

California Lawyer Magazine Announces **2015 CLAY AWARD WINNERS**

SAN FRANCISCO, February 18 — *California Lawyer* magazine is honoring 62 attorneys across the state for work with significant impact over the past year.

This year's *California Lawyer* Attorney of the Year (CLAY) awards recognize 27 achievements between November 2013 and November 2014 in 17 areas of legal practice. Honorees include prosecutors, defense attorneys, intellectual property practitioners, public-interest lawyers, and appellate experts. They work in a variety of settings, from solo practices to nonprofits to major international firms. Five of the cases involved pro bono work by some of the lawyers involved.

The recipients will be featured in the March 2015 issues of *California Lawyer*. Here are brief descriptions of their achievements, listed alphabetically by the name of a lead lawyer on the case:

David J. Aleshire and Anthony R. Taylor, Aleshire & Wynder, Irvine

Category: Municipal/Pro Bono

Achievement: Aleshire, Taylor, and their team helped the city of Bell return to responsive government and then to solvency by recovering more than \$25 million after the city fell victim to malfeasance by eight officials. Some of the work was performed pro bono and some at reduced rates.

Daniel Grunfeld, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, Los Angeles

Gary Blasi, UCLA Law School, Los Angeles

Erin Darling, formerly of Public Counsel, Los Angeles

Amos E. Hartston, formerly of Inner City Law Center, Los Angeles

Category: Public Interest/Pro Bono

Achievement: This team of lawyers won the first significant reform in decades of Los Angeles County's General Relief program, which provides assistance to more than 100,000 homeless and indigent people. Some of the team worked pro bono.

Brad D. Brian, Daniel B. Levin, Michael R. Doyen, and Luis Li, Munger, Tolles & Olson, Los Angeles

Category: Environment

Achievement: This Munger Tolles legal team represented drilling rig owner Transocean in litigation stemming from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The victory enforcing BP's contract to indemnify Transocean gave rig operators confidence that similar contracts will be honored.

Roger L. Cook, Kilpatrick Townsend, San Francisco

Robert Tadlock and Eric M. Hutchins, formerly of Kilpatrick Townsend, San Francisco

Category: Intellectual Property

Achievement: Representing memory-cell maker Sidense Corp. in an infringement lawsuit, these three attorneys helped ease the way for defendants to obtain attorneys fees when they prevail in patent litigation.

Robert D. Crockett, formerly of Latham & Watkins, Santa Clarita

Jessica G. Price, ACLU of Southern California, Los Angeles

Mark Rosenbaum, formerly of ACLU of Southern California, Los Angeles

Category: Education/Pro Bono

Achievement: This team won a ruling in Los Angeles Superior Court that, in spite of state and federal requirements, more than 20,000 California public schools students were being denied the instruction needed to overcome barriers to learning English.

Glenn A. Danas, Ryan H. Wu, and Raul Perez, Capstone Law, Los Angeles

Category: Employment

Achievement: These three lawyers won a California Supreme Court decision invalidating employers' mandatory arbitration agreements that attempt to force employees to waive claims under the Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA).

Daralyn J. Durie, Durie Tangri, San Francisco

Category: Intellectual Property

Achievement: Durie won a landmark ruling for Google Inc. when a federal justice in New York found that scanning more than 20 million books into an electronic database was fair use.

E. Martin Estrada, former Assistant U.S. Attorney, Los Angeles

Category: Criminal Practice

Achievement: Estrada and his team won convictions of over 90 Southern California members and associates of the criminal organization Armenian Power on over 140 different charges including racketeering, bank fraud, kidnapping, extortion, access device fraud, and obstruction of justice.

Jeffrey L. Fisher, Stanford Law School, Stanford

Category: Appellate Practice

Achievement: Fisher, co-director of Stanford's Supreme Court Litigation Clinic, gained the year's most significant victory for privacy rights when the court ruled that warrantless searches of arrestees' cell phones violate their Fourth Amendment rights.

Timothy M. Freudenberger, Alison L. Tsao, and Kent J. Sprinkle, Carothers DiSante & Freudenberger, Irvine and San Francisco

Category: Class Action

Achievement: This team secured a unanimous California Supreme Court decision

limiting the use of surveys, sampling, and statistics when evaluating whether a trial plan satisfies due process for class certification.

Christopher Garrett, Latham & Watkins, San Diego

Category: Environment

Achievement: Garrett and his team represented Poseidon Water in the defense of challenges attempting to block construction of the Western Hemisphere's largest seawater desalination plant, which was under construction in 2014 and will be completed by late 2015.

Patrick E. Gibbs, Latham & Watkins, Menlo Park

Category: Securities

Achievement: Gibbs and his team won a unanimous verdict for their client, the former CEO of sTec, Inc., in a civil insider-trading case. The SEC claimed misstatements and omissions by his client before a secondary offering of \$268 million worth of sTec stock.

Scott Glovsky, Law Offices of Scott Glovsky, Pasadena

Robert Gianelli, Gianelli & Morris, Los Angeles

Category: Disability Rights

Achievement: Glovsky and Gianelli secured a pair of settlements with Blue Cross and Kaiser in 2014 to compensate children with autism spectrum disorders who were denied insurance coverage for recognized treatments. The cases led to a change in state law.

John C. Hueston, formerly of Irell & Manella, Los Angeles

Category: Environment

Achievement: Hueston, now with Hueston Hennigan, led the national team of lawyers at Irell and at Kirkland Ellis that reached a \$5.15 billion settlement for environmental cleanups, the largest ever to be included in a bankruptcy case.

Elizabeth Kristen, Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center, San Francisco

Erin C. Witkow, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips

J. Cacilia Kim, formerly of California Women's Law Center, Los Angeles

Vicky L. Barker, formerly of California Women's Law Center, Los Angeles

Category: Civil Rights/Pro Bono

Achievement: This team won a landmark Ninth Circuit ruling applying Title IX in K-12 schools to level playing fields for high school girls. Most cases have been at the college level.

Jocelyn D. Larkin, Impact Fund, Berkeley

Elizabeth A. Lawrence, Davis Cowell & Bowe, San Francisco

Category: Employment

Achievement: In two cases that had been certified as class actions, this team won two major employment discrimination settlements.

Theodore J. Boutrous Jr. and Marcellus A. McRae, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, Los Angeles

Category: Education

Achievement: Boutrous, McRae, and their team won a Superior Court ruling invalidating California's teacher tenure and job dismissal statutes. It prompted discussion about reforming job protections in California's Education Code and encouraged a legal challenge in New York.

Robert A. Mittelstaedt, Jones Day, San Francisco

Jonathan W. Hughes, Arnold & Porter, San Francisco

Steven A. Hirsch, Kecker & Van Nest, San Francisco

Luther Orton, Snyder Miller & Orton, San Francisco

Category: Legal Profession

Achievement: Mittelstaedt, Hughes, Hirsch, and Orton won a federal court judgment in the Heller Ehrman bankruptcy that it is the client, not the lawyer, who owns a case, and that a defunct law firm's estate therefore has no claim to recover hourly fees earned on cases that it could no longer handle.

Catherine Moreno, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Palo Alto

Paul R. Chavez and **Robin Goldfaden**, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area, San Francisco

Julia Harumi Mass, ACLU of Northern California, San Francisco

Savith Iyengar, formerly of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Palo Alto

Category: Immigration/Pro Bono

Achievement: This team won a class action settlement that ends the routine shackling of detainees during civil immigration hearings in San Francisco Immigration Court, one of the nation's largest. Iyengar is now a deputy city attorney in Berkeley.

Deirdre O'Connor, Innocence Matters, Los Angeles

Loren Naiman, Deputy District Attorney, Los Angeles

Category: Criminal Practice

Achievement: Naiman and O'Connor won the release of a woman who served 17 years in prison for a murder she did not commit. She had been convicted on the basis of false testimony.

Olu K. Orange, Orange Law Offices, Los Angeles

Category: Civil Rights

Achievement: Orange persuaded the Ninth Circuit to recognize, for the first time, a survivor's right to damages for the pain and suffering experienced before death by the victim of a lethal federal civil rights violation.

Charles E. Pell, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Santa Ana

Category: Criminal Practice

Achievement: Pell won convictions of 53 people, including lawyers, tax preparers, and their clients in a tax fraud case worth more than \$250 million.

Elizabeth Pipkin and **Christine Peek**, McManis Faulkner, San Jose

Category: Civil Rights

Achievement: Pipkin, Peek, and their team made the first successful challenge to the secret federal no-fly list. After two dismissals, the District Court found after a bench trial that the government erroneously placed their client on the list in violation of her due process rights.

David M. Ring, Taylor & Ring, Los Angeles

Category: Personal Injury

Achievement: Ring negotiated a settlement on behalf of two women who were sexually abused while in middle school by a science teacher. The awards of \$7 million to each victim are the largest individual recoveries ever from a public school district in a sexual abuse case.

Richard L. Stone and **Amy M. Gallegos**, Jenner & Block, Los Angeles

Category: Intellectual Property

Achievement: Stone, Gallegos, their team, and New York attorney Bruce Keller of Debevoise & Plimpton won a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in favor of broadcast television companies, finding that Aereo Inc. was infringing broadcasters' copyrights with its system that captured TV signals and streamed them to subscribers.

M.C. Sungaila, Snell & Wilmer, Costa Mesa

Elizabeth L. Kolar, Kolar & Associates, Santa Ana

Category: Franchise Law

Achievement: Sungaila and Kolar won a 4-3 ruling from the California Supreme Court that franchisors are not automatically liable for the actions of their franchisees' employees.

James R. Wheaton and **Lowell Chow**, Environmental Law Foundation, Oakland

Richard M. Frank, UC Davis School of Law, Davis

Glen H. Spain, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, San Francisco

Category: Environment

Achievement: This team's victory in Superior Court could lead to the first major extension of the public trust doctrine since a California Supreme Court ruling in 1983 and offer a new way to manage the state's groundwater.