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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.

### Susan T. Kumagai, Founding Partner, Lafayette & Kumagai LLP

Susan Kumagai is a founding partner of Lafayette & Kumagai LLP. Ms. Kumagai is a civil litigator who primarily practices in the employment area, including ERISA, representing management throughout California. She has extensive litigation experience in both state and federal courts and represents clients before administrative agencies including the California Department of Labor, the Department of Fair Employment and Housing and the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She represents *Fortune* 500 companies and public entities in the areas of wrongful discharge, discrimination, harassment, disability and retaliation and claims. She provides advice to clients on matters including internal investigations, wage and hour law, terminations and workplace conduct.

In 2015, Susan Kumagai was inducted to the California Minority Counsel Program (“CMCP”) Diversity Leader Hall of Fame, in recognition of her contributions to diversity in the legal profession and long-term involvement in the organization. Ms. Kumagai serves on the Board Development Committee of the Bar Association of San Francisco (“BASF”) and previously served as a member of the BASF Board of Directors and as a member of its Nominating and Judiciary Committees. Ms. Kumagai is an active member of the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Solo/Small Firm Committee. She is a former member of CMCP’s Steering Committee and its Executive Committee, was the Chair of the 2002 CMCP Annual Business Conference and was a Co-Chair for its 2008 Conference. She is a member of the Labor and Employment Sections of the California Bar Association and the American Bar Association. Ms. Kumagai is a frequent speaker for such organizations as the National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms, California Continuing Education of the Bar, the National Employment Law Council, CMCP and the Minority Corporate Counsel Association. Ms. Kumagai has been recognized in the Northern California *Super Lawyers*® list for 2009 through 2017 and has an AV Preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell.

Ms. Kumagai received her B.A. degree in Political Science from the University of California at Berkeley in 1974 and her J.D. degree from King Hall at the University of California, Davis in 1986. She is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the United States District Court for all Districts in California and all courts of the State of California.