

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)

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.



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

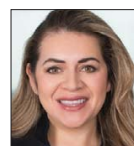


SOTERA ANDERSON
Firm: Law Offices of Sotera L. Anderson
Website: calemonlawattorney.com
Areas of Practice: Breach of Warranty, Products Liability
Best Phrase: It’s all about attitude and perspective
Little-Known Fact: I was a National Championship ROTC Drill Team Commander in high school that led me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



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



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



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



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

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



ALFRED ATALLAH
Firm: Atallah Law Group
Areas of Practice: Business and Corporate Law, Real Estate, Contracts, Transactions, Estate Planning

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



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: 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

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



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

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



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

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



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