



The following section features attorneys who have demonstrated leadership qualities and have achieved the AV Preeminent rating by Martindale-Hubbell®.

Martindale-Hubbell®, the company that has long set the standard for lawyer ratings, has supplied ALM with a list of Top Rated Lawyers who have achieved an AV® Preeminent® Peer Review Rating, the highest rating in legal ability and ethical standards. To create this section, Martindale-Hubbell® tapped its comprehensive database of Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Ratings™ to identify lawyers who have been rated by their peers to be AV® Preeminent™.

Martindale Hubbell Peer Review Ratings are driven by the confidential opinions of lawyers and members of the judiciary who receive invitations from Martindale-Hubbell®, via an online survey or by mail, to provide reviews of lawyers of whom they have professional knowledge.

A complete directory of all AV® Preeminent™ lawyers can be found online at Lawyers.com® and Martindale.com, in the Martindale-Hubbell® Law Directory in print and CD-ROM formats, and online through the LexisNexis® services and at lexis.com. Attorneys shown do not constitute the full list of “Top Rated Lawyers”



WEST COAST

CALIFORNIA BEVERLY HILLS

BARRY J. MACNAUGHTON

Veteran West Coast real estate and business litigator **Barry J. MacNaughton** has gone the distance to assert his clients' rights throughout his nearly 40-year career. His trial and negotiating skills act together to get his clients the best results.

Recently, MacNaughton secured a more than \$90 million verdict for investors defrauded in their acquisition of a power shopping center where the developer withheld crucial financial information on tenant performance. As lead trial counsel, MacNaughton held the developer accountable through to verdict and secured one of the largest verdicts in Los Angeles County in several years.

MacNaughton's commitment to clients spans a range of business conflicts—from contract disputes, claims involving real estate, construction, employment, trade secrets and unfair competition to corporate governance and litigation arising from corporate acquisitions and divestitures.

Real estate and construction matters are a major emphasis. Working in courts and alternative dispute forums in the West and across the United States, MacNaughton has pursued and defended claims involving construction close outs, construction defect, environmental liability and specific performance as well as disputes over real estate partnerships, purchases and sales.

MacNaughton has looked to further the legal profession ever since joining the Beverly Hills-based firm in 1982. He was elected the firm's first managing partner in 2015, and under his leadership, the firm has grown by 20% and its profits have increased by over 60%. He has guided its expansion in the fields of real estate, manufacturing, distribution, services, technology, digital media, and international investment. He's done so while continuing the Firm's emphasis on client service.

MacNaughton earned his J.D., with honors, from the University of Texas and graduated from Trinity University. The *Los Angeles Business Journal* recognized him among its 2019 “Top Litigators.”



ERVIN COHEN & JESSUP LLP

9401 Wilshire Boulevard, Ninth Floor | Beverly Hills, CA 90212-2974

Phone: 310.273.6333 | Fax: 310.859.2325

www.ecjlaw.com

**CALIFORNIA** LOS ANGELES**RONALD L. FEIN**

Ron Fein, an accomplished securities, real estate finance and transactional lawyer with over 48 years of experience, provides business and legal counsel to entrepreneurs, as well as established businesses, throughout the U.S. and internationally. Ron advises with respect to high-tech start-ups, business combinations, corporate and real estate financings and securities matters in a broad public and private company practice and also uses that experience to analyze circumstances attendant to the troubled company environment.

Prior to founding RL Fein, Inc., for nearly two decades, Ron practiced at Stutman, Treister & Glatt, where he was a senior shareholder. He began his career in 1969 as a corporate lawyer with Gibson Dunn & Crutcher until he was appointed as the youngest Chief Deputy Commissioner of the California Department of Corporations by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. in 1975. Thereafter, he became the firm-wide Chairman of the Mergers and Acquisitions and Corporate Finance Section and served as a member of the firm-wide Administrative Committee of Jones Day, one of the world's largest multinational law firms and ultimately migrated to Stutman in 1991.

RL FEIN, INC.

6355 Topanga Canyon Boulevard, Suite 335, Los Angeles, CA 91367
Ph: 818.883.3214
ron@rlfein.com | www.rlfein.com

**CALIFORNIA** SAN JOSE | SAN FRANCISCO | BEVERLY HILLS**DANIEL J. BERGESON**

Daniel J. Bergeson is the founding partner of Bergeson, LLP, Silicon Valley's leading business litigation law firm. His practice encompasses all aspects of complex business litigation and trial work with an emphasis in securities, commercial, and intellectual property litigation. Mr. Bergeson has represented companies and individuals in a wide variety of significant litigation matters and trials in state and federal courts throughout the United States. He is among an elite group repeatedly selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America. Mr. Bergeson consistently is listed among Silicon Valley's Top Attorneys in San Jose Magazine, as well as Northern California Super Lawyers, as compiled in Law & Politics Magazine. Mr. Bergeson has received the highest peer-review rating for ethical standards and legal ability from Martindale-Hubbell.

**BERGESON, LLP**

111 N. Market Street, Suite 600 San Jose, CA 95113
p: 408.291.6200

33 New Montgomery Street, Suite 1210
San Francisco, CA 94105
p: 415.365.9586

9350 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 206
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
p: 310.846.5257

dbergeson@be-law.com • www.be-law.com

WASHINGTON SEATTLE**PATRICIA K. BUCHANAN**

Patricia Buchanan is the president and a founding principal of Patterson, Buchanan, Fobes & Leitch, a litigation firm headquartered in Seattle. Her firm specializes in complex litigation representing businesses, public entities, private insureds, and insurance companies in matters ranging from mass casualty incidents, to employment discrimination and wrongful discharge, to sexual assault and harassment, to business torts and wrongful death. Ms. Buchanan has extensive litigation and trial experience, arguing appeals in every court sitting in Washington State and cases before numerous governmental commissions (EEOC, PERC, OCR, HRC). She has tried high-profile cases, such as the Mary Key Letourneau case on behalf of a local school district and just recently the Ride the Ducks mass casualty incident on behalf of Ride the Ducks of Seattle, LLC.



2112 Third Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98121
Ph: 206.462.6703 | Fax: 206.462.6701
pkb@pattersonbuchanan.com | www.pattersonbuchanan.com

CALIFORNIA WALNUT CREEK**PATRICIA H. LYON****French Lyon Tang, PC**

Patricia Lyon is a founding member of French Lyon Tang, a boutique San Francisco Bay Area law firm that represents national and regional clients in commercial banking transactions and litigation, enforcement of creditor's remedies, commercial loan documentation and restructuring, bankruptcy, real estate transactions and litigation, and business tort litigation throughout the State of California. Ms. Lyon assists secured lenders in recovery of troubled assets, whether in bankruptcy or by enforcement of loan documents and obtaining prejudgment writs. The Firm's commercial loan documentation process includes multi-state secured transactions ranging from \$1,000,000 to \$100,000,000.

Ms. Lyon is "AV" rated by Martindale Hubbell and her extensive experience makes her uniquely qualified to assist clients, solve complex problems, and add value. In her role as counselor to her clients, Ms. Lyon negotiates practical solutions to reduce expenses and maximize recovery.

**PATRICIA LYON**

1990 N. California Blvd., Suite 300, Walnut Creek, CA 94596
Phone: 415.597.7849 | Fax: 415.243.8200
phlyon@frenchlyontang.com | www.frenchlyontang.com

CALIFORNIA, D.C. SAN FRANCISCO, WASHINGTON

ROBERT S. METZGER

As a shareholder of Rogers Joseph O'Donnell, PC, a boutique law firm that specializes in litigation and public contracts, Bob divides his practice between the firm's offices in San Francisco, CA and Washington, D.C.

Bob is recognized internationally for his accomplishments in public contracts where he represents world-class companies in a wide range of matters across industry sectors such as aerospace and defense and information technology. He is an accomplished major case litigator experienced in state and federal courts as well as in administrative tribunals.

A master of his craft, Bob has earned subject area recognition in diverse areas such as state and local procurement, federal and state bid protests, offsets and countertrade in international defense transactions, and in security matters arising in transactions involving advanced technologies. *Who's Who Legal* selected Bob as a "Thought Leader – Global Elite" for each of 2018, 2019 and 2020.

With years of experience in cyber and supply chain security, Bob is widely recognized by government and industry as one of the leading subject matter experts in this area. In 2016, he was named a *Federal 100* winner. As a "Special Government Employee," he served on the Defense Science Board Cyber/Supply Chain Task Force. More recently, he is a co-author of the 2018 *Deliver Uncompromised* Report of the MITRE Corporation which has impacted the security initiatives of DoD as well as federal civilian agencies. A widely published author and frequent speaker at national programs in the cyber domain, Bob advises many companies on "cutting edge" cyber, supply chain, and privacy matters.


ROGERS | JOSEPH | O'DONNELL


311 California Street, 10FL | San Francisco, CA 94104-2695
 Phone: 415.956.2828 | Fax: 415.956.6457
rmetzger@rjo.com | www.rjo.com

875 15th Street, NW, Suite 725, Washington, DC 20005-2243
 Phone: 202.777.8950 | Fax: 202.347.8429

CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO

SOLOMON B. CERA

Mr. Cera, the managing partner, has been litigating complex cases with the Firm for more than thirty years. He has been at the forefront of the Firm's nationwide practice in litigating complex class action and individual cases on behalf of plaintiffs. The Firm's principal areas of practice are securities and antitrust litigation. Many of the Firm's cases are class actions. With unwavering commitment to its clients' interests, the Firm establishes a close working relationship from initial investigation through successful resolution. The Firm's nationwide class action practice, run from its San Francisco and Boston offices, covers a wide range of businesses and industries. The Firm's cases often involve alleged accounting manipulations, misstated financial results, price fixing, monopolization, and/or other restraints of trade. In addition to its class action cases, the Firm also represents individuals and small businesses in high stakes litigation in a variety of areas including ERISA litigation, *qui tam* and whistleblower litigation, churning and unsuitability claims, and for breaches of fiduciary duty by officers and directors and general partners. The Firm also undertakes representation of individuals and businesses in arbitration, and has vast experience in obtaining mediated resolutions of disputes.

CERA LLP


595 Market Street - Suite 1350,
 San Francisco, CA 94105-2835
 p: 415.777.2230, f: 415.777.5189
www.cerallp.com

CALIFORNIA | SAN FRANCISCO

MARY ALEXANDER

\$305 Million Settlement in Lead Paint Case - The People of the State of California v. ConAgra Grocery Products et al

Mary Alexander was a lead attorney working tirelessly to negotiate a \$305 million settlement on behalf of ten California counties against several paint companies involved in the nearly 20-year lawsuit over lead paint in California. Ms. Alexander worked on this case for its entirety with the settlement ending two decades of litigation, which included a \$1.5 billion bench verdict. The lawsuit was initially filed in 2000, and soon 10 California local governments joined in bringing a "public nuisance" suit against the companies that once sold lead paint, arguing that lead is a proven toxin causing brain damage in children. The suit sought to hold the paint companies responsible to pay for the cleanup. A trial court in Santa Clara County agreed, ordering the companies to pay more than a billion dollars for the cleanup; subsequent appeal court rulings limited their liability to homes built before 1951. In San Francisco alone, over two thirds (68 percent) of homes were built before 1951, which is more than 235,000 residential units. At least 22,000 housing units in San Francisco that are occupied by low- and moderate-income families are believed to have lead-based paint hazards.



\$21.4 Million Jury Verdict in Benzene Case - The case is Regina Eaves et al. v. Ashland Inc., et al., Contra Costa Superior Court Case No. C16-00815.

Mary Alexander obtained a \$21.4 million jury verdict on behalf of the families of two brothers who died of cancer as a result of their exposure to the known cancer-causing chemical benzene. The trial lasted over four weeks with the jury deliberating for roughly 3 days.

The families of Gary Eaves and his brother Randy Eaves filed a lawsuit against Union Oil which made the benzene-containing rubber solvent the brothers regularly worked with at their jobs in a tire manufacturing plant. The brothers were longtime employees of the plant and exposed to large amounts of benzene in their work. Gary was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in June of 2013 at the age of just 59. Randy was diagnosed with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia in June of 2016 also at the age of 59.

Union Oil was accused of failing to warn Gary or Randy of the potential dangers of benzene exposure. The jury sided with the plaintiffs who contended the oil company knew the solvents they sold contained benzene. The plaintiffs also contended the defendant knew, or should have known, that benzene exposure was extremely hazardous and cancer-causing.

MARY ALEXANDER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

44 Montgomery Street, Suite 1303, San Francisco, CA 94104
 Phone: 415.433.4440, Fax: 415.433.5440 • www.maryalexanderlaw.com

WASHINGTON BELLEVUE

MARK D. KIMBALL

Managing Shareholder of an eight-attorney firm, Mark Kimball has been serving Seattle-area business, commercial, litigation, tax and real property clients for more than 35 years. Mark is licensed to practice in Washington, New York, Texas, U.S. Tax Court and the U.S. Supreme Court. Mark holds post-doctoral LL.M. degrees in Tax Law and International Transactions in addition to his other post-doctoral work. Mark has received numerous awards, including a 5.0 AV rating with Martindale since 2003, and a 10.0 rating with AVVO.



Mark also serves as a consultant to other lawyers and firms on corporate, LLC, and tax matters, and has been retained as an expert witness by prominent Seattle firms. Representative expert witness cases include operational disputes for corporations and limited liability companies, and law firm governance. Clients are local, national and international. Mark's education and background includes representation in disputes involving international substantive and procedural law. Additional activities include presentations at more than 150 CLE's, international conferences, service through NAMADR as a mediator and arbitrator, and serving as adjunct faculty in three European law schools.


MDK Law
Washington's Business Law Firm

777 108th Avenue Northeast, Suite 2000, Bellevue, WA 98004
 Phone: 425.455.9610 | Fax: 425.455.1170
 mark@mdklaw.com | www.mdklaw.com

CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES

MARILYN KLINGER

Ms. Klinger serves as the Managing Partner of SMTD Law's Los Angeles office. She is involved in all aspects of construction law on a state and national level, representing the full spectrum of the construction industry, from owners, contractors, subcontractors and sureties. Ms. Klinger's practice includes time-related litigation, legal advice and counsel regarding the contracting process, payment enforcement/defense, administrative and scope claims, and counseling and transactional services to the construction industry. In addition, she has extensive experience in dispute resolution including litigation, trial, appeals, arbitration and mediation. Ms. Klinger is a hard-working "straight shooter." Early in her career, she became a pioneer in construction law, being one of the first women attorneys to practice in the primarily male-dominated field. Through her passion and practical intelligence she has established a vital, nationwide practice. She is recognized as an innovator in legal problem-solving and as a thought leader who is a frequently published author and sought-after speaker for professional legal, construction and educational publications and organizations. Marilyn loves humor and thinks everyone is way too serious.


SMTD LAW LLP
SALAMIRAD • MORROW • TIMPANE • DUNN

355 S. Grand Avenue Suite 2450, Los Angeles, CA 90071
 Work: 213.943.1425 | Fax: 213.943.1301
 mklinger@smtlaw.com | www.smtlaw.com

COLORADO DENVER

Nancy Susan Germany, Esq.*

SUSIE GERMANY

Attorney and Counselor at Law
Deputy Public Administrator, 17th Judicial District, Adams & Broomfield Counties, CO

Elder Law, Probate, Estate Planning, Special Needs Planning

Ms. Germany is the principal attorney and owner of The Germany Law Firm, P.C., an elder law, estate planning, and probate boutique firm. She is licensed in both Alaska and Colorado and practices in the areas of elder law, probate and estate planning.

An active member of the Colorado Bar Association (CBA), Ms. Germany is a member of National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), an American College of Trusts and Estate Counsel (ACTEC) fellow, and former co-chair of the Colorado Bar Association Elder Law Section. She is a frequent speaker and lecturer and past adjunct faculty to paralegal programs in Colorado. Ms. Germany frequently teaches continuing legal education courses to attorneys and various groups at national conferences on topics including special needs planning, guardianship, elder fraud and financial exploitation.



600 17th Street, Suite 2800 South, Denver, Colorado 80202
 Phone: 303.454.3711 | Fax: 303.496.0752
 www.coelderlaw.com

CALIFORNIA EL SEGUNDO

HEALTHCARE, PERSONAL INJURY DEFENSE, REAL ESTATE

McGarry & Laufenberg successfully handles all phases of litigation, including mediation, arbitration, trial and appeal. We take pride in providing high-level professional services while maintaining a reputation of excellence with judges, other lawyers, and clients. The Partners are AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell, with the Firm listed in the Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers.



JAMES J. MCGARRY

James J. McGarry represents clients in a wide array of construction site lawsuits, matters involving professional security guarding services, transportation and trucking, and has served as a private attorney general representing the interests of state employees.

Jeffrey Laufenberg has significant expertise in general and premises liability defense, representing dozens of hospitals and commercial property owners in Southern and Central California, and has decades of experience in areas of landlord/tenant, personal services contracts, and motor vehicle litigation.



JEFFREY J. LAUFENBERG

McGARRY & LAUFENBERG

El Segundo, CA 90245
 www.mcgarry-laufenberg.com

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME?



THE PARTNERS of Berman, Berman, Berman, Schneider & Lowary, LLP (from left): Evan A. Berman, Mark E. Lowary, Managing Partner Ronald S. Berman, Spencer A. Berman, Stephanie Berman Schneider, and David R. Casady.

That's the question prospective clients often ask when they first come to know Ronald S. Berman and the California law firm of Berman, Berman, Berman, Schneider & Lowary, LLP (B3SL). Based in Los Angeles, with offices in San Diego, Riverside and Sacramento and a national clientele, B3SL is a respected leader in representing the insurance industry, its insureds and self-insured businesses. Now in its 25th year, the firm moves quickly to evaluate liability and damage exposure and determine meritorious claims. In addition, B3SL provides legal services for labor and employment matters including wrongful termination, discrimination and sexual harassment. To fully support clients, the firm also resolves corporate law issues such as class actions.

B3SL's regional and national specializations include commercial premises and product liability; commercial automotive claims, debt collection law and repossessions; construction defects, industrial accidents and personal injury claims; trucking and transportation; professional liability for accountants, attorneys, insurance adjusters and agents, property managers, real estate agents, and medical professionals, with particular expertise in the MediSpa industry.

"We pride ourselves on being different – *surprisingly* different," says Ron Berman, "and that means different in ways that benefit your business. That includes being better at keeping you informed and protecting our client's reputation." When you work with B3SL, adds Mr. Berman, you'll always know exactly what's going on because of a commitment to communication excellence. "We have to have that commitment," he explains. "Our name partners have worked together for years. Four of them, in fact, are family members, so it's been essential to establish clear and open channels of communication. Our clients receive the same consideration."

Being different also means being easier on your bottom line. It starts with ultra-competitive rates and actions to minimize the time and effort assisting with litigation. It continues with selecting the most economical route to a strategic resolution, such as staffing each case with attorneys experienced in your particular issue (and only the number of attorneys truly needed for your case – even if that's only one).

B3SL is also different in its ability to engage with clients of all sizes on matters of varying complexity, staying closely attuned to your needs, and remaining protective of litigation's impact on your business. Cases that should be settled are promptly identified and expedited toward alternative dispute reduction. "But when court is the right choice, our litigators are second to none. In a word," says Ron Berman, "we offer results."



**BERMAN BERMAN BERMAN
SCHNEIDER & LOWARY LLP**

Los Angeles Headquarters

11900 West Olympic Blvd., Suite 600, Los Angeles, CA 90064

Tel: 310.447.9000 | Fax: 310.447.9011

www.b3law.com

CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES

NIKKI MEHRPOO JACOBSON

Highly respected Los Angeles Attorney and *Super Lawyer* Nikki Mehrpoo Jacobson has very clear goals and priorities as a lawyer: protect the rights of California's injured workers and immigrants from all over the world. Today, she has a reputation as an attorney who has reached her goals. In fact, her many successes have made her a leader in both practice areas.



Los Angeles Attorney Nikki Mehrpoo Jacobson has achieved dual certification by the California State Bar Board of Legal Specialization as a legal specialist in Workers' Compensation and Immigration & Nationality Law. This achievement makes attorney Jacobson the only lawyer with this dual certification in the state of California.

THE
JACOBSON
LAW FIRM
LLP

10401 Venice Blvd., Suite 204, Los Angeles, CA 90034

Phone: 888.277.7764 | Fax: 310.277.3366

Nikki@JLFAttorneys.com | www.jlfattorneys.com