Welcome to our 4th annual General Counsel Awards supplement. San Diego’s legal community continues to claim an assembly of in-house counsel who have sustained our economic growth with an array of legal expertise that often has an impact on a national and global scale.

From protection of intellectual properties to mergers and acquisitions to formulation of contemporary precedents to guide established organizations in their day-to-day functions, these attorneys have a unique position as sentinels of our corporate, nonprofit and governmental systems.

In the following pages we pay tribute to this distinguished group who have dedicated their careers to the diligent oversight of our economic community.

The top honorees were acknowledged in a special event on Wednesday, June 30, at Balboa Park’s Hall of Champions with outstanding attorneys chosen in four categories: nonprofit, government, privately-held and publicly-traded companies. Additionally a special Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Donald J. Rosenberg, executive vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary for Qualcomm and an Exemplary Service Award was given to Celia A. Brewer, city attorney for the City of Carlsbad. Our sincere thanks go to our panel of judges — Randy Frisch, National University; Keven Lippert, ViaSat Inc.; Annette Peck, Jack in the Box (retired); and Steven Spector, Arena Pharmaceuticals Inc. — for their time and diligent evaluations of all the nominees.

Our sponsors are an essential part of this program. We would like to thank gold sponsors Abacus Data Systems Inc., Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart PC., and Wipomo Energy EcoSystems. And, congratulations to all our winners and finalists.

Randy Frisch
Vice Chancellor for Business and Administration
National University

Randy Frisch is the vice chancellor for business and administration with National University where he serves as both CFO and general counsel. Prior to that, he served as president and publisher of the San Diego Business Journal. Previously, Frisch was an attorney practicing contract and employment law. He is a member of the California, Nevada and Idaho bars.

Prior to establishing his law practice, Frisch was CFO of the San Diego Union-Tribune and vice president of operations and business development. Frisch has been a reporter, editor and publisher of the Daily News in Moscow, Idaho, and editor and publisher of the Daily Sparks Tribune. He was a reporter at The Lewiston Morning Tribune. He is a graduate of Thomas Jefferson School of Law. Frisch supports a number of local charitable and civic organizations including work on the boards of the San Diego County United Way, American Red Cross, LEAD San Diego, Bridgepoint Holiday Bowl Committee, Downtown Rotary, Habitat for Humanity and the YMCA of San Diego County.

Keven Lippert
Executive VP, General Counsel & Secretary
ViaSat Inc.

As executive vice president, general counsel and secretary for ViaSat Inc., Keven Lippert has maintained a big picture view that ensures the legal team is aligned with the goals and mission of the company. He has led a successful patent litigation that resulted in the largest award in California — $283 million — an extremely significant event for the company and the satellite industry as a whole. He has spearheaded adding strategic systems and technologies though several acquisitions and completed a first-of-its-kind agreement to enable joint roaming access between ViaSat’s high-capacity satellite coverage in North America and similar capacity owned by Eutelsat in Europe. Additionally he led negotiations to complete a $275 million lease capacity on the company’s next-generation ViaSat-2 satellite to Canada’s Externet Communications.

Lippert is an excellent judge of talent and has created a strong department with a variety of subject matter expertise. He is active and well known in the community. Among his many contributions he has served as director for the San Diego EDC and on the board of directors for the Old Globe and San Diego Bar Association.

Annette M. Peck, J.D.
Former Chief Risk Officer
Jack in the Box

Annette Peck has more than 25 years of experience directing and overseeing corporate risk management/litigation for large international, multi-subsidiary public corporations such as Jack in the Box Inc. (which includes fast-food restaurants as well as the fast-casual restaurant chain Qdoba Restaurant Corporation) and Chart House Enterprises Inc. (which includes all Chart House, Islands, Paradise Bakery restaurants and the Solana Beach Baking Company). Additionally, Peck was the assistant vice president/risk manager for a privately-owned large banking institution.

Peck also was the assistant alumni director for the Alumni Association of the University of California at Davis, during which time she managed the University’s alumni programs.

Her education includes a Juris Doctor degree from the University of San Diego School of Law, and Bachelor of Arts degrees in Economics and Psychology from the University of California at Davis.

Spector is involved with industry and community efforts including the executice committee of BIO’s General Counsels Committee, board of directors of Association Corporate Counsel, San Diego, and nonprofit organizations seeking cures for ALS/Crohn’s disease. Spector also has been an adjunct professor at University of San Diego’s School of Law.

Steven Spector
Executive For President, General Counsel & Secretary
Arena Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Steven Spector is a member of Arena Pharmaceuticals’ six-person executive committee and responsible for providing oversight to research and development progress, alliance management and strategic decisions. As legal representative of one of the country’s growing pharma companies, Spector’s responsibilities delve into complex issues of new drug development and process to market. He has overseen new collaborative agreements with pharmaceutical companies regarding both Arena’s drug approved for marketing in the U.S. and other clinical programs. He has overseen additional financing to allow continued advancement of drug candidates in the company’s pipeline. He has successful oversight of litigation, supported contract and compliance requirements regarding conducting clinical trials ranging from new indications for Arena’s approved drug to novel drug candidates for autoimmune diseases, pain, pulmonary arterial hypertension and thrombotic diseases.

Spector also is involved with industry and community efforts including the executive committee of BRC’s General Counsels Committee, board of directors of Association Corporate Counsel, San Diego, and nonprofit organizations seeking cures for ALS/Crohn’s disease. Spector also has been an adjunct professor at University of San Diego’s School of Law.

2016 General Counsel Awards Judges
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Donald J. Rosenberg
Executive Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary
Qualcomm Inc.

Representing an organization that has revolutionized our digital world takes an individual with a special determination, drive and vision that is singularly unique. Donald J. Rosenberg, executive vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary for Qualcomm Inc embodies those talents and has helped steer San Diego’s most visible organization to dominance on a global stage.

A member of the company’s executive committee, Rosenberg is responsible for overseeing Qualcomm’s worldwide legal affairs. As Qualcomm has launched game-changing technologies that have transformed so much of our day-to-day world, Rosenberg has led a team of legal experts who have kept a constant vigil, protecting the complexities of its intellectual properties and negotiating intricate agreements that reach from San Diego to Beijing and beyond.

Rosenberg is regarded as a world-renowned authority in the patent law arena and is regularly called upon for his insights. In 2015 he presented testimony to the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on antitrust issues.

Prior to joining Qualcomm, Rosenberg served as senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary of Apple Inc. Prior to that, he had a long career with IBM Corp. where he served as senior vice president and general counsel and also held numerous positions including vice president and assistant general counsel for litigation and counsel to IBM’s mainframe division. He has served as an adjunct professor of law at New York’s Pace University School of Law, where he taught courses in intellectual property and antitrust law.

Rosenberg devotes his time to numerous charitable causes and industry organizations. He is the immediate past national co-chairman of the board of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, where he continues to serve on the board and the executive committee. He also is a board member of NuVasive, Inc., the Corporate Directors Forum, La Jolla Playhouse and CONNECT.

EXEMPLARY SERVICE AWARD

Celia A. Brewer
City Attorney
City of Carlsbad

Celia A. Brewer is a woman with a mission. She has dedicated more than two decades to public service which has included work on some of the region’s most complex and high profile land use and environmental projects.

Brewer is currently city attorney for the City of Carlsbad where she was a key member of the team that negotiated a historic agreement with NRG Energy and SDG&E to remove the aging power plant from the city’s coast. She also led the city’s legal strategy in response to the use of the citizen initiative process to gain approval of a proposed open space and retail plan that drew statewide and national attention.

Brewer also served as the interim port attorney and assistant port attorney for the San Diego Unified Port District where she was a key adviser on the Port’s efforts to remove the South Bay Power Plant from the San Diego Bay waterfront.

And as assistant general counsel to the San Diego County Water Authority, she worked on a number of innovative water supply and diversification strategies, including finalizing issues concerning the lining of the All American Canal.

Brewer’s dedication, however, does not stop with her legal responsibilities. She is a passionate advocate for people with spinal cord injuries and serves on the advisory board of the Southern California Chapter of the United Spinal Association. She is a Christopher Reeve Foundation certified peer mentor and a member of the UC San Diego satellite fundraising team for the “Swim With Mike” scholarship fund for physically challenged athletes.

But her energy does not stop there. Brewer is in the midst of writing her first book, an inspirational account of her son’s triumph over a life-changing injury.
and biologically pristine Cocha Cashu field research station in the Manu National Park in Peru.

Bulger is a member of the San Diego County Bar Association, the California Bar Association, the Association of Corporate Counsel, the American Alliance of Museums and is a professional fellow of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

**GOVERNMENT CATEGORY**

Breton Lobner  
**San Diego County Regional Airport Authority**

Bret Lobner was appointed as the San Diego County Airport Authority’s first general counsel in 2003 and has continuously acted as the chief legal officer of the Airport Authority since then. He successfully represented the Airport Authority through significant milestone events at San Diego International Airport including the 2007 ballot measure regarding moving the airport from its current location and the Green Build Project — San Diego’s largest public construction project costing approximately $1 billion.

Lobner also recently saw the successful construction and delivery of the airport’s first Rental Car Center, the successful construction and delivery of the new Fixed Base Operator, and implementation of the first multi-tenant concession program — bringing more than 80 new concession concepts to the airport. Additionally, Lobner helped orchestrate the adoption of 16 airport land use plans for the county’s airports which allows safe development and continued operation of the region’s various airports, large and small.

Lobner is highly visible in the legal community and is a member of the San Diego Bar Association, the San Diego County Bar Association and the San Diego County Bar Foundation’s steering committee and a member of the City Attorney’s Association.

**SMALL PRIVATELY HELD COMPANY CATEGORY**

Robert Bello  
**Hughes Marino**

Robert Bello is a man of many talents including professional baseball player (in Italy), real estate professional, and attorney. Today, Bello has hung up his bat and listings and serves as general counsel for Hughes Marino, the San Diego-based commercial real estate services provider. Bello is responsible for the legal affairs of the company as well as tenant representation. Since joining the firm, he has been instrumental in helping to protect clients’ interests. Last year he played an integral role in spearheading SB 1171, a law conceived by Hughes Marino president and CEO Jason Hughes which requires brokers to disclose whether they are acting as dual agents to prevent conflicts of interest and ensure transparency. The legislation, which went into effect on January 1, 2015, made brokers legally bound to inform clients if they are acting as dual agents. In addition to reviewing leases and purchase agreements to ensure clients fully understand their legal obligations, he has also overseen all legal issues associated with Hughes Marino’s continued growth in California, including offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Silicon Valley.

Bello is extremely active in organizations around the community. He has served multiple terms on the board of directors of the Thomas Jefferson School of Law Alumni Association, and is currently a member of the Association of Corporate Counsel, The St. Thomas More Society, and the Italian American Lawyers Association.

**MEDIUM PRIVATELY HELD COMPANY CATEGORY**

Teigue Thomas  
**Chief Legal Officer**  
**Vistage**

With more than 20 years’ experience as an in-house lawyer, Teigue Thomas has held chief legal officer and general counsel roles for companies ranging from startups to the multi-billion dollar Global Fortune 1000. Thomas joined Vistage in 2014 as chief legal officer and took on responsibility for the company’s worldwide legal operations and compliance. She has been instrumental in the organization’s acquisitions and has overhauled the company’s corporate governance program which has significantly advanced the company’s growth. Thomas also has been a champion for diversity both within Vistage and in the broader business community. At Vistage’s global conference for chairs (business coaches), she led a panel discussion on the business benefits of increasing diversity along with innovative methods to achieve this goal.

Thomas also uses her expertise outside of Vistage. For the past five years, she has served on the board of directors of Providence Speech and Hearing Center, a leading service provider to the speech and hearing impaired of Southern California. Her professional affiliations include being active for more than 20 years with the Association of Corporate Counsel, serving on the board of directors and as past president of ACC’s San Diego Chapter.

**LARGE PRIVATELY HELD COMPANY CATEGORY**

Scott McKinlay  
**Chief Legal Officer**  
**Renovate America Inc.**

As Chief Legal Officer and EVP of Corporate Development, Scott McKinlay is responsible for Renovate America’s legal and regulatory work, including all company contracts and partnerships with governmental entities. His leadership has been a key factor in the innovative company’s growth, including developing the framework for its Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program, HERO, which aids in financing energy-saving or water-efficient improvements. The program has been used in almost 30,000 homes across California. He led efforts, working with government partners, to craft the most comprehensive consumer protection policies for the home improvement industry that include terms confirmation, protections for seniors, fair pricing checks, and payment upon project completion. He has built the compliance team from scratch and, in 2016, laid groundwork for expansion into Mission Valley.

In addition to having served on the board of banks and banking organizations, McKinlay is trained in mediation, dispute and conflict resolution. In his free time, he is earning his pilot’s license.

**MEGA PRIVATELY HELD COMPANY CATEGORY**

Ronald Naves  
**Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary**  
**Welk Resort Group**

In little more than a year, Ron Naves has restructured and built a brand new legal team for Welk Resort Group. Naves created a partnership approach and a solution-focused environment by having the legal team embedded in the key business units. He spearheaded a successful resolution of multiple large insurance claims related to Hurricane Odile at the company’s Cabo San Lucas resort. He and his team were key players in the implementation of new sales compliance and training materials rolled out successfully at all company locations, launching a new consumer friendly documentation for the sales process. He also assisted in the roll-out of a $130 million securitization. In a highly regulated environment, requiring public reports issued by the California Bureau of Real Estate, Naves and his team have ensured that these filings occur in an accurate and timely basis to meet the on-going inventory needs of the company.

Naves frequently volunteers his time in the community and has been involved in the Boy Scouts of America, community clean-up projects with Helping Hands, and serving meals at the local homeless shelter. He also is active in the Resort Developers Industry Association and serves on the Ethics Committee, the General Counsel Committee and the Resort Owners Coalition Committee. Additionally, Naves regularly volunteers as an officer with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

**SMALL PUBLIC COMPANY CATEGORY**

Randy Berholtz  
**Executive Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary**  
**Innovus Pharmaceuticals Inc.**

Randy Berholtz currently is the acting general counsel for Innovus Pharmaceuticals. His experience has spanned more than 23 years managing and supporting research and business objectives as a seasoned leader in public and private pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device and diagnostics companies.

Berholtz equally has committed himself to guiding the education of future attorneys. He has taught biotechnology law, intellectual property law and contracts drafting as an adjunct professor at Thomas Jefferson School of Law and the University of San Diego School of Law. In 2015 he led a team of Intellectual Property Fellows at Thomas Jefferson in a year-long IP Honors Research Project with the goal of providing a framework for companies and law firms to develop an international patent filing strategy, and analyze if one world-wide patent is a better alternative to the current patent system. The ambitious project included a journal publication, a survey of attorneys on their current filing strategies, and a public symposium event with patent attorneys from many of the important and developing international jurisdictions for patents. Berholtz has also instructed at the Rady School of Business at the University of California, San Diego and sat on the Advisory Council of the Keck Graduate Institute of Applied Life Sciences at the Claremont Colleges.

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INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE.
LOCAL KNOWLEDGE.

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW

At Ogletree Deakins, we understand that our clients’ employment issues often are not isolated to one state, country, or region of the world. Ogletree Deakins is one of the largest labor and employment law firms representing management in all types of employment-related legal matters. The firm has more than 750 lawyers located in 49 offices across the United States and in Europe, Canada, and Mexico.

Register at www.ogletreedeakins.com/our-insights to receive updates on recent developments in labor and employment law.

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He contributes his expertise and time to a number of legal organizations. Bertholtz is an at large board member and executive committee member of the San Diego Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel, San Diego Chapter of the Republican National Lawyers Association Board Member, and San Diego Chapter of the Federalist Society.

Bertholtz was twice named a top in-house counsel by the San Diego Daily Transcript, and in 2015 the Association of Corporate Counsel named him In-House Counsel of the Year for Service to the Legal Community.

**MEDIUM PUBLIC COMPANY CATEGORY**

Jeffrey Boman  
**Associate Corporate Counsel**  
**Hawthorne Cat**

New to the general counsel world, Jeff Boman has already made a tremendous impact by combining his legal experience and knowledge with a practical and modern approach to Hawthorne Cat's unique business. A large part of Hawthorne's business is providing best in industry service to their customers. These service jobs can be complicated as employees work on large, complex machines and engines and the software needed to quote these jobs can produce a very confusing packet of detailed information. Boman is constantly looking for ways the company can use technology to keep competitive, even in an industry not known for being technologically advanced. He recently led the roll out of Hawthorne's new customer support agreement. To improve customer relationships, enhance the company's legal protection, and optimize internal processes, he created a simple, user-friendly, one page agreement that applies to all service lines of business.

Boman also commits his time and energy to a number of community endeavors. He currently volunteers to feed the homeless and cleaning up east downtown with the nonprofit Brunch Club. He also has participated in a group planting of native plants in Juniper Canyon.

**LARGE PUBLIC COMPANY CATEGORY**

Charles Dadswell  
**Senior Vice President & General Counsel**  
**Illumina Inc.**

Charles Dadswell came to San Diego to be part of a fast-paced, innovative company and for the opportunity to work in the one-of-a-kind San Diego life sciences industry. He found his calling as senior vice president and general counsel for Illumina Inc. Supported by a global legal department of more than 50 people, Dadswell has been a key player in Illumina’s growth. He established the company’s first Global Government Affairs department. He and his team helped drive global expansion and strategic management of the company into new markets. Under Dadswell’s guidance two subsidiaries and a genomics venture capital fund have been formed. He has successfully defended multiple intellectual property rights incursions against Illumina, as well as defeated multiple oppositions to Illumina’s patents in Europe. He concluded several real estate deals that included adding additional buildings to the headquarters campus and growing the company’s footprint in San Francisco and the UK.

Well known in the industry, Dadswell is on the executive committee of the board of Bio.com. He is the acting president of Illumina’s newly formed corporate foundation and has been an executive supporter of its global citizenship efforts.

2016 General Counsel Awards Finalists

**Finalists**

**Alexandra Albro**  
**General Counsel**  
**ESET North America**

As general counsel Alexander Albro is a trusted leader at ESET. She is known for her efficient and successful ability to integrate people, business and practical resources to successfully accomplish complex issues and transactions.

**Mary Baker**  
**Corporate Counsel & Secretary Compliance Officer**  
**RQ Construction LLC**

Mary Baker serves as corporate counsel for RQ Construction. She inspires her team to continue performing quality work for the government and RQ’s clients. Her commitment and professionalism leads the team to take ownership of problems early and resolve them in the best interest of the organization.

**Adron Beene**  
**General Counsel & Compliance Officer**  
**Proficio Inc.**

Adron Beene has successfully negotiated over a hundred contracts with customers and suppliers for Proficio Inc. He works across the whole company, interacting with everyone from the CEO to the front line security analyst and has greatly reduced outside legal costs. He recently completed the AICPA SOC 2 audit with zero discrepancies.

**Julie Buechler**  
**General Counsel**  
**Ballast Point Brewing & Spirits Inc.**

In 2015, Julie Buechler led the legal effort for Ballast Point in its plans to conduct an initial public offering, under the cleverly proposed NASDAQ ticker symbol, PINT. She also oversaw the M&A deal team with Constellations Brands who paid $1 billion cash for the brand but left Ballast Point to continue to operate as a stand-alone company with its existing management team and employees running the day-to-day operations.

**Hannah Cole**  
**Senior Counsel, Labor & Employment**  
**CareFusion**

With the transition onto the Becton Dickinson (BD) legal team after CareFusion was acquired by BD last March, Hannah Cole’s responsibilities have broadened. She oversees all of the HR/employment issues in the United States and Canada and manages litigation. Additionally, she has worked with multi-disciplinary teams to review and revise sales compensation plans for all business units in the combined CFN/BD organization.

**Scott DeNike**  
**General Counsel**  
**Seirus Innovative Accessories Inc.**

As general counsel at Seirus Scott DeNike’s responsibilities have included the management of Seirus’ IP portfolio as well as the oversight of outside counsel and its role in any open litigation matters. He was also tasked with creating the legal department and its policies and procedures. This has entailed creating a centralized document repository as well as overseeing the implementation of sound record retention policies.

**Lewis Ensley**  
**Vice President, Legal, West Region**  
**Balfour Beatty Construction LLC**

Lewis Ensley’s work includes providing comprehensive legal services and strategic risk management oversight for the West Region of Balfour Beatty which includes four operating divisions and eight offices in Washington, Oregon, California and Arizona with nearly $1.2 billion in annual revenue. In addition to management and oversight of day-to-day legal and policy issues, he is also actively involved in the prosecution and oversight of all litigation.

**Ebun Garner**  
**Vice President & Senior Vice President**  
**Alphatec Spine Inc.**

Ebun Garner has served as general counsel and senior vice president of Alphatec Spine since April 2010, after originally joining the company in 2005 as vice president of legal affairs. He is responsible for all corporate governance, securities compliance, commercial and litigation legal matters, health care fraud and abuse, anti-corruption compliance and intellectual property matters. He recently led the settlement of two unrelated major litigation matters, each of which had been occupying the company’s resources since 2010.

**Mike Garrett**  
**Vice President & General Counsel**  
**HM Electronics Inc.**

Mike Garrett takes care of the legal needs for all aspects of HM Electronic’s businesses. He handles the company’s leases, mergers and acquisitions, contracts with suppliers, customers and dealers. Additionally he reviews the company’s advertising, handles basic trademark and copyright prosecution matters and deals with employee concerns along with supervising the offensive and defensive litigation matters the company becomes involved in.
James Garrett  
Vice President, Legal Affairs  
NuVasive Inc.

Before becoming a lawyer, Jim Garrett was a firefighter, and he carries that attitude into every case. He has intimate knowledge of all his company’s products and makes certain his outside counsel knows the products and how they are used. He works exceptionally well with his team of lawyers and treats each of them as partners in advancing the goals of his company.

Douglas Hageman  
Executive VP, General Counsel & Chief Entitlement Officer  
Newland Real Estate Group LLC

Douglas Hageman joined Newland Real Estate in 2006 and today is responsible for the management of all legal matters affecting the company and its affiliates. He also oversees all entitlement efforts throughout the portfolio providing leadership in acquisitions/dispositions and development/land use issues.

Priya Huggett  
General Counsel  
& Executive Vice President  
Kelly Investment Group LLC

Priya Huggett is responsible for managing the legal affairs of Kelly Capital including transactional, operational and litigation matters. She has more than 12 years legal experience in corporate and real estate including acquisitions, disposition, corporate and real estate finance, mergers and acquisitions, leasing and development projects.

Paul Konopka  
Vice President, Strategic Initiatives & Division General Counsel  
ViaSat Inc.

Since law school, Paul Konopka has spent his entire legal career in San Diego. Within ViaSat he has led the legal teams for intellectual property, followed by the government services division and presently for space strategy and regulatory. Konopka also serves as a Colonel in Marine Corps Reserve.

Aaron Guile  
General Counsel  
EvoTek Inc.

As EvoTek’s general counsel, Aaron Guile developed the company’s human resources policies and procedures, including its employee handbook, paid-time-off policy, hiring, onboarding, disciplinary and termination procedures. He also instituted EvoTek’s regulatory and legal compliance policies and procedures, built and incorporated EvoTek’s services arm, BrickworkX, and represented EvoTek during the Women Business Enterprise certification, and the California Public Utilities Commission certification.

Lynn Herrick  
General Counsel, Secretary & Vice President of Human Resources  
GreatCall Inc.

Lynn Herrick had a significant year as general counsel for GreatCall in 2015. Not only did she lead the company’s legal function and human resources function, but she managed the successful defense of a “bet the company” lawsuit against GreatCall brought by the company’s own founders. Herrick devoted significant time in developing the company’s strategy for defending against the founders’ lawsuit. GreatCall received a full defense verdict.

Deepalie Milie Joshi  
General Counsel  
Vedic Cultural & Spiritual Center of San Diego

Under the guidance of the board of trustees, Deepalie Milie Joshi was able to help guide Vedic Cultural Spiritual Center of San Diego through a difficult transitional period, as the organization went through a rigorous process of adopting new bylaws and the election of an entirely new board of directors and officers. Joshi guided the organization every step of the way to become compliant with corporate formalities and to improve the overall health of the organization.

Christian Kuhlen, M.D.  
Vice President, General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer  
Genoptix

Reporting directly to the CEO and president, Dr. Christian Kuhlen manages a team of legal professionals in the administration of the worldwide legal support for the company’s $175 million diagnostics business. Dr. Kuhlen also is responsible for providing legal counsel to the board of directors, executive management, all product lines, and corporate support functions (including finance, corporate development, HR, real estate, marketing, sales, and operations).
David Mark 
Legal Director
A. C. L. U. of San Diego & Imperial Counties

David Loy has worked with the A. C. L. U. of San Diego & Imperial Counties for more than 10 years. He supervises staff attorneys who worked with pro bono co-counsel to secure approval of a landmark class action settlement for persons wrongfully expelled from United States under the guise of “voluntary return,” creating opportunities for individuals to re-enter the U. S. and seek the lawful rights to which they were entitled when qualified for immigration relief.

Tara Lusher
General Counsel
Medical Acquisitions Co.

Through Tara Lusher’s constant dedication and guidance, Medical Acquisitions Co. was able to keep a strong position in the challenging litigation that could have otherwise devastated the company. Lusher is a member of several local legal associations and she is always willing to help other attorneys who need guidance on legal matters.

Ilana Miller
Corporate Counsel
TaylorMade-adidas Golf

Ilana Miller has worked on several new business initiatives since coming to TaylorMade-adidas Golf in 2015. Among the initiatives, she worked with colleagues at To open nine factory store locations across the U.S. She also worked with the marketing team on the launch of myRoundPro, a standalone golf analytics platform that was recently launched in the U.S., Canada and the U.K.

Paul Mirowski
Union Attorney
Mirowski & Associates

Paul Mirowski’s legal experience spans a number of areas including entertainment, business litigation and wine law. He organized the independent union of UC San Diego Resident Physicians (the SDHSA) into a professional organization, successfully representing the interests of UCSD House Staff. He continues today with the duty of advising and steering the association’s management. In addition to practicing law, Mirowski is a wine maker and musician.

Patrick Murphy
Vice President, Legal Affairs
DexCom Inc.

In 2015, Patrick Murphy was a key member of the DexCom management team who negotiated several key contracts, managed risk management, helped open a European headquarters and guided the company through various important legal issues. Outside of DexCom Murphy dedicates time to nonprofit organizations including Junior Achievement and the Entrepreneurial Management Center.

Paul Najar
General Counsel
Gafcon

Paul Najar, as general counsel for Gafcon, is a key member of the company’s executive team. He has guided the company through various important legal issues and negotiated several key contacts. Najar also mentors and advises young lawyers and assists them with professional development and placement.

Kurt Oreshack
General Counsel
Human Longevity Inc.

Since joining Human Longevity’s staff full time as general counsel, Kurt Oreshack has led the finance and technology teams with a focus on finance and strategy. Oreshack has also been a significant force in the growth of the company.

Michelle Philo
General Counsel
Adtile Technologies Inc.

As corporate general counsel for Adtile, Michelle Philo states her job description with three simple words: “all things complicated.” As the first corporate counsel for the international company, Philo manages all contracts, outside counsel, human resource matters including payroll and benefits, and the company’s intellectual property portfolio. She participates in lease negotiations, reviews all press releases, and handles all arrangements for vendor accounts. Philo was picked as a Southern California Super Lawyers Rising Star in 2015 and 2016.

Elaine Reagan
Chief Legal Officer
San Diego County Employees Retirement Association

One of the most significant strategic decisions that the San Diego County Employees Retirement Association Board of Retirement made in recent years was to establish an in-house legal department. To lead it, the board hired Elaine Reagan as its first-ever chief legal officer in August 2015. Reagan has created an in-house law firm which responds quickly to all legal needs of the organization. Additionally, Reagan regularly participates on panels and gives presentations to the National Association of Public Pension Attorneys, the State Association of County Retirement Systems, and California Public Employers Labor Relations Association.

Vincent Roth
Counsel
InnovaCounsel LLP

As part of the team of counsels for InnovaCounsel LLP, Vincent Roth specializes in securities and employment law with additional focus on intellectual property, contract drafting and corporate maintenance. Recently, he wrote his second published article and he has attained his sixth degree in the legal field.

Bronwyn Savary
Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary
Verimatrix Inc.

As a member of the executive management team of Verimatrix, Bronwyn Savary has helped support the high revenue growth of the business in 2015. Her legal oversight has included IPR filings; five new granted patents, bringing the total to 81; the acquisition of a concurrent business unit; and support of the financing with a Silicon Valley bank.

Michael Sedio
Vice President of Operations & Legal Counsel
BBB of San Diego, Orange & Imperial Counties

Michael Sedio started with the BBB in 2008 as an entry-level dispute analyst and completed his juris doctor while working full-time. In 2013, he became the vice president of operations and legal counsel, where he manages all legal correspondence for the organization.

AngelaSoldner
General Counsel
Coffman Specialties Inc.

Angela Soldner, general counsel for Coffman Specialties, oversees a range of legal activities for the company. She has prepared and negotiated dozens of subcontract agreements as prime contractor and subcontractor including a joint venture agreement for the team to bid a $200 million public works contract. She has also prepared and negotiated agreements and by laws for formation of a new multi-million dollar company.

Brian Sun
Patent Counsel
Hologic Inc.

As patent counsel to the Diagnostic Solutions division of Hologic, Brian Sun has primary responsibility for all intellectual property matters concerning business segments that encompass an array of the company’s most important products. He also is heavily involved in the community with the chief purpose of raising awareness for the need to recognize diversity as a value-add to all businesses.

Monique Talamantez
General Counsel
InterWest Capital Corp.

In the past year Monique Talamantez has managed all of the transactions that have resulted from the sales and purchases of several commercial real estate properties around the United States. The entire portfolio is approximately $700 million and is divided across 20 properties around the United States.
U.S. Talamantez also is responsible for all of the third party vendors, property management and contracts for each of the sites.

Adam Wyll
General Counsel
American Assets Trust

Adam Wyll has provided executive leadership and counsel to American Assets Trust in its transition from a private company, through a difficult IPO, to a seasoned NYSE company. He’s well-versed in the myriad areas of law applicable to a publicly traded REIT. He leads by example and is widely respected both inside and outside AAT.

Eden Yaege
General Counsel
Square One Development Corp.

Eden Yaege’s 2015 legal accomplishments include a number of complex legal contracts including the sale of a noted Carlsbad hotel and refinancing of portion of an industrial park. Yaege is a leading and inspiring woman in the local real estate development industry. She helped launch an MGA program at the University of San Diego tailored to in-house corporate counsel.

Ron Zollman
Associate General Counsel
EMC Corp.

Ron Zollman graduated law school at the ripe age of 23. Today he is lead attorney for EMC Corp’s global supply chain, handling billions of dollars in product and component purchase agreements, joint ventures and manufacturing agreements. Zollman also is the lead attorney for trade compliance, and has been the lead attorney for EMC’s consumer business. In the community Zollman is known for his volunteer efforts and twice was honored with the Charles Zibbell Board Leadership Award.

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Top attorneys from throughout San Diego’s legal community gathered to celebrate their own at the San Diego Business Journal’s fourth annual General Counsel Awards on Wednesday, June 30. Balboa Park’s Hall of Champions hosted nearly 250 professionals representing organizations from local nonprofits to global corporations who acknowledged the outstanding accomplishments of their peers. The program was supported by gold sponsors Abacus Data Systems Inc., Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart P.C. and Wipomo Energy EcoSystems.

Aaron Guille, EvoTek, Inc.; Amy Winer, Associate Publisher, San Diego Business Journal; Stillian Ghaidarov, Houlihan Lokey

Winner Karin Sherr, Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Cindy Freeland, Schor & Davis, AirFuel Alliance

Freeland LLP and winner Oksana

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Winner Teigue Thomas, Vistage

Winner Robert Bello, Hughes Marino

Michelle Gomez, Steve Inman, Debbie Heinkel, winner Ronald Naves, Kate Kelly, Alison Bihn, all with Welk Resort Group Inc.


Winner Jeffrey Boman, Hawthorne Cat
Winner Scott McKinlay and Morgan McKinlay, both with Renovate America Inc.
Mayor Matt Hall, City of Carlsbad; Exemplary Service Award recipient Celia Brewer, City of Carlsbad; Kevin Crawford, City of Carlsbad; Reo Carr, Executive Editor, San Diego Business Journal
Shekar Viswanathan, Ramamohan Tummala, Deepalie Milie Joshi, Prabhakar Tripuraneni, all with Vedic Cultural & Spiritual Center of San Diego

Elaine Reagan, San Diego County Employees Retirement Association; winner Breton Lobner, San Diego County Regional Airport Authority; Patricia Lobner
Winner Charles Dadswell, Illumina Inc. and Barbara Dadswell
Winner Randy Berholtz, Innovus Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Winner Jeffrey Boman, Hawthorne Cat

Attendees from Illumina Inc.

Photos by Bob Thompson, Fotowerks. Additional photos from the event are at the following link: http://fotowerksd.smugmug.com.