

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: Minority Attorneys



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

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

Methodology: The professionals featured in these pages did not pay to be included. Their profiles were drawn from nomination materials submitted to the Los Angeles Business Journal. Those selected for inclusion were reviewed by the editorial department. The professionals were chosen based on a demonstration of impact made on the profession and on the Los Angeles community.

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



WADE ACKERMAN
Partner; Co-Lead,
Digital Health Industry Group
Covington & Burling LLP

Through more than two decades of experience in private practice and positions within the FDA and on the Hill, Wade Ackerman has acquired unique insights into the evolving legal and regulatory landscape facing companies marketing FDA-regulated products. Ackerman provides clients with advice around complex regulatory issues that demand coordinated legal, regulatory, and public policy strategies. He also serves as one of the leaders of Covington’s multidisciplinary Digital Health Initiative, which brings together the firm’s considerable resources across the broad array of legal, regulatory, commercial and policy issues relating to the development and marketing of innovative digital health technologies. He also served as senior FDA counsel to the US Senate Health Education, Labor & Pensions Committee.



ALEXIS ALONZO
Partner
Holland & Knight LLP

Alexis Alonzo is a real estate and equine law attorney in Holland & Knight’s Century City and Los Angeles offices. Her practice focuses on complex real estate transactions with an emphasis on homebuilder finance, joint ventures, the acquisition and financing of multifamily and student housing, and other commercial real estate matters. As the co-founder and co-chair of the firm’s Land Banking practice group, Alonzo represents the country’s preeminent land bankers in acquiring, financing and selling residential housing lots nationwide. She also represents top homebuilders and residential lot developers in the acquisition and sale of neighborhoods and lots. Her leadership ensures a seamless journey from initial permitting and site analysis to navigating the complexities of financing, property acquisition, construction and occupancy.



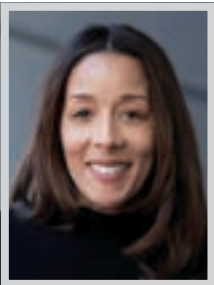
SERINEH BAGHDASARIAN
Partner
Sklar Kirsch

Serineh Baghdasarian is a partner at Sklar Kirsh LLP in the Real Estate Department. Her practice experience includes extensive representation of real estate private equity funds, developers, and institutional and non-institutional investors in all areas of transactional real estate and real estate finance, including construction, permanent, securitized and mezzanine financing. She also has experience with the acquisition and disposition of vacant land, office buildings, apartment complexes, and the formation and representation of limited liability companies, general partnerships, and other joint ventures. Prior to joining Sklar Kirsh, Baghdasarian was an associate in the Real Estate Practice Group of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, LLP, where she represented real estate private equity funds, lenders, and other institutional clients in cutting-edge real estate and finance transactions.



JASMIN BHANDARI
Principal
Scali Rasmussen, PC.

Jasmin Bhandari maintains a regulatory and litigation practice primarily focused on labor and employment law. She provides advice and counsel to clients on compliance with state and federal employment laws, including termination and on-boarding issues. She also represents businesses in a broad range of disputes, including discrimination, harassment, wrongful termination, wage and hour, and trade secret matters. Her experience further includes defending companies in wage and hour class actions against meal and rest break, overtime, and timely payment of wage claims, including extensive experience with PAGA cases in both litigation and arbitration. Prior to joining Scali Rasmussen, Bhandari facilitated all stages of pre-trial litigation in employment discrimination and harassment cases at the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.



GINA BIBBY
Partner, IP, Technology;
Global Head, Fashion Technology
Withersworldwide

Former software engineer and current global fashion-tech practice lead Gina Bibby serves emerging and established companies that are innovating at the intersection of fashion and technology. From ‘Big Law’ in Silicon Valley to forming her own firm, her innovative legal practice is opening paths for innovators and women of color. Bibby is a partner in Withersworldwide’s business group, helping clients protect their innovation through commercial agreements and patent, trademark and copyright procurement and litigation. She leads a global practice focused on advising fashion-tech clients on matters involving corporate formation, venture capital, corporate transactions, real estate, privacy, e-commerce, IP, and more. She has significant trial experience handling complex IP, unfair competition, and trade secret disputes.



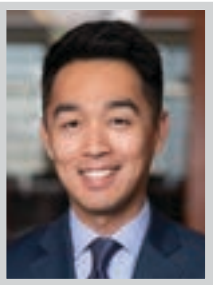
MICHAEL BROPHY
Partner; Los Angeles Office Managing Director; US Regional Divisional Leader, Private Client and Tax Division
Withersworldwide

Michael Brophy is a partner in the Withersworldwide trust, estate and inheritance disputes team, is the managing director of the Los Angeles office, and the regional divisional leader of the firm’s Private Client & Tax division. Brophy has extensive experience representing prominent individuals, families, charities, corporate trustees, private professional fiduciaries and creditors in high-stakes litigation involving complex trusts and estates. His practice covers will and trust contests, accounting disputes, breach of duty actions, elder abuse and conservatorship disputes, and other contested probate and fiduciary-related matters. He also has experience in business and commercial litigation, including real estate, copyright, Lanham Act, trade secrets, and unfair competition matters.



MELANIE L. CHANEY
Firm Co-Managing Partner
Liebert Cassidy Whitmore

Melanie L. Chaney is firm co-managing partner at Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, California’s largest education, public sector, nonprofit, and labor & employment law firm. A defining characteristic of Chaney’s career is her ability to provide practical and authentic counsel in even the most complex labor and employment matters. Chaney guides clients through every phase of the bargaining process, from negotiation and mediation to impasse resolution and imposition. Her expertise in interest-based bargaining has repeatedly led to favorable results. She has assisted clients in successfully navigating strikes, managing operations during labor disputes and fostering post-strike reconciliation. Her ability to craft legally sound, pragmatic solutions to collective bargaining and employment disputes has led to her reputation as one of the foremost labor relations experts in California.



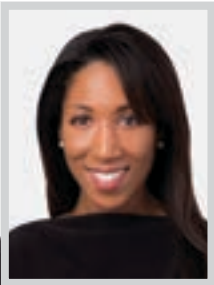
CHAD CHEN
Partner
YOKA | SMITH, LLP

Chad Chen represents national and multinational clients in both litigation and non-litigation matters. His practice includes representing corporate clients in commercial and business disputes, product liability defense, and class action defense. Chen has represented companies in commercial matters, as both plaintiff and defendant, involving breach and termination of complex contracts, misappropriation, patent and trademark infringement, breach of warranties, unfair competition and fraud. He also routinely counsels corporate clients in pre-suit investigations, pre-suit demands and advises clients on liability and damage exposure analysis in pre-litigation matters. Chen previously worked at an alternative energy company, and served as a judicial extern for District Court Judge Otis D. Wright, II, and Bankruptcy Court Judge Barry Russell.



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

Esther Cho is the partner-in-charge at Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young’s Long Beach office and co-chair of the firm’s securities litigation and enforcement practice. With over 20 years of experience in securities and regulatory law, she is committed to achieving successful outcomes for her clients. As a seasoned litigator, Cho has successfully represented prominent financial services institutions in hundreds of cases in both state and federal courts, as well as before securities arbitration forums such as Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, New York Stock Exchange and American Arbitration Association. She is also highly skilled in mortgage banking matters, adeptly handling complex issues including loan origination and servicing disputes, wrongful foreclosure claims, unfair business practices, and compliance matters.



KANIKA CORLEY
Partner
Ackerman LLP

With over 20 years of experience, Kanika Corley has developed a thriving practice in broad-based, complex commercial and intellectual property litigation with a focus on the sports, entertainment and media industries. She has provided legal assistance for a wide array of clients including print, digital and broadcast media companies, advertising companies, footwear and apparel designers, institutions and entities in professional sport, among others. Clients turn to Corley for strategic counsel and risk assessment when contemplating major business decisions, including protecting their assets and brand, anticipated litigation, and intellectual property issues. Her clients range from start-ups to global mid-cap businesses. Her practice also includes resolving all aspects of soft intellectual property issues, disputes over trade secrets, defamation, and privacy rights.

HUESTON HENNIGAN LLP

Congratulations



BRITTANI A. JACKSON RAJAN TREHAN

Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys

—*Los Angeles Business Journal*

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MARYAM DANISHWAR
Member
Clark Hill PLC

Maryam Danishwar is a fierce advocate for her clients in the courtroom, in arbitration and in negotiation. Driven by the desire to achieve total client satisfaction, she has developed a risk assessment audit that enables her to provide clients with the advice and counsel that helps them achieve their business goals and mitigate the financial and reputational impact of litigation.

Danishwar represents clients in litigation and transactional matters related to interstate trucking and transportation accidents, claims against healthcare facilities, commercial landlord tenant disputes, subrogation claims, and other contractual disputes. She handles all aspects of litigation from pre-lawsuit negotiation and evaluation through trial. Her clients include insurance carriers, trucking and transportation companies, business owners, health-care facilities, and landowners.



VICTOR DE LA CRUZ
Partner
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

Leader of Manatt’s Land Use practice group, Victor De la Cruz has successfully guided his clients through some of the most complex, high-profile land use and real estate matters in Southern California for more than 20 years.

From the Los Angeles County Museum of Art’s two newest buildings to the most exclusive residential tower in Century City, to the redevelopment of an entire city block in the heart of Hollywood, De la Cruz’s projects have played a prominent role in shaping the Southern California landscape. In the government contracts realm, Victor has represented Live Nation in its bids to operate both the Greek Theatre and the Hollywood Bowl and represented major duty-free and food and beverage concessionaires at Los Angeles International Airport.



ANKUSH DHUPAR
Of Counsel
Paul Hastings LLP

Ankush Dhupar is of counsel in the Employment Law Department of Paul Hastings and is a key member of the firm’s longstanding labor practice group. He has been practicing traditional labor throughout his career, with extensive experience negotiating collective bargaining agreements and responding to unfair labor practice charges, election petitions, and organizing campaigns.

Dhupar has represented employers in multiple unfair labor practice cases, including cases that have involved lengthy administrative trials. He has also represented employers on appeal before the NLRB in Washington, DC, and the DC Circuit Court of Appeals. With a national increase in union activity, Dhupar works with the new generation of management-side leaders positioned at the cutting-edge of labor law, representing some of the country’s largest employers.



ALESHA DOMINIQUE
Partner
Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP

After time spent teaching middle and high school math, Alesha Dominique found her calling in intellectual property litigation during law school, and the pursuit of her passion would teach her more about self-advocacy and making room for her well-deserved seat at the table.

Today, Dominique is a partner in Norton Rose Fullbright, with a practice focusing on trademark, false advertising and unfair competition, copyright and patent matters. She has represented clients before federal district courts, the US International Trade Commission, the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. She has worked on several matters such as litigation involving trade dress infringement and counterfeiting claims, and right of publicity claims involving the use of artificial intelligence.



TOMMY DU
Partner
Robins Kaplan LLP

Tommy Du is a trial attorney whose career is marked by significant litigation wins and a strong commitment to justice and community impact. One of his most notable cases involved advocating for disabled homeless veterans in Los Angeles. A key member of the trial team, Du helped achieve a court ruling that requires the West Los Angeles Department of Veterans Affairs to implement major reforms. These include constructing 1,800 permanent housing units within six years and 750 temporary units within 18 months, along with improving healthcare access and expanding critical support services.

Du has built a broad practice representing clients in industries like healthcare, technology and real estate. He has successfully resolved high-stakes business disputes and counterclaims for both plaintiffs and defendants.



GABRIEL DUARTE
Partner
Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP

When advising high-net-worth individuals and families on the planning and administration of multimillion-dollar trusts and estates, Gabriel Duarte provides strategic counsel to preserve clients’ legacies and honor their wishes on transferring wealth to the next generation. Duarte is particularly effective with the administration of sophisticated trusts, including those involving family offices.

Duarte’s dual strengths in estate planning and post-death trust administration inform his counsel to trustees, prominent entrepreneurs and families.. Many of his clients have intricate real property assets, ranging from residences and multifamily apartment complexes to shopping centers and office buildings. He works closely with trustees and professional teams to manage purchases, sales, leasing, loan transactions and related environmental, tax and investment concerns.



LOLLY ENRIQUEZ
Partner, Infrastructure Group
Nossaman

Lolly Enriquez represents public agencies in various governmental law issues. She has more than two decades of experience serving as bond counsel, disclosure counsel, issuer counsel, bank counsel and underwriter’s counsel in a broad variety of public finance transactions, including lease revenue; special assessment; mello-roos special tax; sales tax revenue; tax increment; pension obligation; and water, wastewater, and electric utility revenue bonds; as well as certificates of participation.

Enriquez also specializes in public law on a wide range of municipal law issues, including public works and public contracting, conflicts of interest, the Brown Act and the Public Records Act. He also served as assistant city attorney to the City of Beverly Hills as assistant city attorney to the City of Manhattan Beach.



JEFFREY ERDMAN
Shareholder
Scali Rasmussen, PC.

Jeffrey Erdman is a senior litigation and trial attorney with nearly 25 years of litigation experience practicing in both the state and federal courts of California. He has extensive courtroom and trial experience, both as plaintiff’s counsel and as defense counsel, and has successfully argued cases before the California Court of Appeal. Erdman’s litigation experience includes the insurance, manufacturing and service industries, as well as a variety of real estate disputes. He has experience in the hospitality industry having worked with Westin Hotels and Resorts for more than ten years.

Before joining Scali Rasmussen, Erdman was managing partner of Bennett & Erdman for 16 years, where he served both as litigation counsel and as outside general counsel to various business entities and entrepreneurs.



DAVID FEDER
Partner
Jones Day

David Feder focuses on legal issues in whatever tribunal they arise. He has experience in areas such as products liability, tort law more generally, the California Environmental Quality Act, California Unfair Competition Law, Employee Retirement Income Security Act, and federal preemption. He has argued numerous motions and appeals in state and federal courts and tried a case in a state administrative tribunal.

Since entering private practice at Jones Day, he has drafted numerous briefs involving cutting-edge issues and has helped set precedents with major doctrinal and practical implications.

Feder won the Fay Diploma for graduating first in his Harvard Law class in 2014. He is a coauthor of Justice Neil M. Gorsuch’s New York Times best seller, A Republic, If You Can Keep It.



AMBER FINCH
Partner, Insurance Recovery Group
Global Chair
Reed Smith LLP

Amber Finch, global chair of Reed Smith’s Insurance Recovery Group, has led high-profile insurance coverage disputes on the national and international stage pertaining to opioids, environmental issues, mass shootings, the pandemic, and the war in Ukraine, helping her commercial policyholder clients recover hundreds of millions of dollars in insurance proceeds through litigation. As global chair, she is growing the firm’s client base, maintaining its competitive edge in the market for insurance coverage issues and expanding its pipeline of attorneys from young associates to seasoned partners.

From early 2022 to 2024, Finch was Reed Smith’s Los Angeles office managing partner. She also previously served as partner chair of the firm’s African American business inclusion group STAARS.

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TERRENCE FRANKLIN
Partner
Sacks, Glazier, Franklin & Lodise, LLP

Terrence Franklin has over three decades of experience handling some of the most significant and complex trusts and estates litigation. He has successfully represented beneficiaries, trustees, individuals and institutional clients in matters involving substantial assets.

Franklin worked pro bono on one of the most important housing discrimination cases in Los Angeles County, with the Independent Commission investigating the LA Police Department. He is also responsible for several published appeals and the landmark *Moeller v. Superior Court* case, which was brought before the California Supreme Court and established a fiduciary exception to the attorney-client privilege for successor trustees. He has served as chair of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusivity Committee of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel.



AARON GBEWONYO
Managing Trial Attorney
Shegerian & Associates

Aaron Gbewonyo is an esteemed managing trial attorney at Shegerian & Associates with extensive experience in a variety of single plaintiff employment discrimination cases against both private and public employers in state and federal courts, as well as arbitration. He has successfully represented employees against some of the most powerful corporations, tackling cases involving discrimination, harassment, retaliation and wrongful termination.

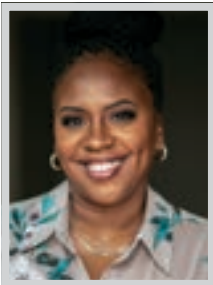
Gbewonyo has a comprehensive skill set, having drafted pleadings and motion papers, handled written discovery, conducted and defended expert and lay depositions and mediations. With broad and in-depth knowledge in employment law, he takes pride in advocating on behalf of those who have been wronged in the workplace.



SAMANTHA GRANT
Partner
Reed Smith LLP

Samantha Grant is a partner in Reed Smith's Century City office and is an effective advocate for employers and management in administrative, arbitration, and trial proceedings. She leverages her analytical and strategic skills to deliver superior results in litigation of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wage and hour, breach of contract, fraud, defamation, trade secret, and unfair competition cases. She advises clients on litigation avoidance strategies and local, state and federal compliance matters. She also conducts workplace investigations and management and workforce training.

Grant has extensive experience in many different industries, including the entertainment, aerospace, hospitality, health care and retail industries. She is a frequently sought after speaker on developments in employment law.



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

Certified family law specialist Demetria Graves opened her own Family Law practice, The Graves Law Firm at the age of 25, just six months out of law school. She has offices in both Pasadena and Beverly Hills, and handles all aspects of family law, including divorce, child custody, child support, modifications, paternity, visitation rights and other related legal issues.

Graves is the immediate past chair of the Family Law Executive Committee (FLEXCOM) with the California Lawyers Association. She currently co-chairs the African American Alumni Association at Loyola Law School and is a mentor to several law students and young attorneys. Beyond her practice, she provides free workshops for underserved communities to ensure equitable access to family law resources.



JOSEPH GUARDARRAMA
Attorney
Kaufman Legal Group

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

Prior to joining the firm, Guardarrama served as a planning commissioner in the City of West Hollywood. He presided over the Commission's meetings as both chair and vice chair, dealing with land use policy matters such as the creation of a new General Plan, the Red Building expansion of the Pacific Design Center, and multiple affordable housing developments.

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ERVIN COHEN & JESSUP LLP

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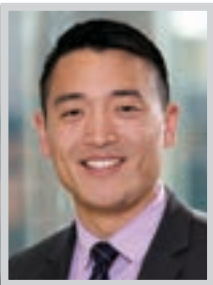
KRISTEL HADDAD
Principal
Jackson Lewis P.C.

Pincipal in the Los Angeles office of Jackson Lewis P.C., Kristel Haddad has demonstrated exceptional dedication and expertise in the field of employment litigation. Throughout her career, she has represented employers and individual defendants in a broad range of cases, including those involving employee misconduct, leaves of absence, reductions in force and compliance issues. Haddad's ability to navigate complex legal challenges and provide sound advice to her clients has earned her a reputation as a trusted advisor and skilled litigator. One of Haddad's most notable accomplishments is her work in developing comprehensive employee handbooks and personnel policies for her clients. She is also actively involved with the Los Angeles Cedars Rotary and is the commissioner of the City of Temple City's Parks and Recreation.



DAVID HONG
Partner
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

David Hong is a partner in the Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP Asset Management Department, where he focuses on the formation and ongoing operation of private funds across the spectrum of asset classes, including private equity, credit, real estate, venture capital, growth equity, hedge and hybrid funds, as well as advising private fund sponsors. Hong regularly represents emerging and institutional private fund sponsors in connection with a broad range of matters, including fund formations, fund investment matters, seed capital arrangements, complex restructurings, the structure of their investment management businesses, and regulatory, compliance and operational issues. He provides clients with comprehensive representation covering entity formations, the fundraising process and ongoing operational advice.



WINSTON HSIAO
Partner
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Winston Hsiao is an instrumental member of the Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP award-winning Los Angeles litigation group. He is the first API litigation partner in the history of Skadden's Los Angeles office and just the third API partner in the history of the office across all practice groups. Hsiao has built a track record for his clients of securing prompt dismissals on early dispositive motions in a wide range of litigations, including securities shareholder actions and business tort claims. In addition to his reputation as an influential writer and oral advocate, Hsiao is a trusted advisor, known for his strategic foresight in litigation, and for his understanding of how litigation aligns with his clients' broader business goals.



KENNETH HSU
Partner
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP

Kenneth Hsu is a partner in the Litigation Department at Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP, with a focus on complex business and corporate litigation. He has represented a wide range of companies, including local and national retailers, manufacturers and technology companies in various class actions, contract disputes, shareholder disputes and other complex litigation matters. While he frequently litigates matters through trial, arbitration and appellate proceedings, his practice primarily focuses on finding strategic, cost-effective resolutions customized to each client's business goals while minimizing the impact of litigation. During law school, Hsu served as editor-in-chief of the Hastings Business Law Journal. He also externed for the US Securities and Exchange Commission and for the Susan Y. Illston, US District Court for the Northern District of California.



MUHAMMED HUSSAIN
Partner
Roxborough Pomerance Nye & Adreani, LLP

Senior attorney and partner at Roxborough Pomerance Nye & Adreani, Muhammed Hussain immigrated to the United States from Sri Lanka in 1998. He served in the United States Air Force and the California Air National Guard. In 2008, he received his law degree from Loyola Law School of Los Angeles, where he was the vice president of the Consumer Law Society. Hussain has been practicing for fifteen years as an attorney, and has extensive experience represent various businesses in matters involving consumer class actions, lender liability disputes, employment issues, intellectual property protection, general business litigation, business divorces, trade secret misappropriation and landlord-tenant disputes. His successes include resolving disputes through well-negotiated settlements and outstanding verdicts.



BRITTANI JACKSON
Partner
Hueston Hennigan LLP

Elected a partner at Hueston Hennigan LLP in January 2024, Brittani Jackson represents clients in matters ranging from commercial contract disputes, privacy issues and trade secret misappropriation, to shareholder activism, issues of corporate governance, antitrust and securities litigation. She has also represented clients in investigations conducted by the Securities and Exchange Commission and various state attorneys general and has spearheaded numerous internal corporate investigations. Jackson regularly plays a critical role in the firm's highest stakes matters, many of which garner press nationally and around the globe. She's currently representing Amazon subsidiary Twitch, which is facing wrongful death and other claims relating to a fatal shooting spree in New York. She is also defending Activision Blizzard as a target of mass arbitration.



VICTOR JIH
Partner
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

Arriving at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati same month as California's initial pandemic lockdown, Victor Jih has combined his background in entertainment and media disputes with the firm's dominance in the technology industry to create a thriving practice at the intersection of those areas. Under his local leadership, the firm has gone from having no physical location in Century City to an office of over 30 lawyers. With an emphasis on intellectual property and litigation in the entertainment industry, Jih has worked with clients in the internet, software, hardware and retail sectors. He represents companies ranging from start-ups to motion picture studios and technology leaders in First Amendment, unfair competition, consumer privacy, class action defense, contract, employment law and other commercial litigation matters.



NISHA KANCHANAPOOMI
Partner
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Nisha Kanchanapoomi is a corporate partner in the Los Angeles office of Kirkland & Ellis. Her practice focuses on all aspects of debt financing transactions, including the representation of private equity sponsors, hedge funds, public and private companies and financial institutions in secured and unsecured financings, cash flow and asset-based facilities, leveraged buyouts, recapitalizations, cross-border transactions, workouts and restructurings, and first-lien second-lien, mezzanine, subordinated and unitranche financings. Among Kanchanapoomi's clients are household name brands, including Bed Bath and Beyond Inc., Equinox Group, Harbor Freight Tools USA and Neiman Marcus Group. Her clients also include private equity firms and their portfolio companies. In the past year, she has worked on transactions totaling more than \$10 billion.



JASON KIM
Partner
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

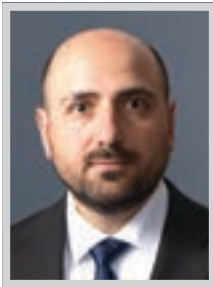
Jason Kim, litigation partner at Hunton Andrews Kurth's Los Angeles office, helps global brands navigate their most high-profile cybersecurity and privacy class actions in California. Some of his many clients include Meta Platforms Inc. (fka Facebook), Bath & Body Works, Inc., Victoria's Secret, Neiman Marcus, Flurry, Rite Aid and Navy Federal Credit Union. Kim has litigated multiple highly publicized data breach class actions and consumer class actions for a broad spectrum of Fortune 500 companies. He has served as litigation counsel to one of the largest online services in the world in class actions involving the largest reported data breach in history. Additionally, he is the Office Diversity & Inclusion Initiative leader co-chair for the firm's Los Angeles office.



SPENCER KOOK
Partner-in-Charge, Los Angeles Office
Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP

As partner-in-charge of Hinshaw's Los Angeles office, Spencer Kook leads an office of more than 30 attorneys, managing the day-to-day operations, strategic planning, and governance of the firm's presence in Los Angeles and California at large, driving services and strategic growth. Under Kook's leadership and recruitment strategies, the office has achieved significant growth, particularly in the insurance and consumer financial service practice areas. Kook balances his leadership responsibilities with an active law practice. He advises insurance carriers, producers and other regulated entities on matters related to the California Department of Insurance, including compliance, rate matters, examinations, licensing, and enforcement actions. He has a strong track record of successfully representing companies in insurance litigation.

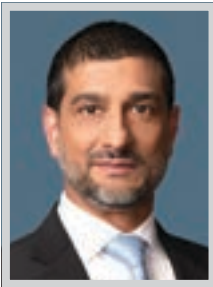
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ARSEN KOURINIAN
Partner
Mayer Brown LLP

Arsen Kourinian is a partner in Mayer Brown’s Los Angeles office and practices data privacy and artificial intelligence (AI) law. He holds the AI governance professional, fellow of information privacy and certified information privacy professional credentials through the International Association of Privacy Professionals for the United States, Europe, Canada and Asia.

Through his practice, Kourinian has conducted a full audit of a human resources SaaS platform’s AI tool to help the company implement an AI governance program and comply with data privacy and cybersecurity laws. He has advised a major tech company regarding policies and procedures for AI compliance and is advising a major financial institution regarding the compliant use of AI tools for human resources functions.



AMRIT KULKARNI
Principal; Chair, Land Use, Environmental Law, and Transportation & Infrastructure Practice Groups
Meyers Nave, A Professional Corporation

A principal at Meyers Nave, Amrit Kulkarni chairs the firm’s Land Use, Environmental Law, and Transportation & Infrastructure Practice Groups. His ability to navigate complex regulatory frameworks such as CEQA, NEPA and zoning laws, while balancing environmental, legal and business priorities, makes him a standout leader.

Kulkarni has been instrumental in the success of transformational infrastructure and urban development projects across California. His most recent work includes the ocV!be, DisneylandForward and continued work for the Los Angeles World Airports and BNSF Railway. He advised on the Oakland A’s Howard Terminal Ballpark, LA Metro’s rail expansion, and the modernization of LAX.



EMILY KUWAHARA
Partner; Co-Chair, Appellate Group
Crowell & Moring LLP

As co-chair of the firm’s Appellate group, clients turn to Crowell & Moring partner Emily Kuwahara to honestly assess their risks and deliver wins on complex disputes. She has successfully represented clients in appeals, patent inventorship disputes, breach of contract actions, business torts, antitrust and consumer class actions, unfair competition law and other complex business disputes, resulting in satisfied clients and the recovery of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Over the last decade, Kuwahara has been leading a Crowell team representing The Regents of the University of California in several key cases, including the litigation of a series of disputes relating to the licensing of compounds to treat prostate cancer. She also litigates business disputes in the technology sector, drawing upon her engineering background.



KRISTINE KWONG
Partner
Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP

Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP partner Kristine Kwong advises and counsels clients on a wide range of business, corporate, operational and employment issues, including business counseling, contract negotiation and preparation, restrictive covenant and non-compete agreements, executive mobility issues, and due diligence in connection with mergers and acquisitions.

Kwong represents public and private sector entities in retail, manufacturing, finance, health-care, hospitality, real estate, and charitable and tax-exempt organizations in both litigation and transactional matters. She has defended single-plaintiff and class action wage and hour matters, claims under the Private Attorney General Act, discrimination, harassment and retaliation claims, as well as business and partnership disputes.



HOLLY LAKE
Partner
DLA Piper

DLA Piper partner Holly Lake represents both private and public employers in all aspects of employment law and related litigation, including discrimination, harassment, wrongful discharge, whistleblower allegations and wage-and-hour matters. With over 20 years of legal industry experience, Lake advises public and private companies on AI, DEI and ESG strategies and initiatives, and handles a portfolio of employment litigation cases for clients across varying industries.

Lake also speaks publicly and trains practitioners on AI, its impact and potential within corporations in the employment arena and the mitigation of risks. Her approach to her client relationships and her practice has resulted in success before the Court of Appeal, as well as trial victories and summary judgment wins.

Holland & Knight is proud to celebrate our own
Alexis Reeves Alonzo
and **Jonathan Park**
for being named as *Los Angeles Business Journal*
Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys for 2025.

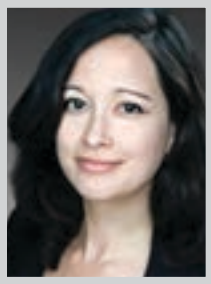
We join in recognizing Alexis and Jonathan for their exceptional leadership, dedication to their clients and remarkable achievements in the legal profession.

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LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



LISIA LEON
Partner
Paduano & Weintraub

Lisia Leon has extensive experience as an attorney representing public and privately held corporations in employment-related matters. Working out of the Paduano & Weintraub's Los Angeles and New York offices, her employment practice ranges from wage issues, class actions, wrongful terminations, discrimination and retaliation brought under Title VII, ADA, ADEA, FMLA, and related state laws, as well as government audits and investigations.

Leon regularly appears before federal, state and administrative and regulatory courts and agencies, including but not limited to the United States District Courts, state courts and the EEOC. In addition, she has experience advising and representing companies and organizations in response to claims of public accessibility under the ADA Title III and all related state and local ADA laws.



FRANK LIU
Partner, Infrastructure Group
Nossaman

Frank Liu helps public agencies use innovative procurement methods to deliver highly complex and large-scale airport, highway, bridge, tunnel, transit and social infrastructure projects. His work covers every stage of the procurement process. He assists with drafting procurement and contract documents relating to design-build, public-private partnerships and design-build-operate-maintain agreements and advises on proposer evaluation and selection strategies. He offers infrastructure clients unique expertise in engineering matters, drawing on his background as a civil engineer.

Liu was a key in advising on all aspects of the \$2 billion elevated fixed guideway rail project to connect LA Metro's Crenshaw Light Rail Line with the revitalized Market Street commercial area, the Kia Forum, the Intuit Dome and Sofi Stadium at Hollywood Park.



TIRZAH LOWE
Of Counsel
Knobbe Martens

Tirzah Lowe, an accomplished intellectual property attorney at Knobbe Martens, stands as a strong leader with many years of experience protecting brands and content across the globe, particularly in the media and entertainment space. She is well versed in a broad array of trademark, copyright and IP protection and enforcement issues.

Lowe was the lead intellectual property attorney at 21st Century Fox negotiating its \$71 billion acquisition by The Walt Disney Company. During her years working at Fox and NBCUniversal, she was entrusted with such famous IP portfolios as The Simpsons, Avatar, Fast & Furious, Ice Age, Fox Sports, The Sound of Music, and many more. She is an active member of the International Trademark Association and serves on its Presidential Task Force.



MICHELLE MABUGAT
Partner
Greenberg Glusker LLP

Michelle Mabugat's career is marked by a blend of legal expertise, industry leadership and community advocacy. As a partner in Greenberg Glusker's Corporate, Finance & Securities Group, Mabugat provides counsel to entrepreneurs and high-growth companies, shepherding them through the entire business lifecycle, from inception to exit. Her extensive transactional practice includes early- and growth-stage financings, M&A, joint ventures and strategic alliances, making her a trusted advisor to boards, management teams and investors alike.

As co-chair of Greenberg Glusker's Cannabis Industry Group, Mabugat is widely regarded as one of the nation's foremost experts on cannabis law. Her contributions to this evolving industry include co-authoring Legal Weed: A Comprehensive Guide to California Cannabis Law & Regulation.



HEMAL MASTER
Managing Shareholder
Frاندzel Robins Bloom & Csato, L.C.

Managing shareholder of Frاندzel Robins Bloom & Csato, Hemal Master maintains a robust practice focusing on all aspects of lender representation, including representation of commercial banks, private equity funds, commercial finance companies, hedge funds and other lenders in real estate and commercial loan transactions, commercial and real estate loan workouts, lender liability defense, and exercise and enforcement of all types of lender remedies.

Master recently represented an international bank in the structuring, documentation, negotiation and closing of a \$125 million syndicated construction loan for the development of a 236-room full service hotel. In addition to his experience with the firm, he completed a 3 yearlong secondment to a major regional bank in which he advised on hundreds of matters.



MARCELLUS McRAE
Partner; Co-Chair, Trials Practice Group
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Among the region's leading trial lawyers, Marcellus McRae has first-chaired numerous jury trials, bench trials, and arbitrations in both federal and state courts. During his tenure as a partner with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, he has honed his litigation and white-collar criminal defense practices to focus on a wide variety of complex business disputes, internal investigations, and criminal prosecutions including defense of individuals and corporations in cases involving allegations of financial fraud, False Claims Act violations, public corruption, violations of federal and state environmental laws, health care fraud, wrongful death, criminal antitrust violations and other matters.

McRae also writes and speaks on trial and litigation skills, white-collar criminal defense, labor and employment law, and other topics.



ALI MOJIBI
Partner
Covington & Burling LLP

Ali Mojibi is a dynamic trial lawyer who has tried cases for leading global businesses across a range of industries, including telecommunications, software, medical device and biotech. His diverse background in engineering, medical sciences and technical sales enables him to quickly master a complex factual record and craft simple, compelling presentations.

Mojibi's diverse background and presentation style have enabled him to appear as trial counsel in several challenging and high-profile matters, where he has conducted tens of hours of direct and cross examination. He served as first-chair in a confidential arbitration proceeding for a global pharmaceutical against one of the largest PBMs relating to prescription drug rebates and is currently representing a non-profit organization in a high-profile sexual harassment dispute.



SANDRA LEE MONTGOMERY
Partner
Proskauer Rose LLP

Sandra Lee Montgomery is a highly respected leader in the private capital sector, making a significant impact in the predominantly male banking and finance industry. In 2023, she closed over \$5.5 billion in transactions, representing first- and second-lien senior lenders, mezzanine investors and equity sponsors nationwide. Her expertise spans a wide range of complex financing matters, including acquisitions, recapitalizations, leveraged financings, cash flow and asset-based financings, debtor-in-possession and exit financings, cross-border financings, unitranche and mezzanine financings and restructurings.

Montgomery has industry experience in a wide range of business sectors including retail, technology, transportation, manufacturing, distribution, general industrial, agriculture and services.



ESTEBAN MORALES
Member
Mintz

Esteban Morales, Mintz partner and distinguished litigator, is a force to be reckoned with in class action defense, consumer and privacy-related litigation. Since joining the firm, Morales has honed his skills to become a go-to expert for both small and large corporate clients facing complex legal challenges.

Morales secures dismissals for clients at the pleading stage and employs aggressive defense strategies to thwart claims without extensive discovery. His strategic acumen has been pivotal in defending clients against a myriad of state and federal statutes and theories, including the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, the California Invasion of Privacy Act, the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act, and California's Unfair Competition Law, among many others. He is currently representing a family seeking humanitarian parole.



BRIAN MOSKAL
Partner
Greenberg Glusker LLP

Partner at Greenberg Glusker, Brian Moskal has established himself as a leading environmental attorney, specializing in complex litigation, real estate and corporate transactional matters, and regulatory compliance counseling related to environmentally impacted sites, water and wastewater issues. His expertise encompasses key environmental statutes, including the Clean Water Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as well as pertinent California laws and insurance recovery for environmental investigation and cleanup costs.

Throughout his career, Moskal has adeptly represented industrial companies, property owners and municipalities in high-stakes environmental matters. Notably, he was integral to a legal team that secured a complete defense judgment for a municipal water and wastewater agency in a federal lawsuit.

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



POOJA NAIR
Partner
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP

Pooja Nair is a go-to business litigator and problem solver with a focus on the food and beverage sector. She advises restaurant groups, mid-market food brands and food manufacturers on a comprehensive range of issues, including employment, trade secrets, partnership disputes, contract negotiations and intellectual property.

Nair recently assisted over a dozen small and mid-market food and beverage clients in addressing false advertising complaints and potential complaints related to product labels, advertising (both traditional and social media), and reviews. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Music and Arts School, the Harvard Club of Southern California and the Inner City Law Center. She publishes a bi-monthly legal column for Modern Restaurant Management on legal developments.



SABRINA NARAIN
Managing Partner
LTL Attorneys

Sabrina Narain is a formidable litigator who became the first female partner at her past firm within three years. As managing partner at LTL Attorneys, she spearheads the firm’s consumer protection litigation practice. In less than a year, she has dramatically expanded the firm’s practice by attracting and nurturing junior attorneys and a robust support staff.

In her legal practice, Narain acts as lead counsel on matters involving consumer protection, employment, general liability, and business litigation in state, federal, and arbitration proceedings from inception through trial. She has extensive experience across all facets of litigation, including law and motion, discovery, trial preparation, appearances, and post-judgment proceedings. She specializes in defending breach of warranty, fraud and product liability cases.



FELTON NEWELL
Co-Managing Partner
Newell Law Group PC

Felton Newell has successfully represented his clients in a range of litigation and employment law matters throughout over 25 years of practice. Prior to joining Newell Law Group, he litigated at several international law firms, including Morrison & Foerster and Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy. In corporate practice, he represented Fortune 100 companies, entrepreneurs and high-net-worth individuals in a range of litigation disputes.

Newell honed his oral advocacy skills in the Los Angeles City Attorney’s office, where he first-chaired more than 20 criminal trials to a jury verdict, including cases involving domestic violence, gun possession and criminal assault, and handled hundreds of other criminal matters. Since 2012, he has first-chaired or second-chaired 15 civil jury trials in employment and general litigation matters.



QUINCY NEWELL
Founder; Co-Managing Attorney
Newell Law Group

Quincy Newell is a veteran with over 30 years of experience in the entertainment and media business. He has held senior-level executive posts at a variety of independent and mainstream music and film companies including Hits Magazine, Warner Music Group’s Rhino Entertainment, Ventura Distribution’s UrbanWorks Entertainment and Lionsgate. Most recently, he served as of counsel at Sanders Roberts LLP and helped to launch and lead the boutique litigation firm’s entertainment transactional practice.

Newell has handled hundreds of transactions across the industry spectrum including film, television, music and digital media. He founded his firm in 2020, which combines the expertise and professionalism of a large corporate firm with the personal attention and fee structure of a small solo practice.



ANTHONY NGUYEN
Shareholder
Shegerian & Associates

Anthony Nguyen is a distinguished shareholder at Shegerian & Associates, with a rich background in employment law. With previous representation of Fortune 500 companies in labor and employment disputes, he has garnered extensive experience on both sides of the litigation field in matters relating to workplace discrimination, harassment, and retaliation on state and federal levels. He also possesses significant expertise in entertainment business and legal affairs.

In 2023, Nguyen achieved four seven-figure verdicts as lead counsel, all of which were within the top 20 labor and employment verdicts in California. In 2024, he helped secure a \$33.5 million judgment in Rudnicki v. Farmers. His leadership has also helped the firm recover hundreds of millions for its clients over the past few years.



We proudly congratulate our colleagues, Nicole Simonian and Emily Kuwahara, on being named among the *Los Angeles Business Journal’s* “Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys 2025.”

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LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



PUANANI NORWOOD
Office Managing Partner
BCLP

Since joining BCLP in 2013, Puanani Norwood has risen from summer associate in Kansas City to her current role as office managing partner in Los Angeles, a title she received just 5 months after being named into the BCLP partner class. She is a skilled negotiator and deal closer, focusing on commercial real estate transactions in the renewable energy sector, representing regulated public utility companies, tax equity investors, developers and construction lenders.

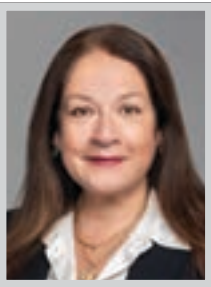
Norwood oversees a team of BCLP lawyers who act as local counsel in connection with the representation of financial institutions that are financing and investing in various battery, wind and solar projects across the country. She also manages real estate transactions for one of the largest electric energy companies in the country.



ARAMEH O'BOYLE
Member
Mintz

Arameh O'Boyle stands as a trailblazer in the legal world, notably as the first female partner in Mintz's expanding Los Angeles office. A seasoned litigator with over 15 years of practice, O'Boyle specializes in defending product manufacturers in complex product liability and consumer class action lawsuits. Her expertise spans various sectors, including cosmetics, personal care products, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, over-the-counter drugs, food, retail and electronics.

O'Boyle's acumen in advising clients on product labeling and advertising strategies ensures compliance with the FDA's Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act while mitigating risks. Her expertise in managing high-profile litigation, complex class actions and multidistrict cases, combined with her deep legal, regulatory and industry knowledge, enables her to consistently drive clients' success.



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

Doreen Marie Olson is co-founder and partner at Meyer, Olson, Lowy & Meyers, LLP, a boutique family law firm located in Century City and Irvine. She has been certified as a specialist in family law by the Board of Legal Specialization of the State Bar of California.

Olson and her partners founded the firm in 2000, with the goal of representing clients in high conflict and complex divorces and custody cases. The firm now includes approximately 25 attorneys, who have expertise in all aspects of family law and are adept at both mediating and litigating cases. For 30 years, Olson has worked exclusively in family law, and has brought more than a hundred cases to a successful conclusion on behalf of her clients.



JONATHAN PARK
Partner
Holland & Knight LLP

A partner in Holland & Knight's Los Angeles office, Jonathan Park's practice focuses on complex trust and estate litigation, including will contests, breaches of fiduciary duty, removal of trustees, reformation of instruments, elder abuse and other contests based on allegations of lack of capacity and undue influence. His clients include high-net-worth individuals, families and family offices, professional fiduciaries and financial institutions.

Park and his team have been instrumental in growing the group's representation of nonprofit and tax-exempt organizations, including national charities as well as educational and religious organizations. They have provided counsel for such household names as the American Cancer Society, the American Red Cross, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Paralyzed Veterans of America and The Salvation Army.



EMILY PATAJO
Partner
Akerman LLP

Partner at Akerman LLP, Emily Patajo is a seasoned labor and employment attorney, boasting a wealth of experience focusing on employment litigation in state and federal courts. Specializing in risk assessment and defense, she represents employers across diverse sectors, including grocery, retail, technology and healthcare. Patajo excels in handling litigation matters related to wrongful termination, unlawful discrimination, harassment and retaliation under California law. Additionally, she regularly represents employers in contentious class action and PAGA lawsuits.

Beyond litigation, Patajo adeptly manages administrative issues, advising on charges before state agencies like the California Civil Rights Department. Her strategic guidance to human resources spans personnel management, investigations and evaluations of requests for reasonable accommodations.



CHRISTOPHER PELHAM
Head of Litigation and Disputes,
Los Angeles
Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP

Christopher Pelham is an experienced trial lawyer at one of the world's oldest and most-respected law firms. Clients call on him to help resolve sensitive and complex issues through commercial dispute advocacy, internal investigations, compliance counselling and representations before government agencies and regulators.

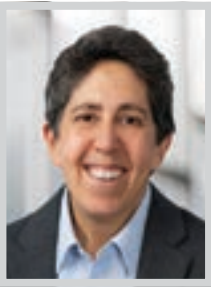
Pelham has extensive experience litigating trade secret and intellectual property infringement cases (including in both the life science and technology industries) and is familiar with both Lanham Act and Defend Trade Secret Act violations. He has also litigated matters involving breach of contract, high-exposure wrongful death and personal injury, qui tam allegations and commercial fraud. Additionally, he sits on the board of the Langston Bar Association of Los Angeles.



RYNE POSEY
Partner
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Ryne Posey leads Skadden's West Coast labor and employment department and is a distinguished, go-to attorney for clients across a broad range of industries, including sports, media and entertainment, and technology and financial services, among others.

Posey's regular compliance and counseling work includes advising on domestic and global pay equity reviews, conducting workplace investigations, preventing unfair competition and trade secret misappropriation, planning and implementing reductions in force, and developing, implementing and enforcing personnel policies and procedures. He represents clients in litigation and alternative dispute resolution matters concerning wage and hour class, collective and representative actions, unlawful discrimination, harassment and retaliation claims, and more.



JENNIFER POST
Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office
Thompson Coburn LLP

Jennifer Post has built a distinguished corporate and finance law career over three decades, establishing herself as a trusted leader and advisor in high-stakes transactions. As managing partner of Thompson Coburn's Los Angeles office, she is known for her ability to handle complex financial structures and achieve strategic outcomes for her clients. She serves as primary outside counsel to entrepreneurs, venture capital funds and operating companies with an emphasis on transactional and finance matters.

Post represents investors, lenders and emerging companies in venture capital, private equity, lending, M&A and fund formation work. She has a unique niche representing venture debt funds and other direct lenders in secured transactions involving technology, fintech, life sciences, SaaS and consumer brands in the private credit markets.



DANIEL PRINCE
Partner; LA Litigation Department Chair
Paul Hastings LLP

Award-winning trial attorney and highly regarded trusted advisor Daniel Prince is the chair of the Paul Hastings LLP, litigation department in Los Angeles and hiring partner for the office. He represents clients in corporate and government investigations and highly complex litigation matters, including domestic and international arbitration, trials, and class actions. In addition to handling commercial disputes, Prince counsels clients on employee mobility and trade secrets issues, confidentiality provisions, dispute resolution clauses, and enhancements to compliance programs.

A thought leader and former collegiate debater, Prince is a skilled advocate with a reputation for developing cutting-edge, innovative strategies for handling high-stakes engagements. This includes driving the use of eDiscovery and data science technology to generate cost-effective solutions for clients.



NICK PUJJI
Partner
Dentons

Nick Pujji, a partner in Dentons' Employment and Labor practice, is the first turban-wearing Sikh full-equity partner and one of only three Sikh partners at a major US law firm. He represents a wide array of clients in complex business, employment, trade secret, ADA website accessibility and class action litigation, with a particular emphasis in consumer and wage and hour class actions. He handles all aspects of the litigation, arbitration and appellate processes, with a track record of resolving matters through early-stage strategy and communication, negotiated settlement, mediation, trial and arbitration.

Pujji further advises clients on day-to-day employment issues designed to avoid litigation. Since joining the Firm in 2016, Pujji has brought on approximately 2,628 new clients and opened 3,492 new matters.

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



ANGELA REDDOCK-WRIGHT
Employment & Title IX Mediator
Reddock Law / Signature Resolution

A licensed attorney for nearly 30 years, Reddock-Wright's over-15-year tenure as an employment and labor law litigator and workplace and Title IX investigator set the stage for the opening of her own mediation and dispute-resolution practice, the Reddock Law Group, in 2011. She has mediated some of the most sensitive and high-profile cases involving private, public, and nonprofit sector employers and employees regarding issues of race, sex, gender and disability, among others. She is experienced in Title IX sexual assault, school tort, bullying and hazing cases.

Reddock-Wright is a past president of the Southern California Mediation Association and is a member of the panel of mediators with the US District Court, Central District of California.



MISTY SANFORD
Partner; Chair, Real Estate – West Coast
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Misty Sanford is the chair of West Coast Real Estate in Willkie's Los Angeles office. Her sophisticated and broad-based real estate transactional practice involves all aspects of real estate, with an emphasis on loan workouts, public/private partnerships, real estate financing, complex mixed-use developments, purchase and sale, joint ventures, environmental issues, land use, leasing and reciprocal easement agreements.

Whether leading transformational real estate transactions or creating innovative diversity programs, Sanford is a mover and shaker in real estate law and the legal community. Her work includes representation of some of the world's leading institutional investors, private equity firms, developers, multinational corporations, REITs, foundations, non-profits and individual entrepreneurs.



NICOLE JANIGIAN SIMONIAN
Partner; Co-Chair, International Trade Group; International Employment and Global Mobility Lead
Crowell & Moring LLP

Nicole Janigian Simonian has more than 25 years of experience advising on market entry and global business expansion, operations, and dispositions worldwide. Since 2019, she has served as co-chair of Crowell's International Trade Group and lead of the International Employment and Global Mobility practice, which she founded over 18 years ago at her prior firm. In addition to her legal practice, she is active in the firm's Transportation Group and Investigation Team.

Simonian was a founding member of the firm's COVID-19 Working Group. She advised multinational companies on compliance with US and international laws and regulations affecting employers.



NANCY SIMS
Partner
Baker McKenzie

Nancy Sims is a partner in Baker McKenzie's North America Litigation and Government Enforcement Group and serves as co-chair of the firm's Class Action Group. As a commercial litigator focusing on class actions, complex business disputes and investigations, she represents clients in commercial matters based on contract claims, unfair competition, false advertising, privacy law violations, fraud and related business torts in both court litigation and arbitration.

Sims has significant experience representing franchisors in disputes with franchisees involving joint employer allegations, misclassification claims and contract claims. She has represented clients in putative class actions and other litigation with a combined exposure of over \$1 billion. She is often asked to speak publicly on class actions, privacy and the attorney-client privilege.



ANNE NAKORN RATANA SLUSSER
Partner
Meyer, Olson, Lowy & Meyers LLP

Anne N. Slusser was named a partner at the high-profile family law firm, Meyer, Olson, Lowy & Meyers in 2012. With extensive experience and expertise in all aspects of family law, she specializes in high conflict custody disputes, cases involving domestic violence and divorces with complex financial issues. Her representative clients include members of the entertainment industry, professional athletes, business owners and other high-net-worth individuals.

Working with people who are often going through difficult and painful experiences in their lives, Slusser brings sensitivity and intuition to the job along with an ability to connect with clients on a personal level.

YOKA | SMITH



YOKA | SMITH congratulates Managing Partner **ALICE SMITH** and Partner **CHAD CHEN** on being selected as 2025 Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys by the Los Angeles Business Journal.

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Welcome to employment law.

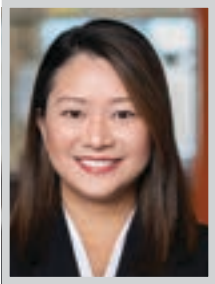
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LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



ALICE SMITH
Managing Partner
Yoka | Smith, LLP

Yoka | Smith managing partner Alice Chen Smith is an experienced trial lawyer who has successfully tried many cases to verdict. Her primary focus is litigating catastrophic personal injury cases, product liability and business litigation matters. She practices throughout the California in trial and appellate courts.

Smith obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies from the University of Chicago and her Juris Doctor degree from Loyola Law School. Additionally, she was inducted into the American Board of Trial Advocates as a member of the Los Angeles Chapter in 2019, and currently serves as the Membership co-chair. She has served on the Los Angeles County Bar Association President’s Advisory Committee on Women in the Legal Profession since 2018.



KALPANA SRINIVASAN
Managing Partner
Susman Godfrey LLP

Kalpana Srinivasan tries cutting-edge cases in courtrooms across the country. She serves as Susman Godfrey’s first female managing partner in the firm’s 40-plus year history and a member of its executive committee, leading the 150-lawyer litigation firm in its handling of high-profile matters across the nation. On top of her booming trial practice, she has been at the helm of the firm during its most profitable year in history.

Recently, as lead trial counsel to Intercontinental Exchange, Srinivasan successfully navigated challenges by the Federal Trade Commission to clear the way for a \$11.7 billion deal allowing ICE to buy Black Knight Inc. She also won a \$65.7 million jury verdict in a patent infringement lawsuit against Cisco Systems.



CYNTHIA SUN
Partner
LTL Attorneys

For the past 18 years, Cynthia Sun has been practicing law as a litigator in the areas of general liability, personal injury, product liability, breach of warranty, breach of contract and consumer fraud. She has held partnership roles at two of the most prominent minority-owned law firms in Los Angeles, including her current firm, LTL Attorneys, in their consumer protection practice group.

Throughout her career, Sun has represented a variety of clients from individuals and small businesses to Fortune 500 companies and public entities. She has experience with all aspects of litigation, including law and motion, discovery, taking and defending depositions, trial preparation, trial, post-judgment litigation, and appeals. Additionally, she serves on the board of Governors for the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association.



JASON TOKORO
Partner
Miller Barondess, LLP

Jason Tokoro, a partner at Miller Barondess, is a high-stakes trial lawyer who has achieved significant victories for both plaintiffs and defendants. He represents governmental entities, high-profile individuals and Fortune 500 companies in complex commercial litigation, with extensive experience in the entertainment, professional sports, real estate and financial industries.

Prior to joining Miller Barondess, Tokoro was litigation counsel at a large, international firm in its Business Trial and Litigation practice group. He also served as a judicial extern for the Honorable Dean D. Pregerson of the United States District Court for the Central District of California. Additionally, he serves as a board member with the Century City Bar Association, the Los Angeles Intellectual Property Law Association and the Alzheimer’s Association.



DIANA TORRES
Partner
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Diana Torres is an intellectual property and commercial litigation partner in Kirkland’s Los Angeles and Bay Area offices. She focuses her practice on false advertising, unfair competition, trademark, copyright and trade secrets matters, and has handled many high-profile matters for a wide variety of clients, including biometric information security software developers, consumer product manufacturers, fitness service providers, entertainment and media companies, and Internet service providers. She also advises clients on compliance and contractual issues and commercial legal strategy.

Torres represented PepsiCo in a high-profile trademark dispute brought by Rise Brewing, challenging PepsiCo’s use of the trademark “Mountain Dew Rise Energy.” She also represented AECOM in a high-profile lawsuit.



Congratulations to our Firm Co-Managing Partner,
MELANIE CHANEY
on being named among the 2025 Leaders of Influence: Minority Attorneys.

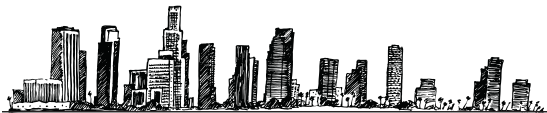
Liebert Cassidy Whitmore serves as trusted advisors to public agencies, educational institutions, and nonprofits across California. Our legal experts provide client focused services in litigation, labor relations, negotiations, employment, education, business, and construction.

LCW delivers vital web-based and live training to clients, proactively helping them avoid problems. Leveraging decades of expertise, we conduct impartial workplace investigations for California’s businesses.

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LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL

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To nominate, visit labusinessjournal.com/events/bptw2025

Nomination Deadline:
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LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS



RAJAN TREHAN
Partner
Hueston Hennigan LLP

With a focus on high stakes matters oriented toward trial, Rajan Trehan is known for achieving big wins in highly complex litigation. He has experience litigating contract, fraud, intellectual property and class action disputes, and serves a diverse roster of well-known clients that includes Lionsgate, Palantir Technologies, PacifiCorp, Match Group, the State of Hawaii and the country’s largest integrated health care system.

Trehan provides counsel to clients throughout the litigation process, from initial fact gathering to post-trial briefing. He is handling many of Hueston Hennigan’s highest-profile and cutting-edge matters, including representing major record labels UMG Recordings, Warner Music Group, Sony Music Entertainment and others, in novel copy-right litigation against two leading generative AI music companies.



KENNETH TRUJILLO-JAMISON
Partner
Willenken LLP

Kenneth Trujillo-Jamison, a partner at Willenken, is a highly accomplished litigator who leverages his sharply honed analytical and strategic skills to efficiently handle his clients’ most complex and challenging matters. His practice spans a wide range of high-stakes, complex commercial and business litigation matters, including intellectual property disputes, class action defense, product liability litigation and entertainment litigation, where his strategic prowess and commitment to delivering exceptional results have earned him industry-wide recognition.

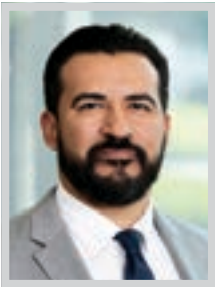
Trujillo-Jamison also has deep experience defending technology companies in litigation about users and user-generated content posted on their platforms.



JENNER TSENG
Partner
Hill, Farrer & Burrill LLP

Jenner Tseng practices in the areas of employment litigation, commercial litigation, real estate litigation, intellectual property litigation, insurance brokerage litigation, insurance recovery and complex insurance disputes. He also regularly advises and assists clients in various non-litigation matters.

Tseng has extensive experience representing and advising a broad array of corporate and individual clients in the resolution of their complex business and employment disputes. He is skilled in the development of cost-effective litigation strategies to attain favorable results for his clients, including law and motion practice, focused discovery and alternative dispute resolution. When trial is unavoidable, he aggressively advocates, and has a track record of securing favorable jury verdicts, on behalf of his clients.



FRED VASQUEZ
Partner
Wood, Smith, Henning & Berman

Partner at the Wood Smith Henning & Berman, LLP, Fred Vasquez has over ten years of experience at the firm and has been a vital member of both the Los Angeles and Ontario offices. In his legal practice, he specializes in the defense of developers and contractors in complex multi-party litigation involving residential properties as well as the litigation of catastrophic personal injuries. His cases range from disputes involving hundreds of properties to the defense of multi-million dollar claims for personal injuries. He handles all aspects of litigation including motion practice, depositions, mediation and trial.

Under Vasquez’s leadership, the diversity of the firm’s Ontario office has significantly increased, with 62.5% of attorneys identifying as Hispanic, 75% as minority attorneys and 75% as women attorneys.



NIMALKA WICKRAMASEKERA
Co-Chair, Intellectual Property Practice
Winston & Strawn LLP

A star IP litigator, Nimalka Wickramasekera leverages her nearly 20 years of trial and counseling practice and her experience as a biology researcher for two global healthcare powerhouses to help her clients prevail in high-tech and medical device matters.

Wickramasekera has significant stand-up courtroom experience, including having served as trial counsel—lead, co-lead, and second chair—in several patent and technology-related commercial disputes, one of which resulted in a US\$101 million verdict that was named one of the top verdicts in California in 2011. She has appeared in trials before district courts, the International Trade Commission and the Patent Trial and Appeal Board.

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BART H. WILLIAMS

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

Arenowned trial lawyer, Bart H. Williams is a strategic, diligent and persuasive litigator with a wealth of experience across commercial litigation, white collar criminal defense and internal corporate investigations. His legal prowess has made him the trusted trial counsel for numerous Fortune 500 companies in high-stakes, high-profile matters, and he is frequently called upon just months or even weeks before a trial to deliver a win. Williams boasts an impressive track record of victories in both jury and bench trials nationwide.

Williams has served as a counselor and trial lawyer in variety of industries, including sports, media and entertainment, financial services, consumer products, technology and telecommunications, pharmaceutical, and private equity.



JASON WILSON

Partner
Willenken LLP

Willenken partner Jason Wilson has more than three decades of litigation experience, including substantial trial and appellate experience. He has taken almost 20 civil matters to trial (both jury and bench) or binding arbitrations. His practice focuses on complex commercial business litigation, representing major companies across a range of industries in real estate, energy and utilities, environmental, intellectual property, class action, and complex business matters. His representative clients include AbbVie, Open AI, Southern California Gas Company, Hilton, McDonalds, Starbucks, Southern California Edison and Walgreens.

As a result of his unique blend of skills, Wilson is equally adept at telling a compelling story in front of a jury or unpacking a complex legal issue before an appellate panel.



DANIEL WU

Partner
Thompson Coburn LLP

Daniel Wu is a partner in Thompson Coburn LLP's Business Litigation practice, specializing in representing national and regional banks, financial institutions and business entities in complex commercial litigation. Over his 26-year career, Wu has developed deep expertise in high-profile fraud schemes, wire fraud, check forgeries, breach of contract and employee wrongdoing cases, consistently achieving favorable outcomes for his clients.

Wu crafts innovative strategies, secures favorable outcomes and navigates the complexities of high-stakes litigation. He defended financial institutions against organized crime schemes involving major check forgeries and played a critical role in unauthorized account opening cases for a significant financial institution.



DEBRA WONG YANG

Partner; Chair, Crisis Management
Practice Group
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Debra Wong Yang is renowned for the breadth of her legal practice, which encompasses white collar litigation, civil litigation and investigations. With an extensive background in both the public and private sector, Yang is the go-to advisor for tech and fintech entities, early-stage companies and traditional corporate businesses.

Given the depth of experience and record of success, Yang focuses part of her practice on strategic counseling and litigation. She leads critical representations, often high-profile and highly confidential, involving a variety of industries, economic sectors, regulatory bodies, law enforcement agencies, global jurisdictions and all types of proceedings. Her clients include UCLA and the UC Regents, Johnson & Johnson, MGM Resorts, and Archer Aviation.



STEPHANIE YONEKURA

Partner; Global Head, Investigations,
White Collar and Fraud
Hogan Lovells

Stephanie Yonekura is the global head of Hogan Lovells' Investigations, White Collar, and Fraud practice. She was previously acting US attorney in the US Attorney's Office for the Central District of California, the largest US Attorney's office outside Washington DC. Under her leadership, the office investigated the hacking of one of the world's largest entertainment companies.

Yonekura brings a unique perspective to any internal investigation. Having served as a federal prosecutor for over 14 years, she knows the hot-button issues that are considered in every stage of any government investigation. Additionally, she has successfully defended Fortune 500 companies in False Claims Act cases, federal bribery investigations and global money laundering investigations.

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