

The 2008

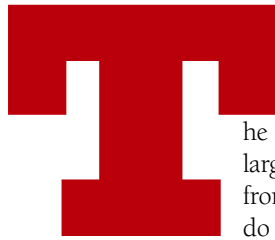
500

California

Survey of the State's Largest Law Firms

By the staff of California Lawyer





he names on our list of California's largest law firms haven't varied much from year to year, but the rankings do change. Both Latham & Watkins and Morrison & Foerster have occupied either the number 1 or number 2 spot for the past six years. And before that, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati topped the list with 715 California lawyers during the heyday of the dot-com boom.

Today Latham tops our California 50 list with 751 attorneys, followed by MoFo with 558. And Wilson Sonsini comes in at number 4 with 490 attorneys.

This year many firms moved up the list, including Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, which jumped from number 22 to number 17 as a result of its merger with San Francisco-based Steefel, Levitt & Weiss, as well as from growth in its real estate practice. A few firms moved down the list, such as Thelen Reid Brown Raysman & Steiner, which dropped from number 20 to 29 after its March lay-off of associates.

With the economy softening, layoffs at firms are likely to continue, which portends even more shifts in rankings when we compile next year's California 50.

PARTNER PROGRESS

MOST DIVERSE

Percentage of partners in California who are people of color

2008		2007	
Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo	20.8%	Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo	17.6%
Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal	19.4%	Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati	17.6%
Kirkland & Ellis	18.9%	McDermott Will & Emery	16.4%
Reed Smith	18.3%	Kirkland & Ellis	15.5%
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati	17.9%	Howrey	15.2%

LEAST DIVERSE

Percentage of partners in California who are people of color

2008		2007	
Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps	3.9%	Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis	3.4%
Sedgwick, Detert, Moran & Arnold	4.3%	Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps	3.7%
Loeb & Loeb	4.5%	Sedgwick, Detert, Moran & Arnold	4.2%
Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis	5.6%	Loeb & Loeb	4.6%
Cox, Castle & Nicholson	5.6%	Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher	4.7%

MOST WOMEN

Percentage of partners in California

2008		2007	
Baker & McKenzie	30.8%	Baker & McKenzie	37.7%
Littler Mendelson	30.4%	Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp	32.7%
Heller Ehrman	27.9%	Howard Rice Nemerovski Canady Falk & Rabkin**	31.8%
Sidley Austin	27.8%	Littler Mendelson	31.7%
Howrey	27.1%	Foley & Lardner	29.5%

FEWEST WOMEN

Percentage of partners in California

2008		2007	
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom	11.3%	Jeffers, Mangels, Butler & Marmaro	11.8%
Jeffers, Mangels, Butler & Marmaro	11.8%	Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom	11.8%
Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis	12.7%	Munger, Tolles & Olson	12.5%
Irell & Manella	13.6%	Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis	13.7%
Munger, Tolles & Olson	14.4%	Irell & Manella	13.8%

** Listed in the California 50 in 2007, not in 2008

EQUITY SNAPSHOT

MOST MINORITY EQUITY PARTNERS*

Percentage of equity partners in California who are people of color

2008	
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati	17.9%
Sidley Austin	16.7%
Munger, Tolles & Olson	14.4%
Knobbe Martens Olson & Bear	14.0%
Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker	13.8%

FEWEST MINORITY EQUITY PARTNERS*

Percentage of equity partners in California who are people of color

2008	
Loeb & Loeb	0%
Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps	3.0%
Buchalter Nemer	4.1%
Seyfarth Shaw	4.7%
Cox, Castle & Nicholson	5.7%
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips	5.7%

MOST WOMEN EQUITY PARTNERS*

Percentage of equity partners in California

2008	
Foley & Lardner	33.3%
Littler Mendelson	28.3%
Sidley Austin	27.8%
Hanson Bridgett	26.3%
Seyfarth Shaw	23.3%

FEWEST WOMEN EQUITY PARTNERS*

Percentage of equity partners in California

2008	
Rutan & Tucker	5.8%
Gordon & Rees	8.0%
Loeb & Loeb	10.0%
Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis	10.6%
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom	11.3%

* Among firms that reported specific equity-partner data

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RANK	LAST YEAR	FIRM	ATTORNEYS IN CA		ATTORNEYS FIRMWIDE	CA PARTNERS 2008		CA PARTNERS 2007		CA PARTNERS OF COLOR		CA WOMEN PARTNERS	
			2008*	2007		EQUITY	NONEQUITY	EQUITY	NONEQUITY	2008	2007	2008	2007
1	1	Latham & Watkins	751	704	2,152*	213*		210*		21	18	40	41
2	2	Morrison & Foerster	558	573	1,116	197*		205*		23	24	45	46
3	3	O'Melveny & Myers	545	551	1,032	132	8	145	5	17	15	22	22
4	4	Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati	490	470	650	140#		131#		25	23	30	24
5	5	Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith	480	420	613	33	230	50	198	28	28	68	67
6	7	Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton	426	376	509	111	50	107	51	14	9	30	29
7	12	Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe	423	365	1,080	150#		138#		21	17	24	21
8	8	Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher	407	374	921	134*		127*		11	6	24	23
9	6	DLA Piper US	397	386	3,700	198*		185*		22	15	41	39
10	9	Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker	381	373	1,180	94	21	100	14	15	17	19	19
11	14	Cooley Godward Kronish	364	336	639	123	3	114	2	11	8	28	26
12	11	Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman	358	367	800	93	70	174*		17	18	37	41
13	9	Heller Ehrman	332	373	623	122*		145	25	11	11	34	37
14	13	Bingham McCutchen	326	346	984	133*		139*		16	15	32	34
15	15	Morgan, Lewis & Bockius	310	301	1,447	100*		107*		17	14	26	26
16	16	Gordon & Rees	303	252	379	25	90	24	87	13	7	23	21
17	22	Manatt, Phelps & Phillips	299	228	389	53	96	46	69	14	11	33	24
18	19	Jones Day	263	233	2,361	98*		82*		9	8	20	16
19	18	Fenwick & West	252	236	265	86#		83#		9	8	13	13
20	17	Reed Smith	249	245	1,679	50	65	44	56	21	14	28	20
21	21	Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis	244	230	244	113	13	117#		7	4	16	16
22	24	Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom	240	217	2,060	53#		51#		5	7	6	6
23	25	Quinn Emanuel Urquhart Oliver & Hedges	236	214	354	55	23	70	0	7	9	16	13
24	23	Sedgwick, Detert, Moran & Arnold ▶	224	223	388	38	32	71*		3	3	17	17
24	25	Sidley Austin ▶	224	214	1,851	90#		86#		15	12	25	23

^ As of May 15, except where noted
 * No distinction made between equity and nonequity partners

▶ Tied; listed alphabetically
 # Does not have nonequity partners

* As of May 1
 x Firm declined to provide

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RANK	LAST YEAR	FIRM	ATTORNEYS IN CA		ATTORNEYS FIRMWIDE	CA PARTNERS 2008		CA PARTNERS 2007		CA PARTNERS OF COLOR		CA WOMEN PARTNERS	
			2008*	2007		EQUITY	NONEQUITY	EQUITY	NONEQUITY	2008	2007	2008	2007
26	30	Littler Mendelson	222	196	710	92	23	82	22	13	12	35	33
27	27	Irell & Manella	221	208	221	81#		80#		11	10	11	11
28	28	Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps	205	205	205	67	36	71	37	4	4	22	22
29	33	Knobbe Martens Olson & Bear ▶	201	183	206	100#		96#		14	14	17	17
29	20	Thelen Reid Brown Raysman & Steiner ▶	201	232	515	84	11	x	x	6	7	20	21
31	32	Munger, Tolles & Olson	194	189	194	90#		88#		13	12	13	11
32	31	Best Best & Krieger	191	193	191	74	13	73	14	10	10	19	18
33	35	Greenberg Traurig	190	178	1,766	83*		80*		10	10	18	13
34	29	McDermott Will & Emery	183	199	1,151	102*		110*		17	18	18	21
35	34	Kirkland & Ellis	180	179	1,375	74*		84*		14	13	17	19
36	36	Seyfarth Shaw	171	160	766	43	31	43	20	5	4	16	12
37	38	Townsend and Townsend and Crew	165	151	226	53	22	56	18	11	9	15	14
38	36	Jeffer, Mangels, Butler & Marmaro	161	160	161	85*		85*		5	5	10	10
39	39	Foley & Lardner	156	148	1,023	67#		61#		9	8	18	18
40	40	Howrey	152	146	713	37	33	31	35	11	10	19	19
41	41	Rutan & Tucker	148	145	148	69	21	67	17	6	x	14	12
42	-	Cox, Castle & Nicholson	140	138	140	70	2	▲	▲	4	▲	12	▲
43	44	Baker & McKenzie	139	133	3,600	25	27	27	34	5	7	16	23
44	49	Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo	137	125	137	53*		51*		11	9	10	10
45	46	Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robbins	133#	129	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
46	42	Hanson Bridgett ▶	132	139	132	57	4	64	4	8	7	15	16
46	47	Loeb & Loeb ▶	132	128	296	20	47	35	30	3	3	11	11
48	45	Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp	131	131	137	57*		52#		6	7	12	17
49	-	Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal	129	120	668	27	35	32	32	12	9	16	15
50	43	Buchalter Nemer	128	135	150	49	19	45	16	5	4	15	15

^ As of May 15, except where noted
 • No distinction made between equity and nonequity partners

▶ Tied; listed alphabetically
 # Does not have nonequity partners

- Not ranked in 2007
 ■ From firm's website

x Firm declined to provide
 ▲ Was not surveyed in 2007