

# ABACUS

## DATA SYSTEMS



## Best of the Bar 2016

*“The good lawyer is not the man who has an eye to every side and angle of contingency, and qualifies all his qualifications, but who throws himself on your part so heartily, that he can get you out of a scrape.”*

— *Ralph Waldo Emerson (American Essayist, Lecturer and Poet)*

**R**alph Waldo Emerson’s snapshot of a good lawyer is as true today as it was in his 19th century world. Following in that tradition San Diego’s legal community comprises a diverse and distinct group of professionals who are committed to representing clients that vary from global corporations to struggling families; but are all in need of an experienced advocate. In our third annual Best of the Bar issue, we honor 293 local attorneys who were chosen by their peers as the most outstanding in their field.

The final list of attorneys represents an extensive range of specialties from intellectual property, mergers and acquisitions, to immigration and criminal defense. Many of these professionals bring a wide array of backgrounds that complement their legal training. Former teachers, engineers, military veterans, and stock brokers are utilizing their past expertise to focus in practice areas that demand a unique perspective.

An impressive 2,023 votes were cast in a field of 813 attorneys affiliated with 578 firms and solo practices throughout the area. Legal professionals throughout the metro area cast votes and were urged to consider colleagues inside and outside of their respective firms. No one made the list based solely on votes from others at the same firm.

Not only is this section a showcase for the area’s top attorneys, but it is a comprehensive resource for anyone needing legal services.

Congratulations to all the worthy honorees.



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## Best of the Bar 2016



**Michael Abramson**  
**Firm:** Solomon Ward Seidenwurm & Smith LLP  
**Website:** [www.SWSSLaw.com](http://www.SWSSLaw.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Business Law

**Best Phrase:** Nothing can take the place of persistence and determination.

**Little Known Fact:** I am a voracious reader of business books.



**Ben Aguilar**  
**Firm:** Law Offices of Ben Aguilar  
**Website:** [www.BenAguilarLaw.com](http://www.BenAguilarLaw.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Family Law, Immigration Law

**Best Phrase:** It's a good thing to have all the props pulled out from under us occasionally. It gives us some sense of what is rock under our feet, and what is sand.

**Little Known Fact:** My favorite holiday is Halloween.



**Kimberly Ahrens**  
**Firm:** The Ahrens Law Office  
**Website:** [www.ahrenslawoffice.com](http://www.ahrenslawoffice.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Employment Law, Civil Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "Differences challenge assumptions," Anne Wilson Schaefer.

**Little Known Fact:** Employment law is my passion. However, like most worthwhile journeys, my path to

becoming a lawyer was not a straight shot. I initially set out to become a journalist and along the way learned the value of helping those without a voice.

*I won two NCAA Division 1 softball championships at UCLA.*



**Amanda Allen**  
**Firm:** Aguirre Allen Law, APC  
**Website:** [www.aguirreallen.com](http://www.aguirreallen.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Business, Real Estate

**Best Phrase:** Live a damn good life.

**Little Known Fact:** I won two NCAA Division 1 softball championships at UCLA.



**Olga Alvarez**  
**Firm:** Heisner Alvarez  
**Website:** [www.heisneralvarez.com](http://www.heisneralvarez.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Estate

Planning, Trust & Probate Law

**Best Phrase:** To whom much is given, much is expected.

**Little Known Fact:** I grew up on a ranch along the San Antonio River.



**John F. Anderson**  
**Firm:** Law Offices of John F. Anderson  
**Website:** [carmelvalleyattorney.com](http://carmelvalleyattorney.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Family Law

**Best Phrase:** Being right is a lonely business.

**Little Known Fact:** I walked the frozen Arctic Ocean unloading for the Alaska Pipeline.



**Alfred Atallah**  
**Firm:** The Atallah Group APC  
**Website:** [www.atallahgroup.com](http://www.atallahgroup.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Business

Transactions & Entities, Contracts, Real Estate

**Best Phrase:** People don't buy what you do; they buy WHY you do it.

**Little Known Fact:** Working in my family's retail business throughout my youth helped shaped my entire career.



**Martin Bader**  
**Firm:** Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton  
**Website:** [www.sheppardmullin.com](http://www.sheppardmullin.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Intellectual Property, Patent Litigation

**Best Phrase:** Leave it all on the field.

**Little Known Fact:** Calculus was my favorite class in high school.

*I attended medical school prior to pursuing my legal career.*



**Judy Bae**  
**Firm:** Miller Monson  
**Website:** [www.mmpph.com](http://www.mmpph.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Estate, Trust, Probate Litigation

**Best Phrase:** It is what it is.

**Little Known Fact:** I attended medical school prior to pursuing my legal career.



**Jeffrey Baird**  
**Firm:** Finch, Thornton & Baird, LLP  
**Website:** [www.ftblaw.com](http://www.ftblaw.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Construction Law, Government & Regulatory, Federal Procurement & Claims, Business & Commercial Litigation, Business & Commercial Transactions, Labor & Employment, Insurance Coverage

**Best Phrase:** I want you to be nice until it's time to not be nice.

**Little Known Fact:** I swam from Alcatraz.

➔ to page A28

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S WINNERS

Led by Cate Edwards in San Diego, Edwards Kirby is excited to join this area's outstanding community of legal professionals.

**Together, we can raise the bar.**



### PRACTICE AREAS

- ✓ Personal injury
- ✓ Product safety
- ✓ Whistleblower and qui tam actions
- ✓ Civil rights
- ✓ Consumer fraud

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 DEL MAR, CA 92014  
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from page A27

## Best of the Bar 2016

**Mary Bajo****Firm:** Estey & Bomberger**Website:**

www.ebtrialattorneys.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Personal Injury

**Best Phrase:** "In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing," Theodore Roosevelt.

**Little Known Fact:** I don't like sweets.

**Edward Barbat****Firm:** Law Offices of

Edward F. Barbat

**Website:** www.barbat.net**Areas of Practice:**

Hospitality, Business, Corporate, Real Estate

**Best Phrase:** Ideas are free; they come and go, so let's do something about it.

**Little Known Fact:** I hope to never retire from doing what I love.

*My favorite TV show is "SportsCenter," even after Kenny Mayne left.*

**Su Barry****Firm:** Barry APC**Website:**

www.BarryApc.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Business Litigation, Bad Faith Insurance, Personal Injury, Employment Litigation

**Best Phrase:** Do one thing every day that makes you happy.

**Little Known Fact:** My favorite TV show is "SportsCenter," even after Kenny Mayne left.

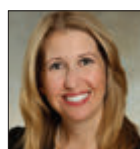
**Teresa Beck****Firm:** Lincoln Gustafson & Cercos**Website:**

www.lgclawoffice.com

**Areas of Practice:** Civil law advice and litigation defense in many areas including employment, construction.

**Best Phrase:** "I never look forward to Friday or dread Monday because my work is not a thing I suffer. My work is not merely my source of income. It's a source of meaning and joy," Ann Marie Houghtailing, Millionaire Girls' Movement.

**Little Known Fact:** My father was a Navy Chaplain who served in Vietnam and received the Bronze Star.

**Wendy Behan****Firm:** Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield, LLP**Website:**

www.caseygerry.com

**Areas of Practice:** Plaintiffs' Personal Injury, Class Actions

**Best Phrase:** You can have it all — just not all at once.

**Little Known Fact:** I play on a coed indoor soccer team every week with my husband.

**Jeff Bennion****Firm:** Law Office

of Jeff Bennion

**Website:**

www.jbennionlaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury**Best Phrase:**

Luck is for the unprepared.

**Little Known Fact:**

I am an amateur chef.

**Michael Berg****Firm:** Law Offices of

Michael S. Berg

**Website:**

sandiego.criminallaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Criminal Defense, both Federal and State Courts

**Little Known Fact:** I was born and raised in South Dakota.

**Harvey Berger****Firm:** Pope, Berger,

Williams &amp; Reynolds, LLP

**Website:**

www.Popeberger.com

**Areas of Practice:** Litigation, Employment Law, Class actions

**Little Known Fact:** I do Crossfit - LOVE to beat the 25 year olds!

**Samin Beringer****Firm:** Beringer Law Firm**Website:**

www.beringerlaw.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Family Law

**Best Phrase:** It is what it is. We can't change the past, but we can make better choices in the future.

**Little Known Fact:** As a young child, I aspired to be a dentist because I thought that they all drove white Corvettes.

**Andrew Berman****Firm:** Massie-Berman**Website:**

www.massieberman.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Construction Defect, Business Litigation

**Best Phrase:** Take pride in what you do every day.

**Little Known Fact:** After 26 years of practice, I still enjoy the practice of law.

*I worked as a California State lifeguard on San Diego beaches for seven years.*

**Christina Bernstein****Firm:** Pettit Kohn

Ingrassia &amp; Lutz

**Website:**

www.pettitkohn.com

**Areas of Practice:** Commercial Litigation, Personal Injury, Premises Liability, Professional Liability

**Best Phrase:** "Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can," Arthur Ashe.

**Little Known Fact:** I worked as a California State lifeguard on San Diego beaches for seven years.

**Matthew Bernstein****Firm:** Perkins Coie**Website:**

www.perkinscoie.com

**Areas of Practice:** Patent

Litigation, IP Litigation, IP Counseling

**Best Phrase:** "Those who stand for nothing fall for anything," Alexander Hamilton.

**Little Known Fact:** I make some mean pulled pork, dumplings, and empanadas.

**Shana Black****Firm:** Law Offices of

Shana J. Black

**Website:**

www.shanablack.com

**Areas of Practice:** Family Law**Best Phrase:** It's all gonna be ok.

**Little Known Fact:** I have a twin brother and we both practice law in San Diego.

**Isaac Blumberg****Firm:** Law Office of Isaac

Blumberg

**Website:**

www.isaacblumberg.com

**Areas of Practice:** Criminal Defense

**Little Known Fact:** I'm a native Spanish speaker and graduated law school at the age of 32.

*My husband and I own and operate a bowling alley and bar.*

**Lori Bolander****Firm:** Kimball, Tirey

&amp; St. John, LLP

**Website:** www.kts-law.com**Areas of Practice:** Trust

&amp; Estates, Adoption

**Best Phrase:** "Most of the things worth doing in the world had been declared impossible before they were done," Louis D. Brandeis.

**Little Known Fact:** My husband and I own and operate a bowling alley and bar.

**Joshua Bonnici****Firm:** Bonnici Law

Group, APC

**Website:**

www.bonniciawgroup.com

**Areas of Practice:** Injury, Disability

**Little Known Fact:** Bonnici Law Group donates a portion of their attorneys' fees to a charity or nonprofit of their clients' choice on every case.

**Laura Bright****Firm:** White and

Bright, LLP

**Website:**

www.whiteandbright.com

**Areas of Practice:** Estate Planning, Probate, Trust Administration, Transactions

**Best Phrase:** Integrity, experience, caring!

**David Brisco****Firm:** Cozen O'Connor**Website:**

www.cozen.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Litigation, Subrogation, Product Liability

**Best Phrase:** My first thought in receiving an award for professional achievement is the great deal of appreciation I have for everyone who mentored me and put me in a position to succeed. My second thought is to be sure to pay that kindness forward.

**Little Known Fact:** I was a neighborhood holiday light contest award winner for three straight years.

*I have surfed above the Arctic Circle.*

**Steven Bronson****Firm:** The Bronson

Firm APC

**Website:**

www.thebronsonfirm.com

**Areas of Practice:** Plaintiff Personal Injury

**Best Phrase:** "...the founders of our nation considered the right of trial by jury in civil cases an important bulwark against tyranny and corruption, a safeguard too precious to be left to the whim of the sovereign....," Chief Justice William Rehnquist, 1979.

**Little Known Fact:** I have surfed above the Arctic Circle.

**Samuel Brotman****Firm:** Brotman Law**Website:**

www.sambrotman.com

**Areas of Practice:** Tax

Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "To know and not to do is really not to know," Stephen Covey.

**Little Known Fact:** I have spent more than two years living outside of the United States.

**Janice Brown****Firm:** Brown Law Group**Website:**

www.brownlawgroup.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Employment

**Best Phrase:** "Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure," Marianne Williamson.

**Little Known Fact:** I was a USO singer during college, traveling to Guam, Korea, the Philippines and Okinawa, entertaining the troops.

**Michele Brown****Firm:** Procopio, Cory,

Hargreaves &amp; Savitch LLP

**Website:**

www.procopio.com

**Areas of Practice:** Family Law

**Best Phrase:** Every child deserves to love both his/her parents and not be made to feel bad about it.



# ABACUS DATA SYSTEMS

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### Congratulations to San Diego's Best of the Bar

Abacus Data Systems recognizes the outstanding Best of the Bar attorneys throughout San Diego County, and we join the legal community in celebrating your achievements.

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from page A28

## Best of the Bar 2016

**Little Known Fact:** I have bungee jumped off the Kalawari Bridge in New Zealand.



**Mike Brown**  
**Firm:** Stradling  
**Website:** www.sycr.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Corporate

**Best Phrase:** "The only way to do great work is to love what you do," Steve Jobs.

**Little Known Fact:** I saved my future client's life while at lunch discussing business.

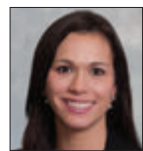


**Robert J. Brown**  
**Firm:** Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP  
**Website:** www.procopio.com

**Areas of Practice:** Corporate and Securities, Real Estate and Tax

**Best Phrase:** Go heavy or go home.

**Little Known Fact:** I still own the car I drove to high school on my 16th birthday — a 1969 Camaro convertible.



**Paula Oliveira Brunoro**  
**Firm:** Brunoro Law  
**Website:** www.brunorolaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Tax, Business Law

**Best Phrase:** "You can do anything you set your mind to," Benjamin Franklin.

**Little Known Fact:** I am a sports fanatic!



**Tara Burd**  
**Firm:** T. Burd Law Group  
**Website:** www.tburdlawgroup.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Civil Litigation

**Little Known Fact:** I love fun socks! They don't even have to match perfectly. A black cat sock and a white cat sock are "matching" enough for me!



**Joanne Buser**  
**Firm:** Paul, Plevin, Sullivan & Connaughton LLP  
**Website:** www.paulplevin.com

**Areas of Practice:** Labor & Employment

**Best Phrase:** "All grown-ups were once children...but only few of them remember it," Antoine de Saint-Exupéry.

**Little Known Fact:** I went skydiving in the Alps.

*My guilty pleasure is reading and includes a variety of fantasy and science fiction novels.*



**William Caldarelli**  
**Firm:** Caldarelli Hejmanowski Page & Leer LLP  
**Website:** www.chpllaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Business, Real Estate, Intellectual Property Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "We know truth not only by reason, but also by the heart," Blaise Pascal.

**Little Known Fact:** My guilty pleasure is reading and includes a variety of fantasy and science fiction novels.



**Patrick Calhoon**  
**Firm:** Law Offices of Craig A. Miller  
**Website:** www.craigmillerlaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Insurance Bad Faith, Elder Abuse, Business Disputes, Personal Injury

**Best Phrase:** "Courage is grace under pressure," Ernest Hemingway.

**Little Known Fact:** When I was a kid I wanted to grow up to be either an airline pilot or a lawyer. Each requires natural skill, years of training, and carries enormous responsibilities. I chose the law because I figured nobody would die if I ever made a mistake. So far, so good.

*The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.*



**Elizabeth Call**  
**Firm:** Kriger Law Firm  
**Website:** www.krigerlawfirm.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Litigation, Real Property, Homeowners Association, Corporate

**Best Phrase:** The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.



**Kurt Campbell**  
**Firm:** Klinedinst PC  
**Website:** www.klinedinstlaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Real Estate, Construction, Land Use

**Best Phrase:** Be kind to everyone you meet, most of all those who can do nothing for you in return.

**Little Known Fact:** I grew up in Germany and German is my first language.



**Tyler Campbell**  
**Firm:** Foldenauer Law Group  
**Website:** www.foldenauerlaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Serious Personal Injury

**Best Phrase:** Discretion is the better part of valor.

**Little Known Fact:** I'm an open book.



**Brigid Campo**  
**Firm:** Law & Mediation Firm of Klueck & Hoppes, APC  
**Website:** www.familylawsandiego.com

**Areas of Practice:** Family

**Best Phrase:** "Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you," Justice Ruth B. Ginsburg.

**Little Known Fact:** I spent a life-changing semester of high school in Australia and a lot of my heart remains

there today.



**Cole Casey**  
**Firm:** Law Offices of G. Cole Casey  
**Website:** www.duisandiego.com

**Areas of Practice:** DUI, Criminal

**Best Phrase:** "Always assume that your opponent is going to be bigger, stronger and faster than you; so that you learn to rely on technique, timing and leverage, rather than brute strength," Helio Gracie.

**Little Known Fact:** I am an avid practitioner of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Judo and Yoga; the combination of all three makes me a more confident and more balanced lawyer.



**Jennifer Chang**  
**Firm:** Gresham Savage Nolan & Tilden, PC  
**Website:** www.greshamsavage.com

**Areas of Practice:** Corporate, Real Estate Transactions

**Best Phrase:** Bloom where you are planted.

**Little Known Fact:** My mother and grandmother were both groundbreaking women in their respective professional fields.



**Alara Chilton**  
**Firm:** Law Office of Alara T. Chilton  
**Website:** lawofficeofalarachilton.com

**Areas of Practice:** Criminal Defense, Consumer Rights Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest," Elie Wiesel.

**Little Known Fact:** I learned to ski only a few years ago and greatly enjoy it.



**Caroline Choi**  
**Firm:** Solomon Ward Seidenwurm & Smith, LLP  
**Website:** www.swsslaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Family Law

**Best Phrase:** Kindness is never wasted.

**Little Known Fact:** I'm from Canada and yes I love hockey!

*I was a personal assistant to writer William S. Burroughs.*



**John Cleary**  
**Firm:** Procopio Cory Hargreaves & Savitch LLP  
**Website:** www.procopio.com

**Areas of Practice:** Corporate, Securities, Mergers & Acquisitions

**Best Phrase:** Progress, not perfection.

**Little Known Fact:** I was a personal assistant to writer William S. Burroughs.

*I lived in Moscow, Russia from 1989 to 1994.*



**Matthew Clendenin**  
**Firm:** Law Office of Matthew Clendenin APC  
**Website:** www.clendeninlaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury

**Best Phrase:** Listen to your clients. Understand their story.

**Little Known Fact:** I lived in Moscow, Russia from 1989 to 1994.



**Keith Cochran**  
**Firm:** Fitzgerald Knaier LLP  
**Website:** www.fitzgeraldknaier.com

**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything," Mark Twain.

**Little Known Fact:** I have a full grown eight pound miniature dachshund named Dill.



**William Concidine**  
**Firm:** My Traffic Guys  
**Website:** www.mytrafficguys.com

**Areas of Practice:** Traffic Tickets, DUI, Criminal Defense

**Best Phrase:** Success is having what you want, but happiness is wanting what you have.

**Little Known Fact:** I love to re-purpose things, repair old stuff like vintage fridges, and build stuff in the garage.



**Gerissa Conforti**  
**Firm:** Higgs, Fletcher & Mack LLP  
**Website:** www.higgslaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Family Law and Criminal Defense

**Best Phrase:** "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Little Known Fact:** I love fried chicken. In fact, I can probably eat fried chicken every day.



**Jason Conforti**  
**Firm:** Law Office of Jason T. Conforti  
**Website:** www.jasonconforti.com

**Areas of Practice:** Criminal Defense, Federal Criminal Defense

**Best Phrase:** "The time is always right to do the right thing," Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Little Known Fact:** I attended the same high school as Tom Brady, Barry Bonds and Lynn Swann.



from page A30

## Best of the Bar 2016

*I was a professional radio announcer between college and law school.*



**Andy Cook**

**Firm:** Law Offices of Andy Cook

**Website:**

www.divorcesd.com

**Areas of Practice:** Family Law

**Best Phrase:** I break up marriages.

**Little Known Fact:** I was a professional radio announcer between college and law school.



**Steven T. Coopersmith**

**Firm:** The Coopersmith Law Firm

**Website:**

stevencoopersmithlaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Business/Corporate Litigation, Executive-Level Employment, Financial Fraud, Fine Art Disputes, Public Process

**Little Known Fact:** I served as a U.S. Army JAG, a military prosecutor. But my first Army assignment was to run the post's tax center. I managed a dozen soldiers and we processed 10,000 soldiers' tax returns through our office.



**Julie Corbo Ridley**

**Firm:** Hurst & Hurst

**Website:**

www.facebook.com/juliecorboridley

**Areas of Practice:** Class Actions, Complex Litigation

**Best Phrase:** Pressure makes diamonds.

**Little Known Fact:** I used to be a stockbroker.



**Elvira Cortez**

**Firm:** Sullivan Hill Lewin Rez & Engel

**Website:**

www.Sullivanhill.com

**Areas of Practice:** Construction Defect, Insurance Defense, General Civil Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible," St. Francis of Assisi.

**Little Known Fact:** I grew up on a farm in Oxnard, California.



**Jill Cremeans**

**Firm:** Law Offices of Jill Cremeans

**Website:**

www.attorneyjill.com

**Areas of Practice:** Criminal Defense

**Best Phrase:** You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view.

**Little Known Fact:** I grew up on a farm.



**Thomas Crosbie**

**Firm:** CGS3 (Crosbie Gliner Schiffman Southard & Swanson LLP)

**Website:** www.cgs3.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Commercial Real Estate

**Best Phrase:** Think big, be big, my friend.

**Little Known Fact:** I was a bartender at Club Med.

*I was a marine biologist before becoming an attorney.*



**James Crosby**

**Firm:** Henderson, Caverly, Pum & Charney LLP

**Website:** www.hcesq.com, www.trialcall.net

**Areas of Practice:** Complex and General Business, Commercial Litigation

**Best Phrase:** Winning is better than losing.

**Little Known Fact:** I was a marine biologist before becoming an attorney.



**Emily Crowley**

**Firm:** Crowley Law Group, APC

**Website:**

crowleylawgroup.com

**Areas of Practice:** State and Federal Criminal Defense; Trial and Appellate

**Best Phrase:** "The operational word in every competent defense is attack. If you're explaining and defending, you're losing," Gerry Spence.



**Michael Dallo**

**Firm:** Dallo Law Group | Tax Law Firm

**Website:**

www.dallolawgroup.com

**Areas of Practice:** Tax Law

**Best Phrase:** "You can never cross the ocean until you have the courage to lose sight of the shore," Christopher Columbus.

**Little Known Fact:** I have lived, studied and worked all over the world — Barcelona, Madrid, Rio de Janeiro, Paris, Hong Kong, and Washington D.C.



**Jeremy Danney**

**Firm:** White & Bright, LLP

**Website:**

www.whiteandbright.com

**Areas of Practice:** Real Estate, Business Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "Things turn out best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out," John Wooden.

**Little Known Fact:** I once hit a free throw in front of 18,000 fans at a University of Illinois basketball game to win a prize of \$500.



**Matt Deen**

**Firm:** Black + Deen, LLP

**Website:**

www.blackdeenlaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Business Law, Estate Planning

**Best Phrase:** No one looks back on their life and remembers the nights they got plenty of sleep.

**Little Known Fact:** I am constantly planning my next outdoor adventure.



**Arthur D'Egidio**

**Firm:** D'Egidio Licari & Townsend, APC

**Website:** www.deltlaw.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Personal Injury

**Best Phrase:** "No man is above the law and no man below it," Theodore Roosevelt.

**Little Known Fact:** I enjoy spending time with my wife and two dogs, surfing, tennis, and basketball.



**Melissa Deleon**

**Firm:** Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield LLP

**Website:**

www.caseygerry.com

**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury

**Best Phrase:** "First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win," Mahatma Gandhi.

**Little Known Fact:** I am a true native San Diegan — raised here and never left!



**David Demian**

**Firm:** Finch, Thornton & Baird, LLP

**Website:** www.ftblaw.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Business & Commercial Transactions, Construction Law, Federal Procurement & Claims, Government & Regulatory, Real Estate, Trusts & Estate Planning

**Best Phrase:** To dare is to do.

**Little Known Fact:** I am a season ticket holder with the L.A. Galaxy.

*I love to travel and have visited six of the seven continents. I also lived in Africa for a time as a child.*



**Matt Dente**

**Firm:** Dente Richard LLP

**Website:**

www.denterichard.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Employment Litigation, Counseling

**Best Phrase:** Don't sweat the small stuff (except, of course, in fulfilling your duties to your clients).

**Little Known Fact:** I love to travel and have visited six of the seven continents. I also lived in Africa for a time as a child.



**Quinn Disparte**

**Firm:** RJS Law

**Website:**

www.rjslawfirm.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Tax Controversy

**Best Phrase:** Make the most of every opportunity.

**Little Known Fact:** I have lived in Heidelberg, Germany.



**Deborah Dixon**

**Firm:** Gomez Trial Attorneys

**Website:**

www.thegomezfirm.com

**Areas of Practice:** Class Action

**Best Phrase:** Be the leader you would want to follow.

**Little Known Fact:** I am the middle child of five sisters and love it!

*In shareholder litigation last year, I deposed Mark Zuckerberg. And no, it was not at all like the movie!*



**Jenny Dixon**

**Firm:** Robbins Arroyo LLP

**Website:**

www.robbinsarroyo.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Shareholder Derivative Actions,

Securities Class Actions

**Best Phrase:** "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future," John F. Kennedy.

**Little Known Fact:** In shareholder litigation last year, I deposed Mark Zuckerberg. And no, it was not at all like the movie!



**Rommel Dizon**

**Firm:** Law Office of Rommel Dizon

**Website:** www.avvo.com

**Areas of Practice:** Labor

& Employment/Criminal Defense

**Best Phrase:** No matter what, provide the best service possible.

**Little Known Fact:** I am an avid surfer.



**Amber Eck**

**Firm:** Zeldes Haeggquist & Eck, LLP

**Website:** www.zhlaw.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Employment, Consumer, Securities, Class Actions

**Best Phrase:** "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere...Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly," Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



**Cate Edwards**

**Firm:** Edwards Kirby, LLP, San Diego Office

**Website:**

www.edwardskirby.com

**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury, Product Safety, Whistleblower and Qui Tam Actions, Civil Rights, Consumer Fraud

**Little Known Fact:** In 2011, I launched the Elizabeth Edwards Foundation.

The nonprofit honors the memory of my mother by providing opportunities to students with limited resources and support.



from page A31

## Best of the Bar 2016

**William Eigner**

**Firm:** Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP  
**Website:** www.procopio.com

**Areas of Practice:** Corporate, M&A, Business Transactions

**Little Known Fact:** I interned at the U.S. Supreme Court.

**Jason Eliaser**

**Firm:** Law Office of Jason Eliaser  
**Website:** www.eliaser.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Real Estate

**Best Phrase:** It's all fun and games until somebody calls a lawyer.

**Little Known Fact:** I have a cat named Ruth Bader Ginspurr.

**John Engel**

**Firm:** Sullivan Hill  
**Website:** www.sullivanhill.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Business/Corporate Law, Real Estate Law, Labor/Employment Law

**Little Known Fact:** I graduated from Bucknell University followed by New York University School of Law.

**Melissa Engle**

**Firm:** White and Bright, LLP  
**Website:** www.whiteandbright.com

**Areas of Practice:** Employment, Business/Real Property Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why," Mark Twain.

**Little Known Fact:** I am the first in my family to go to college.

**Jon Epsten**

**Firm:** Epsten Grinnell & Howell, APC  
**Website:** www.epsten.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Community Association Law

**Best Phrase:** Nothing good happens after midnight.

**Little Known Fact:** I am a strong proponent of recycling.

*I was a calculus tutor throughout college.*

**Karolina Ericsson**

**Firm:** Gresham Savage Nolan & Tilden PC  
**Website:** www.greshamsavage.com

**Areas of Practice:** Real Estate Transactional

**Best Phrase:** "Be the change you want to see in the world," Mahatma Gandhi.

**Little Known Fact:** I was a calculus tutor throughout college.

**Jeremy Evans**

**Firm:** California Sports Lawyer  
**Website:** www.csllegal.com

**Areas of Practice:** Sports, Entertainment, and Business

**Best Phrase:** Genuine relationships lead to genuine success.

**Little Known Fact:** I once visited 19 countries and 29 cities in three months for a study abroad program and vacation.

**Sarah Evans**

**Firm:** Schwartz Semerdjian  
**Website:** schwartzsemerdjan.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Employment

**Best Phrase:** If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it.

**Little Known Fact:** When I was 16, I spent a year as a foreign exchange student in the former East Germany, just months after the Berlin Wall fell.

**Jillian Fairchild**

**Firm:** Tyson & Mendes  
**Website:** www.tysonmendes.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Personal Injury, Professional Liability

**Best Phrase:** "Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing," Pele.

**Little Known Fact:** I participated in the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program with Voices for Children to advocate on behalf of a foster child.

**P. Randolph Finch Jr.**

**Firm:** Finch, Thornton & Baird, LLP  
**Website:** www.ftblaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Construction

**Best Phrase:** Get it done.

**Little Known Fact:** I play competitive ice hockey weekly.

**Brian Findley**

**Firm:** Mulligan, Banham & Findley  
**Website:** www.janmulligan.com

**Areas of Practice:** Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury

**Best Phrase:** "An injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," My seven-year-old whenever he wants a new toy.

**Little Known Fact:** I am an avid runner, hiker and mountain biker.

**Amie Flynn**

**Firm:** Law Office of Amie J. Flynn  
**Website:** www.flynnlaw.biz

**Areas of Practice:** Construction, Real Estate, Civil Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "When we unleash the dogs of war, we must go where they take us," Dowager Countess of Grantham, "Downton Abbey," PBS.

**Loren Freestone**

**Firm:** Higgs Fletcher & Mack  
**Website:** www.higgslaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Employment; Civil Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "Don't give up on your dreams, or your dreams will give up on you," John Wooden.  
**Little Known Fact:** I grew up on a farm, but became a surfer.

**Matthew Friedrichs**

**Firm:** Winship & Friedrichs, APC  
**Website:** www.winshiplaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Administrative Law

**Best Phrase:** Treat others as you want to be treated

**Little Known Fact:** I am a romantic.

*I also have my MBA in business.*

**Daniel Fulkerson**

**Firm:** King Aminpour & Associates  
**Website:** www.yourlawoffice.com

**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury

**Best Phrase:** Blessed to do what I love.

**Little Known Fact:** I also have my MBA in business.

**Renee Galente**

**Firm:** Galente Law, APC  
**Website:** www.GalenteLaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Plaintiff Personal Injury, Felony Criminal Defense, Military Defense

**Best Phrase:** How other people treat you is their Karma. How you respond is yours.

**Little Known Fact:** I can't pass up an animal that needs a home. As a result, I have four cats and three dogs right now.

**Daniel Gamez**

**Firm:** Gamez Law Firm, PC  
**Website:** www.gamezlawfirm.com

**Areas of Practice:** Debt Settlement

**Best Phrase:** Don't tell me I can't do something.

**Little Known Fact:** I served as a juvenile probation officer prior to law school.

*I have a degree in percussion.*

**Eric Ganci**

**Firm:** Ganci, Esq., APC  
**Website:** www.GanciEsq.com  
**Areas of Practice:** DUI

Defense

**Best Phrase:** Knowledge is power.

**Little Known Fact:** I have a degree in percussion.

**Greg Garbacz**

**Firm:** Klinedinst PC  
**Website:** www.KlinedinstLaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Employment

**Best Phrase:** "Always turn a negative situation into a positive situation," Michael Jordan.

**Little Known Fact:** My collie's name is Blue.

**Valerie Garcia-Hong**

**Firm:** Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz PC  
**Website:** www.pettitkohn.com

**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation, Professional Liability, Personal Injury, Real Estate, and Community Association Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give," Winston Churchill.

**Little Known Fact:** I'm trying to change the world of golf and convince everyone that the higher the score, the better.

**Jennifer Gerstenzang**

**Firm:** Gerstenzang Law  
**Website:** www.gerstenzanglaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Criminal Defense

**Best Phrase:** Prosecutors often say they represent the People of the State of California. Well, so do I. I just have the honor of doing it one person at a time.

**Little Known Fact:** In my second year of law school, the California Innocence Project selected me as one of their student members.

**Cameron Gharabiklou**

**Firm:** Justice Law Group  
**Website:** www.justice-lawgroup.com

**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury, Employment

**Best Phrase:** It says trial lawyer on my business card, not settlement lawyer.

**Little Known Fact:** I'm handy and would rather fix/build something myself than hire someone else.

**David Gibbs**

**Firm:** CGP Law Group, APC  
**Website:** www.cgplawgroup.com

**Areas of Practice:** Business/Corporate, Estate Planning

**Best Phrase:** Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do.

**Little Known Fact:** I am planning a ski trip to Antarctica.

**Daniel Gilleon**

**Firm:** Gilleon Law Firm  
**Website:** www.Gilleonlawfirm.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Personal Injury

**Best Phrase:** Character is how you behave when nobody's looking.

**Little Known Fact:** My dad is a famous artist.





# *Congratulations to our 2016 Best of the Bar*



**Douglas Pettit**  
Professional Liability  
Business Litigation



**Christina Bernstein**  
Professional Liability



**Valerie Garcia-Hong**  
Business Litigation  
Professional Liability



**Jenna Leyton-Jones**  
Employment & Labor



**Arie Spangler**  
Professional Liability



**Conor Hulburt**  
Professional Liability  
Personal Injury



**Derek Wilson**  
Personal Injury

# PETTIT KOHN

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from page A32

## Best of the Bar 2016

**Noam Glick****Firm:** Glick Law Group, P.C.**Website:**

www.glicklawgroup.com

**Areas of Practice:** Employment Law, General Litigation**Best Phrase:** A good lawyer knows the law. A better lawyer knows the judge. But the best lawyer knows the judge's mistress.**Little Known Fact:** I was in a rock band in high school which never made it big, though we did play the Whiskey in L.A.

*My first job was as a busboy at Marie Callender's in El Cajon.*

**John Gomez****Firm:** Gomez Trial Attorneys**Website:**

gomeztrialattorneys.com

**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury, Business Litigation, Mass Torts, Class Actions, Environmental Litigation, Children's Rights**Best Phrase:** "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena...who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat," Theodore Roosevelt.**Little Known Fact:** My first job was as a busboy at Marie Callender's in El Cajon.**Susan Gorman****Firm:** Gorman IP Law, APC**Website:**

www.gormaniplaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Patent/Trademark Prosecution**Best Phrase:** Protecting clients' ideas turned into innovations.**Little Known Fact:** I once lived in Turkey.**David Greeley****Firm:** Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek**Website:** www.scmv.com**Areas of Practice:**

Business Litigation, Franchise Law

**Best Phrase:** "Happiness does not depend on outward things, but on the way we see them," Leo Tolstoy.**Little Known Fact:** I am a member of the San Diego Outrigger Canoe Club.

*I used to be a blues singer in several clubs in New York.*

**Sabrina Green****Firm:** Stratton & Green, ALC**Website:**

www.sglawcorp.com

**Areas of Practice:** Employment, Business & Construction Litigation**Best Phrase:** "Justice is open to everyone in the same way as the Ritz Hotel," Judge Sturgess.**Little Known Fact:** I used to be a blues singer at several clubs in New York.**Daniel Greene****Firm:** The Law Offices of Kerry L. Armstrong, APLC**Website:**

www.sandiegodefenselawfirm.com

**Areas of Practice:** Criminal Law**Best Phrase:** I'm your Huckleberry.**Little Known Fact:** In college I minored in both French and Theatre Arts.**Samantha Greene****Firm:** Sevens Legal, APC**Website:**

www.sevenslegal.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Criminal

**Little Known Fact:** I'm scared of heights.**Roger Haerr****Firm:** Law Office of Roger C. Haerr**Website:**

www.haerrlaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Commercial, Real Estate & Construction Disputes, Contract Negotiations**Best Phrase:** Never better.**Little Known Fact:** I am a native.**John Hammerstrand****Firm:** Chihak & Martel**Website:**

www.chihaklaw.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Personal Injury, Medical Malpractice, Aviation Law

**Best Phrase:** If you don't have time to do it right, how are you going to have time to do it again.**Little Known Fact:** I hold an Airline Transport Pilot certificate issued by the FAA and also work as a First Officer for SkyWest Airlines out of LAX.**Robert Hamparyan****Firm:** The law offices of Robert Hamparyan**Website:**

Hamparyanlawfirm.com

**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury, Insurance Bad Faith, Wrongful Death, Brain Injuries, Catastrophic Injuries**Best Phrase:** "All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope," Winston Churchill.**Little Known Fact:** I enjoy Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.**Ramin Hariri****Firm:** Hariri Law Group**Website:**

www.haririlaw.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Personal Injury

**Best Phrase:** "Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little," Edmund Burke.

*I was certified as a sommelier when I was 23.*

**Jordan Harlan****Firm:** Harlan Law, P.C.**Website:**

www.harlanpc.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Employment, Business Litigation

**Little Known Fact:** I was certified as a sommelier when I was 23.**Henry Harmeling****Firm:** The Kindley Firm, APC**Website:**

www.kindleylawyers.com

**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury, Nursing Home Abuse/Neglect**Best Phrase:** Know who you are, be true to yourself.**Little Known Fact:** Until I started practicing law, I was known as "DJ Harmeling" my whole life.**William Hartsock****Firm:** William D Hartsock, Tax Attorney, Inc.**Website:**

www.TheTaxLawyer.com

**Areas of Practice:** Taxation-Audits, Appeals and Civil & Criminal Tax Litigation**Best Phrase:** Never stop learning.**Little Known Fact:** I've raced Porsche's and hunted black bear & grizzlies with a bow.**Elaine Harwell****Firm:** Selman Breitman LLP**Website:**

www.selmanlaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Civil Litigation**Best Phrase:** "Whatever you do in life, surround yourself with smart people who'll argue with you," John Wooden.**Little Known Fact:** I went to high school in London, England.

*I once performed at a Clippers halftime show.*

**Sarah Havens****Firm:** Phillips & Pelly**Website:**

www.sdinjury.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Personal Injury

**Best Phrase:** "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**Little Known Fact:** I once performed at a Clippers halftime show.**Ryan Hawkins****Firm:** Perkins Coie**Website:**

www.perkinscoie.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Intellectual Property Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "Ray, when someone asks you if you're a god, you say YES," Winston Zeddemore, "Ghostbusters."**Little Known Fact:** I lived in Great Britain for five years.

*I volunteer at HiCaliber Horse Rescue every week helping to save hundreds of horses from slaughter.*

**Nicole Heeder****Firm:**

Law &amp; [M]ocean

**Website:**

CaliforniaWorkplaceRights.com

**Areas of Practice:** Employment**Best Phrase:** The cure for anything is salt water — sweat, tears, or the sea.**Little Known Fact:** I volunteer at HiCaliber Horse Rescue every week helping to save hundreds of horses from slaughter.**John Heisner****Firm:** Heisner Alvarez, APC**Website:**

www.heisneralvarez.com

**Areas of Practice:** Complex Business, Trust Litigation**Little Known Fact:** I have 10 grandchildren.**James Hill****Firm:** Sullivan Hill**Website:**

www.sullivanhill.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Insolvency &amp; Commercial Bankruptcy, Commercial &amp; Business Litigation

**Best Phrase:** Upwards and Onwards.**Little Known Fact:** I am an instrument-rated private pilot and the president of San Diego's longest standing not-for-profit

to page A35



➔from page A34

## Best of the Bar 2016

flying club, the San Diego Flying Club.



### Robert Hill

**Firm:** Law Offices of Robert L. Hill  
**Website:** www.rlhfirm.com

**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation, Corporate Law

**Best Phrase:** "The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why," Mark Twain.

**Little Known Fact:** There were only 35 kids in my high school graduating class in Kenmare, North Dakota.



### Matt Holder

**Firm:** Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP  
**Website:** www.sheppardmullin.com

**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation, Labor & Employment Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit," Aristotle.

**Little Known Fact:** I have an identical twin.



### Lincoln Horton

**Firm:** Horton Village Law Group, APC  
**Website:** www.hortonvillagelaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Corporate, Business  
**Best Phrase:** A reasoned approach is a winning approach.

**Little Known Fact:** In college, I was the singer in a band that headlined the Sunset Strip.

*I was a hostess for a kids' TV show in Taiwan for a year.*



### Amy Hsiao

**Firm:** Hsiao Law, PC  
**Website:** www.HsiaoLaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Trust & Estate

**Little Known Fact:** I was a hostess for a kids' TV show in Taiwan for a year.



### Lawrence Huerta

**Firm:** Huerta Mediation  
**Website:** HuertaMediation.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Mediation, Arbitration, Alternative Dispute Resolution

**Best Phrase:** Always darkest before dawn.

**Little Known Fact:** I mediated more than 25 matters around the country in a Smith Barney sexual discrimination and harassment class action.



### Conor Hulburt

**Firm:** Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz PC  
**Website:** www.pettitkohn.com

**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury, Professional Liability

**Best Phrase:** "How alive am I willing to be?" Anne Lamott.

**Little Known Fact:** I make a killer hot salsa.



### Leslie Hulburt

**Firm:** Cozen O'Connor  
**Website:** www.cozen.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Civil Litigation

**Best Phrase:** The grass is greener where you water it.

**Little Known Fact:** Prior to law school, I worked at the washingtonpost.com



### Byron Husted

**Firm:** Morris Law Firm, APC  
**Website:** Morrislawfirmapc.com

**Areas of Practice:** Civil Litigation, Trust, Estate, Probate Litigation

**Little Known Fact:** I love traveling the world to scuba dive with my wife in exotic places.

*I was born in Tehran, Iran and English was not my first language.*



### Arezoo Jamshidi

**Firm:** Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP  
**Website:** www.lewisbrisbois.com

**Areas of Practice:** Civil Appellate Law, Civil Litigation

**Best Phrase:** Know your audience.

**Little Known Fact:** I was born in Tehran, Iran and English was not my first language.



### Marisa Janine-Page

**Firm:** Caldarelli Hejmanowski Page & Leer  
**Website:** www.chpllaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Civil Litigation

**Little Known Fact:** I love helping people.



### Kenneth Jenkins

**Firm:** Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC  
**Website:** www.mintz.vom

**Areas of Practice:** Life Science Patent Prosecution

**Best Phrase:** "The patent system added the fuel of interest to the fire of genius," Abraham Lincoln.

**Little Known Fact:** I was a varsity baseball player.



*I am an assistant high school rugby coach.*



### Knut Johnson

**Firm:** Law Office of Knut S. Johnson  
**Website:** www.knutjohnson.com

**Areas of Practice:** Criminal Defense, White Collar

**Best Phrase:** Prior preparation prevents poor performance.

**Little Known Fact:** I am an assistant high school rugby coach.



### Tim Johnson

**Firm:** Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.  
**Website:** www.ogletreedeakins.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Employment, Class Action Litigation

**Little Known Fact:** I have had five shoulder operations.



### Dustin Jones

**Firm:** Finch, Thornton & Baird, LLP  
**Website:** www.ftblaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Construction

**Best Phrase:** "Individual commitment to a group effort — that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work," Vince Lombardi.

**Little Known Fact:** I will become a "Cheesehead" if the Chargers leave.



### Paul Jonna

**Firm:** Law Offices of Charles S. LiMandri, APC  
**Website:** www.limandri.com

**Areas of Practice:** Complex Business Litigation, Serious Personal Injury

**Best Phrase:** On becoming a good lawyer. "Give me six hours to chop down a tree, and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe," Abraham Lincoln.  
**Little Known Fact:** My practice also regularly handles high profile religious liberty cases.



### Deepalie Milie Joshi

**Firm:** Joshi Law Group  
**Website:** www.joshilawgroup.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Business Law, Bankruptcy Law, Personal Injury

**Best Phrase:** "If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough," Albert Einstein.

**Little Known Fact:** When I tell people that my parents are in the restaurant business, they usually assume that the restaurants are Indian food. But actually, I grew up in rural Tennessee and they are fried chicken restaurants.



### Lee Jurewitz

**Firm:** Jurewitz Law Group  
**Website:** www.jurewitz.com

**Areas of Practice:** Social

Security Disability, Personal Injury

**Best Phrase:** "Every experience, no matter how bad it seems, holds within it a blessing of some kind. The goal is to find it," Buddha.

**Little Known Fact:** I love musical theater but can't sing (at all).



### Ross Jurewitz

**Firm:** Jurewitz Law Group  
**Website:** www.jurewitz.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Personal Injury - Plaintiff

**Best Phrase:** "If worms had pistols, birds wouldn't eat 'em," Darrel K. Royal.

**Little Known Fact:** I survived a Copa Libertadores futbol match in Buenos Aires and saw the Texas Longhorns defeat the USC Trojans on January 4, 2006 in the greatest college football game ever played.



### Daniel Kaplan

**Firm:** Law Offices of Daniel A. Kaplan  
**Website:** www.danielkaplanlaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation, General Litigation, Business Counseling

**Best Phrase:** "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give," Winston Churchill.

**Little Known Fact:** My parents were lawyers. My mother went to law school after having four kids. Her perseverance inspired me when I attended law school and took the bar exam.



### Randall Kay

**Firm:** Jones Day  
**Website:** www.jonesday.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Intellectual Property Litigation

**Best Phrase:** Figure out your case theme and package the evidence so that your audience interprets the facts to support your theme.

**Little Known Fact:** I enjoy head standing.

*My first job after college was a clown, in Scotland.*



### Ashley Kerins

**Firm:** Sullivan Hill  
**Website:** www.sullivanhill.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Business & Corporate Transactions, Tax & Estate Planning, Real Estate Law

**Best Phrase:** "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get," Forrest Gump.

**Little Known Fact:** My first job after college was a clown, in Scotland.

➔to page A36



from page A35

## Best of the Bar 2016



**Pejman Kharrazian**  
**Firm:** Epsten Grinnell & Howell, APC  
**Website:** www.epsten.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Civil Litigation, Real Estate, Construction  
**Best Phrase:** Earning trust and respect are key to a successful practice, so I am honored to be nominated by my peers in the legal community.



**John Kim**  
**Firm:** IPLA, LLP  
**Website:** www.ipla.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Trademark, Copyright

Law  
**Best Phrase:** Every action has an equal and positive reaction.  
**Little Known Fact:** I have three dogs and they all have human names.



**George Kindley**  
**Firm:** The Kindley Firm, APC  
**Website:** www.kindleylawyers.com

**Areas of Practice:** Plaintiff's Personal Injury Litigation/Nursing Home Neglect  
**Best Phrase:** "Justice denied anywhere diminishes justice everywhere," Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
**Little Known Fact:** I grew up in a small town on the beach and enjoy all watersports.

*I played high school football with Lawrence Phillips.*



**Fernando Kish**  
**Firm:** White, Amundson, Kish & Sweeney, APC  
**Website:** www.whiteamundson.com

**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation, Professional Liability, Complex Civil Litigation  
**Best Phrase:** The law is not always just but some lawyers do it justice.  
**Little Known Fact:** I played high school football with Lawrence Phillips.



**Elisa Kisselburg**  
**Firm:** Basie & Fritz  
**Website:** www.basieandfritz.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Family Law  
**Best Phrase:** Never, never, never give up!  
**Little Known Fact:** I am a professional musician.



**Garrison "Bud" Klueck**  
**Firm:** Law & Mediation Firm of Klueck & Hoppes  
**Website:** FamilyLawSanDiego.com

**Areas of Practice:** Family Law  
**Little Known Fact:** I am a published essay writer under the pen name "Citizen Bud."



**Elizabeth Koumas**  
**Firm:** Koumas Law Group  
**Website:** www.koumaslaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Employment Law  
**Best Phrase:** Carpe Diem — seize the day.  
**Little Known Fact:** I am a single mother by choice.



**Kate Kowalewski**  
**Firm:** Kowalewski Law  
**Website:** www.klcsd.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Business, Corporate

**Best Phrase:** "My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style," Maya Angelou.  
**Little Known Fact:** I was six years old when I decided that I wanted to be a lawyer when I grew up.



**Andrew Kubik**  
**Firm:** Eppsteiner Law, APC  
**Website:** www.eppsteiner.com

**Areas of Practice:** Class Actions  
**Best Phrase:** Never trust a skinny chef.  
**Little Known Fact:** I worked as a tour guide in Alaska during summers in college.



**James Lance**  
**Firm:** Kirby Noonan Lance & Hoge  
**Website:** www.knlh.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Commercial Litigation, Real Estate, Personal Injury  
**Best Phrase:** "Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you," St. Augustine.  
**Little Known Fact:** I have coached youth baseball and football for more than 15 years.



**John Landay**  
**Firm:** Landay Roberts LLP  
**Website:** www.landayroberts.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Personal Injury, Class Action  
**Best Phrase:** Work hard, get far.  
**Little Known Fact:** I played in Lacrosse All America.

*I am fluent in three languages — English, Spanish, and Korean.*



**Erin Lee**  
**Firm:** Law Offices of Erin J. Lee  
**Website:** www.erinjee.com

**Areas of Practice:** Immigration, Personal Injury  
**Little Known Fact:** I am fluent in three languages — English, Spanish, and Korean.

*Before I became an attorney, I had a career as a physicist.*



**Michael Leonard**  
**Firm:** San Diego Corporate Law, A Professional Law Corporation  
**Website:**

www.sdcorporatelaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Corporate Transactions

**Best Phrase:** Starting a business is a lot like jumping out of an airplane and assembling the parachute on the way down.  
**Little Known Fact:** Before I became an attorney, I had a career as a physicist.



**Ramon Lewis**  
**Firm:** Law Offices of Ramon E. Lewis  
**Website:** ElderProtectionCenter.com

**Areas of Practice:** Elder Neglect, Abuse  
**Little Known Fact:** I participated in three WESTPAC deployments on three different Navy ships.



**Jenna Leyton-Jones**  
**Firm:** Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz PC  
**Website:** www.pettitkohn.com

**Areas of Practice:** Employment Litigation/Counseling, Civil Appeals  
**Best Phrase:** "If your ship doesn't come in, swim out to meet it," Jonathan Winters.  
**Little Known Fact:** I used to be a competitive ice skater.



**Michael Licari**  
**Firm:** D'Egidio Licari & Townsend APC  
**Website:** www.deltlaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Business, Real Estate Litigation  
**Best Phrase:** 50 percent of life is just showing up.  
**Little Known Fact:** I enjoy watching the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team way more than the men's team.



**David Lichtenstein**  
**Firm:** Caldarelli Hejmanowski Page & Leer LLP  
**Website:**

www.chpllaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation, Real Estate Litigation  
**Best Phrase:** Do. Or do not. There is no try.  
**Little Known Fact:** "The Walking Dead" is my favorite T.V. show.



**Matthew Liedle**  
**Firm:** Liedle Larson Lidl & Vail LLP  
**Website:** www.liedlelaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Construction, Professional, Product, Government Liability

**Best Phrase:** Work hard and treat people with respect.  
**Little Known Fact:** I play the guitar, mandolin, banjo and harmonica in an Americana band with other lawyers in San Diego on the weekend.



**Charles S. LiMandri**  
**Firm:** Law Offices of Charles S. LiMandri, APC  
**Website:** www.limandri.com

**Areas of Practice:** Civil Litigation, Business & Contract Litigation, Personal Injury, Insurance Coverage  
**Little Known Fact:** I operate a nonprofit, "Freedom of Conscience Defense Fund."

*I won a rap competition in Taiwan.*



**Rick Liu**  
**Firm:** Perkins Coie  
**Website:** www.perkinscoie.com  
**Areas of Practice:** White

Collar & Investigations, Securities Litigation  
**Best Phrase:** It is an honor to be selected by my peers for this list. I have had the privilege of working with brilliant colleagues who I can also count as my friends.  
**Little Known Fact:** I won a rap competition in Taiwan.



**Patrick Long**  
**Firm:** Law Office of Patrick B Long  
**Website:** www.patblonglaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Social Security Disability, Family Law, Cannabis Regulatory Compliance  
**Best Phrase:** It's an honor and a privilege to be selected and nominated by my peers. I am fortunate to find a career that allows me time to give back to my fellow veterans.  
**Little Known Fact:** I've had a few careers before becoming a lawyer, including a U.S. Navy corpsman.



**Marty Lorenzo**  
**Firm:** Mintz Levin  
**Website:** www.mintzlevin.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Corporate  
**Best Phrase:** He who dares wins.  
**Little Known Fact:** I believe that the best investment of time is in our relationships with others and service to something greater than ourselves.



**Douglas Lytle**  
**Firm:** Henderson Caverly Pum & Charney LLP  
**Website:** www.hcesq.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Business, Intellectual Property Litigation  
**Best Phrase:** The harder I work, the

to page A38





*Congratulations to Wendy Behan and Melissa Deleon for being recognized as “Best of the Bar.” Your dedication and committment to providing justice for your clients is exemplary and we are proud to have you both on our team.*

# CaseyGerry

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from page A36

## Best of the Bar 2016

more luck I seem to have.

**Little Known Fact:** I have volunteered as a mentor to at-risk youth, and both of my mentees graduated from four-year universities.

**Matt Mahoney**

**Firm:** Witham Mahoney & Abbott  
**Website:**

[www.wmalawfirm.com](http://www.wmalawfirm.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation  
**Best Phrase:** I can explain it to you, but I can't understand it for you.

**Little Known Fact:** I was electrocuted twice in the San Diego Tough Mudder Race.

**Antonio Maldonado**

**Firm:** Maldonado Law Group PC  
**Website:**

[maldonado-law-group.com](http://maldonado-law-group.com)

**Areas of Practice:** International Law

**Best Phrase:** To win you need to prepare, prepare and prepare.

**Little Known Fact:** I invest in commercial real estate.

**Robert Marasco**

**Firm:** Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP  
**Website:**

[www.procopio.com](http://www.procopio.com)

**Areas of Practice:** White Collar Criminal Defense

**Best Phrase:** Diligence is the mother of good luck.

**Little Known Fact:** I was a Zamboni driver.

*I competed in my first horse show at age five.*

**Amy Martel**

**Firm:** Chihak & Martel  
**Website:**

[www.chihaklaw.com](http://www.chihaklaw.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Plaintiffs Personal Injury, Medical Malpractice

**Best Phrase:** "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose," Dr. Seuss.

**Little Known Fact:** I competed in my first horse show at age five.

**Steven Martin**

**Firm:** Bonnici Law Group, APC  
**Website:**

[www.bonniciawgroup.com](http://www.bonniciawgroup.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Civil Litigation, Personal Injury, Social Security Disability, Workers Compensation

**Best Phrase:** "Try not to take life too seriously, you'll never get out alive," "National Lampoon's Van Wilder."

**Little Known Fact:** I always have to be doing something and challenging myself to something new.

**Jennifer Martinez**

**Firm:** Martinez & Schill LLP  
**Website:**

[www.martinezschild.com](http://www.martinezschild.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury

**Best Phrase:** "When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on," Franklin D. Roosevelt.

**Little Known Fact:** I am honored to be included in this list of distinguished lawyers. I would not be where I am today without the love and support of my amazing husband and two beautiful children.

**Jonathan Massie**

**Firm:** Massie Berman APC  
**Website:**

[www.massieberman.com](http://www.massieberman.com)

**Areas of Practice:**

Representation of Common Interest Developments

**Best Phrase:** Keep your nose to the grindstone.

**Little Known Fact:** I am the eighth of nine children.

**Lawrence Maxham**

**Firm:** The Maxham Firm  
**Website:**

[www.maxhamfirm.com](http://www.maxhamfirm.com)

**Areas of Practice:**

Patents, Trademarks, Copyrights (Intellectual Property)

**Best Phrase:** "Good enough" is not good enough.

**Little Known Fact:** I grew up on a small Vermont dairy farm near the Canadian border.

**Josh Maxwell**

**Firm:** Hone Maxwell LLP  
**Website:**

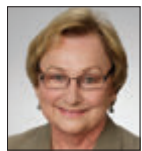
[www.honemaxwell.com](http://www.honemaxwell.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Tax

Controversy, International Tax

**Best Phrase:** Time to make the donuts.

**Little Known Fact:** My wife and I got married eight days after we first met.

**Gayle Mayfield-Venieris**

**Firm:** Mayfield Bustarde, LLP  
**Website:**

[MayfieldBustarde.com](http://MayfieldBustarde.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Business,

Employment Transactions & Litigation

**Best Phrase:** Strive for excellence.

**Little Known Fact:** I have lived in three states in the U.S. — Illinois, Texas and California.

*I owned a burrito shop during law school.*

**Peter Mazza**

**Firm:** Jones Day  
**Website:**

[www.jonesday.com](http://www.jonesday.com)

**Areas of Practice:**

Commercial litigation, Investigations, White Collar Defense

**Best Phrase:** You gotta want the ball

with the game on the line.

**Little Known Fact:** I owned a burrito shop during law school.

**David McCuaig**

**Firm:** McCuaig Law Firm  
**Website:**

[www.mccuaiglaw.com](http://www.mccuaiglaw.com)

**Areas of Practice:**

Business Transactions, Litigation

**Little Known Fact:** I am an amateur history buff.

**James McFaul**

**Firm:** Butz Dunn & DeSantis, APC  
**Website:**

[www.butzdunn.com](http://www.butzdunn.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Professional Liability, Employment, Class Action Defense; Business/Commercial Litigation, Risk Management Counseling

**Best Phrase:** Have fun stormin' the castle!

**Little Known Fact:** I actually do have an inside voice (sometimes).

**Paul McGuire**

**Firm:** Law Office of Paul D. McGuire  
**Website:**

[www.paul-mcguire.com](http://www.paul-mcguire.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Family Law

**Little Known Fact:** I also write a blog on craft beer at [www.sdhopaddict.com](http://www.sdhopaddict.com)

**Kevan McLaughlin**

**Firm:** McLaughlin Legal  
**Website:**

[www.McLaughlinLegal.com](http://www.McLaughlinLegal.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Tax

**Best Phrase:** We must strive for a path between apathy and hubris, which are closer connected than one may think.

**Little Known Fact:** Given the choice, I'd rather be skiing with my family than anything else.

*I have traveled to more than 25 countries.*

**Lindsey Mercer**

**Firm:** Law Office of Lindsey B. Mercer  
**Website:**

[www.lindseylegal.com](http://www.lindseylegal.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Federal/State

Criminal Defense

**Best Phrase:** My purpose as an attorney is to provide compassion in a time of crisis.

**Little Known Fact:** I have traveled to more than 25 countries.

**Brett Middleton**

**Firm:** Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP  
**Website:**

[www.blbgllaw.com](http://www.blbgllaw.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Securities Fraud, Corporate Governance Litigation

**Best Phrase:** Never mistake activity for achievement.

**Little Known Fact:** I regularly surf Cardiff Reef.

**George Miller**

**Firm:** Shustak Reynolds & Partners, P.C.  
**Website:**

[www.shufirm.com](http://www.shufirm.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Securities/Business Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "I can't imagine a person becoming a success who doesn't give this game of life everything he's got," Walter Cronkite.

**Little Known Fact:** I can recite the preamble to the U.S. constitution after a glass of red wine.

*I was a nationally ranked junior tennis player.*

**Elizabeth Molea**

**Firm:** Beringer Law Firm  
**Website:**

[www.beringerlaw.com](http://www.beringerlaw.com)

**Areas of Practice:**

Family Law

**Best Phrase:** "If we desire respect for the law, we must first make the law respectable." Justice Louis D. Brandeis.

**Little Known Fact:** I was a nationally ranked junior tennis player.

*English is my second language as I was born and raised in Italy.*

**Stefano Molea**

**Firm:** The Law Offices of Kerry L. Armstrong, APLC  
**Website:**

[www.sandiegodefenselawfirm.com](http://www.sandiegodefenselawfirm.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Criminal Defense

**Best Phrase:** "Men born to freedom are naturally alert to repel invasion of their liberty by evil minded rulers. The greatest danger to liberty lurk in insidious encroachment by men of zeal, well-meaning but without understanding," Justice Louis D. Brandeis.

**Little Known Fact:** English is my second language as I was born and raised in Italy.

**Vikram Monder**

**Firm:** Monder Law Group, PC  
**Website:**

[www.monderlaw.com](http://www.monderlaw.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Criminal Defense



from page A38

## Best of the Bar 2016


**Thomas Monson**

**Firm:** Miller, Monson, Peshel, Polacek & Hoshaw  
**Website:** www.mmpph.com

**Areas of Practice:** Estate/Trust

Litigation, ERISA Benefits Litigation

**Best Phrase:** What goes around comes around.

**Little Known Fact:** I love to golf.


**Nicholas Moore**

**Firm:** The Law Offices of Nicholas J. Moore  
**Website:** www.njmoorelaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Criminal Defense

**Best Phrase:** Never underestimate the power of a kind word, a listening ear, or the smallest act of kindness to turn somebody's life around.

**Little Known Fact:** I am an above average pool player.


**Cynthia Morgan-Reed**

**Firm:** Morgan Reed Law  
**Website:** www.morganreedlaw.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Land Use, Real Estate, Advocacy

**Best Phrase:** Life is short. Eat dessert first.

**Little Known Fact:** I love popcorn.


**Shawn Morris**

**Firm:** Morris, Sullivan & Lemkul LLP  
**Website:** morrissullivanlaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Complex Civil Litigation

**Best Phrase:** Pigs get fat, hogs get slaughtered.

**Little Known Fact:** I have four sisters.


**Caroline Morrison**

**Firm:** Palecek, Morrison & Associates LLP  
**Website:** www.pma-legal.com

**Areas of Practice:** Corporate, Estate Planning, Probate/Trust Administration

**Little Known Fact:** I live in Encinitas and love spending time with my family.

*I've had dinner in Edinburgh Castle. And yes, haggis was one of the courses.*


**Rebecca Morrison**

**Firm:** Blain Morrison Law Corporation  
**Website:** www.blainmorrison.com

**Areas of Practice:** Plaintiff Civil Litigation, Business Losses, Property Losses, Personal Injuries

**Best Phrase:** "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice," Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Little Known Fact:** I've had dinner in Edinburgh Castle. And yes, haggis was one of the courses.


**Kevin Murphy**

**Firm:** Murphy Jones APC  
**Website:** www.murphyjoneslaw.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Administrative License Defense

**Best Phrase:** "A good settlement leaves all parties dissatisfied," Me.

**Little Known Fact:** I am a big wave surfer.


**Antony Nash**

**Firm:** Mintz Levin  
**Website:** www.mintz.com

**Areas of Practice:** Real Estate Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift," Steve Prefontaine.

**Little Known Fact:** I was born and raised in the United Kingdom.


**Omar Nassar**

**Firm:** The Nassar Firm  
**Website:** www.TheNassarFirm.com

**Areas of Practice:** Real Estate, Business

**Best Phrase:** "If you're going through hell, keep going," Winston Churchill.

**Little Known Fact:** I enjoy a good game of poker or chess.


**Saman Nasser**

**Firm:** Nasser Legal  
**Website:** www.NasserLegal.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Criminal Defense

**Little Known Fact:** I can speak four languages.

*I am a long suffering Chicago Cubs' fan.*


**Todd Neal**

**Firm:** Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch, LLP  
**Website:** www.procopio.com

**Areas of Practice:** Prosecution/Defense Corporate/Commercial Litigation; Serious Injury/ Wrongful Death, Government Investigations/ Enforcement Actions

**Best Phrase:** As a young lawyer I worked with a senior partner who liked to say "your future is on your desk." That taught me that the best marketing we ever do is doing great work and getting great results.

**Little Known Fact:** I am a long suffering Chicago Cubs' fan.


**Craig Nicholas**

**Firm:** Nicholas & Tomasevic LLP  
**Website:** www.nicholaslaw.org

**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation, Class Actions

**Best Phrase:** Commit to winning.

**Little Known Fact:** I grew up in a family of five lawyers.


**Roxanne Nurse**

**Firm:** Kegel, Tobin & Truce, APC  
**Website:** www.kttlau.us

**Areas of Practice:**

Workers' Compensation

**Best Phrase:** "In the end you should always do the right thing, even if it is hard," Nicholas Sparks, "The Last Song."

**Little Known Fact:** My favorite past-time is to paint.

*My first name, "Bethsaida," is an ancient town in Israel mentioned in the New Testament of the Bible.*


**Bethsaida Obra-Whit**

**Firm:** Dummit, Buchholz & Trapp  
**Website:** www.dummitlaw.net

**Areas of Practice:** Medical Malpractice Defense, Premises Liability, Business Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition," Steve Jobs.

**Little Known Fact:** My first name, "Bethsaida," is an ancient town in Israel mentioned in the New Testament of the Bible.

*F. Scott Fitzgerald is my favorite writer.*


**Casey O'Connell**

**Firm:** The Law Offices of Casey O'Connell  
**Website:** FamilyTrustPlanner.com

**Areas of Practice:** Estate Planning, Business Formations, Succession Planning

**Best Phrase:** Take the time to achieve peace of mind. Plan your estate to protect your family and life's work.

**Little Known Fact:** F. Scott Fitzgerald is my favorite writer.


**Matthew Odgers**

**Firm:** Odgers Law Group  
**Website:** www.odgerslawgroup.com

**Areas of Practice:** Dental

Law, Health Care Law, Corporate law, Partnerships & Commercial Leasing

**Little Known Fact:** I have three wiener dogs and a Great Dane.


**Timothy O'Leary**

**Firm:** Skilling O'Leary, PC  
**Website:** www.skolegal.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Employment

**Best Phrase:** Living the dream.

**Little Known Fact:** I've completed two Ironman triathlons.


**Stacey O'Neill**

**Firm:** Jurewitz Law Group  
**Website:** www.jurewitz.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Personal Injury

**Best Phrase:** "Life is a journey, not a destination," Ralph Waldo Emerson.

**Little Known Fact:** My name was going to be Katie, but after being born my family decided I looked like a "Stacey" and renamed me.


**Alex Ozols**

**Firm:** Ozols Law Firm  
**Website:** TheSanDiegoCriminalLawyer.com

**Areas of Practice:** Criminal Defense, DUI Defense

**Best Phrase:** "Not Guilty."

**Little Known Fact:** I love to travel.

*My bucket list includes hiking at least 100 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail in one trip.*


**Jeffrey Padilla**

**Firm:** O'Mara & Padilla  
**Website:** www.oplawfirm.com

**Areas of Practice:**

Personal Injury

**Best Phrase:** "Never be afraid to raise your voice for honesty and truth and compassion against injustice and lying and greed," William Faulkner.

**Little Known Fact:** My bucket list includes hiking at least 100 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail in one trip.


**Brad Paladini**

**Firm:** RJS LAW  
**Website:** www.rjlawfirm.com

**Areas of Practice:** Tax

Controversy

**Best Phrase:** "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! Live the life you have imagined. As you simplify your life, the laws of the universe will be simpler," Henry David Thoreau.

**Little Known Fact:** I'm a Chicago Bears fan.


**Genna Palecek**

**Firm:** Palecek Morrison & Associates LLP  
**Website:** www.pma-legal.com

**Areas of Practice:** Estate Planning, Probate, Trust Administration, Corporate Transactional



from page A39

## Best of the Bar 2016

**Best Phrase:** Live each day with courage.  
**Little Known Fact:** I have two standard Poodles.

*I am a member of the USD Lacrosse Hall of Fame.*



**Thomas Palecek**  
**Firm:** Williams | Palecek Law Group, LLP  
**Website:** www.wplgattorneys.com

**Areas of Practice:** Transactional, Litigation Matters relating to Business, Corporate, Real Estate, Hospitality, Construction, Employment

**Best Phrase:** Vision to see beyond problems and create solutions.

**Little Known Fact:** I am a member of the USD Lacrosse Hall of Fame.



**Maria Palmieri**  
**Firm:** Palmieri Law, APLC  
**Website:** www.palmierilawfirm.com

**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury

**Little Known Fact:** I earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering.



**Patrick Dodger Paschall**  
**Firm:** Paschall Law  
**Website:** www.paschalllaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Civil Litigation: Employment & Labor Law; Business Law; Construction Law; Personal Injury; Landlord Tenant

**Best Phrase:** Equity favors the vigilant.  
**Little Known Fact:** I was named after my great grandfather's favorite baseball team, the Brooklyn Dodgers.

*I went to Bhutan to interview the drafters of its first constitution and the first chief justice of its supreme court.*



**Shanna Pearce**  
**Firm:** Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP  
**Website:** www.linkedin.com/in/shannapearce

**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation, Arbitration, Appeals

**Best Phrase:** To cut down a tree in five minutes, spend the first three sharpening the axe.

**Little Known Fact:** I went to Bhutan to interview the drafters of its first constitution and the first chief justice of its supreme court.



**Vanessa Pena**  
**Firm:** Pena Law  
**Website:** www.penalaw.net  
**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury, Criminal

Defense

**Best Phrase:** A good life is when you smile often, dream big, laugh a lot, and realize how blessed you are for what you have!

**Little Known Fact:** I am a mom to three adorable little boys, Lucas (age 5), Jack (age 3) and Zane (age 7 months).



**Charles Pernicka**  
**Firm:** The Opus Law Firm  
**Website:** www.opus.attorney

**Areas of Practice:** Real Estate Litigation, Business Litigation

**Best Phrase:** Do not put off until tomorrow what you can do today.

**Little Known Fact:** I once spent a summer leading Jet Ski tours and working at a bar in Key West, Florida.



**David M. Peters**  
**Firm:** Peters & Freedman, L.L.P.  
**Website:** www.hoalaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Construction Defect Litigation, Community Association Law

**Best Phrase:** I will not live long enough to pay my debts to a lot of good people. This debt cannot be repaid to those who gave it, it can only be repaid to the next generation. Great success without social conscious is devoid of substance.

**Little Known Fact:** I am a past rugby referee for the U.S. and short story writer.

*I was in Life Magazine when I was five, helping my grandfather put up a Justice of the Peace election sign.*



**Doug Pettit**  
**Firm:** Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz  
**Website:** www.pettitkohn.com

**Areas of Practice:** Professional Liability, Business Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "It's not about how hard you can hit. It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward," Rocky.

**Little Known Fact:** I was in Life Magazine when I was five, helping my grandfather put up a Justice of the Peace election sign.



**Lukas Pick**  
**Firm:** Pick Law  
**Website:** www.picklaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Elder

Abuse/Neglect, Personal Injury  
**Best Phrase:** Pride comes before a fall.  
**Little Known Fact:** I have traveled to Antarctica.



**S. Christian Platt**  
**Firm:** Jones Day  
**Website:** www.jonesday.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Intellectual Property, Patent Litigation

**Best Phrase:** Si vis pacem, para bellum (If you want peace, prepare for war).

**Little Known Fact:** In two patent jury trials, I have referenced Texas Longhorns football, including one trial where I showed a video of Vince Young scoring the go ahead touchdown against USC to win the 2005 National Championship. Our clients won both cases. Hook'em!



**Stephanie Poli**  
**Firm:** Tatro & Zamoyski  
**Website:** www.tatrozamoyski.com

**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation, Personal Injury, Class Action

**Best Phrase:** "To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart," Eleanor Roosevelt.

**Little Known Fact:** Prior to law school I taught ballet, jazz, tap, and lyrical to children ages two to 13.

*My little kids recently gave me the much coveted "Tickle Monster of Year" award.*



**Sean Ponist**  
**Firm:** Law Offices of Sean Ponist, P.C.  
**Website:** www.ponistlaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Real Estate, Construction, Business Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "I am a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it," Thomas Jefferson.

**Little Known Fact:** My little kids recently gave me the much coveted "Tickle Monster of Year" award.



**Jeffrey Pratt**  
**Firm:** Jeffrey R. Pratt, Attorney at Law  
**Website:** www.jprattlaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Civil Litigation, Trials

**Best Phrase:** Whatever you can do, or dream you can do, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it.

**Little Known Fact:** I'm an adventure motorcyclist, who loves fast travel on twisty roads.



**Jessica Pride**  
**Firm:** The Pride Law Firm  
**Website:** www.pridelawfirm.com; www.victimlawyer.com

**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury, Sexual Assault Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Little Known Fact:** I am a spin class enthusiast and I speak Spanish.



**Grant Puleo**  
**Firm:** Duane Morris LLP  
**Website:** www.duanemorris.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Real Estate, Finance

**Best Phrase:** "Excellence is not a gift, but a skill that takes Practice. We do not act rightly because we are excellent, in fact we achieve excellence by acting rightly," Plato.

**Little Known Fact:** I enjoy scuba diving shipwrecks.



**Michael Quade**  
**Firm:** Quade & Associates, a PLC  
**Website:** www.quadelaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** General Business Litigation

**Best Phrase:** Family first.

**Little Known Fact:** I am a vegan.



**Jamie Quient**  
**Firm:** Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP  
**Website:** www.procopio.com

**Areas of Practice:** Insurance Coverage, Intellectual Property, Licensed Child Care

**Best Phrase:** Imagine the world you want to live in and then work to make it happen.

**Little Known Fact:** I went to undergraduate school in Canada.

*My downtime is spent with a guitar or piano.*



**John Reynard III**  
**Firm:** Anderson Reynard LLP  
**Website:** www.arlawplanners.com

**Areas of Practice:** Business, Estates

**Little Known Fact:** My downtime is spent with a guitar or piano.



**Stephanie Reynolds**  
**Firm:** Pope, Berger, Williams & Reynolds, LLP  
**Website:** www.popeberger.com

**Areas of Practice:** Employment Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going," Jim Ryun.

**Little Known Fact:** I received a full-athletic scholarship to play soccer at a top 10 Division I program.



**Jane Rheinheimer**  
**Firm:** Rheinheimer, Smigliani + Drake, APC  
**Website:** www.rsdapc.com

**Areas of Practice:** Professional Liability, Defense, Employment Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "You miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take," Wayne Gretsky.





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from page A40

## Best of the Bar 2016

**Little Known Fact:** It's a little-known fact for a reason.



**Brian Robbins**  
**Firm:** Robbins Arroyo LLP  
**Website:** www.robbinsarroyo.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Securities, Consumer, Antitrust, Employment/ERISA Litigation  
**Best Phrase:** How can I help you?  
**Little Known Fact:** I'm also your guy if you're looking for tips on local BBQ restaurants.



**Kia Roberts**  
**Firm:** Gresham Savage Nolan & Tilden  
**Website:** www.greshamsavage.com

**Areas of Practice:** Real Estate  
**Best Phrase:** Attract what you expect, reflect what you desire, become what you respect, mirror what you admire.  
**Little Known Fact:** I'm currently training to run my fifth half marathon.

*I can sing classical arias in French, German, and Italian.*



**Kristen Roberts**  
**Firm:** Trestle Law, APC  
**Website:** www.trestlelaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Intellectual Property  
**Best Phrase:** A woman's place is in the House and the Senate.  
**Little Known Fact:** I can sing classical arias in French, German, and Italian.



**Malcolm Roberts**  
**Firm:** Landay Roberts LLP  
**Website:** www.landayroberts.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Civil

Litigation  
**Best Phrase:** Always work hard.  
**Little Known Fact:** I have a love/hate relationship with running marathons.



**Robert Robinson**  
**Firm:** Hickman & Robinson LLP  
**Website:** www.HickmanRobinsonLaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Real Estate, Business/Corporate  
**Best Phrase:** Never give up....don't ever give up.  
**Little Known Fact:** I am an avid Aztec Basketball supporter.



**Anna Romanskaya**  
**Firm:** Stark & D'Ambrosio, LLP  
**Website:** www.starkdambrosio.com

**Areas of Practice:** Family Law  
**Best Phrase:** Run like a girl.  
**Little Known Fact:** I was born in the former Soviet Union and immigrated to the U.S. as a refugee in 1989.



**Parisima Roshanzamir**  
**Firm:** The Roshanzamir Law Firm  
**Website:** www.roshanzamirlaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury  
**Best Phrase:** Get up and try again.  
**Little Known Fact:** I love to dance.



**Heather Rosing**  
**Firm:** Klinedinst PC  
**Website:** www.klinedinstlaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Legal Malpractice, Ethics, Attorney Conduct  
**Best Phrase:** "Life is either a great adventure or nothing," Helen Keller.  
**Little Known Fact:** I have beautiful twin two-year-old daughters.

*I worked for FOX Sports at the Sydney Olympic Games.*



**Andrea Russell**  
**Firm:** Kirby Noonan Lance & Hoge, LLP  
**Website:** www.knlh.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

General Civil, Business & Commercial Litigation  
**Best Phrase:** "In summing up, it's the constitution, it's Mabo, it's justice, it's law, it's the vibe, and...no that's it...it's the vibe. I rest my case," Dennis Denuto, "The Castle."  
**Little Known Fact:** I worked for FOX Sports at the Sydney Olympic Games.

*In college, I was a contestant on "The Price is Right."*



**Puja Sachdev**  
**Firm:** Sachdev Legal Group, APC  
**Website:** SachdevFamilyLaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Family Law Litigation, Mediation  
**Best Phrase:** When nothing goes right...go left.  
**Little Known Fact:** In college, I was a contestant on "The Price is Right."



**Dean Sage**  
**Firm:** Sage Law Firm  
**Website:** www.deansage.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Tax Law, Business Consulting  
**Little Known Fact:** I earned a Master of Entrepreneurship degree from the University of Otago, New Zealand.



**Scott Salmu**  
**Firm:** Salmu Law Firm, APLC  
**Website:** www.Salmulaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury, Criminal Defense  
**Little Known Fact:** My parents emigrated from Iraq to raise children in the U.S. for a better life. I am fluent in Arabic and Aramaic languages.



**Ryan Sargent**  
**Firm:** The Sargent Firm Injury Lawyers  
**Website:** www.sgtfirm.com

**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury, Auto, Motorcycle, Bicycle Accidents  
**Best Phrase:** "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," Philippians 4:13.  
**Little Known Fact:** I love surfing. If I'm not in the office, check the lineup at the Oceanside Pier.

*I was in Moscow for work in August 1991 during the Soviet coup d'état attempt.*



**Matthew Schenck**  
**Firm:** Paul, Plevin, Sullivan & Connaughton LLP  
**Website:** www.paulplevin.com

**Areas of Practice:** Employment Law, Health Care Litigation  
**Best Phrase:** Persevere.  
**Little Known Fact:** I was in Moscow for work in August 1991 during the Soviet coup d'état attempt.



**Johanna Schiavoni**  
**Firm:** Law Office of Johanna S. Schiavoni  
**Website:** www.schiavoni-law.com

**Areas of Practice:** Appellate Litigation, Strategic Counseling  
**Best Phrase:** "It's the little details that are vital. Little things make big things happen," UCLA Basketball Coach John Wooden.  
**Little Known Fact:** I love to travel and thrive on new adventures and experiences.



**Renee Schor**  
**Firm:** Schor & Freeland, LLP  
**Website:** www.schorfreeland.com

**Areas of Practice:** Employment  
**Best Phrase:** "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel," Maya Angelou.  
**Little Known Fact:** I once was invited to train as a "wicken" or white witch, but I decided that it might not be something my then law firm would smile upon if discovered, so I declined the invite.



**Ian Schuler**  
**Firm:** Bowman and Brooke LLP  
**Website:** bowmanandbrooke.com

**Areas of Practice:** Civil Litigation, Product Liability, General Liability Defense  
**Best Phrase:** Nothing ventured, nothing gained.  
**Little Known Fact:** I've played guitar for 20 years.



**Peter Schulz**  
**Firm:** Greco Traficante Schulz & Brick  
**Website:** www.gtlaw.cc  
**Areas of Practice:**

Insurance Law, Litigation  
**Little Known Fact:** I am a season ticket holder and shareholder in the Green Bay Packers.



**Angelica Sciencio**  
**Firm:** Law Office of Angelica Sciencio  
**Website:** www.scienciolaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Immigration, Family  
**Best Phrase:** "Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there," Will Rogers.  
**Little Known Fact:** Before law school, I had a very short career as a flight attendant. On my first day on the job, I spilled orange juice on a first class passenger.

*I was born on July 4th, 1976, which is the 200 year anniversary of our country.*



**Ronson Shamoun**  
**Firm:** RJS LAW  
**Website:** www.rjslawfirm.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Tax

Law, Criminal Defense  
**Best Phrase:** Being on time is being late.  
**Little Known Fact:** I was born on July 4th, 1976, which is the 200 year anniversary of our country.



**David Shapiro**  
**Firm:** The Law Office of David P. Shapiro, APLC  
**Website:** davidpshapirolaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Criminal Defense  
**Best Phrase:** "Tell it like it is," Aaron Neville.  
**Little Known Fact:** I sleep well at night in spite of being a criminal defense attorney.



**Philip Shapiro**  
**Firm:** Law Office of Philip A. Shapiro  
**Website:** www.pshaplalaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Criminal Defense, Personal Injury  
**Best Phrase:** We are in this together.  
**Little Known Fact:** I have an identical twin brother.



➔ from page A42

## Best of the Bar 2016



**Jason Sheinberg**  
**Firm:** Sheinberg Law Group  
**Website:** sheinberglawgroup.com

**Areas of Practice:** Trust/Estates, Estate Planning  
**Best Phrase:** "You should always go to other people's funerals, otherwise, they won't come to yours," Yogi Berra.  
**Little Known Fact:** I love to cook.



**Sam Sherman**  
**Firm:** TencerSherman, LLP  
**Website:** www.tencersherman.com

**Areas of Practice:** Employment Advice, Defense  
**Best Phrase:** If you want something done, ask the busy person to do it. The more you do the more you can do.  
**Little Known Fact:** I'm obsessed with Ramen.



**Christopher R. Sillari**  
**Firm:** Finch, Thornton & Baird, LLP  
**Website:** www.ftblaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Construction Law, Business/Commercial Litigation, Federal Procurement /Claims, Business/Commercial Transaction  
**Best Phrase:** Go Pats.  
**Little Known Fact:** I co-founded a high school Lacrosse program in Arizona after moving there from Connecticut.



**Jaclyn Simi**  
**Firm:** Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.  
**Website:** www.ogletreedeaikins.com

**Areas of Practice:** Employment Litigation  
**Best Phrase:** Be fearless when it comes to life and careless when it comes to what others say and think about you.  
**Little Known Fact:** I was named after one of the original Charlie's Angels.

*I was a Junior Pillsbury Bake-Off finalist.*



**Sara Simmons**  
**Firm:** Lepine Law Group  
**Website:** www.lepinelaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Civil Rights, Financial Elder Abuse, Oral Contracts, Family  
**Best Phrase:** "As long as the world shall last there will be wrongs, and if no man objected and if no man rebelled, those wrongs would last forever," Clarence Darrow.  
**Little Known Fact:** I was a Junior Pillsbury Bake-Off finalist.



**Jayme Simpson**  
**Firm:** Simpson Law Group  
**Website:** SimpsonLawGroup.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Personal Injury  
**Best Phrase:** If you want something done, ask a busy person.  
**Little Known Fact:** I love to play soccer.

*My ancestors had a castle which still stands in Aberdeen, Scotland.*



**Spencer Skeen**  
**Firm:** Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.  
**Website:** www.ogletreedeaikins.com

**Areas of Practice:** Employment Litigation, Class Action Defense  
**Best Phrase:** Don't be in a hurry to make a mistake, because you will.  
**Little Known Fact:** My ancestors had a castle which still stands in Aberdeen, Scotland.



**David Skilling**  
**Firm:** Skilling O'Leary, PC  
**Website:** www.skolegal.com

**Areas of Practice:** Employment, Insurance Bad Faith Litigation  
**Best Phrase:** Anything in Latin.  
**Little Known Fact:** I also practice in Colorado and have an office in Denver.



**John Smaha**  
**Firm:** Smaha Law Group  
**Website:** www.smaha.com

**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation, Trust Litigation, Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Practice  
**Best Phrase:** Live each day for what it is and don't look back. Enjoy your friendships, family and even your times alone. Be true to yourself and those that care about you. And foremost never stop praying and believing.  
**Little Known Fact:** I've been a koi keeper for almost 20 years.

*Prior to going to law school, I worked as a reporter for a newspaper.*



**Will Small**  
**Firm:** Small & Schena LLP  
**Website:** www.smallschena.com

**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation  
**Best Phrase:** "You should never be proud of doing what's right. You should just do what's right," Dean Smith.

**Little Known Fact:** Prior to going to law school, I worked as a reporter for a newspaper.



**Allison Soares**  
**Firm:** RJS LAW  
**Website:** www.rjlawfirm.com

**Areas of Practice:** Tax, Business  
**Best Phrase:** It is nice to be important but it is more important to be nice.  
**Little Known Fact:** I graduated from high school in the Virgin Islands.

*I joined the Navy with the aim of becoming a blimp pilot.*



**Sean Southard**  
**Firm:** CGS3 (Crosbie Gliner Schiffman Southard & Swanson LLP)  
**Website:** www.cgs3.com

**Areas of Practice:** Commercial Real Estate  
**Best Phrase:** It's not our experiences that make our life - it's what we do with them.  
**Little Known Fact:** I joined the Navy with the aim of becoming a blimp pilot.



**Arie Spangler**  
**Firm:** Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz  
**Website:** www.pettitkohn.com

**Areas of Practice:** Professional Liability, Civil Litigation  
**Best Phrase:** "Believe you can and you're halfway there," Theodore Roosevelt.  
**Little Known Fact:** In college, I was the editor of the student newspaper.



**Matthew Sperdelozzi**  
**Firm:** The Law Office of Matthew J. Sperdelozzi  
**Website:** www.lawofficemjs.com

**Areas of Practice:** Criminal Defense  
**Best Phrase:** Injustice is a force that is both infuriating and motivating.  
**Little Known Fact:** I am also licensed in Massachusetts.



**Victoria Stairs**  
**Firm:** Dummit Buchholz & Trapp  
**Website:** www.dummitlaw.net

**Areas of Practice:** Professional Liability, Health Care, Employment  
**Best Phrase:** "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved," Helen Keller.  
**Little Known Fact:** I was the youngest and first racially diverse president of the San Diego Defense Lawyers.

*I wrote a children's book, "The Original Poi Cats on O'ahu," which was a bestseller in Hawaii for a year.*



**Genevieve Suzuki**  
**Firm:** Law Office of Genevieve A. Suzuki  
**Website:** www.sdlawyersuzuki.com

**Areas of Practice:** Family Law, Civil, General  
**Best Phrase:** Family court is just a temporary phase on the way to a permanent resolution.  
**Little Known Fact:** I wrote a children's book, "The Original Poi Cats on O'ahu," which was a bestseller in Hawaii for a year.



**Susan Swan**  
**Firm:** Swan Employment Law  
**Website:** swanemploymentlaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Employee Rights, Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, Wrongful Termination, Whistleblowers, Retaliation, Wage Theft  
**Best Phrase:** "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life," Poet Mary Oliver.  
**Little Known Fact:** I am a sixth generation California native.



**Ashley Teague**  
**Firm:** Teague Law  
**Website:** sandiegowilltrust.com

**Areas of Practice:** Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Probate  
**Best Phrase:** Plan. Dig the well before you are thirsty.  
**Little Known Fact:** I play the piano to relax.



**Grachielle Tenorio**  
**Firm:** Law Office of Grachielle Tenorio  
**Website:** www.tenoriolaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Immigration  
**Best Phrase:** Be kinder than necessary because every person you meet is fighting some kind of battle.



**Anthony Thompson**  
**Firm:** Thompson | Wedeking  
**Website:** ThompsonWedeking.com

**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury, Environmental Litigation  
**Best Phrase:** "Once you have started seeing the beauty of life, ugliness starts disappearing. If you start looking at life with joy, sadness starts disappearing. You cannot have heaven and hell together, you can have only one. It is your choice," Osho.  
**Little Known Fact:** I played Division I golf at Vanderbilt University and thought about turning professional until my putter left me.

➔ from page A44



from page A43

## Best of the Bar 2016

**James Thompson****Firm:** Law Office of James R. Thompson**Website:** www.jrthompsonlaw.com**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation; Real Estate**Best Phrase:** "Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans," John Lennon.**Little Known Fact:** Before law school, I played bass in a punk rock band that toured the West Coast and played with some of the bands that defined the hardcore sound in the 90's, including the Deftones, Korn and 311.*Upon returning to the United States, I worked in a group home for severely abused and neglected children.***Elizabeth Tresp****Firm:** Elizabeth A. Tresp, Attorney at Law**Website:** www.trespplaw.com**Areas of Practice:** Estate Planning, Probate, Trust Litigation, Trust Administration, Tax Controversy**Best Phrase:** "Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out," Robert Collier.**Little Known Fact:** Upon returning to the United States, I worked in a group home for severely abused and neglected children.**John Tishler****Firm:** Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP**Website:** www.sheppardmullin.com**Areas of Practice:** Corporate Transactional**Little Known Fact:** I earned a black belt in Tae Kwon Do in 2014.*My middle name is America. That's an even more fun conversation starter than my first name.***Jonah A. Toleno****Firm:** Shustak Reynolds & Partners, P.C.**Website:** www.shufirm.com**Areas of Practice:** Securities Litigation/Arbitration; Financial Services Law; Corporate Law; Civil Litigation**Best Phrase:** You never know.**Little Known Fact:** My middle name is America. That's an even more fun conversation starter than my first name.**David Vogel****Firm:** Hecht Solberg Robinson Goldberg & Bagley LLP**Website:** www.hechtsolberg.com**Areas of Practice:** Real Estate, Common Interest Developments**Best Phrase:** "Now you must cast aside your laziness . . . for he who rests on down or under covers cannot come to fame . . . Therefore, get up; defeat your breathlessness with spirit that can win all battles if the body's heaviness does not deter it. . . if you have understood, now profit from it. Then I arose and showed myself far better equipped with breath than I had been before; Go on, for I am strong and confident," Dante, "Inferno Canto XXIV."*I play bass clarinet and tenor sax.***Alex Tomasevic****Firm:** Nicholas & Tomasevic**Website:** www.nicholaslaw.org**Areas of Practice:** Complex Civil Litigation**Best Phrase:** Never let 'em see you sweat.**Little Known Fact:** I love hot sauce.**Sandra Wagner****Firm:** Law Offices of Sandra M Wagner**Website:** wagnerimmigrationlaw.com**Area of Practice:** Immigration**Best Phrase:** There is heart in what I do and the results are life-changing for my clients.**Little Known Fact:** I play bass clarinet and tenor sax.**Eric Townsend****Firm:** D'Egidio Licari & Townsend APC**Website:** www.deltlaw.com**Areas of Practice:** Real Property Law**Best Phrase:** Get the job done!**Little Known Fact:** I am a Marine.**Daniel Towson****Firm:** Simpson Delmore Greene LLP**Website:** www.sdglp.com**Areas of Practice:** Civil Litigation**Best Phrase:** "Life is 10 percent what happens to you and ninety percent how you respond to it," Lou Holtz.**Little Known Fact:** I replace my own car brakes and rotors.**Colin Walshok****Firm:** Wingert Grebing Brubaker & Juskie LLP**Website:** www.wingertlaw.com**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury, Business Litigation, Legal Malpractice Defense**Best Phrase:** "It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see," Henry David Thoreau.**Little Known Fact:** I try to make as much time as possible for my two kids, Marco and Ara.**Janice Walshok****Firm:** Tyson & Mendes**Website:** www.tysonmendes.com**Areas of Practice:**

Personal Injury, Insurance Bad Faith

**Best Phrase:** "It's not the will to win that matters — everyone has that. It's the will to prepare to win that matters," Paul "Bear" Bryant.**Little Known Fact:** I don't know why, but people always seem surprised to learn I was born in Oklahoma.**Christopher Walton****Firm:** Walton Law, APC**Website:** www.waltonlawapc.com**Areas of Practice:**

Personal Injury, Nursing Home Neglect

**Best Phrase:** The details matter.**Little Known Fact:** I really enjoy cooking.**Bethany Ward****Firm:** Law Office of Bethany M. Ward**Website:** familylawsandiego.com**Areas of Practice:** Family, Guardianships, Adoption**Best Phrase:** Always consider cost versus benefit.**Little Known Fact:** I have the pleasure of working with a group of wonderful, smart and dedicated family law attorneys.*I have ridden a bull.***Steve Wedeking****Firm:** Thompson | Wedeking**Website:** bestsandiegoeviction.com**Areas of Practice:** Landlord Tenant -

Landlord Representation in Evictions

**Best Phrase:** "Discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishment," Jim Rohn.**Little Known Fact:** I have ridden a bull.*I am a huge Kansas basketball fan. Rock Chalk!***Parisa Weiss****Firm:** Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek**Website:** www.scmv.com**Areas of Practice:** Estate Planning, Trust Administration, Probate**Best Phrase:** "If you can dream it, you can do it," Walt Disney.**Little Known Fact:** I am a huge Kansas basketball fan. Rock Chalk!**Tamera Weisser****Firm:** Jones Day**Website:** www.jonesday.com**Areas of Practice:**

Intellectual Property, Patent Law, Life Sciences

**Best Phrase:** "We don't accomplish anything in this world alone," Hon. Sandra Day O'Connor.**Little Known Fact:** My first concert was Elvis Presley on April 27, 1977. I was age five.**Christina White****Firm:** Law Office of Christina Krywucki White**Website:** www.ckwhitelaw.com**Areas of Practice:** Estate Planning, Trust/Probate Administration**Best Phrase:** Everything happens for a reason. Only time will tell the reason.**Little Known Fact:** I have my private pilot's license.**Justin White****Firm:** The Opus Law Firm**Website:** www.opus.attorney**Areas of Practice:** Real Estate Transactions**Best Phrase:** Apparently there is nothing that cannot happen today.**Little Known Fact:** I can't turn left.**Jason Williams****Firm:** Williams | Palecek Law Group**Website:** www.wplgattorneys.com**Areas of Practice:** Civil/Business Litigation, Personal Injury, Subrogation, Insurance Defense, Construction Defect, Employment, Contracts, Business/Corporate Transactional**Best Phrase:** "If there were no bad people, there would be no good lawyers," Charles Dickens.*I'm also admitted to practice in Arizona but have never actually practiced law there.***Joseph Willmore****Firm:** Willmore Law Firm**Website:** www.willmorelawfirm.com**Areas of Practice:**

Divorce/Family Law

**Best Phrase:** Don't be afraid to start over. It's a chance to rebuild what you want.**Little Known Fact:** I'm also admitted to practice in Arizona but have never actually practiced law there.



→ from page A44

## Best of the Bar 2016

**Derek Wilson**

**Firm:** Pettit Kohn  
Ingrassia & Lutz PC  
**Website:**  
[www.pettitkohn.com](http://www.pettitkohn.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury, Trials

**Best Phrase:** "It ain't over till it's over," Yogi Berra.

**Little Known Fact:** I was twelve when I had my first job, and it involved a shovel and horse stables.

*While in college,  
I provided private tours  
of the U.S. Capitol  
Building in  
Washington D.C.*

**Charles Witham**

**Firm:** Witham Mahoney  
& Abbott, LLP  
**Website:**  
[www.wmalawfirm.com](http://www.wmalawfirm.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Business, Corporate Law

**Best Phrase:** Always strive to be fair, firm and consistent.

**Little Known Fact:** While in college, I provided private tours of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington D.C.

**Christine Wu**

**Firm:** The Wu Firm  
**Website:**  
[www.wufirm.com](http://www.wufirm.com)  
**Areas of Practice:**

Business Transactions/Formation, Business Immigration, Global Migration

**Best Phrase:** "All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them," Walt Disney.

**Little Known Fact:** I once stood in line for five hours, starting at 4 a.m. and outside in the dead of winter, to eat sushi for breakfast at Tsukiji Fish Market in Tokyo and it was one of the best things I have ever done.

**Arlene Yang**

**Firm:** Brown Law Group  
**Website:**  
[www.brownlawgroup.com](http://www.brownlawgroup.com)  
**Areas of Practice:**

Employment, Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "Surely, in the light of history, it is more intelligent to hope rather than to fear, to try rather than not to try. For one thing we know beyond all doubt: Nothing has ever been achieved by the person who says, 'It can't be done,'" Eleanor Roosevelt.

**Little Known Fact:** I love the performing arts and spent many years as a board member and development professional.

**Anna Yum**

**Firm:** Law Offices of  
Anna R. Yum  
**Website:**  
[www.annayumlaw.com](http://www.annayumlaw.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Criminal Defense, Personal Injury

**Best Phrase:** Let your faith be bigger than your fears.

**Little Known Fact:** I am a runner and Pilates enthusiast.

*I take  
foosball  
very seriously.*

**Lisa Yun**

**Firm:** Sheppard, Mullin,  
Richter & Hampton LLP  
**Website:**  
[www.sheppardmullin.com](http://www.sheppardmullin.com)

**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation, Bankruptcy

**Best Phrase:** Let's eat!

**Little Known Fact:** I take foosball very seriously.

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