

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE WOMEN IN LAW

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2026 WOMEN IN LAW PROFILES



KATHERINE AGBAYANI

CUMMINS & WHITE, LLP

Katherine "Kay" Agbayani is a seasoned litigator and Senior Associate at Cummins & White, LLP, bringing more than two decades of experience representing clients in complex business and financial disputes.



Agbayani's practice at Cummins & White focuses on insurance coverage and business litigation, drawing on decades of experience navigating sophisticated commercial matters and helping clients manage disputes with significant legal and business implications.

Prior to joining Cummins & White, Agbayani represented national banks, secured lenders and financial services companies in litigation involving mortgage banking and loan servicing disputes. Her work in the highly regulated financial services industry has given her extensive experience managing complex litigation, evaluating risk and developing strategies that account for both the immediate legal issues and their broader impact on a client's business.

Agbayani brings deep litigation experience and a practical perspective to each engagement. Her approach emphasizes thoughtful analysis, strategic advocacy, and an understanding of the business considerations that often drive complex disputes. Agbayani joins Cummins & White during its 75th anniversary year, adding her considerable experience to the firm's litigation team and strengthening its capabilities in insurance coverage and business litigation as the firm looks toward its next generation of client service.



KYRA ANDRASSY

RAINES FELDMAN LITTRELL LLP

Kyra Andrassy is a partner at Raines Feldman Littrell LLP, where she has more than twenty-five years of experience in insolvency law and fiduciary representation. She represents chapter 11 debtors, chapter 7 and 11 trustees, federal and state court receivers, and assignees in assignments for the benefit of creditors. She is a member of the boards of directors of the Los Angeles Bankruptcy Forum, the National Association of Federal Equity Receivers, and the California Receivers Forum and has served in a myriad of leadership positions for other insolvency-related organizations.



Andrassy currently represents the chapter 7 trustee for the bankruptcy estate of Girardi Keese, a personal injury law firm led by Thomas Girardi, who has since been convicted of stealing client funds and whose conduct led to significant reforms to the California State Bar. She is also lead chapter 11 counsel for a number of entities that own shopping centers across California that were previously managed by Continuum Analytics, which has been under the microscope after one of its associates, Mahender Makhijani, was recently indicted for a \$100 million bank fraud. Andrassy also represents fiduciaries appointed or retained in cases involving investment fraud, including federal equity receivers in civil enforcement actions brought by the Securities and Exchange Commission and turnaround professionals brought in to investigate various types of investment fraud and to return as much as possible to defrauded creditors.



CHRISTINE BARAN

FISHER PHILLIPS LLP

Christine Baran is a partner in the firm's Irvine and Los Angeles offices, where her practice is devoted to litigating employment-related disputes. Baran's diverse practice includes matters involving discrimination, sexual harassment, wage and hour claims (both individual and collective actions), unfair business practices, whistleblower claims, workplace violence and wrongful discharge. She represents employers in both state and federal court as well as before state and federal agencies, such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the California Civil Rights Department (CRD), OSHA, and the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE).



Along with her litigation work, Baran counsels clients on disciplinary matters, employee terminations, internal investigations, the development of preventive policies and procedures, and compliance with state and federal laws relating to wages, leaves of absence, harassment and discrimination. In addition, she regularly conducts compliance and management training and frequently speaks on employment issues for trade groups and associations as well as private employers.

In addition to employment litigation, Baran represents clients against disability discrimination claims under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Baran is actively involved with the California Fuels & Convenience Alliance (CFCA) and is on the Board of Directors of the Orange County Apartment Association.



ANNE BEEHLER

HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

Anne Redcross Beehler is a seasoned litigator and trial attorney in Holland & Knight's Newport Beach office whose reputation for practical problem-solving and courtroom success has made her a trusted advisor to businesses, investors and high-net-worth individuals across California and New York. Her practice spans partnership and corporate governance disputes, contract and fraud claims, trade secret theft, securities litigation, and whistleblower actions.



Beehler handles cases from inception through trial and appeal, having first-chaired trials in both state and federal courts. A significant portion of her work focuses on the real estate industry. Beehler has represented a wide range of stakeholders, lenders, landlords, tenants, developers, Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), and receivers in disputes involving distressed properties and other complex real estate matters. She is also experienced in white collar criminal defense, guiding clients through investigations and trials. Before moving to California, she successfully tried a high-profile white-collar case in New York involving grand larceny and business record falsification.

Beyond litigation, Beehler frequently counsels clients on compliance with state and federal criminal laws. Known for being practical, persistent, and meticulously prepared, she is deeply committed to helping clients find strategic solutions and minimize litigation whenever possible. As well as her legal practice, Beehler is deeply engaged in the Orange County community. She serves on the Legal Advisory Council for ALIGHT, is a frequent volunteer with the Orange County Bar Association, and helps lead Holland & Knight's Women's Engagement Network, reflecting her commitment to mentoring, service and advancing women in the legal profession.



FARAH BHATTI

BUCHALTER

Farah Bhatti is a Partner and the Chair of the Firm's Trademark Law Practice and Co-Chair of the Internet, E-Commerce and Social Media Practice. She focuses her practice on all aspects of trademark prosecution and protection, including advising, counseling, and securing trademark protection for clients, with an emphasis on the worldwide selection and enforcement of trademarks. She also works closely with clients in formulating their domestic and international trademark protection and registration strategies and manages domestic and international trademark portfolios. Bhatti also counsels and works with clients with regard to Federal trademark litigation and opposition and cancellation proceedings before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. Bhatti has also argued several matters before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board.



Bhatti expertly navigates the complexities of issues within the areas of trademark registration and enforcement, drawing on experience in private practice as well as her previous position as a trademark examining attorney at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). While there, she examined more than 2,000 trademark applications and represented the USPTO before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB). She also has extensive experience in the enforcement of Internet and domain names, through the implementation of strategies ranging from cease and desist letters, Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) complaints, individual website complaint procedures and trademark litigation under the Anticybersquatting Consumer Protection Act (ACPA) as well as other federal laws.

Bhatti has been recognized as a leader by the World Intellectual Property Review and is an active committee member of the International Trademark Association.



KATIE BINKLEY

VETERANS LEGAL INSTITUTE

Katie Binkley is Deputy Executive Director of Veterans Legal Institute (VLI), where she assists with the management and strategic direction of the organization. She also plans VLI's annual Lawyers for Warriors fundraiser and advocates for the organization throughout Orange County's legal and business communities.



Binkley serves as Chair of the Legal & Re-Entry Working Group of the Orange County Veterans and Military Families Collaborative, a consortium of veteran-serving organizations throughout Orange County. She also serves on the Executive Board of the Orange County Bar Association Family Law Section and is a member of the OCBA Pro Bono Committee. Binkley is a graduate of Leadership Tomorrow, a leadership development program administered by the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce. She is also a graduate of the Fieldstone Leadership Network's Class of 2024.

Binkley earned her law degree from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. While in law school, she received the Judge Mary M. Schroeder Award for completing the most pro bono hours as a second-year law student and graduated with the highest pro bono distinction. Her public-sector experience includes work with both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Arizona State Legislature.

Serving veterans is especially meaningful to Binkley, whose late grandfather was a Korean War-era Army officer. In both 2021 and 2023, she was honored as one of Congressman Lou Correa's Women of the Year. She also regularly contributes articles to publications including Orange County Lawyer and U.S. Veterans Magazine.

RUTAN

2026 WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

**Congratulations to these outstanding women
recognized as influential leaders in the
Orange County legal community!**



Amira Bucklin
Associate
Intellectual Property



Adrianna Rubino
Senior Counsel
Employment



Mallorie Schindler
Partner
Corporate and Tax



Audrey Yue
Associate
Real Estate

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2026 WOMEN IN LAW PROFILES



ASHLEY BOLDUC

CUMMINS & WHITE, LLP

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.



AMIRA BUCKLIN

RUTAN & TUCKER, LLP

Amira Bucklin is an associate in Rutan's Intellectual Property practice, where she focuses on data privacy, cybersecurity, and technology law. She brings a multinational perspective to her practice, advising clients on complex privacy, regulatory, and transactional matters across a broad range of industries.



Bucklin advises clients on compliance with the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and other domestic and international privacy laws. Her practice includes advising organizations ranging from emerging companies to multinational corporations on AI governance, cross-border data transfers, data breach response and notification obligations, and other data protection issues affecting highly regulated sectors, such as healthcare and financial services. She also counsels organizations on developing privacy governance frameworks, implementing data protection policies, and managing regulatory risk in an evolving digital landscape.

A Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP), Bucklin holds certifications in European, U.S., and Asian privacy law through the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP). Prior to earning her LL.M. degree at the University of California Irvine School of Law, she completed a judicial clerkship with the District Court of Frankfurt, Germany, and gained experience as a trainee associate with several international law firms, building a strong foundation in cross-border legal practice. Beyond her professional accomplishments, Bucklin is deeply committed to community service and pro bono work. Through her involvement with the OC Human Trafficking Project, she offers pro bono legal services, leveraging her legal expertise for the greater good.



ALLISON BURNS

STRADLING YOCCA CARLSON & RAUTH

Allison Burns is a partner in Stradling's Public Law practice group, with extensive experience in local agency governance, civil rights litigation, eminent domain, and real estate disputes. She is well-versed in contract and construction issues, economic development, and affordable housing litigation, as well as land use matters and compliance with public records regulations. Her experience also includes relocation and acquisition disputes, conflicts of interest, Public Records Act and Brown Act challenges, compliance and litigation, environmental contamination and remediation cost-recovery actions, water rights, and the dissolution of redevelopment. Burns has additional litigation experience across constitutional and civil rights challenges to governmental programs and actions, development agreement disputes, eminent domain (representing both condemnees and condemnors), breaches of covenants, conditions and restrictions, foreclosure of taxes, special assessments, and liens, construction disputes, contamination and remediation cost-recovery actions, evictions, challenges to bond issuances, affordable housing disputes (including challenges to expenditures from low- and moderate-income housing funds). Burns serves as city attorney to the city of Lancaster and general counsel to the Chino Basin Desalter Authority, Emerald Bay Service District, Spalding Community Services District, San Juan Basin Authority, Antelope Valley Transit Authority, Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District, and Santiago Aqueduct Commission.



JENNIFER COLLINS

ROBINSON CALCAGNIE, INC.

Jennifer Collins is an attorney at Robinson Calcagnie, Inc. whose practice centers on complex mass tort and product liability litigation. She currently focuses on the firm's Johnson & Johnson talcum powder, Depo-Provera, Roundup, GLP-1, and mesh cases, representing individuals in litigation involving some of the world's largest pharmaceutical and consumer product companies.



Before focusing on her current cases, Collins gained experience and a broad perspective on complex litigations working on the firm's Fosamax, transvaginal mesh, DePuy ASR hip implant, and the Route 91 Harvest Music Festival cases.

Collins earned her undergraduate degree from Chapman University and her Juris Doctor from Chapman University's Fowler School of Law. She is a member of the American Bar Association, the Orange County Bar Association and the American Association for Justice.



CHANEL DIBLASI

CUMMINS & WHITE, LLP

Chanel DiBlasi is a corporate and real estate attorney at Cummins & White, LLP, advising business owners, investors, developers, and companies on transactions and operational legal matters that support their business and investment objectives.



As an Associate with the firm, DiBlasi's practice spans corporate and business transactions, real estate, corporate governance, commercial leasing, acquisitions and dispositions, and development and construction matters. She assists clients throughout the lifecycle of a transaction, from entity formation and due diligence to contract negotiation and drafting, purchase and sale agreements, and closing.

DiBlasi brings a practical, business-focused perspective to her work, helping clients identify potential issues, manage legal risk, and keep transactions moving forward. Her detail-oriented and collaborative approach is particularly valuable in matters involving multiple parties and competing business considerations, where effective counsel requires both careful legal analysis and an understanding of the client's broader goals.

Prior to joining Cummins & White, DiBlasi developed experience advising clients on corporate, real estate, and commercial matters, including business operations, contract review and negotiation, transactional due diligence, and real estate-related legal issues.



CAROLINE DJANG

BUCHALTER

Caroline Djang is a Partner at Buchalter, where she is Co-Chair of the Orange County Litigation Practice and is a member of the firm's Insolvency and Financial Law Practice Group. Based in Irvine, Djang is widely recognized for her strategic counsel in bankruptcy and financial restructuring, representing creditors, trustees, debtors, and committees in high-stakes litigation. A certified mediator and Chapter 11 Subchapter V Trustee for the Central District of California, Djang combines legal precision with practical insight, guiding clients through debt recovery strategies and financial distress with clarity and confidence. She is a sought-after speaker on many topics, including the Small Business Reorganization Act.



Beyond her practice, Djang is deeply committed to the legal community. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Orange County Bar Association, the James T. King Bankruptcy Inn of Court and the Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society. Her previous roles include President of the Orange County Women Lawyers Association and the Orange County Bankruptcy Forum, and serving as a Lawyer Representative for the Central District of California and as an At-Large Member of the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference Executive Committee.

Djang's contributions and leadership have earned widespread recognition. She has been named among the Top 100 Southern California Attorneys, Top 50 Women and Top 50 Orange County Attorneys by Super Lawyers.



Solutions at the speed of now

Stradling is proud to help companies across California meet the demands of today's fast-changing business landscape.

We are a premier business law firm with 110+ lawyers in 11 Western U.S. locations. Top companies and municipalities count on us for the right team and skills to meet their toughest challenges 24/7, 365 days a year.

2026 WOMEN IN LAW PROFILES

EVERETT DOREY LLP

Buchalter



SAMANTHA E. DOREY

EVERETT DOREY LLP

Samantha Dorey is a Founding Partner of Everett Dorey LLP and serves as trial counsel in high-impact cases in state and federal court. She specializes in complex civil litigation with an emphasis in catastrophic injury, toxic torts, public entity defense, mass tort, and environmental law. Dorey represents multi-national corporations, non-profits, cities, public agencies, property owners and property managers in all aspects of litigation. She also regularly advises clients on non-litigated matters, including development of risk management protocols and procedures.



As a leading litigator in California routinely retained as trial counsel in complex and challenging cases throughout the state, Dorey has shaped a firm of exceptionally talented litigators with diverse cultural and personal backgrounds, with particular focus on creating an environment that empowers female attorneys. She has received numerous industry awards for her work in the field, including but not limited to, 2024-2026 Top Women Lawyers, 2024-2025 40 Under 40, and 2025 Leading Commercial Litigator by the Daily Journal. Everett Dorey was recently recognized with the Advancement of Women Award by the Orange County Women Lawyers Association.

Dorey is an Adjunct Professor at Chapman University, Dale E. Fowler School of Law where she teaches a course on litigation strategy and civil procedure in state and federal courts. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Public Law Center, a nonprofit providing free legal services to low-income residents and other nonprofits in Orange County.

JENNIFER VAN DUZER

BUCHALTER

Jennifer Van Duzer is a Partner in Buchalter's Los Angeles and Orange County offices and a member of the firm's Tax, Benefits and Estate Planning practice group. Duzer provides clients with advanced and conventional techniques for transferring and preserving wealth plus planning for their closely held businesses, real estate holdings, entertainment industry issues, copyright and royalty interests, and charitable intentions.



She places an emphasis on developing a trusted advisor relationship with clients and crafting specifically tailored plans based on clients' goals. She presents to colleagues on a range of private client subjects including irrevocable trust planning, estate tax, and probate matters. Duzer is a member of the State Bar of California, the USC Tax Institute Planning Committee, and the Beverly Hills Estate Planning Council.

LISA EYANSON

VETERANS LEGAL INSTITUTE

Lisa Eyanson is an accomplished criminal defense attorney with more than 30 years of litigation experience. She has dedicated her career to representing indigent clients, including more than two decades with the Orange County Public Defender's Office. Today, she serves as a Senior Staff Attorney with Veterans Legal Institute (VLI), where she brings her extensive courtroom experience to advocating for veterans and their families.



At VLI, Eyanson focuses primarily on helping veterans expunge criminal convictions, often a result of service-related trauma and seal criminal records, removing barriers that can prevent them from obtaining stable housing and employment. Her work helps ensure that veterans have greater access to the resources and opportunities they need to remain safe and secure. She also collaborates with and supports Orange County's Veterans Treatment Court and Military Diversion Programs.

Eyanson earned her Bachelor of Arts from Loyola Marymount University and her Juris Doctor from Western State University College of Law. After receiving her law degree, she joined the Law Offices of William J. Kopeny, where she handled pre-trial motions and appeals, including capital-case appeals in both state and federal courts.

In 1994, Eyanson joined the Orange County Public Defender's Office, eventually becoming a Senior Deputy Public Defender. Much of her litigation practice involved serious, violent, and complex felony matters, including special-circumstance and capital murder cases. She now applies that depth of experience to helping veterans overcome legal barriers and move forward with greater stability and opportunity.

Buchalter

ANNE MARIE ELLIS

BUCHALTER

Anne Marie Ellis is the Office Managing Partner of Buchalter's Orange County office, the firm's second-largest office, a role she assumed in January 2026. She also serves as California Chair of the firm's Products Liability and Mass Torts Practice Group and chairs Buchalter's Chemical Law & Proposition 65 and Automotive Industry Groups. In these leadership positions, she helps shape the strategic growth of the firm's litigation and regulatory practices while fostering collaboration, mentorship, and professional development across offices and practice groups.



For more than two decades, Ellis has represented manufacturers, retailers, distributors, importers, and consumer product companies in complex litigation, regulatory compliance matters, product recalls, and risk management counseling. Her practice spans product liability, class actions, commercial litigation, consumer protection claims, and regulatory enforcement matters before agencies including the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), state Attorneys General, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and the FDA. She regularly advises companies on product safety issues, Section 15(b) reporting obligations, recalls, investigations, settlements, and compliance strategies designed to minimize litigation and regulatory risk.

Ellis is nationally recognized for her work in product liability and regulatory compliance. She has been ranked in the Chambers and Partners USA Guide for Product Liability & Mass Torts, Highly Regarded Nationwide. She has also been recognized by the Orange County Business Journal as one of its Top Litigators & Corporate Lawyers and as a Leader of Influence: Women in Law. In 2024, she was named a finalist for the OC Inspirational Women

Awards presented by L.A. Times B2B Publishing.

A thought leader in the product liability and regulatory compliance space, Ellis is frequently sought out to advise on emerging issues affecting businesses nationwide. She has developed a particular focus on Proposition 65, PFAS and other emerging contaminants, product recalls, chemical regulatory compliance, and evolving theories of product liability litigation. She is also at the forefront of advising manufacturers, retailers, and consumer product companies on emerging legal and regulatory issues involving microplastics, sustainability-related claims, and California-driven consumer protection trends.

Beyond her client work, Ellis is committed to advancing women in the legal profession and strengthening Orange County's business and legal communities. As Managing Partner, she prioritizes mentorship, sponsorship, and leadership development, helping attorneys build successful careers while fostering an inclusive and collaborative culture. She is a frequent author and speaker on product liability, product safety, recalls, regulatory enforcement, Proposition 65, PFAS, and emerging compliance challenges facing businesses today.

Known for her practical, business-oriented approach, Ellis partners closely with clients to navigate high-exposure disputes and regulatory challenges while focusing on efficient, cost-effective outcomes. Her combination of litigation experience, regulatory insight, industry leadership, and commitment to developing future leaders has made her a trusted advisor to companies nationwide and a respected leader within the Orange County legal community.



CELEBRATING THE WOMEN OF CUMMINS & WHITE

For 75 years, talented women attorneys have helped shape the legacy of Cummins & White. Today, we proudly celebrate the exceptional women whose leadership, talent, and dedication continue to write our next chapter.



Ashley Bolduc
Equity Partner



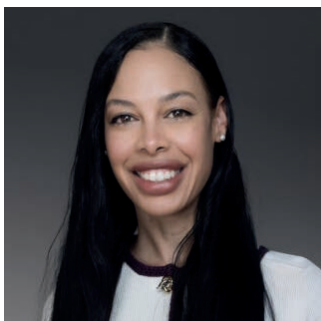
Wendy Hsu
Senior Associate



Katherine "Kay" Agbayani
Senior Associate



Dalia Wahab
Associate



Chanel DiBlasi
Associate



Courtney Whitaker
Associate

75 Years of Trusted Counsel
Generations of Women Leading The Way



2026 WOMEN IN LAW PROFILES



ALYSSA FOGLE

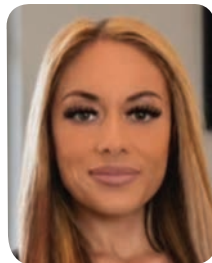
VETERANS LEGAL INSTITUTE

Alyssa Fogle is a Staff Attorney at Veterans Legal Institute (VLI) whose passion for public service is rooted in both her 12 years of service in the United States Air Force and her longstanding commitment to advocating for veterans and marginalized communities.

An Orange County native, Fogle began focusing on veterans' issues while completing her undergraduate studies at California State University, Fullerton. During that time, she interned with a local Congressman, helping address concerns affecting the veteran community. While attending the University of La Verne College of Law, she expanded her advocacy experience through several legal clinics, including the Criminal Appellate Advocacy Clinic and Immigration Rights Clinic.

Fogle joined VLI as a law clerk in 2022 and has since dedicated her legal career to protecting the rights of low-income and homeless veterans, with a particular focus on housing and veterans' benefits. In VLI's housing practice, she helps veterans prevent and defend against evictions, addresses habitability violations, and provides advice and consultation on other housing matters. She has also expanded her practice areas to include representation in domestic violence restraining order matters, advocating for clients navigating complex and sensitive proceedings.

Within the Veterans Benefits department, Fogle assists veterans through the often complex process of filing VA disability claims, pursuing discharge upgrades, and handling appeals, helping clients obtain resources and benefits they have earned through their service.



MICHELLE FONSECA-KAMANA

WEST COAST LEMONS APC

When life gives you lemons, she'll get you justice! Michelle Fonseca-Kamana is the Founder and Principal Attorney at West Coast Lemons APC, a law firm specializing in California lemon law. Having personally negotiated over \$15 million worth of settlements from auto and RV manufacturers throughout her career, she is most proud of coupling incredible results with an unparalleled client experience, now having over 115 five-star reviews. Her law firm origin story is unique in that she started her law firm three weeks before the pandemic hit in 2020, but this became a blessing in disguise as she became a pioneer in the area of social media marketing. By sharing her lemon law knowledge via informational videos with her followers on social media, she built a solid direct to consumer and direct to business referral network. As a first generation Colombian-American attorney, she recently launched the Spanish side of her brand, Señora Limón to better help the Latino community.

Her article "When Life Gives You Lemon... Law Reform" in Advocate magazine has been one of the leading publications on the recent changes in the lemon law from AB 1755. With presentations for the Beverly Hills Bar Association, Women in Trial Travel Summit, and the Southeast District Bar Association, she is one of the leading authorities on California lemon law.

In her spare time she enjoys traveling with her husband and their silver Labrador named Pumbaa. Follow her on Instagram to learn more: @westcoastlemons @senora.limon



LAUREN FRIEDMAN

REEVES & WEISS LLP

Lauren Friedman represents companies and executives in complex business and commercial litigation, corporate governance matters, and employment disputes, with a solutions-oriented approach positioning clients to achieve favorable outcomes both in and outside the courtroom.

Friedman brings a uniquely strategic perspective to litigation shaped by nearly a decade of experience as General Counsel of Bio-Nutritional Research Group, Inc., the consumer products company behind the popular Power Crunch protein bars. In that role, she guided the company through a successful acquisition by the Ferrero Group. She also played an active role in representing the company in a multi-phase shareholder litigation in the Complex Panel of the Orange County Superior Court, in which the court rejected all direct and derivative claims brought against the company's officers, directors, and majority shareholders, and entered judgment in defendants' favor on every issue. The Court of Appeal affirmed on the merits, leading to an award of prevailing party attorneys' fees.

In addition to her litigation responsibilities, Friedman served as the company's corporate secretary, managed complex co-manufacturing and commercial agreements, and handled a broad range of employment matters — giving her the fluency in business operations that distinguishes her counsel.

Before going in-house, Friedman spent ten years at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, where she developed her foundation as a trial attorney handling complex commercial matters and shareholder derivative suits.



MORGAN GALLAGHER

COX, CASTLE & NICHOLSON

Morgan Gallagher is a partner at Cox, Castle & Nicholson and a leading land use attorney advising clients on complex real estate development projects throughout California.

Gallagher specializes in both transactional and litigation matters involving land use, zoning, entitlements, and environmental permitting for complex and often controversial development projects. She brings deep expertise in the California Environmental Quality Act, the Subdivision Map Act, and the Coastal Act—statutes that frequently pose significant challenges to development in California.

Gallagher's ability to navigate these laws efficiently and effectively allows her clients to move projects forward while mitigating risk and addressing stakeholder concerns. She advises clients at every stage of the development process, from initial due diligence through project approvals, and she regularly represents clients before Planning Commissions, City Councils, and other regulatory agencies.

Her practice spans the full spectrum of real estate asset types, including residential, renewable energy, office, corporate R&D campuses, industrial, commercial, and mixed-use developments throughout California. This breadth of experience reflects not only her technical proficiency but also her versatility and adaptability in an ever-evolving regulatory landscape.

Gallagher serves on the Boards of the Orange County Salvation Army, the Tustin Community Foundation, and the Building Block Foundation.



SUSAN GARBUTT

STALWART LAW GROUP

Susan Garbutt has built a career on turning insider knowledge into outsider advantage. Before joining Stalwart Law Group, she represented hospitals and physicians in medical malpractice defense - experience she now uses to anticipate the other side's every move on behalf of catastrophically injured victims. A former legal research attorney for the Orange County Superior Court, where she analyzed motions and shaped tentative rulings across the civil docket, Garbutt brings rare command of law and motion to every case she takes on.

Her results speak plainly: a \$27.8 million settlement and a \$20 million settlement, both in medical malpractice wrongful death matters. In 2024, the Consumer Attorneys of California honored her with its prestigious "Street Fighter of the Year" award, recognizing the relentlessness she brings to the courtroom.

Garbutt's path to law began early - the daughter of an orthopedic surgeon, she studied psychology and pre-medicine at the University of Vermont before earning her J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School, deliberately merging medicine and litigation into one career. She is a member of the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles, the Orange County Trial Lawyers Association, and Consumer Attorneys of California. For clients navigating some of the worst moments of their lives, Susan Garbutt offers both clinical precision and genuine compassion.



KARI GIBSON

FISHER PHILLIPS LLP

Kari Gibson is a partner in the Irvine office. Her practice includes litigating cases involving discrimination, harassment, whistleblower retaliation, wrongful discharge, unfair business practices, and wage and hour claims. She represents employers across a variety of industries, including aerospace, manufacturing, hospitality, automotive dealerships, memory care and acute care facilities, and multi-family housing. Her litigation experience includes single-plaintiff, PAGA, and class action litigation, and representing employers in state and federal courts as well as before state and federal agencies, such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the California Civil Rights Department (CRD), and the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission (HCRC).

Gibson helps employers comply with federal and state consumer/employee privacy requirements. Drawing on her experience as an owner of a fourth-generation family business, she advises clients on employment best practices and drafting and implementing policies on issues such as leaves of absence, drug testing, confidentiality, anti-discrimination, and wage-and-hour compliance. Since 2023, Kari has taught an in-demand undergraduate course on Employment Law in the Department of Business Administration at Cal State Long Beach. Kari is an effective and engaging speaker, conducting virtual and in-person trainings for client managers and HR professionals.

Prior to entering law, Gibson taught English at universities in California and Hawaii, with a research focus on workplace language policies. She also worked in the entertainment industry, notably at a well-known music magazine and a multinational film and television production studio.



ORANGE COUNTY BUSINESS JOURNAL

Women in Law 2026



*Congratulations to our exceptional women attorneys, honored among
Orange County's finest legal minds - your leadership, dedication &
advocacy inspire our entire firm*

Buchalter

AZ | CA | CO | GA | IL | OR | TN | TX | UT | WA

2026 WOMEN IN LAW PROFILES

Buchalter

SNELL
& WILMERELIZABETH R. GLASGOW
BUCHALTER

Elizabeth R. Glasgow is a Partner at Buchalter LLP, where she advises individuals, families, fiduciaries, family offices, and closely held businesses on sophisticated estate planning, wealth transfer, trust and fiduciary matters, and related tax issues. Glasgow works extensively with families, business owners, advisors, and institutions across Orange County and Southern California, helping clients preserve family wealth across generations while addressing evolving personal, business, and tax circumstances. Glasgow is a Fellow of The American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC), a selective, peer-elected organization of leading trust and estate lawyers. She is a frequent speaker on trusts and estates topics and recently served as a panelist at the CalCPA Trusts & Estates Conference in Newport Beach, where she presented on the tax and estate-planning implications of trust situs, residency, and domicile issues affecting high net worth California families and fiduciaries.



Her presentation was a natural extension of her work helping clients navigate the intersection of estate planning and complex state tax considerations, including trust residency, fiduciary administration, business ownership structures, and multistate planning. In recognition of her work, Glasgow has been repeatedly ranked among California's leading private wealth attorneys by the Chambers High Net Worth Guide and recognized by The Best Lawyers in America. Her practice reflects the increasingly interconnected needs of families and businesses throughout Southern California, and she is valued for combining technical precision with practical, client-centered guidance.

DEBORAH A. GUBERNICK
SNELL & WILMER

Deborah A. Gubernick is a partner in Snell & Wilmer's Orange County office and a member of the firm's Intellectual Property and Litigation, Investigations, and Trials Practice Groups. Her practice focuses on trademark, copyright, trade secret, and commercial litigation, along with strategic intellectual property counseling. She represents clients ranging from emerging companies to global brands in state and federal courts, and has handled over 220 matters before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board.



Gubernick regularly advises clients on all aspects of brand protection, including trademark selection, clearance, portfolio management, enforcement, licensing, and online infringement matters. Her experience spans UDRP proceedings, DMCA takedowns, Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) matters, intellectual property due diligence in domestic and international transactions, and disputes involving false advertising, unfair competition, and trade secrets. She counsels clients on developing brand strategies across evolving technologies, digital platforms, and global marketplaces.

A recognized leader both inside and outside the firm, Gubernick currently chairs the firm's Women's Initiative Network, spanning 17 offices, and serves as OC Hiring Committee Chair. She has been named a Top Intellectual Property Lawyer by the Daily Journal, and received the Bridgebuilder Award from the Orange County Coalition for Diversity in the Law. She is also recognized by World Trademark Review 1000, Best Lawyers in America, and Southern California Super Lawyers.

GRACE HOROUPIAN
FISHER PHILLIPS LLP

Grace Horoupian is a co-regional managing partner of the Irvine office who represents employers in a variety of employment cases. Her diverse practice includes litigating claims involving discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wage and hour violations (both individual and collective actions), unfair business practices, whistleblower claims, workplace violence, and wrongful discharge.



She represents employers in state and federal courts as well as before state and federal agencies, such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the California Civil Rights Department (CRD), and the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE). Horoupian also provides preventive counseling 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 leaves of absence. Horoupian also frequently presents seminars, workshops, and training programs on employment issues for industry groups and private employers.

Horoupian is the former vice chair and general counsel of the Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce, where she was honored as "Member of the Year" in 2011. Horoupian is "AV" Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell. She is also the former Chair of the firm's Associate Development Committee.

Buchalter

PEGGY HOSKING
BUCHALTER

Peggy Hosking, a partner in Buchalter's Orange County office, serves as an integral member of her clients' executive teams, helping them manage risk, protect enterprise value, maximize profitability, and preserve their legacies throughout the full lifecycle of their businesses.



As outside general counsel, Hosking delivers forward-thinking, business-minded advice from inception and formation through expansion, day-to-day operations, preparation for and completion of a sale, and generational transition. She also handles the full spectrum of her clients' commercial real estate matters, aligning legal strategy with operational priorities and long-term goals.

Recognized for her integrity and deep experience in business law, commercial real estate, and mergers & acquisitions, Hosking provides strategic, results-driven solutions tailored to each client. Her track record includes leading transactions valued in excess of \$100 million, including strategic business acquisitions and dispositions. By integrating corporate, transactional, and commercial real estate counsel, she helps clients execute complex growth and exit strategies with a single, business-focused legal adviser at the table.

Honored as an OC Visionary and a Leader of Influence, Hosking is also Co-Founder and Co-Chair of Buchalter's Equine Law Industry Group. In that role, she combines her legal acumen with more than 40 years of experience competing in hunter/jumper, reining, and dressage, as well as breeding Warmblood horses.

Hosking earned her J.D. from Loyola Law School and is a member of the State Bar of California.

TRACY HUGHES
RAINES FELDMAN LITRELL LLP

Tracy Hughes is a Partner at Raines Feldman Littrell LLP, representing clients in complex litigation and high-stakes legal matters. Hughes specializes in unfair competition cases, and in 2024, secured a \$39 million settlement for a government client in a deceptive marketing case.



Hughes served for over two decades as a prosecutor at the Orange County District Attorney's Office, where she completed over 100 criminal trials and was commissioned by the Food and Drug Administration to pursue dual enforcement actions. Before moving to Los Angeles County Counsel in 2020, Hughes served as the lead prosecutor for the California Food, Drug and Medical Device Task Force.

As a Senior Deputy County Counsel for Los Angeles County, Tracy was co-lead counsel in landmark matters including People v. Juul Labs, Inc. and People v. Purdue Pharma et al., and helped draft legislation strengthening California's consumer protection framework.

Hughes is a frequent speaker on an array of litigation subject matter. A dedicated advocate for women in the profession, Hughes served as 2025 President of the Orange County Women Lawyers Association, spent four years on the California Women Lawyers Board of Governors, and currently serves as Secretary of the Masters Board of the Orange County Bar Association. She was named a 2025 and 2026 Southern California SuperLawyer and was selected as a Fellow of the American Bar Association Foundation, an honorary society of practitioners and scholars whose careers have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the highest principles of the legal profession.

WENDY HSU
CUMMINS & WHITE, LLP

Wendy Hsu represents a new generation of women attorneys bringing a sophisticated business perspective to the practice of law. As a Senior Associate at Cummins & White, LLP, Hsu advises business owners, investors, developers, and families on complex real estate and corporate transactions, mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, and succession and ownership planning.



Drawing on experience as both outside and in-house counsel, Hsu approaches each engagement with an understanding that effective legal advice may require a multi-faceted and collaborative approach with the client. She works closely with clients to understand their businesses, investments, short- and long-term objectives, providing practical counsel that balances legal considerations with operational and financial realities.

Her practice spans commercial real estate acquisitions and dispositions, leasing, financing and development, as well as entity formation, contract negotiations, financing transactions and M&A. Hsu has advised companies involved in real estate across multiple asset classes (including industrial, multifamily, and commercial/retail) as well as businesses operating in them across multiple industries spanning warehousing and logistics, fuel and convenience stores, restaurants, consumer products, senior living homes and medical & wellness offices.

Fluent in Mandarin Chinese and Spanish, and conversant in Italian and French, Hsu also brings an international perspective to her practice and works with clients from diverse cultural and business backgrounds.

As Cummins & White celebrates its 75th anniversary, Hsu is helping carry forward the firm's legacy while contributing to the continued growth of its real estate, transactional and cross-border practices.

BUSINESS, DIVORCE, AND THE ECONOMICS OF PEREIRA AND VAN CAMP

By **Paul Nelson, Esq**



The company was founded two years before the wedding. The owner arrives at the consultation confident that this settles the question. It settles roughly half of it.

California family law begins from a simple premise: the time, skill, and effort of either spouse during marriage belong to the community. An owner who spends working hours growing a separate property business rather than drawing a salary elsewhere has spent a community asset. The community is entitled to a share of what that labor produced. The question courts must answer is which force drove the growth, the owner's sweat equity or the capital and the market.

Pereira v. Pereira, 156 Cal. 1, 103 P. 488 (1909), answers for the first. It presumes the original capital was relatively passive and the founder's labor was the engine. The separate estate keeps its starting value plus a fair rate of return, roughly what the money would have earned sitting still. Everything above that becomes community property. It tends to fit professional practices, consultancies, and high-growth ventures built on one person's relationships and judgment.

Van Camp v. Van Camp, 53 Cal. App. 17, 199 P. 885 (1921), answers for the second. It treats the owner's labor as one input among many and asks what that labor was actually worth. The court sets a reasonable market salary for the services the owner-spouse rendered during the marriage, and that figure, rather than the appreciation itself, becomes the community's share. From it the court subtracts the family living expenses already paid out of those earnings, on the reasoning that the community has consumed the benefit. Whatever remains of the increase stays separate property. The approach tends to fit real estate holdings, patent-driven companies,

capital-intensive manufacturers, and mature firms with deep management benches.

Few businesses sit cleanly on one side. Under *Beam v. Bank of Am.*, 6 Cal. 3d 12, 98 Cal. Rptr. 137, 490 P.2d 257 (1971), trial courts hold broad discretion to blend the two formulas or apply each to a different phase of a company's life. A garage startup that later raises institutional capital may warrant both. The outcome turns less on the formula than on the records available to support it.

The founding date remains relevant. It is simply not dispositive. The years that follow do most of the work.

THREE STEPS BEFORE LITIGATION

1. Compensation

A history of market-rate pay is the strongest support for a Van Camp analysis. Modest owner salaries invite the argument that the community was shortchanged while value accumulated inside the company. The benefit compounds, since living expenses drawn from that salary are then deducted from the community's share.

2. Valuations

Formal valuations at the date of marriage, at funding rounds, and before liquidity events establish a baseline that forensic reconstruction years later cannot match.

3. Account Separation

Running household expenses through the business blurs the line between the two estates and hands opposing counsel a commingling argument.

NELSON  KIRKMAN

Family Law Attorneys & Advisors

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NelsonKirkman.com

2026 WOMEN IN LAW PROFILES



SHIRLEY E. JAMNESHAN

EVERETT DOREY LLP

SHIRLEY E. JAMNESHAN
EVERETT DOREY LLP

Shirley Jamneshan is a Partner at Everett Dorey, and Managing Attorney of the Riverside Office, where she specializes in various areas of law including multi-party civil litigation within the fields of construction, property damage, premise liability, business transactions and litigation, transportation, catastrophic injury, products liability, and insurance. She specializes in complex multi-party civil litigation with a primary focus on general litigation matters. Jamneshan has also acted as counsel in numerous multi-million dollar residential and commercial construction matters.



Jamneshan has represented ridesharing companies, Fortune 500 companies, several of California's largest publicly-held and privately-held builders, real estate developers, contractors, construction managers and design professionals and small business owners. She has extensive experience in all aspects of the litigation process and has played vital roles on defense teams in multimillion-dollar jury trials. She has prepared dozens of cases for trial and has played a crucial part in the successful presentation and resolution of those cases during trial.

As a prior owner of a small restaurant, Jamneshan has drawn from this experience to bring a unique perspective to her practice. In every case, she creates a thoughtful resolution strategy catered to achieve the best results for her clients.



KELSEY JAVIER

FISHER PHILLIPS LLP

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 issues. She defends employers and management in matters involving discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wrongful termination, and wage and hour claims, including single-plaintiff, PAGA, and class action litigation in state and federal courts.



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

Before joining Fisher Phillips, Javier served as Chief Symposia Editor of the Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review. Through Loyola's Ninth Circuit Appellate Advocacy Clinic, she successfully briefed and argued a case before the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on behalf of an incarcerated appellant. She also served as a judicial extern to the Honorable Virginia A. Phillips of the United States District Court for the Central District of California and externed with the Civil Fraud Section of the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California.



JEANETTE JUNGREIS

VETERANS LEGAL INSTITUTE

Jeanette Jungreis is a Senior Staff Attorney at Veterans Legal Institute (VLI), where she handles veterans benefits matters and helps veterans obtain benefits to which they are entitled through their military service.



Throughout her career, Jungreis has worked across a broad range of legal disciplines as a practicing transactional attorney. She now brings that diverse legal experience, perspective, and knowledge to her advocacy as a member of VLI's veterans benefits team.

Jungreis earned her Juris Doctor from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law, where she served as an Articles Editor for the North Carolina Law Review. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in political science from Florida State University, graduating summa cum laude. Jungreis is licensed to practice law in both California and North Carolina and is accredited by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Her connection to the military community is also deeply personal. Jungreis is the spouse of a retired Marine and the mother of three children, and she has lived on military bases on both coasts of the United States. Those experiences have given her a firsthand appreciation for military families and the communities that support them.

Jungreis has long focused on helping others and improving the communities in which she lives. That commitment has included service on various community and charitable boards over the years. Today, she brings that same dedication, perspective, and passion for service to her work at VLI.



KAREN LEE KARAVATOS

ROBINSON CALCAGNIE, INC.

Karen Lee Karavatos is a partner at Robinson Calcagnie, Inc. dedicated to making a positive impact through her legal work. She represents plaintiffs nationwide who have suffered serious injuries or damages caused by utility company negligence, defective pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and other products.



Throughout her career, Karavatos has achieved significant recoveries for thousands of plaintiffs through settlements and trials. Her pharmaceutical litigation experience includes representing victims of Vioxx®, Celebrex®, Bextra®, Yaz®, Yasmin®, NuvaRing®, Actos, and others. She has served as both lead and support counsel in complex, high-profile litigation, guiding cases from inception through conclusion.

Karavatos earned her B.A. at University of California Santa Cruz and her J.D. from the University of San Diego School of Law.

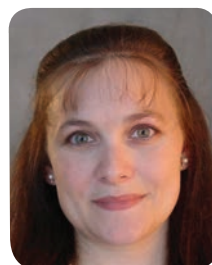
Karavatos has been recognized throughout her career for her accomplishments in litigation. She was featured in the Los Angeles Daily Journal's Litigator Success Profile and was selected to Southern California Super Lawyers® from 2015 through 2026. She has also been named a Top 100 attorney by The National Trial Lawyers® and recognized by Lawyers of Distinction.



SHOSHANNAH KATZ

K&L GATES LLP

Shoshannah Katz is a partner and Practice Area Leader at K&L Gates LLP, where she focuses on assisting early stage and growing businesses in assessing, strategically planning, and managing their overall legal needs. As a trusted advisor to founders, management, and boards of privately held and public companies, and the strategic and private capital investors who fund them, Katz provides guidance and transactional support for formation and organization; raising capital; compliance and governance issues; acquisitions, joint ventures, and divestitures; and a wide variety of corporate and commercial transactions.



Katz enjoys collaborating with clients throughout all stages of the corporate lifecycle to identify and manage the legal resources needed to proactively identify and address new challenges as their businesses grow. A reflection of her MBA training, she grounds legal advice in a practical business approach and empowers her clients with both investor and company insights and perspectives in their transactions.

Katz works frequently on cross-border matters, assisting domestic clients to engage in business abroad and aiding foreign companies investing in enterprises and conducting business in the U.S. Her experience spans a wide variety of industries, including technology, food and beverage and A&D, collaborating closely with the firm's specialists to ensure tailored guidance.



SARAH KELLY-KILGORE

HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

Sarah Kelly-Kilgore is the Executive Partner of Holland & Knight's Newport Beach office and a nationally recognized trial lawyer who represents businesses, executives and public figures in high-stakes litigation, investigations and regulatory matters. With a practice spanning complex business disputes, employment litigation, securities matters, fraud, business torts, defamation, unfair competition and corporate governance disputes, she is known for handling some of the most challenging and high-profile cases in the country, including matters reported in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, and The Boston Globe. Kilgore regularly advises business entities on matters of employment law, including sexual harassment, discrimination, and wrongful termination. Her clients include public companies, private businesses, executives and celebrities.



In addition to her litigation success, Kilgore is widely respected for her leadership within the legal profession and broader community. She has held numerous leadership roles with the Los Angeles County Bar Association, serves on nonprofit and professional organization boards, and is committed to mentoring the next generation of attorneys.

She has regularly been recognized for her work by top publications, including by The Best Lawyers in America – Commercial Litigation (2026), the LA Times as a legal visionary (2026), and by Southern California Super Lawyers magazine (2020-2026).

2026 WOMEN IN LAW PROFILES

Holland & Knight

Stradling

Stradling

WENDY KOTTMEIER

HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

Wendy R. Kottmeier is a corporate attorney in Holland & Knight's Newport Beach office and a trusted advisor to entrepreneurs, privately held companies, investors and private equity sponsors navigating complex corporate transactions and strategic growth initiatives. She counsels clients throughout the full business life cycle, providing practical legal and business guidance that helps companies scale, adapt and achieve their long-term objectives.



Kottmeier concentrates her practice on mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, commercial transactions and general corporate counseling. She regularly represents buyers, sellers and investors in sophisticated M&A transactions, joint ventures, business restructurings and other transformative deals. Her clients span a broad range of industries, including technology, manufacturing, healthcare, consumer products and beauty, where she is valued for her ability to balance legal risk with business priorities.

Clients turn to Kottmeier for her practical approach, business-oriented mindset, and ability to guide high-growth and established companies through fast-moving transactions with confidence and clarity.

KARLA KRAFT

STRADLING YOCCA CARLSON & RAUTH LLP

In a career marked by professional relationships that are both lasting and durable, Karla Kraft is frequently asked to litigate a wide variety of matters across the litigation spectrum. 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. She assists clients with pre-litigation disputes, strategic policy decisions, and negotiations of executive employment agreements and separation packages.



Additionally, she has significant experience in various business litigation issues, such as enforcing restrictive covenants, handling trade secrets, addressing unfair competition, and tackling false advertising. Kraft also handles private company investment disputes, real estate development conflicts, business contract and tort disputes, and class action defense for consumer product and financial services companies. An active member of the Orange County community, Kraft has been recognized with awards from multiple organizations including the Anti-Defamation League (the Marcus Kaufman Jurisprudence Award), recognition as a Best Lawyer in America from 2019-2026, and as a Super Lawyer for more than a decade. She is the immediate past president of the Board of Trustees at Harbor Day School and sits on the Executive Committees of the board of directors of the Public Law Center and the Segerstrom Center for the Arts. Kraft is also a past president of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers in Orange County.

CAROL LEW

STRADLING YOCCA CARLSON & RAUTH

For state and local governments and nonprofit organizations raising money for public infrastructure and other projects, Carol Lew's proven tax advice is a critical piece of the complex financing puzzle. With more than 30 years of federal tax law experience, Lew is nationally recognized for her ability to apply her in-depth knowledge of the Internal Revenue Code to tax-advantaged debt financings. The complicated tax analyses she undertakes keep issuers and buyers in compliance with all federal tax laws and help communities thrive.



Lew's sought-after tax advice helps states, highway authorities, water districts, housing authorities, hospitals, school districts and municipal agencies, and nonprofits finance development projects through a variety of sources, including tax-advantaged and taxable bonds, and public/private partnerships. Many clients also rely on Lew for post-issuance compliance advice. If the IRS audits a bond issuer or buyer, she steps in to resolve any outstanding tax issues quickly. Lew also assists with voluntary closing agreements and private letter ruling requests. When clients work with Lew, they get the full benefit of her cutting-edge insight and long-standing leadership in the organizations helping shape today's U.S. tax laws. She has served on the IRS IRSAC advisory committee that provides advice directly to the IRS Commissioner on a broad range of tax matters. Lew has also served as President of the National Association of Bond Lawyers and as Chair of The American Bar Association Taxation Section's Tax-Exempt Financing Committee.

Celebrating Orange County's
2026 Women
Leaders in Law

Holland & Knight congratulates our attorneys named **Leaders of Influence: Women in Law** and their fellow honorees for being recognized as advocates, innovators and changemakers in the Orange County legal community.

For nearly 40 years, Holland & Knight attorneys have guided West Coast clients through complex commercial disputes, high-stakes appeals, corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, employment matters and regulatory challenges.



Anne Beehler
Partner



Sarah Kelly-Kilgore
Partner



Wendy Kottmeier
Senior Counsel



Shalyn Watkins
Senior Counsel



Grace Winters
Partner

2026 WOMEN IN LAW PROFILES



KATHLEEN MARCUS

STRADLING YOCCA CARLSON & RAUTH LLP

As a former attorney with the SEC's Division of Enforcement, Kathleen Marcus brings a deep understanding of the federal laws and government processes for clients facing regulatory and white-collar investigations. Marcus has secured more than 35 declinations of enforcement actions and indictments from the SEC and DOJ. With significant experience before a host of agencies and regulators, including the SEC, DOJ, FINRA, FTC, FDA and the FCC, as well as number state agencies, clients rely on the trust she has built with regulators and her ability to interact with government agencies to reach a successful conclusion.



Using her streamlined, careful approach, she has defended clients against accusations of fraud, accounting and disclosure discrepancies, insider trading, unregistered offerings, breaches of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, and violations of the Federal Anti-Kickback statute. Marcus also defends regulatory investigations involving blockchain, cryptocurrency and token offerings. She has served repeatedly as an expert witness in matters involving complex securities law questions. Clients often call on Marcus to lead internal investigations to fully assess risk and limit possible sanctions posed by looming government investigations. Her thorough yet cost efficient approach to fact-finding enables her to spot problems quickly, assess potential liability and offer solutions to navigate through challenging issues.

DANA MARTIN

REEVES & WEISS LLP

A Senior Associate at Reeves & Weiss LLP, Dana Martin's practice is focused on complex commercial litigation. Martin is a member of the State Bar of Illinois and has significant experience in dispute resolution at the state and federal level.



Prior to joining Reeves & Weiss, Martin was a litigation finance professional, where she worked alongside counsel to resolve business litigation both domestic and international. Before her time in litigation finance, Martin was a litigation associate at Neal Gerber and Eisenberg LLP. In that role, she supervised all aspects of eDiscovery, facilitated settlement agreements in insurance disputes, and drafted complaints, motions for summary judgment, and discovery requests for a variety of commercial disputes including those involving products liability and breach of contract. Previously, Martin began her legal career at Dechert LLP, where she drafted witness preparation materials, mediation statements, and notices of removal in complex commercial class action suits and multidistrict litigation.

Martin graduated from Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law in 2017, where she was a published member of the Northwestern Journal of Law and Social Policy and served on the executive committee of the Women's Leadership Coalition. In 2014, Martin graduated summa cum laude from Saint Xavier University with a degree in Political Science.

AMANDA MCFALL

STRADLING YOCCA CARLSON & RAUTH LLP

Amanda McFall is a partner in Stradling's Corporate and Securities Practice Group, representing many of the firm's public company and investment banking clients. Her practice focuses on capital markets transactions and public company matters, including Exchange Act reporting, SEC and FINRA compliance, stock exchange listings, and executive compensation and corporate governance matters, advising clients across various industries, including technology, life sciences, banking, and e-commerce.



McFall has successfully guided numerous public company and investment banking clients through initial public offerings, follow-on offerings, secondary-market transactions, and private placements. She also has considerable experience advising on complex commercial agreements and licensing matters. Before joining Stradling, McFall gained valuable in-house experience at Amazon, advising on strategic and regulatory issues encompassing antitrust, pricing, data sharing, intellectual property, finance, and marketing. Her notable transactions include representing Marathon Digital Holdings in a \$1.5 billion at-the-market offering and serving as counsel to underwriters in the initial public offering of GEN Restaurant Group, the owner of the fast-growing GEN Korean BBQ chain. McFall also represented The Real Good Food Company in its \$64 million IPO, and Tandem Diabetes Care, Inc. in its \$288 million private placement of convertible notes and \$109 million follow-on public offering. She has also advised VolitionRx Limited in numerous public offerings, including its recent \$30 million at-the-market offer. McFall's extensive experience and strategic insight make her a valuable asset to her clients in navigating the complexities of the capital markets and SEC reporting.



DAMARIS MEDINA

BUCHALTER

Damaris Medina is a member of Buchalter's Board of Directors and Executive Management Team and serves as Co-Chair of the Firm's Health Care Practice Group, Health Care Dispute Resolution Practice Group, and Health Care & Life Sciences Industry Group, as well as Chair of its Health Systems & Hospitals Industry Group. A Partner in the Firm's Los Angeles and Orange County offices, she is a nationally recognized health care attorney with more than 15 years of experience representing hospitals, health systems, and other providers in complex litigation, reimbursement disputes, and regulatory matters.



Medina is widely known for her work in managed care litigation involving commercial and Medicare/Medicaid plans. She has successfully litigated high-value reimbursement disputes against major health insurers, recovering millions of dollars for provider clients. Her experience includes out-of-network and in-network payment disputes, as well as regulatory, compliance, and False Claims Act matters. She represents clients in arbitration and state and federal courts nationwide.

In addition to her litigation practice, Medina advises health care organizations on managed care contracting, revenue cycle optimization, regulatory compliance, and risk management. She works with health care leaders to develop practical strategies that protect business objectives and reduce risk.

A recognized thought leader in health care law and managed care litigation, Medina frequently publishes and speaks on reimbursement, litigation trends, and industry developments. Her insights have been featured in Law360, JD Supra, and California Health Law News.

ANTOINETTE NADDOUR

VETERANS LEGAL INSTITUTE

Antoinette Naddour is a nonprofit executive, attorney, community leader and co-founder of Veterans Legal Institute (VLI), an organization she helped build from its founding in 2014 into one of Southern California's leading providers of free legal services to low-income and vulnerable veterans and military families. After 12 years of executive leadership, Naddour concluded her tenure as VLI's Executive Director in July 2026, leaving an organization with 25+ team members, an annual budget exceeding \$3 million and a reach of 1,000+ veterans and military families each year.



Naddour's commitment to serving those who served began during her Equal Justice Works fellowship at Public Law Center, where she developed a veterans' legal services project that assisted more than 700 individuals in three years. She later served six years as a reserve Judge Advocate with the California State Guard and was a founding member of the Orange County Veterans and Military Families Collaborative, bringing together 100+ organizations serving the military-connected community.

Throughout her career, Naddour has focused on building institutions, developing collaborative partnerships and expanding access to justice. She has worked with elected officials, courts, bar associations, law firms and nonprofit organizations to advance legal protections and services for veterans and other vulnerable populations.

Naddour currently serves as Treasurer of the Orange County Women Lawyers Association and sits on a number of boards.

SUSAN NATLAND

BAKERHOSTETLER

Susan Natland is a nationally recognized intellectual property attorney and co-lead of BakerHostetler's Global Trademark and Brand Protection group. Chambers-ranked and uniquely recognized by World Trademark Review in both Enforcement & Litigation and Prosecution & Strategy, she is known for helping companies protect and maximize the value of their brands in an increasingly complex global marketplace.



Natland advises clients on trademark litigation, enforcement, portfolio management, advertising law, copyrights, rights of publicity, data privacy, and emerging intellectual property issues involving artificial intelligence. Her practice spans virtually every stage of the brand lifecycle, from selection and clearance through global enforcement, including combatting counterfeiting, diversion, unauthorized online sales, gray-market activity and other forms of brand abuse worldwide.

A leader within both the legal profession and the intellectual property community, Natland was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to serve as Chair of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's Trademark Public Advisory Committee. In that role, she advised USPTO leadership on trademark policy, operations and fee structures, submitted recommendations to the President of the United States, and helped establish the agency's first stakeholder trademark award.

Natland is also a longtime leader within the International Trademark Association, having served as Chair of its Enforcement Committee, and multiple Presidential Task Forces. A registered patent attorney, Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP/US), and former instructor of Advanced Trademark Law at UCLA School of Law, she is widely respected for combining legal excellence, strategic insight and practical business judgment to help clients navigate rapidly evolving intellectual property challenges.

2026 WOMEN IN LAW PROFILES



LISA NORTHRUP

STRADLING YOCCA CARLSON & RAUTH

Lisa Northrup is a partner in Stradling's litigation practice. She specializes in complex commercial disputes encompassing contract conflicts, business torts, securities litigation, and class action defense including wage and hour class actions and Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) claims. Her proactive approach helps to resolve issues at all stages of litigation, while her extensive trial experience equips her to advocate effectively for clients in both federal and state courts.



Among her notable successes, she prevailed on counterclaims in a bench trial in a matter involving dueling false advertising claims between competing nutraceutical companies, and then secured a reversal in her client's favor based on its laches defense at the Ninth Circuit. Northrup and the Stradling team also achieved a noteworthy outcome for a hydration product manufacturer in a federal court dispute with a former sales representative.

After obtaining summary judgment on the declaratory judgment claim and narrowing the remaining contract-based claims for trial, the jury awarded nominal damages—which the court later set aside—awarding the client more than \$938,000 in fees and costs.

LIZBETH OCHOA

FISHER PHILLIPS LLP

Lizbeth "Liz" Ochoa is a partner in the firm's Irvine office. With nearly 25 years' experience representing employers, Ochoa has litigated employment matters in state and federal courts, arbitration forums, as well as before state and federal administrative agencies including the California Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE), the California Civil Rights Department, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).



She represents and counsels employers on various employment-related matters, including discrimination, unlawful harassment, wrongful termination, unfair business practices, wage and hour class and PAGA actions, and reductions in force. She also conducts trainings on a variety of workplace topics, including anti-harassment training for supervisors in both Spanish and English.

Before joining Fisher Phillips, Ochoa practiced at a smaller firm, where she represented employees and employers in various employment litigation matters. That experience gives her valuable perspective on employee claims and informs her approach to defending employers.

In 2010, 2013 and 2014, Ochoa was selected for inclusion in Southern California Super Lawyers – Rising Stars. Ochoa is fluent in Spanish and serves on the firm's Diversity Committee. She is also an ambassador for the firm's Women's Initiative and Leadership Council.

GENEVIEVE OUTLAW

ROBINSON CALCAGNIE, INC.

Genevieve Outlaw is an attorney at Robinson Calcagnie, Inc., where she focuses on mass tort and complex products liability litigation. Her practice is devoted primarily to representing plaintiffs in complex litigation nationwide.



Outlaw has played a significant role in several of the firm's major cases, including the talcum powder ovarian cancer litigation in Johnson & Johnson Talcum Powder Cases, JCCP No. 4872. She was a member of the trial team that secured a record-setting \$417 million jury verdict in Echeverria v. Johnson & Johnson on behalf of a woman who developed ovarian cancer following her use of talcum powder products. She also served on the trial team that helped secure a landmark \$40 million verdict against Johnson & Johnson in 2025 on behalf of two women who developed ovarian cancer after using Johnson's Baby Powder for more than 50 years.

Outlaw currently serves as a member of the Law and Briefing Subcommittee in In re Depo-Provera Products Liability Litigation in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida. She also serves as a member of the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee in the Fosamax/Alendronate Sodium Drug Cases, JCCP No. 4644. She was selected as a Super Lawyers Rising Star for 2025.

She also served as a law clerk to the Honorable Carol E. Higbee, J.S.C. T/A, of the Superior Court of New Jersey and later in the New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division.

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In the complex world of litigation, an experienced forensic accountant is an invaluable asset to trial attorneys, offering deep financial insights and strengthening cases with compelling evidence. At Smith Dickson, we understand that our role is multifaceted, extending beyond number-crunching to qualified expert testimony.

STRENGTHENING EVIDENCE WITH EXPERT ANALYSIS

A litigator's success often depends on presenting irrefutable evidence, which is why we help transform financial data into clear, court-admissible reports that can withstand scrutiny. We break down complex transactions, making them accessible to judges and juries. Our ability to reconstruct financial records helps attorneys establish liability and damage claims with precision.

UNCOVERING FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES

Our forensic accountants apply years of auditing experience to help detect fraud, misrepresentations, and discrepancies. Whether in civil/commercial litigation, probate matters, or fraud investigations, we inspect financial records to identify inconsistencies that can strengthen a litigator's arguments, helping secure favorable outcomes.



PROVIDING EXPERT TESTIMONY

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

For litigators handling complex financial cases, partnering with an experienced forensic accountant is paramount. By leveraging their expertise, litigators can strengthen their arguments, protect their clients' interests, and enhance their chances of success.

Due Diligence in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

OLIVIA LACASTO – ASSOCIATE, SNELL & WILMER
MONIQUE TORRES – ASSOCIATE, SNELL & WILMER

The emergence of artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping the mergers and acquisitions landscape. Clients and attorneys alike are exploring how AI can streamline transactions—from drafting and research to the critical function of due diligence. Traditionally, due diligence has been a cornerstone of the attorney's role in M&A: a comprehensive legal review of the target company's documents is essential to identify and mitigate buyer risk. This process typically encompasses a thorough analysis of contracts, corporate governance records, intellectual property portfolios, regulatory compliance, pending or threatened litigation, and financial obligations, each carrying the potential to materially affect deal valuation and structure.

AI has introduced a powerful new capability to this process. Tasks that once required tens of hours can now be completed in a fraction of the time. Machine learning algorithms can rapidly flag non-standard clauses, identify change-of-control provisions across thousands of agreements, and surface potential liabilities that might otherwise go undetected in a manual review.

Yet the adoption of AI in due diligence is not without risk. AI platforms raise significant concerns around confidentiality, data privacy, and accuracy. While 'closed universe' AI systems utilized by many law firms mitigate some of this risk, they remain vulnerable to "hallucinations"—generating plausible but incorrect information—and their effectiveness depends heavily on precise, well-crafted prompts. Attorneys must also remain mindful of their ethical obligations when deploying these tools, ensuring that client data uploaded to AI platforms is adequately protected and



that any AI-generated analysis is independently verified before being relied upon in transaction documents or client advice.

The rise of AI in legal practice, including M&A, is undeniable and accelerating quickly. But AI should not be viewed as a replacement for the attorney's judgment and expertise. The nuanced assessment of risk, including weighing materiality, understanding industry specific regulatory landscapes, and advising clients on how diligence findings should shape deal terms and protective provisions, remains a distinctly human function. Instead, AI is best understood as a tool—one that, when used thoughtfully, can make the due diligence process faster, more thorough, and more effective for buyers, sellers, and their counsel.

*Any opinions expressed are the authors' and not necessarily those of the firm or their colleagues.

Olivia LaCasto is an associate at Snell & Wilmer and member of the firm's Corporate and Securities Practice Group. She earned her Juris Doctor degree from Loyola Law School, where she distinguished herself by receiving the First Honors award in Mergers and Acquisitions. Additionally, she participated in the St. Thomas More Law Honor Society and achieved a ranking within the top 15% of her class. LaCasto can be reached at olacasto@swlaw.com.

Monique Torres is an associate in Snell & Wilmer's Corporate and Securities Practice Group. She earned her J.D. from the USC Gould School of Law and focuses her practice on general corporate matters, mergers and acquisitions, and emerging growth and venture capital. She can be reached at mtorres@swlaw.com.



2026 WOMEN IN LAW PROFILES



LISA PETERSON

FISHER PHILLIPS LLP

Lisa Peterson is a partner in the Irvine office. She represents employers of all sizes on a full spectrum of labor and employment matters, from counseling and pre-litigation negotiations through trial. Her diverse practice includes litigating claims involving wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, whistleblower claims, and wage and hour class actions and PAGA matters. She represents clients in a variety of industries, with a focus on hospitality, restaurants, and retail.



Peterson also provides preventive counseling to employers on employee terminations and discipline, internal workplace investigations, developing workplace policies and procedures, and compliance with state and federal labor laws. An experienced trial attorney, she has successfully tried several cases to verdict in jury trials.

Peterson currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Greater Irvine Chamber of Commerce (GICC) Board of Directors and as General Counsel for GICC. She also serves on the Board of the Orange County Chapter of the California Restaurant Association.



ASHLEY PHAM

FISHER PHILLIPS LLP

Ashley Pham is a partner in the Irvine office. She counsels and defends employers in all areas of labor and employment law, including discrimination, harassment, and wage and hour claims. She collaborates with employers and HR departments to design and implement workplace policies and to draft employee-employer agreements, including employee handbooks, arbitration agreements, on-duty meal period agreements, alternative work arrangements, benefits, and severance packages.



Whether providing preventive counseling or litigation defense, Pham uses the law as a vehicle to solve employers' business problems and further their business interests.

Before joining Fisher Phillips, Pham practiced insurance defense and real estate litigation. While in law school, Pham worked in legal departments at CoreLogic, Vizio, Inc. and St. John Knits, and she clerked with the U.S. Small Business Administration. She was an editor of the Nexus Journal of Law and Policy, an academic fellow for contract drafting courses, and a student ambassador. Additionally, she became a certified mediator and clerked with the Entertainment Law Clinic. Pham was president of the Chapman Women Lawyers Association and received the 2017 National Association of Women Lawyers Award upon graduation.



STELLA POGOSYAN

VETERANS LEGAL INSTITUTE

Stella Pogosyan is a Senior Staff Attorney at Veterans Legal Institute (VLI), where she leads the family law department and assists veterans with housing issues. She has served as an ambassador for VLI in the legal community since 2024, while also maintaining her solo legal practice as a family and criminal law lawyer since 2020.



Pogosyan graduated from Southwestern Law School and became licensed to practice law in California in December 2011. She began her legal career at the Orange County Public Defender's Office and the Orange County Alternate Defenders Office soon after and immediately began conducting trials. Over those eight years she gained substantial criminal law and courtroom experience representing adult and juvenile indigent defendants facing both felony and misdemeanor charges. Her strategic approach to legal representation, combined with her dedication to her clients, earned her a reputation as both a fierce and compassionate trial lawyer.

Pogosyan approaches clients' legal needs with both practical experience and an understanding of how multiple legal issues can affect individuals and families. Her rich background in criminal, family law, and select education law and estate planning from her solo private practice allows for that approach.

Outside of her legal practice, Pogoyan is an avid rock climber and enjoys plants, biking, and spending time with her puppy, Winston along with her boyfriend Ryan and 11-year-old Bianca. She also volunteers as a Park Ambassador with OC Parks, reflecting her commitment to community service and her enthusiasm for the outdoors.


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LILA RAZMARA

ROBINSON CALCAGNIE, INC.

Lila Razmara is a partner at Robinson Calcagnie, Inc. who currently focuses on the firm's mass tort actions. Currently, Razmara works on Allergan Biocell Textured Breast Implants, MDL No. 2921; JCCP No. 5104 and Social Media addiction litigations.



For the past 16 years, Razmara has worked extensively on the following federal multi-district, state-coordinated proceedings: JUUL Labs Products Cases, 3M Combat Arms Earplug Products, Southern California Fire cases, PG&E Bankruptcy Fire claims, October 1, Route 91 Las Vegas Shooting cases, Purdue Pharma, et al. relating to the Opioid crisis, In re: New England Compounding Pharmacy, Inc. (Chapter 11), In Re: Quinine, In Re: Reglan/Metoclopramide; and In Re: Actos. She also served as Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel in the In Re: Karl Storz Power Morcellator Litigation in Los Angeles.

Razmara has always had a passion for the social justice system. While attending Loyola Law School, Ms. Razmara volunteered at the Disability Rights Legal Center where she fought for justice for disadvantaged and marginalized clients who experienced discrimination. Razmara has been recognized by her peers in the 2026 edition of Best Lawyers in Product Liability Litigation.

Razmara received a BA in Criminology, Law and Society, cum laude as well as a BA in Psychology and Social Behavior, cum laude, from the University of California, Irvine.

Razmara is fluent in Farsi/Persian. She is admitted to practice in California and the District of Columbia.



FABY RIVERA

STALWART LAW GROUP

Faby Rivera has spent her career building expertise from every angle of the courtroom. Before joining Stalwart Law Group, the Orange County native worked as an associate at a personal injury firm in Irvine and represented major banks in creditors' law at a Santa Ana firm - experience that now sharpens her advocacy for personal injury clients across California.



Rivera earned her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Cal State Fullerton, graduating cum laude while serving as an active member of the National Criminal Justice Honor Society and earning repeated spots on the Dean's List. She went on to Western State College of Law, where she immersed herself in the Student Bar Association, the Business Law Association, and the Artificial Intelligence Association - graduating with honors distinction and multiple Dean's List honors along the way.

Today, she's a member of the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles and the Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County. Her rise reflects a simple formula: relentless preparation paired with genuine care for the people she represents.

In 2026, she earned a spot on the Lawdragon 500 X: The Next Generation.



AMANDA ROBINSON

ROBINSON CALCAGNIE, INC.

Amanda Robinson is a partner at Robinson Calcagnie, Inc., where she helps manage the firm and focuses on various mass torts, including mesh and intravenous port cases.



Robinson has previously worked on many major product liability litigations at the firm, including the transvaginal mesh cases, as well as a range of personal injury matters.

Robinson has been recognized as a Best Lawyer® and a California SuperLawyer®. She serves as a board member of the Orange County Trial Lawyers Association.

Robinson is a graduate of Williams College, Columbia University, and California Western School of Law.

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LAUREN ROSEMAN

FISHER PHILLIPS LLP

Lauren Roseman is a partner in Fisher Phillips' Irvine office, where she provides employers with practical employment advice and defends them in wage and hour class and PAGA actions, as well as discrimination, harassment, and retaliation claims. She works closely with clients to develop and implement workplace policies and employment practices that help prevent costly litigation, with a focus on reasonable accommodations, leaves of absence (FMLA, CFRA, PDL, FEHA), and complex termination and disciplinary decisions. Roseman also routinely conducts harassment, discrimination, and retaliation prevention training for managers, and takes pride in making employment law practical and accessible.

Roseman serves as the Co-Director of Development and Retention on Fisher Phillips' Women's Initiative & Leadership Council Steering Committee. In this role, Roseman supports the advancement and retention of women across the firm by partnering with firm leadership to enhance trainings, programs, policies, and business development opportunities.

At the University of San Diego School of Law, Roseman served as President of the Student Bar Association, was a member of the San Diego Law Review and Executive Moot Court Board and won First Place Best Oralist at Emory University's Civil Rights and Liberties National Moot Court Competition. She externed for the Honorable Karen S. Crawford and the Honorable Cynthia A. Bashant at the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California.



LINDLEY ROUND

REEVES & WEISS LLP

Lindley Round is a Senior Associate at Reeves & Weiss LLP. Her practice is focused on complex commercial litigation. A member of the State Bar of California and the State Bar of New York, Round has substantial experience litigating and resolving legal disputes in a variety of forums.

Prior to joining Reeves & Weiss, Round was an associate attorney at Theodora Oringher, where she handled complex business cases and employment disputes. Round has also litigated criminal matters. As an Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan, she personally handled felony and misdemeanor prosecutions and secured numerous guilty pleas and verdicts, including by jury trial.

Round graduated cum laude from Fordham Law School in 2020, where she was a member of the Fordham Law Review and served on the executive committee of the Fordham Fashion Law Society. In 2017, Round earned her bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University with majors in Political Science and Human and Organizational Development.



ADRIANNA RUBINO

RUTAN & TUCKER, LLP

Adrianna Rubino is a skilled litigator who represents commercial clients and employers in varied disputes across California state and federal courts. Her practice focuses on complex commercial litigation, employment matters, and class actions, where she partners with clients to navigate challenging legal issues and achieve practical business solutions.

Rubino has extensive experience defending employers against claims involving discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wrongful termination, and wage-and-hour violations.

Before joining Rutan & Tucker, LLP, Rubino practiced at Sacks, Ricketts & Case LLP, where in addition to employment matters, she handled a broad range of commercial disputes, including breach of contract and corporate governance matters, and in the consumer class action arena, represented clients in cases involving false advertising and unfair competition claims. She also gained valuable public-sector experience through internships with the Contra Costa County Office of the County Counsel and the Superior Court of California, County of Contra Costa.

During law school at UC Davis School of Law, Rubino distinguished herself both academically and as a leader. She graduated Order of the Coif, served as an Articles Editor for the UC Davis Law Review and earned multiple Witkin Awards for Academic Excellence in Negotiations, Pretrial Skills, Employment Discrimination, and Criminal Procedure.



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2026 WOMEN IN LAW PROFILES



CAROLINE SCALA
FISHER PHILLIPS LLP

Caroline Scala is a partner in the Irvine office. She has defended hundreds of employment cases including claims of harassment, retaliation, disability discrimination, wrongful termination, and wage and hour violations. Scala is a tenacious advocate and has obtained favorable settlements, rulings, and trial verdicts for her clients. Recent successes include obtaining complete summary judgment in a disability discrimination case and successfully defending against claims by two employees seeking nearly \$800,000 in unpaid wages.



Scala also helps employers minimize risk and provides advice on employee terminations, accommodations, and discipline, among other employment-related matters. She drafts and reviews company policies and provides training for employees and supervisors on a variety of topics.

Scala attended law school on a full merit scholarship. During law school, Caroline served as an Articles Editor for the Chapman Law Review and as a judicial extern to the Honorable William F. Rylaarsdaam of the California Court of Appeal. She was also a member of the Mock Trial Honor Board, where she earned a perfect score as defense counsel in the ABA National Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition in Chicago.



MALLORIE SCHINDLER
RUTAN & TUCKER, LLP

Mallorie Schindler is a corporate and securities attorney who serves as trusted outside general counsel to both public and private companies throughout their business lifecycle. She provides practical, business-minded advice across a broad range of corporate and securities matters, including SEC reporting and compliance, securities offerings, corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, reorganizations, strategic transactions, commercial agreements, and other general corporate matters. Whether advising on day-to-day corporate matters or complex transactions, she works alongside her clients from initial evaluation and structuring through execution, providing strategic guidance tailored to their business objectives.



Schindler has substantial experience representing clients across a diverse range of industries, including financial services and consumer credit, medical devices and healthcare, life sciences and biopharmaceuticals, agriculture, digital marketing and creative agencies, technology, and food and beverage. Clients value her ability to navigate complex legal and business considerations and deliver thoughtful, strategic advice aligned with their goals.

Schindler received her Juris Doctor, summa cum laude, from Chapman University School of Law, where she graduated first in her class.



JAMIE L. SPRAGUE
COX, CASTLE & NICHOLSON

Jamie Sprague is a partner at Cox, Castle & Nicholson and a prominent litigation attorney with deep experience representing clients in complex commercial litigation matters. Her practice encompasses a broad range of complex commercial litigation cases, including contract disputes, business torts, labor and employment litigation, landlord/tenant disputes, land use disputes, and multi-plaintiff mass torts involving nuisance, trespass, negligence and environmental claims.



She represents developers, investors, owners, and operators in the healthcare and life sciences, renewable energy, and construction industries, among others. Sprague has experience in all levels of federal and state civil litigation, as well as administrative proceedings, including drafting briefs and motions, managing complex discovery, working with expert witnesses, and taking and defending depositions.

Sprague's litigation accomplishments further distinguish her within the industry. Her track record includes successfully arguing before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to uphold a jury verdict, first-chairing multi-million-dollar disputes, and leading teams through trials, arbitrations, and appeals.



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CELESTE STAHL-BRADY

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Celeste Stahl-Brady specializes in revitalizing and developing affordable housing, commercial spaces, and infrastructure projects for public and private entities, including cities and housing authorities across California. With a career dedicated to planning, financing, and structuring community development initiatives, she is a trusted advisor in navigating complex public-private partnerships. Recognized as a go-to special counsel by city attorneys, in house counsel, and law firms, she excels in multi-party real estate transactions, land use planning, and compliance with public records, conflict-of-interest, and municipal law matters. Her expertise enables her clients to overcome intricate legal and business challenges while adhering to the nuances of federal, state, and local regulations.

Celeste focuses on achieving efficient outcomes that balance the demands of lenders, investors, and regulators, often under tight deadlines. Her transactional experience encompasses a wide range of housing and commercial projects, skillfully negotiating partnerships to construct, renovate, and operate development funded by various public programs. Additionally, Celeste collaborates with cities to prepare and implement affordable housing strategies and programs. Following the dissolution of California's redevelopment agencies, she continues to support successor agencies in fulfilling their obligations and winding down operations. Her commitment to fostering housing and community development defines her impactful legal practice.





ROBIN R. TAYLOR

VETERANS LEGAL INSTITUTE

Robin R. Taylor is Executive Director of Veterans Legal Institute (VLI), one of the nation's only nonprofit law firms dedicated exclusively to providing free legal services to veterans and military families. The daughter of a Vietnam veteran, Taylor brings a personal commitment to ensuring those who served have access to the legal help, stability, and opportunities they have earned.

At VLI, Taylor leads organizational strategy, growth, community partnerships, fundraising, and initiatives to expand access to legal services throughout Southern California. Her priorities include strengthening VLI's pro bono network, building partnerships with law firms, corporations, government agencies, VA facilities, and veteran-serving organizations, and developing innovative ways to reach veterans who might otherwise go without legal assistance.

Under her leadership, VLI is expanding its regional presence and strengthening services addressing housing stability, veterans benefits, discharge upgrades, family law, consumer matters, and other legal issues that can profoundly affect veterans and their families. Taylor is also focused on using technology, collaboration, and pro bono partnerships to increase VLI's capacity and impact.

Taylor's career has spanned public service, national security, international justice, and nonprofit leadership. She previously served as a federal prosecutor and as a U.S. government legal advisor overseas and later led Lawyers Without Borders, where she directed international justice initiatives and secured more than \$6 million in grant funding.





JENNY TRAN

JENNY TRAN LAW

Jenny Tran is a business, mergers and acquisitions, and tax attorney who advises founders and owner-operators on the transactions, transitions, and strategic decisions that shape the future of their businesses. As Founder and Managing Attorney of Jenny Tran Law, her interdisciplinary practice spans M&A, tax structuring, and business succession. Tran has advised on over 200 middle-market M&A transactions, with a particular focus on representing business owners selling their companies. Her broader outside general counsel experience includes advising middle-market companies, multigenerational family-owned businesses, family offices, and multibillion-dollar enterprises. She collaborates with investment bankers, CPAs, and wealth advisors to structure complex transactions and optimize after-tax outcomes.

In 2026, Tran founded Jenny Tran Law to provide business owners with an integrated approach to legal and tax advice through growth, transition, and liquidity events. Raised in a family that built an international import and distribution business, she brings an owner's perspective, combining legal and tax analysis with practical business judgment. Tran is a frequent speaker on M&A, succession planning, and tax structuring and previously taught venture capital financing as an adjunct professor at Loyola Law School. Recognized by Super Lawyers for nine consecutive years, she has served on the UC Irvine Alumni Association board and supports UC Irvine scholarships and the Asian Women Leadership Philanthropy Fund.

Jenny Tran Law reflects Tran's philosophy: helping entrepreneurs make better decisions, preserve the value and legacy they have created, and build businesses worth keeping.





Bremer Whyte Brown & O'Meara, LLP's has 14 Family Law Attorneys including 8 Certified Family Law Specialists in Newport Beach, Los Angeles, and San Diego.

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FARNAZ SALESSI

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Farnaz Salessi doesn't just win cases - she changes how companies operate. The Stalwart Law Group trial attorney has recovered millions of dollars for clients in catastrophic injury and wrongful death matters, and her work has repeatedly pushed corporations to correct unsafe practices and strengthen consumer warnings industry-wide.



Her track record includes a \$11.25 million settlement against the LA County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, a \$26 million settlement for a motorcycle accident victim with traumatic brain injury, and a \$1.45 million settlement against two medical device manufacturers for a client who suffered permanent nerve damage. From 2024 to 2026, Super Lawyers magazine named her a "Rising Star," a distinction reserved for under 2.5 percent of California attorneys age 40 and under. In 2026, she earned a spot on the Lawdragon 500 X: The Next Generation.

Farnaz graduated magna cum laude from USC with a degree in Business Administration, then earned her J.D. magna cum laude from UC Irvine. She served on the board of the Orange County Trial Lawyers Association in 2023 and 2024, has authored multiple legal publications, and regularly presents at Consumer Attorneys of California conferences - including a 2026 panel at the Women in Trial Travel Summit. Fluent in Farsi and Spanish, Farnaz brings precision, tenacity, and a sharp eye for systemic change to every case she takes on.

ARDELLE ST. GEORGE

ST. GEORGE & CARNEGIE NAUTILUS
GLOBAL SOLUTIONS, LLC, D.B.A NAUTILUS
LICENSING

As Managing Partner of her Law Firm, ST.GEORGE & CARNEGIE and Solutions & Licensing Company, NAUTILUS GLOBAL SOLUTIONS, LLC, Ardelle St.George assists clients in transforming their businesses into the future economy. St.George transitions her Harvard Executive Certifications into essential areas for businesses today—with significant programs, opportunities and initiatives in each Certification area - Cybersecurity, Experiential/Digital Transformation, Sustainability, and AI (AR, VR, Mixed Reality, XR), enhancing her JD and MBA degrees. St.George established these areas as pillars of her Law Firm and Licensing Company and provides a wide range of legal, business and technical experience and services to assist clients with their experiential/digital transformation. St.George has translated her education and experience to complement her legal and business practice, showcasing and commercializing the innovation and leadership of clients and providing services for their transformation into the future economy. St.George serves as General Counsel for companies such as Life Seal Vascular, Inc., a prominent MedTech company pioneering next-generation solutions to improve long-term durability of endovascular medical devices. St.George brings global experience for advanced technology/innovation, education, healthcare/medical technical devices, broadcasting & entertainment, real estate, renewable energy, aerospace and others.



DALIA WAHAB

CUMMINS & WHITE, LLP

Dalia Wahab is a corporate and business attorney at Cummins & White, LLP, bringing an uncommon combination of courtroom, in-house, and transactional experience to her practice.



As an Associate with the firm, her practice focuses on corporate and business law, mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, real estate transactions, and outside general counsel services. She works closely with businesses, entrepreneurs and investors, helping them navigate complex legal issues while keeping their broader business objectives at the forefront.

Before joining Cummins & White, Wahab served as General Counsel in the real estate development and construction industry. Sitting on the client side gave her firsthand insight into the decisions business leaders face every day - from managing risk and negotiating contracts to addressing operational challenges and pursuing growth opportunities. That experience continues to shape her practical, business-minded approach to legal counsel.

Wahab began her career as a Deputy District Attorney with the Orange County District Attorney's Office, where she conducted more than 20 jury trials. She later served as one of California's two Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors, training prosecutors and law enforcement personnel throughout the state.

Today, she draws on that diverse background to serve as both legal counsel and strategic partner to her clients, helping them anticipate challenges, evaluate opportunities, and make informed decisions.

Holland & Knight

SHALYN WATKINS

HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

Shalyn Watkins is a healthcare attorney in Holland & Knight's Newport Beach and Los Angeles offices who advises healthcare providers, healthcare technology companies, insurers, health plans and investors on complex regulatory, compliance and transactional matters. Recognized for her deep understanding of the rapidly evolving healthcare landscape, Watkins serves as a trusted advisor to organizations navigating the intersection of healthcare delivery, technology, privacy and innovation.



Her practice spans a broad range of healthcare regulatory issues, including HIPAA and healthcare privacy, telehealth operations, artificial intelligence integration, Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement matters, corporate practice of medicine compliance, Stark Law and Anti-Kickback Statute considerations, licensure and credentialing disputes, and transaction due diligence and structuring. She regularly helps clients develop and implement compliant business models and risk-management strategies in highly regulated environments.

Before joining private practice, Watkins served as senior legal counsel for a global healthcare technology company and held government positions with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Her combination of in-house, regulatory and enforcement experience provides clients with practical, business-oriented guidance informed by a deep understanding of regulatory priorities and healthcare policy.

An emerging leader in healthcare law, Watkins is a frequent author and speaker on healthcare innovation, telehealth, artificial intelligence, privacy and compliance issues.

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 ROBINSON CALCAGNIE, INC.

MICHELLE MARIE WEST

ROBINSON CALCAGNIE, INC.

Michelle Marie West is a partner at Robinson Calcagnie, Inc. who has spent 23 years dedicating her practice to making the world safer and obtaining recovery for those injured by unsafe products, practices and premises. She focuses on cases involving catastrophic injuries from trucking and automobile crashes, dangerous premises, traumatic brain injury, amputation, spinal cord injury, products liability/defective products, construction collisions, carbon monoxide poisoning, medical malpractice, and sexual assault.



West has recovered seven and eight-figure settlements and verdicts and always endeavors to make a significant difference in the lives of her clients. Her dedication to providing quality, professional representation while maintaining the highest standards of legal ethics is recognized by her rating of AV Preeminent from Martindale-Hubbell®. She has been recognized by Best Lawyers®, Superlawyers® and has ranked Top 100 overall in Southern California (for both plaintiff and defense attorneys) and Top 50 attorneys in Orange County.

West is active in teaching, speaking and supporting the legal community including the Orange County Bar Association, Orange County Trial Lawyers Association, the Consumer Attorneys of California, Consumer Attorneys of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Trial Lawyers Charities, Western Trial Lawyers (Past President), Orange County Trial Lawyers Charities (President since 2021). She is a Proud 50 for 50 Member of the Pepperdine University School of Law committing \$50,000 in scholarships to defray the cost of law school to exceptional and deserving students.

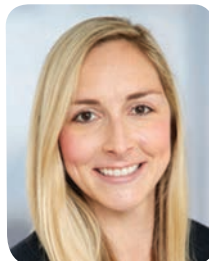
Her charity and physical endeavors include ultra endurance events like Badwater 135® (5x finisher), marathons (100) and Ironman triathlons.

LAURA C. WILLIAMS

EVERETT DOREY LLP

LAURA C. WILLIAMS
EVERETT DOREY LLP

Laura Williams is a Partner at Everett Dorey, and she is the Managing Attorney of the Texas Office. She practices in a wide variety of complex civil litigation matters, including general liability, toxic torts, asbestos, mold, product liability, personal injury, habitability, and catastrophic injury. Williams takes pride in fiercely representing her clients both in and out of court, and has experience in all aspects of litigation in state and federal courts.



During law school, Williams represented Pepperdine University at the 7th Annual International Chamber of Commerce International Commercial Mediation Competition in Paris, France, where her team placed in the top sixteen. While completing her undergraduate studies at UPENN, she was the Captain of the Varsity Volleyball team and became the fourth player in program history to record over 1,000 career kills.

GRACE WINTERS

HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

Grace Winters is a real estate attorney in Holland & Knight's Newport Beach office, representing clients in high-value real estate transactions across all asset classes nationwide. Her practice includes acquisitions, dispositions, joint ventures, development, ground and commercial leasing, financing, construction, and 1031 exchanges.



Winters counsels property owners, developers, capital providers, landlords, tenants, and investment fund managers in projects involving multifamily, office, industrial, and commercial assets. She has deep experience in negotiating and closing complex agreements, including purchase and sale contracts, joint ventures, leases, development agreements, construction contracts, property management agreements, and covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs). She also serves as real estate counsel in corporate mergers and acquisitions (M&A) involving substantial property holdings.

A trusted advisor to both private and public-sector stakeholders, Winters regularly guides clients through the regulatory and operational challenges associated with affordable housing projects, working with local, state and federal agencies to help facilitate critical housing preservation initiatives. Her collaborative approach and ability to coordinate across legal, business, compliance, lending and operational teams have made her a valued partner in successfully closing transformative transactions.

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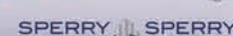
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2026 WOMEN IN LAW PROFILES



COURTNEY WHITAKER

CUMMINS & WHITE, LLP

Courtney Whitaker is an estate planning attorney at Cummins & White, LLP, where she helps individuals and families protect their assets, preserve wealth and plan with confidence for the future.



As an Associate with the firm, Whitaker's practice focuses on estate planning, probate, trust administration, and trust and estate matters. She works closely with clients to develop plans tailored to their personal, family and financial objectives, including the preparation of wills, trusts, powers of attorney and advance healthcare directives.

Whitaker also assists clients through probate and trust administration, helping families navigate the legal and practical responsibilities that can follow the loss of a loved one. When disputes arise, she provides support in trust and estate matters with an emphasis on practical guidance and responsive, client-centered service.

In addition to her trusts and estates practice, Whitaker is expanding her experience in corporate and business transactions, working alongside members of the firm's corporate team on a range of transactional matters. This developing area of her practice complements her work with individuals, families and business owners whose personal and business interests often intersect.

Her approach reflects the highly personal nature of her work. By taking the time to understand each client's priorities and concerns, Whitaker provides thoughtful guidance designed to address immediate needs while helping clients plan for the future.

NICOLE WHYTE

BREMER WHYTE BROWN & O'MEARA, LLP

Nicole Whyte is a founding principal of Bremer Whyte Brown & O'Meara, LLP. Whyte has extensive experience in all aspects of litigation and trial. She focuses her practice in the areas of family law, complex civil and commercial litigation, trucking litigation, and insurance defense litigation. Whyte has successfully litigated and tried hundreds of complex, multi-million dollar lawsuits.



Whyte has dedicated a significant portion of her career to serving the legal profession and the Orange County community through leadership, mentorship, and public service. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Orange County Bar Association for the past four years, and she co chairs the Law School Liaison Committee. She served for six years on the Board of the OCBA Masters Division, and currently serves on the Board of the OCBA Charitable Fund.

Whyte served on the Board of Directors of the Public Law Center for the past ten years, including as President in 2023. She has served for more than fifteen years on the Sheila Sonenshine Pro Bono Committee, supporting access to justice for underserved members of the community.

Even more pertinent than her awards and ratings, Whyte strives to keep her clients' interests at heart, and reach timely resolutions of challenging situations. Whyte provides individualized counseling and representation in all areas of family law and listens carefully to her client's problems to provide representation that is strategic and effective.

AUDREY YUE

RUTAN & TUCKER, LLP

Audrey Yue represents developers, lenders, and land banking companies in a broad range of complex real estate transactions. Her practice focuses on the acquisition, disposition, financing, and development of real property, including real estate-secured lending, construction financing, and land banking transactions.



Yue has substantial experience in working with her clients on various real estate asset types, including raw land development, multifamily projects, retail and shopping center properties, industrial projects, master planned communities, and affordable housing projects. She advises and assists her clients with the documentation and negotiation of purchase contracts, option and construction land bank agreements, loan and construction loan agreements, consultant agreements, utility and service agreements, leases, and easement agreements.

Yue additionally provides valuable analysis and insight on complex title issues, entitlement issues, organizational structure issues, and other due diligence issues.

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Shirley Jamneshan
Managing Attorney- Riverside, CA



Samantha Dorey
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Laura Williams
Managing Attorney- Frisco, TX

Everett Dorey is committed to promoting diversity and inclusion, cultivating a workplace culture where every employee feels valued, and empowering women to excel in the legal field. Our firm is comprised of 55% women attorneys, and 57% of leadership positions are held by women. Recognized annually by the Orange County Register, Orange County Business Journal, and Orange County Coalition for Diversity in the Law, Everett Dorey will continue to address challenges faced by women in law and champion meaningful change.

