

# BEST of the BAR

**“The clearest way to show what the rule of law means to us in everyday life is to recall what has happened when there is no rule of law.”**

— Dwight D. Eisenhower (34th President of the United States)

**D**wight Eisenhower’s insightful view of the law is as relevant now as it was more than two generations ago and San Diego’s extensive legal community is committed to its stewardship. Whether representing global corporations or struggling families, our region’s legal advocates bring a wealth of knowledge gleaned not just from their legal training, but tangible, real-world experience that makes them uniquely qualified to stand as champions for their clients.

In our fourth annual Best of the Bar issue, we honor 100 of these local attorneys who were chosen by their peers as

the most outstanding in their field. This final list represents an extensive range of specialties that include class-action consumer rights, estate planning, high-tech intellectual property, malpractice, immigration, and criminal defense.

A record 2,535 votes were cast for a field of 1,133 attorneys affiliated with 795 firms and solo practices in the region.

Legal professionals throughout the 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.



**OLGA ALVAREZ**  
**Firm:** Heisner Alvarez  
**Website:** heisneralvarez.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law  
**Best Phrase:** To whom much is given, much is expected  
**Little-Known Fact:** I’ve been chased by a bull

services to my clients, the life education I received working in family businesses throughout my childhood and adolescence helps me every day



**JUDY BAE**  
**Firm:** Miller Monson Peshel Polacek & Hoshaw  
**Website:** mmpph.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Probate Litigation

**Best Phrase:** If opportunity does not knock, build a door!  
**Little-Known Fact:** I attended medical school prior to pursuing my legal career



**SOTERA ANDERSON**  
**Firm:** Law Offices of Sotera L. Anderson  
**Website:** calemonlawattorney.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Breach of Warranty, Products Liability  
**Best Phrase:** It’s all about attitude and perspective  
**Little-Known Fact:** I was a National Championship ROTC Drill Team Commander in high school that led me to my current 24 years of service in the military (California Air National Guard)



**DANIEL ANDRIST**  
**Firm:** Daniel Andrist, Attorney at Law  
**Website:** andrist-law.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Insurance



**EDWARD BARBAT**  
**Firm:** Law Offices of Edward F. Barbat  
**Website:** barbatlaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Hospitality, Alcohol Licensing, Business and Corporate Transactions, Real Estate

**Best Phrase:** Try to surround yourself with smart people; then pay careful attention  
**Little-Known Fact:** I am filling out this form while hiding out in Barcelona for the weekend



**ALFRED ATALLAH**  
**Firm:** Atallah Law Group  
**Areas of Practice:** Business and Corporate Law, Real Estate, Contracts, Transactions, Estate Planning  
**Best Phrase:** People don’t buy what you do; they buy WHY you do it  
**Little-Known Fact:** Although my formal education enables me to provide legal

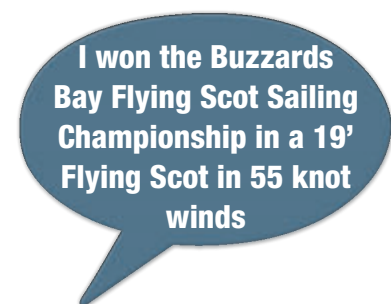


**MICHAEL BERG**  
**Firm:** Law Offices of Michael S. Berg  
**Website:** sandiego.criminallaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Criminal Defense, Federal Crimes, White-Collar Crime  
**Little-Known Fact:** I was born and raised in South Dakota

Litigation, Intellectual Property Counseling  
**Best Phrase:** “Mental toughness is doing the right thing for the team when it’s not the best thing for you.” Bill Belichick  
**Little-Known Fact:** My mom owns a candy store in New Hampshire that has been in the family since the 1950s



**NADIA BERMUDEZ**  
**Firm:** Klinedinst PC  
**Website:** klinedinstlaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Employment, Civil Litigation  
**Best Phrase:** “Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do.” Steve Jobs  
**Little-Known Fact:** As an employment litigator, I love the human interest aspect of my practice, particularly in understanding how personalities impact workplace dynamics



**WANA BERNALES**  
**Firm:** Bernales Law Firm  
**Website:** bernaleslaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Business and Real Estate Law

**Best Phrase:** It’s going to happen because I’m going to make it happen  
**Little-Known Fact:** I’m relentless



**CHARLES BLEILER**  
**Firm:** The Bleiler Law Firm, APC  
**Website:** bleilerlaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Employment, Personal Injury Litigation

**Best Phrase:** “Comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.” Finley Peter Dunne  
**Little-Known Fact:** I won the Buzzards Bay Flying Scot Sailing Championship in a 19’ Flying Scot in 55 knot winds



**MATTHEW BERNSTEIN**  
**Firm:** Perkins Coie  
**Website:** perkinscoie.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Patent Litigation, Intellectual Property



**ISAAC BLUMBERG**  
**Firm:** The Law Office of Isaac Blumberg  
**Website:** isaacblumberg.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Criminal Defense

**Best Phrase:** I’m the lawyer you’ll swear by, not at  
**Little-Known Fact:** I have driven across the United States more than 10 times



## BEST OF THE BAR

**RAFAEL BONILLA****Firm:** Heisner Alvarez, APC**Website:** heisneralvarez.com**Areas of Practice:** Trust Litigation, Estate Planning, Business Litigation  
**Best Phrase:** "The secret of getting ahead is getting started." Mark Twain  
**Little-Known Fact:** My favorite city to be in is Paris. My favorite to eat in is Florence. My favorite to relax in is Granada**JOSHUA BONNICI****Firm:** Bonnici Law Group, APC**Website:** bonnicilawgroup.com**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury, Disability Appeals  
**Best Phrase:** My socks are usually cooler than me.  
**Little-Known Fact:** I have a personal goal to ride my bicycle 2,500 miles this year**DAVID BRANFMAN****Firm:** Branfman Law Group, P.C.**Website:** branfman.com**Areas of Practice:**Intellectual Property, Entertainment  
**Little-Known Fact:** I still own my 1966 Ludwig black oyster pearl Ringo-look-alike drum set**TARA BURD****Firm:** T. Burd Law Group, APC**Website:** tburdlawgroup.com**Areas of Practice:** Civil Litigation, Probate Litigation  
**Best Phrase:** It's never too early  
**Little-Known Fact:** I played the clarinet in marching band in high school**JENNIFER CHANG****Firm:** Gresham Savage**Website:** greshamsavage.com**Areas of Practice:** Real Estate Transactions, Corporate  
**Best Phrase:** Be somebody who makes everybody feel like a somebody  
**Little-Known Fact:** I was born in Canada

I ran the Boston Marathon and loved it

**ALARA CHILTON****Firm:** Law Office of Alara T. Chilton**Website:** lawofficeofalarachilton.com**Areas of Practice:** Criminal Defense, Consumer Rights Litigation  
**Best Phrase:** Be the change you want to see in the world  
**Little-Known Fact:** I ran the Boston Marathon and loved it**KEITH COCHRAN****Firm:** Fitzgerald Knaier LLP**Website:** fitzgeraldknaier.com**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation  
**Best Phrase:** If nothing is going right,

then go left

**Little-Known Fact:** After years of yoga, I can now touch my toes**ANDY COOK****Firm:** Law Offices of Andy Cook**Website:** divorcesd.com**Areas of Practice:**Family Law  
**Best Phrase:** I break up marriages  
**Little-Known Fact:** I am a former professional radio announcer**JULIE CORBO RIDLEY****Firm:** Hurst & Hurst**Website:** juliecorboridley.com**Areas of Practice:** Litigation  
**Best Phrase:** The only difference between you and someone you envy is that you settled for less  
**Little-Known Fact:** I'm a weekend baker and candy-maker**ELVIRA CORTEZ****Firm:** Sullivan Hill Lewin Rez & Engel**Website:** sullivanhill.com**Areas of Practice:**Construction Law, Insurance Law, Commercial and Business Litigation  
**Best Phrase:** We will be known forever by the tracks we leave  
**Little-Known Fact:** I participated in the Junior Olympics for Tae Kwon Do**JAMES CROSBY****Firm:** James D. Crosby, Attorney at Law**Website:** crosbyattorney.com; trialcall.net**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation, Trial Representation  
**Best Phrase:** No matter where you go, there you are  
**Little-Known Fact:** I was a marine biologist before becoming a lawyer**MATT DEEN****Firm:** Black and Deen, LLP**Website:** 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:** If I wasn't an attorney, I would be a professional mountain guide**CHANDARA DIEP****Firm:** RJS Law**Website:** rjlawfirm.com**Areas of Practice:** Tax**Best Phrase:** If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you  
**Little-Known Fact:** I am a spelling bee champ**AMBER ECK****Firm:** Zeldes Haeggquist & Eck, LLP**Website:** zhlaw.com**Areas of Practice:**Employment, Class Actions, Securities  
**Best Phrase:** "The probability that we may fail in the struggle ought not to deter us from the support of a cause we believe to be just." Abraham Lincoln  
**Little-Known Fact:** Shortly after Rollerblades first came out, I traveled to San Francisco and entered a Rollerblade race in hilly Golden Gate Park — and I didn't even know how to brake yet**WILLIAM EIGNER****Firm:** Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP**Website:** procopio.com**Areas of Practice:**Corporate, Mergers and Acquisitions  
**Best Phrase:** Companies buy companies that look like them. Try to look like them  
**Little-Known Fact:** I was a U.S. Supreme Court judicial intern, helping to write speeches and reports for Chief Justice Warren Burger**JEREMY EVANS****Firm:** California Sports Lawyer®**Website:** cslllegal.com**Areas of Practice:** Sports,Entertainment, Business  
**Best Phrase:** Embrace the struggle; change in character comes with challenges  
**Little-Known Fact:** I traveled the world in three months seeing 19 countries, 29 cities and 3 baseball games**SARAH EVANS****Firm:** Schwartz Semerdjian Cauley & Moot, LLP**Website:** sscmlegal.com**Areas of Practice:** Employment Law**Best Phrase:** There is no work-life balance — there is just a balanced life, and it is a wonderful thing  
**Little-Known Fact:** As a Kentucky native, my favorite food is country ham, which is hard to find in San Diego

I dunked a basketball on my 50th birthday and haven't come close to doing so since

**KENNETH FITZGERALD****Firm:** Fitzgerald Knaier LLP**Website:** fitzgeraldknaier.com**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation,Intellectual Property Litigation  
**Best Phrase:** "Without music, life would be an error." Friedrich Nietzsche  
**Little-Known Fact:** I dunked a basketball on my 50th birthday and haven't come close to doing so since**JOSHUA FRANKLIN****Firm:** Franklin Soto LLP**Website:** franklinsoto.law**Areas of Practice:**Insurance Bad Faith Litigation, Business Litigation  
**Best Phrase:** If you always tell the truth, you never have to remember what you said  
**Little-Known Fact:** For the past two years I have coached my son's tee ball and Little League teams**ERIC FREEBERG****Firm:** Eric O. Freeberg, APLC**Website:** freeberglaw.com**Areas of Practice:** RealEstate Transactions  
**Best Phrase:** Change is inevitable but growth is optional  
**Little-Known Fact:** I was the first child born in U.S. from parents who were Vikings**DAN GILLEON****Firm:** Gilleon Law Firm**Website:** gilleonlawfirm.com**Areas of Practice:**Civil Litigation, Injury, Employment, Civil Rights  
**Best Phrase:** "Courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyway." John Wayne  
**Little-Known Fact:** I like to hunt for sea glass at the beach (please don't tell anybody)**DANIEL GREENE****Firm:** The Law Offices of Kerry L. Armstrong, APLC**Website:** sandiegodefenselawfirm.com**Areas of Practice:** Criminal Defense**Best Phrase:** Iuventus stultorum magister  
**Little-Known Fact:** Despite the accent, I am not from the East Coast — #SanDiegoNative**JOHN HAMMERSTRAND****Firm:** Chihak & Martel**Website:** chihaklaw.com**Areas of Practice:**Personal Injury, Medical Malpractice/Aviation  
**Best Phrase:** Good enough rarely is  
**Little-Known Fact:** One of my best friends and guiding lights is a WWII veteran, long time fly-buddy, and all around great man, George Parker**RAMIN HARIRI****Firm:** Hariri Law Group**Website:** haririlaw.com**Areas of Practice:**Personal Injury  
**Best Phrase:** The world cares very little about what a man knows; it is what a man does that counts  
**Little-Known Fact:** I have visited 46 states and over 40 countries**WILLIAM HARTSOCK****Firm:** William D. Hartsock, Tax Attorney Inc.**Website:** thetaxlawyer.com**Areas of Practice:** Taxation-Audits,Appeals, Tax Litigation  
**Little-Known Fact:** I've raced Porsches on professional racetracks, and hunted grizzly bear with a bow and arrow**JERRY HEMME****Firm:** Goode, Hemme & Peterson, APC**Website:** sandiegoattorney.com**Areas of Practice:** Real Estate, BusinessLitigation  
**Best Phrase:** Doing the average keeps the average down  
**Little-Known Fact:** I worked as an usher in the 1972 Munich Olympics



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**ROBERT HILL**

**Firm:** Law Offices of Robert L. Hill, APC  
**Website:** rlhfirm.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Business Litigation, Personal Injury Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "Effort and courage are not enough without purpose and direction." John F. Kennedy

**Little-Known Fact:** My high school graduating class in North Dakota had 35 students (I was one of three valedictorians)

**AMY HSIAO**

**Firm:** Hsiao Law, PC  
**Website:** hsiaolaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Estate Planning

**Little-Known Fact:** I used to be a Taiwanese opera actress

**CONOR HULBURT**

**Firm:** The McClellan Law Firm  
**Website:** mclellanlaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury

**Best Phrase:** "Don't worry about a thing, 'cause every little thing gonna be alright." Bob Marley

**Little-Known Fact:** I married my study partner from law school and now we have two amazing boys together

**AREZOO JAMSHIDI**

**Firm:** Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP  
**Website:** lewisbrisbois.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Civil

Litigation, Appeals

**Best Phrase:** Always ask for what you want

**Little-Known Fact:** I secretly love math

**PAUL JONNA**

**Firm:** LiMandri & Jonna LLP  
**Website:** limandri.com  
**Areas of Practice:**

Business Litigation, Personal Injury, Wrongful Death

**Best Phrase:** What we think or what we know or what we believe is, in the end, of little consequence. The only thing of consequence is what we do

**Little-Known Fact:** My wife and I have four young children and a fifth on the way. They're a great blessing and fill our life with joy

**DEEPALE MILIE JOSHI**

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

Bankruptcy Law, Business Law

**Best Phrase:** "I love to see a young girl go out and grab the world by the lapels. Life's a bitch. You've got to go out and kick ass." Maya Angelou

**Little-Known Fact:** My hometown is the Mule Capital of the world

**ROSS JUREWITZ**

**Firm:** Jurewitz Law Group  
**Website:** jurewitz.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Plaintiff Personal Injury

**Best Phrase:** "If worms carried pistols, birds wouldn't eat them." Coach Darrell Royal

**Little-Known Fact:** I am a huge fan of the University of Texas Longhorns sports and have traveled to see numerous games across the country,

including the best football game ever played — the 2006 Rose Bowl

**ASHLEY KERINS**

**Firm:** Sullivan Hill Lewin Rez & Engel  
**Website:** sullivanhill.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Real

Estate, Corporate Transactions, Tax

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

**Little-Known Fact:** I won a state championship in basketball twice

**GARRISON "BUD" KLUECK**

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

**Areas of Practice:** Family Law, ADR (Mediation and Collaborative Law)

**Little-Known Fact:** I have read the Bible before congregations on three continents

**ERIN LEE**

**Firm:** Law Offices of Erin J. Lee  
**Website:** erinjee.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Immigration

**Best Phrase:** You can do it!

**Little-Known Fact:** I was in a Broadway musical

I have a really hard time coming up with little-known facts about myself

**JACK LEER**

**Firm:** Caldarelli Hejmanowski Page & Leer LLP  
**Website:** chpllaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "Things are going to start happening to me now." Navin R. Johnson (Steve Martin) in "The Jerk"

**Little-Known Fact:** I have a really hard time coming up with little-known facts about myself

**MICHAEL LEONARD**

**Firm:** San Diego Corporate Law  
**Website:** sdcorporatelaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Transactional Corporate

**Best Phrase:** Sign here; initial there

**Little-Known Fact:** I worked as a physicist for seven years before starting law school

**JOSEPH LEVENTHAL**

**Firm:** Dinsmore & Shohl LLP  
**Website:** dinsmore.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Commercial Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "Don't take anything personally. Nothing others do is because of you. What others say and do is a projection of their own reality." Don Miguel Ruiz

**Little-Known Fact:** My dream retirement is to own and work in a restaurant

**RAY LEWIS**

**Firm:** Law Offices of Ramon E. Lewis  
**Website:** raylewislaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Elder

Abuse, Medical Malpractice, Serious Personal Injury, Wrongful Death

**Best Phrase:** Elder abuse in any form should not be tolerated

**Little-Known Fact:** I moonlighted in the Navy as a limo driver while stationed in San Diego

**RICK LIU**

**Firm:** Perkins Coie LLP  
**Website:** perkinscoie.com  
**Areas of Practice:** White Collar and Investigations, Securities Litigation

**Best Phrase:** Good, better, best — never let it rest until your good is better and your better is best

**Little-Known Fact:** My dog is named after Arya Stark, not the hotel in Las Vegas

**MARTY LORENZO**

**Firm:** Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP  
**Website:** kilpatricktownsend.com

**Areas of Practice:** Corporate Mergers and Acquisitions, Finance

**Best Phrase:** "I don't like that man; I must get to know him better." Abraham Lincoln

**Little-Known Fact:** I day-hiked Mount Whitney, but will take my time next time

**JEFFREY MACH**

**Firm:** Mach Law  
**Website:** mach-law.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Family Law

**Best Phrase:** Serve and give to others

**Little-Known Fact:** Privacy is important to me

**LAWRENCE MAXHAM**

**Firm:** The Maxham Firm  
**Website:** maxhamfirm.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Patents, Trademarks, Copyrights, Trade Secrets

**Best Phrase:** It has to be done right, not just good enough

**Little-Known Fact:** My high school graduating class was one of the largest in several years — 16

**JOSH MAXWELL**

**Firm:** Hone Maxwell LLP  
**Website:** honemaxwell.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Tax

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

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

**GAYLE MAYFIELD-VENIERIS**

**Firm:** Mayfield Bustarde LLP  
**Website:** mayfieldbustarde.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Business, Employment, Real Estate

**Best Phrase:** A journey of 1,000 miles begins with the first step

**Little-Known Fact:** I attended junior high and high school in Houston, Texas

I am a former science educator and a California licensed general contractor since 1977

**DARAL MAZZARELLA**

**Firm:** Mazzarella & Mazzarella LLP  
**Website:** mazzarellalaw.com

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

**Best Phrase:** Dedication, focus and hard work assure success

**Little-Known Fact:** I am a former science educator and a California licensed general contractor since 1977

**JAMES MCFAUL**

**Firm:** Dunn DeSantis Walt & Kendrick, LLP  
**Website:** ddwklaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Professional Liability Defense, Employment Defense, Business/Commercial Litigation, Risk Management Counseling

**Best Phrase:** "Have fun storming the castle." Miracle Max (Billy Crystal) in "The Princess Bride"

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

**GEORGE MILLER**

**Firm:** Shustak Reynolds & Partners, P.C.  
**Website:** shufirm.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Securities and Business Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "You've got to think lucky. If you fall into a mud hole, check your back pocket — you might have caught a fish." Coach Darrell Royal

**Little-Known Fact:** I can recite the preamble to the Constitution in song form

**PATRICK MONROE**

**Firm:** Best Best & Krieger LLP  
**Website:** bbklaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Corporate & Securities, Mergers & Acquisitions, Business Transactions

**Best Phrase:** An ounce of prevention is worth much more than a pound of cure

**CYNTHIA MORGAN-REED**

**Firm:** Morgan Reed Law  
**Website:** morganreedlaw.com  
**Areas of Practice:** Land Use, Real Estate

**Best Phrase:** Do the right thing, even when no one is looking

**Little-Known Fact:** I grew up in a small town with one traffic light and no fast food restaurants



## BEST OF THE BAR

**KRIS MUKHERJI**

**Firm:** Law Office of Kris Mukherji  
**Website:** kmsdlawoffice.com

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

**Best Phrase:** "He who has health, has hope; and he who has hope, has everything." Thomas Carlyle

**Little-Known Fact:** I attended a boarding school from first through seventh grade

**DAVID MUNOZ**

**Firm:** Mission Legal Center  
**Website:** missionlegalcenter.com

**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury, Wrongful Death

**Best Phrase:** Perfect practice makes perfect games

**Little-Known Fact:** I'm the world's worst dancer

I was born in Afghanistan and immigrated to the U.S. as a refugee

**MACYH NAWAEY**

**Firm:** SD Lawyer  
**Website:** sdlawyer.com

**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury, Car Accidents

**Best Phrase:** May the dreams you dream today be the life you live tomorrow

**Little-Known Fact:** I was born in Afghanistan and immigrated to the U.S. as a refugee

**BETH OBRA-WHITE**

**Firm:** Dummit, Buchholz & Trapp  
**Website:** dbt.law

**Areas of Practice:** Medical Malpractice Defense, Insurance, Construction, Employment & Business Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "Be present in all things and thankful for all things." Maya Angelou

**Little-Known Fact:** I lived at Earl's Court in London, England for a spell

**SARA O'CONNELL**

**Firm:** McNamara Benjamin  
**Website:** mcnamarallp.com

**Areas of Practice:** Intellectual Property Litigation, White-Collar Criminal Defense

**Best Phrase:** It's not the tragedies that kill us; it's the messes." Dorothy Parker

**Little-Known Fact:** After we evacuated from our Capitol Hill office building on 9/11, the member of Congress for whom I worked moved our entire office to my home for the day

**MATTHEW ODGERS**

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

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

**Best Phrase:** Life is too short to be small

**Little-Known Fact:** I have still not decided what football team I will be

rooting for next year. The Chargers broke my heart

**JEFF PETERSEN**

**Firm:** Law Offices of Jeffrey T. Petersen, P.C.  
**Website:** lawofficesjtp.com

**Areas of Practice:** Corporate and Securities Law

**Best Phrase:** Practice like you want there to be a few less lawyer jokes

**Little-Known Fact:** I knew "Moonlight" had won the whole time

I am a fourth-generation California attorney and the first female attorney in my family

**ASHLEY PETERSON**

**Firm:** Law Office of Ashley M. Peterson  
**Website:** ashleypetersonlaw.com

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

**Best Phrase:** Do something today that you will be proud of tomorrow

**Little-Known Fact:** I am a fourth-generation California attorney and the first female attorney in my family

**JENNA RANGEL**

**Firm:** Zeldes Haeggquist & Eck, LLP  
**Website:** zhlaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Employment Law - Plaintiffs

**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'm a first-generation Italian, second-generation Portuguese, and all San Diego native

**MALCOLM ROBERTS**

**Firm:** Landay Roberts LLC  
**Website:** landayroberts.com

**Areas of Practice:** Civil Litigation

**Best Phrase:** "Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence." Calvin Coolidge

**Little-Known Fact:** I once hiked to the top of Mount Whitney

**KIMBERLEY ROBIDOUX**

**Firm:** Maggio Kattar Nahajzer + Alexander PC  
**Website:** maggio-kattar.com

**Areas of Practice:** Immigration

**Best Phrase:** What matters is that you always do your best and give 110 percent in work, in play and in relationships

**Little-Known Fact:** I grew up making all types of arts and crafts and sewing clothes with my grandmother.

**PARISIMA ROSHANZAMIR**

**Firm:** Roshanzamir Law  
**Website:** roshanzamirlaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury

**Best Phrase:** Never surrender

**Little-Known Fact:** Mint chocolate chip is the best flavor

**CHAD RUYLE**

**Firm:** Ruyle & Ruyle  
**Website:** ruyleandruyle.com

**Areas of Practice:** Estate Planning

**Best Phrase:** "Try not to become a man of success. Rather, become a man of value." Albert Einstein

**Little-Known Fact:** I am expecting my first child

**PUJA SACHDEV**

**Firm:** Sachdev Legal Group, APC  
**Website:** sachdevfamilylaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Family Law Litigation, Mediation

**Best Phrase:** "A woman is like a tea bag; you never know how strong it is until it's in hot water." Eleanor Roosevelt

**Little-Known Fact:** I don't like berries. I don't like cherries because it rhymes with berries

Despite the fact I live on a golf course, I have never played a round in my life

**JOHN SCHENA**

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

**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation

**Best Phrase:** All work and no play makes John a dull boy

**Little-Known Fact:** Despite the fact I live on a golf course, I have never played a round in my life

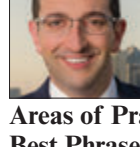
**RONSON SHAMOUN**

**Firm:** RJS Law  
**Website:** rjslawfirm.com

**Areas of Practice:** Tax Law, White-Collar Criminal Defense

**Best Phrase:** You have to believe in order to achieve

**Little-Known Fact:** I was born on July 4, 1976, the 200-year anniversary of our country

**DAVID SHAPIRO**

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

**Areas of Practice:** Criminal Defense

**Best Phrase:** A good name is better than good perfume

**Little-Known Fact:** I sometimes don't wear socks with shoes, unless I'm going to court

**JOY SIDHWA**

**Firm:** The Mogin Law Firm P.C.  
**Website:** moginlaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Antitrust, Consumer Protection, Unfair Competition, Class Actions

**Best Phrase:** "Be so good they can't ignore you." Steve Martin

**Little-Known Fact:** My middle name, Montha, used to be my first name. "Joy" was just a nickname. I had it legalized as my first name because no one called me Montha.

**MONICA SLEV**

**Firm:** Stryker Slev Law Group  
**Website:** strykerslev.com

**Areas of Practice:** Construction Law

**Best Phrase:** Always be the best you can possibly be

**Little-Known Fact:** I'm a huge movie fan

**ALLISON SOARES**

**Firm:** RJS Law  
**Website:** rjslawfirm.com

**Areas of Practice:** Tax

**Best Phrase:** It is nice to be important but it is more important to be nice

**Little-Known Fact:** I grew up on a farm in Wisconsin

**ARIE SPANGLER**

**Firm:** The Spangler Firm  
**Areas of Practice:** Business, Real Estate, Professional Liability

**Best Phrase:** "Civility is not a sign of weakness." John F. Kennedy

**Little-Known Fact:** I moonlight as a photographer

**JACK STEPHENS**

**Firm:** Stephens Law Group  
**Website:** jackstephens.com

**Areas of Practice:** Estate Planning, Elder Abuse

**Best Phrase:** Where there's a Will, there's a way. Where there's a Trust, there's a better way

**Little-Known Fact:** Due to a catastrophic accident, I lost my trial law practice in Houston. After moving to San Diego, I built an estate planning practice which I began at age 46

**DENNIS STRYKER**

**Firm:** Stryker Slev Law Group  
**Website:** strykerslev.com

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

**Best Phrase:** The deal's done

**Little-Known Fact:** I've been on stage with the Rolling Stones

**SUSAN SWAN**

**Firm:** Swan Employment Law  
**Website:** swanemploymentlaw.com

**Areas of Practice:** Employee Rights - Harassment, Discrimination, Retaliation

**Best Phrase:** Start preparing for trial from the day you take the case

**Little-Known Fact:** I spent a summer selling T-shirts at the Del Mar Fair

**PHILIP TENCER**

**Firm:** TencerSherman LLP  
**Website:** tencersherman.com

**Areas of Practice:** Complex Business Litigation

**Best Phrase:** The good of the people is the greatest law

**Little-Known Fact:** I grew up in Cardiff-by-the-Sea



## BEST OF THE BAR

**ANTHONY THOMPSON****Firm:** Thompson | Wedeking  
**Website:**

thompsonwedeking.com

**Areas of Practice:** Personal Injury, Environmental Litigation**Best Phrase:** "You have power over your mind — not outside events. Realize this, and you will find strength." Marcus Aurelius**Little-Known Fact:** Punk rock is my favorite music genre. It's all I listen to — much to the dismay of my wife**JONAH TOLENO****Firm:** Shustak Reynolds & Partners, P.C.  
**Website:** shufirm.com**Areas of Practice:**

Securities Law, Securities Litigation, Financial Services Law, Business Litigation

**Best Phrase:** You never know**Little-Known Fact:** I love gummy bears**CHRISTOPHER WALTERS****Firm:** Walters Law Group  
**Website:** walters-law-group.com**Areas of Practice:** Business Litigation**Best Phrase:** Make hay while the sun shines**Little-Known Fact:** I was an Eagle Scout

I was nicknamed the neighborhood lawyer at age 12

**CHRISTOPHER WALTON****Firm:** Walton Law, A.P.C.  
**Website:** waltonlawapc.com**Areas of Practice:** Plaintiffs Personal Injury, Nursing Home Neglect**Best Phrase:** Everything in life is about balance**Little-Known Fact:** I was nicknamed the neighborhood lawyer at age 12**STEVE WEDEKING****Firm:** Thompson | Wedeking  
**Website:** thompsonwedeking.com**Areas of Practice:** Landlord Tenant**Best Phrase:** "A clear vision, backed by definite plans, gives you a tremendous feeling of confidence and personal power." Brian Tracy**Little-Known Fact:** I have been bull riding — twice**BHASHINI WEERASINGHE****Firm:** Law Office of Bhashini Weerasinghe  
**Website:** bhashinilaw.com**Areas of Practice:** Estate Planning, Business Law**Best Phrase:** Success is never final, failure is never fatal; it's courage that counts**Little-Known Fact:** When I was in high school, I launched my own club called the International Communications Club with several of my friends as a place to share and celebrate diversity

by sharing music, food, and culture from different parts of the world

I spent six days rafting down the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon — twice

**CHRISTINA WHITE****Firm:** The Law Office of Christina Krywucki White  
**Website:** ckwhitelaw.com**Areas of Practice:**

Estate Planning, Probate, Trust Administration

**Best Phrase:** Be passionate about what you do**Little-Known Fact:** I spent six days rafting down the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon — twice**DEREK WILSON****Firm:** Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz  
**Website:** pettitkohn.com**Areas of Practice:**

Personal Injury, Trials

**Best Phrase:** Justice is taking care of those who aren't able to take care of themselves**Little-Known Fact:** I was a projectionist and movie theater manager for four years before starting a career in law**RUSSELL WINSLOW****Firm:** Pestotnik LLP  
**Website:** pestotnik.com**Areas of Practice:**

Business Disputes, Officer and Director Liability, Professional Liability, Real Estate Disputes, Trust Disputes

**Best Phrase:** Be prepared**Little-Known Fact:** I'm president of the board of directors of ElderHelp of San Diego**CHARLES WITHAM****Firm:** Witham Mahoney & Abbott, LLP  
**Website:** 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.**ARLENE YANG****Firm:** Brown Law Group  
**Website:** brownlawgroup.com**Areas of Practice:**

Employment, Litigation

**Best Phrase:** Do what you love and love what you do**Little-Known Fact:** I am passionate about supporting the arts and recently joined the board of transcENDANCE Youth Arts ProjectEXPERIENCE THE  
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