

Kent A. Absalonsen, Attorney, Allstate Insurance Company

Kent Absalonsen is an attorney at Allstate Insurance Company. He is in the law department's Corporate Litigation group, and handles complex litigation including class actions, litigation challenging the corporation's policies and procedures, employment/independent contractor litigation and non-compete/trade secret contractual matters. Prior to this role in Corporate Litigation, he managed litigation from the claims department, including Hurricane Katrina litigation. He also has represented Allstate policyholders involved in automobile accidents as a member of Allstate's Chicago staff counsel office. Kent received his B.A. from Washington University in 1992, his J.D. from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1996 and his M.B.A. from Northern Illinois University in 2003. He is currently on the Board of Education at his twin's elementary school.



Richard S. Amador, Managing Partner, Sanchez & Amador

Richard S. Amador is managing partner of SANCHEZ & AMADOR, with offices in Los Angeles and Oakland, California. Richard has more than twenty-five years of experience defending employers in state and federal court and representing entities victimized by fraud or unfair competition. He primarily represents Fortune 150 companies and large non-profit organizations. A California judge before whom he successfully tried a 2005 case called Richard "one of the finest trial lawyers in the legal profession," adding—"His reputation for honesty and integrity is impeccable." GC California magazine featured Richard as a "Hidden Gem" among the top employment lawyers in California, based on a statewide survey of in-house counsel and mediators. He is AV® peer-review rated by Martindale-Hubbell, the highest ranking for ethics and legal ability. Richard serves on the Executive Committee of the National Employment Law Council and as a Director of NAMWOLF. He frequently speaks on trial advocacy, client service, and employment law topics, and is a founding faculty member of the NELC Academy—a selective program for junior minority employment defense lawyers to receive advanced skills training from leading practitioners.



James (Jim) R. Beyer, Senior Counsel, Labor & Employment, GE Power

Jim Beyer is currently Senior Counsel-Labor & Employment for General Electric in its Power business. Headquartered in Schenectady, New York, Power is GE's largest industrial business, with more than \$30 billion in revenue and approximately 65,000 employees serving customers in more than 125 countries. Jim was formerly the Director of Employment Law at Accenture for 14 years, joining as its first employment lawyer and overseeing the Company's growth from 60,000 employees to over 215,000 people in 2011 and 18 lawyers supporting the employment law team. Prior to Accenture, Jim was a Senior L&E counsel with IBM for four years. Jim also was in private practice with Seyfarth Shaw as both a Senior Counsel from 2011-2014 and as an associate prior to beginning his in-house legal career. Jim is an adjunct Professor at IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law teaching courses in both US and international employment law. Jim was admitted as a Fellow in the College of Labor & Employment Lawyers in 2006.



Julie T. Bittner, Partner, MWH Law Group LLP

Julie T. Bittner litigates as lead counsel with respect to employment and civil litigation matters. She has employment experience in the defense of discrimination, harassment, retaliation and wrongful termination claims brought at the administrative level, as well as in state and federal court. She has assisted in the defense of litigation at the appellate level. Ms. Bittner routinely counsels employers about their employment practices, including employee handbooks, contracts, policies and procedures. She conducts complex internal investigations and provides training and counsel on a wide spectrum of issues involving state and federal employment laws including specifically workplace diversity and inclusion. In her general litigation practice, Ms. Bittner represents and defends corporate clients in litigation involving auto accidents, premises liability, products liability and financial services litigation. Prior to joining MWH Law Group LLP, Ms. Bittner was an associate then partner at one of the largest minority-owned law firms in the country. There, she worked in the labor and employment group. Ms. Bittner began her legal career in Omaha,

Nebraska working on complex civil litigation. Before pursuing her legal career, Ms. Bittner worked in Southern California in various human resources capacities.



John D. Bosco, Partner, Leon Cosgrove LLC

Mr. Bosco represents international, national and regional clients in the full spectrum of labor & employment-related matters, including: wage & hour claims; EEOC, DOJ, and other agency charges; lawsuits involving all forms of discrimination; whistleblower and wrongful termination claims; as well as DOL and OSHA investigations. Mr. Bosco has successfully represented employers in class and collective actions, arbitrations, mediations and single-plaintiff disputes in venues across the country. He also assists clients with management-union relations, collective bargaining and litigation before the NLRB, and related labor matters. His experience includes drafting and negotiating employment agreements, drafting company manuals and policies, advising on litigation avoidance programs and training executives and employees nationwide. Mr. Bosco is a member of the Labor & Employment Section of the American Bar Association. Prior to joining León Cosgrove, he practiced at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius and Jones Day. He also worked as Vice President & Assistant General Counsel at JPMorgan Chase.



Jennifer Branch, Andrews Lagasse Branch & Bell LLP

Jennifer Sarkozy Branch is a founding member of Andrews • Lagasse • Branch & Bell LLP, specializing in employment and education law. She defends employers in single plaintiff claims, class actions and actions under the Private Attorney General Act (PAGA), involving allegations of wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wage & hour violations, breach of contract, unfair competition, and other workplace misconduct. She defends academic institutions in employment disputes, breach of contract claims, and student claims of harassment, discrimination and retaliation. She also defends businesses in ADA and access-related claims. Ms. Branch practices in both state and federal courts, as well as before administrative agencies. Ms. Branch also dedicates her practice to consulting with clients in order to help them avoid litigation. She advises public and privately held companies of all sizes, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions with respect to personnel and student issues, including discipline, termination, leave laws, disability accommodation, wage & hour issues, classification issues, and compliance with regulations applicable to government contractors and schools, including Title IX of the Education Amendments Act and FERPA. She routinely prepares handbooks, employment-related contracts, policies, and affirmative action programs. She offers proactive training on unlawful harassment and best management practices, and serves as an independent investigator for employers seeking objective workplace investigations. Ms. Branch has been recognized as a Top Attorney by the San Diego Daily Transcript in the area of labor and employment law. She's been named one of the Top 50 Attorneys, Top 25 Women Lawyers, and included on the San Diego Super Lawyers list in the area of labor and employment law. She is also a recipient of the San Diego Business Journal's Women Who Mean Business award.



Jeff Brockmann, Assistant General Counsel, U.S. Bank

Jeff Brockmann is an Assistant General Counsel at U.S. Bank, managing all of U.S. Bank's employment litigation. Headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S. Bank is the 5th largest commercial bank in the United States, with 65,000 employees, located in 3,133 banking offices in 25 states. U.S. Bank provides a comprehensive line of banking, investment, mortgage trust and payment service products to consumers, businesses and institutions. Jeff manages all of the Bank's employment litigation, including individual cases and class actions. He also advises the Bank on its multicultural growth strategies. He is a member of the NAMWOLF advisory council and is one of the in-house liaisons to the Trials PAC.



Janice P. Brown, Founding Partner, Brown Law Group

Janice P. Brown is the owner of Brown Law Group (BLG), a Southern California law firm specializing in business litigation with an emphasis in employment, intellectual property, fraud, contract, and class action litigation. As a trial lawyer and arbitrator with the AAA, Ms. Brown is known for her professional distinctions as well as her commitment to the legal community. Ms. Brown is also the founder of Beyond Law, a company designed to help lawyers reach their full potential; developmentally, professionally and financially in the areas of business development and networking. Ms. Brown's passion for helping lawyers to succeed in "building the business of you" is the foundation upon which Beyond Law is built. Ms. Brown's commitment to excellence has earned her numerous accolades throughout her career: Department of Justice-Trial Lawyer of the Year; California Association of Black Lawyers-Lawyer of the Year; Gonzaga University Alumni Association-Distinguished Alumni Merit Award; and San Diego Regional MSDC-Supplier of the Year. AV-Preeminent rated, Ms. Brown has been recognized as a Super Lawyer since 2007. Ms. Brown is a 1984 graduate of Gonzaga Law School and received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Journalism in 1981 from the University of Montana.



Shelley Brown, Director of Managed Review Services, RVM Enterprises, Inc.

Shelley Brown is the Director of Managed Review Services at RVM Enterprises, Inc. She oversees all aspects of attorney review in RVM's Managed Review practice. An expert in several areas of eDiscovery, Shelley advises clients on sound, repeatable and defensible eDiscovery strategies, with a focus on review. Prior to joining RVM, Shelley was a successful attorney for a major class action law firm, where her practice focused on eDiscovery issues in securities litigations. She has extensive experience consulting with and advising corporations and law firms on various Litigation Readiness and Information Governance issues, corporate policies and procedures and cross-border privacy concerns. Ms. Brown has a JD and is admitted to the bar in the state of New Jersey. She holds CAAT certification in review analytics from the Content Analyst Company. Shelley is in high demand as a speaker at industry conferences. She has served as faculty and is a frequent speaker and CLE presenter on various eDiscovery topics. When she is not leading successful managed reviews, Shelley volunteers as a member of the Juvenile Conference Committee in her hometown, an organization pairing lawyers with first-time offender juveniles with the goal of providing the court with alternatives to incarceration through mentorship.



Thy B. Bui, Associate, LTL Attorneys LLP

Thy B. Bui is an Associate with LTL Attorneys LLP in Los Angeles, CA. She represents employers and other entities in state and federal court. She has experience defending employment and complex business disputes, class actions, and fraud and unfair competition claims. Thy graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of California, Riverside in 2004. Concurrent with her J.D. from University of Southern California Law School, Thy also earned a LL.M., with merit honors, in international business law from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Thy reads and writes fluently in Spanish and speaks conversational Vietnamese.



Sasha Buchert, Staff Attorney – Transgender Law Center (Oakland, CA)

Sasha Buchert is a Staff Attorney and Policy Counsel with Transgender Law Center where she works to remove barriers for transgender and gender nonconforming people in obtaining meaningful employment, competent health care coverage and access to accurate identity documents. Before joining Transgender Law Center, she was had the privilege of working at Basic Rights Oregon where she served as a member of their legal advisory group. Sasha also served as board member of the LGBT Bar Association of Oregon and as the chair of the Oregon State Hospital Advisory Board, where she was the first openly transgender person to be appointed to an Oregon state board. Sasha received her J.D. from Willamette University.



Bernadette M. Bulacan, Director, Thomson Reuters

Drawing from her experiences as a former assistant general counsel and law firm partner, Bernadette M. Bulacan, is a frequent speaker and author regarding the use of technology and analytics in corporate legal departments; collaboration between in-house and outside counsel; and best practices related to legal project management. Bernadette specifically leads the Thomson Reuters Market Development Group, which is charged with identifying trends and innovations affecting the corporate legal department practice. She was a founding employee and Assistant General Counsel of Serengeti, one of the most widely-used and highest-rated matter management and electronic billing platform for corporate legal departments. Prior to joining Serengeti/Thomson Reuters, Bernadette was a partner at Graham & Dunn, a Seattle law firm, where she was the head of the firm's Entrepreneur and Emerging Companies/Corporate practice group. She started her legal career advising start-up technology companies with Venture Law Group, a Silicon Valley law firm. She is a founding member of FLOW (Filipino Lawyers of Washington) and a previous Board President for Jubilee Women's Center, a transitional shelter for homeless women in Seattle. Bernadette received her undergraduate degree from Yale University and her law degree and LL.M (Taxation) from the University of Washington.



Joseph Alan Callier, Partner, Callier & Garza, L.L.P.

Joseph Alan Callier has a Bachelor of Arts-Rice University and Doctor of Jurisprudence-The University of Texas at Austin. He is Board Certified in Personal Injury and Civil Trial Law-Texas Board of Legal Specialization; designated Texas Super Lawyer by Thomson Reuters; and an Advocate-American Board of Trial Advocates. Before Callier & Garza, L.L.P., he was an Assistant City Attorney-City of Houston. Callier is a frequent speaker at continuing legal education seminars. His professional memberships include the State Bar of Texas and Illinois, the Houston Bar Association, the Texas Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists, the National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms, Defense Research Institute, the Texas Association of Defense Counsel, etc. He is licensed to practice before Texas and Illinois State Courts; the U.S. Supreme Court; the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals; and Texas U.S. District Courts-Southern/Northern/Eastern/Western. With respect to public/community activities, Callier was appointed by George W. Bush to the Texas Judicial Council (1997-2008); received the HBA (2007-08) President's Award-Co-Chair Adopt-A-School Committee; and appointed Director-Harris County-Houston Sports Authority. He is a Life Member-Association of Rice University Black Alumni; Life Member-Rice University "R" Association; and Life Member-Texas Ex-Students' Association.



Lori Carr, Partner, Estes Thorne & Carr PLLC

Ms. Carr is Board Certified in Labor & Employment Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, and is an experienced mediator and arbitrator. Her expertise is in representing employers in all matters arising out of the employment relationship, including litigation defense, risk management, training, consultation, investigations, and representation during government audits or enforcement proceedings. Ms. Carr has first chair trial experience in state and federal courts, arbitration proceedings, and before government agencies. Ms. Carr is a frequent lecturer on employment policies, management training, and compliance with state and federal employment laws. She represents clients in state and federal courts, the U.S. Department of Justice, EEOC, U.S. Department of Labor, OSHA, and the Texas Workforce Commission.



GuyLaine Charles, Partner, Teigland-Hunt L.L.P.

GuyLaine Charles advises market participants, including investment managers, asset managers, pension plans, financial institutions and corporations, with respect to their trading agreements and regulation of their derivatives transactions. She has ample experience negotiating a wide range of trading agreements including, prime brokerage, securities lending, repurchase, futures and options, clearing and swap execution facility participation agreements, as well as physical and financial over-the-counter derivative and commodities transactions documented under ISDA Master Agreements and other industry standard forms, as well as advising on a range of regulatory matters, with a particular focus on the Dodd-Frank Act. In addition to representing clients on trading and derivatives matters, GuyLaine also advises on lending arrangements and represents limited partners in private equity funds. Prior to joining Teigland-Hunt LLP in 2006, GuyLaine practiced at two of Canada's leading law firms focusing on structured finance. She began her career in private practice at Debevoise & Plimpton in New York, where she worked on structured financings, bank financings and the establishment of private funds. GuyLaine attended the University of Ottawa, where she earned her B.Adm in 1990 and an LL.B. in 1993. She later studied at Dalhousie University, where she earned her LL.M. in 1996. GuyLaine is a member of the New York Bar and of the Law Society of Upper Canada (the Ontario Bar).



Brandon Danford, Senior Attorney, USAA

Brandon Danford is a Senior Attorney in the Enterprise Litigation Unit at United Services Automobile Association ("USAA") in San Antonio, Texas. Brandon is part of a team that prosecutes and defends complex litigation on behalf of all USAA lines of business. Brandon joined USAA in October 2014. Prior to that, he spent ten years as a litigator in the San Antonio office of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. His practice there focused on complex litigation in state and federal courts throughout the country, and he litigated cases involving insurance coverage, marketing and suitability, securities and other financial products issued by insurance companies, and consumer protection statutes. Before attending law school, Brandon spent five years with Deloitte as a tax consultant focusing on corporate and partnership taxation issues. Brandon received his BBA in Accounting and his Master of Taxation from Baylor University in 1996 and his J.D. from the University of Texas in 2004.



Lisa Delaney, President/Co-Founder, Power Design

In 1987, Lisa received a BFA from Northern Illinois University. Her professional career began at ABC Television in Milwaukee, Wisconsin as a Graphic Designer creating still and motion graphics. In 1990, Lisa accepted a Senior Graphic Designer position at CBS Television in Philadelphia. During her tenure, Lisa was selected by CBS Sports as one of ten Graphic Designers from around the globe to work on location at the 1994 XVII Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway. Lisa won a National Emmy for her work at the games. In 1994, Lisa co-founded Power Design, a creative solutions studio with an established A-list of clients. The studio garnered over 75 industry awards along with being featured on many media outlets and in print publications. During Power Design's 22 years in business, Lisa was a speaker at the Chicago PromaxBDA Conference and the Orlando CTAM Conference. She was selected as Philadelphia's "30 Under 30" People to Watch" and Philadelphia's "40 Under 40" Young Business Leaders". Lisa served on the Philadelphia Art Directors' Club Board of Directors and participated as a PromaxBDA awards judge and as a Co-Chairperson. Lisa and Power Design are also involved in charitable organization and non-profit projects.



William A. Delgado, Partner, Willenken Wilson Loh & Delgado LLP

Recognized in April 2012 by the *Recorder* as one of fifty young California lawyers "On the Fast Track," in January 2014 as a "Top 20 Lawyer Under 40" by the *Daily Journal*, and in February 2015 for securing one of the "Top 20 Defense Verdicts of 2014" by the *Daily Journal*, Will Delgado is an experienced trial lawyer whose practice focuses on intellectual property litigation, class actions, and complex business litigation. Will's practice spans the entire United States, and he has been counsel of record in scores of federal lawsuits throughout California as well as in Nevada, Illinois, New York, Texas, Delaware, Michigan, Colorado, and Florida. Because of his focus in developing areas of law, Will frequently litigates and lectures on issues of first impression.



Robert K. Dixon, Associate, Wilson Turner Kosmo LLP

Robert K. Dixon is an associate with WTK. His practice focuses on products liability lawsuits, consumer class action defense, and other complex litigation, particularly with respect to claims under state and federal consumer protection laws. Mr. Dixon's practice also includes defending so-called "junk fax," "blast text," robocalls, and Do-Not-Call class actions brought under the federal Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA). Mr. Dixon represents clients from a variety of industries, including automotive, pharmaceutical, construction, beverage, and home security companies. He frequently obtains successful results for clients before trial and prides himself on obtaining quick, cost-efficient results for his clients. Before joining WTK, Mr. Dixon was in-house counsel for Henry Company LLC, which is a multimillion-dollar company that manufactures building materials. At Henry, Mr. Dixon managed and assessed the Company's asbestos cases. He also assisted with the Company's insurance recovery, patent infringement, and non-asbestos products liability cases. Mr. Dixon was also an attorney at Tucker Ellis LLP, where he defended high profile corporate clients in products liability matters involving pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and asbestos-containing products. Mr. Dixon is also a recipient of the Wiley W. Manuel Award for Pro Bono Legal Services. Mr. Dixon received his B.A., magna cum laude from Loyola Marymount University (2005) and his J.D. from the University of Southern California (2008).



Rachel Dollar, Partner, Smith Dollar

Rachel Dollar is a California attorney, a published author, a Certified Mortgage Banker, a Certified Financial Crimes Investigator, a licensed California Real Estate Broker, and a recognized expert in the mortgage lending industry. Ms. Dollar is a trial lawyer and a founding partner of the AV ® rated, California law firm, Smith Dollar PC, from which she represents financial institutions and lenders in real estate and mortgage banking related litigation. She has been recognized repeatedly by Inman News as one of the 100 Most Influential Real Estate Leaders and has been consistently named by Super Lawyers as one of the top attorneys in Northern California. She has developed a reputation as one of the foremost innovators and thought leaders in the real estate finance industry and has been widely quoted in the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, the Los Angeles Times, and other publications. Ms. Dollar is a nationally recognized speaker on the topics of mortgage banking and mortgage fraud; she has testified before Congress; and has appeared on CNN, CBS News, and other radio and television programs. She is the editor of the award winning website, Mortgage Fraud Blog.



Jorge Espinosa, Partner, Espinosa Trueba LLP

Jorge's practice focuses on the domestic and international protection of trademarks, patents and copyrights. He was a software programmer and also provides services related to cloud computing, social networking, Internet and computer law. He works with clients to develop both short term and long term strategies to achieve their goals whether these goals involve the strategic growth of an intellectual property portfolio or the aggressive protection of an existing portfolio. Jorge operates two blogs - The Gray Blog, dedicated to news, laws and trends involving the parallel market (www.TheGrayBlog.com) and LexNimbus, dedicated to the developing law of cloud computing, social networking and the Internet (www.LexNimbus.com). He works extensively with foreign counsel to develop international intellectual property strategies for clients.

He has substantial experience serving as local counsel for firms seeking to enforce their client's rights in South Florida and Latin America. Jorge is fluent in English and Spanish.



Ward Farnsworth, Dean and John Jeffers Research Chair, University of Texas School of Law

Ward Farnsworth is Dean and John Jeffers Research Chair at the University of Texas School of Law. He also serves as reporter for the American Law Institute's Restatement Third, Torts: Liability for Economic Harm. Dean Farnsworth received his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School, and served after graduation as a law clerk to Richard A. Posner of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and for Hon. Anthony M. Kennedy of the United States Supreme Court. He also served as Legal Adviser to the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal in the Hague. Dean Farnsworth is the author of many articles and books, including The Legal Analyst (Chicago 2007) and Restitution: Civil Liability for Unjust Enrichment (Chicago 2015).



Taylor Fields, Managing Partner, Fields & Brown, LLC

Taylor Fields is the founding member and the managing partner of Fields & Brown. Mr. Fields' practice has been primarily in the areas of employment defense and labor relations. He has served as employment and labor counsel to the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority for more than 28 years. He also served in the same capacity for the Kansas City Public Schools for more than 15 years and has defended employment claims for Fortune 500 companies. He has litigated numerous cases involving Title VII, Title IX, and Americans with Disabilities Act as well as under state employment discrimination laws. Mr. Fields also has extensive experience in commercial litigation. He has represented major governmental agencies and Fortune 100 companies in the defense of multi-million-dollar class actions and complex multi-district litigation matters.



Stacy L. Fode, Partner, Brown Law Group

Stacy L. Fode focuses her practice on employment litigation and advisement. She specializes in representing business clients in all aspects of employment law including wrongful termination, discrimination, sexual harassment, whistle blower, employment agreement disputes, and wage and hour matters, including class actions. Ms. Fode's clients include employers in the energy, financial, insurance, retail, automotive, technology, and telecommunications industries. Rated AV®-PreeminentTM by Martindale, Ms. Fode has represented hundreds of clients attending trial before state and federal courts, appellate courts and administrative agencies such as the EEOC and DFEH throughout California. In addition, Ms. Fode regularly conducts employment-related training seminars for employers and employment lawyers, and investigations of employee misconduct and discrimination claims for her clients. She also negotiates and drafts a variety of employment agreements for high-level executives, and has extensive experience in matters involving the protection of trade secrets and confidential information. Ms. Fode has been a frequent speaker on employment issues and has appeared on television segments on Fox News, NBC, and CBS. Ms. Fode is very active in the community. She is a past member of the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Bar Association and a past President of the Lawyers Club of San Diego, a specialty bar association with over 1000 members. Ms. Fode is also an active member of many other professional and law-related organizations, including the American Bar Association, California Women Lawyers, Defense Research Institute, the National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms, and the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation. She was also a former member of the Louis M. Welsh American Inn of Court. Ms. Fode provides pro bono legal services to I Love a Clean San Diego, and served as a mock trial coach for University High School. Ms. Fode has been recognized as a San Diego Magazine Top Lawyer (2014), a San Diego Metro Magazine Mover to Watch (2012), and a recipient of the San Diego Business Journal's Women Who Mean Business Award (2009).



Jeana Goosmann, CEO/Managing Partner, Goosmann Law Firm, PLC

Jeana Goosmann founded the Goosmann Law Firm and serves as the Firm's CEO and Managing Attorney, personally acting as general counsel to company presidents and CEOs in complex commercial litigation. She receives top marks from Decision Qwest jury consulting research and is one of the country's most likeable and relatable attorneys before a jury. Jeana is regularly seen on news outlets as a legal correspondent, including NBC, ABC, CBS, The Des Moines Register, and Argus Leader. Examples of her aired segments can be found on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tRUNMBEliQ. Jeana is a prolific speaker achieving top marks and has been a national and state presenter at conferences including the Annual Midwestern Bankruptcy Institute Conference, Iowa State Bar Association, Iowa State University Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation, American Bar Association YLD National Meeting, American Bar Association Law Practice Management Spring Meeting, and Prairie Family Business Annual Meeting. She is an author of Marketing Success: How Did She Do That?, American Bar Association 2015, and was been published in The Woman Advocate (2014). She also writes the CEO on Your Side blog, publishing multiple articles each month and is an author for JD Supra as a regular contributor. In 2016 she has publications that will be released for the ABA Women Advocates book and ABA Corporate Counsel news. Jeana is licensed for in the United States Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, Iowa Supreme Court, South Dakota Supreme Court, Nebraska Supreme Court, as well as U.S. District Court for the Districts of: Iowa Northern District, Iowa Southern District, Iowa Bankruptcy, South Dakota, South Dakota Bankruptcy, Nebraska, Nebraska Bankruptcy, and Winnebago Tribal Court. Jeana attended Creighton University School of Law, earning a Juris Doctor degree, summa cum laude, as well as University of Nebraska, earning a Business Management degree with highest distinction and several recognitions.



Amy L. Gaffney, Partner, Gaffney Lewis & Edwards, LLC

Amy L. Gaffney is a member of Gaffney Lewis & Edwards, LLC and practices in the area of general litigation with an emphasis on employment and tort litigation. Ms. Gaffney is based in the firm's Isle of Palms office. Ms. Gaffney received her Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude, from Queens University of Charlotte (formerly: Queens College) and her Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina. Ms. Gaffney practiced with a small firm and a large corporate law firm prior to starting a solo practice in 1999, where she practiced until forming Gaffney Lewis & Edwards, LLC with her partners in 2007. She has represented companies, individuals, and collective groups in employment and tort matters. She has also conducted internal investigations and negotiated the resolution of discrimination and other claims on behalf of companies, including major national retailers. Ms. Gaffney is certified as a mediator by the Supreme Court of South Carolina and has mediated a number of state and federal actions since 1995. She provides advice and counsel to companies and individuals on a variety of employment considerations. She also conducts trainings on various aspects of employment law and trial practice for corporate legal teams and for colleagues at gatherings such as the NAMWOLF and NRRDA Annual Conferences.



Sandra Gallini, Senior Legal Counsel, Global Litigation, Shell Oil Company

Sandra Gallini is the Senior Legal Counsel, Global Litigation at Shell Oil Company. Prior to joining Shell Oil, Ms. Gallini was an associate at Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, PC where she represented businesses in complex commercial litigation in the areas of antitrust and trade regulation, franchise and distribution, motor fuel marketing and consumer fraud. In that role she also managed the Litigation Support Department and advised the Firm and its clients on best practices for cost-effective and efficient management of eDiscovery.



Asnardo Garro, Partner, Avila Rodriguez Hernandez Mena & Ferri LLP

Asnardo Garro is a partner in ARHMF's Corporate and Financial Services practice. He has detailed experience in the laws and regulations governing and affecting financial institutions, money services businesses, domestic and international finance and secured transactions, and various other complex business transactions. Asnardo regularly advises business clients in connection with general corporate and shareholder matters, acquisition, dissolution or sale related matters, asset-backed financing transactions, IT-related projects, contracts, and other general day-to-day related matters. He represents corporate clients with their complex domestic, international and cross-border mergers, joint venture and acquisition transactions. He also represents financial services clients with their financing, corporate, transactional, IT, and regulatory matters, including significant and complex financing and acquisition matters. Asnardo earned his JD from the University of Florida in 2000. He earned a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Florida in 1997.



Julie Gibbens, Associate General Counsel, Walmart

Julie Gibbens has been an associate general counsel with Walmart Stores Inc. since 1998. She works in the litigation division and manages tort cases for Sam's Club nationwide. She has a dotted-line relationship to the Sam's Club General Counsel and works with their business groups on operations issues. In her role with Sam's Club, she works with outside counsel to evaluate cases and their potential exposure to the company. She also attends mediations as the company's corporate representative and watches outside counsel in action at trial. She received her J.D. from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 1993.



Juan A. Gonzalez, Managing Shareholder, Liebler, Gonzalez & Portuondo

Mr. Gonzalez heads the Firm's Commercial and Complex Litigation Group and is the Managing Shareholder of Liebler, Gonzalez & Portuondo. He concentrates his practice in complex commercial, real estate, bankruptcy and civil litigation, including class action defense, in both federal and state courts. He represents lenders, banking concerns, public and private corporations and other business entities in state, federal, multi-district and bankruptcy courts in matters involving secured and unsecured creditors' claims, commercial foreclosures and construction lien enforcement, business liquidations, receiverships, asset recovery, pre-judgment remedies, enforcement of preferred ship mortgages, vessel seizures, enforcement of judgments in foreign jurisdictions, class action defense, lender liability defense, bank operation/deposit based litigation, lease litigation, premises liability and related indemnity litigation. Federal banking agencies have also retained Mr. Gonzalez to investigate several institutional failures throughout the country. Those investigations involved exceedingly complex financial schemes and required a thorough knowledge of sophisticated banking transactions.



Susanna J. Gray, Vice President & Corporate Counsel, Prudential

Susanna J. Gray joined Prudential in 2013 as Vice President and Corporate Counsel in the Enterprise Litigation Group. Ms. Gray is responsible for managing all litigation involving Prudential's asset management businesses. Ms. Gray is a relationship manager for NAMWOLF and serves as co-chair to the Company's Outside Counsel Strategy Group. Prior to joining Prudential, Ms. Gray was Associate General Counsel at a specialty pharmaceutical company in New Jersey. After law school, Ms. Gray clerked for (now chief) Judge Jerome B. Simandle in the District of New Jersey, and then went on to practice in the New York Litigation Group at Fried Frank Harris Shriver & Jacobson, LLP. Ms. Gray received her A.B. from Princeton University and a joint JD/MA from Rutgers University.



Lisa C. Hamasaki, Partner, Miller Law Group

Ms. Hamasaki has extensive experience defending and advising clients with regard to all aspects of employment law including discrimination, harassment, wrongful termination, retaliation, whistleblower, defamation, leaves of absence and wage and hour claims. She has considerable courtroom experience in both state and federal court as well as contractual arbitration proceedings, has represented employers in numerous administrative proceedings, including before the California Labor Commissioner and the California Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, and has extensive experience representing clients in alternative dispute resolution proceedings. Ms. Hamasaki also has an enviable success record when it comes to motions for summary judgment. In recent years, she has succeeded in obtaining summary judgment in numerous matters and, in others, has successfully narrowed the scope of the cases she handled – all to the benefit of her clients.



Rick Hammond, Senior Associate General Counsel, Employment Division, Walmart

Rick Hammond is Senior Associate General Counsel for the Employment Division of the Legal Department at Walmart. He leads the team that provides legal support in the areas of international employment law, immigration law, and labor relations -- both globally and US-focused. Previously, Rick served for several years as Senior Associate General Counsel of Employment for Sam's Club in the United States and Puerto Rico. Since joining Walmart in 2007, he also has managed the defense of employment litigation for Walmart Logistics and Walmart US stores; managed the company's benefits litigation; and managed class actions and complex litigation for the company. Prior to joining Walmart Rick practiced for more than a decade with one of the nation's oldest law firms devoted exclusively to labor and employment law on behalf of management headquartered in his hometown of New Orleans. Rick received his J.D. cum laude from the University of Mississippi School of Law and his bachelor's degree in Journalism magna cum laude from the University of Southern Mississippi. Rick is a Contributing Author to the treatise Employment Discrimination Law and past Editor-In-Chief of The Mississippi Lawyer, the magazine of the Mississippi Bar Association. Prior to his legal career, Rick was a newspaper reporter and editor for several years.



Sarah Heffley, Associate General Counsel, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Sarah Heffley is an associate general counsel at Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. She currently serves in the Tort Section of the Legal Department, where she manages tort lawsuits and outside counsel in various parts of the United States. She also advises business clients within the company on legal matters involving tort issues. Mrs. Heffley attended the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law (now Bowen School of Law), where she served as Survey/Comments Editor on Law Journal. She graduated with honors in 1991. Mrs. Heffley has practiced law with two different law firms, clerked for an Arkansas Supreme Court judge, and clerked for an Arkansas Court of Appeals judge. Mrs. Heffley served on Governor Mike Huckabee's staff for over four years, after which she accepted the position of Director of the Arkansas Crime Information Center. As Director of ACIC, she served on Governor Huckabee's Cabinet. Mrs. Heffley went to work in the Wal-Mart Legal Department in 2003. While working at Wal-Mart, she was appointed to serve a two-year term on the Arkansas Court of Appeals. After the completion of her term on the court, she returned to Wal-Mart in 2009. Sarah Heffley is married to Kyle Heffley, who is in private practice with the Mitchell Law Firm. Together they have three children and live in Rogers, Arkansas.



Francisco Hernandez, CVP & GC, Mexichem

Mr. Hernandez was recently the head counsel for international/regional legal, public affairs, compliance and regulatory matters for the corporate office and all divisions of Tyco International in all emerging markets including South Africa, India, China, Middle East, and Latin America. Prior that, he was the Latin America & Caribbean General Counsel for Tyco from July 2007 to February 2013. Prior to joining Tyco in May 2015, Mr. Hernandez held various legal advisory positions for multinational corporations, private law firms and institutions including The World Bank, Ingram Micro Inc. and the Beracasa Group. He also held important positions with the Venezuelan Government as Undersecretary for the Legal Department for Internal Affairs,

Legal Counsel for the Office of the Secretary for Decentralization, and Head Counsel for the Privatizations Legal Department of the Venezuelan Investment Fund. Mr. Hernandez has been a visiting lecturer at the World Bank, and a law professor at Jose Maria Vargas University School of Law and the Central University of Venezuela in Caracas, Venezuela. Mr. Hernandez is a frequent speaker in law seminars and workshops in the US and abroad. Mr. Hernandez is fluent in English, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish. He has an LL.B. from Andres Bello Catholic University, an LL.M from New York University, and LL.M. from Rome University (La Sapienza), and an LL.M. from La Sorbonne (Paris II Assas) University. Mr. Hernandez is admitted to practice in NY and FL. Mr. Hernandez is active member of the Steering Committee for the South Florida Group of Regional Counsel.



Kerrie R. Heslin, Managing Partner, Nukk-Freeman & Cerra, P.C.

Kerrie R. Heslin has an expertise in employment and labor matters for management. Ms. Heslin devotes a majority of her practice to the litigation of employment matters involving discrimination, whistleblower claims, wage and hour and benefits issues on behalf of employers. She also handles counseling and litigation involving workforce reductions, ERISA, COBRA, FMLA, FLSA, HIPAA and labor law issues. Ms. Heslin also counsels clients on diverse employment issues, such as training, hiring and firing of employees, employment agreements, separation agreements and releases, restrictive covenants, employment applications and policy manuals. She litigates matters in state and federal court and before administrative agencies (including state and federal EEO agencies and the Department of Labor). In addition, Ms. Heslin handles all aspects of labor matters, including negotiation of collective bargaining agreements and resolution and litigation of grievances.



Tiffini D.S. Hines, Contracting Counsel Manager (Corporate Counsel), Accenture

Tiffini D.S. Hines is a licensed U.S. attorney and UK solicitor. Tiffini is also licensed before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Tiffini obtained her B.S., with honors, from Southern University and A&M College, her M.S. from Purdue University, and her law degree from Northwestern University School of Law where she was on the Dean's List. Her work experience includes practicing for nearly five years at McDermott Will & Emery LLP, a top 50 Vault law firm. Tiffini also practiced as Senior Counsel for Hewlett-Packard Company for five years. Tiffini currently serves as Contracting Counsel Manager (Corporate Counsel) at Accenture in Houston.



Jessica Hodkinson, Chief Counsel, Litigation and Labor & Employment, Panasonic Corporation of North America

Jessica Hodkinson is Chief Counsel, Litigation and Labor & Employment at Panasonic Corporation of North America. Panasonic Corporation of North America is the principal North American subsidiary of Osaka, Japan based Panasonic Corporation and the hub of its branding, marketing, sales, service, product development and R&D operations in the United States and Canada. Panasonic Corporation of North America and its subsidiaries and affiliates employ about 12,000 people in the region. As Chief Counsel, Litigation and Labor & Employment, Ms. Hodkinson is responsible for managing the team that handles labor and employment matters, compensation and benefits, and litigation for Panasonic Corp. of North America and many of its subsidiaries and affiliates. Prior to joining Panasonic, Ms. Hodkinson held in-house positions at Avaya, Pfizer (formerly Wyeth) and American Standard Companies Inc. Ms. Hodkinson practiced commercial litigation at Kaye Scholer and McGuireWoods prior to moving in-house. As a member of the New Jersey Women Lawyer's Association, Ms. Hodkinson is an avid supporter of women in the law. Ms. Hodkinson received her JD from Brooklyn Law School, magnum cum laude, and graduated from State University of New York in Buffalo, cum laude.



Kimberly E. Howard, Partner, Smith Fisher Maas Howard & Lloyd, P.C.

Kim is a partner in the law firm of SMITH FISHER MAAS HOWARD & LLOYD, PC located in Indianapolis, IN. Kim has been practicing for 24 years and is an experienced trial litigator focusing on all aspects of tort liability -- construction, transportation, commercial, products, automobile, and premises. She also handles insurance coverage disputes and extra contractual liability claims. She represents a variety of corporations and small business owners. She has been involved in small business development planning and contract bid proposals. Additionally, Kim dedicates a portion of her practice to training associate litigators on trial room tactics and efficient file resolution. Kim has been a guest speaker for various organizations and companies. She has presented on the topics of toxic torts, trucking litigation, pre-litigation investigation tactics, and paralegal trial assistance.



Cristina C. Jennings, Senior Counsel, Schmoyer Reinhard LLP

Cristina C. Jennings is a senior counsel with Schmoyer Reinhard. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Jennings was in-house counsel for the Valero Companies, listed among Fortune 50 companies and having over 20,000 employees system wide. In addition, she was formerly an associate with Hunton & Williams LLP in their ERISA/Employee Benefits section in the Dallas office. Ms. Jennings' practice focuses on advising benefits and other HR professionals on legal matters involving employee benefits, including plan administration and issues relating to ERISA and Internal Revenue Code compliance for retirement, health, and welfare benefits. With over eight years of experience with a corporation, Ms. Jennings understands the various considerations employers face on a day-to-day basis and offers a practical approach to support clients in making sound decisions aimed at achieving business objectives while minimizing their legal exposure. Cristina attended St. Mary's University School of Law, and received her J.D. cum laude in 1996. She received her B.S. cum laude from Texas A&M University in 1993.



Barbara L. Johnson, Counsel, Benton Potter & Murdock, P.C.

Barbara L. Johnson — is Counsel to Benton Potter & Murdock, P.C. in its Employment Law practice. Ms. Johnson has more than 25 years of experience in representing employers in employment law matters. Her practice encompasses litigation, including civil rights discrimination claims in federal and state court, class and collective actions, whistleblower/retaliation claims, wage and hour claims, public law (municipalities and schools), breach of contract claims, covenants---not---to---compete and arbitrations. She represents employers before state and federal agencies and assists employers with developing and implementing employment policies, conducting workplace investigations, regulatory and compliance matters, implementing diversity and leadership programs, and day---to---day employment law issues. She is a member of the District of Columbia Bar, Texas State Bar and Michigan Bar Associations. Ms. Johnson is certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Labor and Employment Law, and serves as President of the National Employment Law Council, and Chair. She is active in a number of other professional organizations, including the American Bar Association's College of Labor & Employment Lawyers; Texas College of Labor & Employment Lawyers; and Defense Research Institute. She is listed in the International Who's Who of Business Lawyers, and has been recognized by Washington DC Super Lawyers.



Kerin Lyn Kaminski, Co-Founding Partner, Giffen & Kaminski, LLC

Kerin Lyn Kaminski is Co-Founding Partner of Giffen & Kaminski, LLC, a Cleveland-based, women-owned law firm. An experienced trial lawyer, Kerin concentrates her practice on business, real estate and financial services litigation, with a focus on commercial and employment disputes. Kerin is a member of the Ohio Bar Association and the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA), and previously served as the CMBA's President. Currently she serves on the Board of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation (CMBF). Kerin is also active in the committee work of the National Association of Minority & Women Owned Law Firms (NAMWOLF), and is a frequent speaker on the topics of advocacy and litigation. Dedicated to advancing diversity and inclusion, Kerin uses her various leadership positions to advocate for women and minorities.



Laura Kibbe, Managing Director of Professional Services, RVM Enterprises, Inc.

Laura Kibbe is the Managing Director of Professional Services at RVM Enterprises, Inc. She oversees RVM's Discovery Analytics and Managed Review Services, and is spearheading the company's consultancy practice. Ms. Kibbe brings more than 23 years of industry experience to her role. Prior to joining RVM, she worked with corporate clients on issues relating to litigation readiness, in-house legal discovery processes, privacy consulting and information governance. She served as Managing Director, Expert & Professional Services for Epiq Systems from 2009 to 2014, where she started the professional services division and grew it into a \$125M+ global business. Prior to joining Epiq, she worked at Pfizer, Kaye Scholer, and Texaco. Ms. Kibbe presently serves as a member of Sedona Working Groups 1 and 6, and as an Advisory Board Member for the Georgetown Law School Advanced eDiscovery and Legal Technology Professionals Institutes. Laura also holds US patent 8,560,378 for the system and method of reviewing and producing documents utilizing technology assisted review. Ms. Kibbe received her J.D. from Syracuse University College of Law and her B.A. in Legal Studies from Manhattanville College. She is an attorney licensed to practice in New York and Connecticut. Known as a thought leader in the industry, she has authored many articles on discovery, privacy, and information governance and is in demand as a speaker across the country. Laura has three daughters and is an ardent supporter of issues surrounding the needs of families and children. She serves on the board of Family Services of Greater Waterbury, Inc.



Jennifer Kobayashi, Partner, Wang Kobayashi Austin, LLC

Jennifer Kobayashi is a partner at Wang Kobayashi Austin, LLC and practices in the area of employee benefits and executive compensation. Jennifer has experience in a broad range of benefits and compensation matters, including qualified retirement plans, executive compensation, and welfare benefit plans. Jennifer frequently advises employers on correcting qualified plan errors, and has prepared numerous submissions under the IRS plan correction program. She also advises employers on plan mergers and plan terminations, including the preparation of related plan amendments, resolutions, IRS filings, and employee communications. Jennifer handles the employee benefits and executive compensation aspects of a variety of corporate transactions, and advises on issues such as the assumption and integration of employee benefit plans and multiemployer and defined benefit pension plan obligations. Jennifer has extensive experience with welfare benefit plans, including cafeteria plans, wrap plan documents, and severance plans, and regularly advises on compliance with ERISA, COBRA, and HIPAA requirements, including HIPAA privacy and security. She regularly counsels clients on the benefit claims and appeals process for both welfare and retirement benefits. Prior to forming Wang Kobayashi Austin, Jennifer was an attorney in the Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation Department of Winston & Strawn LLP. Jennifer received her J.D. from the University of California at Berkeley School of Law (Boalt) in 2001 and her B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1996.



Thomas Koch, Partner, Pugh, Jones & Johnson, P.C.

Thomas Koch is a Partner in Pugh, Jones & Johnson's Litigation Practice Group. Tom has extensive experience in trials and mediations in product liability, healthcare professional negligence and catastrophic injury litigation. He is PJJ's Privacy Compliance Officer and has been at the forefront of privacy and security compliance since 2010. Tom helps clients protect their privacy rights and will seek redress when breaches occur. He provides effective insight, training and strategies to meet today's unique data security and HIPAA/HITECH needs. Tom is a member of the International Association of Privacy Professionals and is in the process of obtaining his CIPP/US certification. Tom has been named a Leading Lawyer by the Leading Lawyers Network from 2012-2016. He was also featured in *Chicago Medicine* magazine as a Leading Medical Malpractice Defense Attorney. In addition, Tom was named a Leading Civil Defense Lawyer Justice Provider in *Chicago Lawyer* magazine and a Leading Defense Lawyer in the 2014 and 2015 *Casualty Adjustor's Guide of Illinois*. Tom graduated with honors from Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa, in 1977, and IIT/Chicago-Kent

College of Law with high honors in 1984. He was a Notes & Comments editor on the *Chicago-Kent Law Review*, and a Legal Writing Assistant.



Susan D. Koval, Partner, Nemeth Law P.C.

Susan Koval is a partner at Nemeth Law in Detroit, Michigan, where she practices management-side employment law. In addition to an accomplished litigation and trial practice, Ms. Koval counsels with employers on the full scope of employment and labor relations subject matters, conducts workplace investigations, and trains employers' workforces. She utilizes a strategic, proactive approach to resolving workplace issues and aggressively defends employers before federal and state courts and administrative agencies. Ms. Koval has been a presenter on a variety of employment law topics and has published countless articles for various media outlets, including a recent article about employers' obligations to transgender employees published nationally by Employment Law360. Ms. Koval is a recognized leader in the legal profession as demonstrated by her Martindale-Hubbell AV® Preeminent rating; her selection as a 2015 Women in the Law Honoree by the Michigan Lawyers Weekly; her appointment as co-chair of the Eastern District of Michigan Federal Bar Association's Labor & Employment Law Committee; and her continuing selection since 2010 to the Michigan Super Lawyers list in the employment litigation practice area. Additionally, Ms. Koval is an active participant in NAMWOLF and is presently a member of the newsletter committee and co-chair of the internal communications subcommittee of the Labor & Employment Law PAC.



Sonjui Kumar, Partner, KPPB Law

Sonjui L. Kumar is a founding member of KPPB LAW, established in Atlanta, Georgia in 2003. KPPB now also has offices in Princeton, NJ, Fairfax, VA and Houston, TX. Ms. Kumar primarily acts as general counsel to domestic and foreign manufacturing, technology, real-estate and service companies, representing them on a day-to-day basis. A large number of her clients are India-based companies entering the United States to set up green field operations and/or make acquisitions. Her practice includes corporate law and governance, mergers and acquisitions, contract negotiations and overseeing outside counsel for her clients. Ms. Kumar's client list includes companies located in the United States, Europe and India. Attorney Kumar is a frequent speaker on issues relating to cross-border transactions and foreign companies doing business in the U.S. Ms. Kumar is an active member of the South Asian community in Georgia and nationally. She is a Past President of both the national (SABA-NA) and local (SABA-GA) South Asian Bar Associations and is now serving on SABA-NA's National Advisory Council. In 2011, SABA-NA recognized her by awarding her the Cornerstone Award. She is currently Chairman of the Board of Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta, an organization dedicated to fostering the social, economic and civil rights of Asian Americans in the Southeast. She is also Chair of the Board of GIACC (The Georgia Indo American Chamber of Commerce) and a long time Charter Member of The Indus Entrepreneurs (TIE), Atlanta Chapter. Ms. Kumar has previously served as an at-large representative on the Board of Governors for the State Bar of Georgia and currently chairs two committees of the State Bar. She is a recipient of the State Bar of Georgia's Commitment to Equality Award. She is also a proud graduate of the Leadership Atlanta Class of 2014. Ms. Kumar graduated with high honors from the University of Connecticut School of Law in West Hartford, Connecticut. She lives with her husband in Roswell, Georgia. She is the proud mother of two daughters.



Amber Kusar, Co-Founder / Vice President, Kusar Global, Inc.

Amber Kusar grew up working in the family business of court reporting. She attended the University of Arizona where she received Bachelor's Degrees in Communication and Spanish, with a minor of Business Management in 2009. Amber found her knack working with litigation executives and in-house counsel and claims leadership to find innovative ways to reduce expenses engage technology and improve processes for Fortune 500 companies on a global scale. Her life experience growing up in the industry allows her to better serve the legal community as she takes a hands-on approach with strategic pricing and quality control. In 2016, Amber co-founded KusarGlobal, Inc., a certified MBE in an effort to work closer with corporations to increase minority spend without sacrificing quality and compete with corporate competitors. Amber also takes a hands-on approach in the community and involved in helping homeless women and children. On her days off, Amber enjoys spending time with her husband and two babies, professional sports, and living a healthy lifestyle.



Susan Lau, Assistant General Counsel, Wells Fargo & Company

Susan Lau is Assistant General Counsel and head of eTIGS (eCommerce, Technology, Information & Glob Services) in the Wells Fargo Law Department. Susan joined Wells Fargo in 2006. She and the team have glob and enterprise legal responsibility for Wells Fargo's cybersecurity, privacy, data management, technolog eCommerce and mobile channels, records management, and non-U.S. work forces in in IT, operations, ar knowledge analytics. Before coming to Wells Fargo, Susan was EVP, Associate General Counsel & Chief Privar Officer at Providian National Bank where she was primarily responsible for cobranded-card products ar business development. Susan also was Chief Counsel, BankCards, at Bank of America. A native San Francisca Susan received her B.S. from University of California (College of Natural Resources), Berkeley, and her J.D. fro University of San Francisco School of Law. Susan is certified with the International Association of Privar Professionals. In her free time, Susan loves to garden, travel, and get away to her vacation home in the Sier foothills.



Deborah E. Lewis, Partner, Blackwell Burke PA

Deborah E. Lewis, partner at Blackwell Burke PA, is an experienced trial attorney who defends corporations and health care providers in complex product liability actions, including pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers, automobile/component part manufacturers, retailers and physicians. She also advises clients on federal regulatory issues, including product recalls. A former registered nurse, Ms. Lewis' unique perspectives on product liability and health care matters gains the trust of medical experts and industry leaders as she helps clients develop successful defense strategies. Ms. Lewis has defended a major medical device manufacturer for its product liability lawsuits in matters nationally and internationally, obtaining summary judgments and dismissals throughout the country. Ms. Lewis is a frequent speaker on various legal topics involving health care issues, product liability issues, and litigation strategy. She is the Co-Chair of the Product Liability Practice Area Committee of NAMWOLF, member of the Defense Research Institute, former Co-Chair of the Medical Device Action Alliance of the Health Industry Council of DFW, and former Secretary of the Health Law Section of the National Bar Association.



Christian Liipfert, Scharf Banks Marmor LLC

Christian Liipfert has spent much of the past 30 years practicing law in-house in the energy sector, having worked in Washington, DC, Atlanta, Paris, Chicago, Hong Kong, and Houston. Most recently, he was the Programme Director, Global Information & Records, and the Information Policy Director for BP, an international energy company with operations in more than 100 countries. While in-house, Mr. Liipfert has conducted investigations into major industrial accidents, responded to allegations of criminal violations of environmental laws, negotiated major transactions in Asia, and managed the arbitration of large corporate contractual disputes. For the past several years, he has concentrated on code of conduct compliance and information governance on a global scale, including e-discovery and knowledge management, bridging the gaps between Legal, IT, Compliance, Records Management, Operations, Knowledge Management, Audit,

and the users. He developed training for lawyers in how to respond to crises and emergencies, and compliance materials on antitrust and competition law, export control, and environmental, health & safety topics. Mr. Liipfert has spoken and written extensively on information governance, ediscovery, knowledge management, antitrust and competition law, crisis management and emergency response, and the use of technology for compliance training and monitoring. He was a pioneer in the creation of elearning modules for client education on legal topics ranging from environmental compliance, attorney client privilege and fatality investigations to international antitrust and competition law. Mr. Liipfert received his B.A. from Bucknell University in 1973 and received his J.D. summa cum laude from Washington College of Law at American University in 1979.



Danielle Linert, Partner, Giffen & Kaminski, LLC

Danielle Linert is a Partner at Giffen & Kaminski, LLC, and has been practicing management-side employment law for over 20 years. She has extensive experience defending employers from both the in-house and outside counsel perspectives with respect to all types of employment litigation and pre-litigation matters. She also regularly advises and provides training to management and human resources personnel with respect to a variety of labor and employment-related topics. In addition to practicing employment law, Danielle regularly conducts workplace and Title IX investigations addressing intimate partner violence and other forms of misconduct on campuses. Danielle is an Ohio State Bar Association Certified Labor and Employment Law Specialist. She has served as the Chair of the Executive Counsel of the Labor and Employment Law Section of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association and has been the Co-Chair of NAMWOLF's Labor & Employment PAC since 2014.



Mayra A. Jimenez, Marketing Director, AlvaradoSmith

Mayra A. Jimenez is the Marketing Director of AlvaradoSmith, a full-service law firm with offices in Orange County, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. Mayra manages AlvaradoSmith's brand to communicate its principles of solving clients' problems effectively and fostering a culture of excellence through teamwork, diversity, and client services. Mayra also coordinates major firm events and presentations including sponsorships, community engagements, and other partnering initiatives. She incorporates technology to expand the firm's presence and her most recent project involved a complete transformation of the firm's website and brand. She continues to proactively build and manage a previously non-existent marketing department by improving operating procedures; introducing new technology based marketing initiatives, and providing firm attorneys with the skills, information, and resources to help them succeed in their business development efforts. Mayra attended Notre Dame De Namur University in the San Francisco Bay Area where she majored in Political Science. She is the Founder of Santa Ana's Helpers, a community project that revolves around sparking the good will within people, and inspires actions that create a ripple effect of random acts of kindness everywhere.



Tracy Kocourek, Senior Counsel, CDW

Tracy Kocourek is Senior Counsel at CDW. She has over 20 years of experience negotiating complex commercial transactions and advising executive leadership in global corporations with multinational customers across various industries. She has been recognized and honored for being a highly effective negotiator in large, sophisticated corporate transactions. Tracy has managed and led a team of attorneys in supporting the operations and transactions of a global business unit within a Fortune 500 company. She has expertise in a wide variety of matters including protection of intellectual property, cloud computing, information technology transactions, professional services agreements, software licensing and development, outsourcing, strategic alliances, data privacy and risk/litigation management. She has been recognized for strategic problem solving and leadership skills, and for working collaboratively with corporate executives as a trusted advisor. Her proven ability to develop and implement effective negotiation strategies and business solutions which mitigate risk allows her clients to achieve business objectives and financial rewards.



Amy Kurson, Managing Partner, Reyes Kurson, Ltd.

Amy Kurson helps businesses interact with municipal governments. She has extensive experience in real estate development, municipal law, and environmental compliance. For more than 20 years, Amy has provided her clients practical solutions for complex problems. She is particularly adept at balancing her clients' business, legal, and long-term relationship interests. Amy has assisted a wide range of development clients including public-private partnerships, hospitals, charter schools, pawn shops, fast-food chains, industrial facilities, mixed use and transit-oriented residential developments. She negotiates real estate development agreements and association documents, as well as municipal development, sales tax, and economic incentive agreements. Amy received her Juris Doctor from the Chicago Kent College of Law. She is managing partner of Reyes Kurson, Ltd.



Felicia Long, Partner, Hill Hill Carter Franco Cole & Black, P.C.

Mrs. Long is a partner at Hill Hill Carter Franco Cole & Black, P.C., who focuses her practice on the defense of civil litigation matters. She has successfully defended corporations, small businesses, insurers, and individuals in state and federal courts throughout Alabama in matters involving business/contract disputes, premises liability, product liability, employer liability, truck/automobile litigation, catastrophic injury, workers' compensation, construction defects, fraud, arson, theft, extra-contractual claims, first-party and third-party insurance claims, and coverage questions. Mrs. Long also maintains an appellate practice and has argued before the United States Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit. Mrs. Long is a member of the Alabama State Bar Association and was recently elected by her colleagues as Secretary-Treasurer of the Montgomery County Bar Association. She is a Martindale-Hubbell AV rated preeminent attorney and has been recognized by Alabama Super Lawyers. Prior to joining Hill Hill Carter, Mrs. Long was a partner in another civil litigation firm and clerked for the Supreme Court of Alabama.



Reginald A. Long, Partner, Love and Long, L.L.P.

Reginald A. Long is an attorney concentrating in public agency, real estate, corporate finance, zoning and land use. He has served as counsel to several planning and zoning boards, developers, financial institutions and public agencies. Mr. Long was employed by TIAA-CREF, a Fortune 100 pension fund, where he worked in the Mortgage and Real Estate Department financing and developing shopping malls, hotels, retail entertainment complexes and mixed use projects, including Minnesota's Mall of America. Mr. Long is the Vice-Chair of the National Bar Association's Real Estate Committee and is a member of NAMWOLF's Transactional Practice Area Committee.



Lisa D. Love, Managing Partner, Love and Long, L.L.P.

Lisa D. Love is an attorney concentrating in corporate finance and governance, commercial transactions, secured transactions, project finance and real estate. Ms. Love represents lenders in corporate finance transactions secured by all types of collateral and credit enhancements including warrants and letters of credit. Ms. Love has served as counsel to several public and private development entities, financial institutions and Fortune 100 companies. Ms. Love served as lead counsel for the Firm in its representation of the United States Department of Treasury in the negotiation and closing of over \$2 billion of preferred stock and equity equivalent securities invested in financial institution throughout the United States and has served as lead counsel for the Firm in its representation of Toyota Financial Services as co-issuer's counsel in its public offerings of over \$1.95 billion in aggregate principal amount of its Diversity and Inclusion Medium-Term Notes.



Li Chen, Managing Partner, Chen Malin LLP

LI CHEN practices in the areas of intellectual property litigation, commercial litigation, and complex commercial transactions. His work is recognized in *Chambers USA*, *Best Lawyers*, *Benchmark Litigation*, *Managing IP*, *Super Lawyers*, and *Martindale Hubbell* (AV—preeminent). In 2016 Li was shortlisted by *Managing IP* for its Outstanding IP Litigator Award (TX). He currently serves as the managing partner of CHEN MALIN LLP, a boutique founded on integrity, friendship, and trust. The lawyers at CHEN MALIN are among a handful in the country that have won a F/RAND case at trial. After learning of our successes in several bet-the-company cases, *U.S. News' Best Law Firms* recognized CHEN MALIN LLP as a Tier 1 Firm (Dallas/Fort Worth) in 3 practice areas. *Managing Intellectual Property* also recommends the Firm for IP work, and states that CHEN MALIN LLP "has already made a name for itself."



Michael L. Martinez, Senior Vice President and Associate General Counsel for Dispute Resolution, Marriott International, Inc.

Michael L. Martinez is Senior Vice President and Associate General Counsel for Dispute Resolution at Marriott International, Inc. and is based at Marriott's headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, just north of Washington, D.C. In that role Michael oversees Marriott's litigation and arbitration matters worldwide (with the exception of tax or labor and employment matters). Prior to joining Marriott, Michael was a partner for ten years at Crowell & Moring LLP in Washington, D.C. where he handled commercial and government related litigation and arbitration. Prior to that Michael was, among other things, an Assistant United States Attorney in Washington and Philadelphia. Michael grew up in northern California and obtained his Law degree from the University of California, Berkeley and a Bachelors degree in Economics from the University of California, Davis.



Joseph McCoin, Vice President and Operations Unit Counsel, Coca-Cola

Joseph McCoin serves as Vice President and Operations Unit Counsel for Coca-Cola Southwest. He previously served as Senior Managing Counsel and Senior Counsel for The Coca-Cola Company, focusing on labor & employment law matters. Prior to joining The Coca-Cola Company, Joseph was a member at Miller & Martin PLLC in Chattanooga, TN. He is a graduate of Columbia University and Vanderbilt Law School.



Sonia H. McDowell, Associate, Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A.

Sonia H. McDowell is an associate in the Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A.'s Business, Financial Services & Real Estate Division in Orlando, Florida. Her practice focuses in the areas of real estate, commercial litigation, and commercial and residential foreclosures. She handles all aspects of foreclosure representation on behalf of mortgage loan servicers and lending institutions throughout the state of Florida. Prior to joining QPWB, Ms. McDowell was an associate attorney with an Orlando law practice specializing in finance, debtor and creditor mortgage financing for real estate, where she represented major lenders in foreclosure actions. She was also an attorney with a Central Florida law firm concentrating in the defense of insurance carriers; here, she conducted Examinations Under Oath and worked with special investigative units handling fraudulent PIP claims. Ms. McDowell gained extensive trial experience as assistant state attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit; she handled the prosecution of felony crimes for three years and worked with specialized task forces focusing on drug trafficking cases involving lengthy minimum mandatory sentences. Ms. McDowell received her Juris Doctor from Barry University - Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law, Orlando, Fla., in May 2009 and Bachelor of Arts from Rutgers University, New Jersey in January 2004, graduating with a major in English language and literature. While is law school, she received numerous awards for her participation in national and regional moot court and trial advocacy competitions. She was the recipient of the Book Award in Trial Advocacy, she served as senior associate editor of the Law Review, was a member of the Moot Court Honors Board and the Trial Advocacy Team, and served as senator of the

Student Bar Association. Ms. McDowell is licensed to practice law in Florida and is a member of The Florida Bar she is also admitted in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida. She is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese and has basic French and Italian language proficiency.



Amy L. Miletich, Miletich PC

Amy L. Miletich, a founding member of the Denver, Colorado firm Miletich PC, has been defending employers for over 20 years. Her practice is focused on employment law matters, civil litigation and insurance law. She has been a frequent speaker on employment related topics and has published several articles on employment law. In 2014, Ms. Miletich was elected a National Director of the Defense Research Institute. She is the former Chair of the Defense Research Institute's Employment and Labor Law Committee. Ms. Miletich has been recognized as a Colorado Super Lawyer every year since 2007 in employment defense. She has been named one of the Top 50 Women Colorado Super Lawyers and is listed in Best Lawyers in America. She is AV Preeminent® Rated by Martindale-Hubbell. Ms. Miletich serves as a section vice-chair for the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel's Employment Practices and Workplace Liability Committee.



Justi Rae Miller, Counsel, State Farm

Justi joined State Farm in Bloomington, Illinois, in 2015 after spending the last eight years with NAMWOLF law firm Berens & Miller, PA., Minneapolis, Minnesota, having represented Fortune 500 and equivalent entities advising clients and litigating a wide range of legal matters such as antitrust, breach of contract, business torts, commercial leases, compliance, employment discrimination and termination, intellectual property, false advertising, FCRA, FDCPA, governance, and wage and hour claims. For State Farm, Justi currently serves as supervising counsel for extra-contractual litigation. Practicing law since 1993, she is licensed to practice in California, Colorado, Illinois, Minnesota and Missouri state and federal courts, and beyond her business litigation experience, she is a certified and experienced mediator and for a period of eight years, she worked extensively with over fifteen federal agencies regarding Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) issues as an investigator, counselor, mediator and final agency decision (FAD) writer. Justi is a former Division I head golf coach (University of Colorado), assistant golf coach (University of Illinois), graduate academic advisor for athletics (University of Illinois) and developed a successful niche practice in the representation of basketball, volleyball and ice hockey head coaches in contract negotiations, NCAA investigation hearings, and termination proceedings. Justi was also an adjunct professor teaching Practice and Professionalism at the University of Minnesota Law School. Ms. Miller has volunteered and been appointed to numerous city, state and national bar association boards, committees and positions. For NAMWOLF, she currently serves on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, chairs the Communications Committee, and previously chaired the Development Committee, the Labor & Employment Law PAC, the 2013 Annual Meeting and editor of the national newsletter.



Lisa Modica, Senior Director - HR Legal, Halliburton

In her role as Senior Director, Lisa is responsible for oversight and management of Fortune 500 company's employment and labor legal function, including employment discrimination claims, litigation, arbitrations, and regulatory enforcement actions. Lisa received her J.D. from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, and her B.A. from Southern Methodist University.



David Moncure, Data Privacy Legal Counsel, Shell Oil Company

David is legal counsel for Shell Oil Company, focusing on data privacy and eDiscovery. He's the legal advisor for privacy issues across the Americas and assists global litigation with cross-border discovery issues. David also provides in-house training on cross-border discovery and data protection. He began his practice at Norton Rose Fulbright, where he assisted clients with eDiscovery, data privacy, and records management issues. He is an active member of The Sedona Conference and serves on the Steering Committee for Working Group 11 on Data Security and Privacy Liability (WG11).



Raven Moore, Senior Litigation Counsel, McDonald's Corporation

Raven Moore serves as in-house litigation counsel at McDonald's Corporation, handling a variety of litigation, including intellectual property, employment, real estate and franchising matters. She also chairs the Legal Department's Diversity Committee. Prior to joining McDonald's, Ms. Moore spent nine years in private practice at Reed Smith. While at Reed Smith, Ms. Moore was a partner in the firm's intellectual property group, representing clients in patent, trademark and copyright disputes. She is a current board member of Resolution Systems Institute, a non-profit dedicated to strengthening justice by enhancing court ADR systems through expertise in program development, research and resources. She also works on pro bono matters with the National Immigrant Justice Center. Ms. Moore received her B.A. from the University of Dayton in 1998 and her J.D. from Tulane University School of Law in 2003, at which point she joined Sachnoff & Weaver (which then merged with Reed Smith in 2007). Ms. Moore lives in the Chicago suburbs with her husband and two sons.



Sandy L. Morris, Partner, Chico & Nunes, P.C.

Sandy L. Morris, a Partner, has represented corporate and individual clients in a wide variety of business litigation, including contractual and lease disputes; employment disputes involving wrongful discharge and the enforcement of restrictive covenants; defamation, tortious interference, and unfair competition cases; eminent domain cases; and legal malpractice cases. She has successfully briefed and argued cases before both the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals and the Illinois Appellate Court. Ms. Morris also represents employers in administrative proceedings before the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and state human rights and equal employment opportunity agencies. Ms. Morris counsels employers regarding employee handbooks, policies, and risk management and offers customized training to clients on a variety of topics, including compliance with Title VII, the ADA, and FMLA. In addition, Ms. Morris advises public utilities regarding their rights and obligations under their tariffs on file with the Illinois Commerce Commission and franchise agreements with local municipalities. She also represents public utilities in customer complaint proceedings before the ICC. Ms. Morris graduated from Syracuse University (B.A., cum laude, 1995), and the University of Chicago Law School (J.D., 1999). While in law school, Ms. Morris volunteered with the school's Mandel Legal Aid Clinic and served on the Clinic's Board.



Monica Mosby, Senior Counsel, Commercial Litigation, McDonald's Corporation

Monica Mosby is Senior Counsel in the Commercial Litigation Practice Group at McDonald's Corporation. McDonald's is the world's leading global food service retailer with over 36,000 locations in over 100 countries. More than 80% of McDonald's restaurants worldwide are owned and operated by independent local business men and women. As Senior Counsel in the Commercial Litigation Practice Group, Ms. Mosby manages litigation disputes in various jurisdictions around the country and internationally. Ms. Mosby also advises internal business clients on the potential risks associated with certain business practices, and is responsible for reporting recommended litigation strategies to senior leadership in the legal department. Prior to joining McDonald's, Ms. Mosby was a partner in the Litigation Practice Group at Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP in Chicago, IL, where she began her career right out of law

school. Ms. Mosby received her JD from DePaul University, cum laude, and a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from DePaul University.



Janie Perelman, Associate General Counsel, Michaels Stores, Inc.

Janie Perelman is an Associate General Counsel at Michaels Stores, Inc. In this role, Ms. Perelman heads the labor and employment law and litigation areas. Prior to Michaels, Ms. Perelman was the Vice President of Human Resources and Employment Law at CEC Entertainment, Inc. (Chuck E. Cheese's); Senior Vice President, Deputy General Counsel and Assistant Secretary for Guaranty Financial Group Inc./Guaranty Bank; Associate General Counsel for Zale, Corporation; and Associate General Counsel and VP Human Resources for Kitty Hawk, Inc. Before going in-house, Ms. Perelman was in private practice in Houston, where a large amount of her docket concentrated on plaintiffs' employment law work. Ms. Perelman graduated from the University of Texas with a Journalism degree and received her Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the University of Houston. Ms. Perelman is Board Certified in Labor and Employment law and has been recognized as a Super Lawyer by Texas Monthly magazine. She is a former President of the Association of Corporate Counsel – DFW, a frequent speaker at Labor and Employment Law seminars, and was previously a host on Job Talk, a Houston radio show. Ms. Perelman was recognized as a finalist for the 2011 Corporate Counsel Awards for Outstanding In-House Counsel (non-GC) sponsored by ACC and D CEO. Ms. Perelman serves on the State Bar Committee on Providing Legal Services to the Poor, is the subcommittee chair on pro bono services, and is on the steering committee for the Texas Minority Counsel Program 2012.



George Peters, Assistant General Counsel, Commercial Affairs, Chrysler Group LLC

George Peters currently serves as Assistant General Counsel of Commercial Affairs, at Chrysler Group LLC in Auburn Hills, Michigan. He is the group leader supporting purchasing, manufacturing, engineering design and development, and technology related transactions. He also has extensive experience in acquisitions, divestitures, joint ventures, business alliances and new vehicle development. George serves as chief privacy counsel and cybersecurity counsel. He was born and raised in Detroit Michigan and earned his B.A. in Economics from Wayne State University. A graduate of the University of Michigan's Law School, he has been practicing law since 1988. He has held senior positions at Owens Corning, The Walt Disney Company, and Comshare, Inc.



Bernardo A. Portuondo, Partner, Liebler, Gonzalez & Portuondo

Bernardo A. Portuondo is the head of the transactional practice at Liebler, Gonzalez & Portuondo and a founding member of the firm. Mr. Portuondo's practice centers on real estate, corporate and public finance transactions. He represents a wide array of financial institutions and governmental entities in connection with complex secured lending and public finance transactions. One of his major practice areas includes the structuring and documentation of affordable housing transactions involving federal and state tax credits, both as lender's counsel and developer's counsel. Additionally, Mr. Portuondo frequently represents financial institutions in the restructuring of defaulted loans.



Jennifer Ortiz Prather, Supervisory Attorney and Program Manager, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Jennifer Ortiz Prather is a Supervisory Attorney and Program Manager for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's (EEOC) ADR program in the Houston District Office. She mediates private sector employment discrimination disputes and oversees the ADR/Mediation program for Houston and New Orleans. Under her leadership, the mediation program has conducted over 3,000 mediations, with an average settlement rate over 74% and achieved over \$34 million dollars in monetary settlement benefits for charging parties. In 2014, Ms. Prather received the prestigious EEOC Chair's Award for her work creating a Pro Bono Mediation Program, which has accomplished 230 mediations and over \$1.5 million in monetary benefits. Since she joined the EEOC in 2010, Ms. Prather has been a Board Member for ACR-Houston, LERA, the Texas Labor Management Board, and is currently the President of the Texas Association of Mediators (TAM). Prior to joining the EEOC in Houston, Ms. Prather served as a Commissioner with the U.S. Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service (FMCS) in Washington, DC. For 9 years, she worked in the Office of International & Dispute Resolution Services. In addition to private and public sector workplace dispute mediations, Ms. Prather provided ADR consultations, systems design, conflict training and mediation/facilitation for both domestic and international clients. Ms. Prather has mediated hundreds of labor, EEO, and workplace disputes involving multi-national corporations and various Federal government agencies, including NASA, FBI, Department of Veteran's Affairs and the Small Business Administration. In addition, she has conducted hundreds of workshops, trainings and conflict intervention programs for domestic and international audiences. Her international travel as a US representative includes projects with the 21 pacific-rim economies of the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the International Labor Affairs Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor, and work with the U.S. Embassy in Bridgetown, Barbados, the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade, Serbia and mediation training in Beijing and Shenyang, China in 2009. Ms. Prather received her B.A. at the University of Southern California in International Relations with a minor in Environmental Studies and her J.D. from Vermont Law. She has been in Federal Service for 17 years and is happy to have returned to her hometown, Houston, where she lives with her husband and two daughters.



Tim Reckart, Partner, Rusing Lopez & Lizardi, P.L.L.C.

Timothy J. Reckart's commercial and corporate practice focuses on the formation and financing of emerging-growth companies and intellectual property transactions. He has drafted and negotiated hundreds of licenses, and regularly represents clients in a variety of legal matters, among them entity formation, capital structure, venture capital and private equity financing, mergers and acquisitions, product distribution agreements, equity incentive plans, pharmaceutical supply and quality agreements, clinical trial agreements, joint ventures and strategic alliances. Mr. Reckart is a member of the Washington, DC Bar and the Arizona Bar, is registered to practice as a patent attorney before the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, and is a Certified Licensing Professional by the Licensing Executive Society. He holds a law degree and an MBA from Stanford University, a master's degree in nuclear engineering from the University of California at Berkeley and a bachelor's degree in nuclear engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is also "AV Preeminent Peer Review Rated" through the Martindale Hubbell® PEER REVIEW RATINGS™ Process and was recently named as one of the 2014 Top-Rated Lawyers in Intellectual Property Law by Martindale-Hubbell.



Andres Rivero, Partner, Rivero Mestre LLP

Andrés Rivero is a commercial litigator who, for 28-plus years, has focused on business controversies. In Chambers USA, he has been called "a brilliant lawyer with an inquisitive mind." A skilled trial lawyer, Rivero has tried many cases to jury verdict during his career. He was one of the lead lawyers in U.S. v. GDC, one of the longest trials in the history of the Southern District of Florida. He has also argued many cases before the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, Third Circuit and Eleventh Circuit and Florida appellate courts. His background as a litigation partner at Greenberg Traurig, a federal prosecutor, and a partner of his own entrepreneurial litigation law firm over the last 16 years adds both breadth and depth to his business litigation practice. Rivero has substantial experience in representing corporations and entrepreneurs in intellectual property disputes, antitrust and securities claims, and partnership and shareholder controversies. Along with many other members of the firm, Rivero is fluent in Spanish, and has conducted litigations and arbitrations, including an arbitration trial in Mexico, in Spanish. Rivero has served as an adjunct professor in the LL.M. program at University of Miami Law School, where he taught U.S. litigation practice, and has taught at the Attorney General's Advocacy Institute. He recently served as chairman of the Judicial Nominating Commission for the 11th Circuit Court for Miami-Dade County, Florida. AV-rated by Martindale Hubbell, he repeatedly has been voted one of the Best Lawyers in America and one of Florida's Legal Elite commercial litigators in a Florida Trend survey of Florida lawyers.



Michael A. Rosenberg, Managing Partner, Roig Lawyers

Michael A. Rosenberg is the managing partner of Roig Lawyers, a minority-owned law firm certified by SFMSDC, a member of the Minority Corporate Counsel Association (MCCA) and NAMWOLF. Michael's practice focuses on litigating complex insurance cases in the areas of fraud (SIU) investigations, Personal Injury Protection/No-Fault litigation, and Examinations Under Oath in federal and state courts. He has managed disputes involving motor vehicle, wrongful death, premises liability, and commercial litigation matters. Michael's experience also includes defense of business owners, property managers, and other parties where he has overseen thousands of cases through settlement, negotiation, or litigation. Michael and his team provide clients with a case management workflow system designed to help detect fraudulent and legitimate claims. He has helped to defend insurance companies from medical and automobile insurance fraud, holding those involved accountable for activities such as irregular billings or charges, excessive medical treatments, or unsubstantiated medical services. Michael works closely with the firm's founding partner to implement the firm's growth strategy, operations and professional development, talent retention and management of the overall leadership, direction, and culture of Roig Lawyers. Michael is AV® Preeminent Rated by Martindale-Hubbell and has been named one of South Florida Business Journal's Power Leaders in Law and Accounting in 2015 and 2016.



Michele Ruiz, President & CEO, Ruiz Strategies

Michele Ruiz is President & CEO of Ruiz Strategies, a communications firm that develops and executes transformational communication and content marketing strategies for Fortune 20 corporations, large professional services firms, government entities and C-level executives leveraging the power of social media, new media, traditional media and virtual technologies. Ruiz Strategies is a certified minority-owned (MBE) and woman-owned (WBE) business headquartered in Los Angeles, California with operations in Washington, D.C. and Houston, Texas. Michele's latest endeavor involves publishing her first book, *Content Marketing for Lawyers* released in January 2016. The bestselling book helps attorneys use powerful content marketing and social media strategies that Michele has developed for her Fortune 20 corporations to attract more clients and become a legal thought leader. "It may well be the most valuable business development book you will ever read," is just one of the many reviews of the book. Considered a thought leader, Michele has been interviewed and quoted by major news organizations including CNN and The New York Times. Michele Ruiz enjoyed a long career as an award-winning broadcast journalist at KTLA in Los Angeles. In 1998, she joined KNBC-TV as a reporter and anchor of the 6:00 pm newscast.



Suzanne Russo, Senior Corporate Counsel, The Home Depot Senior Corporate Counsel

Suzanne Russo is a graduate of The University of North Carolina — Chapel Hill and Emory University School of Law. She started her legal career in private practice as an associate with Paul Hastings and worked for two other international law firms before joining The Home Depot in 2013. She works primarily in the areas of Real Estate, Construction, Property Management, Corporate Facilities, Building Services, Energy Management, and Labor Strategy and Work Force Management.



Lisa Savitt, Partner, The Axelrod Firm

Lisa J. Savitt is a Partner in The Axelrod Firm's Washington, DC office where she handles international and domestic litigation and alternative dispute resolution, representing foreign and domestic companies in matters involving complex legal, regulatory and technical issues. Much of her international work involves issues relating to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, application of various treaties, jurisdictional challenges, the doctrine of forum non conveniens and enforcement of foreign judgments. Her extensive industry experience includes representing clients in the aviation, insurance, chemical, agriculture and manufacturing sectors. Ms. Savitt's work has included counseling clients and working with counsel globally on matters involving cross border litigation and application of law from both civil and common law jurisdictions. Her foreign legal experience spans work in many jurisdictions including Belize, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, England, Ethiopia, France, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Peru, Poland, Taiwan, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Ms. Savitt is a frequent speaker and writer. Currently, Ms. Savitt serves as the Chair of the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of International Law. Ms. Savitt is also a member of the ABA Tort Insurance Practice Section. Ms. Savitt is the Chair of the International Committee of DirectWomen. She is a founding member and former President of the International Aviation Women's Association. In 1983, Ms. Savitt clerked for Magistrate Shira Scheindlin of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. She received her J.D. from New York Law School and her B.A. in East Asian studies from George Washington University.



Roland Sanchez-Medina Jr., Partner, SMGQ Law

Roland Sanchez-Medina Jr. is a partner who focuses his practice in the areas of corporate and securities law, including mergers and acquisitions, corporate structuring/restructuring, board governance, domestic and international commercial transactions, commercial and residential real estate transactions, tax and estate planning, and other general transactional services. Prior to forming the Firm, Mr. Sanchez-Medina was a partner at the national law firm of McDermott, Will & Emery, where he was a member of the Corporate Department, and was a senior associate at the national law firm of Holland & Knight and Greenberg Traurig.



Sandy Sakamoto, Partner, LimNexus LLP

Sandy Sakamoto is a partner at the law firm of LimNexus LLP with an emphasis in business and real estate transactions. Her experience includes real estate development, acquisitions, dispositions, leases, easements, rights-of-way, and more recently, in the purchase of renewal energy on behalf of power utilities. As the relationship partner for several major corporate clients, she also oversees commercial and employment litigation. Prior to joining LimNexus LLP, Ms. Sakamoto served as Assistant General Counsel for global Fortune 50 company responsible for the law department in Los Angeles. Her practice focused on a wide variety of commercial litigation, real estate and business transactions, cell site licensing, telecommunications operations, easements and rights-of-way. Ms. Sakamoto serves in leadership positions on many boards including Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles, the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, and the Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment, to name a few. She received her

J.D. from Loyola Law School, M.S.A. from California State Dominguez Hills, and B.A. in Mathematics from the University of Utah (*magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa).



Jennifer Schaller, Esq., Managing Director and Co-Founder, National Law Review On-Line Edition

Jennifer Schaller, Esq. is the Managing Director and co-founder of the National Law Review on-line edition, one of the highest volume business law websites in the U.S. In her role at the National Law Review, Jennifer has unique access to the readership metrics of 1,000's of thought leadership pieces published by firms from across the country. Prior to the National Law Review, Jennifer most recently served as in-house counsel / director at CNA Surety. She also served in various marketing and business development roles as a vice president of Aon Services Group. Jennifer started her legal career in as an insurance coverage attorney with Smith Amundsen, LLC (formerly O'Hagan Smith Amundsen), in Chicago, IL. Jennifer is admitted to practice law in the State of Illinois and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing from Illinois State University, a Masters Degree in Education from DePaul University and a Juris Doctorate from Chicago Kent College of Law at the Illinois Institute of Technology.



Stephanie A. Scharf, Founding Partner, Scharf Banks Marmor LLC

Stephanie A. Scharf is a founding partner of Scharf Banks Marmor LLC, one of the nation's leading womenowned law firms, known for highly sophisticated legal work, innovative approaches to delivering legal services, and use of alternative fee arrangements. The Firm's "unique quality" has been highlighted by *Chicago Lawyer*, describing it as a "blueprint for women-owned firms." Stephanie has practiced law for over 30 years, specializing in complex litigation. She represents corporate clients in contract disputes, class action defense, insurance coverage for corporate policyholders, product liability and mass tort defense, environmental torts, and employment defense. She also counsels companies on enterprise and product risk assessment, pay equity programs, and litigation avoidance. Stephanie previously practiced law as a partner in litigation with Kirkland & Ellis and Jenner & Block. She is a Member of the Board of DirectWomen, whose mission is to increase the number of women on boards of public corporations; a former President of the National Association of Women Lawyers; a past Commissioner of the ABA Commission on Women; and Advisor to the ABA 360 Presidential Commission on Diversity and Inclusion. Stephanie received a Ph.D. (Behavioral Sciences) and J.D. from the University of Chicago.



Larry R. Schmadeka, Partner, Lee, Hong, Degerman, Kang & Waimey

Mr. Schmadeka has over 20 years of substantive litigation and transactional experience in domestic and international matters in a wide range of practice areas, including shipbuilding, intellectual property, products liability, employment, and commercial litigation involving claims of breach of contract, fraud, and violations of state or federal statutes. In his career, he has represented corporations from various foreign nations, such as Korea, Japan, China, Taiwan, India, and Germany, and their domestic affiliates in state and federal courts in California, as well as other venues within the United States. Additionally, Mr. Schmadeka has worked with clients in foreign arbitrations in England, Singapore, and Paris before various arbitral bodies, including the LMAA, SIAC and ICC. He has also worked with local counsel in the coordination of litigation and transactional matters in foreign countries, such as Korea, Singapore, England, Germany, Italy, Cyprus, Libya, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates.



Anthony L. Schumann, Partner, Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A.

Anthony L. Schumann is a partner in the Chicago office of Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A. For more than 30 years, Mr. Schumann has participated in over 150 civil and criminal trials and evidentiary hearings. He focuses his practice in the areas of commercial litigation, employment law, government liability, and white collar criminal defense. He has extensive experience representing corporate, governmental and individual clients in state and federal courts and during all stages of investigation and throughout the litigation process. Mr. Schumann has extensive experience assisting companies with internal investigations and in handling compliance issues. He has attained an AV® rating from Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory,

the highest professional rating awarded for legal ability and ethical standards; and he is also included in the listings of Illinois Leading Lawyer and Illinois Super Lawyer. In 2005 Mr. Schumann entered into association with other attorneys in the formation of Grant Schumann, LLC a Chicago-based minority owned law firm, where as a founding member and principal, he represented corporate and government sector clients and individuals for over 10 years. In 1996 he was the owner of his law practice in Chicago; and previously, was a partner and owner of Duckworth & Schumann, P.C., with his practice emphasized in the areas of civil and criminal litigation. Prior to entering private practice, Mr. Schumann gained extensive courtroom experience as a trial lawyer with the Office of the Cook County Public Defender. Mr. Schumann received his Juris Doctor from Southern University Law Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1984 and Bachelor of Arts from Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois in 1981. Mr. Schumann is licensed to practice law in Illinois and is a member of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. His professional affiliations include the Cook County Bar Association, Chicago Bar Association, Illinois Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Defense Research Institute, and National Bar Association.



Rodrick E. Shepard, Senior Counsel, Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Rodrick E. Shepard is Senior Counsel at Hewlett Packard Enterprise, providing legal support for HPE Software. Since joining HPE in September of 2015, he has served as primary counsel for the HPE Software-as-a-Service business group, advising the executive management team on issues throughout the HPE Software-as-a-Service Solutions's life cycle—including creation, security, marketing and documentation. Rodrick also serves as lead counsel, approving the introduction, licensing and modification of HPE Software products throughout their lifecycle. Prior to joining HPE, he was a Senior Attorney in IBM Sales & Distribution, providing general legal and negotiation support for global insurance industry accounts and Financial Services and Communications in New Jersey and the New York Metro area, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. Rodrick arrived in IBM Sales & Distribution in 2012 from IBM's Global Technology Services where he served as a lead negotiator for strategic outsourcing transactions. Prior to joining IBM, Rodrick was an associate at Shearman and Sterling LLP where he practiced in the Mergers & Acquisitions Group and the Capital Markets Group in New York.



Elizabeth Skane, Partner, Skane Wilcox LLP

Elizabeth Skane is a 1993 Dean's List graduate of the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. She earned her law degree at the University of San Diego in 1996 and admitted to practice in 1996 in California, and in 1999 in Nevada. Liz is "AV"® Rated with Martindale Hubbell, and was published in the 2005 edition of AM Best's Directory of Recommended insurance attorneys and adjusters. She has been published in San Diego Magazine and Las Vegas as one of the top lawyers in her field every year since 2005. Between 2011 and 2015, Liz was further honored with Martindale Hubbell's recognition by placement on the Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers. She specializes in the areas of personal injury, professional liability, government tort liability, construction and trucking and automobile cases. Liz is a vetted trial lawyer having tried many cases to verdict in the areas of personal injury, professional liability and construction defect. She is admitted to practice in state and federal courts in the State of California and the State of Nevada. Liz is a member of the San Diego County Bar Association, the Nevada Trial Lawyers Association, the Association of Southern California Defense Counsel, San Diego Defense Lawyers, Las Vegas Defense Lawyers, Professional Liability Underwriters Association, Council for Litigation Management, and the American Bar Association.



Elysia M. Solomon, Vice President and Associate General Counsel, Litigation & Investigations at Humana Inc.

Elysia Solomon is Legal Counsel for Humana Inc., where she heads the company's legal investigations team, manages complex litigation, and advises on healthcare fraud and abuse issues. She is a member of the national Healthcare Fraud Prevention Partnership and the Sedona Conference. In 2013 she was recognized as "Top Litigation Counsel" by the First Chair organization. Prior to joining Humana, Elysia worked at O'Melveny & Myers LLP's Washington D.C. office, representing healthcare, pharmaceutical, financial services and insurance clients in matters including class actions and state attorney general enforcement actions. Additionally, she has been a law school professor, a public defender, and a law clerk for the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Elysia attended the University of Chicago for both law school and college.



Jonathan A. Strauss, Sapientia Law Group

Jon has nineteen years of experience litigating product liability, commercial, privacy, construction, bid protest, employment, environmental, securities, and insurance matters. He has tried numerous cases, although he regularly obtains dismissal for his clients through summary judgment. As local, regional and national counsel for Fortune 500 corporations, he regularly works with litigation managers, assisting them to develop appropriate budgets for litigation. Jon has also argued and won appeals before the Minnesota and Eighth Circuit Courts of Appeal. Jon is a highly decorated attorney. He has been named a "Rising Star" by Minnesota Law and Politics five times (2002, 2003, 2007, 2008, 2009), named one of ten "Up and Coming Attorneys" by Minnesota Lawyer in 2002, and a Super Lawyer in 2015 and 2016. In 2013, Jon was one of Minnesota Lawyers' "Attorneys of the Year." For his pro bono efforts on behalf of individuals that had been on the I-35W bridge when it collapsed, in 2009, Jon was a recipient of the Minnesota State Bar Association's most prestigious honor, the Professional Excellence Award, which is awarded annually to the members who have demonstrated substantial efforts to advance the legal profession and the administration of justice.



Eric R. Swanson, Associate General Counsel, Autoliv ASP, Inc.

Eric Swanson is currently Associate General Counsel at Autoliv ASP, Inc., the North American operations of the Autoliv Group of companies. He is responsible for providing legal support in the areas of commercial law, product liability, and regulatory matters arising from the global supply of automotive safety products. Eric previously held the position of Assistant General Counsel where he was responsible for labor, employment and immigration matters as well as, supporting various business units and purchasing groups within the company. Eric joined Autoliv in 2002. Prior to joining Autoliv, Eric was Senior Associate Attorney in the Bloomfield Hills, MI based law firm of Duffy & Robertson, P.C., where he represented closely held companies in a variety of matters including corporate transactions and commercial litigation. Eric received his J.D., *cum laude*, from Michigan State University College of Law and his B.A., *with honors*, in Political Science and Criminal Justice (double major) from the University of Michigan-Flint. He is admitted to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals (6th Circuit), the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, and is a member of the Michigan Bar. Eric resides in the metro-Detroit area with his wife and three daughters.



Jennifer Thiel, Executive Director Attorney, USAA

Jennifer is an Executive Director Attorney with USAA's Labor & Employment Counsel. USAA is a financial services business who provides insurance, banking, investments and retirement products and advice to its members in the military community. USAA is headquartered in San Antonio, Texas. Prior to joining USAA in December 2008, Jennifer was an associate attorney at Berens & Tate, PC, LLO (now Jackson Lewis P.C.) in Omaha, Nebraska, where she specialized in affirmative action, employment discrimination, and day-to-day human resources counseling. Jennifer earned a B.A. in English from Mount Mercy College and a J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law. Jennifer and her husband, Chris, have two children.



James Vitrano, General Counsel and Vice President of Franchise Development and Operations, Ruby Tuesday

James Vitrano currently serves as General Counsel and Vice President of Franchise Development and Operations for Ruby Tuesday, Ruby Tuesday, Inc. owns and franchises Ruby Tuesday over 700 Ruby Tuesday restaurants in 44 states, 12 foreign countries, and Guam, and 16 Lime Fresh restaurants in two states. Ruby Tuesday, Inc. is traded on the New York Stock Exchange (Symbol: RT). James has the pleasure of leading a team of legal, ER, risk and franchise professionals who work tirelessly for Ruby Tuesday's 30,0000 employees and franchise operations on five different continents. Prior to Ruby Tuesday, James served as the General Counsel and Senior Vice President for Einstein Noah Restaurant Group, Inc., the nation's largest operator of bagel bakery restaurants. With over 700 restaurants in 39 states and nearly 8,000 employees, James was responsible for all legal aspects of the publicly traded company and its three brands. Prior to joining Einstein's, James was the General Counsel and Vice President for a New Orleans-based inland marine company operating over 125 vessels throughout the United States. Before joining the in-house ranks, he was a partner in private practice representing numerous clients in the health care, manufacturing and construction industries in the areas of litigation, corporate transactional work and governmental affairs.