“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)

Dwight 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.
numerous games across the country, the University of Texas Longhorns Darrell Royal

Best Phrase: “If worms carried pistols, the Mule Capital of the world

Life's a bitch. You've got to go out and grab the world by the lapels. “I love to see a young girl

Bankruptcy Law, Business Law

My wife and I have

of little consequence. The only thing of

What we think or what we

I secretly love math

Always ask for what you

I married my study

thing, 'cause every little thing gonna be

Best Phrase: "I'm only happy when you're happy."

Taiwanese opera actress

I used to be a

Little-Known Fact: I have a really hard

Johnson (Steve Martin) in “The Jerk”

start happening to me now.” Navin R.

“Things are going to

Litigation

You can do it!

Little-Known Fact:

Good, better, best —

Best Phrase:

whitney, but will take my time next time

Little-Known Fact: “Don't take anything

Best Phrase: “Don't do me in, and don't do me with."

“Don't take anything

Little-Known Fact: “Do not resist an inner voice, but listen to it carefully."

I worked as a

Transactional

Areas of Practice:

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

I have read the

Little-Known Fact: “It has to be done right,

Trademarks, Copyrights, Trade Secrets

Little-Known Fact: “I must get to know him better.”

“I don't like that man;

Little-Known Fact: “I can recite the

I can recite the

Litigation, Appeals

Best Phrase: Always ask for what you want

Little-Known Fact: I secretly love math

Paul Jonna

Business Litigation, Personal Injury

I have four young children and a fifth on the way. They’re a great blessing and fill our life with joy.

DEEPALIE MILIE JOSHI

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

Jurewitz Law

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,
KRIS MUKHERJI  
Firm: Law Office of Kris Mukherji  
Website: ksmudsawoffice.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

MACY NAWEY  
Firm: SD Lawyer  
Website: sdlawyer.com  
Areas of Practice: Personal Injury, Car Accidents  
Best Phrase: “Life is too short to be a man of success. Rather, become a man of value.” Albert Einstein  
Little-Known Fact: I am expecting my first child

JENNA RANGEL  
Firm: Zeldes Haegquist & Eck, LLP  
Website: zhelaw.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 am a first-generation Indian, 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.” Calvín Coolidge  
Little-Known Fact: I once hiked to the top of Mount Whitney

SARA O’CONNELL  
Firm: McNamara Benjamin  
Website: mcnamarabill.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: Ogders Law Group  
Website: ogderslawgroup.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: lawofficesptjp.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

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

JENNIFER RYULE  
Firm: Ryule & Ryule  
Website: ryuleandryule.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

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

KIMBERLEY ROBIDOUX  
Firm: Maggio Kattar  
Website: maggiokattar.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.

PARIJSA 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 SHAPIRO  
Firm: The Law Office of David P. Shapiro, APLC  
Website: davidshapirolaw.com  
Areas of Practice: Criminal & Defensive  
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: Strytzer Law Group  
Website: strytzerlaw.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  
Website: thespanglerfirm.com  
Areas of Practice: Litigation, 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 Law Group  
Website: strykerslaw.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, Construction  
Best Phrase: The good of the people is the greatest law  
Little-Known Fact: I grew up in Cardiff-by-the-Sea
by sharing music, food, and culture from different parts of the world.

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: WaltersLawGroup.com
Areas of Practice: Business Litigation
Best Phrase: Make hay while the sun shines
Little-Known Fact: I was an Eagle Scout

Derek Wilson
Firm: Pettit Kohl
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: PestoTiNk 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 Project

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