Angeles County whose career has combined significant courtroom experience with deep exposure to complex and sensitive family matters. Over the past eight years he has developed an extensive family law practice that includes spousal support, child custody and visitation, property division, pension division, high asset cases, and domestic violence matters, as well as ex parte practice. Before joining Baron Family Law, Fuahala founded and operated his own boutique firm in Beverly Hills, known as The Fuahala Law Group and Advanced Law Partners. At Baron Family Law, Taani has narrowed and deepened his focus on family law. He has extensive experience in complex domestic matters, including high conflict custody and financial disputes.



**AARON GBEWONYO**  
*Shareholder*  
Shegerian & Associates

Aaron Gbewonyo has distinguished himself as a highly skilled and dedicated advocate in the field of employment law. His career is marked by numerous accomplishments, including securing multiple seven-figure verdicts for his clients—an achievement that underscores his ability to deliver impactful results in high-stakes cases. Gbewonyo has successfully represented employees against some of the most powerful corporations, tackling cases involving discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and wrongful termination. His expertise and strategic approach have led to significant victories, empowering his clients to achieve justice even in the face of formidable opposition. Gbewonyo approaches each case with empathy, ensuring his clients feel heard and supported while crafting compelling strategies.



**SAMANTHA GRANT**  
*Partner*  
Reed Smith LLP

Samantha Grant is a go-to labor and employment litigator for national and global companies in administrative, arbitration, and trial proceedings who leverages her analytical and strategic skills to deliver superior results in the most difficult matters facing her clients. She also spends significant time dedicated to serving the Bench, Bar, and broader communities and made history when she was elected as the first woman of color to be elected as chair of the American Bar Association Section of Labor and Employment Law. Because of the insight and experience she gained on her secondment working as in-house employment counsel for a Fortune 50 company, Grant is a particularly pragmatic and strategic outside counsel. She litigates cases in a manner that causes the least amount of disruption to the business.



**DEMETRIA L. GRAVES**  
*Founding & Managing Partner;*  
*Certified Family Law Specialist*  
The Graves Law Firm

Certified Family Law Specialist, Demetria Graves, opened her own family law practice, The Graves Law Firm, at the age of 25 - just six months out of law school. She has offices in both Pasadena and Beverly Hills. Today Graves is considered a leading family law attorney and has received many accolades for her dedication to the field of family law as well as to the community. Graves is the immediate past chair of the Family Law Executive Committee (FLEXCOM) with the California Lawyers Association. She currently co-chairs the African American Alumni Association at Loyola Law School and is a mentor to several law students and young attorneys. Graves served as a past Judge Pro Tem with the Los Angeles Superior Court.



Los Angeles Business Journal's  
**2026 LEADERS  
OF INFLUENCE**  
Minority Attorneys  
**Congratulations  
Benajmin Wang**



310.826.7474  
www.raklaw.com

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



**DAVID HANNA**  
*Managing Member*  
Mintz

David Hanna serves as managing member of Mintz’s Los Angeles office and is recognized as one of the nation’s leading intellectual property attorneys. With over 15 years of experience, Hanna has built an exceptional career at the intersection of law, science and innovation, excelling in prosecuting, advising, and litigating across diverse technology sectors, including pharmaceuticals, biologics, diagnostics, and medical devices. His expertise spans district court litigation, Federal Circuit appeals, and Patent Trial and Appeal Board proceedings.

Hanna’s litigation skills include arguing claim construction, taking and defending depositions, and conducting direct and cross-examinations at trial. Recognized for his “super responsive and very detail-oriented” approach, he has earned the trust of major clients in navigating complex disputes.



**JANAE HILL**  
*Associate*  
Scali Rasmussen, PC

Janae L. Hill is an associate in Scali Rasmussen’s Litigation practice, where she represents clients across a broad range of civil matters, including consumer protection, contract disputes, real estate, and personal injury. She brings a strong foundation in insurance and business litigation from her prior work at Bremer, Whyte, Brown & O’Meara, and previously defended public entities in personal injury and civil rights cases at Rinos Martin & Sabongui.

Among her notable efforts is her work representing majority heirs of a US-based legacy automotive portfolio in disputes with a minority shareholder, the firm is leveraging its franchise and M&A expertise to facilitate the \$50 million sale of the portfolio to a third-party buyer, resolving long-standing ownership and control issues.



**LINDA HSU**  
*Partner*  
BCLP LLP

Linda Hsu has built an exceptional career distinguished by her versatility, depth of expertise, and consistent success in high-stakes litigation. Practicing across product liability, financial services disputes, class actions, and commercial litigation, Hsu has represented both small businesses and global corporations in complex cases spanning federal and state courts nationwide. Her ability to navigate multidistrict litigation and defend against putative consumer class actions demonstrates not only technical skill but also strategic foresight.

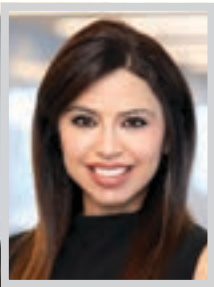
One of Hsu’s most notable accomplishments includes defending domestic and international companies in sensitive, high-profile matters, such as wrongful death claims and nationwide class actions and coordinated proceedings. She has secured dismissals and favorable settlements in a variety of matters.



**HELEN HWANG**  
*Partner*  
Covington & Burling LLP

Helen Hwang focuses her practice on counseling clients through complex and sensitive internal investigations and government investigations, including cross-border investigations involving alleged violations of the export controls regulations, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and other anti-bribery laws, and the False Claims Act.

Hwang is also an experienced compliance counselor who advises clients across a range of industries on the corruption risks of proposed transactions and how to build and improve their compliance programs. She also co-leads the firm’s Asia compliance and investigations practice. Hwang served as co-lead counsel for a military parts manufacturer in a DOJ False Claims Act investigation. She and the Covington team successfully obtained a declination from the DOJ Criminal Division for the company and a highly favorable settlement.



**BETTY JAVIDZAD**  
*Partner*  
Dentons US LLP

Betty Javidzad represents some of the world’s largest organizations in multimillion- and multibillion-dollar competitor suits, including claims of trade secret misappropriation, unfair competition, intellectual property and false advertising. She also regularly defends class actions filed across the nation, involving claims of false advertising, the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, privacy, automatic renewal laws, and other consumer protection-related statutes.

With years of experience representing clients in advertising, IP, privacy and consumer protection-related claims across different mediums—websites, social media, media, product labeling and all other kinds of marketing—Javidzad is a pivotal resource for clients on compliance measures and risk topics. She regularly advises her clients on how to proactively protect themselves from litigation exposure.



**ROY JIMENEZ**  
*Partner*  
TLD Law

Jimenez has built a distinguished career spanning more than 27 years at TLD Law, where he has served as partner, former managing partner, and one of the region’s most respected real estate and business litigators. He has led over 50 trials and is known for his exceptional ability to simplify complex issues for juries, maintain poise and professionalism in the courtroom, and secure outstanding results for clients. He is a member of ABOTA, a recognition that reflects both his trial mastery and his reputation for ethics, civility and excellence.

Jimenez’s trial victories include multi-million-dollar verdicts, major fraud and breach-of-contract wins, and high-impact partnership, real estate, and commercial disputes. He has represented physicians, real estate owners, manufacturing companies, financial institutions and national corporations.



**BRIAN KANG**  
*Chair, Real Estate Group*  
Greenberg Glusker LLP

In the immensely competitive world of commercial real estate law, Brian Kang, chair of Greenberg Glusker’s Real Estate Group, stands at the top of the industry. Known for a rare combination of strategic insight, dealmaking acumen, and unwavering client advocacy, Kang has become the trusted advisor behind some of the region’s most high-profile and complex real estate transactions. Whether structuring multimillion-dollar development deals or guiding clients through the ever-evolving regulatory landscape, he consistently delivers results that shape the skyline.

Having been with Greenberg Glusker since 2003, Kang has for many years been a mainstay of the firm’s success. He currently serves as chair of the Real Estate Group. His deals span virtually all categories, including real estate investors, developers, financial institutions, national universities, and REITS.



**AMY KARNIKIAN**  
*Counsel*  
Crowell & Moring LLP

Amy Karnikian is an exceptional leader in aviation law whose career reflects a rare blend of technical acumen, innovative thinking, and client service. For more than a decade, Karnikian has earned a reputation as a trusted advisor to airlines, cargo operators, manufacturers, investment firms, and emerging technology companies. As co-lead of Crowell & Moring’s commercial aviation practice, she brings distinct expertise in commercial aviation transactions, regulatory solutions, and asset finance.

Karnikian’s unique ability to develop creative strategies, streamline complex operations, and mentor new talent sets a benchmark for excellence and makes her highly deserving of this recognition. Her career to date demonstrates not only distinction among her peers, but also a lasting impact on the evolution of aviation law.



**JASON KELLY**  
*Partner*  
Annaguey McCann LLP

Jason Kelly’s most successful career accomplishment took place in 2023 when, after spending more than a decade working at law firms of all sizes, he decided to start a new litigation law firm in Los Angeles with two of his partners. The firm is focused on providing high-quality litigation representation to smaller and mid-sized companies. The firm has grown in recent months and is thriving. In particular, Kelly has defended and counseled companies of all sizes in the fast-moving space of privacy litigation.

Kelly, along with another of his colleagues, also had the privilege of successfully trying the first in-person federal civil jury trial in the Central District of California when the court lifted restrictions on in-person trials during the COVID-19 pandemic.



**JASON KIM**  
*Partner, Los Angeles;*  
*Commercial Litigation Practice*  
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

Jason Kim, litigation partner at Hunton’s Los Angeles office, helps global brands navigate their most high-profile cybersecurity and privacy class actions in California. He counts among his clients Meta Platforms Inc. (fka Facebook), Bath & Body Works, Inc., Victoria’s Secret, Neiman Marcus, Flurry, Rite Aid, Navy Federal Credit Union, Yahoo!, Checkers Drive-In Restaurants, MGM Resorts International, and many other household name brands.

Kim has litigated multiple highly publicized data breach class actions, financial services class actions and consumer class actions for a broad spectrum of Fortune 500 companies. Among other things, Kim has served as litigation counsel to one of the largest online services in the world in class actions involving the largest reported data breach in history.



LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



**NARY KIM**  
*Partner*  
Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP

Nary Kim is an accomplished litigator who has helped build compelling and convincing cases for a wide range of high-profile clients, including major film and television studios, music labels and brands, top-tier law firms, and leading entertainment figures and artists. She rose to be a KBK partner in just five years, having demonstrated the deep expertise necessary to develop winning cases for KBK's clients.

Kim's practice focuses on entertainment and media and complex litigation, and she has successfully litigated or resolved disputes over profit participation, copyright and trademark infringement, trade secret misappropriation, and film and television distribution agreements. She secured summary judgment on behalf of KBK clients Nirvana, Universal Music Group, and other defendants.



**SCOTT KOLLER**  
*Member*  
Clark Hill

Scott Koller began his legal career in healthcare litigation, where he quickly gained a reputation for his sharp analysis, the ability to remain calm under pressure, and a deep understanding of the operational realities facing large organizations. To those who worked with him at the outset of his career, it's clear he is particularly suited for the fast-response, crisis type of work inherent in dealing with cyber and data privacy breaches.

Koller is the trusted advisor to clients spanning technology, finance, healthcare, education, media and the public sector – all rely on his counsel when there's no room for error. His practice centers on guiding organizations through major cybersecurity events involving operational disruption, sensitive data compromise and intense regulatory scrutiny.



**ROGER LEE**  
*Senior Counsel*  
Stubbs Alderton & Markiles, LLP

Roger Lee, senior counsel at Stubbs Alderton & Markiles, LLP, is an accomplished corporate and finance attorney with a high-profile client roster of business innovators and leaders. He focuses on advising emerging growth and middle market companies in a wide variety of transactions, including buy and sell-side mergers and acquisitions, as well as venture capital, debt and asset-based financing transactions.

Lee also represents major financial institutions, private equity investors, independent power producers, project developers, investor-owned and municipal utilities, retail off-takers, operators and equipment and construction services providers in connection with conventional energy projects, renewable energy projects, and infrastructure projects.



**YOOJIN LEE**  
*Partner*  
Holland & Knight LLP

In a year when resilient financing and community stewardship mattered more than ever, Yoojin Lee stood out for the clarity she brings to complex secured lending and the humanity she brings to the people of LA County. A partner in Holland & Knight's Financial Services practice, Lee is a trusted counselor to agent banks and institutional lenders.

She led agent banks through syndicated and multicurrency secured facilities, designing intercreditor structures and collateral solutions that deliver certainty of execution while preserving borrower flexibility in dynamic markets. She also executed cross border transactions with borrowers across Europe, Asia, Latin America, Australia and New Zealand, bringing disciplined documentation, jurisdictional fluency and practical judgment that keep deals on track.



**DAVID LEFEBVRE**  
*Special Counsel*  
Covington & Burling LLP

David Lefebvre advises leading media and entertainment groups, broadcast stations, sports leagues, established and emerging technology companies, and other content owners in connection with content licensing, distribution, and media rights agreements. His practice sits at the center of the changing landscape of video programming distribution, covering a wide variety of platforms and business models.

Lefebvre has experience in drafting various commercial agreements, including cutting-edge deals for television and video program licensing, cable network affiliation, retransmission consent, and Internet and other new media distribution, national and regional sports telecast rights, and advertising and marketing services.

Congratulations!



**Ashwin Ram**  
SHAREHOLDER



**Mercedes Martin**  
SHAREHOLDER

SELECTED AS  
**2026 LEADERS OF  
INFLUENCE: MINORITY  
ATTORNEYS**  
BY THE LOS ANGELES BUSINESS  
JOURNAL

**Buchalter**  
www.buchalter.com

AZ | CA | CO | GA | IL | OR | TN | TX | UT | WA

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



**LYDIA LOCKETT**  
*Partner*  
Holland & Knight LLP

As a partner based in the Los Angeles office of Holland & Knight LLP, Lydia L. Lockett brings more than a decade of continuous service to the firm’s Business department, having begun as a summer associate in 2011 and progressed in the same practice group since 2013. Her career arc reflects disciplined growth, client-centered excellence, and a measurable contribution to the city’s economic vitality.

In terms of professional achievement, Lockett recently second chaired a month-long trial that resulted in a complete win for Holland & Knight’s client. She won on all causes of action, which included invalidating a trust amendment and various real property deeds on the grounds that they were procured through undue influence, and being awarded double damages and attorneys’ fees and costs.



**KAREN LORANG**  
*Partner*  
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Karen Lorang, a real estate partner in Willkie’s Los Angeles office since 2022, has established herself as a visionary in the transactional real estate legal market. Lorang has built a notable practice representing investors and developers in connection with complex real estate developments. Her transactional practice includes handling significant purchase and sales, financings, loan modifications and workouts, joint ventures, leasing, land use and environmental issues.

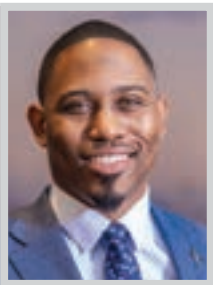
In the past two years, Lorang has been instrumental at various stages of significant real estate matters, including ongoing work for Tishman Speyer in connection with its public-private partnership with Ohio State University for the master planning of the 350-acre Carmenton Innovation District and the phased development of 50 acres of the District into a dynamic mixed-use urban destination.



**SHARRE LOTFOLLAHI**  
*Partner*  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Sharre Lotfollahi is a partner in Kirkland & Ellis’ Intellectual Property Litigation Group and represents clients in disputes involving various areas of technology, including semiconductor manufacturing, microprocessor design, athlete tracking, online ad creation and customer service software, and medical devices and implants.

Lotfollahi’s practice encompasses multiple areas of IP litigation involving patent, trade secret, trademark, and copyright, including licensing disputes. She has been a member of an impressive 12 trial teams, including serving as a first-chair on two trials where she conducted direct and cross-examinations of fact and expert witnesses, including preparing witnesses on jury-related performance. She argued numerous motions, including at trial, and managed numerous other trial activities.



**BRYAN LUTHER, JR.**  
*Partner*  
Albright, Yee & Schmit, APC

As an accomplished attorney (partner), Bryan Luther, Jr. adeptly navigates the intricate landscape of employment and general litigation, representing a diverse clientele that includes individuals, businesses, corporations and government entities.

Luther provides ongoing general and employment counseling, offering invaluable guidance to corporate and government entity clients. He recently achieved a significant victory by successfully defending a LA County business against a multimillion-dollar claim, compelling the plaintiffs to withdraw all allegations within a mere three months of filing. His strategic prowess also shone through in the defense of a prominent public figure facing reputation-threatening claims, culminating in a resolution for nuisance value and safeguarding the client’s reputation and livelihood in less than three weeks.



**MERCEDES MARTIN**  
*Shareholder*  
Buchalter

Mercedes O. Martin has distinguished herself as a leading authority in community development finance, combining exceptional legal expertise with a steadfast commitment to expanding affordable housing access across the nation.

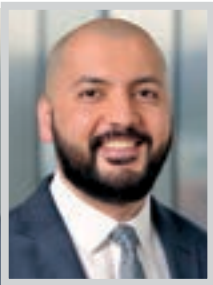
As co-chair of Buchalter’s Community Development Finance group, Martin specializes in real estate transactions with an emphasis on real estate secured transactions, tax credit finance and equity investments. She represents developers, borrowers, lenders and investors in the structuring and financing of projects nationwide utilizing low income housing tax credits, new markets tax credits, renewable energy credits and state certificated credits, as well as joint venturers in the acquisition, disposition, management and financing of office, retail, commercial and multifamily projects.



**M’ALYSSA MECENAS**  
*Senior Associate*  
Baker McKenzie

With 15 years of experience specializing in the practice of employee benefits and executive compensation (EBEC) law, M’Alyssa Mecenas consistently brings value to Baker McKenzie’s clients when it comes to managing EBEC matters on significant and complex deals. She manages the panoply of essential transactional EBEC responsibilities, including advising clients directly on various EBEC issues that arise in a transaction, drafting and negotiating EBEC provisions in purchase agreements and ancillary documents, and overseeing EBEC diligence efforts and EBEC compliance matters. She has worked on over 400 transactions over the course of her career.

This year alone, she handled EBEC aspects of multiple deals valued over \$1 billion, including the \$10.55 billion acquisition of Boeing’s Digital Aviation Solutions business by Thoma Bravo.



**VIRAL MEHTA**  
*Partner*  
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

Litigation partner and trial attorney in Manatt’s Los Angeles office, Viral Mehta specializes in real estate litigation and trial work. Mehta has extensive experience handling complex real estate litigation, land use and environmental litigation, government litigation, and high-stakes business litigation relating to fraud and contract issues. His trial experience includes handling jury and bench trials in both state and federal courts, as well as trying cases to decision in arbitration. Mehta has recently handled major eminent domain cases and multi-million-dollar commercial disputes.

He has successfully represented clients in a variety of real estate litigation including United States v. 1003.58 Acres, where he won a jury verdict for \$30,283,750 in an eminent domain case for the owners of undeveloped land in the Mojave Desert.



**SANDRA LEE MONTGOMERY**  
*Partner*  
Proskauer Rose LLP

Sandra Lee Montgomery, a trailblazing partner at Proskauer and former member of the firm’s Executive Committee, is one of the most influential figures in the private capital and finance landscape. In an industry historically dominated by men, she has built an extraordinary reputation as a premier advisor to private credit institutions, consistently steering complex, high-value transactions that shape today’s financial markets. In 2025 alone—well before year-end—Sandra has already closed more than \$5.5 billion in private credit transactions across the United States, with several additional matters still expected to close.

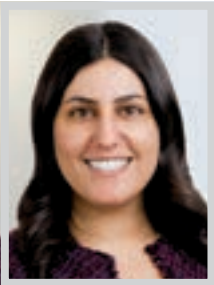
With nearly three decades of experience, Montgomery’s practice encompasses the full spectrum of sophisticated financing transactions.



**ESTEBAN MORALES**  
*Member*  
Mintz

Esteban Morales, Mintz member (partner) and distinguished litigator, is a force to be reckoned with in class action defense and consumer-related litigation. Morales’ career reflects resilience, strategic brilliance and unwavering commitment to client success.

Since joining the firm, Morales has honed his skills to become a go-to expert for small and large corporate clients facing complex legal challenges. His prowess lies in securing dismissals for clients at the pleading stage and employing aggressive defense strategies to thwart claims without extensive discovery. Morales’ strategic acumen has been pivotal in defending clients against a myriad of state and federal statutes and theories. Recent victories include a landmark win in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in a high-stakes class action.



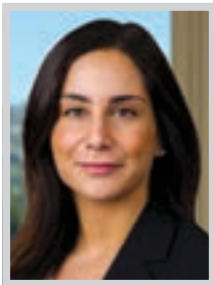
**SIMA NAMIRI-KALANTARI**  
*Partner*  
Crowell & Moring LLP

Sima Namiri-Kalantari, partner in Crowell’s Antitrust and Competition Group, is a leading advocate in complex commercial litigation with a focus on antitrust and unfair competition. An industry trailblazer, Namiri-Kalantari inspires through her legal achievements and commitment to diverse representation. She defends clients against high-stakes civil antitrust claims and crafts innovative recovery strategies for Fortune 500 companies affected by global price-fixing cartels. With a strong economics background, Namiri-Kalantari excels at translating complex theories into actionable legal arguments and makes a significant impact in class action defense, expert strategy, and trial preparation.

Namiri-Kalantari is valued for her client-focused approach, providing antitrust compliance training and risk assessments to companies.



LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



BANU NARAGHI

Partner  
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP

Banu Naraghi is a partner in Ervin Cohen & Jessup’s Litigation Department whose practice centers on complex corporate and intellectual property disputes in state and federal court. She is a trusted advocate for content creators, investors, stakeholders and corporations navigating high-stakes matters involving commercial contracts, shareholder rights, trade secrets, and the infringement of copyrights, trademarks and patents. Known for her strategic, results-driven approach, Naraghi is dedicated to protecting clients’ most valuable business interests and intellectual assets while positioning them to remain competitive. Naraghi’s commitment to creative and entrepreneurial communities began early. As a law student, she served as a clinical intern in the Intellectual Property and Technology Law Clinic.



FELTON NEWELL

Co-Managing Partner  
Newell Law Group

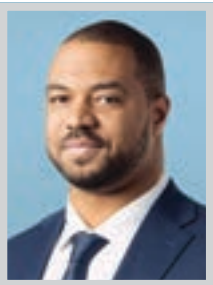
Felton T. Newell, co-managing partner at Newell Law Group PC, is an experienced trial attorney. In his more than 25 years of practice, Newell has successfully represented his clients in a range of litigation and employment law matters. Newell has a diversity of practical legal experience that separates him from his peers. Newell has successfully led trial teams in achieving positive results for his clients and also has taken the lead on motion practice that has resulted in the favorable disposition of cases for his client. He has also successfully represented clients in appellate matters. Newell began his professional career as a legislative staff assistant in President Bill Clinton’s White House. In law school, Newell was awarded the Thomas R. Mulroy Prize for excellence in appellate advocacy.



ANTHONY NGUYEN

Shareholder  
Shegerian & Associates

Anthony Nguyen’s career is marked by a series of extraordinary accomplishments as a plaintiff trial attorneys. One of his most notable achievements came in 2021, when he and his team secured a record-breaking \$155.4 million verdict in a whistleblower case against Farmers Insurance. This landmark case not only showcased Nguyen’s legal expertise but also had a significant impact on the visibility of punitive damages awards in employment cases. Additionally, in 2023 alone, Nguyen achieved four seven-figure verdicts as lead counsel, all of which were within the top 20 labor and employment verdicts in California. In 2024, he helped secure a \$33.5 million judgment in Rudnicki v. Farmers. His leadership has also helped Shegerian & Associates recover hundreds of millions for their clients over the past few years.



JAMES NOBLE

Associate  
Hahn & Hahn LLP

In addition to helping his clients obtain six- and seven-figure results, James Noble prides himself most on providing real, meaningful help to his clients. Noble’s greatest career accomplishments to date arise from his ability to be a real problem solver. Noble applies his skillset toward making sure that his clients are treated fairly in business, that their pain is dignified in personal injury matters, and ensuring that all of his clients are treated with respect at all times. Sometimes, zealous advocacy is the only way to level the playing field and make things fair. Noble is relentlessly dedicated to giving his clients the best quality representation possible. His unique mixture of legal and social skills makes him an effective advocate in front of opposing parties and in court.



PUANANI NORWOOD

Los Angeles Office Managing Partner  
BCLP LLP

Since joining BCLP in 2013 as a 1L Summer Associate, Puanani Norwood has advanced rapidly, culminating in her appointment as office managing partner in Los Angeles just five months after being named partner, a testament to her leadership and reputation as a trusted advisor in the energy transition sector. She is a skilled negotiator and deal closer, focusing on complex commercial real estate transactions for renewable energy projects, representing public utilities, tax equity investors, developers and lenders. Norwood leads a team that serves as local counsel for financial institutions financing battery, wind and solar projects nationwide. Her introduction of technology tools and AI-driven solutions has streamlined diligence processes, improved efficiency, and delivered cost-effective results.

YC

YUKEVICH | CAVANAUGH

Congratulations to

Delmar Thomas

on his inclusion in the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2025 "Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys."

Diversity is at the heart of Yukevich | Cavanaugh. As a leader in the litigation space, we understand that our success is driven by our people. This is why the makeup of our firm reflects the diverse cultural and ethnic makeup of Los Angeles.

Learn more here.

Los Angeles | Irvine | San Diego | Walnut Creek

yukelaw.com



LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



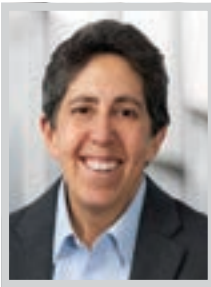
**BARON OJOGHO**  
*Senior Associate*  
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

Baron Ojogho is a senior associate in Davis Wright Tremaine’s entertainment, sports, and media practice. He focuses on high-value commercial work across content development, production legal, rights acquisition, and media and sports ventures. Ojogho represents production companies, creators, athletes and sports organizations operating at the intersection of media, culture and technology. Ojogho’s practice includes structuring production and rights deals for live sports properties, advising emerging sports and media enterprises, and helping clients formalize their IP, brand architecture, and revenue models. Ojogho is known for combining technical precision with strategic insight and often serves as both counsel and business advisor on complex commercial matters.



**DOREEN MARIE OLSON**  
*Founding Partner*  
Meyer, Olson, Lowy & Meyers LLP

Doreen Marie Olson is co-founder and partner at Meyer, Olson, Lowy & Meyers, LLP, a boutique family law firm located in Century City and Irvine. Olson has been certified as a Specialist in Family Law by the Board of Legal Specialization of the State Bar of California. Olson and her partners founded the firm in 2000, with the goal of representing clients in high conflict and complex divorces and custody cases, the firm now includes approximately 23 attorneys, who have expertise in all aspects of family law and are adept at both mediating and litigating cases. For 30 years, Olson has worked exclusively in family law. During this time, she has brought more than a hundred cases to a successful conclusion on behalf of her clients.



**JENNIFER POST**  
*Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office*  
Thompson Coburn LLP

Jennifer Post has been at the forefront of corporate finance, venture lending, and emerging company transactions for over three decades, establishing herself as one of Southern California’s most trusted and influential deal-makers. As managing partner of Thompson Coburn’s Los Angeles office, co-chair of the firm’s Emerging Companies group, and a member of the national Management Committee, she is recognized for her business acumen, ability to lead, structure and close highly complex transactions that shape the future of venture lending, technology innovation and private credit markets. Post is also the firm’s first LGBTQ+ office leader, a role that underscores her impact not only as a seasoned corporate attorney but as a cultural and strategic force within the firm.



**ASHWIN RAM**  
*Shareholder*  
Buchalter

Ashwin J. Ram is a highly sought-after legal strategist and “problem solver” for all types of high-profile domestic and cross-border disputes. He is an accomplished trial lawyer with nearly 20 years of experience representing corporate and individual clients in criminal, civil and regulatory matters. His work encompasses a broad range of investigations, white-collar criminal cases, securities litigation, class actions, state and federal False Claims Act litigation, business disputes, and “bet-the-company” and other high-impact litigation. He also advises clients on crisis management, corporate governance, and regulatory compliance issues. Ram has been recognized for his trial and appellate work, having tried over two dozen cases to verdict and briefed or argued countless state and federal appeals.



**ANGELA REDDOCK-WRIGHT**  
*Employment & Title IX Mediator*  
Signature Resolution/RLG

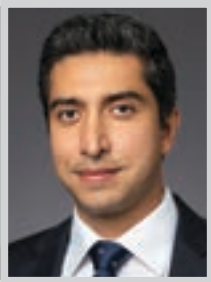
Angela Reddock-Wright is a leading employment and Title IX attorney mediator with her own firm and as part of the distinguished panel of neutrals with Signature Resolution. She has practiced employment and labor law for nearly 30 years. After working as an employment litigator, workplace, and Title IX investigator for 25 years, in 2020, she transitioned to becoming a full-time neutral. As a full-time neutral, Reddock-Wright has mediated some of the most sensitive and high profile cases involving private, public, entertainment, gaming, technology, union/labor and non-profit sector employers, on a range of issues including discrimination, retaliation, sexual harassment, assault, hazing, bullying, pay equity, PAGA and wage and hour claims.

We applaud **ROGER LEE** on his selection to the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2025 “Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys.”

**stubbsalderton.com**



LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



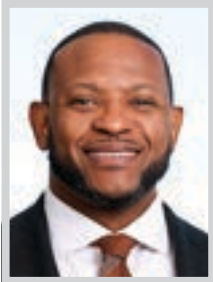
**PAUL REZVANI**  
Partner  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Paul Rezvani is a Debt Finance partner in the Los Angeles office of Kirkland & Ellis where he continuously leads complex financing transactions for some of the firms’ most prominent clients, including TPG, BC Partners, Centerbridge Partners, Clearlake Capital Group, BayPine, K1 Investment Management and Accel-KKR. Rezvani regularly advises global private equity firms, their portfolio companies, hedge funds, asset managers, alternative capital sources 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 senior, mezzanine and subordinated debt transactions, acquisition financings, dividend recapitalizations and loan workouts and restructurings.



**FRED ROWLEY**  
Partner  
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

As co-chair of Wilson Sonsini’s nationwide Supreme Court and Appellate practice, Fred A. Rowley, Jr. is one of the nation’s foremost appellate advocates—and one of the only lawyers of color among those ranks. He has argued 70 appeals, including appeals before the US Supreme Court, the California Supreme Court, and the Delaware Supreme Court, as well as other state and federal courts nationwide. Rowley’s work cuts across a broad swath of subject matters, from constitutional challenges to international law to securities and class action matters to intellectual property issues. His clients in those appeals range from some of the country’s most powerful companies (like Google, Netflix, and Colgate) to some of its most marginalized citizens.



**JAMES SARGENT**  
Partner  
Glaser Weil

James Sargent provides sophisticated legal counsel to guide corporate and individual clients through a wide range of high-stakes commercial and business disputes. A skilled first-chair trial attorney who has tried nearly 70 cases to verdict, Sargent maintains a diverse practice, which includes entertainment litigation, white collar matters, corporate and financial disputes, breaches of contracts, intellectual property infringement and trade secret violations. Sargent takes a pragmatic, results-oriented approach to achieving his clients’ goals early and amicably. However, if the client is best served by a trial, Sargent has the skill and ability to obtain a favorable verdict. His success emerges from his ability to simplify complex cases, develop winning strategies, and communicate with the jury, judge or arbitrator.



**USMAN SHAIKH**  
Founder; Managing Partner  
U.S. Law Group

Usman Shaikh is the founder of U.S. Law Group and focuses on entertainment and corporate transactions. U.S. Law Group is a well-established, boutique law firm with offices in Beverly Hills and New York City. Shaikh takes a business-minded, interdisciplinary approach in representing his clients and, in particular with his unique background, Shaikh is help clients navigate through complex deal structures in the entertainment industry. Throughout his career, Shaikh has worked on significant business deals. More recently, with a focus on representing entertainment and media companies, Shaikh’s milestones have included Pressman Film’s development slate financing through concurrent Reg CF and Reg D offerings; and production counsel to Ondalinda, a boutique, high-end music and arts festival.



**NANCY SIMS**  
Partner  
Baker McKenzie

Nancy Sims is a partner in Baker McKenzie’s North America Litigation and Government Enforcement Group and serves as co-chair of the firm’s Class Action Group. As a commercial litigator focusing on class actions, complex business disputes, and investigations with more than 20 years of experience, her matters include representing clients in commercial matters based on contract claims, unfair competition, false advertising, privacy law violations, fraud and related business torts in both court litigation and arbitration. Nancy also has significant experience representing franchisors in disputes with franchisees involving joint employer allegations, misclassification claims and contract claims. Sims has represented clients in putative class actions and other litigation with a combined exposure of over \$1 billion.



**ALFRED E. SMITH, II**  
Chair | Water Group



**ANNA C. TANG**  
Co-Chair | Corporate Group

**Congratulations Alfred & Anna on being named to the 2026 LABJ Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys list by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*.**

Nossaman’s commitment to a diverse and inclusive environment is rooted in our core values. We believe an inclusive environment and consideration of diverse perspectives are crucial to creating the ideal workplace.



LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



**ANNE N. SLUSSER**  
*Partner*  
Meyer, Olson, Lowy & Meyers LLP

Anne N. Slusser was named a partner at family law firm, Meyer, Olson, Lowy & Meyers (MOLM), in 2012. During her tenure at MOLM, which began in 2002, Slusser has distinguished herself as one of the most dynamic and accomplished family law attorneys of her generation. With extensive experience and expertise in all aspects of family law, today she specializes in high conflict custody disputes, cases involving domestic violence, and divorces with complex financial issues. Her representative clients include members of the entertainment industry, professional athletes, business owners and other high-net-worth individuals.

In the practice of family law, Slusser found the ideal outlet for her combined passion for the law and psychology, which was her major as an undergraduate.



**ALICE CHEN SMITH**  
*Managing Partner*  
YOKA | SMITH, LLP

Alice Chen Smith is the managing partner of YOKA | SMITH and is an experienced trial lawyer who has successfully tried many cases to verdict. Her primary focus is litigating catastrophic personal injury cases, products liability and business litigation matters. She practices throughout the State of California in trial and appellate courts. Her results-oriented work and civility has led to her selection as a Super Lawyers – Southern California Rising Star since 2012 and a Super Lawyer since 2023.

Smith was inducted into the American Board of Trial Advocates as a member of the Los Angeles Chapter in 2019, and currently serves as the Membership co-chair. She is the secretary-treasurer of the Association of Southern California Defense Counsel and will be its President in 2026.



**ALFRED SMITH**  
*Chair, Water Practice*  
Nossaman

Alfred Smith, chair of Nossaman’s Water Group, is a recognized expert in water, environmental, transportation and public agency law. He has successfully litigated multiple water right adjudications, and he has secured more than \$750 million worth of contamination settlements in favor of his clients.

Smith is a trusted advisor on matters involving water rights, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, Colorado River and Pueblo rights, recycled water, water resource development, contamination remediation, groundwater adjudications, water transfers, desalination, conjunctive use, climate change and environmental regulatory compliance. Smith has also developed Urban Water Management Plans, water supply assessments and environmental impact reports.



**JASON TAKETA**  
*Partner*  
Sklar Kirsh LLP

With more than two decades of corporate and M&A experience spanning large national firms, boutique environments, and in-house roles, Jason T. Taketa has built a career defined by exceptional technical mastery, sound business judgment, and an unwavering commitment to client service. His work has shaped transactions across a range of industries, from technology and AI to consumer products, media, entertainment, manufacturing and finance.

Taketa has served as trusted counsel on high-profile deals involving global acquirers such as Twitter, Microsoft, Unilever, Netflix, and Avis Budget Group, and has guided owner-operated and founder-led businesses through their most consequential milestones. His ability to navigate sophisticated structures demonstrates both depth and versatility.



**ANNA TANG**  
*Co-Chair, Corporate Group*  
Nossaman

Anna Tang is a leading corporate lawyer, highly regarded for her pragmatic commercial approach and for her capacity to work through complex and strategic legal issues and transactions.

Tang represents and advises emerging and established companies through a broad range of industries as transactional and general corporate counsel with respect to a wide variety of business transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, commercial agreements and negotiations and corporate governance. She works closely with clients at all stage of the business lifecycle. Her representation includes entity formation, negotiating, drafting and reviewing all forms of commercial agreements and negotiations, purchase agreements, joint venture, partnership and shareholder and other forms of equity agreements.

DENTONS



We congratulate

**Bety Javidzad**

on being named to the 2026 Leaders of Influence: **Minority Attorneys** by *Los Angeles Business Journal*.

Every day clients benefit from Bety’s leadership as a partner in our Commercial Litigation practice, where she shapes a culture of engagement, client service, collaboration and collegial trust.

Dentons, the law firm of the future is here.

dentons.com

© 2025 Dentons. Dentons is a global legal practice providing client services worldwide through its member firms and affiliates. Please see dentons.com for Legal Notices.

Where great work and great people come together.

Polsinelli proudly congratulates **Mary Vu** on being selected as 2026 Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys by the Los Angeles Business Journal.



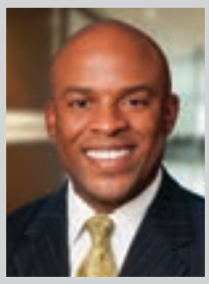
What a law firm should be.™

Am Law 100 firm | 1,200 attorneys  
25+ offices | 170+ practices

polsinelli.com | The choice of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. © 2026. Polsinelli PC, Polsinelli LLP in California, Polsinelli PC (Inc) in Florida.



LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



**DELMAR S. THOMAS**  
*Partner*  
Yukevich I Cavanaugh

Delmar Thomas is an experienced trial lawyer. He has also been successful in briefing and arguing key motions in courts across the country. Thomas’ effective advocacy skills have led to significant victories through summary judgment, appellate motions, and various post-trial matters in high exposure cases.

While Thomas is often viewed as a relentless advocate for his clients, he is also respected for his negotiation skills and pragmatic approach to alternative dispute resolution. Thomas has effectively negotiated many favorable settlements for his clients through mediation, mandatory settlement conferences, and, in some cases, voluntary settlement. Thomas’ practice focuses on litigation, with experience in product liability, construction defect, premises liability and general negligence.



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

Jason H. Tokoro is a trial lawyer with significant experience representing public and private entities in state and federal courts. He has an elite roster of clients across the entertainment, sports, real estate, government and financial sectors, with a diverse practice spanning commercial disputes, civil rights, employment, intellectual property, malpractice, and complex business litigation.

As outside counsel to the County of Los Angeles, Tokoro manages many complex cases. His notable successes include securing a summary-judgment ruling for LA County in a high-profile collective action lawsuit, obtaining a published decision from the Second District Court of Appeal in a pandemic-related lawsuit, and winning a \$3.4 million jury verdict on behalf of California Bank & Trust.



**JUAN TORRES**  
*Partner*  
Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP

Juan A. Torres is a highly respected partner in Musick Peeler’s Los Angeles office, bringing more than three decades of experience in commercial, employment, construction, real estate, and insurance litigation. Since joining the firm in 1990, he has represented business owners in federal and state courts, arbitration, mediation and bankruptcy proceedings across Southern California. Torres has earned deep trust within the growing Latino business community, serving as a culturally attuned advisor who understands the unique challenges and opportunities facing these entrepreneurs.

A focus of Torres’ practice is counseling employers and resolving employment-related claims, including wrongful termination, wage and hour disputes, discrimination and harassment allegations, and government investigations.



**KENNETH TRUJILLO-JAMISON**  
*Managing Partner*  
Willenken LLP

Kenneth Trujillo-Jamison, managing partner at Willenken LLP, is a standout trial lawyer and firm leader whose strategic insight, courtroom skill, and commitment to excellence have earned him national recognition. Known for his ability to master complex, high-stakes matters, Trujillo-Jamison represents companies in industries spanning social media, entertainment, technology, and life sciences. His practice spans a wide range of complex commercial and business litigation matters, including intellectual property disputes, class action defense, and entertainment litigation.

Trujillo-Jamison’s standout accomplishments include his pivotal role in representing AbbVie in a high-profile pharmaceutical case against Takeda.



**JENNER TSENG**  
*Partner*  
Hill, Farrer & Burrill LLP

Hill Farrer Partner Jenner Tseng is a highly respected litigator with more than two decades of experience guiding clients through complex litigation and regulatory challenges. He represents corporations, universities and individuals in high-stakes matters across employment, commercial, real estate, intellectual property, and insurance law. Known for his strategic creativity and steady judgment, Tseng develops innovative, cost-effective approaches that consistently deliver strong results. His reputation as both a trusted counselor and a formidable advocate is grounded in his ability to manage sensitive, high-pressure disputes with precision and poise.

Tseng is especially recognized for his deep work in the higher education sector. He has become a relied-upon advisor to universities and colleges.

ECJ Congratulates

Banu Naraghi & Elliot Chen

on their recognition as

Los Angeles Business Journal’s 2026 Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys

Banu Naraghi

Partner, Litigation

Elliot Chen

Partner, Litigation

Effective. Creative. Judgment.

ERVIN COHEN & JESSUP LLP

ecjlaw.com | 310.273.6333

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



**ELIZABETH TUAN**  
*Partner*  
Irell & Manella LLP

A partner at Irell & Manella LLP, Elizabeth Tuan focuses on highly complex patent litigation ranging from biotechnology and pharmaceuticals to technical software components. Tuan is often a key member of teams on Irell’s most significant victories, including serving on the team that in March 2021 secured a \$2.18 billion verdict for VLSI Technology in a suit against Intel involving two patents on technology used in Intel’s microprocessors. In April 2022, the trial judge issued a \$2.3 billion final judgment in the case, which is the largest patent judgment in US history. In November 2022, Tuan also was part of the team that obtained a \$948 million jury verdict plus running royalties for VLSI in a different suit against Intel involving a microprocessor patent.



**MARY VU**  
*Shareholder*  
Polsinelli

Mary Vu is a shareholder at nationwide law firm Polsinelli and one of the most accomplished emerging voices in California employment law. She has built a sophisticated, multi-state practice representing leading luxury consumer brands and manufacturing companies in their most complex and consequential employment matters. Her work spans high-impact single-plaintiff litigation, wage-and-hour class and PAGA actions, executive-level workplace investigations, and employment diligence in corporate transactions. Clients rely on her for her strategic judgment, ability to simplify complex risks, and business-focused approach. Vu has resolved matters involving substantial legal and reputational exposure, including compelling individual claims to arbitration and obtaining dismissals of related class allegations.



**ARNOLD WANG**  
*Partner*  
Arias Sanguinetti Wang & Team, LLP

Arnold Wang is a well-respected partner at Arias Sanguinetti and a native Mandarin Chinese speaker. He has served as class counsel in state and federal courts and has obtained multi-million-dollar settlements in numerous cases. His work has earned him recognition including honors such as Consumer Attorney of the Year. Wang has helped secure impactful results for communities and individuals, including Riley v. Superior Ready Mix Concrete, L.P. for which Wang worked with a team of class action lawyers to secure a major settlement addressing pervasive granular dust and noxious odors affecting a San Diego community. Filed in 2020, the lawsuit sought relief for nuisance, negligence, and trespass. The Court-approved settlement included \$1,995,000 in compensation for the class, along with significant facility improvements.



**BEN WANG**  
*Partner*  
Russ August & Kabat

Ben Wang is a partner at Russ August & Kabat. He represents clients in business and intellectual property disputes, particularly in patent and trade secret trials and appeals. Wang served as lead counsel in a patent jury trial that resulted in a verdict in favor of his client on all issues and damages, and found willful infringement. The district court then enhanced the amount of damages by 100%, awarding Wang’s client total damages of over \$15 million. On June 3, 2022, after oral argument in which Wang argued for his client, the appellee, the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit issued a precedential opinion, affirming the verdict in favor of Wang’s client on all grounds.



**BART WILLIAMS**  
*Partner; Los Angeles Office Head; Global Chair, Litigation Department*  
Proskauer Rose LLP

Bart Williams is chair of Proskauer’s Litigation Department and head of the Los Angeles office. A nationally recognized commercial litigator, corporate counselor and trial lawyer, he is renowned for handling some of the most significant crises facing Fortune 500 companies. While he manages litigation matters from inception, he is also frequently brought in just months or even weeks before trial to secure a win. Williams has built a distinguished track record of success in high-stakes litigation, prevailing in both jury and bench trials nationwide. He shapes precedent and redefining standards through his role as lead counsel in many high-profile matters, including as lead trial counsel for Gilead Sciences in securing a trial victory in a \$3.6 billion antitrust case.

Diversity and inclusion are key to our success.

Mintz is proud to congratulate our Members **David Hanna** and **Esteban Morales** and all the other honorees named as the *Los Angeles Business Journal’s 2026 Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys*.



**David Hanna**  
*Member*



**Esteban Morales**  
*Member*

mintz.com

Boston | Los Angeles | Miami | New York  
San Diego | San Francisco | Toronto | Washington  
© 2025 Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.



WILLKIE PROUDLY CONGRATULATES

Our partner **Karen Lorang**



*Los Angeles Business Journal’s*  
**2026 Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys**

WILLKIE

1,300 LAWYERS | 16 OFFICES | 6 COUNTRIES

Attorney Advertisement



LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



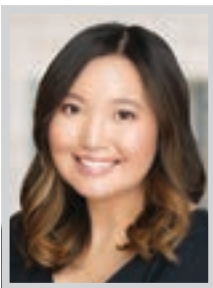
**JASON WILSON**  
*Partner*  
Willenken LLP

Willenken partner Jason Wilson is a seasoned and widely respected litigator whose more than 35-year career reflects exceptional trial acumen, appellate sophistication, and an unwavering commitment to delivering results in high-stakes disputes. Few attorneys combine Wilson’s depth of experience with his strategic precision: he has tried nearly 20 civil cases—before juries, judges, and in binding arbitration—and has handled more than 40 appellate matters. He began his career with two prestigious clerkships on the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Wilson’s practice centers on sophisticated commercial litigation for industry-leading clients in sectors including pharmaceutical, real estate, energy and utilities, environmental, IP, and consumer products. Fortune 500 companies frequently retain Wilson as trial counsel.



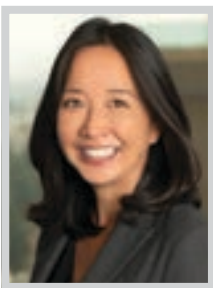
**LYDIA WU**  
*Partner*  
Greenberg Glusker LLP

Throughout her nearly three decades of practicing law, including 13 years at Greenberg Glusker, Lydia Wu has cemented her status as one of the leading attorneys in the real estate space. As partner, Wu’s practice involves all aspects of real estate transactions. Wu regularly handles major multi-state and multi-property transactions as well as local, single-property deals for institutional investors, real estate funds and individuals involving most categories of real estate asset such as industrial, warehouse, storage, data centers, multi-family, retail, office, resort/hotel, student housing and senior housing properties. Wu has represented a prominent data center operator in connection with joint ventures with several investors and the financing of major data center construction projects.



**STEPHANIE XIAO**  
*Counsel*  
Hueston Hennigan LLP

Stephanie Xiao often plays a key role in Hueston Hennigan’s most significant wins, many of which garner national and often global attention. She focuses on high-profile complex commercial litigation and white collar defense cases involving a wide range of marquee clients. Among many high stakes matters, Xiao is defending PacifiCorp in dozens of actions stemming from the “Labor Day Fires” that burned over 500,000 acres across Oregon and Northern California. She has helped secure multiple pre-trial and trial victories and obtain favorable resolutions with nearly 2,000 plaintiffs. As part of the team representing Hawaii and advising the governor and attorney general, Xiao secured a historic global settlement exceeding \$4 billion which resolved all claims stemming from the catastrophic Maui wildfires.



**STEPHANIE YONEKURA**  
*Global Head, Investigations,  
White Collar and Fraud*  
Hogan Lovells US LLP

Stephanie Yonekura is one of the most trusted names in white collar defense and corporate investigations today. As the global head of Hogan Lovells’ Investigations, White Collar, and Fraud practice, she leads a team of more than 150 lawyers across 20 jurisdictions, guiding global corporations through some of their most complex and sensitive challenges. A former Acting US Attorney for the Central District of California, Yonekura brings unmatched credibility, deep trial experience, and a steady hand to crisis moments – whether in the courtroom, the boardroom, or before regulators. Her combination of technical excellence, real-world insight, and authentic leadership make her a force in her field and a role model in the profession.



**H. ANNITA ZHONG**  
*Partner*  
Irell & Manella LLP

A partner at Irell & Manella LLP, Annita Zhong focuses on patent litigation, contested patent office proceedings and licensing in the US, the European Union and China. She has deep experience litigating before federal and state courts, the International Trade Commission, arbitral panels and the Patent Trial and Appeal Board. Prior to law school, Dr. Zhong was a senior research scientist at General Electric Company’s Global Research Center. Dr. Zhong’s engineering and research background has proven valuable in delivering significant victories for clients in complex litigation. She is well versed in technical areas such as semiconductor fabrication and packaging, computer architecture, telecommunications, artificial intelligence, renewable energy and chemicals and materials.

CELEBRATING  
**30** YOKA | SMITH

YOKA | SMITH  
congratulates Partners  
**ALICE CHEN SMITH**  
and **CHAD CHEN**  
on being selected as  
Leaders of Influence:  
Minority Attorneys by the  
Los Angeles Business Journal.

