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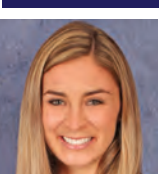
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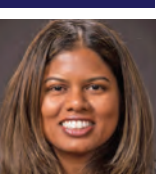
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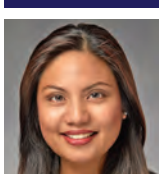
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KELLY BAGLA, ESQ.
CEO
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The founder and general manager of Bagla Law Firm, APC, Kelly Bagla is also a real estate broker. Her experience includes managing domestic and international IPOs, applying regulations on exporting goods into China and elsewhere, advising on the shutdown of company operations for local and international clients, and addressing legal issues for manufacturing operations in the Middle East. She is a member of the California State Bar Association, the North County Bar Association, the North San Diego Real Estate Investors Association, the Rancho Santa Fe Business and Professional Women's Association, and the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce. Bagla received a bachelor's degree in business and economics from the California State University East Bay College of Business & Economics, a law degree from Swansea University, and a master's degree in law from Whittier Law School. Reach Bagla at 760-579-6789.



COURTNEY L. BAIRD
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Courtney L. Baird is vice chair of the Commercial and Antitrust Litigation Division of Duane Morris' Trial Practice Group and a member of the firm's governing partners board. She serves as outside counsel to businesses handling their compliance and risk management issues and prosecution and defense of litigation. She has extensive experience in complex litigation, including class actions, consumer claims, products liability, contract, tort and the False Claims Act. Baird is licensed to practice in California and Nevada. She represents clients in federal and state courts and arbitration. She is an arbitrator for the Arbitration Committee of the San Diego County Bar Association. Baird has a bachelor's degree from San Diego State University and a law degree from the University of San Diego Law School. She may be reached at 619-278-1963.



KATIE BALATBAT
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Katie Balatbat focuses primarily on estate planning, real estate, and taxation at Miller, Monson, Peshel, Polacek & Hoshaw. Balatbat received a master's degree in taxation from the University of San Diego, a law degree from the University of San Diego School of Law, and a master's degree in law from Georgetown University Law Center. She is a member of the San Diego County Bar Association's sections for Taxation, Estate Planning and Real Property and the California Lawyers Association section for Trusts and Estates. She is also a member of the American Bar Association's section on Real Property, Probate and Trust Law, and on Taxation. She regularly participates in alumni events to mentor young law students at USD. She was named a Super Lawyers Rising Star from 2020-2023. Balatbat may be reached at 619-239-7777.



BRENDA BARRERA
Legal Counsel/Director of
Operations
J/PR

Brenda Barrera, legal counsel and director of operations at J/PR, has 27 years of practice in the legal profession. She ran her own law firm before joining J/PR, where she handles all contract drafting and negotiation. In 2022, she successfully negotiated more than 300 contracts with clients ranging from large hotel brands and boutique hotels to consumer products. Barrera is a member of the National Charity League and has volunteered for such San Diego charities as the Enlisted Project, Rady Children's Hospital, San Diego Rescue Mission and Serving Seniors. She is a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for abused and neglected children. Barrera received a bachelor's degree in international relations and affairs from the University of California Berkeley and a law degree from California Western School of Law. She may be reached at 619-255-7069.



HOLLY BAUER
Partner
Latham & Watkins LLP

Latham & Watkins partner Holly Bauer advises leading San Diego companies and national clients on the tax, securities and corporate law issues that arise in employee benefits and executive compensation matters. Her recent notable transactions include representing local companies Ligand Pharmaceuticals, Prometheus Biosciences, Skrewball Spirits and Viasat. Bauer played a key role on the Latham team that advised Viasat on the \$1.96 billion sale of its Link 16 Tactical Data Links business to L3Harris Technologies. She guides clients on key aspects of mergers and acquisitions and capital markets transactions, such as structuring equity agreements, negotiating executive employment arrangements and navigating employee severance. Bauer received a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California and a law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law. She may be reached at 858-523-5482.



ARIEL R. BEDELL
Shareholder
Loftin | Bedell, P.C.

Ariel Bedell, a shareholder with Loftin|Bedell, P.C., has more than 20 years of experience in commercial real estate. Bedell guides clients through owning, operating, leasing, buying and selling commercial real estate, with a focus of representing mobile home park owners. She has completed more than 300 evictions with an emphasis on mobile home park evictions. Bedell has negotiated hotel leases on behalf of property owners totaling \$92 million in revenue. She served on the board of directors for CREW (Commercial Real Estate Women) San Diego for five years and was its president in 2020. She is a member of the New Village Arts Theater advisory board. Bedell earned a bachelor's degree in biology from San Diego State University and a law degree from the University of San Diego School of Law. Reach Bedell at 760-431-2111.



MARGARET BELL
Partner
Lagasse Branch Bell + Kinkead
LLP

Margaret "Margi" C. Bell is a founding partner at Lagasse Branch Bell + Kinkead LLP. She has specialized in all aspects of employment law for more than 30 years, representing employers who are sued for harassment, discrimination, retaliation, wrongful termination and related issues. Bell has spent an increasing part of her practice serving as an independent workplace investigator for private and public sector employees and is an Association of Workplace Investigators certificate holder. Among her honors, she has been named among the Super Lawyers of San Diego in the area of labor and employment law, was AV Preeminent Peer Review Rated, and received Martindale-Hubbell's highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards. A graduate of the University of California San Diego, Bell received a law degree from Tulane Law School.



CALLIE BJURSTROM
Managing Partner
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman

Callie Bjurstrom, a Pillsbury Intellectual Property partner and board member, has been recognized as a top litigator delivering big wins. A tenacious client advocate, Bjurstrom has successfully tried cases to verdict as lead counsel in both state and federal courts and represented clients before the International Trade Commission. She litigates patent, trademark, trade secret, copyright, unfair competition and unfair business practices disputes. Bjurstrom protects her clients' IP rights in such diverse industries as telecommunications, gaming, manufacturing, consumer products and medical devices. She also helps clients with COVID-19 matters, including providing guidance on critical industry and essential workforce requirements and stay-in-place orders. Bjurstrom received a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin and a law degree from the University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law. She may be reached at 858-847-4107.



KRISTI BLACKWELL
California Regional Managing
Partner
Tyson & Mendes LLP

Kristi Blackwell was promoted to California Regional Managing Partner at Tyson & Mendes in 2022. As one of the most successful litigators at Tyson & Mendes, she is particularly adept at prevailing in high-stakes and high-profile cases that involve facing off against topnotch plaintiffs' attorneys. She represents some of the biggest names in retail, restaurants and hospitality. Blackwell taught case handling, trial strategy and client service according to the firm's proven defense methods to firm attorneys in her role as "professor" of Tyson & Mendes University, an internal education and training program. These sessions have been so successful that the firm now tracks the amount of indemnity it saves clients throughout the year - including more than \$667 million in 2021, and more than \$1.07 billion in 2022. Blackwell received a law degree from California Western School of Law.



TAYLOR BLOOM ESQ.
Partner
Baker Hostetler LLP

Taylor Bloom has built an impressive reputation as a privacy attorney at Baker Hostetler, where she became the youngest attorney to be elected a partner in 2023. She is a recognized thought leader in the privacy space. From 2019-2021, Bloom served as the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP) San Diego KnowledgeNet co-chair, organizing events for her local privacy community, then orchestrating the first-ever San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco chapter joint event in the fall of 2021. In 2022, she was appointed chair of the AdTech Committee for the California Lawyers Association (CLA) Privacy Law Section. Bloom was also appointed to the executive committee for the CLA Privacy Law Section. Bloom received a bachelor's degree from the University of California Santa Barbara and a law degree from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.



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ROSEBELLE BOWLUS

Corporate Securities, Commodities and Financial Services Attorney
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Rose Bowlus is a founder of Rose Bowlus Law, APC, focusing on corporate securities, commodities and financial services. She provides strategic legal guidance to businesses and is outside general counsel for ArcTrade, Inc., an emerging energy tech company. Bowlus is an investor in female owned and/or led early-stage businesses in the United States, an investor with San Diego Angel Conference, and founder and lead investor with Angels in the Law. Bowlus is a board member of Lawyers Club of San Diego, WRISE San Diego and SunLaw.org, and a mentor with Techstars Boulder, the REC Innovation Lab and Stella Angels. She is a member of the Angel Capital Association. Bowlus received a bachelor's degree in accounting and finance from the University of California Berkeley and a law degree from Golden Gate University School of Law. She may be reached at 704-778-8037.



JENNIFER BRANCH

Partner
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Jennifer Branch is a founding partner of Lagasse Branch Bell + Kinhead. She has specialized in employment law for more than 25 years, defending employers against claims of wrongful termination, harassment, discrimination, retaliation, wage and hour violations, breach of contract, unfair competition and other workplace misconduct. She defends academic institutions in employment disputes, breach of contract claims and student claims of harassment, discrimination and retaliation. She defends clients in single plaintiff lawsuits, class actions and actions under California's Private Attorney General Act (PAGA) and represents them before administrative agencies. She serves as an independent investigator for employers and educational institutions seeking objective investigations. Branch received a bachelor's degree from the University of California Santa Barbara and a law degree from the University of California Hastings College of the Law.



JANICE BROWN

Principal (Partner)
Meyers Nave

Janice Brown is a principal in Meyers Nave's Labor and Employment Practice, Workplace Investigations Practice and Commercial Litigation Practice. She has more than 35 years of trial, arbitration and appellate experience in state and federal courts. A champion for diversity in the legal profession, Brown has been recognized as the Witkin Legal Professional of the Year, SD-CBA Diversity Professional of the Year, and the California Association of Black Lawyers' Lawyer of the Year. Brown is a member of the executive committee and past chair of the board of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation (EDC), a member of California Women Lawyers, and past board member of the National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms. Brown has a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Montana and a law degree from Gonzaga University School of Law.



KRISTA CABRERA

Partner
Foley & Lardner LLP

Krista Cabrera is a partner and litigation attorney at Foley & Lardner LLP. She is recognized by her peers and clients as a standout labor and employment attorney with insight into California employment law. With more than 20 years of experience, Cabrera focuses on employment litigation, counseling and training. She is a member the San Diego Lawyers Club, the Association of Business Trial Lawyers and the San Diego Bar Association, a former member of the National Human Resources Association and a former barrister at the San Diego Louis M. Welsh Inn of the American Inns of Court. Cabrera was listed in Best Lawyers in America in the field of Litigation in Labor and Employment for 2022-2023. Cabrera has a law degree from the University of San Diego School of Law. She may be reached at 858-847-6718.



JULIE MARIE K. CEPEDA

Managing Attorney
Rigney Cepeda, A Subsidiary of Cepeda Family Law, A.P.C.

Julie Marie K. Cepeda is managing attorney and principal of Rigney Cepeda Law, APC, a subsidiary of Cepeda Family Law, A.P.C. With strong experience in private mediation and contested litigation, Cepeda takes a resolution-focused approach to family law. She has been exclusively practicing family law since 2013 and has handled simple paternity cases, complex divorces, custody and visitation, domestic violence restraining orders, international premarital agreements, and high asset estate planning. Cepeda balances compassionate service with zealous advocacy to meet her client's needs and expectations. She is a member of the diversity committee and the community service committee of the San Diego Lawyers Club. Cepeda has a bachelor's degree in psychology, English and business administration from the University of San Diego and a law degree from California Western School of Law. She may be reached at 760-780-2678.



MARIA C. CHAVEZ

Partner
Jacobs & Schlesinger LLP

Maria C. Chavez, a partner at Jacobs & Schlesinger, represents clients in a wide range of immigration matters including removal defense in immigration court, family-based petitions, naturalization and humanitarian remedies. Chavez holds various leadership positions in SDCBA, Lawyers Club of San Diego and the American Immigration Lawyers Association both nationally and locally. A tireless advocate for DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) issues, she prides herself in uplifting BIPOC and women attorneys. She mentors many law students and maintains long-term mentorship relationships with them. She works to promote and pass laws that treat immigrants with dignity and respect and provide pathways for legal migration. Chavez has a bachelor's degree in criminology and criminal justice from the University of Maryland and a law degree from the University of Maryland Francis King School of Law. She may be reached at 301-651-9318.



JENNIFER CHAVEZ

Partner
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

Jennifer Chavez is a partner in Sheppard Mullin's Real Estate, Energy, Land Use & Environmental Practice Group, focusing on land use matters, including compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Subdivision Map Act, the Coastal Act and planning and zoning laws. Chavez led the Sheppard Mullin team that represented one of the largest homebuilders in the nation in land acquisitions in San Diego since 2021, with a cumulative purchase price of more than \$243 million. Chavez is on the advisory board for Practical Law, a Thompson Reuters journal. She provides pro bono service to Walden Family Services, a nationally recognized foster care, adoption and youth services agency headquartered in San Diego. Chavez has a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of California San Diego and a law degree from Pepperdine Law.



ALARA T. CHILTON

Attorney at Law
Law office of Alara T Chilton

Alara T. Chilton is the owner and founder of the Law Offices of Alara Chilton. She represents clients in state and federal courts in personal injury cases, including sexual assault, and represents clients in criminal defense. She is a board member and past president and of the San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association, and a fellow of the American Bar Foundation. Since 2012, she has organized and implemented Project L.E.A.D. (Legal Enrichment and Decision-making), a 10-week educational program designed to teach fifth graders important topics including resisting peer pressure and avoiding bullies. The program is a collaboration between the District Attorney's Office and the La Raza Lawyers Association. She is also a member of the San Diego County Bar Association's Legal Ethics Committee. Chilton has a law degree from Northeastern University School of Law. She may be reached at 619-672-7201.



JAIME D. CHOI, PH.D.

Partner
Snell & Wilmer

Jaime Choi is co-chair of the life sciences and medical technology group and is an intellectual property partner in Snell & Wilmer's San Diego office. She focuses on patenting complex, interdisciplinary technologies and building strategic patent portfolios, with an emphasis on evaluating and mitigating risk from third-party patents. She advises clients in such market sectors as bioinformatics, medical devices, robotics, microfluidics, semiconductor fabrication, digital signal processing, photonics, advanced imaging and fabrication of complex materials and devices that use them. Choi has worked at international law firms in the United States and United Kingdom. Choi has a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Rice University, a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a law degree from the University of San Diego School of Law. She may be reached at 858-434-5014.



JODI CLEESATTLE

Senior Assistant Attorney General
California Department of Justice

As a senior assistant attorney general for the California Department of Justice, Jodi Cleesattle oversees the litigation of difficult and sensitive cases involving government tort liability, personal injury, wrongful death, property damage, civil rights, dangerous condition of public property, eminent domain, inverse condemnation and mass torts. She was a Supervising Deputy Attorney General for the Employment and Administrative Mandate Section. She was a partner with a national law firm, a newspaper reporter and founding editor of The National Jurist magazine. She was admitted to practice in the U.S. Supreme Court and in state and federal courts in California, Maryland and the District of Columbia. She is president-elect of California Women Lawyers, and co-president of Tom Homann LGBTQ+ Lawyers Association (2023). Cleesattle has a bachelor's degree in communications from American University and a law degree from Washington College of Law.





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Foley is proud to congratulate our colleague, **Krista Cabrera** on being honored for the *San Diego Business Journal* Women of Influence in Law.



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DIANA COHEN
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Diana Cohen serves as the Head of Legal and Compliance for Lilt Inc. with a focus on complex commercial transactions, compliance and privacy, corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, intellectual property, employment and HR, and real estate. Throughout her career, Cohen has served as legal adviser to a major international conglomerate of consumer electronics, a public tech company and a consumer fintech. Cohen is also a strategic business partner, developing corporate initiatives and building intellectual property strategies and portfolios. She is admitted to practice law in Washington, is a registered in-house counsel in California and is a registered patent attorney with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. She was recognized in 2016 as a Diversity Honoree by the Association of Corporate Counsel Washington Chapter, and in 2014 she was named a Diversity Champion by the Puget Sound Business Journal Corporate Counsel Awards.



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Kristine Custodio Suero is Senior Paralegal/Business Development at Butterfield Schechter LLP. An award-winning legal professional and sought-after speaker, inspiring others to achieve authentic, purpose-driven careers and lives, Suero is a servant leader who has led local and state professional associations as president. A champion of justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, Suero dedicates her time as a Commissioner for the County and City of San Diego and as the Chair of the National Association of Legal Assistants Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee. She was appointed by the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors in February, as a Commissioner of the Commission on the Status of Women & Girls. She is a published author and her work is featured in the Filipina Women's Network's fourth edition of its leadership book series, DISRUPT. She can be reached at kristine.custodio@gmail.com or 858-376-7130.



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Nicole D'Ambrogi, Esq., LL.M., is an Estate Planning and Probate Attorney with San Diego Legacy Law. D'Ambrogi is an accomplished attorney and a leading figure in the field of estate and trust law in San Diego. With an LL.M. (Master of Laws) in International Taxation, Financial Services and Wealth Management, she brings exceptional expertise to her practice. D'Ambrogi's dedication to clients is evident through her successful handling of complex cases resulting in favorable outcomes. She has been recognized as a Rising Star by Super Lawyers and received the Women Resiliency Award from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. She actively contributes to the legal community and supports veterans through her involvement in various organizations. She is a Chartered Trust and Estate Planner and Chartered Wealth Manager certified by GAFM Global Academy of Finance & Management. She can be reached at nicole@sdlegacylaw.com or 619-550-3080.



SUSANNE DE LA FLOR
Senior Account Executive
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Susanne de la Flor is senior account executive at Express Network/Express Deposition Services. De la Flor began her career as a film and television makeup artist. She went on to become an account executive with Yves Saint Laurent and Two Bunch Palms Resort and Spa, an office manager at a law firm and a sales executive for distinguished court reporting firms. She is an active member of Lawyers Club of San Diego, North County Bar Association, San Diego County Bar Association, San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association, San Diego Paralegal Association, San Diego Legal Secretaries Association, Consumer Attorneys of San Diego and the Tom Homann LGBTQ+ Law Association. She promotes, sponsors and attends their events, frequently raising money for the organizations' charitable arms, scholarships and other community causes. She can be reached at susanned@expressnetwork.com or 619-203-4024.



PAULA C.P. DE SOUSA
Partner
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Paula de Sousa is a partner at Best Best & Krieger, serving as general counsel for several public agencies that collectively provide services throughout San Diego County. De Sousa is active in the community through professional groups such as the San Diego County Bar Association and the Lawyers Club, and through community service organizations. A two-time breast cancer survivor, she is a Susan G. Komen San Diego Leadership Council member and a past recipient of the YWCA's TWIN Award. First diagnosed with breast cancer while attending law school, de Sousa aggressively fought the disease and now spends time advocating for, counseling and supporting women undergoing treatment for breast cancer. She is involved in special district industry organizations such as the California Special Districts Association, the organization representing myriad independent community special districts. She can be reached at Paula.deSousa@bbklaw.com or 619-525-1328.



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**WYNTER DEAGLE**

Partner
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Wynter Deagle is a Privacy and Cybersecurity partner at Sheppard, Mullin, Richter and Hampton LLC. A certified Information Privacy Professional and first-chair trial litigator, Deagle is a trusted adviser in the boardroom and a fierce advocate in the courtroom when businesses face issues found at the intersection of law, technology and innovation. Deagle defends businesses in privacy and consumer protection-related class actions. She also designs global privacy and cybersecurity programs that satisfy legal obligations while driving business value. She has compelled multiple class actions to individual arbitration, significantly lowering costs and exposure for her clients. She recently assisted Los Angeles County as it established new countywide privacy protections and standards. She is also president of the board of directors of Girls Inc. of San Diego County and serves as pro-bono counsel to several nonprofits.

**YASMINE DJAWADIAN**

Founder
Law Offices of Yasmine Djawadian APC; dba Queen Yasmine

Yasmine Djawadian is the founder of the Law Offices of Yasmine Djawadian APC. Her office has a proven track record of more than \$1 billion in recovered damages, settlements and verdicts since Djawadian founded her firm 13 years ago. Focusing her practice on serious personal injury cases, including motor vehicle and premises liability cases, she consistently treats clients with care and compassion – forming personal relationships to better understand their story and fight for justice. She has also served as a legal writing professor at Thomas Jefferson School of Law. Her passionate advocacy for victims' rights has been demonstrated repeatedly by her support for charitable causes throughout the community. A portion of her firm's profits is dedicated to nonprofit organizations that promote justice, including the California Innocence Project. She can be reached at yd@ydlawca.com or 858-800-4235.

**JENNY L. DOLING, ESQ.**

Attorney
J. Doling Law, PC

Jenny L. Doling, Esq. is a Certified Bankruptcy Specialist at J. Doling Law PC. In March of this year, Doling was appointed by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. to the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules. Earlier this year she was elected as the Secretary of the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys (NACBA). She has served on the Board of Directors since 2018. This spring, Doling completed her eighth year of teaching Bankruptcy Law at the California Desert Trial Academy. She is a national leading expert in consumer bankruptcy law and is a frequent speaker for many national groups. In 2020, she worked with colleagues and Sen. Bob Wieckowski to pass AB 1885, updating California's outdated homestead exemption. She can be reached at jd@jdl.law or 619-363-8840.

**JULIA M. DUNLAP**

Director of Business, Legal, & Safety Programs
UC San Diego, Division of Extended Studies

Julia M. Dunlap, Esq., is the Director of Business, Legal, and Safety Programs for UC San Diego Division of Extended Studies, overseeing the Business certificates, ABA Approved Paralegal Certificate Program, Patent Law Certificate Program and the OSHA Training Institute Education Center. She has educated more than 500 paralegals during her career, many of who have gone on to become attorneys. She is a national voice on the legal education of paralegals and non-lawyers through her tenure as President of the American Association of Paralegal Education. One of the few non-law school academics to be recognized as a leader in legal education, she currently oversees 12 professional and specialized certificates in business, legal and safety education. Dunlap currently teaches Legal Communications and Legal Research & Analysis at UC San Diego Extension. She can be reached at jdunlap@ucsd.edu

**ALEXANDRA EAKER PÉREZ**

Shareholder
Eaker Pérez Law

Alexandra Eaker Pérez is a shareholder at Eaker Pérez Law. She has been recognized nationally and locally by Super Lawyers and others as a master tax litigator. She has spoken before six different congressional committees on tax law changes, published numerous articles in the areas of taxation, tax policy, tax litigation and tax procedure, and has been featured in Tax Notes Today and Tax Analysis. She previously chaired the Income and Other Tax and Young Tax Lawyers committees of the State Bar of California Taxation Section and the San Diego County Bar Association Taxation Section. She has successfully litigated against government tax agencies in more than 30 docketed tax cases in Federal District Court, U.S. Tax Court and state courts. She is a member of the San Diego Chapter of Women White Collar Defense Association and Lawyers Club of San Diego. She can be reached at aperez@eakerperezlaw.com or 619-348-5944.

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Sarah Schaffer is a Certified Legal Specialist in Family Law and has a Master of Laws Degree (LL.M.) in Taxation. She is also a certified Collaborative Divorce practitioner and mediator. Her practice represents clients in challenging, high-conflict family law matters, including difficult child custody disputes and complex community property division of businesses and other high net-worth assets. Sarah's background includes serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, and she is currently serving as Deputy Director, Reserve Legal Support, Headquarters Marine Corps, Judge Advocate Division, Washington, D.C.

One of the hallmarks of the **Schaffer Family Law Group** is our hands-on, close working relationships with our clients. What sets us apart is our ability to garner great results in every area of family law by aggressively yet compassionately fighting for our clients. We stand beside them every step of the way.

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MARA W. ELLIOTT
San Diego City Attorney
City of San Diego

Mara W. Elliott is the City Attorney for the city of San Diego. Elliott has transformed the office of the City Attorney with her passion for protecting San Diego families. She is a national leader in preventing gun violence, a fierce champion for consumers and the environment, and a staunch protector of victims of domestic violence and sex trafficking. As the first woman and first Latina City Attorney in San Diego, Elliott has fearlessly safeguarded taxpayer dollars and advanced programs that keep our most vulnerable citizens safe, particularly elders who face abuse and exploitation. In her first term, she launched San Diego's pioneering Gun Violence Restraining Order program to prevent predictable shootings by keeping dangerous people from having guns. She also relaunched the San Diego Family Justice Center to bolster support for victims of domestic violence and expand its services to victims of sex trafficking.



SHANNON R. FINLEY
Shareholder / Employment Attorney
Pettit Kohn Ingrassia Lutz & Dolin

Shannon R. Finley is a shareholder/employment attorney at Pettit Kohn Ingrassia Lutz & Dolin. Finley serves as the co-chair of the firm's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. As a leader in the firm's employment and labor group, Finley provides comprehensive litigation support to California employers as well as guidance to advise on best practices to avoid lawsuits before they arise. She is a speaker and author on issues including best hiring practices, wage and hour law, discrimination and leaves of absence. She has been recognized as a Super Lawyers Rising Star each year since 2019 and a Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch since 2021. She recently received the Rising Star Recent Alumni Award from the University of San Diego School of Law. She is the current president of Lawyers Club of San Diego. She can be reached at sfinley@pettitkohn.com or 858-755-8500.



VALERIE GARCIA HONG
Attorney
Garcia Hong Law

Valerie Garcia Hong is the owner of and attorney with Garcia Hong Law. Hong founded Garcia Hong Law to provide a different perspective as a minority-owned and woman-owned law firm. The firm from 2021-23 has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report – Best Lawyers as a Best Law Firm. Hong counsels businesses and individuals in business litigation, breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duties, trade secrets and unfair competition, professional liability and personal injury claims. She has worked as an adjunct professor at California Western School of Law since 2010. She teaches the STEPPS Program, which is a simulated law office for second-year law students. She is also the president of Women of Color in Law and is general counsel for Filipino American Chamber of Commerce – Greater San Diego. She can be reached at valerie@garciahonglaw.com or 619-252-3671.



STEFFI HAFEN
San Diego Office Managing Partner
Partner
Snell & Wilmer

Steffi Hafen is San Diego Office Managing Partner for Snell & Wilmer. Hafen has a thriving legal practice for the full-service business law firm with more than 450 attorneys in 16 locations throughout the United States and Mexico. She is a Certified Specialist in Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law, California Board of Legal Specialization, is a co-leader of the firm's Private Client Services practice group, and is a partner in the General Federal Tax practice group. In 2020, Hafen relocated from Snell & Wilmer's Orange County office to help lead the opening of the San Diego office, which expanded the firm's presence in California. Opening just before the pandemic, she has helped to grow the office from just two attorneys in 2020 to an elite team of nine attorneys. She can be reached at shafen@swlaw.com or 858-434-5002.



JENNIFER A. HANSEN
Partner
Hooper, Lundy & Bookman

Jennifer A. Hansen is a partner in Hooper, Lundy & Bookman's San Diego office and serves as co-chair of the Medical Staff Practice Group. Hansen's practice involves advising medical staffs in credentialing and privileging matters, governance, bylaws, policies and procedures, rules and regulations, investigations, reporting, peer review hearings, writs and other litigation relating to medical staffs and healthcare providers. She also represents hospitals, post-acute care facilities, and pharmacies in internal investigations and healthcare litigation. She regularly participates in the firm's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, as the firm has made significant, meaningful strides in increasing the number of partners and associates from underrepresented groups. She is frequently called upon by clients from skilled nursing or other post-acute care facilities after a serious complaint has prompted an investigation by licensing authorities. She can be reached at jhansen@hooperlundy.com or 619-744-7310.



Congratulations to each of our partners Priya Huggett, Ann Maas and Amelia Sanchez for their recognition as Woman of Influence in Law!

Exemplifying CGS3's commitment to delivering a best-in-class client experience, Priya, Ann and Amelia are seasoned and deal-oriented attorneys with expertise in complex transactional real estate and corporate matters across all segments of the commercial real estate sector. We are proud that the San Diego Business Journal has recognized each of their excellence!



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What Makes Cayce, Kristi, and Susan Women of Influence in Law?



Cayce E. Lynch

Cayce is the Administrative Partner at Tyson & Mendes. She leads the firm's administrative functions, driving significant growth and innovation. She founded the Tyson & Mendes Women's Initiative, Young Professionals Group, and Diversity & Inclusion Committee, providing mentoring and support. As a defense attorney, Cayce collaborates on complex cases, achieving efficient results and protecting against Nuclear Verdicts®. Additionally, she was recognized as a "Woman of Influence in Law" in 2021 and 2022.

Kristi Blackwell

Kristi is the California Regional Managing Partner at Tyson & Mendes, overseeing the Retail, Restaurant, and Hospitality practice group. She specializes in general liability, professional liability, personal injury, products liability, premises liability, coverage, and complex litigation. She played a major role in the *Howell v. Hamilton Meats* case, a significant California Supreme Court decision and was recognized as a "Woman of Influence in Law" in 2021 and 2022.



Susan Oliver

Susan is a Partner at Tyson & Mendes who focuses her practice on catastrophic personal injury defense, employment practices litigation defense, sexual tort defense, and medical malpractice defense. With extensive litigation experience, she represents clients in state and federal courts, achieving significant savings through successful summary judgment motions. In 2021, she was again honored as Best Lawyers "Lawyer of the Year" for Personal Injury Litigation and recognized as a "Woman of Influence in Law" in 2022.



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AMY HARGREAVES

Partner and San Diego Local Litigation & Trial Department Chair
Latham & Watkins LLP

Amy Hargreaves is partner and San Diego Local Litigation & Trial Department Chair. Hargreaves helps clients in San Diego and across the country navigate complex and evolving areas of government healthcare enforcement. She advises on both internal and government-initiated investigations, leveraging her extensive litigation experience and sophisticated understanding of federal regulatory and enforcement regimes. Hargreaves forges deep, trusted relationships with her clients and manages their most sensitive investigations from inception through resolution. She advises healthcare industry leaders on internal and government investigations, self-disclosures, and compliance program development. Her clients include large hospital systems, as well as medical device and life sciences companies at varying stages of corporate maturity. Hargreaves serves on the San Diego Chamber of Commerce's Healthcare subcommittee. She can be reached at amy.hargreaves@lw.com or 858-523-5424.



REBECCA HARRINGTON

Assistant General Counsel
San Diego Unified Port District

Rebecca Harrington is Assistant General Counsel for the San Diego Unified Port District. Harrington began working at the port in 2013 and was promoted to Assistant General Counsel in February 2022. The top female lawyer for the Port of San Diego, she is responsible for legal aspects of the Port Master Plan Update and entitlements for port projects including Chula Vista Bayfront, Seaport San Diego, Freedom Park and Sunroad Hotel development as well as others. From 2019-22 she was co-lead attorney on the Gaylord Pacific Resort project on the Chula Vista bayfront. Earlier this year, as the lead land use attorney, Harrington successfully negotiated and assisted in obtaining a Coastal Development Permit from the California Coastal Commission in a unanimous vote for Freedom Park, a project that will transform Navy Pier into a world-class park changing the face of the Embarcadero.



PATRICIA P. HOLLENBECK

Partner
Duane Morris LLP

Patricia P. Hollenbeck is a partner with Duane Morris LLP. Hollenbeck practices in the area of commercial and business litigation, handling individual and class action cases in state and federal courts. She also has extensive experience in arbitration and mediation. In addition to her practice, Hollenbeck donates time pro bono, is a mentor for newer lawyers, and a leader in the firm. She is an active member of the San Diego legal community, serving on many boards, and often volunteers her time. She is the president of the San Diego Inn of Court (trial training program), is a member of the San Diego Federal Bar Foundation board of directors, and is an instructor for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy. She is also a member of the San Diego County Bar Association Strategic Planning Committee. She served on the board of directors of the Tom Homann LGBTQ+ Law Association Foundation, which presented her with its Friend of the Community Award in 2017. She can be reached at PHollenbeck@duanemorris.com or 619-744-2250.



CHRISTINA HOUGH

Law Student, Independent Paralegal & Notary Public
Christina Hough

Christina Hough is a law student, independent paralegal and Notary Public. Hough is currently wrapping up her final year at the University of San Diego School of Law. She will be participating in a summer abroad program in Madrid, Spain, hoping to further develop Spanish language skills. Prior to law school, Hough had a 20-year professional career in law firms, in-house at a Fortune 10 company and at a pre-litigation legal notice company. She was recently selected by the National Notary Association as its 2023 Notary of the Year. She is vice president of membership and sits on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the San Diego Paralegal Association. She was recently selected to serve as a Law Articles Editor for the California Indian Law Association's Legal Journal. She also serves on CILA's Pathway to Law & Scholarship Committee.



JULIE T. HOUTH

Associate Attorney
Thomas Quinn LLP

Julie T. Houth is an Associate Attorney at Thomas Quinn LLP. Her practice focuses on the representation of employers and carriers in cases brought under the United States Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act and its extensions, including the Defense Base Act. Prior to joining the firm, she practiced plaintiffs' complex litigation including the multi-state district opioids cases. Houth also has experience in tax litigation. Houth is admitted to practice in New York. She was nominated and selected as one of the American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division's 2021 On the Rise Top 40 Young Lawyer Honorees. She is editor in chief of the American Bar Association's General Practice GPSolo Magazine, a member of the San Diego County Bar Association San Diego Lawyer magazine editorial committee and board member of the Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego.



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EMILY HOWE

Attorney
 Law Office of Emily E. Howe

Emily Howe, Principal Founder, Law Offices of Emily E. Howe, works on cases of public interest in San Diego. Her career has focused on general access to legal rights and human-civil rights, including wrongful death, workplace fairness, family and individual protections, nonprofits-foundations, and solutions that further access to justice. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated proven successes in representing and empowering clients during difficult and stressful times.

Howe is currently the only Asian American board member for the San Diego Law Library Foundation and the La Jolla Bar Association. She leads efforts to nominate attorney community leaders with an aim to increase professional and personal diversity among visible community leaders. Howe leads efforts to increase professional and personal diversity in elected-appointed leadership in San Diego. She can be reached at info@howelaws.com and 619-800-6605.



PRIYA HUGGETT

Partner
 Crosbie Gliner Schiffman Southard & Swanson LLP (CGS3)

Priya Huggett is a partner with Crosbie Gliner Schiffman Southard & Swanson LLP (CGS3), a recognized leader among Southern California commercial real estate law firms. With more than 20 years of broad-based experience in commercial real estate — including acquisitions, dispositions, development, leasing, finance and operations covering multi-family, retail, residential, hospitality and office assets — her practice emphasizes a variety of corporate/commercial and real estate transactions, particularly private equity, joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions and commercial contracts including vendor and licensing contracts. With respect to real property, her focus is on purchase and sale, commercial leasing, subdivision, easements and licenses, financing and related business matters. Prior to joining CGS3, she was general counsel for Brixton Capital. Active in the community, she currently serves on the board of directors for the New Children's Museum. She can be reached at phuggett@cgs3.com or 858-367-7676.



DANIELLE C. HUMPHRIES

Partner | Chair of Trusts & Estates Practice in San Diego Office
 Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP

Danielle Humphries is a Partner at Hahn Loeser and Chair of the firm's San Diego Trusts & Estates Practice Group. She is an extraordinary role model and advocate for gender parity within the legal industry, serving as a steering committee member of the firm's Women's Leadership Initiative.

Humphries serves as general counsel for families, managing a multitude of legal issues including trust and estate related issues, wealth preservation and protection, philanthropic planning, and tax planning. Humphries also has extensive experience representing fiduciaries and beneficiaries in complex trust and estate administration and litigation. Humphries has earned a stellar reputation as a trusted adviser. Her genuine, caring nature, coupled with her depth of experience, is evident in that her greatest source of new clients is through referrals. She can be reached at dhumphries@hahnlaw.com or 619-810-4315.



MICHELLE L. JACKO

Managing Partner and CEO
 Jacko Law Group, PC

Michelle L. Jacko, CSCP, is the managing partner and CEO of Jacko Law Group, PC, which offers securities, corporate, real estate and employment law counsel to broker-dealers, IAs, investment companies, hedge/private funds and financial industry professionals. She is also founder and CEO of Core Compliance & Legal Services, Inc. Jacko specializes in investment adviser, broker-dealer and fund regulatory compliance matters, internal control development, regulatory examinations, transition services, and operational risk management. Her consultation practice focuses on regulatory exams/formal inquiries, mergers/acquisitions, annual reviews, policies/procedures development, testing of compliance programs, mock exams and more.

Dedicated to her clients and the legal and compliance communities, Jacko is also involved in several organizations, including the Autism Tree Project Foundation and Feeding San Diego. She received her J.D. from St. Mary's University School of Law.



CAROLINA JUAREZ

Partner
 Hone Maxwell LLP

Hone Maxwell LLP Partner Carolina Juarez represents clients of all sizes and value, some of which are small, family- and minority-owned businesses. Under her counsel, these businesses serve San Diego's large minority communities, provide critical jobs and help immigrants realize their own American dream. For example, Juarez has helped the owner of a Mexican fast food restaurant in organizing and standardizing their real estate portfolio. Juarez provides guidance on everything from joint ventures for real estate projects to manufacturing deals. Born in San Diego and raised in Mexico, she is fluent in Spanish and holds law licenses in Mexico and California. She doesn't allow the complexities of cross-border legal issues or cultural differences thwart her clients' goals. Juarez volunteers for Corazon de Vida, a California-based nonprofit that raises funds for Baja California orphanages.



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 CONGRATULATES
DANIELLE C. HUMPHRIES

On her selection as a 2023 *San Diego Business Journal* Woman of Influence in Law.

Danielle is a trusted wealth advisor to her clients and their families through her trusts and estates practice. She is an inspiration to our firm. Her commitment and dedication to clients and community make her truly deserving of this honor.





STACEY KARTCHNER
Senior Counsel
Klinedinst

Stacey Kartchner is Senior Counsel at Klinedinst, PC, where she specializes in criminal defense and professional liability cases. She serves on the San Diego County Bar Association board of directors and will serve as president of the 8,500-member organization in 2024. She currently serves as chairperson of the San Diego Criminal Justice Memorial Committee, made up of numerous state and federal court judges and other members of the criminal justice community. She is a past president of both the Criminal Defense Lawyer's Club and the Criminal Defense Bar Association. She serves on the Board of Directors of Accessity, a nonprofit specializing in microcredit. In addition, she was appointed by the United States District Court, Southern District of California, to serve as the Chairperson of the CJA Material Witness Advisory Panel. She can be reached at skartchner@klinedinstlaw.com or 619-400-8000.



ALLY KEEGAN
Associate Attorney
Law Office of David P. Shapiro, APLC

Ally Keegan is Associate Attorney at the Law Office of David P. Shapiro, APLC. She was born and raised in New York before heading to Philadelphia and graduating from Villanova University. She eventually traveled west and earned her law degree from the University of San Diego School of Law. Keegan got her first taste of criminal law at the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office in college, before pivoting to criminal defense in law school. Having seen cases prepared and tried from both sides of the courtroom, Keegan knows how to evaluate her cases from all angles and strategize relentlessly to ensure the best results for her clients. Since 2021, Keegan has served as an Adjunct Professor of Criminal Law at the University of San Diego's School of Law Paralegal Program. She can be reached at Ally@DPS Shapiro.com or 619-295-3555.



JADE S. KOLLER
Trial Attorney
Frantz Law Group

Jade S. Koller is a trial attorney at Frantz Law Group with extensive civil litigation experience including catastrophic personal injury, wrongful death, fiduciary disputes, contract disputes and mass tort cases. Koller plays an integral role in representing hundreds of school districts nationwide against JUUL and Altria in the anti-vaping litigation. In addition, she represents hundreds of school districts across the country against social media companies for their role in the youth mental health crisis.

She advocates for and represents clients who are victims of hazing incidents and childhood sexual abuse. Koller spent several years defending major insurance companies in personal injury matters, which provides her a full perspective into the litigation process on both sides. She is a member of the Enright Inn of Court and is listed on the National Trial Lawyers Top 40 under 40 (2022).



IVETTE KUYATEH
Founder and Managing Partner
Kuyateh Law Group

Ivette Kuyateh, Owner and Managing Partner of Kuyateh Law Group, provides estate planning and wealth preservation strategies. A former prosecutor, she is a highly sought after victim's lawyer and expert on Financial Abuse and Domestic Violence, training service providers and first responders while providing ongoing pro bono services for the North County Family Justice Center. Her accomplishments include more than six-figure wrongful termination settlements, multiple civil harassment and domestic violence restraining orders effected, more than six figures in asset recovery in estate administration cases, and more than \$5 million in assets placed into trusts in 2022.

In 2023 she was named one of San Diego Super Lawyers' Rising Stars. Kuyateh is the Director for Southwestern Community College's Legal Information Clinic and serves on the board of Women of Color in the Law, Inc. She can be reached at ivette@kuyatehlawgroup.com or 619-535-0066.



TRACI LAGASSE
Partner
Lagasse Branch Bell + Kinkead LLP

Traci Lagasse is one of four founding partners at Lagasse Branch Bell + Kinkead. Lagasse oversees the firm's professional liability and tort liability practice groups. She covers the entire spectrum of personal injury litigation and represents a wide range of professionals, with an emphasis on the defense of architects and engineers in construction defect and delay claims. Lagasse has successfully tried numerous cases in state and federal court (many resulting in nonsuit or directed verdict) and has obtained a large number of successful results through summary judgment. Since 2007, her firm has grown to more than 30 lawyers and 25 staff across three offices. From 2009 to 2022, Lagasse has been voted by her peers to be included on the list of Southern California Super Lawyers in the areas of Personal Injury – Defense and Professional Liability – Defense.



CONGRATULATIONS

to **Jenny L. Doling, JD, LL.M.**

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MONIQUE LASHBROOK
Partner
 Snell & Wilmer

Monique Lashbrook is a Partner in the San Diego office of Snell & Wilmer. She focuses her practice on real estate, corporate and commercial finance-related matters, and transactions. Lashbrook has extensive experience handling real estate acquisitions and dispositions, joint ventures, commercial mortgage financing, commercial leasing for industrial and retail spaces, and property management matters. Outside of work, Lashbrook proudly serves as a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of Chicano Federation. In November 2022, Lashbrook was appointed to the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate Committee at University of San Diego's Knauss School of Business. She is also a member of the San Diego chapter of Business Forum International, Hispanic National Bar Association and San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association. She can be reached at mlashbrook@swlaw.com or 858-434-5007.



MELISSA H. LUM, ESQ.
Senior Associate Attorney
 Bellator Law Group, APC

Melissa H. Lum is a Senior Associate Attorney at Bellator Law Group. She is a seasoned litigation attorney whose practice focuses on prosecuting and defending will and trust contests and claims for undue influence, breach of fiduciary duty, and financial elder abuse. Lum is committed to vigorously representing her clients and helping them to feel more in control of the situation through diligent communication, education and strategy. She is results-oriented and strives to help clients resolve their legal issues effectively and efficiently. She is quickly becoming known as a litigator to contend with in this field of law. Since joining the firm, she has worked with the leadership team to grow the law firm practice, and develop a positive and inclusive law firm culture by mentoring younger associates and paralegals. She can be reached at mlum@bellatorlawgroup.com or 619-232-8377.



JENNIFER N. LUTZ
Shareholder / Employment Attorney
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Jennifer N. Lutz is a Shareholder with Pettit Kohn Ingrassia Lutz & Dolin. As a founding shareholder, she is co-chair of the firm's employment and labor group. Her litigation career spans over two decades. She represents California employers involving issues of discrimination, wrongful termination, harassment, and both individual and class action wage and hour claims. She is a widely sought out author and speaker, frequently invited to provide employment practices and employee management training and guidance for private firms, other attorneys and professional organizations throughout California. Lutz served as vice president of the National Human Resources Association and vice president of legislation for San Diego SHRM, the region's largest organization of human resource professionals. She is also an employment law instructor for UCSD Extension. She can be reached at jlutz@pettitkohn.com or 858-755-8500.



CAYCE LYNCH
Administrative Partner
 Tyson & Mendes LLP

Cayce Lynch is Administrative Partner at Tyson & Mendes, where she has led the firm through unprecedented growth and innovation. She has developed a series of initiatives that have doubled the firm's size and raised its profile to attract and retain the best attorneys and staff: the Women's Initiative, Young Professionals Group, Diversity & Inclusion Committee, T&M Giving, TM University, TM Trial Academy and one of the clearest pathways to partnership of any law firm. Among her many accomplishments, Lynch conceptualized the firm's extensive training efforts of firm attorneys, ensuring they become experts in employing the firm's unique defense methods at trial to keep down damage awards, reduce indemnity payments, and efficiently mitigate defense costs where possible. These methods saved the firm's clients over \$667 million in 2021, and more than \$1.07 billion in 2022.



ANN MAAS
Partner
 Crosbie Gliner Schiffman Southard & Swanson LLP (CGS3)

Ann Maas is a Partner with Crosbie Gliner Schiffman Southard & Swanson LLP (CGS3). As one of the original firm members, she was promoted from senior counsel to partner in 2022. Throughout her more than 25-year legal career, Maas has applied her technical, legal and market knowledge in representing both landlords and tenants in millions of square feet of commercial space across all asset types and also has significant expertise in handling purchase and sale transactions. She is known in the commercial real estate sector for her ability to work efficiently and get deals done in a manner that is consistent with her client's needs and business objectives. She holds a bachelor of arts in English from Brigham Young University and a J.D. from BYU's J. Reuben Clark Law School. She can be reached at amaas@cgs3.com or 858-367-7676.



Congratulations to Georgia Schneider, Esq.

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LISA MAGORIEN

Partner
Lagasse Branch Bell + Kinkead
LLP

Lisa Magorien is a Partner at Lagasse Branch Bell + Kinkead and specializes in employment litigation and the defense of employers in a variety of legal claims, including wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and wage and hour matters. She also provides employment counseling on numerous issues, including compliance with wage and hour laws, hiring, promotion, discipline, termination and leaves of absence laws. She provides training seminars for her clients on unlawful harassment and best practices and serves as an independent investigator for employers seeking neutral workplace investigations. Magorien was elevated to Proprietary Partner at LBBK in January 2023. She has been recognized on the Super Lawyers Rising Stars List in the area of Employment Litigation: Defense (2016 – 2023). She also was on the San Diego Business Journal, Top 100 Leaders in Law List (2022).



JERRILYN MALANA

Chief Deputy District Attorney, HR
San Diego County District
Attorney's Office

Jerrilyn Malana is Chief Deputy District Attorney, HR at the San Diego County District Attorney's Office. She is a "citizen lawyer" who has impacted the community for 25 years. Malana is a champion for diversity and passionate about civic education. She has served in leadership positions on numerous boards. She is the chair of the California Lawyers Association's Civic Engagement & Outreach Committee. She was the first Asian Pacific American to serve as president of the San Diego County Bar Association. In 2022 she served as Chair of UC San Diego Chancellor's Associates, which raises funds for first generation and underserved students. For her many efforts, she was inducted into the San Diego County Women's Hall of Fame as a "Trailblazer" and was named a "Trailblazer" by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.



SANDY MCDONOUGH

Partner and Co-National Chair,
Labor & Employment Practice Group
Quarles & Brady LLP

Sandy McDonough is a Partner at Quarles & Brady. She is an experienced litigator who advises employers in all aspects of employment law and disputes. She represents private and public sector clients with a focus on employment litigation, arbitration, mediation and employment matters. She obtains dismissals at the initial pleading stage and through summary judgment and obtains advantageous settlements in numerous matters. She is an experienced trial lawyer with an outstanding record in jury trials, bench trials and arbitrations. McDonough is also civic-minded and serves on the boards or as a member of organizations such as the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, San Diego County Bar Association's Labor and Employment Law Section, State Bar of California's Labor and Employment Law Section, American Employment Law Council and Feeding San Diego. She can be reached at sandy.mcdonough@quarles.com or 619-744-3641.



JESSICA C. MCELFRISH

Founder and Principal
McElfresh Law, Inc.

Jessica C. McElfresh is Founder and Principal of McElfresh Law, Inc. She has worked in cannabis law and policy since 2010. She is the Chair of the International Cannabis Bar Association's Professional Responsibility and Ethics Committee and a member of its board of directors. McElfresh focuses on local and state applications, land use, regulatory compliance, and business law for cannabis licensees. She has authored or advised on ballot measures to regulate cannabis businesses, including Measure U in La Mesa and Measure V in Lemon Grove, and Measure H in Encinitas. McElfresh is also an advisory board member for A New PATH, an organization dedicated to promoting therapeutic rather than punitive drug policies, and previously served as a consultant for the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Northern California. She can be reached at jessica@mcelfreshlaw.com or 858-248-2901.



DEEPALIE MILIE JOSHI

Attorney
Joshi Law Group

Deepalie Milie Joshi is Managing Attorney at Joshi Law Group. She has been practicing in bankruptcy law from the very start of her career. Her mentor has described the outset of her journey as "baptism by fire," in that she was initially charged with an enormous caseload while having little or no experience. Even so, Joshi excelled and continues to do so today, becoming an embedded member of the local bankruptcy bar and remains involved with various bankruptcy organizations. She has presented continuing legal education on the elimination of bias as well as become a dependable advocate for diversity and inclusion. Although it is not always a popular role, Joshi is often the voice in the room who charges colleagues with the need for recognizing implicit bias. She can be reached at milie@joshilawgroup.com.



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CECILIA MILLER
Shareholder
Buchalter

Cecilia Miller is a Shareholder in Buchalter's San Diego Office and Co-Chair of the Insurance Law practice group. Her practice encompasses trial and appellate representation of her policyholder clients in arbitrations, state courts, and federal courts across the country. Miller focuses on complex commercial litigation and pre-litigation counseling with an emphasis on insurance coverage recovery for policyholders. Her career accomplishments include representing a municipality in prosecution of insurance coverage and bad faith claims resulting in a multimillion-dollar settlement mid-trial, and leading a team in a multimillion-dollar settlement and payment of ongoing defense in a series of high-stakes and decades-long litigations for a municipal policyholder through bad faith litigation and obtaining an insurer-funded settlement in excess of \$25 million. Miller is a past chair of the San Diego County Bar Association's Appellate Court Committee. She can be reached at cmiller@buchalter.com.



MARISA MILLER
Partner
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

Marisa Miller is a Partner at Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP. She is the first female and Latina to serve as Office Managing Partner of Sheppard Mullin's Del Mar office. She is a partner in the firm's Business Trial practice and a member of its Energy, Construction and Trade Secret teams. She represents clients in complex, high-stakes litigation matters ranging from billion-dollar commercial disputes to matters involving construction, energy, environmental, statutory, technology and shareholder rights issues. Recently, Miller co-led a team representing SDG&E in a dispute over a San Diego Unified Port District lease of tidelands property. The port claimed that the lease required the removal of water tunnels previously used to operate the now-decommissioned Silvergate Power Plant. The firm defeated the port's summary adjudication motion. The matter settled in July 2022.



DANIELLE H. MOORE
Partner
Fisher Phillips

Danielle Moore is Partner in the San Diego office of Fisher Phillips. She is a well-known, recognized and respected employment defense attorney who represents employers in a variety of industries facing discrimination claims, wage and hour class action lawsuits, and PAGA claims. Moore has two primary objectives when counseling employers on labor and employment concerns: limiting financial impact on their business and getting ahead of litigation as early as possible. Whether defending accusations of employment discrimination, wrongful termination, harassment, or retaliation, or analyzing a complex workplace issue, she works to understand her client's goals and reach the best possible outcome. Especially amid threats of large-scale exposure – due to class action lawsuits or Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) actions – Moore's deep understanding of the Labor Code helps minimize liability and reduce future risk. She can be reached at dmoore@fisherphillips.com or 858-597-9600.



SARA NEVA
Partner
Procopio

Sara Neva is a commercial real estate Partner at Procopio focusing on purchase and sales, leases, joint ventures and financing. She is building her own rapidly growing client base by ensuring clients are armed with the knowledge of constantly changing real estate laws, and by creatively and efficiently guiding real estate developers, investors, lenders, landlords and tenants through the ever-changing economic environment. Neva finds creative and practical solutions for clients, while cutting down on unnecessary legal roadblocks. By focusing on the real-world issues, Neva is key to reaching deals faster and more efficiently. She was honored as a Super Lawyers Rising Star and a San Diego Business Journal 40 Next Top Business Leaders Under 40. She also provides pro bono legal counsel through the San Diego Volunteer Lawyers Program. She can be reached at sara.neva@procopio.com.



JENNIFER OLIVER
counsel
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney

Jennifer Oliver is Counsel at Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney. She is an experienced commercial litigator and focuses her practice on complex litigation, with a specialty in defending class actions. With experience on both the plaintiff and defense side, Oliver has a deep understanding of the legal strategies that support clients' business objectives. A strong advocate of pro bono work, she was a member of the team in the U.S. Supreme Court case *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*. She also served as Northern District of California-appointed co-lead counsel for a certified settlement class of over 4 million consumers in one of the first landmark data breach settlements under the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA). Oliver was a member of the team that prosecuted and settled the \$350 million T-Mobile data breach litigation. She can be reached at jennifer.oliver@bipc.com or 619-685-1990.



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SUSAN OLIVER
Partner
Tyson & Mendes LLP

Susan Oliver is a Partner at Tyson & Mendes LLP. She is a powerhouse in the legal industry, leading a multi-attorney team focusing on defending clients against catastrophic personal injury, employment practices and medical malpractice cases. She also leads a multi-attorney team dedicated to the defense of entities in which sexual abuse, assault, and/or molestation (SAM) is alleged. Attorneys in Oliver's SAM group represent schools, sports leagues, nonprofit organizations, youth serving organizations, public entities and more. Oliver and her SAM team handle some of the nation's most sensitive, high-profile litigation with continued success – providing clients with the consistent, responsive, and caring service needed to deliver outstanding results. In recognition of her astounding accomplishments since joining Tyson & Mendes in 2016, Oliver was made an equity partner of the firm in 2020.



TEODORA D. PURCELL, LL.M., JD
Partner, Attorney at Law
Larrabee Albi Coker, LLP

Teodora Purcell is a Partner with Larrabee Albi Coker, LLP. She advocates for the rights of people of diverse backgrounds and counsels corporate and individual clients on immigration compliance, complex immigration and citizenship matters. Purcell is a business leader, mentor and a pro bono advocate. Her professional accolades include: Super Lawyers (2015-2023), Top 25 Women Super Lawyers (2019 -2021) and KPBS Local Hero Award. Purcell is a leader in the business community and was elected in 2022 to serve on the board of directors of the Corporate Directors Forum in San Diego. As a law firm partner and a trusted business adviser, she has also made an impact on many life science and biotech companies and research organizations that rely on skilled workers by devising immigration and talent retention strategies. She can be reached at tpurcell@larrabee.com.



BLANCA QUINTERO
Assistant U.S. Attorney
U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of California

Blanca Quintero is Assistant U.S. Attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of California. She is also the current Chair of the SDCBA's Committee on Diversity and Inclusion (CDI), and last year served as CDI's Vice-Chair. Through her involvement with CDI, Quintero has led the Diversity Pledge Subcommittee and its efforts to update the SDCBA's Diversity Pledge. The Diversity Pledge is a guideline and standard for local law firms, corporate law departments, law schools, public agencies and organizations to follow in promoting and encouraging diversity in the hiring, retention and advancement of diverse or underrepresented attorneys. Currently, Quintero also serves as a Co-Chair in the Lawyers Club of San Diego's Diverse Women's Committee (DWC), working to address challenges women of color face in the legal profession and society. She can be reached at blancaquintero7@gmail.com or 619-621-1813.



SALLY REDDY
Managing Attorney
Dallo Law Group, APC

Sally Reddy is the Managing Attorney at Dallo Law Group, a boutique law firm in San Diego specializing in tax dispute resolutions and complex tax planning. She is passionate about tax law and enjoys working with her clients – predominantly small business owners in San Diego County – to resolve their tax issues. Through her zealous advocacy, she saved her clients over \$900,000 in tax liability in 2022. Reddy is especially committed to helping women- and minority-owned businesses thrive in today's tough economic market. She is currently the monthly meeting co-coordinator for the California Lawyers Association Women in Tax Committee. She uses this position to provide speaking and networking opportunities for women and minorities. She is also a mentor to the Odyssey Mentorship Program through the California Lawyer's Association Taxation Section. She can be reached at sreddy@dallolawgroup.com or 619-378-0237.



HEATHER RILEY
Partner
Allen Matkins

Heather Riley is a Partner in the San Diego office of Allen Matkins. She has worked on some of the most significant land use projects in San Diego in her career. Her work has helped shape the community her family calls home and increased housing production across the region. She has shepherded controversial projects through the entitlement process and then defended those developments against litigation. She works with the Building Industry Association of San Diego and the City of San Diego to develop solutions that are practical and defensible. Her efforts resulted in a published appellate decision that codified density bonus law up and down the state and has been cited by regulators and applicants in the push to speed up market rate and affordable housing production. She can be reached at hriley@allenmatkins.com or 619-235-1564.



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Congratulations to all the local attorneys named Women of Influence, particularly our partners Holly Bauer and Amy Hargreaves. They both have been recognized for their dedication to excellence, commitment to client service, and contributions to our firm, the legal profession, and the San Diego community.

Holly and Amy embody the talent and culture of Latham & Watkins, and we commend them for the many accomplishments that have earned this recognition.



Holly Bauer
Partner, Tax Department
Executive Compensation,
Employment and Benefits



Amy Hargreaves
Partner, Litigation &
Trial Department
Healthcare Investigations
and Fraud Defense



KRISTIN RIZZO
 Attorney Mediator
 Judicate West

Kristin Rizzo is an Attorney Mediator at Judicate West. She mediates a variety of civil claims, specializing in employment mediation. She combines her varied legal background with her extensive leadership and organizational knowledge to bring a multifaceted approach to every matter. Ensuring that parties seeking to resolve a dispute through mediation have a partner in resolution, Rizzo uses her strong work ethic, empathy and tenacity to help parties resolve their disputes in creative and meaningful ways. Rizzo is also a civic community leader, serving the City of San Diego as a Commissioner for the Human Relations Commission whose mission is to promote activities that foster understanding, respect and inclusion for all residents of San Diego. She also currently serves as Mediator Taskforce Co-Chair for the Lawyers Club of San Diego. She can be reached at krizzo@judicatewest.com or 619-814-1966.



ANNA M. ROMANSKAYA
 Attorney/ Partner
 Stark & D'Ambrosio, LLP

Anna Romanskaya is a Partner with Stark & D'Ambrosio, LLP, where she manages the firm's family law division. She represents clients in all aspects of family law, including restraining orders, pre and post marital agreements, marital dissolutions, child custody, child and spousal support, property division and post judgment issues. She is an activist and avid public speaker on victim advocacy and youth issues, particularly in the areas of domestic and sexual violence and healthy relationships. Romanskaya is a graduate of the University of California, Santa Barbara where she double majored in Political Science and Law and Society. She received her Juris Doctorate from Thomas Jefferson School of Law and is admitted to the State Bar of California, the U.S. District Court, Southern District of California, and the District of Columbia. She can be reached at aromanskaya@starkllp.com or 619-338-9500.



PARISIMA ROSHANZAMIR
 Serious Injury Trial Attorney
 Jassim Law

Parisima Roshanzamir is a Serious Injury Trial Attorney at Jassim Law. She has devoted her practice to serving people. Roshanzamir, along with her partner, fights against large corporations and insurance companies to achieve full justice on behalf of people who have been injured or lost their loved one through no fault of their own. Her tireless representation yields stellar results in the most difficult cases. Her track record supports securing multiple multi-million-dollar recoveries on behalf of her clients. In 2022, she obtained a \$9 million settlement on behalf of clients who were hit by a commercial truck. Though the collision was entirely preventable, and the semi-truck driver was at fault, the insurance company denied responsibility from the outset and claimed that a phantom vehicle had caused the collision. Roshanzamir can be reached at paris@jassimlaw.com or 619-630-2680.



JENNIFER B. RUBIN
 Member
 Mintz

Mintz Member Jennifer Rubin draws on more than 30 years of experience crafting legal solutions to employment challenges. She advises technology, financial services, publishing, retail, professional services and healthcare companies seeking regulatory, litigation and compliance advice. Her employment practice includes counseling clients regarding wage and hour compliance and trial practice, with a focus on class actions, trade secrets and employment mobility disputes, and disputes arising from the employment relationship. She also established and co-chairs the Mintz Environmental, Social, Governance practice which now encompasses more than 75 professionals across Mintz's offices. Rubin is a nationally published author and in 2022 published more than 25 articles relating to employment topics. She is frequently called upon by national media outlets such as the Wall Street Journal and Reuters to comment on important employment developments.



AMELIA SANCHEZ
 Partner
 Crosbie Gliner Schiffman
 Southard & Swanson LLP (CGS3)

Amelia Sanchez is a Partner with Crosbie Gliner Schiffman Southard & Swanson LLP (CGS3), a leader among Southern California commercial real estate law firms. With more than 20 years of commercial real estate experience, Sanchez joined CGS3 as senior counsel in 2015 and has since represented national, regional and local companies in all asset categories. She has expertise in advising business clients on leasing transactions that include retail, office, financial, life science, mixed-use, industrial, telecommunications and solar leases and on purchase and sale transactions. In addition to commercial real estate experience, Sanchez has handled a variety of business and transactional matters, including licensing, consultant, easement, access, vendor, co-marketing, service and management agreements. She holds a J.D. from the University of San Diego School of Law, and a B.A. in psychology from Dartmouth. She can be reached at asanchez@cgs3.com or 858-367-7676.



CONGRATULATIONS

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Shannon Finley, Esq.



Jennifer Lutz, Esq.



Janice Walshok, Esq.



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**SARAH SCHAFFER**

Founder
Schaffer Family Law Group

Sarah Schaffer is Founder of Schaffer Family Law Group. She has been an advocate for families across San Diego for more than two decades. She is a family law specialist, certified by the State Bar of California, and represents clients in challenging high-conflict family matters. In addition, she has an LL.M. in taxation and prior to becoming an attorney, worked as a tax consultant. Her background allows her to not only understand and assist clients with their tax and financial planning needs, but also gives her the ability to ensure their assets are adequately protected. Schaffer is also actively involved with Casa Cornelia Law Center, a public interest law firm providing pro bono legal services to victims of human and civil rights violations; and Kids Turn, a nonprofit organization supporting children and parents experiencing family separations or military transitions.

**JOHANNA SCHIAVONI**

Appellate Counsel
Complex Appellate Litigation Group LLP

Johanna Schiavoni is Appellate Counsel with Complex Appellate Litigation Group LLP. She has more than 20 years of experience litigating appeals and writes in the 9th Circuit and other appellate courts. She has argued nearly 40 cases in the state and federal appellate courts and has been the principal brief-writer in at least 100. She represents large companies, closely held corporations, small businesses and individuals in high-stakes appellate matters. In July 2022, Schiavoni served as lead appellate counsel obtaining a complete reversal of a \$1.1 million attorney fee award in a published opinion by the California Court of Appeal. In September of that year, she won a complete appellate reversal on behalf of another client, and the appellate court adopted her argument to direct the trial court to immediately re-enter a default judgment. She can be reached johanna.schiavoni@calg.com or 619-642-2929.

**TANYA SCHIERLING**

Partner
Solomon Ward Seidenwurm & Smith LLP

Tanya Schierling is a Partner at Solomon Ward Seidenwurm & Smith LLP. Corporations, startups and individuals want Schierling in their corner when the stakes are high. As forthcoming managing partner (effective July 1, 2023), Schierling is a sharp, strategic and highly effective litigator whose legal career began more than 20 years ago when she served as a military prosecutor in the U.S. Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps.

Schierling focuses her practice on business litigation; distribution and franchise litigation, counseling and drafting; intra-company and founder disputes; employment law matters; and real property and lease disputes. She advises businesses on a variety of legal issues, helping clients avoid and minimize risk. She holds a Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent rating and is an AV Top Rated Lawyer in commercial and business litigation. She can be reached at tschierling@swsslaw.com or 619-231-0303.

**GEORGIA Z. SCHNEIDER**

Shareholder and Head of Litigation
G10 Law, APLC

Georgia Z. Schneider is Shareholder and Head of Litigation at G10 Law, APLC. She plays a critical role in driving the firm's success through her leadership, legal skills and expertise. As a licensed California real estate broker, Schneider provides unique insights and understanding of the intricacies involved in real estate litigation. She has a proven track record of successfully resolving complex legal matters, while mentoring her team of highly skilled attorneys. Dedication to developing her team is evident in her role as a mentor and trainer. As a result of her leadership, the litigation department has seen substantial growth, expanding from just three attorneys at the beginning of 2022 to a team of five attorneys and one paralegal. Schneider frequently provides scholarly lectures, webinars and articles to the legal community. She can be reached at gschneider@g10law.com or 760-431-4575.

**DINA SEGAL**

Interim Chief Legal Officer
Gusto, Inc.

Dina Segal is Interim Chief Legal Officer at Gusto. She leads the Legal, Compliance and Policy teams. As a seasoned lawyer, Segal is a strategic advisor and company builder with extensive experience in end-to-end product counseling, regulatory analysis and complex commercial transactions in high-growth tech, regulatory, and fintech sectors. Prior to her time at Gusto, she was Assistant General Counsel at Intuit, where she was a leading legal partner to Intuit's business helping customers prepare their taxes, manage their employees and support their businesses. In 2022, she ran Intuit's legal diligence and integration for the company's \$12 billion acquisition of Mailchimp. Segal is also Co-President and a Board Member of SunLaw, a nonprofit that supports and advances women in-house counsel to maximize their fullest potential and lead.



Congratulations Sandy McDonough

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Sandy McDonough, Labor & Employment Practice Group
National Co-Chair, San Diego Office

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SARAH M. SHEKHTER
 Shareholder
 Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek

Sarah Shekhter, a Shareholder at Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek, defends corporations and individuals across industries against allegations of wrongdoing. A Certified Specialist in Criminal Law, she has substantive trial experience in complex civil and criminal matters in state and federal courts. With more than 10 years in practice, she has successfully tried more than 40 cases to jury verdict and resolved some 2,000 cases through negotiations, motion work and investigations.

Shekhter serves on the Kindness Initiative's board and is a founding member of the Women in White Collar Criminal Defense's San Diego Chapter. As part of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Shekhter traveled to Poland to aid Ukrainian refugees. She has since raised some \$500,000 for the committee's emergency medical fund. She can be reached at shekhter@scmv.com or 619-685-3146.



KARIN SHERR
 President and General Counsel
 Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Karin Sherr is President and General Counsel at Thomas Jefferson School of Law. As part of an all-female leadership team, Sherr routinely works to advance the organization's mission – to provide an outstanding legal education for a diverse student body. She has helped the school return to its roots as a preeminent California Accredited Law School, and recently succeeded in getting accreditation for the first fully online J.D. program by a residential school in California. Sherr is best known for leading with integrity, championing transparency and cultivating inclusion amongst the TJSJ and San Diego community.

Professor Ben Templin noted in the acknowledgements of his recently published casebook that Sherr “embodies the finest qualities of an attorney and leader – excellent knowledge of the law, creativity, great communication skills, willingness to listen, passion and compassion.”



JOY SIDHWA
 Senior Counsel
 Mogin-Rubin LLP

Joy Sidhwa is a Senior Counsel at MoginRubin LLP. She leads the discovery team in nationwide class actions in antitrust enforcement and other complex litigation. Sidhwa helps small and large companies, trade groups and consumers challenge anti-competitive conduct by dominant market players. She has been on the front lines of discovery matters against some of the leading technology and pharmaceutical companies in the world. She is known for her ability to grasp extremely complex legal arguments, her eye for detail, her compassionate but strong leadership of teams, and her willingness to work long hours and bill far beyond any other attorney at her firm.

She has served on the board of the Filipino-American Lawyers of San Diego, the Women of Color in Law of San Diego, and the University of Michigan Alumni of San Diego.



TRACY SKADDAN
 General Counsel
 Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest

Tracy Skaddan, General Counsel for Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest, is a passionate advocate and expert in reproductive rights and navigates the ever-changing legal landscape to ensure patients can access the medical services they deserve. Prior to being General Counsel of PPPSW, Skaddan served on the board and later as board chair from 2009 to 2011. Under Skaddan's leadership, the nonprofit expanded the number of people served in San Diego and Riverside counties and extended its reach to Imperial County.

She has had several leadership roles on nonprofit boards and is the current President of the Board of Directors of Center for Community Solutions, the leading provider of services including sheltering, transitional housing, counseling, legal and education to prevent and help survivors of assault.

She has raised two feminist daughters, both in college.



SUMMER STEPHAN
 District Attorney
 County of San Diego

District Attorney Summer Stephan has devoted her life to protecting children and families, providing justice to the most vulnerable, and is a national leader in the fight against human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Stephan rose through the ranks fighting for justice in the trenches before San Diego County voters overwhelmingly elected her as District Attorney in 2018 and again in 2022. As District Attorney, she leads the second-largest DA's Office in California, managing a professional staff of 1,000 employees, serving as the People's Prosecutor for San Diego County and its more than 3 million residents. Stephan leverages her extensive courtroom, management and leadership experience to set clear public safety priorities in collaboration with law enforcement and the community, keeping San Diego County one of the safest urban regions in the United States.



Stark & D'Ambrosio, LLP congratulates our Family Law Partner, Anna M. Romanskaya, for her tremendous accomplishments and in her selection as one of the Top 50 Women of Influence in Law by the San Diego Business Journal



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ELIZABETH THOMPSON
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PAMELA VALLERO
Trial Attorney
Gruenberg Law



JANICE WALSHOK
Shareholder
Pettit Kohn Ingrassia Lutz & Dolin

Elizabeth Thompson is a partner in the San Diego office of Allen Matkins and is a member of the firm's nationally renowned Real Estate department and Joint Venture & Equity Investments practice group. She advises a broad range of clients on the negotiation and structuring of complex joint ventures in connection with the acquisition, disposition, and development of all asset types. Thompson's perspective practicing in-house for companies ranging from a start-up to a global NYSE-listed life sciences REIT provides her with unique insight on client needs with respect to complex deal structuring and execution. Her representation of publicly- and privately held clients on general corporate matters, including capital raising, debt issuance, corporate governance, equity compensation, investor relations, commercial contracts, and business combination transactions furthers a holistic approach to accomplishing client objectives in a strategic and efficient manner.

Jonah Toleno is Of Counsel with Garcia Hong Law. She has been in practice for more than 20 years. Her practice focuses on business and corporate law. She has a broad range of trial and arbitration experience, having litigated, arbitrated and mediated hundreds of complex business, securities, financial services and trade secret matters. She uses her expansive litigation experience to provide outside General Counsel services to various local, national and international businesses, corporate entities and individuals, helping them navigate legal issues. She is an active leader in the community, serving, and having served, on various organizations, including Lawyers Club of San Diego, Filipino American Lawyers of San Diego, the San Diego County Bar Association, ABTL, FBA, and the National Filipino American Lawyers Association. She can be reached at <mailto:jonah@garciahonglaw.com> or jonah@garciahonglaw.com.

Elizabeth A. Tresp, J.D., LL.M. founded Tresp Law, APC in 2013, which she quickly grew to a successful mid-sized practice with several attorneys. In 2019 she acquired the respected law firm Day & Associates, Inc., founded in 1992. She is now the principal attorney of both firms, with thousands of clients across the United States. Tresp is a frequent volunteer and major donor in the San Diego nonprofit community for groups such as the North Coast Repertory Theatre, the Solana Beach Schools Foundation and the American Cancer Society.

For the past six years, Tresp has been awarded Super Lawyers Rising Star. Tresp earned her Juris Doctor (JD) and Master of Laws in Taxation (LLM) at the University of San Diego School of Law. She can be reached at Elizabeth@TrespLaw.com or 858-248-2779.

Pamela Vallero is a Trial Attorney at Gruenberg Law, a firm recognized for its expertise in employment matters. Vallero fights for the rights of those who have been subjected to unlawful discrimination, wrongful termination and retaliation. As trial counsel in 2022, Vallero obtained a \$3.9 million jury verdict for a prosecutor who suffered retaliation by her employer, the City of San Diego. She is a native Spanish speaker. Vallero's ability to be a commanding and effective presence in the courtroom has allowed her to receive the respect of her opponents, her peers and the bench. A board member of the San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association, she is a member of the Louis M. Welsh Inn of Court, Consumer Attorneys of San Diego, and more. She can be reached at pam@gruenberglaw.com or 619-230-1234.

Janice Y. Walshok is a Shareholder in the San Diego office of Pettit Kohn Ingrassia Lutz & Dolin. An advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion, Walshok helped spearhead Pettit Kohn's committee devoted to the topic as co-chair and co-founder.

Walshok is an accomplished trial attorney with a litigation career spanning more than a decade. She has represented a broad spectrum of clients and nationally prominent companies, defending and advising them on their most complex cases. She focuses her practice on personal injury-defense and transportation including wrongful death, product liability and insurance bad faith. Walshok has successfully tried several jury trials and has argued before the 2nd District Court of Appeal.

She has been recognized as a Rising Star by San Diego Super Lawyers in 2022 and 2023. She can be reached at jwalshok@pettitkohn.com or 858-755-8500.

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Susanne serves law firms with all trial and litigation support needs, including court reporting, remote depositions, real-time reporting, records retrieval, subpoenas, videography, trial binder preparation, and much more. Established in 1985, Express Deposition Services handles everything from file to trial, providing the customized service law professionals expect from a boutique firm, with 100 percent client satisfaction. She is happy to be a longtime member of this amazing and wonderful legal community!

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BHASHINI WEERASINGHE
Attorney at Law
 Law Office of Bhashini Weerasinghe

Bhashini Weerasinghe, Owner of the Law Office of Bhashini Weerasinghe, is a distinguished and experienced attorney who focuses on estate planning, assisting small businesses, and drafting premarital agreements. She has received several accolades for her work, being named a Rising Star by Super Lawyer from 2015-2022.

Weerasinghe is a volunteer attorney with Community Law Project and is on the Board of Directors for Children's Legal Services of San Diego. She currently serves as Assistant Director of Pro Bono and Public Service at California Western School of Law's Career and Professional Development Office. She is Co-Chair for the DEI Division of the San Diego County Bar Association. She previously served on the board of Lawyers Club of San Diego and Women of Color in Law. She can be reached at bw@bhashinilaw.com or 619-352-0519.



KARINE WENGER
Partner
 Fragomen, Del Rey, Bersen & Loewy, LLP

Karine Faure Wenger is Partner at Fragomen, Del Rey, Bersen & Loewy, LLP. She serves as corporate immigration counsel to a wide range of clients, from small domestic entities to large multinational corporations. She manages a growing legal team of attorneys and paralegals that provide cutting-edge immigration solutions to corporate clients and counsels them on all matters of U.S. immigration and nationality law, regulation, policy and compliance.

Wenger immigrated from France in the 1980s and has practiced exclusively in the field of U.S. corporate immigration and nationality law for more than 20 years. At Golden Gate University School of Law, she received the Grotius Award for Academic Excellence in International Law. She was a member of the Jessup International Moot Court team and received an International Advocacy Fellowship. She can be reached at kwenger@fragomen.com or 858-793-1600.



LORI WESTIN
Partner
 Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

Lori Westin, a partner at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, turned to patent law after earning a Ph.D. in biology and securing five patents covering her own innovations in molecular biology. Now she secures those patents for others. She currently represents Impossible Foods in a sprawling patent dispute in federal court and the U.S. Patent Trial and Appeal Board, where Westin routinely ranks as one of the 50 most active women lawyers in the country.

Westin served as co-chair of the North County Division of the Lawyers Club of San Diego. She sits on the boards of Women of Color in the Law – an organization which was formed in 2002 in response to the lack of diversity in the San Diego legal community – and transcDANCE, a nonprofit youth arts group. She can be reached at lwestin@wsg.com or 858-350-2225.



KIRSTEN WORLEY
Partner
 Higgs Fletcher & Mack

Kirsten Worley, Partner at Higgs Fletcher & Mack, leads the firm's Construction Litigation Practice Group and is a known force in Southern California's construction industry. Worley has been practicing law for more than 20 years and is a member of the HFM Partner Board. Her practice also takes in select real estate and construction transactional matters. She represents owners, general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, developers, lenders, sureties, private equity capital investors, and businesses of all sizes from large corporations to local small businesses. Worley helps business owners with everything from large-scale breach of contract litigation to mechanics' liens, stop notices and bond claims. She has obtained significant victories on behalf of her clients, often resulting in published decisions making new law. She can be reached at worleyk@higgslaw.com or 619-236-1551.



ROHANE ZAPANTA
Judicial Officer
 San Diego Superior Court

Superior Court Judge Rohanee Zapanta is only the second Filipina American woman appointed to serve on the San Diego Superior Court. She is co-chair and co-founder of the California Judge's Association Ethics & Wellness for Lawyers & Law Students program. In this role she provides workshops primarily for first-generation law students across the state on issues of identity, core values and storytelling. As co-editor of The Bench, the Official Journal of the California Judges Association, she helps ensure diversity in contributors to the magazine and authored self-assessment columns addressing decision fatigue, goals for the judicial mind and self-performance evaluations. Zapanta presides over cases in juvenile court. She is co-founder of CJA Lawyer/Student Ethics & Wellness workshops focusing on identity and storytelling. She also co-founded the High School Healthy Decision-Making course for Saturday School students.



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