There are many brilliant attorneys in Los Angeles — masters of their craft that can prepare individuals and businesses for any legal issue that should come up — while expertly writing the documents designed to protect their clients’ assets and livelihoods. But there is a very special breed or attorney that needs to transcend expert comprehension of the legal system — the litigator. Attorneys who go to the proverbial mat to fight for their clients before judges and jury have their own unique sets of skills. In this special section we have selected 50 of the very best litigators in the business. These are the lawyers you want in your corner in court. We’ve alphabetically listed this lineup of superb litigation specialists, along with some basic information about their careers, practice and some relevant recent successes they’ve achieved.

Congratulations to the attorneys who made this prestigious list!
**TOP LITIGATORS**

**ANGELA AGRUSA**  
Partner  
DLA Piper

Angela Agrusa is a  
Partner at DLA Piper  
and is a nationally recognized trial lawyer and a strategist for large litigations, whose practice focuses on complex product liability and commercial matters, including class actions, Multi-District Litigations, mass torts, and claims for unfair competition and false advertising. Brown is considered one of the top product liability lawyers in the country with a focus on prescription drugs and medical devices. He is also an acknowledged authority in the area of federal preemption for medical devices as both trial and appellate courts.

Brown is also the Founding Chair of Reed Smith's Life Sciences Health Industry Group, and in 2008, he received Reed Smith's Show Me Award, given annually to the firm's outstanding lawyer. He joined Reed Smith in part of the combination between Reed Smith and the California-based firm of Crosby Heafey Roach and May. His clients have included, among others, C.R. Bard Inc.; Medtronic, Inc.; Pfizer Inc.; Merck & Co. Inc.; Eli Lilly and Company; and GlaxoSmithKline, Inc.

**KIM BUFFINGTON**  
Managing Partner  
Shook, Nigro, Prata, Fitzgerald & Eyeson LLP

Kim Buffington is recognized as one of California's top women lawyers in 2017 and one of the most influential minority attorneys in 2018 by the Los Angeles Business Journal. Kim Buffington is known for both her leadership and track record in complex intellectual property, commercial class actions and insurance coverage matters. At the beginning of 2017, she became Managing Partner of the Shook's 85-lawyer Los Angeles office upon her return from maternity leave. She represents leading media and entertainment companies in IP and class action litigation. Buffington is co-leader of the firm’s Internet & Social Media team, which is highly regarded for its blog posts. It has attracted over 13K page views in the past year, and some of the posts have been picked up by major news outlets.

In one example of her success, Buffington recently led a team in securing a complex and financially significant victory on behalf of Playmasters when a judge denied a motion to certify a class of homeowner plaintiffs.

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

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

Because of his substantial courtroom experience, clients turn to Briggs for representation in disputes that involve trademarks, copyrights, the First Amendment, defamation, invasion of privacy, right of publicity, guild disputes, profit participations, royalties and payments, violations of the Talent Agencies Act, and interpretation and enforcement of talent, executive, distribution, film and recording contracts. He has handled a number of high-profile matters within the entertainment industry over the last year. Most notably, in a groundbreaking ruling, a California Appellate Court affirmed the decision of a trial court to dismiss a lawsuit against actor and comedian Marlon Wayans alleging harassment and discrimination over a tweet comparing a movie extra to a cartoon character.

**WILLIAM L. NICHOLSON**  
Partner  
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

William L. Nicholson is a Partner at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP in Los Angeles, where he focuses on civil litigation and appeals. He represents clients in complex civil litigations, including cases involving financial losses, antitrust violations, real estate and business disputes, contracts, and torts.

William L. Nicholson is a trusted advisor to his clients in a wide range of matters, including civil litigations and appeals, as well as in the areas of insurance coverage and commercial disputes. He has represented clients in a variety of industries, including real estate, financial services, and entertainment.

William L. Nicholson has extensive experience in the entertainment industry and has represented clients in high-profile cases involving intellectual property, such as the case against Apple Inc. for侵犯Apple Inc.的专利权.

**MORGAN CHU**  
Partner  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Morgan Chu is a partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP in Los Angeles, where he focuses on civil litigation and appeals. He represents clients in complex civil litigations, including cases involving financial losses, antitrust violations, real estate and business disputes, contracts, and torts.

Morgan Chu has extensive experience in the entertainment industry and has represented clients in high-profile cases involving intellectual property, such as the case against Apple Inc. for侵犯Apple Inc.的专利权.
Bird Marella proudly congratulates Gary S. Lincenberg and Ekwan E. Rhow on their inclusion in Los Angeles Business Journal’s 2018 Top Litigators

Bird Marella litigates complex civil and white collar criminal matters in state and federal courts across the United States. For more than 35 years, we have built our reputation on the quality of our lawyers and the outstanding results we achieve for our clients.
second are ongoing. 2017 in the first case; appeals from the ITC issued exclusion orders finding multiple companies, and often handles cases on various fronts simultaneously in and outside the United States.

De Vries achieved victories for Cisco against Arista in multiple proceedings and trials. In two separate investigations, the ITC issued exclusion orders finding multiple Cisco patents infringed and prohibiting Arista from importing products into the United States. Kirkland also convinced the ITC that Arista engaged in widespread copying of Cisco’s technology, and was an intentional infringer. The Federal Circuit affirmed the ITC’s decision in September 2017 in the first case; appeals from the second are ongoing.

Michael De Vries Partner Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Michael De Vries is a top-to-patent and intellectual property trial lawyer who handles complex, high-stakes matters for companies like Cisco, Intel and Motorola Solutions. Known for his trial skills, creative litigation strategies and superior work ethic, De Vries has led some of the largest competitor cases in high tech in recent years, as well as high-profile trade secret litigation involving technology companies, and often handles cases on various fronts simultaneously in and outside the United States.

Jack DiCanio Litigation Partner Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Kirkland, Arps partner Jack DiCanio has built a formidable civil litigation and white collar practice at Skadden, serving some of Southern California’s most prestigious companies and executives and securing consistent, award-winning results.

Recently, in a high-profile case with its nexus at the Port of Long Beach, DiCanio achieved a win that had a profound effect on the country’s railroad industry. Railroad companies nationwide had become increasingly suspicious that United Industries LLC, a unit of Catepillar, had been defrauding them by performing millions of dollars in unnecessary repairs to their railcars. Much of the country’s critical railroad industry was impacted, as United Industries was charged with inspecting upwards of 10,000 railcars a month as they rolled through Terminal Island at the Port of Long Beach, as well as other parts of the country. DiCanio devised a strategy and developed evidence that eventually would show that United Industries had defrauded the railroad companies to the tune of $30 million dollars and dumped incriminatory evidence into the Long Beach port.

E. Martin Estrada Partner Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

During his career, E. Martin Estrada has developed a reputation as a top-flight litigator, first as a federal prosecutor trying dozens of complex cases, including obtaining convictions in one of the nation’s largest RICO organized crime prosecutions, and more recently representing corporate clients in litigating their most complicated cases as a partner at Munger, Tolles & Olson. He currently represents many of the firm’s most significant clients, including Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation, Southern California Edison, Amgen, Inc., BNSF Railway Company, and the Norton Simon Museum. He is widely regarded for his sound legal counsel and track record of success, particularly in high-stakes trials, and he is often brought in to prepare high-level executives, including presidents and CEOs, for testifying at trial or deposition.

Among his recent successes, Estrada co-led a team that obtained a trial win on behalf of Jay Froberg, co-founder of entertainment management company ROAR LLC, in a contentious fight in Los Angeles Superior Court over control of the company.

James R. Evans, Jr. Partner in Alston & Bird’s Labor & Employment Practice Group Alston & Bird LLP

James (Jim) Evans is a highly skilled trial attorney with decades of experience handling complex cases in state and federal courts. His expertise offers clients his thoughtful avoidance strategy counsel as a preventive measure and his substantial courtroom experience when high-stakes litigation is unavoidable.

Evans represents clients across a broad spectrum of industries and focuses his practice primarily on class action matters, including claims of wage-and-hour violations and employee misclassification, unfair competition, the validity of advertising and marketing claims, privacy violations under California’s Song Beverly Act, violations of the ADA, intentional torts, and violations of the California Franchise Investment Law. His specialty is civil trial work with an emphasis in class action work (employment and consumer). Because of his long-standing work in the area of arbitration agreements and class action waivers, Evans crafted arbitration agreements for numerous employees well before the U.S. Supreme Court ruled last month that such agreements are enforceable.

James R. Evans, Jr.
Partner in Alston & Bird’s Labor & Employment Practice Group
Alston & Bird LLP

TOP LITIGATORS OF 2018

Michael De Vries Partner Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Jack DiCanio Litigation Partner Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
E. Martin Estrada Partner Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
James R. Evans, Jr. Partner in Alston & Bird’s Labor & Employment Practice Group
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Martin Estrada
Miles Feldman

Feldman is a founding partner of Raines Feldman LLP. Feldman heads the Trials, Litigation and Dispute Resolution Department of the firm with more than 22 litigators. A seasoned trial lawyer, he has over two decades of experience handling hard-fought and often high-profile cases through trial and appeal, as well as in numerous arbitration forums.

Over the last 18 months, Feldman obtained victories in complex litigation disputes for some of Los Angeles’ most cutting-edge businesses in technology, media and finance. These include Belkin International, Uprire, MedMen, United Talent Agency, Julien’s Auctions, Haimaker Content, FilmTools and Westwood Financial Corporation. Earlier this year, Feldman successfully represented Mackenzie Ziegler, an internationally known reality TV star and YouTube phenomenon, in a litigation regarding a production and 360 rights agreement. The court dismissed her as a defendant and held that the contract was void, and thus Ziegler owed the plaintiff no obligations.

Richard J. Frey

Richard Frey is a seasoned and sought-after litigator who focuses his practice on the unique and oftentimes significant and headline-grabbing labor and employment challenges faced by employers and general and complex commercial litigation and business matters. His clients include Fortune 500 companies, prominent hospitals and health care groups, sports and entertainment agents, movie studios and independent film producers, communications companies, government contractors, and nonprofit organizations, among others. Frey joined Epstein Becker & Green earlier this year from Venable where he served dual leadership roles as both the Chair of the West Coast Commercial Litigation Practice Group and the Chair of the West Coast Labor and Employment Practice Group.

Frey specializes in trade secrets and employment mobility, advising clients in a range of industries on these matters. Within the health care industry specifically, he has also handled traditional labor work and dispensed day-to-day advice.

Dale J. Giali

A co-leader of Mayer Brown’s Consumer Litigation & Class Actions practice and co-leader of its Food False Advertising group, Giali has distinguished himself as the country’s go-to defense lawyer for defending food companies in consumer class actions alleging that products have misleading labels. In this kind of litigation, largely brought under California consumer protection laws, entering plaintiffs’ lawyers attack the veracity of just about any statements on products, such as “natural,” “organic,” “probiotic,” “non-GMO,” “healthy,” “sugar free,” “0 grams trans fat,” and “antioxidant.”

These suits began to explode beginning in 2008 and more than a thousand have been filed against the food industry since then. The leading attorney helping clients in response to these lawsuits is Giali, who has notched more than 100 favorable results. His clients include Fortune 500 companies, commercial litigation and business matters.

Thomas V. Girardi

Girardi has obtained numerous multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements, handling claims involving wrongful death, commercial litigation, products liability, bad faith insurance, and toxic tort. He has been inducted into the Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame by the California State Bar.

A few recent and significant examples of Girardi’s achievements as a litigator include a $785 million verdict for Toxic Tort personal injuries suffered by employees in Lockheed’s Skunkworks facilities; and a $45.5 million verdict against Ford Motor Company for defective seatbelt that caused a 6-year-old child to become paralyzed. Girardi has obtained more than 10 verdicts of $1 million or more and has handled more than 100 settlements of $1 million or more. He has tried more than 100 jury cases, winning the first California medical malpractice verdict of $1 million or more, back in the 1970s.
GEOFFREY GOLD  
Partner  
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP

Geoff Gold is a trial lawyer specializing in business and real estate matters. Clients appreciate his ability and track record in obtaining significant arbitration awards, favorable mediation results and settlements, grants of summary judgment and trial victories. He frequently acts as outside general counsel for small business clients and special counsel for large companies. He has expertise working with developing businesses and assisting individual and corporate clients with everyday legal affairs. He has substantial experience negotiating, documenting and closing difficult real estate transactions, and counseling clients on how not only to win, but to avoid litigation.

For one recent matter, in a 45-day bench trial, Gold won a multi-million dollar judgment against a defendant in a dispute against Pacific Medical Plaza Ltd. Partnership in a financial elder abuse and commercial disputes. His clients include private and public companies, individuals, and others. In addition to being a top trial attorney, Gold is also a Certified Appellate Specialist and has handled over 50 appeals. Her unique appellate experience helps provide specialized knowledge from pre-trial through trial that helps lock down verdicts if or when an appeal arises.

Hashmall continues to use her legal expertise to stand up publicly for people who have been wronged. She specializes in employment litigation and has experience resolving racial, sexual, age, and national origin harassment and discrimination claims, as well as retaliation, wage and hour, and wrongful termination claims for private and public employers. She has also litigated cases involving disability discrimination and accommodation, and family and medical leave rights.
GREG KNOPP
Partner
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Recently named as partner in charge of Akin Gump’s Los Angeles office, Greg Knopp is a recognized leader not only within the firm but throughout the area of labor and employment. He regularly helms many of the nation’s most closely watched employment disputes involving class action and Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) claims for industry giants – including long-standing firm clients Starbucks, Ernst & Young and Michaels – the outcomes of which hold important implications for future case law not only in California but nationwide.

In addition to being partner in charge of the firm’s Los Angeles office, Knopp also serves as a member of the firm’s management committee and was formerly on its partnership admissions committee. Among his recent work, Knopp is representing Starbucks in two PAGA actions seeking to recover civil penalties on behalf of all California employees in connection with various alleged improper pay practices.

NEAL HERSH
Founding Partner
Hersh Mannis LLP

Neal Raymond Hersh is a founding partner of the firm, Hersh Mannis LLP. With 40 years of professional practice in the area of Family Law, Hersh is nationally known for litigating on behalf of public figures, celebrities and high asset individuals. Hersh and the firm have exceptional expertise in international matrimonial law matters involving cross border wealth protection of the international elite.

Notable cases in the past 12-18 months include crafting a deal for TV producer after extensive behind the scenes talks involving vengeful ex-girlfriend’s social media hacking scheme. He was also recently successful in arguing a complex support claim involving the ex-wife of one of Hollywood’s top talent agents in connection with husband’s business partner’s financial interest in a multimillion dollar talent agency. Among his other recent successes, Hersh prevailed on a high visibility case of celeb parents working in different and multiple locations across the globe, and kept the talks out of the tabloids.

MARK HOLSCHER
Partner
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Mark Holscher started his career as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Los Angeles. While at the U.S. Attorney’s office, Holscher prosecuted the highly publicized case against Hollywood Madam, Heidi Fleiss, who was convicted in 1993 and served a three-year sentence. Later, Holscher moved to O’Melveny & Myers, where he was lead trial counsel on a number of high-profile criminal and civil matters including his high-stakes representation of Win Ho Lee on espionage charges. This nationally publicized case further established Holscher as a go-to attorney in high-stakes white collar criminal litigation.

In 2006, Holscher joined Kirkland & Ellis LLP where he has handled countless notable matters. In the past 18 months, he has been lead trial counsel in a number of key cases, including his work representing Bill Ackman’s Pershing Square Capitol Management in a $2 billion securities class action lawsuit initially commenced by an employee of Botox-maker Allergan, which was the target of Pershing Square’s and Valeant’s over $50 billion unsolicited offer.

MARC R. JACOMS
Partner
Michelman & Robinson, LLP

Marc Jacobs is, quite simply, a superior litigator. It is no wonder, then, that the most difficult cases that come through the door at Michelman & Robinson, LLP seem to land on his desk. A longtime partner at the firm, which is headquartered in Los Angeles, with branches in Irvine, San Francisco, Chicago and New York, Jacobs represents clients across a range of industries – Advertising & Digital Media, Banking & Financial Services, Insurance and Real Estate, among others – its disputes involving the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA), the California Invasion of Privacy Act (CIPA), trade secret misappropriation, wrongful termination and discrimination claims, property rights and so on.

Most recently, Jacobs has spent much of his time handling headline-worthy cases involving the USA Gymnastics/Larry Nassar scandal. Of note, he has also counseled some of the largest gymnastics clubs in the U.S. on a breadth of business and legal issues, a number of which find their way into the courtroom, where Jacobs shines.

For over 50 years, Weinstock Manion has provided personalized, high quality services in estate planning. We pride ourselves on our relationships with clients as well as other law firms that bring us in for estate planning, wealth transfer planning, estate and trust administration, estate and trust litigation, business succession planning and charitable planning.

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MICHAEL KUMP
Partner
Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump & Aldisert

Michael Kump of Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump & Aldisert has been at the forefront of several high-profile entertainment and intellectual property matters that have and will continue to impact Hollywood.

For example, in one of the highest profile cases in the entertainment business, Kump is representing The Management Group (TMG) and its principals Joel and Rob Mandel, who provide business management services to many high-profile individuals and companies in the entertainment business. When TMG started to foreclose on a secured loan to its former long-time client, actor Johnny Depp, he filed a lawsuit in January 2017 in state court in Los Angeles concerning TMG’s representation of him. Kump later filed a highly publicized cross-complaint against Depp for fraud and breach of contract. The matter has generated an enormous amount of worldwide press and the case is currently set for trial in Los Angeles in August 2018, and is exposing and could redefine talent and manager deals.

STEPHEN G. LARSON
Partner
Larson O’Brien LLP

Stephen G. Larson is co-founder of Larson O’Brien LLP and one of California’s top litigators and trial attorneys. A former US District Judge and US Magistrate Judge, as well as a former federal prosecutor, Larson has been one of California’s “go-to” trial lawyers for high-stakes civil and white-collar criminal matters since returning to private practice in 2009. Larson has nearly 30 years of trial and appellate experience, having been lead counsel in scores of jury trials in state and federal courts as well as lead appellate counsel in matters before the US Supreme Court, the US Court of Appeal for the Ninth Circuit, the California Supreme Court, and all four districts of the California Court of Appeal.

Larson’s civil litigation practice involves representing individuals, public and private companies, and both state and local governments as plaintiffs and defendants in high-stakes disputes—at the investigative, pre-complaint, trial, and appellate levels.

LUI S LI
Partner
Maninger, Tolles & Olson LLP

Luis Li is a leading general commercial litigator who focuses his practice on corporate crisis management, internal corporate investigations, complex business litigation, antitrust, international enforcement matters and white-collar criminal defense. A former chief of the criminal branch of the Los Angeles city attorney’s office and an assistant U.S. attorney for the Central District of California, he has tried nearly 30 cases for which he has received several awards and recognitions.

Li currently plays a leading role representing Plains All American Pipeline, LP in multiple actions stemming from a May 2015 oil spill near Refugio State Beach in Santa Barbara County. Li is also currently representing Patterson UTI Energy in a privileged internal investigation that stemmed from an accident that occurred in January. In the past year, along with Munger, Tolles & Olson litigators E. Martin Estrada and Eric P. Turtle, obtained a trial win in a contentious fight over control of entertainment management company ROAR LLC.

GARY LIN CENBERG
Principal
Bird, Marella, Roemer, Waldorf, Hexsen, Brooks, Lincenberg & Rhow, P.C.

Gary Lincenberg concentrates his practice on the defense of white-collar criminal prosecutions, government investigations and complex civil litigation. He is considered among the most experienced, trial-tested and skilled trial attorneys in the state. He has handled a wide variety of cases, including False Claims Act, FCPA, securities, investment, tax, real estate, banking, money laundering, money remitting, government contractor, economic espionage, export, health care, environmental, public corruption, program fraud, and intellectual property cases. Prior to joining Bird Marella 25 years ago, he served over six years as an Assistant United States Attorney. Lincenberg is best known for his strategic approach to avoiding charges against his clients and for his superior skills at trial. Many white-collar defense attorneys rarely try a criminal case, and have never defeated the government at trial. Lincenberg has an extraordinary record of success at trial, including complete victories, or hung juries resulting in dismissals, in five of his last six criminal trials.
Neal Marder
Partner
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Akin Gump partner Neal Marder is one of the leading class action litigators in the country, obtaining favorable verdicts, decisions and settlements for clients across industries and international borders. A recognized trailblazer in the area of litigation – known for employing innovative strategies and compelling case presentation and experience gained from more than 30 years of practice – Marder has amassed an enviable track record of success in consumer and securities class actions. He has also had tremendous success trying bet-the-company cases and achieving winnng results for both plaintiffs and defendants.

A recent example of his successful engagements, after a series of courtroom and deposition victories, a team led by Marder obtained a highly favorable settlement of a securities class action filed by Avenue Capital alleging misstated financials by Korean company MagnaChip, which ended an eight-year saga involving, at one point, over $350 million in potential damages exposure for client and controlling shareholder Avenue Capital.

Steve Marenberg
Partner, Head of Media & Entertainment
Irell & Manella LLP

As head of Irell & Manella’s Media & Entertainment Litigation practice, Steven Marenberg has spent his career litigating some of the industry’s most impactful matters on behalf of its biggest players. He handles a wide range of commercial litigation matters with an emphasis on entertainment-related litigation, intellectual property litigation, and antitrust and business tort disputes. Widely recognized as one of entertainment’s top litigators, his clients have included some of the nation’s leading motion picture studios, television networks, independent production companies, music companies, interactive game companies and entertainment entities, as well as prominent high-technology firms.

During the last year, Marenberg represented clients including the Walt Disney Company, Warner Bros. Entertainment, NBCUniversal Media, Legendary Entertainment, William Morris Endeavor, Activision Blizzard, Fremantlemedia and HBO, in significant matters in federal and state courts around the country. He has defended individuals and corporations in all phases of complex civil, criminal and regulatory matters involving allegations of, among other things, fraud, trading, accounting and disclosure irregularities, violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, stock options backdating, tax fraud, federal and state health care law violations and corporate opportunity issues. Marenbaro has represented Big Four accounting firms and their executives in civil, regulatory and criminal litigation, and has conducted internal investigations for accounting firms in SEC and Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) matters.

Richard Marmaro
Partner
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

For more than 40 years, Richard Marmaro has earned the highest praise from clients, judges and peers for his substantial expertise in trying headline-grabbing cases on behalf of individuals and corporations, both nationally and internationally, in their most complex matters. He is the head of Skadden’s West Coast SEC enforcement and white-collar defense practice and a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and International Academy of Trial Lawyers. Marmaro has tried numerous cases in federal and state courts around the country. He has defended individuals and corporations in all phases of complex civil, criminal and regulatory matters involving allegations of, among other things, fraud, trading, accounting and disclosure irregularities, violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, stock options backdating, tax fraud, federal and state health care law violations and corporate opportunity issues. Marmaro has represented Big Four accounting firms and their executives in civil, regulatory and criminal litigation, and has conducted internal investigations for accounting firms in SEC and Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) matters.

Mary T. McKelvey
Principal
Polsinelli LLP

Mary McKelvey is a principal of Polsinelli, an Am Law 100 law firm with over 850 attorneys in 21 offices. She is a highly respected trial attorney who is influential in every aspect of her career, including litigating difficult cases for national and global clients, engaging in high profile litigation for prominent clients, representing clients in complex, high-risk matters, and acting as lead counsel or lead trial counsel in cases on behalf of individuals, corporations and entities, both nationally and internationally.

In addition to trying cases, McKelvey has extensive experience in all stages of litigation including trial preparation, taking depositions, handling strategy during discovery, and drafting complex pleadings and arguing dispositive motions in both state and federal court.

Mary McKelvey is proud to congratulate Mira Hashmehl & Skip Miller for their success in litigation

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL

2018 Top Litigators
SANFORD L. MICHELMAN
Chairman
Michelman & Robinson, LLP

Sanford L. Michelman is a trial lawyer and outstanding litigator known for his work on the most challenging of cases. Nearly 20 years ago, he co-founded Michelman & Robinson LLP, then a two-person shop in the San Fernando Valley. The firm now has nearly 150 employees operating out of five offices in three states and is sought after by companies, large and small, in the Advertising & Digital Media, Banking & Financial Services, Healthcare, Hospitality, Insurance, Real Estate and Retail & Apparel spaces, to name a few.

Having handled countless, noteworthy class action cases and “bet the company” litigation matters, Michelman has, over the years, become a formidable presence in the insurance space, a practice/industry that he is most renowned for. Michelman has been responsible for precedent-setting legal work, particularly in climate change, it trusted Mortimer to act as its lead trial lawyer.

During his tenure as Chairman of M&R, Michelman has nearly 150 employees operating out of five offices in three states and is sought after by companies, large and small, in the Advertising & Digital Media, Banking & Financial Services, Healthcare, Hospitality, Insurance, Real Estate and Retail & Apparel spaces, to name a few.

LOUIS R. “SKIP” MILLER
Partner
Miller Barondess, LLP

A trial lawyer, with 30 lawyers overall in his firm, Skip Miller’s practice is diverse and includes, securities, employment, corporate takeover, energy, investment banking, defamation/First Amendment, entertainment, copyright, toxic tort, civil rights, real estate, contract, partnership, inverse condemnation, unfair competition, administrative, energy, government, and other areas of law. His firm is a one-stop-shop for litigation.

Miller represents clients from celebrities to Fortune 500 companies to government. Among entertainers, Miller has represented Rod Stewart, Sean Connery, Adele Rose, Steven Tyler and many others. Miller is versed in business disputes, but also is passionate about litigating cases that benefit people who have faced hardship. He has litigated many cases in the public arena. He is representing the County of Los Angeles in the Aliso Canyon gas leak litigation to require SoCal Gas to abate the nuisance caused by the leak. He is also defending the City of Inglewood against Madison Square Garden in regard to the new Clippers arena.

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

When Yahoo! suffered the two-largest data breaches in history, it trusted Ann Marie Mortimer to defend the wave of class-action lawsuits that followed. When the world’s largest spirits producer was accused of mislabeling a popular product, it trusted Mortimer to fight the charge. And when a major oil company faced a novel theory seeking to hold it responsible for impacts of climate change, it trusted Mortimer to act as its lead trial lawyer.

Reading about her latest work on groundbreaking litigation, you could be excused for believing that Mortimer specializes in data breaches, food labeling, and environmental law. But that is incorrect. She specializes in winning trust – and few are better at the craft. Over her career, she has displayed a powerful ability to earn the trust of her clients, her fellow lawyers, and the judges and juries that decide her cases.

ROBERT C. O’BRIEN
Partner
Larson O’Brien LLP

Robert C. O’Brien is a co-founder of Larson O’Brien LLP. He is an accomplished trial lawyer, having served as lead trial and appellate counsel in high-profile complex commercial litigation matters and international arbitrations. O’Brien’s litigation practice focuses on complex commercial litigation in state and federal courts and domestic and international arbitrations, in class action, entertainment, intellectual property, environmental, business torts, and complex contractual matters.

O’Brien represents individuals and companies in the entertainment, oil and gas, technology, finance and real estate industries. O’Brien is frequently appointed by federal and state courts to serve as a Special Master and discovery referee. He served in these capacities in several of the largest recent cases in the Central District of California, including MGA v. Mattel (“Barbie v. Bratz”), United States v. Standard & Poor’s and In re Allergan Securities Litigation. O’Brien has also been appointed as an arbitrator in over two dozen domestic and international cases.
KURT PETERSON
Partner
Reed Smith LLP

Kurt Peterson is a Partner at Reed Smith and has guided many of the largest health plans in California and the nation through their most complex litigation, regulatory and business challenges for three decades. With a long track record of trial court and appellate wins, Peterson leads Reed Smith’s industry leading Managed Care Practice Group and is recognized by Chambers as one of America’s Leading Healthcare Attorneys.

Peterson’s practice focuses on matters related to health care insurance and managed care plans as well as more generally on complex business disputes, false advertising, and unfair competition issues. He has defended health insurers and health plans against a variety of class action and individual claims, including unfair competition, fraud, bad faith, breach of contract, and ERISA issues. In addition, he has assisted health insurers and health plans with internal investigations, compliance with government subpoenas, and responses to government investigations. He has successfully handled hundreds of complex cases involving managed care and health insurance issues.

TIMOTHY L. PIERCE
Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office
K&L Gates LLP

Timothy Pierce’s practice focuses on construction industry matters, representing clients from the inception of a project and the formation of contracts to the resolution of claims in litigation. He has had extensive trial experience in construction matters, having tried 14 construction cases to juries totaling more than 75 weeks in front of juries, and has been lead trial counsel in cases from Seattle to San Diego. He has obtained two verdicts in excess of $30 million and has recovered more than $100 million for clients in judgments and settlements.

Recently, Pierce represented a joint venture of Shimmick Construction and Obayashi Corporation (SC JV) as plaintiff in an eight-figure damage claim against the San Diego County Water Authority for construction by SC JV of a dam in San Diego County. The project was 14 months late and the parties disputed responsibility for that delay. In January, after a 12-week jury trial, the jury awarded a verdict in excess of $30 million for SC JV.

MARVIN S. PUTNAM
Partner; Local Chair of Litigation & Trial Department
Latham & Watkins LLP

Marvin Putnam is a trial lawyer who leads the national litigation team in Latham’s Entertainment, Sports and Media practice, and he is local Chair of Latham’s Litigation & Trial practice in Los Angeles. He offers clients a combination of litigation experience with keen insight on the entertainment industry. He has successfully represented clients ranging from individual authors and producers, to leading entertainment companies and investment banks. His accomplishments at trial and appellate courts, both state and federal, as well as internationally, have earned Putnam a reputation as a market-leading entertainment litigator.

Recently, Putnam has been tapped as a go-to lawyer in cases connected to the #MeToo Movement, representing high-profile entertainment and media clients to conduct internal investigations, assist with government inquiries, and manage crisis responses. A notable recent victory came for client MGM Studios, when a federal judge in Los Angeles dismissed a lawsuit brought by an entertainment lawyer who had claimed employment misconduct and defamation after he was fired following his arrest for sexual assault of a child.

EKWAN E. RHOW
Principal
Bird, Mariella, Roxer, Hidgert, Hossman, Crooks, Liechemberg & Rhow, P.C.

Ekwan Rhow is a name principal in Bird Marella’s long-standing Entertainment, Media & Technology practice, and he is a graduate of the American College of Trial Lawyers. A Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, he is a graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Law School. Chambers & Partners has recognized Ekwan as a “trial expert” who is often called upon to “undertake high-profile work” and “bet-the-farm litigation,” and has described him as “articulate, brilliant in court and very hard-working.” He has first-chaired over 30 cases that were tried to verdict or award in courts and venues throughout California and nationwide.

As a result of his successful jury trial track record and his focused cost-effective approach to case management, clients from varied industries have retained Rhow to represent them in their complex business disputes. His regular roster of clients includes Fortune 500 companies (Xerox, Western Digital and Aramark), large private companies (Vizio, Prospect Medical and Newegg), international conglomerates (Samsung, CJ and LG), prominent Hollywood financiers and production companies (Relativity Media, Ryan Kavanaugh and Roy Lee) and other national and local corporations.

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NICHOLAS ROWLEY
Carpenter, Zuckerman & Rowley

Nicholas Rowley has won more than 100 jury verdicts and is widely considered to be one of the best personal injury attorneys in the country. He has won over $3 billion in jury verdicts and settlements for his clients and fights tirelessly to make insurance companies do what's right. He is also well known for being compassionate and he personally attends to the needs of each and every client to fight for their legal rights when they are injured.

Some of Rowley’s recent successes include a record setting $131,000,375 verdict for two parents whose 33 year old son was negligently killed due to corporate negligence, and a $38,600,000 verdict for a young man who fell from a hotel balcony while intoxicated.

BLAKE RUMMEL
Weinstock Manion

Blake Rummel, Litigation Chair at preeminent estate planning and probate law firm Weinstock Manion, is widely considered to be one of the leading probate litigators in Southern California. From disputes over conservatorships to estates and trusts, Rummel aggressively represents the best interests of her clients while simultaneously treating every case with sensitivity and compassion. After cutting her teeth on basic civil litigation and insurance defense, Rummel spent five plus years assisting the Children’s Services Division of the Los Angeles County Council’s office defend the Department of Children and Family Services in Dependency Court matters (child abuse and neglect). She has spent the last twenty years of her practice at Weinstock Manion, the preeminent estate planning and probate firm in Los Angeles.

In 2013, Scali launched his own firm, now called Scali Rasmussen, and has grown to 20 attorneys in five offices throughout California. The hallmark of Scali’s practice has been to recognize the “pressure points,” which can be brought to bear against the opponent early in the litigation in order to seize a litigation advantage and then leverage that advantage to forge a favorable resolution for the client to avoid the substantial expense and risk associated with trial.

CHRISTIAN SCALI
Scali Rasmussen LLP

Christian Scali has a diverse automotive industry practice that includes advertising, consumer finance, product safety, data security, employment advice and counsel and litigation, employee mobility, franchise, privacy, trade secret protection, entertainment litigation and intellectual property litigation. In addition to regularly advising clients in the automotive, transportation and logistics, retail, internet marketing, media and technology and entertainment industries on these issues, he litigates regulatory and civil matters.

Nossaman congratulates David Graeler, Chair of Nossaman’s Litigation Department and Co-Chair of our Real Estate Group, on this well-deserved recognition. We also congratulate our attorneys who have recently been honored by the Los Angeles Business Journal—Water Practice Chair Alfred Smith and Water Practice Partner Byron Gee (Most Influential Minority Attorneys), Infrastructure Chair Patrick Harder (Leading Lawyers) and Infrastructure Partners Yukiko Kojima (Most Influential Minority Attorneys, Most Influential Women Lawyers) and Nancy Smith, Andreé Blais and Elizabeth Cousins (Most Influential Women Lawyers). We thank each of them for the depth and breadth of their legal knowledge and skills and for their dedication to Nossaman’s clients and the Los Angeles community.
Among the many significant cases Stone has recently worked on include Fox Television Stations v. BarryDriller Content, Media & Entertainment Practice. His cases have had a significant impact on law and society. His peers regard him as one of the nation’s top trial attorneys, particularly in high profile litigation involving complex consumer, individual and class action claims in and out of the courtroom across the nation. His multifaceted corporate litigation practice concentrates on consumer fraud, data privacy, online and telephone marketing, false advertising, e-commerce, and regulatory and statutory compliance issues. He is also the Chair of the Consumer Privacy and TCPA Class Action Defense Group, which handles privacy-related class actions involving autodialing, telemarketing, call recording, data sharing, and other consumer privacy matters.

He routinely advises clients with respect to data privacy and compliance with federal and state consumer laws across various industries. His clients regard him as strategic and creative; they trust his common sense approach to problem solving and appreciate his professional dedication. On the litigation front, Tagvoryan has extensive experience defending companies in a multitude of complex consumer class actions in both state and federal courts across the nation.

Adam F. Streisand
Partner
Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP

Adam Streisand is widely regarded as one of the nation’s top trial attorneys, particularly in high profile litigation involving private wealth disputes, fiduciary litigation, business succession and partnership disputes and litigation involving trusts, estates and conservatorships. Streisand is best known for his victories in courtroom battles over celebrity estates (currently including the estates of Tom Petty, Hugh Hefner, Alain Thicke among others). The Los Angeles Business Journal presented Streisand with its Leaders in Law Award as “Litigation Attorney of the Year” last year, and it’s no surprise. Streisand has transitioned into a nationally recognized trust and estate litigator. His practice is unique in that he is the rare lawyer in the field with an expertise in disputes involving entertainment and intellectual property issues. He’s been in courtroom battles over the estates of Michael Jackson, Roy Charles, Marlon Brando, Michael Crichton, Anna Nicole Smith, Rodney Dangerfield, Dennis Hopper, William Randolph Hearst and many more.

Ana Tagvoryan
Partner & Chair of the Consumer Privacy and TCPA Class Action Defense Group
Blank Rome LLP

Ana Tagvoryan has more than a decade of experience defending complex consumer individual and class action claims in and out of the courtroom across the nation. Her multifaceted corporate litigation practice concentrates on consumer fraud, data privacy, online and telephone marketing, false advertising, e-commerce, and regulatory and statutory compliance issues. She is also the Chair of the Consumer Privacy and TCPA Class Action Defense Group, which handles privacy-related class actions involving autodialing, telemarketing, call recording, data sharing, and other consumer privacy matters. She is also the Chair of the Consumer Privacy and TCPA Class Action Defense Group, which handles privacy-related class actions involving autodialing, telemarketing, call recording, data sharing, and other consumer privacy matters.

She maintains an extensive class action and individual client litigation practice in the areas of consumer fraud, data privacy, online and telephone marketing, false advertising, e-commerce, and regulatory and statutory compliance issues. Her cases have had a significant impact on law and society. She is recognized as a leading trial lawyer, concentrating on antitrust, intellectual property, and complex commercial litigation with an emphasis on the media and entertainment industries. Few lawyers around the country can claim the sheer depth of experience and impact of work like Stone. He stands out among his peers because of his track record of success and for his experience in innovative, groundbreaking cases, and his work on matters that have had a significant impact on law and society.

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All of us at Girardi | Keese congratulate our TOM for being named among the Top Litigators of Los Angeles by the Los Angeles Business Journal
The State Bar Will Implement Nearly 70 New Rules of Professional Conduct

The California Supreme Court recently issued an order approving 69 Rules of Professional Conduct for California attorneys, and rejecting one. The rule changes will go into effect Nov. 1, 2018, and will apply to the more than 250,000 attorneys licensed in California.

“This marks the first overhaul of ethics rules for attorneys licensed in California in nearly 30 years,” said Leah T. Wilson, Executive Director of the State Bar of California. “The State Bar appreciates the work of the Commission on the Revision of the Rules of Professional Conduct and the Board of Trustees, as well as the Supreme Court, for bringing about these fundamental changes to attorney ethics rules.”

After extensive review by the State Bar’s Commission on the Revision of the Rules of Professional Conduct, the State Bar Board of Trustees approved the proposed rules in March 2017. The proposed rules, whose creation focused in large part on protecting the public, were then submitted to the Supreme Court.

Highlights of the new rules include:
- Expansion of the ban on harassment and retaliation. The rule changes also require an attorney facing discipline charges related to such misconduct to notify the federal and state agencies that enforce anti-discrimination laws.
- A stricter rule against sex with clients, banning it unless there was a prior consensual relationship. The current rule prohibits sex as a quid pro quo for representation or if the lawyer employed “coercion, intimidation, or undue influence.”
- In 2017, the Court approved another key ethics rule change regarding prosecutorial misconduct, which gives clear guidelines for prosecutors in criminal cases around discovery and disclosure of exculpatory evidence. Such evidence can often impact a defendant’s innocence or guilt.
- The California Rules of Professional Conduct are intended to regulate professional conduct of attorneys licensed by the State Bar through discipline. They have been adopted by the Board of Trustees and approved by the California Supreme Court pursuant to statute to protect the public and to promote respect and confidence in the legal profession. The rules and any related standards adopted by the Board are binding on all attorneys licensed by the State Bar.

Learn more at calbar.ca.gov.