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10 YEARS

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Super Lawyers Magazine is published monthly or more; each issue is devoted and distributed to varying locations throughout the U.S. by Super Lawyers, 610 Opperman Drive, Eagan, MN 55123; Toll-free: 877-787-5290; feedback@superlawyers.com; superlawyers.com.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Super Lawyers Circulation Coordinator, 155 108th Ave NE, Suite 650, Bellevue, WA 98004; Email: circulation@superlawyers.com

ISSN 1941-3777

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

How do we choose which lawyers to feature?

For starters, we pick attorneys who've been selected to the current Super Lawyers list. Then we look at which firms and practice areas we've recently covered—we don't want to play favorites or ignore deserving but lesser-known candidates.

We aim for diversity in practice area, gender, law firm. Attorneys ranking near the top of the list are more likely to be included. And the story itself is crucial.

We're partial to lawyers who are breaking new legal ground or have a career's worth of notable accomplishments.

The one thing that isn't a factor? Advertising. As with the Super Lawyers list, editorial is never for sale.

In this issue, we hear from Cooley's Koji Fukumura, who offers four core principles for young lawyers, while Kathryn Karcher tells us what it was like to bike across the United States, and, more pertinently, what it's like to commute from Bainbridge Island, Washington. We also celebrate our 10-year anniversary.



We think this lineup adds to the notable attorneys, such as John H. Gomez and Virginia C. Nelson, that we've featured in the past.

Thank you for reading. We welcome your feedback.

CINDY LARSON

ADVISORY BOARD

The Super Lawyers Board of Advisors is composed of attorneys who embody excellence in practice. The board, which provides counsel, feedback and editorial ideas, includes lawyers from across the country and of varied firm sizes, who have consistently appeared at the top of the Super Lawyers lists.

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HAVE AN IDEA FOR AN EDITORIAL FEATURE?

Email it to Erik Lundegaard at erik.lundegaard@thomsonreuters.com

LAWYERS DID NOT PAY TO BE INCLUDED IN THE EDITORIAL FEATURES, DEPARTMENTS OR SUPER LAWYERS LISTS.

COVER AND TABLE OF CONTENTS PHOTOGRAPHY BY DUSTIN SNIPES (FUKUMURA)

THEN AND NOW A LOOK BACK AT A DECADE OF COVERS BY ANDREW BRANDT



2007
DAVID S. CASEY JR.

When we caught up with our inaugural cover subject, he was in Australia with the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, as a member of its board of directors. Casey is currently representing the family of Junior Seau, the recent NFL Hall of Fame inductee who suffered from chronic traumatic encephalopathy and tragically committed suicide in 2012. “We have opted out of the settlement with the NFL and are pursuing the NFL separately from any class action settlement,” Casey says. “The litigation has already had a huge impact on changing behavior on the football field in regard to concussions.”



2008
DENNIS A. SCHOVILLE

Since 2008, Schoville has been inducted into the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame, elected president and chief executive officer of Miramar National Cemetery Support Foundation and, last fall, he received an Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award from the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego. In 2014, Schoville won an \$11 million verdict against the state of California in a wrongful death case involving an automobile accident on Route 78.



2009
GERALD L. MCMAHON

In 2015, Gerald “Gerry” McMahon celebrated his 50th year of practicing law. “I’m happy to be able to say I’m still doing it. The older you get, the happier you are to say that,” says the business litigation attorney. “‘Still upright’ would be the best explanation I can give,” he adds with a laugh.



2010
CLAUDETTE G. WILSON

In the past six years, Wilson’s firm has increased by 50 percent. “We were 19 lawyers in 2010, and now we’re 28,” she says. “And we have taken out the rest of the floor and filled it. We’re sort of running out of space.” Wilson Turner Kosmo is evaluating opening offices in areas other than San Diego and San Francisco. “We now have clients that cover the whole state,” Wilson says.



2011
CHARLES M. SEVILLA

In addition to continuing his criminal defense work at his solo practice, the lawyer we dubbed “Mr. Fix-It” in 2011 released *Law and Disorder: Absurdly Funny Moments from the Courts*, his fifth book, in 2014. Compiled from over 30 years of court transcripts, the book shows Sevilla’s knack for being able to find humor in even the most dire of circumstances.



2012
JOHN H. GOMEZ

Gomez has continued to grow Gomez Trial Attorneys, which now boasts 18 lawyers. He recently obtained the first plaintiff’s verdict in the United States for the victim of a defective DePuy ASR hip—which in turn led to thousands of settlement cases—and he will soon try a national class action case involving homeopathic drugs. Of course, Gomez continues to add to his collection of tattoos. The most recent? A samurai warrior on horseback.



2013
**ANDREWS,
LAGASSE,
BRANCH
& BELL**

"We've opened a Los Angeles office, and we have it staffed," says Margaret C. Bell of Andrews, Lagasse, Branch & Bell. The firm now has 18 total attorneys in Spokane, San Diego and Los Angeles. "We're definitely still growing," she says, noting in particular their class action practice. "And we're a relatively new firm—about eight years old now."



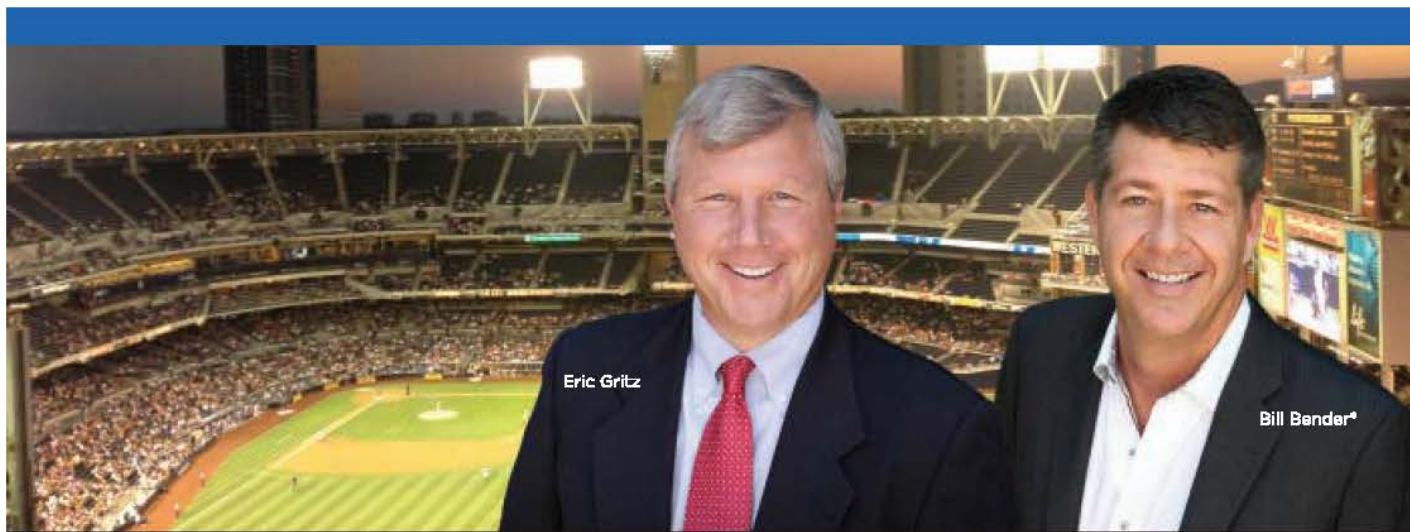
2014
**HEATHER L.
ROISING**

"I had the privilege in [2014–2015] to serve as vice president of the State Bar of California," says Rosing, whose firm has now expanded into Seattle. "That was a big privilege and honor for me. ... When I appeared on the cover I was, on a personal note, pregnant," adds Rosing, who has since given birth to twin girls.



2015
**KENNETH M.
FITZGERALD**

"I was pleased to prevail in a five-week jury trial recently in San Diego Superior Court, with the dispute involving the Pat & Oscar's restaurant chain and a group of former franchisees, whom we represented," says Fitzgerald. "On a personal note, I just got back from France, where I got married and played the trumpet at my own wedding."



Eric Gritz

Bill Bender*



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WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE LEGAL MOVIE? AS TOLD TO JESSICA TAM



Liar Liar.

I enjoy legal movies, and there are a lot of very good ones dating way back: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, for example, and recently *A Civil Action*. But the one I enjoyed the most is a comedy with Jim Carrey.

It's about a lawyer who has a spell cast on him where he cannot tell a lie. There are hilarious courtroom scenes where he wants to make an argument and he just can't do it. I laughed through the whole movie.

Strangely enough, out of all the great legal movies that have been shown over time, it's the comedy that really won out for me.

SANDRA J. BROWER / PARTNER, HIGGS FLETCHER & MACK; SAN DIEGO; REAL ESTATE: BUSINESS



Animal House.

Unfortunately, I do not have any particular favorite legal movie. But if I had to choose, I'd choose the "trial" scene in *Animal House*. It's an excellent—although facetious—example of the importance of speaking from the heart ... and it's pretty darn funny.

The *Animal House* "trial" scene contains so much: establishment versus motley, conformity versus unruliness, stiff versus relaxed, dull versus fun, order versus chaos, sham proceeding versus fairness. And it reminds me of my fraternity days.

STEVE VOSELLER / LAW OFFICE OF STEVEN C. VOSELLER; SAN DIEGO; PERSONAL INJURY - GENERAL: PLAINTIFF, PERSONAL INJURY - PRODUCTS: PLAINTIFF



My Cousin Vinny.

I generally hate legal movies—especially when they involve courtroom scenes. They are so grossly unrealistic it ruins it for me.

My favorite actually has a lot of courtroom scenes in it, [but it works] because *My Cousin Vinny* is like a farce. You're able to suspend disbelief and just laugh at this guy bumbling around in the courtroom, and the judge becoming more and more exasperated.

Another thing to take away from *My Cousin Vinny*: If you are enthusiastic and diligent and you really love being a lawyer, and you're proud of being a lawyer, that's 90 percent of success. In a weird way, it's an uplifting take on the profession. He's a terrible, schlocky lawyer but he's really proud and happy to be a lawyer. And of course he ends up winning because he works hard and his heart's in the right place. That's got to be good news for all of us.

DEAN T. KIRBY JR. / KIRBY & MCGUINN, A P.C.; SAN DIEGO; CREDITOR DEBTOR RIGHTS: BUSINESS

TROLL ROADS

STEPHEN KORNICZKY CONQUERED A PATENT TROLL—AND THEN MADE IT PAY BY ANDREW BRANDT

Growing up, Stephen Koriczky and his brother were close. They competed against one another in wrestling, and squared off in the semifinals of a national Judo competition in 1980. Paul, the elder brother, won.

"Our careers are very similar," Koriczky adds. "We both went to engineering school and then went to law school."

In 2012, the Koriczky brothers again found themselves in a battle, but this time in the courtroom and on the same side.

Stephen, an intellectual property attorney at Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton, was defending HTC Corporation, a mobile phone company, from a patent infringement suit brought by Intellect Wireless, which was represented by Niro, Haller & Niro. His brother served as local counsel in Chicago. "I think we were the fifth lawsuit to be filed," says Koriczky, adding that the earlier suits had all settled with Niro.

The patent in question was for a device that could wirelessly receive pictures and caller information. The purported inventor, Daniel Henderson, CEO of Intellect, filed declaration with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in 1993.

"He said in a declaration that he built a working prototype of the invention, and that it was on display at the Smithsonian Institute," Koriczky says. "This was in every complaint Intellect had filed, yet it looked to us like none of these other defendants had even looked at the prototypes."

Just three days after Henderson submitted his original declaration, he filed another with some changed specification.

"In litigation I could see filing two declarations, but with the patent office you have a duty of absolute candor," Koriczky says. "There should be no reason to file a second declaration."

So Koriczky had the Smithsonian send the prototypes to the four-day trial in 2012.

"What they delivered were a prototype that didn't work and two mockups, which were hollow boxes with his picture printed on top of it. He had a device that could transmit a signal, but it was akin to a garage door opener; it wasn't sending pictures or caller ID." The patents were rendered unenforceable by U.S. District Judge William Hart.

After Intellect lost its appeal in 2013, Koriczky's firm found out that the attorney who had written Henderson's patent applications was being investigated by the patent office. He was ultimately disbarred.

"Through the Freedom of Information Act, we sought the discovery of all the documents that his attorney had submitted to the patent office, and there was email correspondence where [Henderson] said his declaration is false," says Koriczky. "Later, we pursued discovery with the Niro firm. ... One of the documents was an email from [Henderson] to the lawyers that says, 'My invention doesn't work.'"

"Based upon that, they never should have brought the lawsuit."

Judge Hart ruled that Niro and his partners knew the patents were unenforceable before filing suit against HTC Wireless. In July 2015, they were ruled liable for \$4.1 million in attorney's fees and expenses.



With the case so weak, why did so many companies settle?

"Companies under attack want certainty," Koriczky says. "They want to focus on their business and are willing to spend money to obtain certainty that they will not be enjoined from manufacturing and selling their products. When a patent troll can keep the price of extortion close to what will be spent in litigation, a settlement can be an attractive business decision."

That's why he counsels early, case-by-case assessments and a long-term strategy for companies that are regular targets of patent trolls. "Hindsight is always 20/20 and different companies have different risk tolerances," he says. "But when I look at the Intellect Wireless case, it seems that a lot of the defendants rolled over too quickly without assessing the merits of the defenses that were available, and missed a major opportunity." □

The Two Sides

The securities lawyer is a mix of laid-back Hawaiian and Philly street fighter

BY JOE MULLICH
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DUSTIN SNIPES

"I WAS GETTING MY BUTT KICKED."

That's Koji Fukumura talking about his first deposition. It was 1994, he was fresh out of Temple Law School, and he was facing a trio of lawyers from prestigious firms in New York, Washington and Philadelphia in a big RICO case. One of those lawyers, who had a background with the Securities and Exchange Commission, kept interrupting him with "speaking objections," in which he basically provided the answer he wanted his client to give.

"This went on all day," Fukumura says. "I knew something was wrong, and kept objecting, but it was painful and embarrassing." That pain was matched by the pain in his back, which he had strained after lugging a trio of banker boxes from the train terminal to the deposition room.

The next day started the same way. The same attorney began with another speaking objection, and Fukumura waited through the oratory before calmly asking, "Are you done?" Then he pulled out a judicial opinion, *Hall v. Clifton Preston*, about the conduct of depositions that decry such speaking objections, which he'd remembered reading about and had pulled up the previous evening on the computer in the business center of his hotel. Magic bullet? No. The other attorney's bad behavior stopped only when Fukumura picked up the phone and started dialing the magistrate judge.



of Koji Fukumura



KOJI F. FUKUMURA

- PARTNER, COOLEY LLP
- SECURITIES LITIGATION;
BUSINESS LITIGATION
- SAN DIEGO SUPER LAWYERS:
2007-2016; TOP 50: 2009-2012,
2015-2016; TOP 10: 2016



For large periods of his life, Fukumura surfed five days a week. He still surfs occasionally, particularly when he returns to Hawaii for family visits. Here he celebrates passing the bar in 1993 at G-Land, a renowned surfing beach in East Java, Indonesia.

Ultimately, the case settled to the benefit of Fukumura's client.

Fukumura, now a partner at Cooley LLP, who has defended approximately 40 M&A class actions and in excess of 50 securities class actions and derivative suits, typically speaks of his adversaries with great respect, and this case is no different. "I was in awe of these people. My opponents are great lawyers and they're also great teachers—I think of myself as a sponge that takes everyone in and uses what works. It was such great training to get my butt kicked but then to also have a plan to stop this disaster from going on."

The story demonstrates a lot about Fukumura. "He's a good balance between a laid-back Hawaiian and a street fighter from Philadelphia," says Brian Robbins, co-founder and the managing partner of Robbins Arroyo, who has faced off against Fukumura in complex security litigation cases. "And he always shows good judgment on how to balance those two sides."

HE WAS BORN IN JAPAN, raised in Hawaii, and describes himself as an "Oahu boy at heart," who, for large swaths of his life, surfed five days a week. Just as the sport is the ultimate exercise in balance, the Hawaiian culture was countered by Fukumura's intense father, a Japanese-born physician.

"My father was a super achiever who made me spend at least one day every weekend doing chores at home,"

Fukumura says. "He was pushing me. ... And he was inspiring to me."

From an early age, Fukumura seemed destined to follow in his father's footsteps. He earned a degree in molecular, cellular and developmental biology from the University of Colorado Boulder in 1989, then spent a year as a medical researcher.

It wasn't meant to be. "At this time, there was something bordering hysteria about managed care," Fukumura remembers. "Practically everyone I talked to was negative about what this transition would mean to doctors—that they'd have to work twice as long while providing less care. ... I also came to the opinion that my feisty nature was better suited to being a trial lawyer."

After law school, Fukumura was hired by Bochetto & Lentz, a small Philadelphia law firm that handled both criminal and civil cases, which lured him in part by telling him he'd take 30 depositions in his first year. He exceeded that number. He was given DUI cases, aggravated assaults and an attempted murder, but mostly he did commercial work, including large SEC enforcement action and RICO cases. "That's what really formed the foundation of my [current] practice," he says.

On the face of it, Fukumura's first big securities case, the one with the speaking objections, was a loser. The bank charged that his client had borrowed half a million dollars and never paid it back. "There aren't many defenses to that," he says, but he remained undaunted and taught himself federal securities law. After hours,

he read the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 beginning to end; and it was there that he came across a section that made an interesting point: any contract whose purpose is to violate federal securities law is voidable.

Since it was alleged that Fukumura's client was using the money the bank loaned him to make illegal trades, Fukumura filed a motion contending the bank knew it was lending money that might allegedly violate federal securities law; and this, he argued, voided the contract.

It was an original defense. "There wasn't a single case found in any court talking about this statute in this way," he says.

And it worked. When the judge denied the bank's request for summary judgment, the bank agreed to settle for less than the loan principal, as well as to waive the substantial interest that was due—a clear victory for his client.

This experience helped forge two parts of the basic foundation Fukumura operates under as a lawyer, and which he constantly preaches to young associates.

First, every lawyer is responsible for his or her own development.

"Most lawyers get a case and research all the related cases, looking at the problem as a self-contained world," he says. "I tell young lawyers if I hand them a case: They can take that approach, or they can learn about that [larger] area of law on their own—gaining a bigger understanding of security or corporate governance to get the big picture."

And this leads to Fukumura's second core principle: "You can't just look where everyone else is looking," he says. "You need to think outside the box, and to do that you need to be rounded in your knowledge."

As co-chair of the securities litigation practice group at Cooley, which he joined in 2002, Fukumura has helped build the department into one of the strongest in the country. According to Monitor Suite, Cooley is one of two firms most often retained by companies in securities litigation over the past two years. His life is a whirlwind of plane flights across the country.

In one case, Fukumura is representing Peregrine Pharmaceuticals, which is developing therapeutics to stimulate the body's immune system to fight cancer, against a shareholder suit.

"He was always in control of the situation," says Mark Ziebell, general counsel for Peregrine. "I don't want to be guessing what's going on or constantly having to check with my lawyer to know what's going on, because I have a board of directors looking to me to tell them what's going on."

That brings up another of Fukumura's core principles: There are no small matters.

One of his cases underlines that concept in the negative. Fukumura represented a company against a former executive who, upon leaving, hadn't exercised his stock options in the proscribed period. He said he had relied upon advice from a company representative that he alleged to be incorrect. Fukumura filed a strong motion for summary judgment, but the judge denied the motion because of a seemingly insignificant error: a rule at the time required the separate statement to be underlined, and it was not.

"It wasn't fair, but it's like a boxing match," Fukumura says. "If you don't knock someone out and leave it to the judges, unfair decisions happen all the time."

FUKUMURA, WHO WILL CHAIR THE litigation section of the American Bar Association beginning in August 2017, remembers a case he handled early in his career. It involved three doctors dissolving their medical practice. The arbitration went on for months, two to three days per week. "In a deposition in that case, when there was about 10 lawyers in the room, many

of whom were bickering, a lawyer I didn't know walked into the room and everyone sat up straight and behaved," Fukumura says. "I wondered: What kind of person do you have to be to walk into a room and other lawyers behave because they don't want to disappoint you?"

He adds, "There are times in your career when you meet certain people that have an effect on others. Because of their reputation, because of their command of a situation, they can just take control of a situation. My old mentor Chuck Dick, my partners Steve Neal and Mike Rhodes and Mike Attanasio, are those kinds of guys. They have that gravitas. And certainly I aspire to have that, too."

Some colleagues feel he has succeeded.

"He doesn't become distracted and doesn't lose his cool," Robbins says. "Some attorneys will be adversarial from beginning to end and try to crush their opponent. ... He'll be firm in his position, but honest and straightforward in his dealings."

Fukumura still surfs occasionally, mostly when he returns to Hawaii for an annual visit. He and his wife have three kids and none have expressed an interest in following in his footsteps until recently. "In the nick of time," he writes, "my youngest, 9, told me yesterday that he wants to be a lawyer because he wants to be a person people call when they're in trouble. Completely unprompted statement on the way home from basketball practice."

While Fukumura never followed his own father's footsteps into medicine, he does find himself working with life sciences companies who are seeking compounds or therapies to combat diseases. "My clients are the most respected scientists and medical professionals in the world," he says. "Most of the time, a clinical trial fails or drugs are not approved, but 100 percent of the time investors know that risk when they bought a stock. And 98 percent of the time, my client hasn't done anything wrong.

"I am a shield for my client." ☑



Fukumura in the early '80s jumping off high cliffs in Hawaii, with childhood friends Bruce and Mark Ellashof. "I'm an Oahu boy at heart," he says.

Koji Fukumura's CORE PRINCIPLES FOR YOUNG LAWYERS

1. Every lawyer is responsible for his/her own development.
2. You can't just look where everyone else is looking.
3. There are no small matters; every matter is important to that particular client.
4. Be aggressive, not arrogant.

500 Hours of Prep for a 30-Minute Argument

If Kathryn Karcher lives in Washington state, why is she president of the California Academy of Appellate Lawyers?

INTERVIEW BY ERIK LUNDEGAARD

Q: After you graduated from law school, you biked across the country. Was this a reward for getting through school?

A: Everybody that I knew took some sort of major vacation or trip after law school. My thought process was that I could go to Europe for two weeks any time, but I can't go on a cross-country bicycle trip any time, and I might not have a gap like that again in my life.

Q: Did you go alone?

A: I had a boyfriend at the time but he'd never ridden a bike. He just said, "Hey, I could come with you." I said, "OK, fine." So, he went and bought a bike and started to get in shape.

Q: How did you get in shape?

A: I knew I could ride significant distances. The summer after my first year of law school, I didn't have the grades that could get into a law firm as a first-year. So I went to my dad and said, "Dad, I'm happy to get

a job in a retail store, a movie theater or whatever." He said, "You'll have the rest of your life to take care of yourself. Let me take care of you over the summer. Just do what you want." So six mornings a week, I woke up, drank a bunch of coffee, read the *Los Angeles Times*, and got on my bike and rode anywhere for about 90 to 120 miles.

Q: What kind of bike?

A: It's a brand that nobody has anymore: an SR. I still have that bike. It was a \$450 bike when I was in college. Awesome bike.

Q: What was memorable about the trip?

A: Nothing all that earth-shaking. Instead of packing big panniers and camping, we packed very little and stayed in whatever cheap hotel we found. It averaged about \$20 a night, which was not any more expensive than our rent. I really liked being able to take a shower and put on decent clothes and go out to dinner, which is what we did every single night.





KATHRYN E. KARCHER

- FOUNDER, KARCHER HARMES
- APPELLATE
- SAN DIEGO SUPER LAWYERS:
2007-2010; TOP 25 WOMEN:
2008, 2010-2016; TOP 50:
2013, 2015



After graduating from law school in the late 1980s, Karcher celebrated by biking across the country with her then-boyfriend. They survived the heat, the Rocky Mountains, a nasty truck driver that tried to run them off the road, and a plague of Montana grasshoppers.

Riding that far on a bike, you realize that you see stuff in a completely different way than in a car. You see lizards on the side of the road. Deer run in front of you. On our toughest days, it was really hot. We would get up super early and be on the road from the moment you could see because you were simply dying by 11 a.m. But the even tougher days for me were when we were climbing the Rocky Mountains. It was so steep and so hard that I sat down on the side of the road and cried. But then you just get up and keep going.

We crossed into Canada through Sault Ste. Marie and then rode in Canada until we dropped back down into the U.S. on the East Coast.

Q: How did you come up with that route?

A: We wanted to see something in Canada. What you did then is you walked into your AAA office and they created something called a TripTik for you. They had maps in every part of the United States and they would pull the maps that covered your entire trip and get a heavy marker and say, "Here's your route." That's how we navigated.

There were times when we rode on interstate freeways, which sounds kind of scary, but when you're on them, there's a huge shoulder. I do remember—I think it was in Montana—we rode through an area that was infested with grasshoppers. There were something like a thousand grasshoppers per square yard. They horrified me. Of course, a grasshopper got into the slot of my helmet

and I had this grasshopper trying to get toward my head because it couldn't go back out. That was pretty bad.

Q: What about the people you met?

A: They were all nice except for a truck that tried to run us off a state highway. It was so unlike the behavior of every other single person that we encountered. Everybody wanted to be helpful.

Q: Some people are bicoastal but you're uni-coastal—just different parts of it. You work in San Diego and in Bainbridge Island, Washington. How did that come about?

A: When I met my husband, I was working in San Diego and he was the managing partner of the Seattle office of DLA Piper Gray Cary. Both of us had recently gotten divorced. We met and fell completely head over heels in love. I knew I had a shot at being able to move my children here, and working here, and he couldn't [move]. So that's what I did.

Q: You opened your own practice.

A: Yes. It was a fearful time. "Will the phone ring?" You don't know if it will.

Q: When did this happen?

A: I started my own practice on January 1, 2008.

Q: What steps are involved in hanging a shingle?

A: I did all the housekeeping things you do: get malpractice insurance, change your address and phone number on the Bar website. I live in a huge house. It's three stories and over 6,000 square feet, and my office has always been on the top floor. Then I arranged for an office in San Diego. Clearly the challenge for me was keeping up the San Diego presence even though I don't live there.

Q: How often are you in San Diego?

A: Once or twice a month. For the first several years, I was hardly going but I was still getting work, so everything was fine. But I started worrying. People don't see you, they may forget. So a couple of years ago I got involved in the Appellate Practice Section of the San Diego County Bar Association. I had chaired it back in, I think, 2000. But I landed [back] there and said, "Hey, I'm happy to do whatever job you need done." And I was immediately on track to chair the committee again, which I will be doing this year.

Q: How would you differentiate the skills necessary for being a trial attorney versus being an appellate lawyer?

A: A lot of people think they want to do appellate law because they think of it as glamorous, but they have to be willing to personally read the record and that can be incredibly tedious: days and days and days of long blocks of tedious. That separates one type of lawyer from another.

There are just fewer things that are out of your control in appellate law. You write your briefs, they write their briefs, you go argue. The world is pretty defined. It's not like you go to trial and an impeachment witness shows up that you've never heard of and blows your case out of the water. The process of discovery and developing the factual record is very different than reading it once it's been developed.

Appellate lawyers tend to be analytical, highly creative. You must also be a great writer. When you're an appellate lawyer, each brief needs to be a premium piece of work.

Q: You grew up abroad, right? In India and Pakistan?

A: Right. We moved back to the States when I was kindergarten age.

Q: You learned Urdu. Shouldn't you be in the State Department or something?

A: I know. The problem is nobody spoke Urdu to me after we came back, so I lost it. I was completely fluent when we were there. I kept speaking it for a couple years after coming back. But then it died, unfortunately.

Q: Why were you born abroad?

A: Well, my dad was born in Canton, China, along with his two brothers. They were there until he was about 11. Then the country came crashing down around them with the civil war between Chiang Kai-shek and Mao Zedong. They escaped right before the fall. My dad was actually on a boat that passed near Pearl Harbor within two hours of when it was bombed.

Q: On December 7, 1941?

A: Yes. I mean, scary close. The captain announced to them, once they were safely past, what had just happened. Nobody on the boat knew that.

Q: Why was your father born in Canton?

A: His father was a doctor—what they called a medical missionary—for the Presbyterian church, which meant the church sent him and other healthcare workers over to simply take care of people who were there. So my dad's goal, when he went to medical school, was that he was going to be a medical missionary, too. That's how he, and we, ended up in Pakistan and India. He worked

in hospitals and clinics where people would walk for days to get medical care. He said what he remembered most was that women's tongues had been cut out—because of some violation of how they were supposed to behave—and they were coming to him for help.

Q: You're from a family of doctors, so why the law for you?

A: I was never a math-science type. Honestly, I grew up idolizing my dad. Because of that I thought I needed to be like him. I wanted to have what he had—and by that I mean financial security and a profession that people look up to. I knew it wasn't going to be medicine. I'm a psychology major and I got into one of the top programs in clinical psychology in the country, and I went and started that program, but really quickly I thought "I'm out of here" and I left. So I'm kind of sitting there going, "OK, what do I do?" and I just thought, "How about law school?"

Q: Did you have a mentor?

A: Marcie Mihaila. She and Charles A. Bird at Luce Forward really established the appellate practice in San Diego, and they did this in the two biggest firms in San Diego. By the time I came along, she'd established a great culture at Gray Cary. People really understood that if you had an appeal, you needed an appellate lawyer.

Marcie and I were already friends; then the associate that helped her with appeals left and she asked me if I wanted to do them. We were kind of seamless. She could write one section of her brief, I could write another, and you couldn't tell the difference. Our lives were pretty enmeshed. We would typically talk half an hour a day in each other's offices. She would wear pink leather pants with zippers at the side to work—not an everyday thing in a law firm. My husband used to call those her "drive-in-movie pants."

She was amazing and loyal. When most of our practice was in the intermediate courts of appeal, a California Supreme Court case came along. There were two issues that the court was reviewing and we each briefed one issue. Then the court dismissed review of her issue. Since it was her case and her client, I said, "Of course

you're going to do the argument in the Supreme Court." She said, "I wouldn't do that to you. The client gets to decide, but I'll talk to the client and tell them that I have absolutely no hesitation in saying you should argue this case in the Supreme Court." And I did argue the case. Not a lot of people are necessarily like that.

Q: Did she give you any advice that you remember?

A: She was giving me advice all the time. She gave me advice about my life, too, especially when I started to get divorced. She always was restless and moved up to Seattle and started working out of our Seattle office. She met my husband there and told me what a great guy he was.

In October of '04, she was diagnosed with cancer. She was 49 when she died. Marcie was just a treasure.

Q: You're a member of different legal organizations. Which have been particularly helpful?

A: Currently, I'm the president of the California Academy of Appellate Lawyers. I was kind of stunned when I was elected. It's a huge honor. These are the top people in the state of California. They have huge brains. There are probably more nerds in our specialty than in most.

Q: Would you say that appellate lawyers tend to be introverts while trial lawyers are more extroverted?

A: I think so. Because they have to be OK with spending very long spans of time in their offices doing legal research and writing briefs and reading records. So their practice keeps them at their desk. If you're a trial lawyer, you have an ex parte hearing. You're doing a deposition. You're sending a deposition. A trial lawyer might have a month-long trial. An appellate lawyer has a 15- to 30-minute argument. That's it for the whole case that they've spent maybe 500 hours on. A 30-minute argument. ☐

This interview has been edited and condensed.

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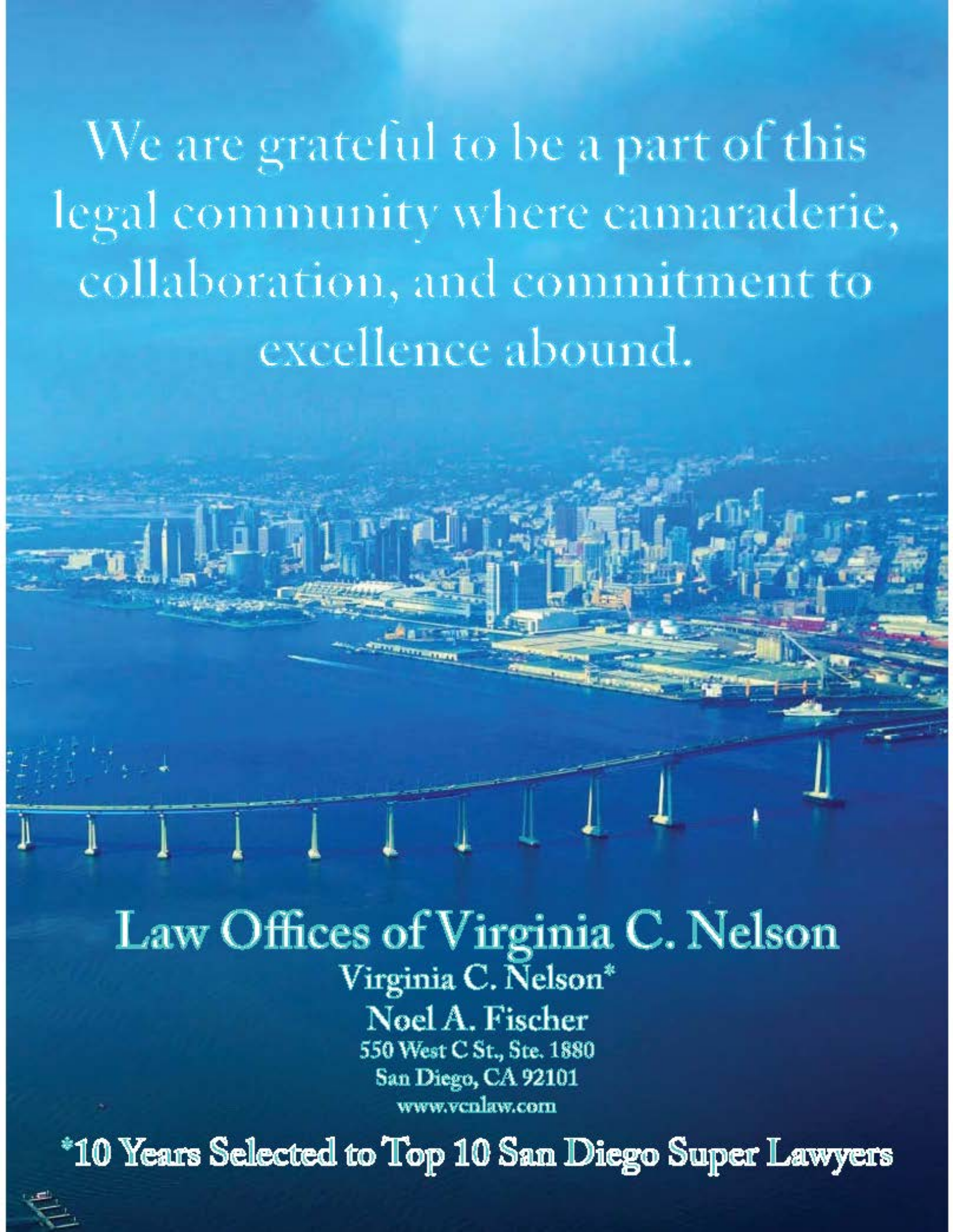
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Bahan, Wendy M., Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield, San Diego

Berger, Harvey C., Pope Berger Williams & Reynolds, San Diego

Barnstein, Matthew, Perkins Cole, San Diego

Bird, Charles A., Dentons, San Diego

Breakey, Janette R., Fish & Richardson, San Diego

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Casby, Jr., David S., Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield, San Diego

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Fitzgerald, Kenneth M., Fitzgerald Knauer, San Diego

Felousare, Kaji F., Cooley, San Diego

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Kosmo, Jr., Frederick W., Wilson Turner Kosmo, San Diego

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Tyrrell, Paul A., Procopio Cory Hargreaves & Savitch, San Diego

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congratulates founding partner Marc Schechter for being included on this year's San Diego Super Lawyers list and Corey Schechter on being selected to the San Diego Rising Stars list.

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Law Offices of Martin N. Buchanan, San Diego

FUKUMURA, KOJI F.
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GOMEZ, JOHN H.
• Ranked Number One •
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GREBBING, CHARLES R.
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PETTIT, DOUGLAS A.
Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz, San Diego

ROSING, HEATHER L.
Klinedinst, San Diego

SAN DIEGO THE TOP 25 WOMEN

An alphabetical listing of the women lawyers who ranked top of the list in the 2016 San Diego Super Lawyers nomination, research and blue ribbon review process

Behan, Wendy M., Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield, San Diego

Blatt, Gayle M., Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield, San Diego

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Ask Super Lawyers

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Nursing Home Litigation: What are the dangers of nursing home falls?

One of the most common dangers the elderly encounter in nursing home settings is the potential for falls. While a fall for a younger person may not result in life-threatening injuries and illness, for those over 65 (defined as "elders" under California state law) a fall in a nursing home often has grave consequences. In fact, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Accidents are the fifth leading cause of death for elders
- Of those who fall and break a hip while residing in a nursing home, up to 70% will die within one year from complications stemming from the fall
- A nursing home with 100 beds will typically have between 100-200 falls each year
- About 1,800 older adults living in nursing homes die each year from fall-related injuries

In addition to the physical and often devastating psychological effects to the individual, the economic impact is also enormous. Some studies predict the total cost of fall injuries to top \$60 billion by 2020. By all accounts, it would

seem a nursing home should be motivated to limit the number of falls that occur at its facility. Nevertheless, there continue to be a number of common themes that plague many nursing homes, particularly those that become too fixated on increasing profits:

- Understaffing in the nursing home
- Overmedication or improper use of psychotropic drugs
- Insufficient assessment of the elderly patient upon admittance
- Insufficient or improper training in regards to transferring elderly residents
- Lack of adequate fall-prevention strategies
- Insufficient training to respond to falls and/or to determine fall-risk factor
- Improper functioning or lack of alarms to alert staff
- Failure to maintain dry, clean floors, which are free from obstacles
- Failure to provide wheelchairs, walkers, tripods, proper restraints
- Failure to respond to call buttons

Even under the best of circumstances, with all of the proper techniques and preventative devices in place, falls are bound to occur resulting in serious injuries or even death to the elderly patients who reside in nursing homes. Often they are found on the floor and forget they have fallen or don't remember why their head or side hurts. Family members and visitors need to be vigilant in watching for signs of falls or signs of danger in the facility. Any concerns should always be expressed to the nursing home Administrator and/or Director of Nursing. If the concerns persist, family members should contact an ombudsman and/or file a complaint with the California Department of Public Health.

Christopher C. Walton is the principal and founder of Walton Law, APC, where he exclusively represents victims of nursing home neglect and personal injury. For more information, please visit the firm's website at waltonlawapc.com.



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Kenneth M. Sigelman is a trial lawyer-physician with 32 years of experience. He is the founder of Kenneth M. Sigelman & Associates, which represents plaintiffs in childbirth injury, catastrophic medical malpractice, elder abuse and severe personal injury cases. Dr. Sigelman has served as president of the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego (CASD) and of the San Diego Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). He has been honored as CASD's "Outstanding Trial Lawyer of the Year" and has obtained several record-setting results for his clients. Dr. Sigelman graduated from Dartmouth College, cum laude; the University of Florida College of Law, with honors; and the University of Miami School of Medicine.

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David D. Miller is a board-certified civil trial specialist through the National Board of Trial Advocacy, which is accredited by the State Bar of California. In addition, since 2008, he has been awarded a rating of AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, which is the highest possible rating in legal ability and ethical standards. Finally, in 2015, he became a lifetime charter member of Rueatings' Best Attorneys of America. An attorney can only become a member by invitation or nomination; each state is limited to 100 lifetime charter members; and less than 1 percent of the lawyers in America have been invited.

Miller has more than 39 years of experience, primarily representing plaintiffs in the areas of civil litigation and medical malpractice. He is a graduate of the University of San Diego School of Law and has been on the faculty of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy since 1989.

Miller spent 27 years in the United States Marine Corps Reserve, attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel. He served on active duty from 1968 to 1972, serving in the Republic of Vietnam in 1969.

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Over the course of his 25-year legal career, Joel Bryant—founding partner of Green Bryant & French LLP—has established a niche in elder neglect and abuse litigation, earning a reputation as an aggressive and compassionate advocate for his clients. Bryant is known as one of San Diego's top litigation attorneys handling nursing home neglect, personal injury, financial elder abuse and will and trust fraud cases. "Elder abuse law offers a rare opportunity to protect vulnerable elders from being harmed physically, financially and emotionally," says Bryant. "Our breadth of experience in elder law litigation translates into excellent results for our clients."

Bryant was president of the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego in 2011, and served on its board of directors for 11 years. He is currently on the Consumer Attorneys of California's board of governors and has received its Presidential Award of Merit. He has also received CASD's prestigious Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award, among several other Presidents' Awards. Bryant is a member of the San Diego Bar Association and served on its judicial election evaluation committee and court funding action committee. Bryant is rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, the organization's highest legal rating for ethical standards and legal ability, and has been selected to San Diego Super Lawyers in 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2016, and to Southern California Super Lawyers in 2014.

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BANKING REAL ESTATE BUSINESS/CORPORATE

Emphasizing real estate and business transactions, real estate financing, and loan recovery in his practice, attorney Gordon L. Gerson leads a team of eleven lawyers at Gerson Law Firm APC, with a nationwide practice representing large financial institutions, life insurance companies, and private lenders in its commercial real estate financing practice in making loans secured by commercial and multifamily real estate. He also represents lenders in foreclosures, receiverships, bankruptcies, and other collection actions. Mr. Gerson received his law degree from the University of San Diego School of Law in 1976. He frequently lectures and is a published author on subjects pertaining to real estate and business law. His firm, Gerson Law Firm APC has a national practice and is located in San Diego, California.

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BUSINESS LITIGATION CIVIL LITIGATION; DEFENSE INSURANCE COVERAGE

James F. Holtz's practice is focused on complex business litigation in California and Nevada. His client base includes Fortune 500 companies that distinguished Stutz Artiano as a 2013 Go-To Law Firm of the Top 500 Companies. Mr. Holtz also represents local businesses and individuals. He has successfully litigated business contracts, disputes, real estate, environmental liability, trademark and copyright infringement, product liability, personal injury, medical and pharmacist malpractice, class actions, and complex construction litigation. He has tried wrongful death and catastrophic injury cases. He has practiced in the area of insurance litigation for more than 25 years. He is admitted to practice in California and Nevada and the federal courts. Mr. Holtz teaches at California Western School of Law.

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CLASS ACTION/MASS TORTS CIVIL LITIGATION; PLAINTIFF PERSONAL INJURY GENERAL; PLAINTIFF

E. Elliot Adler has recovered millions of dollars in plaintiffs' settlements, while at the same time defended corporations and individuals in high-stakes litigation. He is one of California's most active attorneys in civil litigation, class actions, and mass torts. Mr. Adler began his legal career at the law firm of Stoddard, Arps, Slate, Mesinger & Flom LLP. He then went on to start his own law firm. The firm experienced rapid growth and has since gone on to resolve thousands of claims for its clients and class members. Mr. Adler is a California State Bar designated Special Master. In April 2013, he was appointed a Temporary Judge for the San Diego Superior Court (Central Division).

BANKING THROUGH CLASS ACTION/MASS TORTS

CLASS ACTION/MASS TORTS THROUGH IMMIGRATION

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**CLASS ACTION/MASS TORTS**
PERSONAL INJURY GENERAL: PLAINTIFF
BUSINESS LITIGATION

James P. Frantz and the attorneys at Frantz Law Group have significant experience litigating claims involving catastrophic injury, wrongful death, product liability, mass tort, consumer class actions, and business disputes. Mr. Frantz testified as a product liability expert before Congress as a result of an \$18 million verdict he received (with co-counsel) against a drug manufacturer. Other notable recoveries include \$229 million (jury verdict); \$55 million (jury verdict); \$17.5 million (settlement during trial); and \$9 million for injuries from a fire. Recognitions include: The Best Lawyers in America, 2010-2015; San Diego Super Lawyers 2010-2015; and Frantz Law Group has been ranked Tier 1 by U.S. News/Best Lawyers' Best Law Firms, 2010-2015. Verdicts above were appealed and resolved for confidential amounts.

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**FAMILY LAW**
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Michele Sacks Lowenstein is a Certified Family Law Specialist (CFLS) and an A-rated attorney (the highest such rating available to an individual lawyer). She is recognized as a Top Attorney in San Diego County by San Diego Magazine and the San Diego Daily Transcript, a Top Lawyer in San Diego by San Diego Magazine, and in Super Lawyers consecutively since her first designation in 2007. Mrs. Lowenstein has served three terms as Chairperson of the Family Law Section for the San Diego County Bar Association. She is the founder of Lowenstein Brown, A.P.C., and a trained divorce mediator.

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**FAMILY LAW**

Renkin & Associates provides professional, experienced, aggressive representation to high-asset individuals in all areas of family law. Renkin & Associates is committed to finding the most workable solutions through negotiation and mediation; however, when necessary, they are prepared to litigate and aggressively represent clients in trial. Richard Renkin's expertise in family law is demonstrated by his selection as one of the Top Ten Family Law Attorneys by the San Diego Daily Transcript. Richard is a legal specialist in family law, certified by the State of California. He contributes to the legal community as a member of the board for the San Diego Family Law Bar and by serving as a volunteer settlement judge for the San Diego County family courts.

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**CRIMINAL DEFENSE**
CRIMINAL DEFENSE: DUI/DWI
PERSONAL INJURY GENERAL: PLAINTIFF

Anna R. Yum is a former prosecutor whose practice is focused on criminal defense and personal injury in state and federal courts. She is a trial attorney who is also regularly called upon by the media to provide legal commentary for national networks like Fox News, HLN, and many more. She graduated from Northwestern University with a double major in communications and international studies before earning a J.D. from the University of San Diego School of Law. While at law school, Ms. Yum served as a judicial extern for the Honorable Robert M. Talapuz in the United States District Court Central District of California. Ms. Yum is licensed to practice law in California and Illinois.

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**FAMILY LAW**

From Super Lawyers to Top Attorneys, Erik Moore's dedication and passion for family law is recognized year after year. For almost two decades, the Certified Family Law Specialist has been guiding people through the divorce process. His experience serving as a Family Settlement Conference Judge for twelve years gives Moore a unique perspective and insight for helping clients through their divorce. He served as court-appointed contempt counsel and court-appointed counsel under the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act. Mr. Moore has also served on the Family Law Advisory Committee on behalf of the California State Bar Board of Specialization. His experience and skills make him a sought-after speaker for Certified Family Law Specialist seminars.

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**FAMILY LAW**

Since 2009, family law veteran David Schulman has been honored in San Diego Super Lawyers. His peers recognize the Certified Family Law Specialist with nominations to San Diego's Top Attorneys in 2009 and 2012. Additionally, he recently received the prestigious Family Court Judiciary's Norby Award. For the past two decades Mr. Schulman has worked in every aspect of family law to help his clients with their needs throughout their lives, from crafting prenuptial agreements to developing custody and visitation plans. He has a passion for helping children and is frequently appointed as minor's counsel to represent the often controversial children's interest in bitter divorce cases. Mr. Schulman has served on the State Bar's Family Law Commission for the past three years.

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**EMPLOYMENT LITIGATION: PLAINTIFF**
PERSONAL INJURY GENERAL: PLAINTIFF

Josh Gruenberg prepares every case for the courtroom, investing extensive time and resources on depositions, investigations, and evidence gathering. Gruenberg handles employment matters, such as sexual harassment, retaliation, discrimination, and wage theft cases, and serious injury cases. Gruenberg has twice been awarded the Consumer Attorneys of California's President's Award and also received the Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award from the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego. He has served on the boards of the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego and Consumer Attorneys of California and is also a member of the San Diego County Bar Association, AAL, NELA, and CELA. Gruenberg is an instructor in the San Diego Inn of Court. Gruenberg's other passions include ultra racing.

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**FAMILY LAW**

Family law veteran Peggy Moore has made the Super Lawyers list for the seventh consecutive year. Moore is a founding member of Moore, Schulman & Moore, APC, with over 30 years of experience practicing family law. Her career is marked with accolades, from being nominated as one of the top 25 women attorneys in San Diego to being named as one of San Diego's Top Attorneys by The Daily Transcript. Ms. Moore is a Certified Family Law Specialist. She has served as a Family Law Settlement Conference Judge in San Diego since 1995. In addition, she has served as court-appointed minor's counsel. She holds extensive knowledge in family law issues regarding child custody and support, domestic violence, divorce, marital agreements, and separation agreements.

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**IMMIGRATION**

Robert G. Nadalin is certified by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization as a Specialist in the field of Immigration and Nationality Law. He received his J.D. from South Texas College of Law in 1998 and his B.A. in Japanese from Ohio State University in 1993. Mr. Nadalin previously served as the AILA San Diego Chapter President, as a National Board of Governors member, and as a National Committee Member of the AILA USCIS California Service Center Liaison Committee. Mr. Nadalin presently serves as a Director of the Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana. He is a member of the State Bars of California and Texas. Mr. Nadalin is fluent in the Japanese language.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY THROUGH SECURITIES LITIGATION

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Paul Supnik practices trademark, copyright, and entertainment law. He advises businesses in the selection and use of brand identities, protects trademarks through registration strategies, enhances value through licensing, and litigates trademark and copyright disputes. Paul has spoken on these subjects in the U.S. and internationally. Industries represented include: Internet, apparel, cosmetic, restaurant, advertising, sporting goods, software, financial, arts, and media. As a bar association leader, Paul has served as president of the Los Angeles Copyright Society, chair of both the Entertainment and IP Law and International Law Sections of the Los Angeles County Bar, and chair of the *Los Angeles Lawyer* magazine editorial board.

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**PERSONAL INJURY MEDICAL MALPRACTICE: PLAINTIFF**
PERSONAL INJURY GENERAL: PLAINTIFF
CIVIL RIGHTS

Mr. Nield has handled hundreds of medical malpractice and personal injury cases over the course of his almost 30-year legal career, many of which were resolved through successful verdicts after jury trials. He has acted as lead trial counsel on numerous medical and personal injury cases. Mr. Nield has also served as a mediator and arbitrator for the San Diego and Riverside County Superior Courts. He has represented health care professionals and other defendants, having practiced as a medical malpractice and personal injury defense attorney for many years. This experience has provided Mr. Nield with a unique insight into the cases he handles, being able to anticipate a defendant's position as to the various issues that may arise through the course of litigation.

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**SECURITIES LITIGATION**
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CLASS ACTION/MASS TORTS

Eric J. Benink represents consumers, businesses, and shareholders in securities, consumer fraud, and business litigation actions in state and federal court. He began his legal career in the Enforcement Division of the Department of Corporations, California's securities, commodities, franchise, and finance and mortgage lender regulator, where he investigated and prosecuted cases involving illegal stock offerings, private placement frauds, illicit brokerage practices, and Ponzi schemes. He has been appointed as a receiver by the San Diego Superior Court in securities fraud cases. Mr. Benink also prosecutes Proposition 218 cases against local governments on behalf of utility rate payers.

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**PERSONAL INJURY GENERAL: PLAINTIFF**
PERSONAL INJURY PRODUCTS: PLAINTIFF
PERSONAL INJURY MEDICAL MALPRACTICE: PLAINTIFF

Steve follows a simple but effective formula when representing individuals and families in personal injury cases: hard work, thorough preparation, and genuine care for his client. Most of his clients are referred by attorneys. Steve's highest honor has come from opposing lawyers who later asked Steve to represent their family members or close friends. Other honors include Outstanding Trial Lawyer Awards from the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego in 2012 and 2013 for trial victories. At the conclusion of each case, Steve donates a portion of his attorney's fees to a charitable organization chosen by his client.

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**PERSONAL INJURY PRODUCTS: PLAINTIFF**
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Bill Turley is California's leading wage-and-hour class action lawyer. He represents more truck and delivery drivers than any other lawyer in California and recently spoke in front of the California State Senate on driver wage issues. He represents over 100,000 California workers in wage-and-hour class actions. He was plaintiff's counsel in *Brinker v. Superior Court*, a landmark case that established rights for employee rest and meal periods. His recently published book *California Truck and Delivery Driver Wage Theft Guide: The Ultimate Straight Talk Guide To Getting Your Hard-Earned Wages Back* is a must read for California truck and delivery drivers. Bill's national practice represents more Defense Base Act clients than any other law firm on the West Coast.

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**PERSONAL INJURY GENERAL: PLAINTIFF**

Randy Walton is a California native and takes cases in all Southern California counties. His main office is located in northern San Diego County, where he represents clients in a variety of serious personal injury and wrongful death cases. A portion of his practice is also dedicated to the prosecution of nursing homes and assisted living facilities in cases involving the physical abuse and neglect of the elderly and dependent adults. Mr. Walton is also very active in his community and, in addition to coaching a variety of youth sports, serves on the governing board of San Marcos Unified School District.

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**SCHOOLS & EDUCATION**
EMPLOYMENT & LABOR
EMPLOYMENT LITIGATION: DEFENSE

Daniel R. Shinoff is a founding partner and shareholder at Stutz Artiano Shinoff & Holtz APC, founded in 1982. Mr. Shinoff focuses his practice on defense of schools and colleges, joint power authorities, and offices of education in all areas that impact educational institutions. He has extensive trial experience in such matters as general negligence, dangerous conditions, discrimination, wrongful termination, sexual harassment, and civil rights issues. Mr. Shinoff is a frequent lecturer before trade and business organizations, as well as national education conferences. Topics include special education, student issues, employment discrimination, sexual harassment, school violence, First Amendment issues, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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THE LIST BY PRIMARY AREA OF PRACTICE

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CONSUMER LAW

Ms. Resendes represents plaintiffs in consumer class actions alleging deceptive advertising of food, drugs, and supplements. She also has devoted part of her practice to elder financial abuse cases and wage and hour class actions. She has litigated and negotiated numerous cases, leading to settlements worth millions of dollars in relief to consumers. A *summa cum laude* graduate of Thomas Jefferson School of Law, she received *bestia Wilkin Awards* during law school. Ms. Resendes is the recipient of the prestigious Burton Award for Excellence in Legal Writing for her published student note regarding the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. She is also a recipient of an Inns of Court Outstanding Program Award and clerked for the Honorable Jeffrey B. Barton.

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CRIMINAL DEFENSE: DUI/DWI

As founder and Partner, Alisha A. Wood specializes in misdemeanor and felony criminal defense and DUI. Her significant experience provides her with the legal, procedural, and practical understanding and expertise necessary to provide exceptional representation of her clients. She expertly fights for her clients utilizing her knowledge obtained not only through her impressive experience, but her ongoing education in the criminal field from attending criminal defense and DUI conferences with regard to new developments in law, procedure, and forensics. Not only has Ms. Wood participated in conferences as an attendee, she has also spoken at the national level regarding her work in DUI cases. Her understanding of the nuances of her areas of practice makes her an inclusive and effective advocate.



Iona Antonyan*

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Miranda was an entrepreneur and executive before becoming a lawyer, while Antonyan holds Series 7 and 65 securities licenses,

a California real estate broker's license and is an adjunct Family Law Professor at California Western School of Law. She also volunteers as Judge Pro Tem for the San Diego courts and serves as a director on the San Diego County Bar Association board. The partners' backgrounds and experience help them guide clients through complex high-net-worth asset division, business valuations and asset identification. Antonyan Miranda represents everyone from housewives to CEOs in all aspects of family law, including spousal support, child custody, visitation and parentage.

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With 21 attorneys, 3 offices and a national practice, Gomez Trial Attorneys is unquestionably one of California's leading plaintiffs trial firms. The Firm handles a wide range of cases for people, businesses and governments that have suffered harm. The Firm also recently celebrated its 10th successful year in business.

"While we started out as a pure personal injury law firm 10 years ago—and that continues as one of our specialty practices—today we also handle class actions, environmental torts, business disputes and medical device and pharmaceutical litigation," says founder and CEO John Gomez. "Key to our success and growth has been our philosophy that remains true across all practice areas—we work harder and care more about every case we litigate than the other side," Gomez adds. "And we are absolutely fearless about trying any case, anytime, anywhere—if that's what justice requires."

The Firm also stresses civility, leadership in the profession, and charitable work in the community. For example, attorney Deborah Dixon serves as the current President of Lawyers Club, attorney Allison Worden serves as the current President of the

San Diego Inn of Court, and you will see Firm sponsorship and attendance at virtually every legal event in San Diego.

Perhaps most important to Gomez personally, the Firm continues its strong commitment to charity and improving our communities. "We believe we have an obligation both to our clients and to our communities to make the lives of people we care about better every single day."



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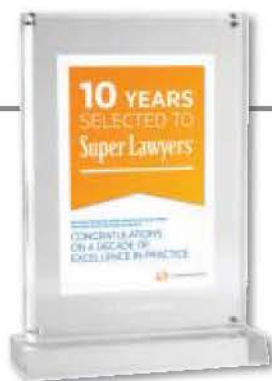


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