

CUSTOM CONTENT

JANUARY 27, 2020

TOP MINORITY ATTORNEYS IN LOS ANGELES



WITH LOS ANGELES THE MELTING POT THAT IT IS, WE'RE TRULY A NATIONAL LEADER WHEN IT COMES TO influential minorities – and the field of law is no exception. There are some particularly stellar minority attorneys in the LA region and we've alphabetically listed some of the very best of them here, along with some basic information about their careers, practice and some relevant recent successes they've achieved.

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.

TOP MINORITY ATTORNEYS

Letter from the Publisher



We're pleased to share our Top Minority Attorneys special supplement, which recognizes the most influential minority attorneys in the city of Los Angeles.

Based on California Bar Association statistics, the percentage of overall attorneys practicing in California today who also happen to be minorities has been steadily growing since the 1970s. In 1974, for example, California's legal profession was made up of less than 5% minority practitioners while last year, that statistic reached an all-time high of 22% and is continuing to grow.

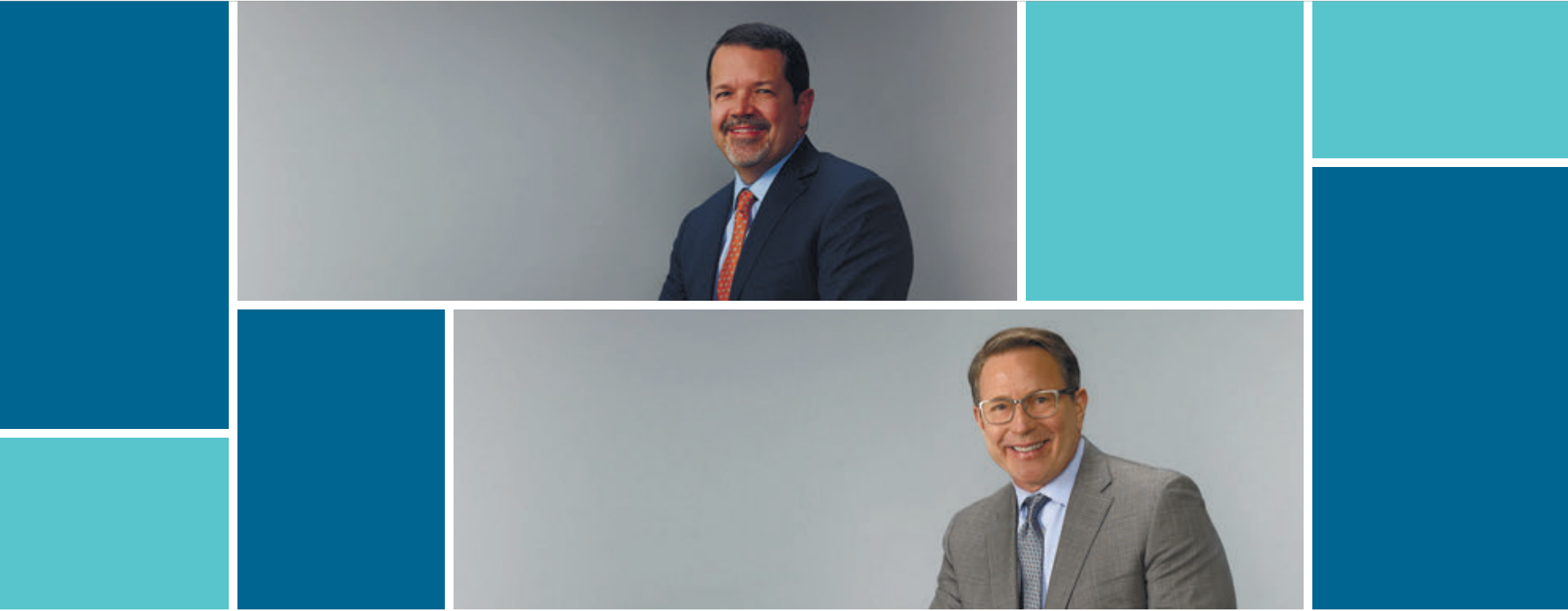
There are some particularly stellar minority attorneys in the LA region who happen to be from a broad cultural spectrum.

For this section, we accepted nominations from our readers and from legal experts at some of the top firms and businesses in the region. From there, we narrowed our choices down to those who are particularly impactful and who maintain the highest professional and ethical standards. We also considered honorees' contributions to the Los Angeles business and legal community at large.

Congratulations to each of the superb legal professionals who made our list this year.

Best regards,

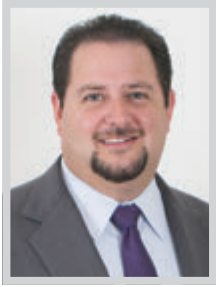
Anna Magzanyan
Publisher & CEO



Inclusion Is Everyone's Business

We believe that diversity and inclusion are fundamental to our success. Congratulations to Camilo Echavarria and John LeCrone for being named two of the Top Minority Lawyers in Los Angeles.

TOP MINORITY ATTORNEYS

**SEAN ANDRADE**

Founding Partner
Andrade Gonzalez LLP

For almost a decade, Sean Andrade, managing partner and founder of Andrade Gonzalez, served on the National Board of Governors for the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA). During that time, he spent four years on the HNBA's Executive Committee, serving as vice president of programs and national secretary. In 2008, he was also instrumental in bringing the HNBA back to Los Angeles after 17 years, and as chair of the HNBA's National Convention that year, ensured that it was the most profitable and best-attended ever.

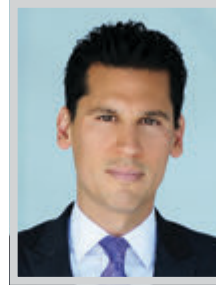
Six and a half years ago, Andrade and Henry Gonzalez launched Andrade Gonzalez, a 100% minority-run and operating firm, when their prior law firm hired a new partner with a client conflict. All of their clients followed. Approaching every client matter with creativity and flexibility, he has achieved numerous victories in a wide array of commercial litigation cases.

**WILLIAM J. BRIGGS II**

Partner, Litigation
Venable LLP

William J. Briggs, II, a partner with Venable LLP in Los Angeles, is recognized as a leading trial lawyer and civil litigator, with extensive experience in the entertainment industry. He provides counsel to some of the most recognizable names in the film, television, music, and sports industries. His clients include actors, musicians, comedians, producers, high-net-worth individuals, celebrities, athletes, and entertainers.

Because of his substantial courtroom experience, clients turn to Briggs for representation in disputes that involve trademarks, copyrights, the First Amendment, defamation, invasion of privacy, right of publicity, guild disputes, profit participation, royalty payments, violations of the Talent Agencies Act, and interpretation and enforcement of talent, executive, distribution, film, and recording contracts. Briggs is also active in the local community. He was appointed to the board of directors of the Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System by Mayor Eric Garcetti.

**JOSHUA BRIONES**

Managing Member
Mintz

Joshua Briones is a son of immigrant farm workers who came to the United States from Mexico to work in the fields of Northern California.

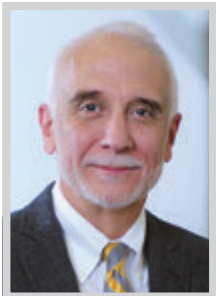
Today Briones is managing member of Mintz's Los Angeles office and is a highly experienced trial lawyer with a national practice. He has received awards and national recognition for his innovative approach to the defense of bet-the-company litigation. He has represented clients in such industries as financial services, building products, retail, pharmaceuticals, automotive, professional sports, food and beverage, petroleum, chemical manufacturing, health care, high technology, and higher education. Briones has served as lead defense counsel on over 400 alleged class actions in state and federal courts across the country.

**MICHAEL BROPHY**

Partner and Office Managing Director
Withersworldwide

Michael Brophy is a partner in the trust and estate litigation team at Withers and is managing director of the firm's Los Angeles Office. He has extensive experience representing high net worth individuals and families, charities, corporate trustees, private professional fiduciaries and creditors in litigation involving complex trusts and estates. Brophy's diverse practice includes will and trust contests, accounting disputes, breach of duty actions, elder abuse and conservatorship disputes, document interpretation matters, and other contested probate and fiduciary-related matters.

Brophy's experience also includes business and commercial litigation, including contract, real estate, copyright, Lanham Act, trade secret, and unfair competition matters. In addition to litigation and trial work, his practice includes risk assessment and counseling, alternative dispute resolution, and administrative proceedings. His recent litigation wins include a trial victory on behalf of a dynasty trust in Los Angeles Superior Court.

**RALPH CAMPILLO**

Member
Mintz

Ralph Campillo is a Cuban native who came to the US as part of the Peter Pan Kids program in the early 1960s. Campillo went on to pursue the American dream and graduated from USC in 1973 with a BS degree magna cum laude and later graduated with a JD from UC Davis in 1976.

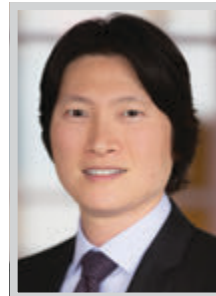
Campillo has always practiced in Los Angeles, starting his career at Haight Brown & Bonesteel (1977-1987) and later started his own firm, Dickson Carlson & Campillo (1987-1998) and later joined as a partner at Sedgwick for nearly 20 years. Campillo joined Mintz in 2017 where he brought his depth of experience, particularly in the complex tort, product liability and commercial litigation. Since his arrival, he has shaped the Product Liability Practice into a powerhouse team. He has tried more than 75 cases to verdict in multiple jurisdictions.

**PAUL S. CHAN**

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

Managing principal Paul Chan has focused on the trial of complex litigation matters for the past 25 years, specializing in cases involving civil RICO, unfair competition, and theft of trade secrets. His clients include Fortune 500 companies, major financial institutions, and emerging technology companies.

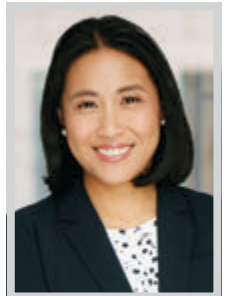
Chan has particular expertise in matters involving the False Claims Act (FCA) having published a number of articles on the subject, in addition to speaking at conferences and presenting webinars. His notable successes involving FCA matters include the successful defense of JM Eagle, the world's largest plastic pipe company, in a damages trial of a 13-year FCA lawsuit brought by over 40 intervening agencies seeking nine-figure damages; the resolution of all claims against a risk assessment provider in an FCA action against the provider and numerous national health plans; and the successful defense of a health services provider in a high-profile FCA anti-kickback case.

**DAVID V. CHANG**

Partner
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

Representing clients in complex business deals requires scrupulous attention to detail, an ability to assess multiple financial scenarios and a keen knowledge and familiarity with the state and federal regulations that apply. As a partner in Morgan Lewis' finance practice, David V. Chang brings these assets to the clients he represents in a range of complex debt financing transactions that encompass several industries and business sectors. He has negotiated and managed deals for clients including leading financial institutions, finance companies, and corporate borrowers.

Specifically, Chang specializes in domestic and cross-border syndicated and bilateral credit facilities, cash-flow and asset-based loans, acquisition and leveraged buyout financings, first- and second-lien debt financings, project financings, public and private debt issuances, workouts, and restructurings. The son of Korean immigrants, Chang has distinguished himself for his skills collaborating on significant deals that end with the best outcome for clients.

**VICKI CHOU**

Of Counsel
Hueston Hennigan LLP

Vicki Chou is of counsel and a key member of the White Collar and Investigations team. 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.

As an AUSA in the Central District of California, she represented the United States in hundreds of criminal cases, including computer and internet fraud, intellectual property, money laundering, bank fraud, tax fraud, and racketeering offenses. Many of her matters involved high level, international coordination, including a case in which she successfully negotiated a first of its kind joint investigative agreement with a European country. She has successfully tried over 10 cases as lead counsel and won every one of her appeals before the Ninth Circuit. She was awarded the National Intelligence Meritorious Unit Citation for her work involving China.

TOP MINORITY ATTORNEYS

**ANDREW Y. CHOUNG**

Partner
Lathrop GPM

Andrew Y. Choung is a highly accomplished patent attorney with a primary focus on high-tech, complex patent litigation and Patent Trial and Appeal Board proceedings such as inter partes review. In one recent matter of great significance, in June 2018, Choung received a \$400 million jury verdict for his client KAIST IP US on a patent related to semiconductor technology. He has the unique experience of practicing IP law in both the United States and Asia and has assisted and counseled clients on cross-border matters, including multi-country patent enforcement.

Choung represents a wide range of clients with a focus on Korean universities, research institutes and companies, with a client base covering various high-tech fields including telecommunications, display and display materials, semiconductors and semiconductor manufacturing equipment, automotive and aeronautical technologies, software, internet technologies, business and financial methods, PC games and virtual worlds and assets.

**MICHELLE COOKE**

Partner
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

Over the course of 27 years, Michelle Cooke, Leader of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP's intellectual property protection and enforcement practice, has established herself as the go-to attorney for companies facing complex, multijurisdictional trademark disputes. Known for the breadth and depth of her knowledge of the intellectual property landscape in the United States and abroad, companies turn to Cooke for the development of their long-term intellectual property programs. In addition to her extraordinary understanding of the full gamut of intellectual property issues, her clients also benefit from her international approach to preplanning, management and vigilance matters, as well as her masterful guidance through delicate brand rehabilitation issues.

In addition, Cooke is a key member of Manatt's Board of Directors, chair of the firm's Committee on Diversity and Inclusion (CD&I), and is a member of the firm's Recruitment Committee.

**MILES COOLEY**

Partner
DLA Piper

Miles Cooley's history of successfully resolving commercial cases for major corporations has prepared him for a career of handling complex dispute resolutions and sophisticated transactional matters for entertainment and media clients on a local, national and global scale. Cooley leverages the synergies created by representing international clients in the local Los Angeles market for the benefit of his clients.

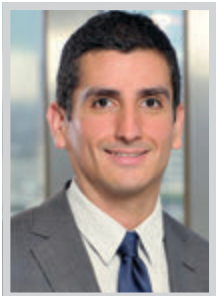
Cooley's practice takes a holistic view to the entertainment, music, media and sports arenas. He serves as counsel to a variety of entertainment and media entities, major multinational companies and high-profile individuals (celebrities, recording artists and athletes) in both dispute resolution matters and talent-related entertainment transactions. He has earned a reputation for being a resolution-driven advocate and a practical problem solver for his clients with a record of providing winning solutions both in and out of the courtroom.

**KANIKA CORLEY**

Partner
Akerman LLP

Kanika Corley has a broad-based commercial litigation, entertainment, and emerging technology practice. Through the years, she has worked with and provided legal assistance for a wide array of clients including: print, digital and television media companies; landowners and real estate developers; advertising agencies; boutique hotels; footwear and apparel designers and manufacturers; professional athletes; restaurant chains; software developers; musicians, writers and other creatives; and wine manufacturers, among others.

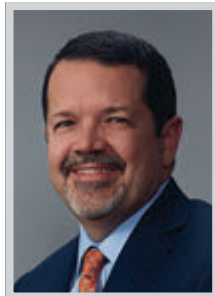
Among her recent representative matters was her work successfully representing Gazeus, the largest casual and social games developer in Brazil. She also successfully defended ACI International when Sole Hope sought to cancel ACI's trademarked Buyamba brand that helps women and children in need in Uganda. Additionally, she successfully represented Del Monte Fresh Produce NA Inc., Lorraine Koster and others in a fraud case.

**VICTOR DE LA CRUZ**

Partner
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

Leadership of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP's land use practice, Victor De la Cruz has a nearly 20-year history of successfully guiding his clients through complex land use matters at the intersection of law and government. Through his track record of success, De la Cruz has established himself as the go-to attorney for entitlements and California Environmental Quality Act matters among the organizations shaping Southern California's landscape.

De la Cruz's clients include developers, institutions, individuals, for-profit companies, and nonprofits such as Mount Saint Mary's University; waste collection and recycling company Athens Services; and private homeowners. In addition to his work at Manatt, De la Cruz is involved with the Los Angeles community at-large. As an avid supporter of the advancement of underrepresented communities, he is an active member of the Board of Directors of Bet Tzedek Legal Services, the Mexican American Bar Foundation, Uncommon Good and Community Partners.

**CAMILO ECHAVARRIA**

Partner in Charge, Los Angeles Office
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

Camilo Echavarria's outstanding performance in his practice and his contributions to advancing his community are what distinguish him and make him the personification of leadership and influence. A self-described "fixer," Echavarria approaches every case with care and attention. One example of his care is his creative cost-effective ways to partner with clients through numerous alternative fee arrangements, enabling them to reduce legal spend and maintain budget predictability.

After graduating from NYU Law in 1997, Echavarria worked as an associate for Morrison & Foerster and Litigation Counsel for NBC Universal. He joined Davis Wright Tremaine in 2006 and was elevated to partner in 2010. He defends employers in single and multi-plaintiff litigation and class action cases. He specializes in employment litigation with an emphasis on disability discrimination, sexual harassment, retaliation, wage and hour issues, and wrongful termination.

**GEORGE C. FATHERREE III**

Partner
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

George Fatherree is a transactional attorney in Munger, Tolles & Olson's real estate group, where he works on a wide array of commercial real estate transactions and also advises museums, educational institutions and other non-for-profit organizations in a variety of corporate, real estate and governance matters.

Fatherree's recent engagements have included representing the J. Paul Getty Trust in leading a consortium of foundations in the acquisition of the priceless photographic archive of Ebony and Jet magazines at auction. He also has represented the LA Clippers in multiple engagements including negotiating a stadium agreement for the Clippers development league team; the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in connection with various transactions related to acquisitions and art lending; and the Debbie Allen Dance Academy in connection with the acquisition, financing and development of a new performing arts center; among many others.

**TERRENCE M. FRANKLIN**

Partner
Sacks, Glazier, Franklin & Lodise LLP

Regarded by his peers as an excellent advocate and dynamic in the courtroom, Terrence Franklin has become the go-to attorney for litigation involving substantial trusts and estates, probate matters, disputes and appeals. His breadth of experience underscores his long-standing reputation and the reason clients turn to him for complex cases involving significant dollar amounts.

Franklin 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. In the past 18 months, he has successfully represented beneficiaries, trustees, individuals and institutional clients in matters involving substantial assets, including recently representing multiple siblings as co-trustees against their sibling co-trustees' attempts to improperly prevent the sale of a closely-held family business, resulting in the successful sale of that business and resignation of the rogue co-trustee.

Congratulations



MOEZ M. KABA VICKI CHOU

Top Minority Attorneys
—*Los Angeles Business Journal*

TOP MINORITY ATTORNEYS



ABIRAMI GNANADESIGAN

Member
Dykema Gossett PLLC

Abi Gnanadesigan is one of Dykema’s most talented young attorneys. After joining Dykema as an associate, she quickly proved her acumen with invaluable contributions to helping clients reach success. Along with her client contributions, she has been an active firm citizen involved in mentoring associates, serving as a member of the associate’s committee, and acting as a member of a committee tasked with the retention of minority lawyers.

Gnanadesigan is a member of the firm’s Litigation Department and her practice focuses on complex commercial litigation and intellectual property litigation. She represents corporations, financial institutions, employers, and court-appointed receivers in a variety of litigation matters in state and federal court, and in mediation and arbitration proceedings. Gnanadesigan has extensive experience handling state and nationwide class action lawsuits on a variety of issues.



MARISSA ROMAN GRIFFITH

Partner/ Entertainment Group
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Among the very few senior Latina attorneys in private practice specializing in media and entertainment transactions, Marissa Roman Griffith regularly handles multimillion-dollar deals for financiers, borrowers, distributors and others involved in various aspects of the production, financing and distribution of film, television and digital content, including credit facilities, domestic and international co-financing agreements and slate transactions.

Among her recent successes has been her work on behalf of Media Rights Capital (MRC) and its affiliates in connection with MRC’s financing activities in film and TV (including co-production and co-financing arrangements for the films ‘Dora and the Lost City of Gold,’ ‘Knives Out’ and ‘The Lovebirds,’ and financing arrangements for the television series ‘Counterpart,’ ‘Dark Tower,’ ‘The Great,’ ‘The Outsider,’ and ‘Ozark,’ and MRC’s JPMorgan-led credit facility.



MIRA HASHMALL

Partner
Miller Barondess, LLP

Mira Hashmall is an exceptional litigator with a broad range of experience litigating complex civil matters. She has represented healthcare companies, commercial banks, government agencies, and entertainment studios, among others. She specializes in employment litigation and has experience resolving racial, sexual, age, and national origin harassment and discrimination claims, as well as retaliation, wage and hour, and wrongful termination claims for private and public employers. She has litigated cases involving disability discrimination and accommodation, and family and medical leave rights. Hashmall also has extensive healthcare experience and has represented Windsor Healthcare, Cedars Sinai Medical Center, and Newport Bay Hospital.

In addition to being a top trial attorney, Hashmall is the head of the appellate practice of Miller Barondess and is a Certified Specialist in Appellate Law, The State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization.

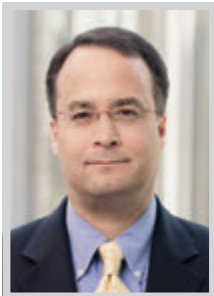


KATHY HUANG

Partner
Alston & Bird

Kathy Huang has a proven track record of providing valuable and strategic solutions for clients facing major exposure and bet-the-company litigation. Her ability to focus on her clients’ needs combined with a deep understanding of their business goals is what positions her as a trusted and valued partner. Her exceptional work over the past year, as well as over the course of her career, is highlighted by several significant case results in class action for life insurance companies, automotive platforms, nutrition and product supplement companies, and major sports apparel retailers and manufacturers.

Recently, Huang helped successfully resolve an action against Ameritas Life Insurance Corporation alleging negligent hiring, supervision and retention and securities fraud brought on behalf of a private action trust seeking the investment losses resulting from a Ponzi scheme run by an independent general agent through his non-insurance business.



ROLAND M. 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, and he has successfully defended clients against the most challenging claims facing employers in California and across the nation. He has secured impressive victories for his clients through innovative strategies.

In a potentially precedent-setting case under the Immigration & Nationality Act, involving the H-1B visa program, Juarez secured a win via summary judgment, obtaining dismissal of 74 claims of back pay. The claims arose from hundreds of employees at Volt Workforce Solutions following an investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) that lasted several years. Juarez was victorious in arguing that the USDOL’s expansion of the investigation was not authorized because the USDOL had failed to meet the specific statutory requirements for such expanded investigations.



MOEZ M. KABA

Partner
Hueston Hennigan LLP

As a diverse, young attorney, Moez Kaba is quickly becoming a trusted advisor, serving as co-lead or second chair on the firm’s most significant matters.

Kaba has had many recent successes in the last year alone. For example, recently, Kaba obtained a complete defense victory for Caltech after a four-week jury trial in Los Angeles; prevailed in the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals on his argument that a social network is immune from liability for third party statements under section 230 of the Communications Decency Act; defeated a \$100 million suit against Bausch Health Companies; obtained dismissal of two Title IX federal lawsuits filed against Caltech; obtained a preliminary injunction on behalf of Amgen against the State of California in a case setting new precedent for the pharmaceutical industry; and defeated the SEC’s motion for contempt against Elon Musk related to his tweets.



BRIEN KELLEY

Partner
Sklar Kirsh

Brien R. Kelley is senior counsel of Sklar Kirsh in the Real Estate Department. Kelley’s practice focuses on complex real estate transactions, with significant experience in commercial and multi-family residential acquisitions and dispositions, real property secured financing, joint venture formation, mezzanine financing and all aspects of real estate due diligence including title and survey review. Kelley’s real estate practice experience includes representation of institutional and family office real estate investors, syndicators, developers and operators, and borrowers in a broad range of real-estate related matters including acquisition, development, financing and disposition and commercial leasing; securitized, mezzanine and preferred equity financing; forming and representing joint ventures, limited liability companies, general and limited partnerships and negotiating joint venture agreements.

Recent success stories include Kelley representing TruAmerica Multifamily, LLC, in connection with a \$100,000,000 joint venture portfolio acquisition.



ANNE KIM

Partner
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Anne Kim is a corporate tax partner in Kirkland & Ellis’ nationally recognized M&A / Private Equity practice group. Recently joining the firm from Proskauer Rose, Anne is an integral part of Kirkland’s premier Los Angeles team that serves Ares Management Corporation, a leading global alternative asset manager with approximately \$144 billion of assets under management. Her practice focuses on advising public and private companies in both taxable and tax-free mergers and acquisitions, divestitures, cross-border transactions and formation of joint ventures. She has experience with diverse industries that are on the pulse of the culture here in California, including technology, energy, retail, entertainment, media and insurance.

Among Kim’s involvement with recent transactions includes her work on behalf of Ares Management Corporation in its check-the-box election to be treated as a corporation for tax purposes effective March 1, 2018, followed by its conversion to a corporation under Delaware law in November 2018.

TOP MINORITY ATTORNEYS

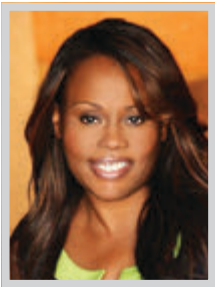


LINDA KORNFELD

Partner and Vice Chair, Insurance Recovery Practice
Blank Rome LLP

L awdragon recently referred to Linda Kornfeld, a partner at Blank Rome LLP and Vice Chair of the firm’s nationally recognized Insurance Recovery Practice, as “a card-carrying member of the ultra-elite club of insurance recovery specialists.” Kornfeld is an outstanding attorney, having distinguished herself in a highly competitive, male-dominated field as one of the leaders in insurance recovery law.

When disasters strike — whether natural or man-made — clients turn to Kornfeld for her strategic counsel, calm demeanor, and responsive service. She has represented companies in high-stakes insurance coverage litigation for more than 25 years, assisting in the recovery of hundreds of millions of dollars in assets in complex matters at trial and through settlements for clients who have been denied coverage by their insurers. Her clients’ industries span the gamut, from telecommunications companies to universities, real estate developers, nonprofit organizations, and wineries damaged in the California wildfires.



HOLLY R. LAKE

Partner
DLA Piper

H olly R. Lake is one of Los Angeles’ pre-eminent employment lawyers, representing both private and public employers in all aspects of employment law and related litigation, including discrimination, harassment, wrongful discharge, and wage-and-hour matters. A 20-year legal industry veteran, Lake has extensive experience leading legal teams on large-scale class and collective actions, employment-related investigations and compliance audits. She also has a strong background in pay equity issues and affirmative action plan development.

Lake handles a portfolio of employment litigation cases for clients across varying industries, including: G6 Hospitality (which includes the brands Motel 6 and Studio 6); Chipotle Mexican Grill; and California Institute of Technology (which includes Jet Propulsion Laboratory). Her representation of G6 Hospitality and Chipotle Mexican Grill has included cases nationwide, often of high-visibility.



RYAN LEADERMAN

Partner
Holland & Knight

R yan Leaderman is a Los Angeles environmental attorney who focuses his practice on obtaining and negotiating land use entitlements for complex land use planning and mixed-use developments. Leaderman also handles securing project approvals for all types of major developments in Southern California. Leaderman is also an active member of Holland & Knight’s LGBTQ affinity group.

Leaderman represents clients in all aspects of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), including CEQA litigation. He has extensive experience in guiding high-profile residential, commercial, and mixed-use development projects through the approval process. Leaderman’s experience encompasses all types of land use permits, such as variances, conditional use permits, subdivision maps, as well as general plan and zoning amendments. He interacts regularly with governmental agencies at all levels. Leaderman assists developers in complying with CEQA, and planning and zoning regulations.



JOHN LECRONE

Partner
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

J ohn LeCrone is a passionate leader and creative collaborator; his ambitious and positive attitude has led him to become an integral change agent in our firm. A self-described “vigorous advocate” for clients in labor and employment matters, LeCrone approaches every case by focusing on his clients’ needs and perspectives.

LeCrone is a well-versed employment attorney who joined Davis Wright Tremaine in 2005. He represents employers and management in wrongful discharge, harassment, and discrimination litigation; in matters including wage and hour class actions, trade secrets/unfair competition and ERISA; and in proceedings before federal and state administrative agencies. He also provides advice on a wide range of personnel issues, including privacy matters, employment agreements, wage and hour, and workplace technology. John works closely with clients in investigations of employment-related complaints, corporate malfeasance, and due diligence matters related to M&A.

Thompson Coburn congratulates LA Office Managing Partner **Jennifer Post** for her recognition among the *Top Minority Attorneys* in Los Angeles.



Jennifer Post
Corporate & Securities

TOTAL COMMITMENT
TO DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

FOR 11 CONSECUTIVE YEARS,
Thompson Coburn has earned a **PERFECT SCORE** of 100 points on the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Corporate Equality Index and Best Places to Work Survey.



thompsoncoburn.com

TOP MINORITY ATTORNEYS



IRENE Y. LEE

Partner
Russ August & Kabat

Irene Lee is a partner at Russ August & Kabat, where she focuses her practice on all aspects of intellectual property, including patent, trademark, trade secret, copyright, and IP licensing. Lee has extensive experience in trademark and copyright prosecution, litigation, and licensing with an emphasis on global brand expansion and management through strategic trademark and copyright protection and enforcement programs. In addition, as a registered patent attorney, Irene employs her patent prosecution experience in strategizing patent litigation and licensing issues. Lee represents clients in a wide range of industries, including automobile, entertainment, fashion, advertising, pharmaceutical, integrated circuits, security and surveillance, housewares, baby products, and food and beverages. Clients from varying industries seek Lee's advice because of her precise legal analysis balanced against her pragmatic approach to legal problems with real life solutions.



D. JASON LYON

Partner
Hahn & Hahn LLP

D. Jason Lyon is a litigation partner at Hahn & Hahn LLP. His practice focuses on commercial, trust, and employment matters. Prior to joining Hahn & Hahn, Lyon was an associate with Latham & Watkins, practicing in the Complex Commercial Litigation and Securities Litigation groups. Lyon earned his BA in film and television from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his J.D. from the UCLA School of Law (Law Review, Michael T. Masin Scholar, Order of the Coif). Among Lyon's recent victories was a five-day trial defending trustee of substantial family trust against charges of breach of trust, elder financial abuse, and related claims. Lyon also represented a major medical billing provider in a fraud and conversion claim against a collection agency, resulting in admission of liability, confession of judgment, and complete restitution of more than \$1.5 million in stolen funds.



MERCEDES O. MARTIN

Shareholder
Buchalter

Mercedes Martin is an active participant in both the firm's Diversity and Women's Committees, and has been instrumental in implementing firm wide diversity events to shape the firm's culture across its growing number of offices in the west coast. This June, Martin was elevated to shareholder. In a short period of time, Martin has assumed a leading role in representing institutional banks as lenders and equity investors in low-income housing tax credit projects nationwide. With a particular emphasis in California, she has developed an expertise in structuring and navigating the multitude of rules and regulations governing the subsidies and public funds required to finance these affordable housing projects. She now co-chairs the firm's Tax Credit Practice Group. She also regularly represents developers, borrowers, lenders and investors in the structuring and financing of projects utilizing new markets tax credits and renewable energy credits.



CANDACE L. MATSON

Partner
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

Candace Matson is a partner in Sheppard Mullin's Los Angeles office, where she is a member of the Business Trials and Real Estate Practice Groups. She also leads the firm's Construction Team. Matson is a long-time co-chair of the firm's LGBTQ+ attorney affinity group, Out At Sheppard, and also serves on the firm's Diversity & Inclusion Strategic Council. Matson, a highly seasoned attorney with more than 30 years of experience, represents clients in complex private and public deals and disputes relating to the design and construction industries. Described by clients as "excellent, thorough, and professional," she maintains a hybrid practice, working on both transactional and litigation matters, as well as serving as an arbitrator of design and construction disputes, both privately and through the auspices of various ADR providers. Matson represents owners, lenders, investment funds, contractors (all tiers), engineering and design professionals, and others in the post-entitlement phase of real estate development.

CONGRATULATIONS TO
OUR PARTNERS
**ALBERT VALENCIA &
POOJA NAIR**



**LOS ANGELES
BUSINESS JOURNAL'S
2020 TOP MINORITY
ATTORNEYS**

ERVIN COHEN & JESSUP LLP
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BYRON J. MCLAIN
Partner
Foley & Lardner LLP

Byron McLain is a Los Angeles-based trial lawyer and white-collar criminal defense partner at Foley & Lardner LLP. A member of the firm’s Government Enforcement Defense & Investigations Practice, he works closely with the Healthcare, Cannabis and Sports & Entertainment industry teams. McLain investigates, litigates and tries complex criminal and civil cases, including those involving government investigations. His practice serves an array of white-collar clients and companies; however, he has a particular focus on the False Claims Act, especially as it applies to the healthcare industry.

He has experience prosecuting health-care fraud, securities law violations, false claims, kickbacks, wire and mail fraud, aggravated identity theft, mortgage fraud, tax conspiracy fraud, movie and entertainment investment fraud, obstruction of justice, marijuana/cannabis distribution and illegal immigration.



AMBER MELIUS
Partner
Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump & Aldisert

Amber Melius, partner at leading entertainment litigation boutique Kinsella Weitzman, handles a broad range of complex litigation matters on behalf of the biggest names in Hollywood. After graduating from Stanford University with a B.A. in Economics and Political Science, she then earned her J.D. at Harvard Law School. Her recent areas of practice include entertainment, copyright, employment, contract and other commercial disputes. She also has experience in government tort claims matters. She has represented clients in federal and state courts, both inside and outside California.

Melius, along with KWIKA partner Michael Kump, is currently representing Academy Award-winning actress Sandra Bullock in a major lawsuit over illegal affiliate marketing that has gained national coverage. Bullock, along with comedian and television host Ellen DeGeneres, is engaged in a legal battle against obscure internet companies that have been using fabricated endorsements to promote their products.



DARRELL D. MILLER
Chair, Entertainment & Sports Law Department
Fox Rothschild LLP

In the entertainment industry, Darrell Miller is known as a career multiplier, helping his clients leverage success to generate more success, so that their projects lead seamlessly to even greater or new opportunities. He provides this forward-looking, strategic representation to clients at all stages of their careers – from promising young stars to established industry icons – assisting them in building their brands and capitalizing on a rapidly expanding and increasingly fragmented media landscape. He represents a remarkably diverse roster of actors, writer/showrunners, directors, producers, executives and production companies in all aspects of their businesses or careers.

A former singer and performer, Miller has built his law practice on trust, relationship by relationship. Over his nearly 30-year career, he has held leadership roles in many of the industry’s most influential groups, serving on the boards of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences and the Black Entertainment & Sports Lawyers Association.



KEVIN J. MINNICK
Counsel
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Kevin Minnick is counsel at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, which he joined in 2009 following a clerkship with the Honorable Raymond C. Fisher on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Minnick’s practice focuses on large-scale class action defense, unfair competition disputes, and trademark litigation. He also provides specialized compliance advice to in-house legal and compliance professionals.

As an associate, Minnick immediately stood out as a leader in the litigation department and was given responsibilities at an early stage, including the opportunity to make several oral arguments in state and federal court. He has been a part of the Los Angeles office’s most important litigation matters over the past several years, including representing Toyota Motor Corporation, Wells Fargo, Purdue Pharma, Samsung, Kia Motors, and Bank of America, among others, in high-stakes cases. As a recent member of the hiring committee at Skadden, Minnick regularly fostered diversity and openness in recruiting efforts.

HAHN & HAHN LLP

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PARTNER, BUSINESS LITIGATION

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“The legal industry has come a long way in recognizing the work of talented attorneys who happen to be people of color or LGBTQ-identified, but we still have work to do. What an honor to be included in this group of great lawyers who are working to build a more inclusive industry and a more just and equitable society.” - D. Jason Lyon

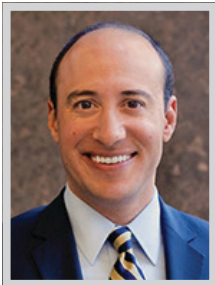
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ENRIQUE A. MONAGAS
Senior Counsel
Sklar Kirsh

Enrique A. Monagas practice focuses primarily on business, intellectual property, entertainment, and constitutional matters. He has represented clients before the Supreme Court of the United States, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the California Supreme Court. The Hispanic National Bar Association and the National LGBT Bar Association have each recognized Monagas as a “Top Lawyer Under 40.”

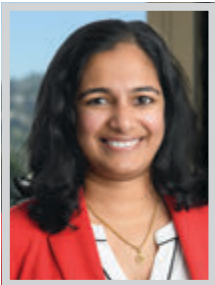
Recently, Monagas successfully represented Southern California Edison in litigation concerning the enforcement of tariffs filed with the California Public Utilities Commission and allegations of fraud against the utility. He won a motion for summary judgment on the basis on a rarely used legal principle, “The Filed Rate Doctrine.” While at the California Department of Justice, Monagas served as the lead attorney representing the State in the federal challenge to the Trump Administration’s ban on military service by transgender individuals.



SEAN MONROE
Partner
O’Melveny

As one of Los Angeles’ leading corporate lawyers, clients in LA and beyond turn to Sean Monroe for their most significant deals. A highly skilled and effective transactional attorney, Monroe counsels high profile clients throughout the lifecycle of their business: from company formation and capital raising and financings to acquisitions, joint ventures and strategic alliances, day-to-day operations, and exit strategies. This past year, his work shifted the LA retail when he represented Global Icons in its acquisition of famed LA clothing store Fred Segal.

Monroe has particular expertise in advising entertainment and media clients in all aspects of transactions, including motion picture financings, television business acquisitions and investments, digital and new media venture formations and other investment, disposition, and licensing matters involving these businesses.



POOJA S. NAIR
Partner
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP

Pooja S. Nair is a business litigator and the head of Ervin Cohen & Jessup’s Food and Beverage practice group. She handles a comprehensive range of employment issues including compliance, internal investigations, and litigation. She is able to understand business needs to help develop employment practices and procedures that are both compliant with applicable laws and practical.

Nair has experience handling internal complaints to de-escalate issues and conduct discrete and thorough internal investigations. She also handles a comprehensive range of business issues in the food and beverage industry, including trade secrets, contract negotiations, intellectual property, licensing, and franchise disputes. Recent highlights include her work second-chairing a four-week financial fraud jury trial in November 2018, which resulted in a \$20.3 million verdict for the client; and her work negotiating a \$900,000 settlement agreement to resolve contract dispute between a food exporter and large customer.



STEPHANE D. NGUYEN
Partner
Reed Smith LLP

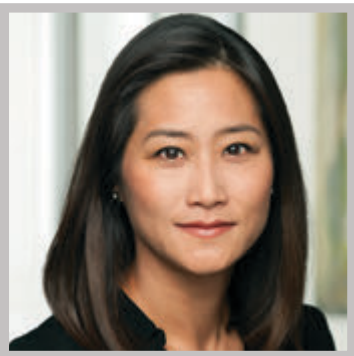
Stephane D. Nguyen is a partner in Reed Smith’s Century City office. His practice focuses on business transactional law, with an emphasis on real estate and corporate transactions and matters. Nguyen represents developers, owners, financiers, buyers and sellers of real estate-based assets and businesses, including power generation and transmission facilities, hotels, shopping centers, mixed-use projects and master planned communities. He has extensive experience with acquisitions, dispositions, financings and joint ventures of these types of businesses and projects.

Nguyen recently led a cross-office and multi-disciplinary team that advised NewSun Energy, LLC on the development and project financing of a portfolio of utility-scale solar energy projects located in Oregon. The lender has committed in excess of \$100 million towards the construction financing for these projects.



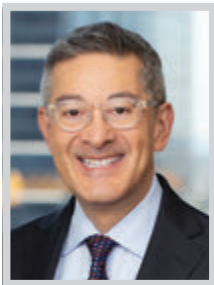
CONGRATULATIONS

Russ August & Kabat proudly congratulates our partners and colleagues, **Irene Lee** and **Benjamin Wang**, on being named among the **2020 TOP MINORITY ATTORNEYS**.



Russ August & Kabat provides sophisticated, creative and cost effective intellectual property, mergers & acquisitions, real property transaction and litigation counsel to our clients.

TOP MINORITY ATTORNEYS



ANTHONY PACHECO
Litigation Shareholder
Vedder Price

Since joining Vedder Price last year, Anthony Pacheco has burnished his already distinguished career in corporate law and public service and shows no signs of slowing down. A leading government enforcement and special investigations attorney, Pacheco focuses his LA-based practice on white-collar criminal defense, internal investigations, and complex business litigation, including civil and criminal trials.

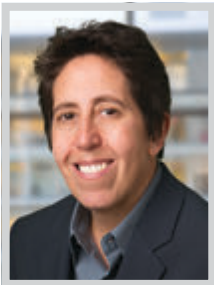
Over the course of his 30-year career, Pacheco has handled over 100 internal investigations and managed sensitive public relations issues involving criminal, quasi-criminal, civil, regulatory, administrative, and parallel proceedings. He also has substantial experience providing counsel on a variety of matters: health care fraud and abuse, False Claim Act, Stark and anti-kick-back laws, HIPAA, data privacy and cyber security, whistleblower claims, securities and financial fraud, insider trading, campaign finance, environmental crimes, tax, and antitrust issues.



PURVI PATEL
Partner
Morrison & Foerster LLP

Purvi Patel is a recognized leader, mentor, and role model in her practice, within Morrison & Foerster, and throughout the community. Patel has a defined niche that cuts across the firm’s Class Actions + Mass Torts and Privacy + Data Security groups. Due to her vast experience handling class action litigation for clients across sectors, Patel has notched significant victories for industry-leading companies, winning summary judgment and defeating class certification in some of the most plaintiff-friendly jurisdictions, as well as negotiating walk-aways with tough adversaries.

Patel is also experienced in defending lawsuits involving the collection, use, and disclosure of personally identifiable information (PII). Her extensive litigation experience uniquely positions her to counsel clients on compliance with established and emerging privacy laws, as well as on the potential privacy implications of business practices relating to the collection of PII.



JENNIFER POST
Managing Partner
Thompson Coburn LLP

Jennifer Post serves as the managing partner of Thompson Coburn’s Los Angeles office. She is the first LGBTQ attorney to serve as an office managing partner in the firm’s history. As part of the firm’s Corporate and Securities practice, Post serves as primary outside counsel to a variety of individuals, institutions and companies, including entrepreneurs, startups and investors, as well as domestic and international public companies.

Dedicated to helping other LGBTQ professionals succeed, Post has used her platform to support other LGBTQ professionals succeed in the workplace. She founded FSIX Advisors Circle, a networking and resource group for LGBTQ professionals in the financial industry. She also founded the West Hollywood Chapter of Provisors. Additionally, Post serves as a member of the Steering Committee of StartOut LA, an organization that provides resources and mentorship to LGBTQ entrepreneurs to empower emerging leaders in technology and related industries.



PAMELA J. PRIVETT
Partner
Alston & Bird

Pamela J. Privett is a partner and team lead for the Real Estate, Finance & Investment Group in Alston & Bird’s Los Angeles office. For 35 years, she has handled a wide variety of complex commercial real property transactions. This includes serving as the lead attorney for transactions relating to every phase of real property acquisition, development, management, financing, leasing, and sale.

Privett has extensive experience in structuring, negotiating, and closing real property purchases and sales, commercial, retail, office, industrial, and special-use leases, option arrangements, rights of first refusal and rights of first offer, loan workouts and restructurings, letters of credit, foreclosures, and deeds in lieu of foreclosure. She regularly advises her clients on the risk allocation and due diligence aspects of their transactions. Additionally, she is well versed in the design and management of large multisite transactions.

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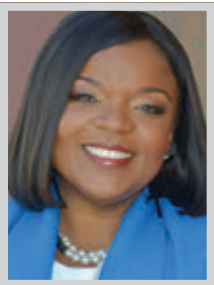
TOP MINORITY ATTORNEYS



ARJUN RAO

Partner
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP

Arjun Rao of Stroock & Stroock & Lavan 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, Capital One, 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, with many of the issues in question at the cutting edge of law. Rao and his firm have succeeded in resolving both individual and class actions, including many cases in 2017- 2019, filed against American Express, Chase Mortgage, Chase Credit Card, Chase Consumer Bank, Chase Auto, Discover, Synchrony, HSBC, and Citibank. Many other cases remain pending.



ANGELA REDDOCK-WRIGHT

Founding & Managing Partner
Reddock Law Group

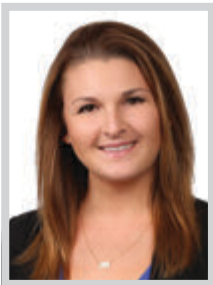
A practicing attorney for nearly 25 years and named a “Southern California Super Lawyer” by her peers each year for the last ten years, Angela Reddock-Wright is regarded as a “go-to” attorney and human resources professional when it comes to any issues dealing with the workplace. Reddock-Wright is the Founding & Managing Partner of the Reddock Law Group, a boutique minority-and-woman-owned dispute resolution and investigations law firm based in downtown Los Angeles, focused on the resolution of employment and labor law, Title IX sexual assault, hazing, and bullying legal claims through the alternative dispute resolution, investigation, and other neutral processes. Prior to opening the Reddock Law Group in 2011, Reddock-Wright was an employment and labor law litigator for 15 years. During this time, she represented clients in the full gamut of employment and labor law cases, including wrongful termination, harassment, discrimination, public policy and wage and hour claims.



ALEX ROMAIN

Partner
Irell & Manella LLP

A partner at Irell & Manella, Alex Romain is a national trial lawyer with more than 20 years of experience in high-stakes, complex commercial litigation and white-collar criminal defense. Romain’s advocacy has led to exemplary results for his clients. He 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.” In the past year-and-a-half, he has handled other significant matters. Throughout 2018, as a lead attorney investigator, Romain defended a California utility company against claims arising out of the Thomas Fire in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.



JULIA ROMANO

Partner
King & Spalding

Julia Romano, who made partner at King & Spalding last year, has the trial experience that few 35-year-old, female and openly LGBT attorneys possess, with more than a dozen high-profile jury trials under her belt after 11 years of practice. As an associate, Romano quickly found her way into the courtroom and onto trial teams, performing litigation and trial work at a young age. By the time she was a fifth-year associate, Romano was regularly preparing and arguing motions in limine, writing direct and cross exams, preparing opening and closing statements, handling charge conferences, assisting with overall trial strategy and even taking witnesses at trial. Romano is now second-chairing some of the most high-profile trials in the product liability world against some of the leading plaintiff’s lawyers in the field. Having benefited from mentorship herself, Romano is now paying it forward as the mentoring partner in King & Spalding’s LA office.

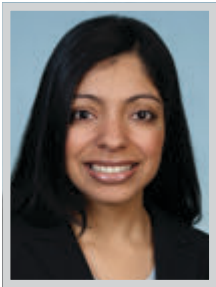


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on being named to
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list of “**Top Minority Attorneys**”

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TOP MINORITY ATTORNEYS



NEEMA SAHNI

Partner
Covington & Burling LLP

Neema Sahni is a litigation partner with deep media industry expertise. Through her work at Covington & Barling, and her prior experience in-house as corporate legal counsel: distribution at The Walt Disney Company, Sahni has developed a sophisticated understanding of the legal issues facing clients in the sports, media, and entertainment industries. Alongside an active litigation docket, Sahni maintains a robust counseling and advisory practice, assisting sports teams and leagues, television networks, and film studios to assess and mitigate their litigation risk in the context of high-stakes business transactions.

Sahni’s diversified litigation experience includes trials and appeals in state and federal court, arbitration proceedings, and agency adjudications. Most recently, Sahni secured a pro bono victory for the City of Los Angeles, as co-lead counsel, in the Ninth Circuit against the Department of Justice in a sanctuary cities case.



MILDRED SEGURA

Partner
Reed Smith LLP

Mildred Segura is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Reed Smith and a member of the Life Sciences Health Industry Group, practicing in the area of product liability with particular emphasis on medical device, pharmaceutical, toxic tort and managed care litigation in state and federal courts, including class actions and multidistrict litigations. In addition, Segura also co-leads the firm’s Internet of Things Task Force and is a member of the firm’s Artificial Intelligence Task Force, helping companies diagnose the risks and benefits of medical devices and applications connected to healthcare IT systems and other disruptive technologies.

As national counsel in numerous high-profile actions, Segura has facilitated discovery efforts, formulated litigation strategy, retained and prepared expert witnesses, prepared and argued dispositive and pretrial motions, mediated cases and served on trial teams. She has handled a variety of matters in other industries involving automobiles, food and beverage, and welding products.



KALPANA SRINIVASAN

Partner
Susman Godfrey LLP

Kalpana Srinivasan is an esteemed trial lawyer, a recognized pioneer, and a many-times honored litigator. In her rise to this position, she has forged a trail for other female and diverse lawyers that follow her. Kalpana serves on the executive (managing) committee of her firm, Susman Godfrey LLP and is among a rare cadre of diverse, female lawyers who regularly try big-ticket commercial cases before judges and juries.

Recent successes for Srinivasan include winning a \$706.2 million jury verdict for client HouseCanary in a misappropriation of trade secret, fraud and breach of contract case against Quicken Loans affiliate, Title Source Inc. As co-lead counsel, Srinivasan played a crucial role in this landmark win, which was finalized by the court in January 2019. She also secured a significant appellate win for NBC Universal subsidiary, Universal Cable Productions, in a multi-million-dollar insurance dispute against insurance company, Atlantic Specialty.



DANIEL SUVOR

Partner
O’Melveny & Myers LLP

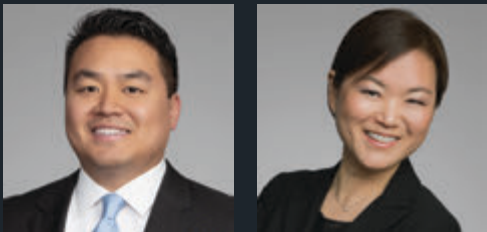
With high-level experience in the Obama administration and as top policy advisor to former California Attorney General Kamala Harris, Daniel Suvor has quickly established himself as a leader at O’Melveny. Since he joined the firm’s Litigation practice a little over two years ago, Suvor not only made partner, but helped launch a national State Attorneys General Litigation and Defense practice, which provides guidance and insight to companies navigating the national landscape of increased enforcement and litigation by state attorneys general.

A skilled litigator and strategic advisor, Suvor specializes in high-stakes litigation, government investigations and controversies, and regulatory matters. His broad practice encompasses products liability, healthcare, environmental, technology, financial services, and white collar and investigation matters that could appear before government agencies. Suvor also represents government agencies in appellate litigation and regulatory counseling matters.

Kirkland & Ellis congratulates partners

Chris Wu & Anne Kim

on being named *Los Angeles Business Journal’s* Top Minority Attorneys.



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Vedder Price recognizes that the strength of our commitment to diversity and inclusion is vital to the success of our firm and to the legal industry.

Congratulations to our very own Anthony Pacheco and Candice Zee, and all the nominees for their recognition as the Top Minority Attorneys in Los Angeles.



Anthony Pacheco



Candice T. Zee

VedderPrice

Vedder Price PC. is affiliated with Vedder Price LLP, which operates in England and Wales, Vedder Price (CA), LLP, which operates in California, and Vedder Price Pte. Ltd., which operates in Singapore.

TOP MINORITY ATTORNEYS



SHIRAZ TANGRI

Principal

Meyers Nave Riback Silver & Wilson, PLC

Shiraz Tangri was born in Jamshedpur, India; he immigrated to upstate New York as a child, and obtained a BA from New York University and a JD from Georgetown University. He has been practicing land use and environmental law in Southern California since 1999, when he moved to Los Angeles from New York. Tangri has a niche practice area that matches the needs of the greater Los Angeles area – advising clients on major infrastructure, transportation, and urban in-fill projects, including housing, cultural and educational institutions, and transit-oriented development. Tangri works on high-profile projects that set the stage for the future of Los Angeles and are milestones in transforming the business, educational, residential and transportation sectors of the Los Angeles economy. He is regularly interviewed by business and legal publications for his views and insights. He also regularly presents at major conferences.

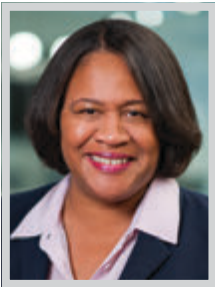


JASON H. TOKORO

Partner

Miller Barondess, LLP

Jason Tokoro is a complex commercial litigator with extensive experience in the entertainment, professional sports, real estate, and financial industries. He has represented a multitude of movie studios including Warner Bros. and Sony Pictures, and Fortune 500 land development companies, Lennar Corporation and Toll Brothers. He also has represented a variety of pro-sports companies and promoters. Tokoro received his Juris Doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley (Boalt Hall) in 2007, Order of the Coif. During law school, he was a Supervising Editor of the Berkeley Business Law Journal. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where he received a Bachelor's Degree in English and Political Science. He serves on the boards of the Alzheimer's Association's Young Professionals Committee and the Los Angeles Intellectual Property Law Association. He is also a member of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association.



RHONDA TROTTER

Partner

Arnold & Porter LLP

An experienced trial lawyer with Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer in Los Angeles, Rhonda Trotter has broad trial experience in intellectual property, products liability, and other commercial disputes, and regularly prosecutes and defends high-stakes trademark, false advertising, and copyright lawsuits. Her track record and experience have garnered significant recognition and praise from World Trademark Review, which noted that she “enjoys the patronage of a diverse range of clients” who describe her as an “excellent trial lawyer” with “a real knack for communicating complicated concepts to a judge or jury.” Most recently, Trotter served as lead trial counsel for Planned Parenthood in the Planned Parenthood v. Center for Medical Progress in a case that has received national news coverage and that ultimately resulted in obtaining \$2.3 million in compensatory and punitive damages in favor of Planned Parenthood.



ALBERT VALENCIA

Partner

Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP

Albert Valencia's practice is focused on real estate and related business matters. His clients include developers, operators, private equity investors and commercial banks in a broad range of real estate transactions, including acquisitions and dispositions, joint ventures and syndications, commercial leasing, financing, loan modifications, workouts and restructurings. Clients look to Valencia for his experience in a broad range of real estate asset classes including commercial, office, retail, multi-family, mixed-use and industrial properties. He regularly represents clients in forming joint ventures and syndications, negotiating structured finance transactions (including obtaining CMBS loans, mezzanine debt and preferred equity) and assisting property owners in asset management. Recent work has included leading the sale of Regent Towers (158,728 square foot office building in Dallas) which closed to an institutional buyer.



Munger, Tolles & Olson congratulates our colleague, **George C. Fatheree, III**, for being named to the Los Angeles Business Journal's 2020 list of Top Minority Attorneys.



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We salute you.

Manatt is proud to congratulate our partners **Michelle Cooke and Victor De la Cruz** on being named among the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* Top Minority Attorneys.

Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP manatt.com

TOP MINORITY ATTORNEYS



BELINDA MARTINEZ VEGA
Partner
Venable LLP

Belinda Martinez Vega is a partner in Venable LLP's Los Angeles office. She focuses her practice on complex commercial litigation, including matters involving unfair business practices, securities litigation, intellectual property, contract disputes, and fraud. She also counsels clients on corporate compliance and conducts internal investigations in response to government inquiries and allegations of misconduct.

This past year, she was a key part of a team that obtained a complete defense verdict in a \$25 million California jury trial alleging breach of duty and fraud against a hospitality company and its CEO. Vega also played a key role in obtaining summary judgment for a refrigeration services company that was sued for vicarious liability and negligent supervision, hiring, and training when an employee drove his vehicle while intoxicated, causing a serious accident. In addition to her legal work, she serves on the board of directors of the Los Angeles Fire and Police Pensions.



BEN WANG
Partner
Russ August & Kabat

Ben Wang is a partner at Russ August & Kabat. He is member of the firm's general litigation, intellectual property litigation, trial and appellate groups. His practice focuses on representing clients in complex business and intellectual property disputes, particularly in patent and trade secret trials and appeals.

In the last 18 months alone, Wang has served as lead trial counsel in a patent jury trial that resulted in a verdict in favor of his client on all issues and damages; argued and won two appeals before the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals; successfully obtained judicial correction of a patent claim; obtained summary judgment in favor of his client, while defeating the opposing party's summary judgment motion; and argued 21 substantive motions before U.S. District Courts across the country; and obtained settlements for clients in excess of \$15,000,000.



KEOLA ROBERT WHITTAKER
Associate
McGuireWoods LLP

From helping a startup food and beverage company navigate its first product recall to assisting an international mining giant in groundbreaking environmental litigation, McGuireWoods associate Keola Whittaker has played important roles ensuring that clients achieve success in the courtroom or avoid litigation altogether. In addition to his work at McGuireWoods, he is a leader in the LGBTIQ community, in Los Angeles and nationally. He co-founded Trevor NextGen at The Trevor Project, bringing together young, motivated volunteers in Los Angeles and New York to raise awareness, develop leadership, advocate and raise funds in support of The Trevor Project's life-saving, life-affirming work for the LGBTIQ community.

Whittaker has more than a decade of experience representing leading financial institutions and Fortune 500 corporations in complex commercial litigation around the country. He represents leading financial institutions in an array of matters, including federal securities lawsuits and government investigations related to the 2008 financial crisis.



BART WILLIAMS
Partner
Proskauer Rose LLP

Bart Williams is one of the nation's most sought-after trial lawyers, with experience in a wide array of commercial litigation as well as white-collar criminal defense and internal corporate investigations. He has served as lead trial counsel for top companies facing the most significant litigation that could make or break their business. Sometimes he handles cases from start to finish; other times he is called in just months or even weeks before a trial to deliver the win.

Williams has an impressive list of victories under his belt in jury and bench trials throughout the United States. He is a respected and respectful litigator, a powerful storyteller and strategic mastermind, whose catalogue of high-profile victories has made him one of the most in-demand lawyers today. Williams previously served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Central District of California where he concentrated on complex criminal prosecutions.

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Congratulations!

Lathrop GPM applauds our partner and colleague, Andrew Choung, selected as one of the Most Influential Minority Attorneys.

Lathrop GPM is proud to promote a culture that celebrates diversity and inclusiveness. We actively encourage and foster a workplace that is respectful of all people and believe diverse perspectives serve as a strength and a benefit.

Andrew Y. Choung

310.789.4658

andrew.choung@lathropgpm.com

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This is an advertisement. The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be made based solely upon advertisements. Neither the highest state courts nor state bar associations review, recognize, or approve certifying organizations, certifications of specialties or specialist designations in the practice of law. The certificate, award or recognition is not a requirement to practice law. Lathrop GPM LLP, 1888 Century Park East, Suite 1000, Los Angeles, CA 90067. For more information, contact Nancy Sher Cohen at 310.789.4600.

TOP MINORITY ATTORNEYS



CHRIS WU
Partner
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Chris Wu is a corporate partner in Kirkland & Ellis’ leading M&A / Private Equity practice group. He is an integral piece of Kirkland’s premier Los Angeles team that serves Ares Management Corporation, a leading global alternative asset manager with approximately \$144 billion of assets under management. He also maintains a diverse corporate practice that focuses on mergers and acquisitions and representing issuers and investment banks in public and private securities offerings and counsels clients on matters of corporate governance, securities law and compliance.

In the past 18 months alone, Wu has been involved in a number of transactions, including the representation of Ares Management Corporation, as equity sponsor and creditor in exchange offer by its portfolio company, 99 Cents Only Stores LLC, of \$131 million senior secured notes for new senior secured notes, and related rights offering.



DEBRA WONG YANG
Partner
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Debra Wong Yang has spent the past decades honing a practice where she is breaking through barriers and practicing where the law is just emerging. She has had a groundbreaking career – first Asian-American woman to serve as a U.S. Attorney, former California state judge, and, reflective of her broad practice and comprehensive abilities, current Co-Chair of Gibson Dunn’s Crisis Management Practice Group.

Given the depth of experience and record of success, Yang focuses part of her practice on strategic counseling. She leads critical representations, both high profile and highly confidential, involving a wide variety of industries, economic sectors, regulatory bodies, law enforcement agencies, global jurisdictions and all types of proceedings. Her clients are in the private and public sectors and include the University of Southern California, MGM Resorts, UCLA and the UC Regents and NeoPollard Interactive LLC.



THOMAS J. YOO
Partner
Holland & Knight

Thomas Yoo is a Los Angeles litigation attorney, a partner, and leader of Holland & Knight’s Product Liability Life Sciences Team. Yoo’s practice includes a variety of product liability matters and commercial disputes. He has served in national, regional and trial counsel, and other strategic, roles on behalf of leading companies in numerous industries, including life sciences, manufacturing, financial services, real estate, transportation and private investment ventures.

Yoo handles a wide range of complex cases, negotiations and exposures, from prescription pharmaceuticals and medical devices to environmental toxic exposure matters, from mass torts involving thousands of cases to individual contract actions. He has in-depth experience in cross-border business disputes, federal multidistrict litigation and statewide coordinations, class action defense and high-profile matters garnering national media attention. In addition, Yoo regularly handles complex scientific issues faced by his clients in life sciences and toxic tort litigations.



CANDICE ZEE
Shareholder
Vedder Price

Candice Zee is an L.A.-based shareholder and member of Vedder Price’s Labor & Employment practice. Zee focuses her practice on traditional labor issues, including unfair labor practice charges, interpretation of collective bargaining agreements, grievances, arbitrations, and National Labor Relations Board proceedings. She has handled several union grievances, arbitrations and representation cases at all stages and has extensive experience managing and overseeing union election campaigns.

Zee has successfully represented and defended numerous multi-state and international corporations on all aspects of employment litigation, including allegations of discrimination, retaliation, harassment, wage and hour issues, reductions in force, reasonable accommodation, and independent contractor issues. She also has experience with workplace torts, including defamation, emotional distress and interference with contractual relations. She has litigated numerous single plaintiff and class-action employment lawsuits in a first chair capacity.

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Shiraz is a Principal in the Land Use and Environmental Law Practice Group. He focuses his transaction, litigation and compliance practice on infrastructure, transportation, higher education, and urban development projects.

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TOP MINORITY ATTORNEYS

State Bar Launches Leadership Bank Program to Maximize Funds for Legal Aid

Late last year, the State Bar of California launched its Leadership Bank program, recognizing financial institutions that help maximize funds to support meaningful access to justice for low-income Californians.

“Financial institutions in California hold nearly \$5 billion in IOLTA accounts, the interest on which goes to support legal aid,” said Leah Wilson, Executive Director. “We know that attorneys and law firms care about increasing the availability of legal services for the millions of Californians who cannot afford to pay for these services. We are excited to highlight banks that choose to be a leader in supporting this work, recognizing and leveraging their tremendous economic power to do good for the neediest in the state.”

To become a designated Leadership Bank, financial institutions need to:

- Pay at least the established compliance rate (ECR) on their Interest on Lawyers’ Trust Accounts (IOLTA). The current ECR is 68 percent of the Federal Funds Rate (FFR); and
- Waive fees and charges on all IOLTA accounts, regardless of the account’s size.

The State Bar distributes grants to nearly 100 legal aid organizations who deliver crucial legal services to the most vulnerable low-income Californians. Examples of the impact these legal aid organizations have include:

- Enabling nearly 4,900 families to stay in

their homes (2017);

- Obtaining more than 4,800 restraining orders to protect survivors from domestic violence (2017);
- Serving over 11,000 clients in the areas of consumer protection and financial matters (2018); and
- Supporting tens of thousands of seniors, veterans, and individuals with disabilities with civil legal issues (2018).

For 2020, the State Bar Board of Trustees approved a record distribution of \$55.6 million in IOLTA funds. This dramatic leap in IOLTA revenue is largely the result of two factors: an improving economy that has driven rising interest rates, and the State Bar’s work with banks to maximize interest revenue.

However, the vast majority of need for legal aid in California remains unmet. The California Justice Gap Study estimates that 60 percent of low-income Californians (in households at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty level) reported experiencing at least one civil legal problem in their households in the past year, but only a small portion of those problems were addressed by legal aid. Meanwhile, legal aid organizations are able to fully resolve only 30 percent of the cases brought to them, with insufficient resources being a major limiter.

Becoming a leadership bank will afford the following benefits to financial institutions:

- **Visibility as a partner in access to justice:** The State Bar will highlight Leadership Banks on its website, publishing the inaugural list in January 2020. The State

their CRA obligations by generating funds that will go directly towards assisting those most in need.

- **Demonstrated social responsibility:** Financial institutions care about their customers and their communities. This is another

‘Financial institutions in California hold nearly \$5 billion in IOLTA accounts, the interest on which goes to support legal aid. We are excited to highlight banks that choose to be a leader in supporting this work, recognizing and leveraging their tremendous economic power to do good for the neediest in the state.’

Bar will make attorneys aware that selecting a Leadership Bank for IOLTA funds will increase funding for and the impact of civil legal aid.

- **Marketing edge:** Financial institutions will have permission to advertise their Leadership Bank designation as evidence of their support for civil legal aid.

Ability to obtain Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) credit: Being a Leadership Bank will help financial institutions fulfill

way to support veterans, seniors, and low-income Californians struggling with disability benefits, medical care, and other issues affecting their financial health.

The State Bar of California’s mission is to protect the public and includes the primary functions of licensing, regulation and discipline of attorneys; the advancement of the ethical and competent practice of law; and support of efforts for greater access to, and inclusion in, the legal system.

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TOP MINORITY ATTORNEYS

First-Ever Report on Racial Disparities in Attorney Discipline Shared with State Bar

At a meeting last November, the State Bar Board of Trustees heard a report on the first-ever study of racial disparities in California attorney discipline and what the State Bar is doing to continue monitoring and improving equity in its discipline system.

“A demonstrated commitment to inclusion and diversity must extend beyond training and aspirational goal-setting. The release of the Farkas report does exactly this,” said Leah Wilson, Executive Director. “We are grateful for the thoroughness and objectivity with which Dr. Farkas addressed this important topic, so critical to our efforts to fulfill our mission. The State Bar’s discipline system needs to protect the public in a way that is fair and unbiased. The report gives us a roadmap to continue probing this complex topic and to address any unintended bias in our discipline system.”

The State Bar engaged George Farkas, Distinguished Professor in the School of Education at the University of California, Irvine, to conduct a thorough quantitative analysis of the likelihood of attorneys of different racial/ethnic groups and genders being placed on probation or disbarred. The study reviewed probations, disbarments, and discipline-related resignations for the last 28 years for approximately 116,000 attorneys admitted between 1990 and 2009. The analysis found statistically significant disparities in probation and disbarment, with the largest differences between black male attorneys and their white male counterparts. But the study also found numerous factors that explained the differences, specifically:

- An attorney’s previous discipline history, which was found to have the strongest effect on discipline outcomes;
- The number of complaints received about an attorney;
- The number of investigations opened against an attorney; and
- The percentage of investigations in which the attorney was not represented by counsel.

To continue monitoring and improving the equity of its attorney discipline processes, the State Bar will:

- Evaluate issues raised by the analysis: disparities in the number of complaints filed by attorney race, gender, and solo practice status; the process of taking complaints and prior discipline into account during State Bar investigations; and the bases for the differential impact of counsel representation on disciplinary outcomes.
- Engage a consultant on bias-free decision-making and processes to make recommendations for:
 - Targeted preventative measures the State Bar can take;
 - Options for whether and how to take prior complaints into account in the discipline process; and
 - Decision matrices and other standardized tools to address any unintended bias in the discipline system.

Other actions taken by the Board of Trustees on November 14 included:

- **Fingerprinting Final Deadline:** The Board heard an update and approved measures to finalize the nearly two-year effort to re-fingerprint all attorneys in California, enabling the agency to comply with its statutory obligation to receive notices of attorney convictions from the State Department of Justice (DOJ). As of November 7, over 98 percent of attorneys had complied with the Rule of Court requiring new fingerprint records, while approximately 1,575 attorneys had yet to comply. The Board approved an effective date of December 3, 2019, to place on involuntary inactive status any attorney who fails to meet the previous day’s final deadline. The Board also approved adding a consumer alert to an attorney’s profile if they are placed on involuntary inactive status for noncompliance with the re-fingerprinting rule.

The State Bar is reviewing criminal histories received from the DOJ as a result of the re-fingerprinting effort. To date, State Bar staff have received information on at least 1,962 attorneys for whom criminal charges or convictions had not previously been reported.

The Office of Chief Trial Counsel (OCTC) evaluates these cases for possible disciplinary charges, prioritizing felony convictions and those in which the crime or conduct amounts to moral turpitude or other conduct warranting discipline. OCTC must then obtain certified records of conviction from the superior courts, along with other supporting documents, in order to proceed with disciplinary action. Approximately 4,000 additional records from the DOJ need to be manually compared with records of attorneys already reported to OCTC to determine if the conviction records are new and could represent grounds for discipline.

Attorneys who have been newly admitted to practice since mid-2019 or who recently transferred to active status will be placed on a new fingerprinting compliance schedule that begins in February 2020.

- **Extension for Task Force on Access Through Innovation of Legal Services (ATILS):** The work of the ATILS Task Force has garnered extensive interest in the legal community, resulting in more than 1,400 comments submitted on the 16 conceptual proposals circulated for public comment this summer. To give the Task Force additional time to synthesize the comments, solicit feedback from the public at large, and finalize its recommendations to the Board, the Board extended the deadline for the ATILS final report to March 31, 2020.

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For more information about Foley, please contact:
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