

CUSTOM CONTENT

JANUARY 28, 2019

M O S T I N F L U E N T I A L

# Minority Attorneys

I N L O S A N G E L E S



# PUBLISHER'S LETTER



**W**E'RE PLEASED TO SHARE TWO IMPORTANT CUSTOM CONTENT SECTIONS WITH OUR READERS IN THIS ISSUE.

First we have our **Influential Minority Attorneys** custom section. 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 who happen to be from a broad cultural spectrum. We accepted nominations from our readers and legal experts from some of the top firms and businesses in the region. From there, we narrowed down those considered to be particularly impactful on the legal scene while serving as trusted advisors in the LA region, along with maintaining the highest professional and ethical standards, and for contributions to the Los Angeles business and legal community at large.

Next up, we have our annual **Economic Forecast & Trends** supplement. And it couldn't come at a better time. Positioned as we are less than a month into 2019, the business landscape of Los Angeles comes with a number of questions. Will the current administration make good on its promises for a continued shift towards business-friendliness? Will the state of California prosper as it faces new tax changes? Which fiscal trends are here to stay and which are temporary?

To help explore the answers for these and many other questions on the minds of our readers and the LA business community at large, we assembled our first event of the year, the Economic Forecast & Trends on Tuesday, January 22nd, and it was great to look back at

what made the headlines in 2018 and engage in some insightful dialogue about how the economy will be impacted this coming year.

Our amazing group of panelists and moderators dug deeper into the issues as they shared their experiences and predictions for the year to come.

I'd like to thank our panelists and everyone who came out to the City Club LA for this insightful event. I'd also like to give special thanks to our sponsors for their generous support.

Best regards,

Anna Magzanyan  
Publisher & CEO

## Congratulations to



**Philip Nulud**

213 • 891 • 5621

[pnulud@buchalter.com](mailto:pnulud@buchalter.com)

A Los Angeles Business Journal

**Most Influential Minority Attorney**

**Buchalter**

Committed to Diversity, Equality & Inclusion



[www.buchalter.com](http://www.buchalter.com)

## MOST INFLUENTIAL MINORITY ATTORNEYS

**NEERAJ ARORA***Partner*

Morgan, Lewis &amp; Bockius LLP

Neeraj Arora's work also involves representing clients such as Prudential Capital Group, in connection with a \$100 million private placement to a wholly owned subsidiary of a global developer of solar energy resources for construction debt used to finance a new 75 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility located in North Carolina. He worked with Prudential Capital in connection with another significant project, a first-of-its-kind \$80 million private placement to a developer of distributed renewable energy resources.

Other clients include Nexamp Inc., a growing developer of clean solar-powered generation, with which Arora worked in connection with a credit facility for two new solar projects to be located in Massachusetts. He also represented Diamond Generating Corporation and its wholly owned subsidiary, Mariposa Energy, in an approximately \$80 million refinancing of its project level indebtedness.

**TERRY B. BATES***Partner*

Reed Smith LLP

Terry Bates is a litigation partner with Reed Smith's Los Angeles' office and has substantial first chair trial experience for both plaintiffs and defendants. He is a member of Reed Smith's Complex Litigation Group where he serves as Deputy Practice Group Leader. He is also a member of Reed Smith's Diversity and Inclusion Committee's firm wide Advisory Board, having previously served as the Los Angeles Office Diversity Committee Partner engaged in assisting in the firm's implementation of policies and practices designed to enhance diversity and inclusiveness, and a member of the Los Angeles Office Recruiting Committee, engaged in selecting new attorneys.

Bates has extensive litigation management and first chair trial experience in state and federal courts, managing cases from inception through trial, as well as parachuting in during the final stages of litigation to negotiate settlements or take matters to trial. His recent trial verdicts include a defense verdict following a seven-day jury trial in 2017 and a plaintiff \$5.76 million verdict in 2018.

**SABRINA A. BELDNER***Partner*

McGuireWoods LLP

McGuireWoods partner Sabrina Beldner's clients refer to her as their "Swiss Army Knife" for employment matters. She is a go-to attorney in high-stakes employment discrimination, wage and hour litigation and traditional labor matters. Beldner also represents the next generation of leadership within McGuireWoods. Since being elevated to partner, she has assumed significant leadership roles, including serving on the firm's Recruiting and Diversity & Inclusion Committees and chairing its LGBT Lawyers Network.

Beldner recently won a defense verdict for a Fortune 100 company and an individual manager on allegations of sexual harassment, retaliation and failure to prevent harassment brought by a female employee following a six-day arbitration hearing in which 10 witnesses testified and more than 75 exhibits were introduced. She also prevailed on an Anti-SLAPP motion challenging a client's former employee's lawsuit, resulting in an award of more than \$17,000 in fees and costs against the employee.

**WILLIAM J. BRIGGS, II***Partner*

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. He has handled a number of high-profile matters within the entertainment industry over the last year.

**RALPH CAMPILLO***Member*

Mintz Levin

Ralph Campillo is a nationally renowned trial attorney whose specialty includes mass torts and all forms of complex litigation, including product liability, commercial disputes, and class actions. Ralph often assumes lead roles in high-stakes cases, federal multidistrict litigations, and bellwether product liability cases. He draws on more than three decades of experience to regularly represent life sciences, pharmaceutical, medical device, and manufacturing companies in federal and state courts around the country.

Campillo has an unparalleled track record of success in high-profile cases involving product liability, mass torts, class actions, and other complex litigation matters. He also has considerable experience handling commercial matters. He has defended prominent pharmaceutical and medical device companies and other top-tier enterprises in bet-the-company litigation, often managing their national dockets and serving them as lead trial counsel and as national or regional coordinating counsel.

**PAUL S. CHAN***Managing Principal*

Bird, Marella, Boxer, Wolpert, Nessim, Drooks, Lincenberg &amp; Rhoads, P.C.

With over 20 years of extensive trial experience, Managing Principal Paul S. Chan is lead defense counsel in numerous complex litigations involving alleged violations of the federal and state False Claims Act and civil RICO statutes. He regularly represents Fortune 500 companies including JM Eagle, Herbalife, Mattel, KB Home and Charles Schwab in major litigations as well as professional partnerships and individuals. He regularly represents both individual and corporate clients from China, Taiwan and other Pacific Rim countries as well as local subsidiaries and affiliates of Asian businesses.

Chan is well adept at navigating the unique challenges often confronted by foreign litigants in complex securities, commercial fraud and intellectual property disputes. She recently secured a significant victory on behalf of client JM Eagle, the world's largest plastic pipe manufacturer. He also represents three Herbalife entities in a class action pending in the Southern District of Florida.

**CHERYL CHANG***Partner*

Blank Rome LLP

Cheryl Chang is a Partner in Blank Rome's Consumer Financial Services practice group. She is a formidable litigator who focuses her multifaceted practice in consumer financial services and corporate litigation. She consistently strives to achieve favorable outcomes for her clients in complex corporate matters using her creative, pragmatic approach to conflicts and solutions in litigation, trial, and settlement negotiations.

Chang's client representation ranges from multinational corporations to limited liability companies and privately held family businesses, across a variety of industries. She is recognized by co-counsel and opponents alike for her keen ability to see legal issues and business decisions from her clients' point of view. She is fluent in spoken Mandarin Chinese, Taiwanese, and French. Chang litigates for corporate and entertainment clients before state and local courts in matters including: intellectual property, antitrust and consumer class action defense.

**HAILYN J. CHEN***Partner*

Munger, Tolles &amp; Olson LLP

From early in her career, Munger, Tolles & Olson partner Hailyn Chen, an Asian American woman, distinguished herself as a leading litigator who tirelessly represents a broad base of clients, from the University of California and other leading higher education institutions in high-stakes internal investigations to large companies, such as Airbnb, in their most complex litigation and trials.

Chen's commitment and success as an influential leader expands well beyond her practice. In 2017, she was appointed by the California Supreme Court as one of its five appointments to the State Bar of California's Board of Trustees, which protects the public through licensing, regulation and discipline of attorneys, promoting the ethical practice of law and supporting efforts to achieve greater access to justice. In the higher education industry, Chen is frequently called on by UC to solve its most challenging issues related to litigation matters and investigations.



Congratulations to all the  
trailblazers and changemakers  
recognized as

**MOST INFLUENTIAL  
MINORITY LAWYERS**

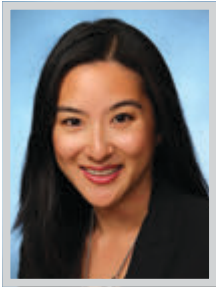
and to our very own

**MOEZ KABA**

**HUESTON HENNIGAN**  
HUESTON.COM



## MOST INFLUENTIAL MINORITY ATTORNEYS

**NANCY CLAPP***Partner*

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

Nancy Clapp is a Real Property partner in the Los Angeles office of Davis Wright Tremaine LLP. She has a unique practice centered on affordable housing lending, advising commercial banks and other lending institutions in providing construction and permanent financing for tax credit supported affordable housing projects. Over the past ten years she has seen many shifts in funding sources, and has worked arduously to advise her clients on the nuances of such new sources of funding and to help protect their interests in what is at times unfamiliar territory.

Living in Los Angeles, seeing the tent communities grow and housing costs continue to rise, Clapp is proud to be a part of a professional community that strives to address some of these needs. She closes approximately 20 new affordable housing transactions each year for a wide range of commercial banks and other lenders. Some of her clients include Bank of America, Wells Fargo Bank, U.S. Bank, MUFG Union Bank, and California Community Reinvestment.

**CARMEN J. COLE***Principal*

Polsinelli LLP

Carmen Cole is a high-profile, highly accomplished attorney at the top of her field. In her labor & employment practice, Cole represents several of California's major employers in addition to many businesses with national operations in the banking, trucking, aerospace, entertainment, construction, retail, and real estate industries, as well as Fortune 500 companies with global operations.

Cole has prior experience as an in-house human resource professional working on the client side of issues with outside counsel. Her unique knowledge-base combined with her legal acumen have helped her build a reputation as a "go to" attorney for the resolution of client industry-specific, one-of-a-kind employment law disputes. She provides clients with both legal strategies and practical advice when navigating complex employment law issues involving state and federal anti-harassment and anti-discrimination statutes as well as claims for wrongful termination, breach of contract, defamation, claims of pay disparity, invasion of privacy, whistleblowing and other employment related torts.

**SCOTT COMMERSON***Partner*

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

Scott Commerson is a litigation partner in the Los Angeles office of Davis Wright Tremaine LLP. He has a diverse litigation practice focused on prosecuting and defending trademark infringement, false advertising, and trade secret misappropriation claims. In addition to intellectual property litigation, he also regularly defends companies in class actions brought under California's consumer protection and unfair competition laws.

Commerson represents clients in state and federal courts and arbitration tribunals across the country. He has won numerous dispositive motions, and has litigated cases through trial, arbitration, and appeal. Some of his victories over the past several years include obtaining a preliminary injunction on behalf of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences enjoining the auction of Whitney Houston's Emmy statuette; and obtaining summary judgment on claims that the use of the IPANEMA trademark for sandals by a Brazilian multinational footwear manufacturer infringed the plaintiff's use of the IPANEMA trademark for swimwear.

**MICHELLE COOKE***Partner and Co-chair, Intellectual Property*  
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

Michelle Cooke is co-chair of Manatt's intellectual property practice. Her work spans many industries and regions, and her client list includes Universal City Studios LLC (entertainment), publicly traded Alliance Healthcare Services (healthcare), Yoobi LLC (consumer products) and Eurostar, Inc. (retail). She has specialized in the trademark and copyright arena for over 20 years. Since joining Manatt, she has extended her experience in developing and executing brand-centric legal strategies for multiple new and existing firm clients, particularly in entertainment, multimedia and consumer products.

A trusted partner to her clients, over the past year, Cooke has helped establish, guard and grow prominent brands by working with clients such as AT&T; Credit One Bank, N.A.; Herbalife International Inc.; and Passionflix, Inc. Her work included providing global strategies to create and increase brand value and revising those strategies to reflect each client's evolving business needs.

**MILES COOLEY***Partner*

DLA Piper

Miles Cooley spent the formative part of his career honing his litigation skills and successfully resolving "bet the company" commercial cases for major corporate clients. Over the past 13 years he applied those skills while handling complex dispute resolutions and sophisticated transactional matters for entertainment and media clients on a local, national and global scale. He now leverages the synergies created by representing international clients in the local Los Angeles market for the benefit of his clients.

Coley'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.

**VICTOR DE LA CRUZ***Partner and Co-chair, Land Use Practice*  
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

A leading entitlements and California Environmental Quality Act attorney, Victor De la Cruz's successful track record with controversial land use matters has led to his engagement on some of the most politically sensitive projects in Los Angeles, many of which have played a prominent role in shaping and defining the Southern California landscape. In 2016, he was also selected to co-chair the Central City Association of Los Angeles' Housing, Land Use and Development Committee, where he just completed his two year term. He also currently serves on the Boards of Community Partners, the Mexican American Bar Foundation, and Uncommon Good.

This year, De la Cruz successfully represented Kilroy Realty Corp. in entitling its \$350 million Academy Square project in Hollywood, and Athens Services with a 265,000-square-foot materials recovery facility and transfer station in Irwindale. He also represents Mount Saint Mary's University in its first building project in over three decades.

**ROCKARD DELGADILLO***Partner*

DLA Piper

Rockard "Rocky" Delgadillo has more than 30 years of experience in litigation, economic development transactions, and government law and public policy. Delgadillo served an eight-year tenure, the term limit, as the City of Los Angeles City Attorney. As the city's chief lawyer and chief criminal prosecutor, he led more than 550 attorneys who comprise the second largest municipal law firm in the nation. He was the first Latino to win citywide office in more than 100 years when he was elected in 2001. Running unopposed, he was re-elected in 2005 to a second four-year term. During his tenure as City Attorney, Delgadillo implemented a number of innovative programs to further his vision of a better and safer Los Angeles. His top priorities included fighting crime, improving the quality of life in local neighborhoods and reducing the city's civil liabilities. In his first term, he more than tripled the number of gang injunctions, contributing to a steep decline in crime in affected areas.

**MARISSA DENNIS***Partner*

Allen Matkins

Marissa M. Dennis is a litigation partner in the Los Angeles office of Allen Matkins. Her litigation practice is focused on commercial, real estate and financial services litigation and she currently leads the firm's FinTech Litigation Initiative. She commonly represents commercial landlords, tenants and developers in a variety of breach of contract and tort actions, as well as national lenders and servicers in complex consumer finance litigation.

Dennis also has extensive experience representing technology companies in unfair competition and false advertising claims, including in multiple class actions. She also has experience representing court-appointed permanent receivers in connection with securities fraud actions. She has chaired numerous jury trials, bench trials, and arbitrations, and has argued before the California Court of Appeal and federal and state courts throughout California. In the last 24 months, Marissa has chaired six arbitrations involving real property disputes.



Holland & Knight congratulates all of the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* "Most Influential Minority Attorneys," including Holland & Knight's own

## Vivian Lee Thoreen and Karl J. Lott.



**Vivian Lee Thoreen**  
 Executive Partner  
 Chair, Private Wealth Services  
 Dispute Resolution Team  
 Los Angeles, CA  
 213.896.2482



**Karl J. Lott**  
 Partner  
 Chair, Los Angeles Diversity  
 Committee  
 Los Angeles, CA  
 213.896.2436

By implementing diversity-related programs and initiatives, Holland & Knight is dedicated to promoting a culture that values individual respect and dignity.

Holland & Knight is a global law firm with more than 1,300 lawyers and other professionals in 28 offices throughout the world. We focus on the major industries and services that drive the Los Angeles marketplace, including:

- class action defense
- commercial litigation
- construction law
- corporate law
- environmental law
- energy and clean technology
- financial services
- gaming and casino
- hospitality and resort development
- intellectual property
- labor and employment
- local, state and federal government advocacy
- Native American law
- private wealth services
- product liability
- real estate, land use and development
- retail and consumer products
- software, hardware and Internet
- taxation
- technology
- telecommunications and media
- transportation
- white collar and compliance



**Mansfield Rule™ Certification**  
 Recognized as one of only 27 firms to earn the **Mansfield Certified Plus 2018** designation where women and minority lawyers represent at least 30 percent of a significant number of firm leadership roles and committees



**2018 Americas Women in Business Law Awards**  
 Named "**Best Firm for Diversity**" in North America in recognition of the firm's culture of diversity and inclusion in the workplace and "**Best in the U.S. West**" for its support of women attorneys



**The American Lawyer magazine**  
**High rankings** in ALM's 2018 Diversity Scorecard

# Holland & Knight

www.hklaw.com



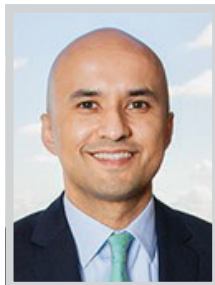
## MOST INFLUENTIAL MINORITY ATTORNEYS

**AMBER FINCH**

Partner  
Reed Smith LLP

**A**mber Finch is a partner in Reed Smith's Los Angeles office and currently is the Diversity Chair leading diversity and inclusion efforts for the Red Smith downtown Los Angeles office. A member of the firm's Insurance Recovery Group since joining in 2011, Finch has quickly become a go-to lawyer for resolving disputes with insurance companies. With her commercial litigation and environmental background, she has recovered hundreds of millions of dollars in insurance proceeds for her commercial clients. She helps her clients negotiate better insurance coverage on the front end, tender and collect on insurance claims, and litigate insurance cases.

Finch's environmental experience includes the representation of landowners, tenants, and other operators of property on a variety of hazardous waste, water, air, and other environmental impact issues. Finch also defends her clients in private cost recovery actions brought under CERCLA and RCRA.

**ALFRED FRAIJO, JR.**

Partner  
Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP

**A**s a partner and member of the Executive Committee at Sheppard Mullin, Alfred Fraijo constantly works to ensure that both his law firm and the larger legal industry are diverse and inclusive. He is the first openly gay equity partner to serve on the firm's Executive Committee, which is charged with the overall administration and strategic direction of the firm. He helped develop initiatives that support LGBT+ partners and associates at the firm and ensure greater retention and promotion initiatives are implemented. He is a member of the firm's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, which focuses on expanding diversity recruiting efforts, increasing the retention and promotion of women and diverse attorneys, and enhancing diversity and inclusion in firm management.

Fraijo dedicates much of his life outside of the office to working with community-based organizations. He utilizes his high-caliber experience to support the development and sustainability of organizations that are trying to support low-income communities.

**TERRENCE M. FRANKLIN**

Partner  
Sacks, Glazier, Franklin & Lodise LLP

**T**errence Franklin has developed a reputation as a leading trusts and estates attorney in his nearly 30 years of practice, handling the most complex, high-value cases. He is responsible for several published appeals and the landmark *Moeller v. Superior Court* case, which was brought before the California Supreme Court and established a fiduciary exception to the attorney-client privilege for successor trustees. Franklin was also counsel in: *Giammarusco v. Simon*, which addressed whether a no contest clause barred an attempt to reform a trust document due to a scrivener's error; *Estate of Cleveland*, which addressed the rights of inheritance for foster and stepchildren under the California Probate Code; *Estate of Richter*, which held that a proposed action to determine a surviving spouse's community property interest would not violate a no-contest clause in a decedent's will.

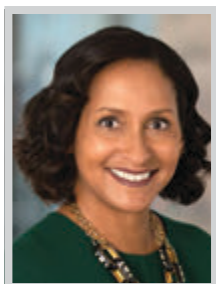
Regularly recognized by leading lists and awards, Franklin was ranked by Chambers and Partners' High Net Worth guide in the Private Wealth Law category for the past two years.

**STEPHEN M. GARCIA**

Founding Partner  
Garcia & Artigliere

**P**rior to founding Garcia & Artigliere, Stephen Garcia was trying criminal cases out of his office in Manhattan Beach when he took on an elder abuse case on behalf of a Hispanic family whose mother was being abused in a long-term health care facility. As a Hispanic lawyer, Garcia empathized with the family, who was being ignored by the facility because they didn't speak English, and he knew he had to help. It was the first case he tried under the elder abuse statute, and he won. Given his strong desire to seek justice for these victims and many others, he refocused his practice to do just that.

Now, representing plaintiffs for more than 30 years in thousands of elder/dependent adult abuse, nursing home neglect and wrongful death cases, Garcia has served as counsel on behalf of consumers throughout the United States in matters resulting in more than \$1.25 billion in settlements and jury verdicts.

**LISA GILFORD**

Partner  
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

**L**isa Gilford is consistently recognized as one of the leading complex civil litigators in California. Her practice is focused on class actions, products liability law and jury trials. She represents several major members of the automotive, pharmaceutical, communications, oil and gas, aerospace and chemical manufacturing industries and has earned a reputation as a "go-to" lawyer for companies facing their most challenging and significant issues. As well, superb advocacy skills have played a pivotal role in shaping the outcome of numerous class actions nationwide. Gilford has been engaged by an impressive roster of clients who have positioned her at the forefront of weighty litigation. She is also highly experienced at defending class action lawsuits through the class certification process and trial.

Gilford received the J. Michael Brown Award from DuPont in 2008 for her personal commitment to diversity, recruiting and mentoring in the legal profession.

**JOSEPH A. GUARDARRAMA**

Partner  
Kaufman Legal Group

**J**oe Guardarrama joined Kaufman Legal Group in 2011, bringing a unique blend of private practice experience and service as a public official to the firm's Governmental Ethics, Campaign Finance, and Election Law practices. At Kaufman Legal Group, Guardarrama advises candidates, officeholders, political action committees, independent expenditure committees, major donors, lobbyists, and corporations regarding all legal aspects of their involvement with the political process at the state and local levels.

Prior to joining the firm, Guardarrama served as a Planning Commissioner in the City of West Hollywood for over seven years. During his tenure on the Commission, he presided over its meetings as both Chair and Vice Chair, and dealt with complicated land use policy matters. He has extensive experience with land use, zoning, and planning issues, as well as with the California Environmental Quality Act. He managed the Democratic Party's on-the-ground post-election vote canvass in Orange County, ensuring that all votes were properly counted.

**PATRICK HARDER**

Partner, Chair—Infrastructure Practice Group  
Nossaman LLP

**O**ver the past several years, Patrick Harder – Chair of Nossaman's Infrastructure Practice Group – has served as lead counsel to public agencies on some of the largest, most innovative, and most technically complex Public-Private Partnership (P3) projects in Los Angeles and nationally. Currently, he is serving as the lead attorney for the City of Los Angeles/Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) Landside Access Modernization Program (LAMP), a massive \$6 billion-plus overhaul/modernization of LAX, and the largest P3 program ever undertaken by the City.

This approximately \$5 billion project is the core of the LAMP project, and will ease transit throughout LAX, while connecting the Airport with the Crenshaw Metro station and allowing travelers to take the train directly into LAX for the first time. This will significantly improve access to LAX, and enhance how 75 million travelers experience the nation's second busiest airport. Harder's mother is from Jalisco, Mexico, where he spent much of his early childhood.

**NICKY JATANA**

Principal  
Jackson Lewis P.C.

**N**icky Jatana is a Principal in the Los Angeles office of Jackson Lewis P.C. Her practice focuses on employment litigation, as well as on advising employers regarding daily workplace issues. She is a Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP) with the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP).

Jatana has experience with litigation involving wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment, breach of contract, wage and hour, preventive advice and training, and other labor and employment-related matters. She has litigated numerous wage and hour class and multi-plaintiff actions and has trial experience. Jatana conducts training seminars and frequently speaks publicly on a multitude of employment law topics. Her experience includes handling employment matters from both in-house counsel and outside counsel perspectives. She practices in both state and federal court and also before such tribunals as the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

MOST INFLUENTIAL MINORITY ATTORNEYS



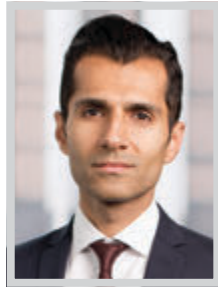
**MARK JONES**

Partner

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

Mark Jones is a recognized authority in the design and administration of compensation and benefit programs for senior executives and other employees. He provides strategic counsel to public and private corporations and senior executives on deferred compensation, stock awards, retirement benefits and severance pay. He has particular experience with international compensation, banking regulations and California blue sky laws. Jones frequently handles executive compensation and employee benefit issues that arise in M&As, spinoffs, IPOs and financings.

Among his matters in the past 12 months was his work representing AT&T Services in the multi-billion dollar acquisition of various providers of entertainment content for its subsidiary Warner Media, which closed in August, 2018. He also advised Chevron Corporation on the global rollout of its stock incentive plan into 28 jurisdictions; and restructured the \$460 million pension plan of a major defense contractor to reduce and stabilize annual funding expenses.



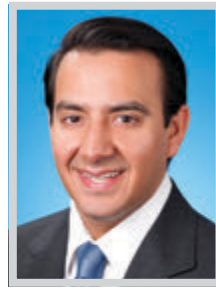
**MOEZ M. KABA**

Partner

Hueston Hennigan LLP

Moez Kaba has assumed leading roles on cases and in trials, which have led to a string of notable victories for high-profile clients. As a diverse, young attorney, Kaba is quickly becoming a trusted advisor, serving as co-lead or second chair on the firm's most significant matters, including the Navajo Nation's environmental suit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, IMDb.com's First Amendment suit against the State of California, and multiple lawsuits facing the State Bar of California.

Kaba previously served as the Secretary of the Board of Directors for Equality California and continues to dedicate considerable time to pro bono work. He represented Equality California in challenging the constitutionality of California's ban on same-sex marriage in the United States Supreme Court. For several years, he represented various women's rights groups in cases challenging the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and state bans on same-sex marriage.



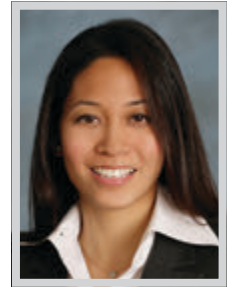
**TEDDY KAPUR**

Partner

Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP

Teddy M. Kapur is a Partner at Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP, the nation's largest corporate restructuring boutique. As a Partner at PSZJ, Kapur is actively involved in the nation's most high profile insolvencies. He represents debtors, creditors' committees, trustees, assignees and asset purchasers in chapter 11 corporate bankruptcies, chapter 9 municipal bankruptcies, assignments for the benefit of creditors, and other out-of-court restructurings.

PSZJ perennially ranks as the law firm handling the most creditor committee and debtor engagements. Kapur has played an integral role in PSZJ cases that have been awarded the "Mid-Size Company Turnaround of the Year" by the Turnaround Management Association and "Reorganization of the Year Award" by The M&A Advisor. He recently handled the real estate restructuring of The Source at Beach LLC. Kapur and his PSZJ team were able to restructure the terms of over \$125 million of existing debt and save the company from bankruptcy.



**NISHA KANCHANAPOOMI**

Partner

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Nisha Kanchanapoomi is a corporate partner in Kirkland & Ellis' nationally recognized Debt Finance Practice Group. Recently ranked "Finance Firm of the Year," Kanchanapoomi is an integral piece of Kirkland's premier Los Angeles team that serves over 50 private equity sponsors and portfolio companies and serves as counsel in an unmatched volume of transactions.

Kanchanapoomi's practice focuses on all aspects of debt financing transactions, including the representation of private equity sponsors, hedge funds, public and private companies and alternative capital sources in complex financing transactions ranging from leveraged buyouts, recapitalizations, restructurings to other special situation transactions. She also advises major high end retailers in connection with financings and liability management transactions and has negotiated and closed transactions in a diverse group of industries that are on the pulse of the culture here in California, including technology, energy, retail, entertainment, media and healthcare.

Thompson Coburn  
congratulates partner  
Jennifer Post for her  
recognition among the  
*Most Influential Minority  
Attorneys in Los Angeles.*



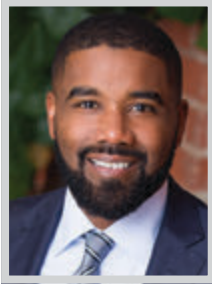
Jennifer Post  
Corporate Finance & Securities

For ten 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.

TOTAL COMMITMENT to Diversity & Inclusion



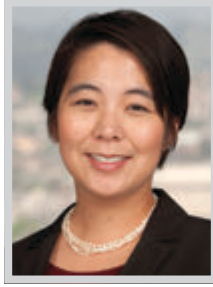
## MOST INFLUENTIAL MINORITY ATTORNEYS

**STEPHEN KING***Trial Lawyer*

Carpenter, Zuckerman, &amp; Rowley

Stephen A. King is a reputable and seasoned trial lawyer with over 100 jury trials to verdict. His passion for justice has led him to obtaining several million dollar jury verdicts including serving as a lead trial lawyer on a team of lawyers who obtained the largest non-economic damages verdict in Riverside County of \$40 million in 2015. His other recent successes include a \$1.1 million verdict against the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department for First Amendment violations in 2015 and a record-setting \$3.1 million verdict against the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services in 2016 for Fourteenth Amendment violations.

King is also a founding instructor at Trojan Horse Method where he travels across the country teaching lawyers trial presentation skills and is also a graduate of the Gerry Spence Trial Lawyers College.

**EMILY KUWAHARA***Partner*

Crowell &amp; Moring LLP

From large corporations to leading institutions, clients turn to Crowell & Moring partner Emily T. Kuwahara to litigate their complex disputes. She has represented clients in appeals, class actions, government investigations, unfair competition actions, and breach of contract actions, resulting in satisfied clients and the recovery of hundreds of millions of dollars. In September, she was recognized among the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's (NAPABA) 2018 Best Lawyers Under 40 for achieving prominence and distinction in her field.

Most notably, Kuwahara was part of a Crowell & Moring team that obtained several great results for The Regents of the University of California over the span of seven years. In a dispute relating to the licensing of compounds to treat prostate cancer, the team first obtained a summary judgment win for The Regents on breach of contract claims, followed by a bench trial win for declaratory relief, securing future payments of \$32 million from the licensee, Medivation, Inc. to The Regents.

**SALVADOR (SAL) P. LAVIÑA***Partner*

Barnes &amp; Thornburg LLP

Salvador P. LaViña is a partner in Barnes & Thornburg's Los Angeles office. A member of the Real Estate Department, LaViña has nearly 30 years' experience working on complex transactions and providing strategic advice to his clients. He has supervised or closed transactions totaling billions of dollars in several states across the U.S., and nearly \$10 billion in transactions since the economic downturn in 2008. He advises clients in virtually all areas of real estate, including acquisitions and sales, joint ventures, multifamily transactions, complex 1031 exchanges and tenant-in-common transactions, real estate fund formation, development, public-private and multistate matters.

In the corporate realm, he focuses on mid-market mergers and acquisitions, stock and asset transactions, fund formation, syndication, and private placements. LaViña represents family offices, investors and entrepreneurs. He also counsels clients on complex workouts, crisis management, as well as with investor and LLC disputes.

**IRENE Y. LEE***Partner*

Russ August &amp; Kabat

Irene Y. 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. She 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 jewelry, fashion, automobile, entertainment, advertising, pharmaceutical, integrated circuits, security and surveillance, housewares, baby products, and food and beverages. Clients from varying industries seek and heed her advice and her peers respect her opinion because of her considered and precise legal analysis balanced against her practical and pragmatic approach to legal problems with real-life solutions.

# CZR Congratulates LA's Most Influential Minority Attorneys



CZR would like to congratulate Stephen King and all the other nominees on being named the Most Influential Minority Attorneys in Los Angeles.



MOST INFLUENTIAL MINORITY ATTORNEYS



**KARL J. LOTT**  
Partner  
Holland & Knight LLP

**K**arl J. Lott is a partner in the Real Estate Group of Holland & Knight, based in the firm's Los Angeles office, and is the chair of the office's Diversity Committee. Lott has 28 years of experience as a commercial real estate attorney, and his practice focuses on all aspects of commercial real estate transactions, including real estate finance (representing lenders, borrowers and joint ventures, and representing lending entities established to participate in the EB-5 immigration program), acquisitions and dispositions, and leasing.

In the past 12-18 months, Lott has negotiated a number of complex leases, including representing the landlord of an office building in San Francisco in a lease of 10 floors of the building to a technology company; working on a major restaurant lease in Beverly Hills; assisting a property owner in restructuring the leases on an industrial property to position the property for sale; and conducting all the leasing on a number of office buildings and shopping centers in various locations in California.



**STEPHEN Y. MA**  
Partner  
Early Sullivan Wright Gizer & McRae LLP

**S**teve Ma, Partner with Early Sullivan Wright Gizer & McRae, LLP, has a vast, high profile litigation practice as evidenced by several recent, notable achievements on behalf of well-known clients. He successfully defended Warner/Chappell Music, Inc. against fraud and copyright infringement claims filed by a plaintiff songwriter against the publishing behemoth regarding compositions covered by The Rolling Stones and George Thorogood & The Destroyers. He also achieved a summary judgment on behalf of East West Bank against liens and related claims in connection with a \$30 million hotel development project. Further, he is currently defending tech-hardware leader Glass Apps against wrongful termination and employment claims, and defending blockchain innovator MetaXchain against contractual claims.

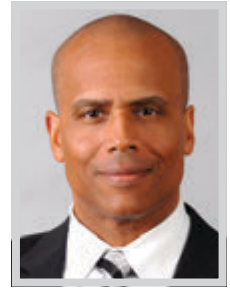
Ma serves as trial counsel and a trusted legal advisor to other billion-dollar public companies, private investment firms, entertainment companies, and cutting-edge start-ups.



**KEVIN MASUDA**  
Partner  
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

**K**evin Masuda, co-chair of Gibson Dunn's Media, Entertainment and Technology and Betting and Gaming practice groups, regularly represents content companies, including motion picture studios and music companies, technology companies, gaming companies, private equity funds, sports and talent agencies, and other clients in various types of business transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, investments, restructurings, public and private securities offerings, licensing agreements, sponsorships, and other strategic agreements.

Masuda works with some of the highest profile names in the sector. Among his recent deals are advising MGM Resorts International in its 50/50 joint venture with GVC Holdings PLC to create a leading U.S. sports betting and interactive gaming platform and the Hugh M. Hefner 1991 Trust in connection with the sale of the Trust's shares in Playboy. Masuda also represented Ladder LLC in its formation, licensing, commercial arrangements, and capital raise through 2017 and 2018.



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

**M**arcellus McRae is a member of Gibson Dunn's White Collar Defense and Investigations, Government Contracts, Media, Entertainment and Technology, and International Trade Practice Groups. His litigation and white-collar criminal defense practices focus on a wide variety of business disputes, internal investigations, and criminal prosecutions including defense of individuals and corporations in cases involving allegations of: financial fraud, False Claims Act violations, public corruption, violations of federal and state environmental laws, health care fraud, wrongful death, criminal antitrust violations, and other matters.

McRae also represents and advises employers in wrongful termination, retaliation, and whistleblower claims. He has first chaired numerous jury trials, bench trials, and arbitrations in both federal and state courts. From 1995 through 1998, he served as an Assistant United States Attorney with the Criminal Division, Major Frauds Section, of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles.

DIVERSITY

**INCLUSION IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS**

We believe that diversity and inclusion are fundamental to our success. Congratulations to **Nancy Clapp** and **Scott Commerson** for being named "Most Influential Minority Attorneys"



[DWT.COM/DIVERSITY](http://DWT.COM/DIVERSITY)

Anchorage | Bellevue | Los Angeles | New York | Portland  
San Francisco | Seattle | Washington, D.C.





## MOST INFLUENTIAL MINORITY ATTORNEYS

**HAMID R. NAMAZIE**

*Partner*  
McGuireWoods LLP

**H**amid Namazie represents Bank of America (BofA) in some of its biggest and most innovative financing deals and has played a lead role in crafting legislation coast-to-coast that could impact the commercial lending landscape in the years to come. When BofA first considered establishing international asset-based credit facilities a decade ago, they needed a lawyer with the necessary skills and acumen. Namazie stepped in and advised BofA on its first-ever multijurisdictional asset-based financing deal, which involved lending to Targus Corporation in the U.S., Canada, the UK, Singapore and Taiwan.

The success of that deal paved the way for Namazie, who now handles many of BofA's most important and challenging international lending transactions. For example, he recently represented the bank in a high-profile, \$1.6 billion credit facility that provided the multinational toy and game manufacturer, Mattel, Inc. with cash infusions in Spain, Germany, the Netherlands, France, Canada and the U.S.

**KRISTEN J. NESBIT**

*Partner*  
Fisher Phillips LLP

**A**s a partner in Fisher Phillips' Los Angeles office, Kristen Nesbit plays a major role in defending employers against discrimination and wrongful termination claims and wage and hour matters, from case inception through trial. She is a trusted, strategic partner to her clients, which range from Fortune 500 companies to privately held, billion-dollar companies to public entities, providing legal advice and creative resolutions that have led to favorable, informal outcomes and helped them avoid potentially headline-worthy scandals.

Nesbit's triumphs in the labor and employment arena, combined with her active community involvement, prestigious award recognitions and commitment to championing diversity, establish Nesbit as a leader in the legal industry and one of the most influential lawyers in Los Angeles. Within the firm, Nesbit stands out as a powerhouse lawyer, capable of handling the most high-stakes cases. She is co-chair of the firm's California litigation practice group.

**PHILIP NULUD**

*Senior Counsel*  
Buchalter, P.C.

**P**hilip Nulud is Senior Counsel in Buchalter's Los Angeles office and a member of the firm's Intellectual Property Practice Group. Nulud focuses his practice on counseling clients in all aspects of intellectual property, including: domestic and international trademarks, patent and copyright prosecution, strategy, enforcement, licensing, marketing, policy, and social media issues. He is regularly called upon by his colleagues to represent their clients, and they often turn to him for sound intellectual property counsel. Nulud also publishes articles on these topics in various publications, intellectual property blogs, and Buchalter's website. He regularly lectures in undergraduate and law school classes, and hosts round tables for the International Trademark Association.

Having successfully represented clients in high-stakes intellectual property litigation in both Federal and California state courts, Nulud has also assisted clients with complex infringement and counterfeiting matters domestically and worldwide.

**SAMUEL PARK**

*Partner*  
Alston & Bird LLP

**S**am Park is a litigator in Alston & Bird's Los Angeles office. He has more than a decade of experience representing companies in high-stakes class actions, complex commercial cases and arbitrations, and regulatory matters. He has spent his career effectively and efficiently guiding clients through all phases of class actions. Sam understands the complexities and costs associated with litigating class actions and the ever-changing landscape of class action law. He has defeated class actions on the merits and at the certification stage and has implemented strategies for clients that have significantly reduced exposure before settlement.

Park has served as counsel for clients in a wide range of industries, including insurance, financial services, wealth management, life sciences, marketing, beverage, food processing, and nutritional supplements. His extensive experience includes helping clients defend against claims for violations of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, among others.



Venable Celebrates

**William J. Briggs, II and Belinda Martinez Vega**

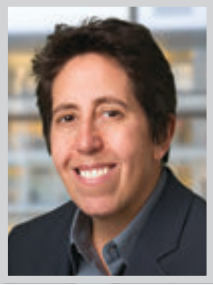
2019 Most Influential Minority Attorneys

We are delighted to recognize the outstanding work of our colleagues, and thank them for their service to our clients, and to the Los Angeles community.

**VENABLE** LLP

2049 Century Park East, Suite 2300, Los Angeles, CA | Attorney advertising.

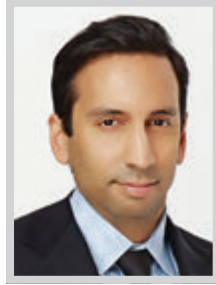
**MOST INFLUENTIAL MINORITY ATTORNEYS**



**JENNIFER POST**  
Partner  
Thompson Coburn LLP

As a partner with Thompson Coburn, Jennifer Post serves as primary outside counsel to a variety of individuals, institutions and companies, including entrepreneurs, venture capital firms and emerging companies, as well as domestic and international public companies. Her practice encompasses all areas of general corporate and securities law, including private placements of equity and debt securities, mergers and acquisitions, and venture capital fund formation. She is a member of Thompson Coburn's Management Committee and founded the firm's Blockchain Technology and Digital Currency practice.

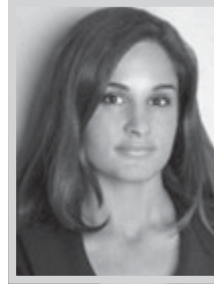
Dedicated to helping other LGBTQ professionals succeed, Post founded FSIX Advisors Circle, a networking and resource group for LGBTQ professionals in the financial industry. Additionally, she serves as a member of the Steering Committee of StartOut LA, which provides resources and mentorship to LGBTQ entrepreneurs in technology and related industries.



**ASHE P. PURI**  
Partner  
Fox Rothschild LLP

Ashe Puri is a Partner in the Los Angeles office of Fox Rothschild LLP, a national law firm, and a remarkably accomplished patent lawyer with more than 15 years of experience litigating and counseling clients in the electronics, software and medical device sectors. He currently serves as Co-President of the South Asian Bar Association of Southern California (SABA-SC) and Secretary of the Los Angeles Intellectual Property Law Association. He also has served on the Board of Governors of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles for the past two years and as a Board Advisor (and past Board member) of the Public Interest Foundation of the South Asian Bar Association of Southern California, a 501(c)(3) organization.

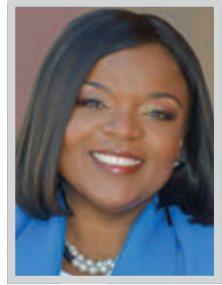
In his current practice, Puri recently won summary judgment for his client, the Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute (LA BioMed) in a protracted dispute with a research that included claims related to the imminent construction of a state-of-the-art research facility.



**ELSA RAMO**  
Founder & Managing Partner  
Ramo Law, P.C.

Elsa Ramo represented over 90 films and 15 television series in 2017 alone, including 14 that debuted at the Sundance Film Festival in 2018. She provides comprehensive legal services to producers, financiers, creators and owners of film, television and digital content and projects across a range of budgets and production levels. She established her own law firm to enable filmmakers and producers to bring their stories to life.

Ramo's leadership within the legal and entertainment communities extends beyond her successful Beverly Hills firm. She dedicates substantial time to mentoring women through various organizations. Additionally, Ramo is a go-to commentator and instructor on legal issues related to film financing and the entertainment market. She founded the firm in 2005 on the Universal Studios backlot after several clients approached her to handle their independent productions. Now as managing partner to the firm, she handles client matters as well as manages the firm's attorneys and packaging and sales department.



**ANGELA REDDOCK-WRIGHT**  
Founding & Managing Partner  
Reddock Law Group

Angela Reddock-Wright is the Founding & Managing Attorney of the Reddock Law Group, a boutique employment law firm based in downtown Los Angeles. She was installed as President of the Southern California Mediation Association (SCMA), at the SCMA's 30th Annual Conference last November. Reddock-Wright was hired to oversee compliance for contractor and local worker diversity and inclusion for the Los Angeles World Airports/LAX \$5 Billion Dollar Landside Modernization Access Modernization Program (LAMP), a construction and infrastructure program to rebuild, renovate and modernize LAX.

Reddock-Wright continues to work with the Screen Actors Guild-AFTRA on overhauling and updating their sexual harassment reporting protocols for its members. She also continues to be a leader in advocating for Project Labor Agreements on public and private sector construction and infrastructure projects. Reddock-Wright also serves on the Los Angeles County Equity Oversight Panel (CEOP).

Congratulations to our  
Real Estate Partner  
**Albert Valencia**  
and to all those named  
*Los Angeles Business Journal's*  
Most Influential  
Minority Attorneys

**ERVIN COHEN & JESSUP** LLP  
ecjlaw.com

**MOST INFLUENTIAL MINORITY ATTORNEYS**





## MOST INFLUENTIAL MINORITY ATTORNEYS

**EKWAN E. RHOW***Principal Name*

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

**A** recent inductee of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Name Principal Ekwan E. Rhow has first-chaired more than 30 cases, winning verdicts covering a diverse set of industries including healthcare, technology, banking, entertainment and real estate. His in-depth knowledge, tenacity and commitment to clients has brought him much success, as well as an impressive roster of clientele that includes California companies, such as Vizio, JM Eagle, Newegg and Hanmi Bank; Fortune 500 companies, such as Western Digital and Aramark; and international conglomerates, such as Samsung, CJ Entertainment & Media and Hyundai.

Rhow recently scored a major victory as lead counsel for multiple claimants in the high profile Malaysia Development Berhad case where he defeated the government's attempt to forfeit the assets by default. Rhow represents Hyundai Motor America in a new class action.

**FRED A. ROWLEY, JR.***Partner*

Munger, Tolles &amp; Olson LLP

**F**red A. Rowley, Jr., who is Filipino American, stands apart from his peers as a legal advocate and thought leader in the legal profession. Consistently ranked as a leading appellate lawyer in multiple publications, Rowley is a member of the California Academy of Appellate Lawyers. He is a former Assistant United States Attorney in the Central District of California, where he handled criminal appeals. During the last 12-18 months, Rowley has won several important cases – including scoring a legal trifecta in the July/August 2018 timeframe, in which he won major appeals in the California Supreme Court as well as the Second and Ninth Circuits.

Not only were Rowley's victories important to the firm's clients, but they also involved vastly different industries and areas of the law. To prevail, Rowley had to demonstrate both persuasive lawyering and deep technical mastery of several distinct sets of issues. These are skills he has developed in arguing more than 50 appeals and serving as lead counsel in many more.

**EUGENE RYU***Shareholder*

Littler Mendelson, P.C.

**G**ene Ryu is one of Littler's rainmakers and diversity champions. Representing major employers throughout the country, Ryu works with clients on a wide variety of matters in all areas of labor and employment law. This year, some of his client accomplishments include obtaining a complete defense ruling in a contentious race discrimination case for a national client; handling multiple class and collective actions on wage and hour matters; and assisting several international clients to streamline their employment agreements and policies to be consistent across the globe. He is also on the forefront of litigating multiple cases alleging independent contractor misclassification within the "gig" economy.

With tech start-ups as a major segment of his client base, Ryu was instrumental in developing an innovative technology solution – Littler's X-celerator toolkit – to support emerging companies in building and maintaining their workforce. Ryu is co-chair of Littler's Ohana Affinity Group and serves on the board of the firm's Diversity and Inclusion Council.

**CHRISTIAN SCALI***Managing Partner*

Scali Rasmussen

**C**hristian Scali has devoted his 20 year legal career to representing automotive dealers and other key players in the automotive industry. He serves as outside general counsel to many automotive groups/companies around the country, who seek his counsel on a wide range of legal issues including litigation, commercial transactions, legislative analysis and regulatory compliance.

Scali is also a realist and pioneer in forging the path to change what is often perceived as "unethical" and "non compliant" conduct in the car business. He co-founded a compliance and ethics company designed to mentor dealerships on internal policies, programs and processes so that ethical corporate culture, compliance and best practices are staples of the business. The first of its kind in the industry, the compliance and ethics program is adopted by a number of local dealerships setting the bar in California. Among his successes, he recently favorably resolved franchise dispute with luxury automobile manufacturer for a \$1 billion luxury auto dealer group.

## McGuireWoods celebrates diversity and inclusion.

Congratulations to our partners Sabrina A. Beldner and Hamid R. Namazie and the other honorees in the Los Angeles legal community on this recognition.



# McGUIREWOODS

Century City: +1 310 315 8200 | 1800 Century Park East | 8th Floor | Los Angeles, CA 90067

Downtown: +1 213 627 2268 | Wells Fargo Center | South Tower | 355 S. Grand Ave., Suite 4200 | Los Angeles, CA 90071

1,100 lawyers | 22 offices | [www.mcguirewoods.com](http://www.mcguirewoods.com)

MOST INFLUENTIAL MINORITY ATTORNEYS



**ARTIN SHAVERDIAN**  
Partner  
Nossaman LLP

**A**rtin Shaverdian is a Partner in the Eminent Domain and Valuation Group in Nossaman's Los Angeles office. He represents public agencies, business entities and individuals in a broad range of commercial and real estate related disputes. In addition to his civil litigation practice, Shaverdian specializes in eminent domain/inverse condemnation and other valuation-related litigation.

He is widely recognized as an expert in California in eminent domain and inverse condemnation matters and publishes and speaks regularly on right of way acquisition and valuation related issues. In addition to representing clients in litigation matters, he also provides strategic advice and counseling to his clients to creatively resolve or proactively avoid disputes. Recently, Shaverdian has assisted the City of Los Angeles/Los Angeles World Airports with acquisition of properties and advised on real property matters related to the \$6 billion Landside Access Modernization Program to ease access in and out of LAX airport.



**AMY F. SOLOMON**  
Partner  
Girardi Keese

**A**my Fisch Solomon, a partner with Girardi | Keese, specializes in the areas of professional liability, products liability and catastrophic injury. She is a Past President of the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles (CAALA), the largest local plaintiffs bar association in the nation. She has successfully tried over 45 jury and bench trials in both State and Federal courts, and obtained numerous seven and eight figure verdicts and settlements on behalf of her clients.

Solomon is on the Board of Directors for the Inner City Law Center, the Western Justice Center and the Consumer Attorneys of California. She sits on the Los Angeles County Bar Central Civil Bench/Bar Liaison Committee, the LACBA Presidents Advisory Committee on Women in The Legal Profession and the LACBA Complex Court Committee. Solomon is a Commissioner for the California State Bar serving on the Judicial Evaluation Nominee Committee.



**ELIZABETH SPERLING**  
Partner  
Alston & Bird LLP

**E**lizabeth Sperling is a partner in Alston & Bird's Los Angeles office and co-chair of the firm's California Diversity Committee. She focuses her practice on providing counsel, advice, and representation to clients in the areas of business litigation, financial services, products liability, toxic torts, and real estate litigation. She represents corporations, partnerships, and business owners in a broad range of litigation matters involving class actions, business torts, false and unfair business practices and related consumer protection actions, unfair debt collection practices, and intellectual property litigation.

Sperling has extensive experience representing financial services institutions such as mortgage servicers and reverse mortgage lenders in defense of foreclosure actions (wrongful foreclosure, violations of the California Homeowner Bill of Rights, HAMP). She also represents clients in class action, products liability, and complex toxic tort cases involving serious personal injuries and wrongful death claims.



**PAUL W. SWEENEY, JR.**  
Partner  
K&L Gates LLP

**P**aul Sweeney's practice focuses on complex business disputes, both individual and class action, involving breach of contract, unfair business practices, false advertising, consumer fraud, trade regulation, and privacy violations. He recently won a motion to dismiss a class action complaint on behalf of clients Starbucks and PepsiCo, in a nationwide consumer class action alleging that Starbucks Doubleshot ready-to-drink beverages do not contain two shots of Starbucks brand espresso and, consequently, the products are falsely advertised. The decision is shaping the law of false advertising and consumer deception.

In July 2017, he obtained a major victory for Compass Group, USA in Los Angeles federal court. The judge granted a motion for summary judgment in favor of Compass and The Hershey Company in an action alleging antitrust violations, unfair competition, and intentional interference with contract. The case is one of the few price discrimination cases decided under the California Cartwright Act where there is a written judicial decision.

# Congratulations to our Most Influential Minority Attorneys

**Ashe P. Puri**



**Daniel Wu**



**Fox Rothschild** LLP  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

[www.foxrothschild.com](http://www.foxrothschild.com)



## MOST INFLUENTIAL MINORITY ATTORNEYS

**VIVIAN LEE THOREN**

Executive Partner, Chair of Private Wealth Services  
Dispute Resolution Team  
Holland & Knight LLP

Holland & Knight's Private Wealth Services practice is among the largest such practices in the United States. Vivian Lee Thoren is the executive partner of Holland & Knight's Los Angeles office and chairs the firm's national Private Wealth Services Dispute Resolution Team. She has been first chair in numerous high-value and high-profile estate and fiduciary disputes.

Thoren represented the late actor Mickey Rooney and his court-appointed conservator and executor in an elder abuse action against Rooney's stepson and stepson's wife that garnered national media attention. As a result of the Rooney case, Holland & Knight's Trusts, Private Wealth Services Dispute Resolution Team founded The Mickey Rooney Elder Abuse Pro Bono Project, which helps protect senior citizens from becoming victims of financial abuse. Thoren served on the board of governors of the Southern California Korean American Bar Association and is an active member of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.

**JULIA TRANKIEM**

Partner  
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

Julia Trankiem's clients recognize her as a go-to practitioner in California on a range of workplace-related matters, including significant, high-stakes employment class actions and single and multi-plaintiff litigation. Her practice is distinctive in that she has also represented employers in complex employee benefits litigation, namely "stock drop" class actions brought under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). She understands that employment litigation throughout California presents serious risks, especially when damage multipliers, penalties and various other remedies available under California law are considered. As a result, she develops and sets a strategic charge, striving to position matters for the most effective and efficient outcome.

Trankiem understands that clients with operations in California often need business-savvy legal advice to help them navigate complex California as well as federal employment law issues and avoid litigation.

**ELLISEN S. TURNER**

Partner  
Irell & Manella LLP

One of the few African-American leaders of an Am Law 200 firm, Ellisen Turner, former managing partner of Irell & Manella LLP, maintains a robust practice focused on intellectual property law, with an emphasis on patent litigation and IP transactions. Along with his dedication to client work, he has long been involved in recommending strategies and initiatives geared at advancing minorities in the firm and the legal profession.

Turner has helped clients secure victories in patent litigations that have led to more than \$5 billion in total client compensation. An IP strategist who combines business acumen with a deep understanding of the law in the field, he has completed more than \$600 million in patent licenses and IP transactions this year alone. Among his work, Turner led a team that represented Technicolor in the July 2018 sale of its patent licensing business to InterDigital, Inc. for a total valuation of \$475 million, including an upfront payment of \$150 million.

**ALBERT VALENCIA**

Partner  
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP

Valencia's practice is focused on real estate transactional 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 multi-family, office, retail, 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.

Valencia is an active member and panelist for Filipinos in Institutional Real Estate, and is a regular speaker to students at UCLA's Riordan Scholars program. Recent transactions include his work leading the sale of Regent Towers (158,728 square foot office building in Dallas).

manatt

**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* Most Influential Minority Attorneys.

Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP [manatt.com](http://manatt.com)

**Diverse. Inclusive. Supportive.**

Kirkland & Ellis proudly congratulates our partner and colleague

**Nisha Kanchanapoomi**

on being named among the 2019 **Most Influential Minority Attorneys** in Los Angeles.

Learn about Kirkland diversity initiatives at [www.kirkland.com/diversity](http://www.kirkland.com/diversity)



KIRKLAND & ELLIS   
diversity

Kirkland & Ellis LLP | 333 South Hope Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071  
+1 213 680 8400 | Attorney Advertising

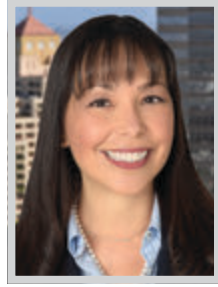
MOST INFLUENTIAL MINORITY ATTORNEYS



**BENJAMIN VALENCIA II**  
*Partner*  
 Meyer, Olson, Lowy & Meyers, LLP

**B**enjamin Valencia II is a partner at Meyer, Olson, Lowy & Meyers, LLP (MOLM) and certified as a Specialist in Family Law by the Board of Legal Specialization of the State of California, a distinction just .55 percent of the state's attorneys achieve. Working exclusively in family law since 2001, Valencia has helped establish MOLM as one of the nation's most respected firms working in the arena of high-asset and high-conflict family law matters. Valencia has extensive experience and expertise in all aspects of family law including high-conflict custody disputes, cases involving substance abuse and domestic violence, and divorces with complex financial issues. Fluent in Spanish, he has combined his language and legal skills in several complex international cases.

Valencia thrives on handling difficult cases in which his legal sophistication, tenacity, and compassionate approach help clients overcome seemingly unsurmountable obstacles to achieving their goals.



**BELINDA MARTINEZ VEGA**  
*Partner*  
 Venable LLP

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

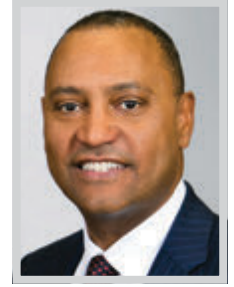
This past year, Vega was actively involved in advising a commercial real estate client in a dispute over a potential breach of an agreement by an educational institution, successfully resulting in the client obtaining a favorable settlement and a new transaction deal that was more favorable. She also represented a construction management company and a consulting firm in a dispute involving the construction of medical facilities and offices in which her clients, originally sued for fraud and breach of contract, were able to reach a successful settlement where the plaintiff paid damages to her clients.



**BENJAMIN T. WANG**  
*Partner*  
 Russ August & Kabat

**B**en Wang is a partner at Russ August & Kabat. He is a 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.

During the last 18 months, 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 an appeal before the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals resulting in one of only 10 precedential decisions at that time upholding patent eligibility after the Supreme Court's ruling in *Alice v. CLS Bank*; successfully obtained judicial correction of a patent claim, joining approximately only a dozen district court decisions to do so; took or defended nearly 30 fact and expert witness depositions around the world; argued 21 substantive motions before U.S. District Courts across the country; and obtained settlements for clients in excess of \$15,000,000.



**BART H. WILLIAMS**  
*Partner*  
 Proskauer Rose LLP

**B**art 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 counsel for top companies facing the most significant litigation that could make or break their business. A member of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Williams has an impressive list of victories under his belt in jury and bench trials throughout the United States.

Williams has also served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Central District of California where he concentrated on complex criminal prosecutions involving allegations of fraud or other business crimes, racketeering and money laundering and obtained convictions in 11 out of 11 jury trials. He received several special commendations during his tenure, including one from the Honorable Louis J. Freeh, then-director of the FBI.



**Diversity and inclusion  
 are fundamental to  
 our success.**

Mintz is honored to  
 congratulate our Member  
**Ralph Campillo**

on being named among the 2019  
 Most Influential Minority Attorneys  
 by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*.

**Congratulations!**

DLA Piper is pleased to congratulate all the honorees named to the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2019 list of Most Influential Minority Attorneys – and especially our partners Rocky Delgadillo and Miles Cooley.



Rockard Delgadillo  
 Partner



Miles Cooley  
 Partner





**MOST INFLUENTIAL MINORITY ATTORNEYS**

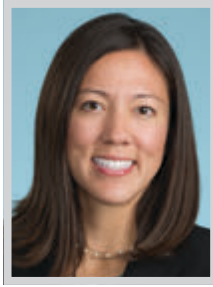


**DANIEL WU**

Partner  
Fox Rothschild LLP

Daniel Wu is a leading lawyer within the tech community, sought after by emerging companies and investors that are on the cutting edge of innovation. Over his career, he has provided legal and strategic advice to participants in hundreds of venture capital and M&A transactions with a collective value of more than \$10 billion.

Wu is a Partner in Fox Rothschild's Emerging Companies & Venture Capital Practice. He is the lawyer tech companies look to hire as a strategic advisor when they are getting ready to incorporate and raise venture capital investment, turn to when they cash out with a sale and rely on for advice on everything in between. Wu represents emerging companies at all stages of development and the venture capital and private equity firms and strategic investors that finance them. His clients are constantly breaking new ground in digital media, consumer internet, SaaS, video games, virtual reality, fintech, e-commerce and other tech sectors.



**STACIE YEE**

Partner – Firmwide Leader of Diversity & Inclusion  
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

In addition to being named Pillsbury's Executive Chair of Diversity & Inclusion in June of last year, Stacie Yee maintains an active employment litigation practice. She focuses on wage and hour, California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act, discrimination, retaliation/whistleblower, including qui tam, actions, trade secret misappropriation, unfair competition and false advertising claims.

Recently, Yee served as lead counsel defending government contractor client against wage and hour class/collective and representative action alleging unpaid overtime; after successfully moving to transfer the case to Maryland, the case settled favorably for the client on an individual plaintiff, non-class basis. She also served as lead counsel representing a film industry trade association in defending against wage and hour class and representative action alleging noncompliant meal breaks and associate claims; the representative claim has been dismissed, and Yee's team successfully compelled the matter to arbitration.



We congratulate  
all of this year's

**Most Influential  
Minority Attorneys**

(especially our clients)

[horowitzagency.com](http://horowitzagency.com)

Strategy | Press | Branding | Social Media | Websites

**ALSTON & BIRD**

congratulates our colleagues

**SAMUEL PARK**  
AND  
**ELIZABETH SPERLING**

on being named among the 2019 Most Influential  
Minority Attorneys by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*

[www.alston.com](http://www.alston.com)

# Los Angeles County Bar Association Introduces a New 40-Hour Mediation Training Program

Participants who complete the program will have fulfilled the requirements to lead mediations throughout California

The Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA), one of the largest voluntary metropolitan bar associations in the country, is introducing a new 40-Hour Mediation Training program with a curriculum designed to fulfill the training requirements of the California Dispute Resolution Programs Act. Upon completion of the program, attendees will have met the mediator training and educational requirements to serve as panelists throughout California.

Registration for the training program installments is now open and each session is limited to 40 attendees. Those interested in registering for the program can visit [www.lacba.org/40-hour](http://www.lacba.org/40-hour) for more information.

“LACBA’s 40-Hour Training program is important because it helps attorneys interested in incorporating mediations into their practice obtain the necessary credentials to serve as effective mediators,” said Seth Chavez, director of LACBA’s Attorney-Client Mediation and Arbitration Service, which will oversee the program. “The program has been designed to be inclusive and would

be particularly relevant for business leaders and others in the community without law degrees who would like to acquire the skills and fundamentals of mediation so they can put them to practice in their businesses or communities.”

“The Los Angeles County Bar Association has been at the forefront of providing the preeminent mediation training programs for years,” said Jack Goetz, a lecturer in law at USC Gould School of Law specializing in mediation and academic director of LACBA’s 40-Hour Mediator Training program. “LACBA’s 40-Hour Training program is impactful and practical for today’s evolving field of mediation because it was developed to meet the California Dispute Resolution Programs Act requirements while incorporating real-world experience of mediation experts.”

The training program introduces those who are interested in mediation to the core principles and methods of alternative dispute resolution and provide a strong foundation in mediation skills through lecture, small group exercises, and role-playing.

Each attendee who successfully completes the training program will receive a certification reflecting this education and training. Lawyers attending the training program will receive 40 hours of Continuing Legal Education credit, including four hours of Ethics credit.



Rich in both theory and practice, the training will cover the nature of conflict, history of mediation, structure and management of the mediation process, intake and convening, mediation models, cultural awareness and diversity, legal requirements and ethics, maintaining neutrality, communication skills, negotiation, breaking impasse, closure and drafting agreements.

LACBA, under its then existing Dispute Resolution Services and Center for Civic

Mediation, had previously operated the region’s popular 30-Hour Mediator Training Program from the 1990’s through 2016.

The Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA) is one of the largest voluntary metropolitan bar associations in the nation and has nearly 20,000 members. LACBA is engaged in advancing the administration of justice and meeting the professional needs of lawyers. For more information on LACBA, visit [lacba.org](http://lacba.org).

**crowell** *moring*



Congratulations Emily Kuwahara

Recognized by the Los Angeles Business Journal as a 2019 Most Influential Minority Attorney



CROWELL.COM



**EARLY  
SULLIVAN  
WRIGHT  
GIZER &  
MCRAE LLP**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Congratulations to our Partner

**Stephen Y. Ma**

for being named by the *Los Angeles Business Journal* as one of Los Angeles’

**Most Influential  
Minority Attorneys**

[www.earlysullivan.com](http://www.earlysullivan.com)

CALIFORNIA | NEVADA | ARIZONA | FLORIDA | NEW YORK