

# TOP LITIGATORS & *Corporate Lawyers*



## 2026 TOP LITIGATORS &amp; CORPORATE LAWYERS



**ADDISON K. ADAMS**  
ADAMS CORPORATE LAW

Addison K. Adams is the founder and principal attorney of Adams Corporate Law, a boutique corporate law firm specializing in mergers and acquisitions. With three decades of legal experience, Adams has earned a reputation as a trusted advisor to business owners, executives, and investors navigating complex corporate transactions. His practice focuses on mergers and acquisitions, investor and lender financing transactions, corporate compliance, shareholder buyouts, commercial contracts, and securities compliance.

Before founding Adams Corporate Law in 2015, Adams was a founding equity partner of Richardson & Patel LLP, a nationally recognized securities boutique with offices in Los Angeles and New York. Over the years, he has served as outside general counsel for a wide range of companies across Southern California, offering strategic guidance on growth, exit planning, and legal risk management. Known for his practical, solutions-oriented approach, Adams is committed to helping clients close deals efficiently and effectively—true to the firm's reputation as Lawyers who close deals.

Adams holds a Bachelor of Science in Finance from the University of Arizona and earned his Juris Doctor from the University of San Diego School of Law. He is licensed to practice in California and admitted to all federal and state courts in the region. A frequent speaker and podcast guest, Adams has shared insights on legal issues facing California businesses, navigating M&A negotiations, and structuring deals to align with long-term business goals.

Learn more about Addison Adams' experience and how Adams Corporate Law can support your next business transaction by visiting [adamscorporatelaw.com](http://adamscorporatelaw.com).



**ERICK BECKER**  
CUMMINS & WHITE

Erick Becker is a seasoned labor and employment attorney with more than 35 years of experience advising employers on complex workplace matters, labor relations, compliance strategies, and employment litigation. As a partner at Cummins & White LLP, Becker represents businesses across a broad range of industries, including healthcare, construction, manufacturing, transportation, and waste management.

Known for his practical and business-minded counsel, Becker helps employers navigate evolving labor laws, union negotiations, workforce disputes, administrative proceedings, and employment risk management. He regularly handles matters before the NLRB, EEOC, State Labor Commissioner, and other regulatory agencies, while also defending employers in employment litigation.

Prior to joining Cummins & White, Becker served as CEO of The American Consulting Group, Inc., where he advised Fortune 500 companies and middle-market businesses on labor relations and human resources strategy. His background gives clients a rare combination of legal insight and operational understanding.

Clients rely on Becker not only for legal compliance, but for actionable solutions that help protect their businesses, strengthen workplace culture, and minimize operational disruption.



**GREGORY BERNSTEIN**  
KELLER ANDERLE SCOLNICK

Greg Bernstein is a formidable trial lawyer who specializes in complex business and white-collar litigation, corporate investigations, and white-collar defense. Before joining Keller Anderle Scolnick, Bernstein served as a federal prosecutor in the Special Counsel's Office, Major Frauds Section of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Maryland, and the Criminal Enforcement Section of the DOJ's Tax Division.

During his decade-long DOJ career, Bernstein led or co-led 14 jury trials and 22 bench trials while directing hundreds of investigations and prosecutions. He received the United States Attorney's Award for Excellence in White-Collar Prosecution in both 2019 and 2020.

Several of Bernstein's trials involved exceptionally complex white-collar matters. In *United States v. Perfectus et al.*, he simultaneously tried six U.S. corporations in a prosecution involving approximately \$2 billion in investor and government losses tied to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

Since joining Keller Anderle Scolnick, Bernstein has led high-profile disputes involving corporate governance, fraud, and cutting-edge technology. He represents Masimo Corporation in litigation brought by former CEO Joe Kiani seeking approximately \$500 million in alleged compensation. He also represents Guardant Health in multiple disputes against Tempus AI involving false advertising and patent infringement claims related to liquid biopsy technology.

Bernstein was named to The Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America and The Lawdragon 500 Leading Litigators in America in 2026 and recognized by the Daily Journal as both a "Top White-Collar Lawyer" and "Top 40 Lawyer Under 40" in 2025.



**ASHLEY BOLDUC**  
CUMMINS & WHITE

Ashley Bolduc is a partner at Cummins & White LLP, specializing in corporate and transactional law. She advises businesses ranging from startups to established middle-market companies on mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, securities matters, trademark protection, and complex commercial transactions.

Bolduc serves as outside general counsel to companies across a variety of industries, including technology, fuel and convenience retail, food and beverage, healthcare, real estate, and professional services. Her practice includes structuring and negotiating sophisticated transactions, preparing corporate governance documents, advising on private offerings, and guiding entrepreneurs through all stages of business growth.

Known for her strategic mindset and practical approach, Bolduc has earned the trust of clients handling transactions involving hundreds of millions of dollars in assets while also helping business owners navigate day-to-day operational and governance matters. Clients and peers value her ability to simplify complex regulatory and legal issues into actionable, business-aligned strategies.

As part of the next generation of leadership at Cummins & White, Bolduc continues to play a key role in the firm's expanding corporate and M&A practice throughout California.



**NATHAN M. CARLE**  
KATZ RUBY & CARLE LLP

Nathan Carle, a founding partner of Katz Ruby & Carle LLP, handles significant matters involving business torts, partnership disputes, trade secret misappropriation, securities, and trust and estate litigation. Clients value his ability to manage risk while aggressively protecting their interests. Carle is skilled at managing document-heavy matters and coordinating expert-driven litigation efficiently, often delivering results comparable to larger litigation teams at a fraction of the cost.

Carle's deep business experience across diverse industries—including real estate, professional services, and technology—positions him to provide clear, business-minded counsel that aligns litigation strategy with broader client goals. Carle's recent successes include obtaining an eight-figure settlement in a heavily-contested business dispute.



**JASON DE BRETTEVILLE**  
STRADLING YOCCA  
CARLSON & RAUTH LLP

Jason de Bretteville is a formidable attorney known for representing corporations and executives in high-stakes civil and criminal litigation. His tenacity and innovative approach allow him to turn perceived obstacles into winning strategies. With a deep understanding of industry regulations and court dynamics, de Bretteville has developed a reputation as a serious trial threat, adept at connecting with judges and juries alike.

From 2001 to 2006, de Bretteville served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Central District of California, where he tried seven felony cases to verdict. His prosecutorial work included investigating and prosecuting significant crimes of violence and fraud, supervising federal agents in counter-terrorism efforts, and arguing numerous cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

In private practice, de Bretteville has achieved favorable settlements and victories in both trial and appellate courts for clients facing allegations of securities fraud, healthcare fraud, and violations of the False Claims Act and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. His diverse clientele spans industries, including medical device manufacturers, hedge funds, private equity, investment banking, technology, and consumer goods.

Over the past five years, de Bretteville has continued to obtain outstanding results, including a recent, significant victory for Paris Jackson in ongoing probate litigation involving the Estate of Michael Jackson, as well as securing a rare voluntary dismissal on behalf of the former CEO of an Irvine based bioscience company a month before trial in a criminal health care fraud case, dismissals of securities class action claims brought against Endologix and Wisconsin Airlines, and a dismissal of first amendment claims against Facebook.

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## Buchalter

**CAROLINE DJANG**  
BUCHALTER

Caroline Djang is the Orange County Co-Chair of Buchalter's Litigation Practice Group and a member of the Firm's Insolvency and Financial Law Practice Group. Based in the Orange County office, she represents

creditors, trustees, debtors, and committees in complex insolvency matters, bankruptcy litigation, and financial disputes. Known for her clarity, strategic judgment, and business-minded approach, Djang guides clients through distressed situations with a focus on practical outcomes and efficient resolution.

A certified mediator and appointed Subchapter V Trustee for the Central District of California, Djang brings a uniquely balanced perspective to negotiations, contested matters, and restructuring strategy. She is also a frequent speaker on the Small Business Reorganization Act and cutting-edge issues in bankruptcy law.

Djang is a highly engaged leader in the legal community. She is a Past President of the Orange County Women Lawyers Association and sits on the Boards of the Orange County Bar Association, the James T. King Bankruptcy Inn of Court, and the Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society. Her prior service includes appointment as a Lawyer Representative to the Ninth Circuit and membership on the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference Executive Committee.

Her work has earned repeated recognition, including Southern California Super Lawyers Top 100, Top 50 Women, and Top 50 Orange County, as well as honors from Best Lawyers in America and the Orange County Business Journal's OC500 Directory of Influence.

## Buchalter

**ANNE MARIE ELLIS**  
BUCHALTER

Anne Marie Ellis is the Office Managing Partner of the firm's Orange County office and serves as California Chair of the firm's Products Liability Practice Group and Chair of the Chemical Law & Proposition 65 Industry Group. Nationally

recognized by Chambers USA for Product Liability & Mass Torts, Ellis represents manufacturers, retailers, distributors, and consumer product companies in complex litigation, regulatory compliance matters, investigations, and recalls.

With a practice spanning high-exposure product liability defense, toxic torts, Proposition 65 litigation, class actions, and consumer protection claims, Ellis is known for guiding companies through some of their most significant legal and regulatory challenges. She regularly advises clients on Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reporting obligations, product recalls, PFAS and chemical compliance issues, false advertising claims, and risk management strategies across industries including automotive, consumer products, cosmetics, apparel, food and beverage, and emerging technologies.

Ellis has prevailed in state and federal courts nationwide and is widely recognized for combining practical business judgment with strategic litigation counsel. In addition to her litigation practice, she is a frequent author and speaker on evolving product safety, regulatory, and litigation trends, including PFAS, Proposition 65, and CPSC enforcement developments.

A respected leader within the legal and business communities, Ellis has been recognized by the Orange County Business Journal in its "Leaders of Influence – Women in Law" edition and continues to play a leading role in shaping Buchalter's growth and litigation platform in Orange County and beyond.

C&W Cummins | White 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**GARRETT FAHY**  
CUMMINS & WHITE

Garrett Fahy is a partner, accomplished litigator, and business advisor whose practice at Cummins & White LLP spans complex business litigation, employment disputes, intellectual property, privacy and data security, unfair competition, and election law.

Recognized by Southern California Super Lawyers Rising Stars from 2015-2023, Fahy represents businesses, executives, political organizations, and entrepreneurs in high-stakes disputes and strategic counseling matters. In addition to litigation, he regularly serves as outside general counsel to companies navigating employment compliance, corporate governance, commercial contracts, intellectual property, privacy, and emerging technology-related risks.

Fahy also maintains a prominent election law practice, representing political candidates, campaigns, and organizations in state and federal election matters. He was appointed to and serves on the Orange County Registrar of Voters' Community Election Working Group.

Known for balancing aggressive advocacy with practical problem-solving, Fahy approaches each matter with a focus on achieving efficient, business-oriented outcomes while protecting his clients' long-term interests. His broad litigation and advisory experience makes him a valuable resource to companies and organizations across California and the country.

## MICHELMAN ROBINSON

**JEFFREY FARROW**  
MICHELMAN ROBINSON

Jeffrey Farrow is one of Orange County's most formidable litigators, handling disputes that can fundamentally alter the trajectory of a company. Whether defending against fraud claims, litigating trade secret

battles, or navigating executive and ownership disputes, Farrow is routinely trusted with matters where operational, financial, and reputational stakes are at their highest.

As head of Michelman Robinson's Litigation Department and the firm's Trade Secrets, Financial Fraud & Executive Disputes Chair, Farrow combines sharp trial instincts with strategic business judgment. This pairing has made him a go-to advisor for companies seeking courtroom success and long-term risk protection. His practice spans insurance, technology, and manufacturing, with insurance brokerages and agencies frequently turning to him in ownership-transition and restrictive covenant disputes.

Farrow's recent work underscores the sophistication and breadth of his practice. He represented the defendant in a closely watched Florida trademark and copyright dispute involving claims of Cuban-confiscated intellectual property—one of the first cases nationwide to test enforceability under the No Stolen Trademarks Honored in America Act, signed into law in 2024.

He also won a major appellate victory for a carrier in a malicious prosecution matter stemming from a fraudulent life insurance lawsuit. After obtaining a jury verdict in favor of his client, Farrow successfully defended the judgment before the Ninth Circuit, reinforcing his reputation as a litigator equally effective at trial and on appeal.

Farrow continues to distinguish himself as the attorney clients trust with their most consequential disputes.

## fp Fisher Phillips

**MARISSA FRANCO**  
FISHER PHILLIPS

Marissa Franco represents employers of all sizes in a broad range of labor and employment matters, bringing a practice that seamlessly combines strategic counseling, pre-litigation advocacy, and courtroom litigation including cases tried to verdict.

Franco's litigation experience spans wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and whistleblower claims, as well as complex class actions and Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) matters in both state and federal courts. She represents employers before an extensive array of government agencies, including the California Civil Rights Division, the California Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, the Montana Human Rights Bureau, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Department of Labor, and the National Labor Relations Board.

Franco's practice is distinguished by its reach and versatility. She conducts workplace investigations and trainings in both English and Spanish, making her an invaluable resource for employers with diverse workforces. She also advises employers on the development and implementation of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs and policies, helping clients build compliant and equitable workplaces from the ground up.

Her combination of trial-tested litigation skills, agency practice, and proactive counsel positions Marissa Franco as a go-to employment defense attorney for employers navigating today's complex legal landscape.

## FBFK LAW

**TODD G. FRIEDLAND**  
FBFK LAW

Todd G. Friedland is an acclaimed litigator and trusted advocate for entrepreneurs and middle-market companies navigating sophisticated legal challenges. As a Managing Partner of FBFK Law's California

offices, he leads robust teams handling complex disputes and high-stakes litigation in corporate governance, fiduciary obligations, trade secret misappropriation, unfair business practices, real estate, and business torts. A respected leader in both the legal profession and broader community, Friedland has been recognized by the Orange County Business Journal as a member of the OC500, and has been honored as one of the Top 50 Lawyers in Orange County nine times and among the Top 100 Super Lawyers in Southern California. He holds an "AV Preeminent®" rating from Martindale-Hubbell, and has been recognized by Best Lawyers in America.

Friedland is deeply committed to thought leadership, advancing the legal profession, and serving his community. He has served as President of the Orange County Bar Association, Chair of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers (Orange County), and President of both the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Orange County and Project Youth OC. He serves on the Advisory Board of Food From The Bar supporting Second Harvest. Friedland has been published in the Daily Journal and has contributed insights to national publications such as The Legal Intelligencer. Friedland plays a key role in professionalism and mentoring initiatives, including the OCBA and statewide civility task forces.

Friedland is commended for his practical judgment, skill, and legal acumen resulting in innovative strategies for client success. [tfriedland@fbfk.law](mailto:tfriedland@fbfk.law)



# Strategic Minds Powerful Advocates Trusted Counsel

Buchalter celebrates our  
Top Litigators and Corporate Lawyers  
and congratulates all 2026 honorees



**Anne Marie  
Ellis**

OFFICE MANAGING  
PARTNER  
Products Liability



**Caroline  
Djang**

PARTNER  
Insolvency and  
Financial Law



**Jason  
Goldstein**

PARTNER  
Insurance Law



**Peggy  
Hosking**

PARTNER  
Real Estate



**Damaris  
Medina**

PARTNER  
Health Care Law



**Thomas  
Song**

PARTNER  
Labor and  
Employment

# Buchalter

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## Buchalter



**JASON E. GOLDSTEIN**  
BUCHALTER

Jason E. Goldstein is a Litigation Partner at Buchalter that has been a resident of Buchalter's Orange County office for almost 24 years. Goldstein is one of Buchalter's most seasoned trial lawyers and

specializes in resolving, or trying before Judges or Juries, complex business disputes for a diverse cross-section of clients, which include "private money" lenders/brokers/servicers, insureds, mortgage servicers, banks, credit unions, foreclosure trustees, investors, trade secret owners, individuals which own real property and general contractors.

Goldstein is a Co-Chairman of Buchalter's Title Insurance and Escrow Group, a fellow of the American College of Mortgage Attorneys ("ACMA"), an ACMA Title Insurance Committee member, and former President of the Orange County Bar Association Insurance Law section.

On July 28, 2022, the California Mortgage Association, a pre-eminent organization dedicated to education and the advancement of private money lending, awarded Jason the President's Award plaque to recognize his exemplary service to the organization.

Goldstein was also included in the 2024, 2025 & 2026 editions of The Best Lawyers in America for Insurance Law.

Goldstein is a frequent speaker and author on title insurance, escrow, broker and lender liability, wrongful foreclosure and trade secrets. He has spoken at conferences conducted by the California Mortgage Association, the American Association of Private Lenders, the California MBA, the MBA, the California Receivers Forum and the Northern and Southern California Chief Appraisers organization.

MICHELMAN  
ROBINSON

**MONA Z. HANNA**  
MICHELMAN ROBINSON

Mona Z. Hanna's reputation as one of Orange County's premier litigators has long been established, but what is perhaps most remarkable is how rapidly that reputation continues to grow. Already regarded as a go-to trial

lawyer for high-stakes, "bet-the-company" disputes, Hanna continues to elevate her standing through a string of courtroom victories and litigation wins that place her among the nation's elite trial attorneys.

As National Complex & Class Action Trial Chair at Michelman Robinson and Managing Partner of the firm's Irvine office, Hanna is routinely called upon to handle matters where the financial exposure is enormous and the pressure immense. Clients seek her strategic instincts, commanding courtroom presence, and uncanny ability to dismantle high-exposure claims before trial or prevail when the fight reaches a judge, jury, or arbitrator.

Hanna represents companies and executives in complex class actions, business disputes, and high-risk litigation playing out in courts, arbitrations, and regulatory forums throughout the country. She is particularly known for navigating matters involving massive financial exposure, reputational sensitivity, and sophisticated legal issues requiring both aggressive advocacy and nuanced strategy.

Hanna's recent successes reinforce her stature. Over the past year, she delivered an eight-figure jury verdict for a workforce solutions company and secured dismissal of a certified consumer class action seeking hundreds of millions against subsidiaries of a major insurance carrier.

Hanna's body of work continues to reinforce what clients and peers have known for years: she is among the most effective high-stakes litigators practicing today.

SNELL  
& WILMER

**MARSHALL J. HOGAN**  
SNELL & WILMER

Marshall J. Hogan is a partner in the Orange County office of Snell & Wilmer and a member of the firm's Bankruptcy and Reorganization Practice Group. His practice focuses on commercial litigation, business bankruptcy, insolvency proceedings, and creditors' rights matters. Hogan represents clients in a wide range of complex business disputes and restructuring matters in both state and federal courts.

Hogan regularly advises lenders, debtors, trustees, landlords, and secured and unsecured creditors in bankruptcy cases, adversary proceedings, and out-of-court workouts. He has represented clients in significant Chapter 11 reorganizations, asset sales, and high-value commercial disputes involving domestic and international parties. His practice also includes substantial work involving receiverships and enforcement of creditor state law remedies. His litigation experience includes matters involving contract disputes, fraudulent transfer claims, receiverships, foreclosures, and loan enforcement proceedings.

Hogan earned his J.D. from Columbia Law School, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar and served as an Articles Editor for the Columbia Science and Technology Law Review. He received his B.A. from University of Utah, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of California and the United States District Courts for all districts of California.

Hogan has been recognized multiple times in The Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law and Commercial Litigation. He previously served as President of the Orange County Bankruptcy Forum.

## Buchalter



**PEGGY HOSKING**  
BUCHALTER

Peggy Hosking is a partner at Buchalter and a trusted advisor to business owners across California. She has practiced for 29 years in business law, commercial real estate, and mergers and

acquisitions. She has an additional niche practice in the equine industry. Hosking serves as outside general counsel to entrepreneurs and family enterprises, guiding them from formation through expansion, sale, or generational transition.

Hosking is known for handling complex transactions where the personal stakes weigh as heavily as the financial ones. In addition to being a valuable resource for real estate transactions, her distinguished track record includes M&A transactions reaching from lower middle market to \$137 million, the sale of a farming operation in excess of \$100 million, the acquisition and operation of a historic Southern California ranch, on-going operations of several family farms, the purchase of land for a future cutting edge show facility in the Pacific Northwest and advising on the acquisition of \$65 million equine operation.

As Co-Founder and Co-Chair of Buchalter's Equine Law division, Hosking practices in a field she knows from inside the arena, drawing on more than 40 years as a competitor in hunter/jumper, reining, and dressage, and as a boutique breeder of Warmbloods. That deep involvement has made her a go-to attorney for owners, breeders, trainers, and facility operators across Southern California's equine community.

Widely recognized in Orange County's legal community, she has been named an OC Visionary and a Leader of Influence.

fp  
Fisher  
Phillips

**GRACE HOROUPIAN**  
FISHER PHILLIPS

Grace Horoupiian is a co-regional managing partner in Fisher Phillips' Irvine office and a trusted advocate for employers navigating the full spectrum of workplace legal challenges. With a dynamic litigation practice rooted in results, she brings both strategic

acumen and courtroom command to every matter she handles.

Horoupiian represents employers in state and federal courts and before administrative agencies, including the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, and the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE). Her litigation portfolio is broad and sophisticated, encompassing claims involving discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wrongful discharge, whistleblower allegations, workplace violence, unfair business practices, and wage and hour disputes, including complex individual and collective actions.

Beyond the courtroom, Horoupiian serves as a proactive counselor to her clients, delivering preventive counsel designed to mitigate legal exposure before disputes arise. She advises employers on disciplinary matters and employee terminations, internal investigations, the development of workplace policies and procedures, compliance with state and federal wage and hour laws, and leave of absence administration.

Horoupiian is also a recognized voice in the employment law community. She regularly presents seminars, workshops, and training programs for industry associations and private employers, equipping HR professionals and management teams with the knowledge to maintain compliant, well-functioning workplaces.

Her combination of litigation excellence and practical counseling makes Grace Horoupiian a standout leader at one of the nation's premier labor and employment law firms.

## FBFK LAW



**WESLEY HORTON**  
FBFK LAW

Wesley Horton is a partner at FBFK Law and a seasoned civil litigator who represents clients in complex, high-stakes disputes across a wide range of industries. He brings a

pragmatic, results-oriented approach to litigation, drawing on years of experience advising companies, boards, and executives in bet-the-company litigation matters.

Horton began his career at a large international law firm, where he developed a deep foundation in complex commercial litigation. His practice there focused on advising clients dealing with federal securities class actions and merger-related litigation, including cases involving allegations of disclosure deficiencies, fiduciary duty breaches, and transactional challenges. Through this work he gained significant experience navigating large-scale, multi-jurisdictional disputes, managing extensive discovery, and crafting litigation strategies aligned with his clients' broader business objectives.

Today, Horton leverages that background to help clients resolve their most critical controversies successfully and efficiently. He is skilled at distilling complicated legal and factual issues into clear, actionable strategies and regularly succeeds in disposing of lawsuits through early motion practice. Clients value his ability to balance aggressive representation with practical judgment, ensuring that legal solutions are tailored to business realities, whether that entails pursuing early resolution, negotiating favorable settlements, or advocating through trial.



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## 2026 TOP LITIGATORS &amp; CORPORATE LAWYERS

**SHIGE ITOH**

RUTAN &amp; TUCKER, LLP

Shigenobu ("Shige") Itoh represents various business entities in all aspects of corporate and business law, including mergers and acquisitions, securities, venture capital financing, joint venture transactions, licensing and general representation. He currently serves as outside general counsel to a variety of businesses and institutions.

Itoh also has extensive experience representing both lenders and borrowers in a variety of financing transactions, including commercial, cash-flow and corporate finance transactions, asset-based financing transactions, structured financing transactions, mezzanine and subordinated debt transactions, equipment financing transactions, receivables financing transactions and restructuring transactions.

Itoh is an expert in structuring, negotiating and documenting litigation finance transactions. Itoh has represented numerous domestic and international financial institutions that focus on funding litigation cases and portfolios, as well as recipients of litigation funding.

He has also been involved in various cross-border transactions, including cross-border entity structuring and restructuring transactions, as well as both in-bound and out-bound mergers and acquisition transactions.

**CHRIS IVEY**STRADLING YOCCA  
CARLSON & RAUTH LLP

Chris Ivey is a business-savvy lawyer specializing in providing strategic solutions that empower companies across the United States at every stage of their lifecycle. With over 30 years of experience, Ivey has facilitated hundreds of mergers and acquisitions for both public and private companies, and he has played a pivotal role in venture capital financings, private equity transactions, recapitalizations, and public capital market activities. His insightful advice cultivates companies that become attractive acquisition targets for strategic acquirors and private equity investors.

Renowned for prioritizing his clients' interests, Ivey has forged lasting relationships with businesses spanning various industries. He takes the time to understand his clients' operations, listening to their concerns while leveraging his extensive experience to deliver practical solutions. By anticipating challenges before they arise, he positions his clients for long-term success. Over the last several years Ivey and his team have completed more than 50 acquisitions on behalf of engineering firm, Salas O'Brien. Other well-known clients include K1 Speed, Inc., Compass, Inc. and Maui Land & Pineapple Company, Inc.

Often serving as outside general counsel, Ivey provides responsive counsel to boards of directors and executives in transactional and financing matters. Whether addressing fiduciary duties, corporate governance, or securities compliance, he delivers a level of certainty that streamlines complex legal matters, ultimately saving time and resources for his clients. Chris Ivey also serves on the firm's Management and Executive Committees and is a member of the Board of Directors of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County and the Inland Empire.

**KELSEY JAVIER**

FISHER PHILLIPS

Kelsey Javier is a partner in Fisher Phillips' Irvine office, where she represents employers in high-stakes employment litigation and serves as a trusted advisor on complex workplace matters. She defends employers and management against claims of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wrongful termination, and wage and hour violations, handling single-plaintiff, PAGA, and class action litigation in both state and federal courts.

Known for her strategic, practical approach, Javier works closely with clients to minimize risk, navigate sensitive personnel decisions, and build legally sound workplace policies. She advises employers on a broad range of day-to-day employment issues, including employee leave and accommodations, workplace investigations, discipline and termination decisions, and compliance with California's continuously evolving employment laws. She also conducts wage and hour audits and drafts employment agreements, handbooks, and policies tailored to each client's operational needs and business objectives.

Javier's ability to seamlessly bridge aggressive litigation advocacy with thoughtful, business-minded counsel makes her a standout employment defense attorney and a valued advisor to employers across Southern California.

**MICHAEL L. KATZ**

KATZ RUBY CARLE LLP

Michael Katz is the Managing Partner of Katz Ruby Carle LLP, a boutique litigation firm specializing in high stakes disputes. Katz is recognized as one of the leading trade secret lawyers in California. He also serves as trusted counsel to notable individuals and estates, including aviation legend Chuck Yeager and the estates of Marilyn Monroe and the Marx Brothers.

Although known for his tenacity and courtroom skill, many clients rely on Katz to resolve sensitive or seemingly intractable disputes without resort to litigation. A formidable force in any legal forum, Michael Katz combines legal excellence with strategic acumen, earning him the respect of clients, colleagues, and adversaries alike.

**ERIC KHODADIAN**

CUMMINS &amp; WHITE

Eric M. Khodadian is a trial attorney and partner at Cummins & White LLP with extensive experience representing businesses, individuals, and Fortune 500 companies in complex commercial litigation, real estate disputes, insurance, and business litigation.

Khodadian has recovered millions for his clients through settlements and trial verdicts and successfully defended high exposure cases through employing creative litigation strategies.

Prior to joining Cummins & White, Khodadian started his career at the Attorney General's office performing anti-trust and business fraud investigations. He then joined and was trained by two of the largest law firms in the country where he represented clients in high-stakes litigation.

Khodadian is a proud graduate of the University of Southern California Gould School of Law, where he was selected to serve as the Editor-in-Chief of an honors law journal.

Khodadian is recognized for his strategic courtroom advocacy, trial experience, and results-driven approach to litigation.

**ANDREW C. KIENLE**

HART KIENLE PENTECOST

Andrew C. Kienle is a Shareholder and Managing Partner at Hart Kienle Pentecost. He manages the civil litigation and transactional departments of the Firm. In his 30 years of practice, Kienle specializes in representing trustees and beneficiaries in trust and estate disputes, as well as clients involved in complex business and real estate matters in state and federal court. He is a seasoned trial lawyer and represents his clients in all aspects of litigation, arbitration, mediation, and administrative hearings.

A recognized voice in the legal community, Kienle is a speaker at various industry events, on webinars and podcasts, where he shares practical insights for trust and estate clients and business owners navigating legal risks.

Kienle has been named to the California Super Lawyers list, a distinction awarded to attorneys who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and peer recognition. His litigation achievements include published appellate decisions relating to significant trust and estate legal issues. Clients trust Kienle for his courtroom presence, industry knowledge, and unyielding dedication to delivering favorable results.

Based in Orange County, he is a proud member of the California State Bar, the Orange County Bar Association, and the California Lawyers Association. Kienle's leadership and litigation acumen continue to make him one of the region's most trusted and respected attorneys.

# Katz Ruby & Carle

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## 2026 TOP LITIGATORS &amp; CORPORATE LAWYERS



**JOSHUA M. KIMURA**  
KIMURA LONDON & WHITE LLP

Joshua M. Kimura is a founding partner of Kimura London & White LLP and a trial attorney who represents businesses, executives, and individuals in high-stakes civil litigation throughout Southern California. Clients come to him when the stakes are highest and the margin for error is zero. His practice is defined by thorough preparation, strategic positioning, and a singular focus on results, whether that means negotiating from a position of strength or taking a case all the way to verdict.

Kimura handles disputes from inception through resolution: investigating claims, managing discovery, litigating motions, and advancing matters through mediation, arbitration, or courtroom proceedings. He has served as lead trial counsel in 10 jury trials and evidentiary hearings, bringing disciplined command of trial strategy, depositions, PMK examinations, and dispositive motion practice.

His approach is straightforward: build leverage early, prepare every case for trial, and give clients clarity on risk and opportunity at every stage. When opposing insurance carriers declared they would not pay a single dollar toward the settlement of a multi-million-dollar real estate dispute, Kimura secured full payment of every dollar requested, plus attorneys' fees. In another matter, he obtained a multi-million-dollar verdict against business entities that had perpetrated fraud.

Recognized by Super Lawyers since 2019 and holding a 10.0 Avvo rating, Kimura's commentary has been featured in Forbes, Fortune, and the Daily Journal. Clients consistently value his transparency and his commitment to seeing difficult problems through to resolution.

jkimura@klw-law.com



**KARLA KRAFT**  
STRADLING YOCCA  
CARLSON & RAUTH LLP

Karla Kraft is known for her robust expertise across a wide spectrum of litigation. With a career characterized by enduring professional relationships, Kraft is consistently sought after to litigate diverse matters, showcasing her adaptability and competence in tackling new challenges. She specializes in complex commercial litigation and has a significant focus on class action defense and employment-related issues, including defending against single plaintiff lawsuits, wage-and-hour class actions, and PAGA actions. Additionally, she guides clients through pre-litigation disputes and strategic policy decisions.

Kraft's proficiency extends to various business litigation matters, encompassing defense of consumer matters, restrictive covenants, trade secrets, unfair competition, and more. Clients appreciate her intuitive ability to synergize legal strategy with business considerations, allowing her to tailor her approach based on the unique objectives of each case. This client-centric strategy results in efficient, business-savvy resolutions delivered through streamlined teams and judicious research. Her clients include Johnson & Johnson, Ringler Associates, and Specialty Enzymes and Biotechnologies.

Her accolades reflect her notable contributions to the legal field, including the Anti-Defamation League's Marcus Kaufman Jurisprudence Award, the Segerstrom Center for the Arts' Arts and Business Leadership Award, and recognition as a Best Lawyer in America from 2019-2025. Beyond her practice, Kraft is actively involved in community service, serving on the Boards of Directors of the Public Law Center and the Segerstrom Center for the arts and the Board of Trustees for Harbor Day School, further affirming her commitment to both her profession and community.



**ROBERT LAMM**  
CUMMINS & WHITE

Robert J. Lamm is a highly respected estate planning and tax attorney who advises high-net-worth individuals, families, and business owners on sophisticated wealth transfer and succession planning strategies. A partner at Cummins & White LLP, Lamm focuses his practice on advanced estate planning, trust administration, probate, taxation, charitable giving, and asset protection.

A third-generation estate planning attorney with an LL.M. in Taxation from the University of Miami School of Law, Lamm is known for developing creative, tax-efficient solutions tailored to multi-generational families and closely held businesses. His work frequently involves sophisticated planning techniques, including dynasty trusts, grantor retained annuity trusts, irrevocable life insurance trusts, and business succession structures.

In addition to advising clients on long-term wealth preservation strategies, Lamm regularly assists families and family offices with trust administration, estate settlement matters, and probate proceedings. He is also an active lecturer on estate planning and tax topics.

Lamm's combination of technical tax knowledge and practical guidance has made him a trusted advisor to Orange County families and business owners for nearly two decades.



**KARL LINDEGREN**  
FISHER PHILLIPS

Karl Lindegren is a partner in Fisher Phillips' Irvine and Los Angeles offices and co-chair of the firm's California Litigation Practice Group. With nearly 40 years of labor and employment law experience,

Lindegren has built a reputation as one of California's most accomplished employment defense litigators representing companies of all sizes in high-stakes, complex matters.

Lindegren has tried multiple employment cases to defense verdict. He also has handled appellate work including two trips to the United States Supreme Court, multiple cases in the California Court of Appeal, the Ninth Circuit and even the Montana Supreme Court.

Lindegren's trial wins include defense verdicts in a 4-week whistleblower matter for the Housing Authority of Los Angeles, a high stakes verdict in a harassment, discrimination and retaliation matter against one of the top plaintiff's lawyers in California, as well as other defense verdicts in Los Angeles, California, Houston, Texas and Las Vegas, Nevada.

He secured a defense verdict after a three-week jury trial for a logistics company against claims demanding \$12.7 million in damages. He also achieved a favorable resolution for a major data analytics firm in a sexual harassment and retaliation case on the first day of trial.

In addition, Lindegren maintains a full practice advising clients across all employment law disciplines including discrimination, leave and accommodation, wage and hour, trade secrets, and workplace safety. He has handled numerous executive termination matters alleging as much as \$100 million in damages.

Lindegren regularly delivers training to employer groups and HR professionals.



**MILDRED LIMA**  
FISHER PHILLIPS

Mildred Lima represents and advises employers in a broad range of complex employment disputes and litigation matters. She has successfully defended businesses against claims involving retaliation, sexual harassment, wrongful termination, whistleblower allegations, and other high-stakes workplace disputes in both state and federal courts.

Drawing on a diverse and sophisticated litigation background, Lima has represented clients in labor and employment, civil rights, public entity defense, professional liability, and personal injury matters throughout California. Her extensive courtroom and litigation experience enables her to strategically guide clients through every stage of a dispute, from proactive pre-litigation counseling and risk management to trial and arbitration.

Before joining Fisher Phillips, Lima represented medical professionals and healthcare organizations in malpractice and regulatory matters, advising employers on workplace training, employee discipline and termination, compliance issues, and administrative proceedings before state licensing boards. This experience gives her a practical understanding of the legal and operational challenges businesses face in highly regulated industries. Lima's responsive, client-focused approach has earned the trust of businesses across a wide range of industries by delivering practical, business-minded legal solutions tailored to each client's unique goals and operations.

In addition to her practice, Lima is an active leader in the legal community, having most recently served on the Board of Directors for the Latina Lawyers Bar Association, where she helped develop continuing legal education programs and panels addressing emerging legal issues. Her accomplishments have earned her recognition as a Top Lawyer of Orange County by the Orange County Coalition for Diversity in the Law.



**WILLIAM O. LONDON**  
KIMURA LONDON & WHITE LLP

William "Bill" London is a founding partner of Kimura London & White LLP and a leading bilingual international business attorney whose practice bridges the worlds of cross-border commerce, sophisticated litigation, and complex personal matters for high-net-worth clients. Fluent in Mandarin and trained at both Georgetown Law and Tsinghua University School of Law, London brings a rare combination of legal depth and cultural fluency to matters that span jurisdictions, languages, and legal systems.

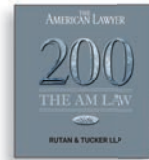
His practice centers on international business transactions and litigation, cross-border trade, and sophisticated trust, estate, and family law for global families and multinational clients. He guides entrepreneurs, multinational corporations, and high-net-worth individuals through multi-million-dollar matters with clarity, precision, and culturally attuned strategy. Clients turn to him not only for his legal acumen but for his reliability, discretion, and integrity, qualities that matter most when the stakes are personal as well as financial.

London is recognized by Super Lawyers, Lawyers of Distinction, America's Top 50 Lawyers, and Marquis Who's Who, a distinction reserved for the most accomplished professionals worldwide. Admitted to practice in the United States District Courts for the Central and Southern Districts of California, he is regularly called upon by national and international publications for his expertise in international business, real estate, estate planning, and global family matters. Whether structuring a cross-border transaction, resolving an international dispute, or guiding a family through a high-asset matter with global dimensions, London delivers seamless legal solutions across borders and cultures.

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## 2026 TOP LITIGATORS &amp; CORPORATE LAWYERS



**RICHARD D. MCCUNE**  
MCCUNE LAW GROUP

Richard McCune founded McCune Law Group on a clear premise: that the size of your legal budget shouldn't determine your access to justice. Over 35 years, he has built one of California's most accomplished

contingency commercial litigation practices, taking on high-stakes business disputes and shouldering the financial risk so his clients don't have to.

McCune's cases typically involve shareholder or corporate fraud — misappropriation of funds, shares, or assets from shareholders, competitors, or customers — across a wide range of industries throughout Orange County and California. McCune Law Group only accepts cases it believes in, which means clients get a team whose interests are fully aligned with theirs from day one.

The results reflect that alignment. McCune and his firm have secured a \$203 million consumer fraud verdict, a \$1.2 billion vehicle fraud settlement, a \$22 million shareholder fraud verdict, and dozens of additional seven- and eight-figure recoveries for business clients. He has been appointed by federal judges to lead roles in some of the most significant multi-party litigation in California and has represented the State of Arizona in high-profile fraud proceedings against major automakers.

AV rated and named to Super Lawyers and the National Trial Lawyers Top 25 in both Class Action and Product Liability, McCune is a proven trial lawyer with more than two decades of contingency commercial experience and deep roots in the Orange County business and legal community. His work has been covered by the Los Angeles Times, Forbes, CNN, and The Economist.



**JAMES J. MCDONALD JR.**  
FISHER PHILLIPS

Jim McDonald is a partner in Fisher Phillips' Irvine office and a seasoned trial attorney who has spent his career defending employers before juries, judges, and arbitrators. Over the course of his practice, McDonald has successfully

defended hundreds of employment lawsuits involving wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment, wage and hour violations, retaliation, defamation, and related torts—winning trials, arbitrations, summary judgments, and motions to dismiss with consistency.

McDonald's depth of knowledge extends well beyond the courtroom. He counsels employers on preventive strategies and strategic human resources issues. He also advises employers on strike and picketing issues, having obtained injunctions against unlawful picketing and secured a six-figure settlement against a union for unlawful secondary boycott activity. He counsels clients on workforce restructurings, WARN Act compliance, layoffs, and effects bargaining. His transactional employment work includes drafting employment, nondisclosure, confidentiality, and contractor agreements, as well as advising on labor and employment matters in mergers and acquisitions across the hospitality, manufacturing, technology, and services industries.

A recognized authority in the field, McDonald is the author of California Employment Law: An Employer's Guide, published annually by SHRM, and editor of Mental and Emotional Injuries in Employment Litigation, published by BNA Books. He has been designated as an expert witness in multiple cases. McDonald taught labor and employment law at UC Irvine's Human Resources Management Program for 16 years, and he holds the SHRM Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP) designation.



**DAMARIS MEDINA**  
BUCHALTER

Damaris Medina is a Partner in Buchalter's Los Angeles & Orange County offices. She is the Firm's Chief Development Officer, Co-Chair of the Firm's Health Care & Life Sciences

Practice, and a member of the Board of Directors.

Medina represents hospital systems and a diverse array of other health care clients in high stakes litigation in federal and state court, as well as in arbitration. She has successfully litigated numerous large exposure reimbursement cases against major health plans and recovered millions of dollars on behalf of health care providers. She also advises hospital systems and other health care providers on managed care contracting, revenue cycle strategies, and risk and compliance issues. Medina routinely defends providers against both private and government payor audits, as well as in False Claims Act cases brought by Federal and State agencies including the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Medina routinely receives recognition as a leader in her field from numerous sources. She was recognized as one of Los Angeles' "Most Influential Women Attorneys" by the Los Angeles Business Journal, "Top OC Inspirational Women" and "DEIA Visionary" by LA Times B2B Publishing, "Top Women in Business" by the Orange County Business Journal, and received the prestigious California Lawyer of the Year (CLAY) Award in 2017. She has also been named one of the Top Healthcare Attorneys by the Daily Journal, and one of the "Top Women Attorneys in Southern California" since 2014 by Super Lawyers Magazine.

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Keller Anderle Scolnick LLP thrives on the tough cases: the ones where your company, fortune or liberty are on the line. We're business trial lawyers who can try any kind of case, and we've proven it by prevailing against some of the nation's largest law firms. We've won over \$1 billion in verdicts and judgments for plaintiffs. On defense, we've defeated high-stakes claims in the hundreds of millions. Some of our noteworthy cases:

- **Guardant Health Inc. v. Natera Inc.** - One of the largest Lanham Act false advertising verdicts in history, \$292.5 million in damages.
- **CashCall, Inc. v. Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP** - Landmark legal malpractice suit against AmLaw 100 firm. Over \$850 million in damages, confidential settlement on eve of trial.
- **MGA Entertainment Inc. v. Clifford T.I. Harris et al.** - Defense victory in \$100 million intellectual property jury trial.
- **Auerbach Acquisition Associates v. Daily, LASC** - Business fraud trial, \$350 million jury verdict.
- **Broadwood Investments v. The United States** - IRS denial of tax deduction, government settled and allowed a deduction of \$40 million plus significant interest.

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**PAUL NELSON, ESQ.**

**Paul Nelson** is the founder of **Nelson Kirkman Family Law Attorneys**, a premier California firm specializing in high-net-worth divorces. **Certified by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization in Family Law**, Paul brings extensive courtroom experience and a deep command of California family law to every case. His strategic approach and relentless advocacy have earned him a reputation for securing exceptional results for business owners, entrepreneurs, and high-earning professionals navigating complex divorce proceedings.

Recognized among the legal elite, Paul holds the prestigious **AV Preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell**, boasts **twenty five-star ratings on Avvo**, and has been consistently

honored by **Super Lawyers**.

A thought leader in the legal community, Paul's insights have been featured in **Forbes**, **Fortune**, and the **Orange County Business Journal**. He is also the author of the **Amazon best-selling book, *The Dissolution Solution***, which provides a strategic roadmap for high-asset divorces.

Paul is an active member of the **Orange County Bar Association**, the **State Bar of California**, and the **J. Reuben Clark Law Society**.

With a practice built on discretion, precision, and results, Paul ensures his clients emerge from their legal battles positioned for success—both personally and professionally.

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*When the stakes are highest*



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## 2026 TOP LITIGATORS & CORPORATE LAWYERS



**LISA NEAL**  
RUTAN & TUCKER, LLP

Lisa Neal has over 25 years of experience as a trial attorney. She focuses her litigation practice on real estate litigation, probate and trust litigation, commercial coverage insurance litigation, breach of fiduciary duty, partnership disputes, fraud, and general business litigation. Ms. Neal has vast courtroom experience and has successfully tried dozens of cases to jury verdict involving diverse matters involving business contract, trust and estates, bad faith insurance coverage, breach of fiduciary duty, class action defense, professional negligence, and fraud.

Ms. Neal also assists her clients in managing litigation matters and overseeing the handling of trademark, employment/labor, corporate and real estate matters. Ms. Neal is very involved in firm management. She currently serves on Rutan & Tucker's Executive Committee, is the former Chair of Trial Department, Chair of the Personnel Committee, and member of the Partnership Review Committee.



*When the Stakes are Highest.*



**PAUL NELSON**  
NELSON KIRKMAN FAMILY LAW ATTORNEYS

Paul Nelson is the founder of Nelson | Kirkman Family Law Attorneys, a premier California firm specializing in high-net-worth divorces. A Certified Family Law Specialist accredited by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization, Nelson brings extensive courtroom experience and a deep command of California family law to every case. His strategic approach and relentless advocacy have earned him a reputation for securing exceptional results for business owners, entrepreneurs, and high-earning professionals navigating complex marital dissolutions.

Recognized among the legal elite, Nelson holds the prestigious AV Preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell, has earned twenty 5-star ratings on Avvo, and has been consistently honored by Super Lawyers. A thought leader in the legal community, his insights have been featured in Forbes, Fortune, and the Orange County Business Journal. He is also the author of the Amazon best-selling book *The Dissolution Solution*, a strategic roadmap for high-asset divorces.

Nelson is an active member of the Orange County Bar Association, the State Bar of California, and the J. Reuben Clark Law Society. With a practice built on discretion, precision, and results, he ensures his clients emerge from their legal battles positioned for success—both personally and professionally.



**JOSE ORTIZ**  
ADAMS CORPORATE LAW

Jose Ortiz is an associate attorney at Adams Corporate Law, a boutique corporate law firm known for its focus on mergers and acquisitions. He works with private companies and investors across all stages of the corporate lifecycle, advising on both buy- and sell-side transactions. His experience includes structuring and executing reverse and forward triangular mergers, equity acquisitions, and asset sales, providing clients with steady, detail-oriented support through each phase of a transaction.

In addition to his M&A work, Ortiz advises on a variety of financing arrangements, including issuances of preferred and common equity, company interests, convertible notes, and SAFEs. He also counsels companies on formation, ownership structure, and ongoing corporate matters, often serving as a practical resource for businesses managing both growth initiatives and day-to-day legal needs. His work reflects a disciplined, solutions-driven approach that aligns legal strategy with business priorities.

Ortiz regularly works with companies operating in emerging technologies, consumer products and services, healthcare, digital media, entertainment, software-as-a-service, and hospitality. His exposure to a range of industries allows him to tailor his guidance to the specific dynamics and challenges of each client's business.

Ortiz earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles and his Juris Doctor from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles. He is licensed to practice law in California.

Learn more about Jose Ortiz's experience and how Adams Corporate Law can support your next business transaction by visiting [adamscorporatelaw.com](http://adamscorporatelaw.com).

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## 2026 TOP LITIGATORS & CORPORATE LAWYERS



**JOHN H. PENTECOST**  
HART KIENLE PENTECOST

John H. Pentecost is a Shareholder and a Managing Partner of Hart Kienle Pentecost, where he has practiced since 1988. He leads the firm's manufactured housing practice and focuses on business litigation, civil litigation, manufactured housing, and real estate litigation.

With more than 35 years of trial experience, Pentecost has handled matters throughout California including commercial disputes, RV park and mobilehome park tenant evictions, and complex real estate litigation. He has defended a wide range of actions involving lease disputes, state and federal discrimination claims, and alleged failures to maintain property.

His practice includes advising clients about buying and selling parks, subdivision conversions and mobilehome park closures, as well as negotiating and litigating ground leases. He also has significant experience in rent control, park operations, interfacing with the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), and other governmental agencies impacting mobile home communities.

Pentecost is active in the legal and industry community, including the California State Bar Association and Orange County Bar Association, as well as organizations such as the Manufactured Housing Institute (MHI), Western Manufactured Housing Communities Association (WMA), California Outdoor Hospitality Association (Cal OHA), and related industry groups. Pentecost previously served as a board advisor to the Manufactured Housing Educational Trust (MHET).



**JEFFREY REEVES**  
REEVES & WEISS LLP

Jeff Reeves handles complex disputes across industries including technology, entertainment, and real estate. His cases regularly involve contract, fraud, defamation, trade secret, and civil theft claims.

He currently serves as lead trial counsel for two high-profile executives, each of whom founded their respective companies, and then grew them over decades into massive successful corporate enterprises as CEO. Both executives now find themselves embroiled in \$100 million-plus litigation disputes, one pending in Orange County and the other in Salt Lake City, both with trial dates expected in 2027. Reeves also recently tried two jury cases in Los Angeles: one involving top film producers and a foreign distributor (mistrial), and another for a luxury real estate developer in Bel Air, where the jury cleared the client of malice and fraud.

In other matters, he represented a leading cannabis brand in arbitration against a distributor and led a defamation suit for the former CEO and executives of Microsemi against Microchip Technology. He also secured a full trial and appellate victory in a \$45 million fiduciary duty case for executives of BioNutritional Research Group, makers of PowerCrunch™ bars.

Reeves is active in the community, recently serving on the Hoag Charity Sports and El Niguel Country Club boards, and previously co-chairing UCI Law's Public Service Awards. In 2012 he was proud to receive the ADL's Marcus Kaufman Jurisprudence Award, given annually in recognition of outstanding contributions to the legal profession and to the community.

Before co-founding Reeves & Weiss, Reeves spent 26 years at Gibson Dunn, eight as Partner-in-Charge of the Orange County office.



**BRIANA RICHMOND**  
RUTAN & TUCKER, LLP

Briana Richmond is a dual business litigator and construction attorney. As a business litigator, Richmond has developed a diverse practice that touches on a wide variety of industries and includes complex business disputes involving trade secret theft, fraud, breach of contract, business interference claims, business dissolution issues, defamation claims, and real property issues.

Richmond is also a "cradle-to-grave" construction attorney with experience in construction contract review and negotiations for high-value commercial and residential projects as well as construction litigation that handles claims arising from construction contracts, mechanic's liens, construction defects, and complex delay and inefficiency issues on construction projects.

Richmond has trial experience in state and federal courts and private arbitration. While she is well-versed in aggressively litigating cases when such an approach is appropriate, Richmond also actively seeks to balance litigation demands with clients' overall business concerns, including with respect to cost control and maintaining business relationships.

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Accustomed to high-stakes litigation, our accountants regularly testify as expert witnesses, lending credibility to financial claims. We understand courtroom dynamics and the importance of conveying complex financial matters in a clear and convincing manner, especially while under cross-examination.

#### CONCLUSION

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## 2026 TOP LITIGATORS & CORPORATE LAWYERS



**ASHTON RILEY**  
FISHER PHILLIPS

Ashton Riley is a partner in Fisher Phillips' Irvine office who represents employers across a diverse range of industries, including temporary staffing, aerospace and engineering, technology, healthcare, retail, manufacturing, and hospitality. His litigation practice

encompasses both complex class action matters and single-plaintiff employment cases, with a track record of results that reflects his command of the full litigation lifecycle.

Riley's courtroom credentials are well established. He secured a complete defense verdict following a three-week jury trial in 2023 and has successfully drafted and argued numerous motions in court and arbitration proceedings. In one notable arbitration, he obtained a complete dismissal on a motion for summary judgment in a matter where the claimant sought over seven figures in damages and had previously rejected six-figure settlement offers. When mediation presents the most advantageous path, Riley has consistently delivered favorable outcomes for his clients at the negotiating table as well.

Whether in the courtroom, the arbitration forum, or the mediation room, Riley brings the same disciplined, results-driven approach to every matter, making him a trusted resource for employers seeking a skilled and versatile litigator in today's demanding employment law environment.

Riley has been recognized in the Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch from 2021 to 2026 and by Benchmark Litigation as a Labor & Employment Rising Star in 2025.

Outside of his practice, Riley is a member of the Associate Board for Project Youth OCBF, an Orange County nonprofit organization providing programs for Orange County youth and their families to open pathways to education, stability, and lifelong success.



**DANIEL S. ROBINSON**  
ROBINSON CALCAGNIE, INC.

Daniel S. Robinson is the principal partner of Robinson Calcagnie, Inc., a nationally recognized law firm representing plaintiffs in products liability, personal injury, consumer, and environmental cases.

In the past few years alone, Robinson has helped secure several major verdicts and settlements for his clients, including a 2025 \$40 million verdict against Johnson & Johnson for clients who suffered ovarian cancer from using Johnson's baby powder, a 9-figure settlement for various California cities and water districts in the PFAS contamination litigation, and a \$50 million settlement against Heritage for the negligent release of medical information. In 2020, Robinson helped litigate and negotiate an \$800 million settlement on behalf of over 4,000 victims of the 2017 Mandalay Bay mass shooting. He has been appointed Lead or Co-Lead Counsel in over two dozen mass tort and class action cases.

Robinson is the past president of the Orange County Bar Association, the Orange County Bar Association Charitable Fund, and Project Youth. He is a board member of the Federal Bar Association of Orange County, Project Youth, Loyola Law School, Consumer Attorneys of California, and National Trial Lawyers.

Robinson has been named by the Daily Journal as one of the "Top 100 Lawyers in California" for 2025, 2024, 2023 and 2022, "Top 25 Plaintiff Lawyers," and "Top Verdicts of 2025." In 2021, Robinson received the Daily Journal's "California Lawyer of the Year" award for the Mandalay Bay Shooting case. He has been named one of the "500 Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyers" in the country by Law Dragon, as Super Lawyer's "Top 50 Lawyers" in Orange County, and by BEST Lawyers as "Lawyer of the Year" in products liability.



**BYRON H. RUBY**  
KATZ RUBY & CARLE LLP

Byron Ruby, a founding partner of Katz Ruby & Carle LLP, represents public and private companies, emerging ventures, and individual

executives in complex business and intellectual-property disputes, securities litigation, and cutting-edge constitutional matters—including First Amendment and Anti-SLAPP cases.

Prior to founding Katz Ruby & Carle LLP, Ruby served with the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Justice, and McKinsey & Company as a consultant. Ruby's recent successes include securing a multi-million-dollar judgment for a medical-technology client and negotiating a landmark settlement safeguarding political speech rights.



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McCune Law Group has over 30 years of success in **high-stakes commercial litigation**, earning recognition with numerous multi-million-dollar results, including a \$203 million verdict against **Wells Fargo.**

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## 2026 TOP LITIGATORS & CORPORATE LAWYERS



**MARC J. SCHNEIDER**

STRADLING YOCCA  
CARLSON & RAUTH LLP

Marc J. Schneider is a securities and business litigation partner at Stradling and serves on its management committee. Schneider is a distinguished litigator and business advisor known for

his innovative and pragmatic approach to resolving critical corporate governance challenges, shareholder litigation, and business disputes. With deep expertise in securities class actions, derivative suits, and merger and acquisition litigation, Schneider represents public and private companies, directors, officers, and private equity firms in navigating complex litigation in federal and state courts across the country. His impressive track record includes numerous trial victories in high stakes matters, including full defense wins in multiple matters with more than \$100 million in controversy. Through proactive advice, Schneider aims to prevent disputes altogether or, if litigation is inevitable, to put his clients in the best defense position possible. His clients include Orange County companies like Salas O'Brien, Foundation Building Materials, Primoris, and Playtika.

Schneider contributions to the Orange County legal and philanthropic communities have earned him accolades, including the Marcus J. Kaufman Jurisprudence Award, the Pegasus School Founders Award, and the Daniel R. Ginsberg Leadership Award. Schneider serves, for example, as board chair for both the Pegasus School and the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth, on the Executive Committee of the CEO Leadership Alliance, and on the board of Octane. Schneider has been selected by his peers repeatedly for Best Lawyers and as one of the Top 50 "Super Lawyers" in Orange County. He co-chairs the firm's securities litigation practice, which has been recognized by Legal500 since 2018.



**CHASE SCOLNICK**

KELLER ANDERLE SCOLNICK LLP

Chase Scolnick is one of the nation's most accomplished trial lawyers, with a record of winning high-stakes criminal and civil cases across the country. Before joining Keller Anderle Scolnick LLP, he spent fourteen years as a Deputy Federal Defender in the Southern and Central Districts of California and the Eastern District of New York, trying some of the country's most complex matters, including insider trading, financial market manipulation, international terrorism, and organized crime cases. In multiple years, he secured more defense trial victories than any other lawyer in those districts.

Since joining KAS, Scolnick has become one of the country's premier trial attorneys in complex civil litigation. In 2024, he secured a \$292.5 million false advertising verdict for Guardant Health against Natera in one of the largest Lanham Act verdicts in history. He also co-led the successful defense of MGA Entertainment against the OMG Girlz in a \$300 million intellectual property case and secured a complete defense verdict for Kevin Spacey in New York.

Outside the courtroom, Scolnick is a recognized leader in the legal profession. He was appointed co-chair, and later chair, of the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference by judges of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, and served as president of the Federal Bar Association, Orange County Chapter. He has twice been named one of the Daily Journal's "Top 100 Lawyers in California," recognized in Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America, named a Benchmark Litigation Star and a fellow in the Litigation Counsel of America.



**MARK SKAIST**

STRADLING YOCCA  
CARLSON & RAUTH LLP

Mark Skaist is a distinguished transactional lawyer renowned for his entrepreneurial clients throughout the various stages of a company's lifecycle. With a wealth of experience serving as

general counsel to emerging companies, Skaist adeptly manages their daily legal needs while strategically positioning them for growth. His pivotal role encompasses guiding clients through complex issues related to company formation, funding rounds, and a broad array of strategic deals. Clients appreciate Skaist not only for his legal acumen but also for his significant, ongoing contribution to their success.

Skaist's diverse clientele spans multiple business models, each bringing unique challenges and opportunities. He has made a notable impact in the technology sector, assisting firms in the software and internet markets. His reputation extends further into consumer products, where he has established a solid track record in sectors such as food and beverage, hospitality, fashion, action sports, and skincare. Skaist is proficient in adapting to fluctuating business conditions and elevating companies, irrespective of their current stage, to new heights. Notably, over the last few years, Skaist has advised Restaurant365 in raising more than \$460 million in venture funding. Other clients include Herbivore Botanicals, Bachan's, and Okapi Venture Capital.

His comprehensive corporate practice encompasses transactional, financial, and emerging company work. Regularly collaborating with venture capital and private equity funds, Skaist provides valuable advice on corporate governance and employee compensation matters. His commitment to his clients and their growth solidifies his position as a key player in today's dynamic business landscape.

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## 2026 TOP LITIGATORS & CORPORATE LAWYERS



**GARETT SLEICHTER**  
RUTAN & TUCKER, LLP

Garrett Sleichter represents public and private clients in a variety of corporate matters, including mergers and acquisitions, SEC reporting, securities and capital markets, corporate finance, and general company representation.

Sleichter has a passion for helping companies succeed and prides himself on taking a practical, business-minded approach to his practice. Sleichter has completed over 200 M&A transactions ranging in size from the low millions to over \$1 billion and serves as outside general counsel to over 40 companies ranging from start-ups to those with revenues in the hundreds of millions.

Garrett is the current chair of Rutan's Corporate Department, the former chair of the Orange County Bar Association's Business and Corporate Law Section, and a member of the board of directors of Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County.



**THOMAS SONG**  
BUCHALTER

Thomas Song is a Partner in Buchalter's Irvine office and a key member of the firm's Labor and Employment practice group. He represents employers in high-stakes employment litigation and provides practical, strategic guidance on a wide range of workplace issues facing California businesses. Song has significant experience defending employers in class actions, Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) representative actions, and single-plaintiff disputes in both state and federal courts, as well as before administrative agencies.

His litigation practice spans the full spectrum of employment claims, including wage and hour violations, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wrongful termination, and failure to accommodate. He also advises and defends clients in Cal/OSHA and Fed/OSHA matters, including complex citation appeals and contested hearings through trial. In addition, Song handles trade secret disputes, breach of contract claims, unfair competition matters, and other business torts, helping clients navigate overlapping employment and commercial risks.

Song is particularly recognized for his deep OSHA expertise. As a former legal counsel to the Cal/OSHA Appeals Board, he brings insider knowledge and a practical, results-driven approach to compliance and enforcement matters. He has successfully defended employers against serious and fatality-related citations, securing favorable outcomes through multi-day evidentiary proceedings and negotiated resolutions with both Cal/OSHA and Fed/OSHA.

Before entering private practice, Song served as a nuclear-trained officer in the U.S. Navy, where he held leadership roles aboard Aegis-class destroyers and the USS Abraham Lincoln. His technical background and disciplined approach continue to inform his strategic advocacy on behalf of employers.



**JEREMY STAMELMAN**  
KELLER ANDERIE SCOLNICK LLP

Jeremy Stamelman is a first-chair trial lawyer with more than 25 years of experience handling complex business litigation in state and federal courts and international arbitrations. He spent the first 16 years of his career at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher in Los Angeles and New York before joining Keller Anderle Scolnick LLP.

Stamelman has built a reputation for winning high-stakes disputes involving complex commercial claims. In 2025, he secured a complete victory following a one-month bench trial in *In the Matter of the Donald Callender Family Trust*, defending the trustees of the Marie Callender family trust against claims seeking hundreds of millions of dollars in damages. After more than a decade of litigation, the court denied all claims against the trustees and awarded no damages.

Also in 2025, Stamelman achieved a favorable settlement for his Am Law 100 client in a billion-dollar probate and legal malpractice dispute involving the estate tied to Prometheus Real Estate Group.

Stamelman is currently co-leading a two-month jury trial involving competing breach of contract claims between Shoebacca and ASICS, with alleged damages in the tens of millions of dollars.

Additionally, he is leading the defense of Masimo Corporation in a high-profile lawsuit brought by former CEO Joe Kiani seeking approximately \$500 million in alleged compensation.

Stamelman served as Chair of the Orange County Bar Association's Business Litigation Section in 2025 and has been recognized in *Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America*, *Best Lawyers in America*, and *Southern California Super Lawyers*.



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## 2026 TOP LITIGATORS & CORPORATE LAWYERS



**MATTHEW J. STAUB**  
ADAMS CORPORATE LAW

Matthew J. Staub is a senior associate at Adams Corporate Law, a boutique corporate law firm known for its focus on mergers and acquisitions. With a multidisciplinary background in law, accounting, and entrepreneurship,

Staub brings a well-rounded perspective to the companies he advises—helping clients think strategically about growth, risk, and value at every stage of the business lifecycle.

Staub counsels privately held businesses in a wide range of industries, including technology, financial services, healthcare, manufacturing, hospitality, and consumer services. His work encompasses mergers and acquisitions, private equity and financing transactions, corporate governance, shareholder and founder arrangements, real estate matters, and complex commercial contracts. He also advises on regulatory compliance and capital formation strategies. Prior to joining Adams Corporate Law, Staub represented companies and private investors across California in corporate, real estate, and transactional matters. His practical insight and tax-aware approach make him a key resource for clients seeking thoughtful legal solutions with long-term impact. Whether supporting day-to-day operations or guiding clients through a transformative transaction, Staub is committed to clarity, responsiveness, and results—hallmarks of the firm's reputation as lawyers who close deals.

Staub earned his dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Account-School of Business and his Juris Doctor with a specialization in Taxation from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of ing and Entrepreneurship from Indiana University's Kelley Law. He is licensed to practice law in California. Learn more about Matthew Staub's experience and how Adams Corporate Law can support your next business transaction by visiting [adamscorporatelaw.com](http://adamscorporatelaw.com).



**TODD STITT**  
MICHELMAN ROBINSON

Todd Stitt is among Orange County's most sought-after litigators for complex class actions and high-impact business disputes. As Chair of Michelman & Robinson's Partnership, Shareholder & Franchise Litigation

practice and a member of the firm's Executive Committee, he has built a formidable reputation helping businesses navigate contentious, consequential matters with precision and strategic clarity.

Stitt represents a broad range of clients—from Fortune 500 corporations and national insurers to professional services firms and closely held companies—across disputes involving consumer claims, employment practices, partnership conflicts, and regulatory exposure. He is widely recognized for his command of class action procedure and his ability to distill technically complex issues into compelling, persuasive arguments. His docket regularly features allegations of unfair business practices, wage-and-hour violations, fiduciary breaches, and matters arising under complex regulatory frameworks.

Beyond the courtroom, Stitt is a trusted counselor to businesses confronting sensitive internal disputes involving ownership, governance, and operational control. Clients consistently cite his rare ability to pair aggressive advocacy with sound business judgment; a combination that proves especially valuable when litigation threatens to disrupt operations, relationships, or long-term enterprise value.

Stitt also maintains an active arbitration practice, representing clients in high-stakes private proceedings with significant financial exposure. Whether at the negotiating table or through litigation, he delivers results through disciplined preparation and meticulous execution.



**MICHELE M. VERCOSKI**  
MCCUNE LAW GROUP

Michele Vercoski's practice spans commercial litigation, class actions, and complex disputes involving financial harm to shareholders, business partners, and employees. She joined McCune Law Group in

2006 and has since built a reputation as one of the firm's most versatile and tenacious litigators, with a particular focus on cases where one party has used its position of power to take advantage of another.

A Tulane Law graduate who finished Order of the Coif and magna cum laude, Vercoski has argued before the Ninth Circuit and the United States Supreme Court on arbitration issues that now shape how employment and business contracts are interpreted and enforced nationwide. The Chief Justice authored the 5-4 decision in that case. She is a contributing author to Law360, where she has published in-depth analysis of the Supreme Court's evolving arbitration jurisprudence and has authored sections on business litigation topics for the Continuing Education of the Bar, a nonprofit program of the University of California.

Her casework covers breach of fiduciary duty among partners and shareholders, unfair competition, fraud, and workplace discrimination. She has secured recoveries ranging from six-figure settlements to a \$72 million national class action settlement. Peer-selected to Best Lawyers in America in 2026, Vercoski brings a rare combination of academic distinction, appellate experience, and trial-tested instincts to every matter she handles. Vercoski is licensed to practice law in California, New York and New Jersey and is admitted to practice in various federal courts.

### What Landlords Need to Know When a Commercial Tenant Files Bankruptcy Marshall J. Hogan – Partner, Snell & Wilmer

Commercial bankruptcies are on the rise. In April 2026, commercial Chapter 11 filings increased 42% year over year, while overall commercial filings increased 21%. For landlords, a tenant's bankruptcy filing can disrupt cash flow, limit remedies, and create uncertainty about the future of a lease. Here are a few key points every commercial landlord should understand.

#### The Automatic Stay

The moment a tenant files bankruptcy, the automatic stay under Bankruptcy Code section 362 takes effect and immediately halts all eviction efforts. Landlords must obtain court permission before taking any action against the tenant or the leased premises. Violations of the stay—even informal demands for payment—can expose a landlord to sanctions.

#### Lease Assumption, Rejection, and Assignment

If your commercial tenant files bankruptcy, mark on your calendar 120 days from the date of the filing. By that date, a commercial debtor must assume or reject its real property lease. If it fails to do so, then the lease is automatically deemed rejected and the tenant must surrender the premises. Despite strong words in the Bankruptcy Code mandating this result, some Bankruptcy Courts balk at applying this requirement.

Before a tenant debtor can assume or assign a lease, it must cure all monetary defaults. Notably, anti-assignment clauses and clauses requiring landlord consent to assign are generally unenforceable



in bankruptcy, meaning a landlord may find its lease assigned to an unfamiliar third party over its objection.

#### Landlord Claims and the Damages Cap

A landlord's claim for unpaid pre-petition rent is treated as a general unsecured claim—which typically are paid last and in a fractional amount. If the lease

is rejected, claims for future rent are capped at the greater of one year's rent or 15% of the remaining lease term, not to exceed three years' rent. Cash security deposits are generally considered property of the bankruptcy estate and cannot be applied without court approval.

After filing bankruptcy, the tenant debtor must continue to pay rent as it comes due. Depending on the circumstances, a debtor's failure to pay post-petition rent can help the landlord obtain relief from the automatic stay so that it can pursue eviction. Courts also routinely grant landlords priority status for repayment of post-petition rent obligations, though repayment ultimately depends on whether the bankruptcy estate has funds to distribute.

Marshall J. Hogan is a partner in the Orange County office of Snell & Wilmer and a member of the firm's Bankruptcy and Reorganization Practice Group. His practice focuses on commercial litigation, business bankruptcy, insolvency proceedings, and creditors' rights matters. Mr. Hogan represents clients in a wide range of complex business disputes and restructuring matters in both state and federal courts. He can be reached at [mhogan@swlaw.com](mailto:mhogan@swlaw.com).



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## 2026 TOP LITIGATORS & CORPORATE LAWYERS



**DANIEL WEISS**  
REEVES & WEISS LLP

Daniel Weiss represents businesses and individuals in high-stakes, complex litigation across a wide range of industries. His practice encompasses business litigation, crisis management, labor and employment, sports law, class actions, and white-collar defense. He has litigated in federal, state, and territorial courts nationwide, as well as before major arbitration bodies.

Known for his strategic thinking and practical approach, Weiss delivers both zealous advocacy and sound counsel. He advises clients on risk management, reputational risk, and e-discovery, and has participated in nearly 20 trials, arbitrations, and administrative proceedings.

Weiss recently served as lead trial counsel for clients in a multi-day Phase 1 trial on contract interpretation, successfully obtaining an order adopting his clients' position. He also served as lead counsel for a real estate investment fund in an 11-day JAMS arbitration, defeating co-owners' attempts to seize control of a Newport Beach property. In his sports practice, Weiss represents elite athletes, teams, and sponsors in significant sponsorship and anti-doping disputes before U.S. arbitration panels and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

A recognized thought leader, Weiss has co-authored chapters on California's Consumers Legal Remedies Act and white-collar criminal law, and has been published in the ABA Litigation Journal, the Daily Journal, and Law360.

Prior to co-founding Reeves & Weiss, Weiss spent more than 15 years at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP in Los Angeles—a firm recognized by The American Lawyer as Litigation Department of the Year on multiple occasions—before serving as a senior attorney at Theodora Oringher PC.



**FRED WHITAKER**  
CUMMINS & WHITE

As Managing Partner of Cummins & White LLP, Whitaker serves as trusted outside general counsel to privately held businesses, family-owned companies, and high-net-worth individuals throughout California and their interests throughout the country. With decades of experience spanning mergers and acquisitions, commercial real estate, finance, corporate governance, succession planning, and risk management, Whitaker is known for delivering strategic legal counsel grounded in real-world business experience.

Before returning to Cummins & White in 2000 to lead the firm's transactional practice, Whitaker served as Vice President and General Counsel of SC Fuels and later as Chief Operating Officer of its Northwest Division, giving him a unique operational perspective that informs his legal approach today. Clients value his ability to think like a business owner while navigating complex transactions and long-term growth strategies. Recently, Whitaker was asked to serve on the Board of Directors of a valued client, adding another advisory dimension to Cummins & White.

Under Whitaker's leadership, Cummins & White continues to expand its reputation as one of Orange County's premier business law firms, doubling in size since 2000 and celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. Fred remains deeply involved in the community through leadership roles with civic, educational, and industry organizations across Orange County.



**KIMURA LONDON & WHITE LLP**



**DARRELL P. WHITE**  
KIMURA LONDON & WHITE LLP

Darrell P. White is a founding partner of Kimura London & White LLP. As a trial attorney, he prepares every case for trial from day one. After more than 100 trials, he remains a trusted advocate for businesses facing high-stakes disputes. He recently served as lead counsel in the largest cryptocurrency asset forfeiture case in U.S. history.

White serves as lead counsel in commercial litigation with billions at stake. He represents closely held corporations, multinational entities, professional athletes, and entrepreneurs in complex matters around the country. Since co-founding the firm, he has recovered more than \$21 million in settlements and defended against claims worth much more. His trial-first approach produces better outcomes, whether a matter is resolved through settlement or verdict.

His practice spans business litigation, real estate conflicts, financial services, and multi-party commercial cases. He represents clients in federal and state courts throughout California, Texas, Washington D.C., Florida, and Arizona. He is admitted to the Ninth and D.C. Circuit Courts of Appeals.

White also serves as outside general counsel to clients in the banking, entertainment, hospitality, manufacturing, construction, and real estate industries. As an investor and operator, he brings particular depth to disputes involving commercial real estate owners, developers, and operators.

Featured in Forbes, Fortune, and the Daily Journal, he is regularly sought out for insight on business litigation and trial strategy. White has been a Super Lawyer and Best Lawyers honoree since 2021. When the stakes are highest, clients know he is ready for trial and prepared to win.

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**RYAN WILKINS**  
STRADLING YOCCA  
CARLSON & RAUTH LLP

Ryan Wilkins is a highly distinguished attorney who has played a pivotal role growing and advancing the interests of some of the firm's largest and most prominent clients, making him a trusted advisor in the industry. His expertise spans various aspects

of corporate and securities law practice, including capital markets transactions, mergers and acquisitions, SEC reporting and compliance, and corporate governance. Wilkins' practice primarily focuses on the representation of public and private companies, investment banks, institutional investors, and high net-worth individuals. Key clients include Bird Global, CorVel, Deckers Outdoor, MARA, Sight Sciences and Tandem Diabetes.

Wilkins has led the firm's public company and investment banking clients through a multitude of corporate finance transactions, including initial public offerings, follow-on offerings, secondary offerings and private placements. He regularly advises clients in connection with structuring and negotiating complex merger, acquisition, divestiture and recapitalization transactions. He also has extensive experience navigating complex SEC compliance issues, stock exchange listing requirements, executive compensation matters, and corporate governance issues.

Before his successful legal career, Wilkins was a student-athlete at UCLA, where he earned three varsity letters in football. As a proud member of two PAC-10 championship teams, he was honored with the Jackie Robinson Memorial Award for Overall Excellence (2000). His athletic journey also led him to participate in the Rose Bowl (1999), Cotton Bowl (1998), and Sun Bowl (2000). Wilkins' competitive spirit and dedication, both on the field and in the boardroom, reflect his commitment to excellence in all endeavors.

Wilkins received his JD from the UCLA School of Law with a Corporate Law Specialization, and an MBA from the Anderson School at UCLA with an emphasis in Finance.



**YASMIN N. YOUNESSI**  
MCCUNE LAW GROUP

Yasmin Younessi focuses on commercial litigation, class actions, and complex multi-party disputes, handling matters from initial complaint through trial and settlement. Since joining McCune

Law Group following her graduation from Chapman University Fowler School of Law in 2019, she has worked on some of the firm's most demanding cases, gaining experience across a wide range of industries and dispute types.

Younessi takes a hands-on approach at every stage of a case. She has drafted initial pleadings, managed extensive electronic discovery in high-volume matters, argued motions in court, and seen cases through to resolution at trial or settlement. That full-lifecycle experience gives her a practical understanding of how litigation decisions made early in a case affect outcomes at the end.

As a certified mediator, Younessi brings an additional dimension to her practice. She understands how opposing parties evaluate risk and assess the value of a case and uses that perspective to build stronger arguments and identify settlement leverage that other attorneys might miss. Her mediation training also makes her an effective communicator with clients navigating the uncertainty of complex litigation for the first time.

A University of California, Irvine undergraduate and member of the California State Bar since 2020, Younessi is a contributing member of McCune Law Group's contingency commercial litigation team in Irvine.



**VICTOR H. YU**  
KATZ RUBY & CARLE LLP

Victor Yu, a partner in Katz Ruby & Carle LLP, is a trial lawyer specializing in trade-secret and commercial actions. He has deep

experience across all phases of litigation, from early strategic counseling through dispositive motions and trial. Yu's practice spans a wide range of industries—from Fortune 500 corporations and unicorn startups to individuals navigating complex disputes.

Yu has represented leading technology, healthcare, and life-sciences clients in high-stakes commercial and intellectual property disputes, including trade secret, licensing, and First Amendment matters. His work has contributed to major defense verdicts and favorable settlements in cases involving hundreds of millions of dollars in potential exposure. Before joining Katz Ruby & Carle LLP, Yu practiced at Kecker, Van Nest & Peters LLP in San Francisco and Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP in New York.



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