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Called a “Big Gun” and “High Profile” by the *San Francisco Chronicle* and the *Recorder*, and a “Top Law Firm” by the *National Law Journal*, Lafayette & Kumagai LLP is a boutique minority-owned litigation firm that specializes in business torts, employment, complex litigation and trials. The twenty-three-year-old firm has earned a reputation for excellence and for providing strong advocacy. Lafayette & Kumagai received the 2011 Minority-Owned Law Firm Client Service Award, presented by the California Minority Counsel Program for outstanding client service. The firm has been listed in “Litigation Kings” for 2012 and in “Who Represents America’s Biggest Companies?” for 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014 and 2015, in *Corporate Counsel* magazine’s annual report on the law firms most used by the *Fortune* 100. For 2013 and 2015, Lafayette & Kumagai was recognized as a “Go-To Law Firm for the Top 500 Companies” for our Labor & Employment practice. Alameda City Manager (and former Oakland City Attorney) John Russo noted to the *Recorder*, “... political players involved in a case may dictate which firm is chosen. Mayor [and California Governor] Jerry Brown, for example, likes to use San Francisco’s Lafayette & Kumagai.”

Headed by a core of seasoned litigators, the firm has handled a number of high-profile and high-exposure cases on behalf of institutional and public entity clients and is frequently contacted to take over cases from other firms, particularly cases that appear headed for trial. Lafayette & Kumagai’s big-firm trained attorneys utilize a full range of litigation approaches to resolving cases, including mediations and other methods of early dispute resolution.

Gary T. Lafayette, Founding Partner, Lafayette & Kumagai LLP

Gary T. Lafayette is a founding partner of Lafayette & Kumagai LLP. He graduated from Dartmouth College and received his J.D. from the University of California at Berkeley, School of Law (Boalt Hall). He interned with Justice Frank Newman of the California Supreme Court, and after graduating from law school in 1979, commenced his practice with the law firm of Pettit & Martin. He worked with the firm of Feldman, Waldman & Kline before joining, as a partner, the firm of Alexander, Millner & McGee, predecessor to McGee, Lafayette, Willis & Greene.

Mr. Lafayette has an AV Preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell, and currently serves as a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *California Lawyer* magazine, the Board of Directors of the National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms and the Executive Committee of the National Employment Law Council. He was a lawyer-representative to the U. S. District Court for the Northern District of California and is a past member of the San Francisco Inns of Court, the Executive Committee of the Litigation Section of the San Francisco Bar Association and the U. S. District Court Northern Magistrate Review Committee. In his years of practice, he has tried, and prevailed, on a number of complex and document-intensive cases. In the past five years, he has narrowed the scope of his practice to emphasize labor and employment, commercial litigation and toxic exposure matters.

In 2002, Mr. Lafayette received the *California Lawyer* Attorney of the Year Award and the Charles Houston Bar Association’s Clinton W. White Advocacy Award. He was featured in the *American Bar Association Journal* showcasing the talents of minority lawyers (“Distinction with a Difference,” *ABA Journal*, April 2003). Mr. Lafayette was selected as a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America and has also been recognized in the Northern California *Super Lawyers*® list for 2004, 2006 through 2012, and 2014 through 2017. A highly regarded trial attorney, Mr. Lafayette has tried in excess of thirty cases to verdict. Eighteen of his cases have resulted in published opinions, including a significant Supreme Court housing case.¹

Mr. Lafayette frequently speaks and writes on trial and litigation tactics. His recent engagements include “The Art of Persuasion: Influencing Juries,” National Association of Minority and Women-Owned Law Firms Annual Meeting and “Social Media and Litigation,” National Employment Law Council Annual Conference.

¹ *HUD v. Rucker*, 535 U.S. 125 (2002); *Embury v. King*, 179 Fed. Appx. 409 (9th Cir. 2006); *Embury v. King*, 361 F.3d 562 (9th Cir. 2004); *Lifescan, Inc. v. Premier Diabetic Services, Inc.*, 363 F.3d 1010 (9th Cir. 2004); *U.S. ex rel. Honeywell, Inc. v. San Francisco Housing Authority*, 83 Fed.Appx. 181 (9th Cir. 2003); *Rucker v. Davis*, 304 F.3d 904 (9th Cir. 2002); *Rucker v. Davis*, 237 F.3d 1113 (9th Cir. 2001); *Rucker v. Davis*, 203 F.3d 627 (9th Cir. 2000); *In re Unicom Corp.*, 21 F.3d 1116 (9th Cir. 1994) (bankruptcy preference); *Berr v. FDIC*, 172 BR 299 (9th Cir. BAP 1994) (bankruptcy—dischargeability); *Embury v. King*, 191 F.Supp.2d 1071 (2001); *Honeywell v. San Francisco Housing Authority*, 164 F.Supp.2d 1130 (2001); *Kaiser Permanente Employees Pension Benefit Plan v. Bertozzi*, 849 F.Supp. 692 (1994); *Reeves v. MV Transportation, Inc.*, 186 Cal.App.4th 666 (2010); *Cerna v. City of Oakland*, 161 Cal.App.4th 1340 (2008); *Wellpoint Health Networks, Inc. v. Superior Court of Los Angeles County* (Barry McCombs, Real Party in Interest), 59 Cal.App.4th 110 (1997) (work place investigation); *Donahue v. San Francisco Housing Authority*, 16 Cal.App.4th 658 (1993); and *Donahue v. San Francisco Housing Authority*, 281 Cal.Rptr. 446 (1991).