

# SAN DIEGO'S BEST ATTORNEYS 2014

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**Juanita Brooks**, a partner in the San Diego/Southern California office of Fish & Richardson, is one of the country's most respected — and busiest — IP trial attorneys. Over the past two years, she was lead counsel in 13 patent trials — a blistering pace considering there are about 75 U.S. patent trials annually. A master storyteller who connects with jurors, Brooks makes the most complex technology simple. In addition to IP, her practice encompasses other types of complex litigation including product liability and qui tam litigation. She has handled more than 150 trials in her career and her average yearly caseload includes over 20 active patent cases. Brooks was one of only six lawyers who earned the honor of being named Litigator of the Year by American Lawyer earlier this year and she contributed to Fish's IP practice group being named IP Litigation Department of the Year finalist by American Lawyer. Brooks also litigated for the organization that assists the region's underserved residents.



**Cynthia Chihak**, a graduate of Pepperdine University Law School, has been honored with numerous awards by her peers. She received the Outstanding Trial Lawyer award by Consumer Attorneys of San Diego seven times, and in 1994, she was honored as Trial Lawyer of the Year. Chihak was named as one of the best lawyers from 2006 to the present by San Diego Magazine —in personal injury and medical malpractice — and named one of the top 100 lawyers for the last nine years by Super Lawyers. In 2007, Chihak received the Daniel T. Broderick III Memorial Award, recognizing her for the highest standards in civility, integrity and professionalism.

Chihak also serves the legal community by sharing her skill and experience. She served as president of Consumer Attorneys of San Diego in 1992 and 1993. She is an advocate in the American Board of Trial Advocates, and served as its first woman president in 2008.



**David S. Casey Jr.** is managing partner of CaseyGerry, the oldest plaintiffs' firm in San Diego. He oversees 14 plaintiffs' attorneys practicing in areas that include asbestos, class actions and pharmaceutical litigation. A partner with CaseyGerry for over 35 years, Casey specializes in serious personal injury, wrongful death, products liability and serious head injury/brain trauma. He represents the firm on the Plaintiffs Steering Committee, which oversees national MDL litigation against the National Football League. CaseyGerry is one of nine firms in the entire country tapped to coordinate the effort. In the last 12 months, Casey Jr. has helped obtain more than \$35 million in results for clients in a complex range of cases that relate to aviation, maritime, premises liability, faulty equipment, government tort claims, complex motorcycle accidents, trucking and automobile crashes. Highlights include a \$10 million arbitration award in an aviation case.



**David G. Weil** brings almost 39 years of bankruptcy experience to Golden State Law Group. During his 39-year career as an attorney, he has filed thousands of Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 cases. His extensive experience in the bankruptcy field also includes representation of corporations and other business entities in complex Chapter 11 business reorganizations. Golden State is a full-service law firm. Weil has extensive experience in other practice areas including estate planning, probate, family law, personal injury and general civil business litigation. In the late 1970s and 1980s, Weil also was a sports attorney for a number of professional football players in the NFL, negotiating lucrative contracts on their behalf. Weil graduated from UCLA in 1970 earning a bachelor's degree in political science with an emphasis in international relations. He continued his education at Southwestern University School of Law, earning a Juris Doctorate degree in 1973.



**Ezekiel Cortez** is a board certified criminal law specialist, California State Bar Board of Legal Specialization. He has practiced in federal courts since 1984. As a career federal criminal defense lawyer, Cortez has concentrated his practice on the defense of federal criminal cases and other federal matters since 1984. Since 1988, he has also handled post-conviction Habeas Corpus litigation of unique cases involving prosecutorial misconduct, ineffective assistance of counsel and other constitutional issues. Cortez also handles selected federal civil matters and is also a consultant on case strategy in federal criminal and selected civil matters in state and federal courts. Cortez has been honored by The Best Lawyers In America — the preeminent standard of excellence for the legal profession. Cortez has been listed annually in San Diego Magazine's Best Lawyers In San Diego since 2001. He has also been selected by Super Lawyers continuously since 2007 in the White Collar and Corporate Counsel categories.



**John Allcock** is a widely respected patent trial lawyer focused on patent litigation. He has extensive experience handling patent cases through trial, and appeal to the Federal Circuit. Allcock brings an extensive jury trial background to his patent litigation specialty (lead counsel in excess of 70 cases tried to juries to verdict), as well as arbitration experience (lead counsel in excess of 100 arbitrations), and extensive experience in court trials, International Trade Commission (ITC) hearings, various forms of alternative dispute resolution, and management of complex litigation. Allcock has tried more than 30 patent cases. Some of the notable cases include a \$26 million jury verdict in a patent and Semiconductor Chip Act case (Brooktree v. AMD); trial of a semiconductor patent case in the International Trade Commission (Fujitsu v. Samsung); defense of a multiple patent case (Finnigan v. Hewlett-Packard Company); and a finding of infringement and validity and an exclusion order in a six-patent case (Hewlett-Packard Company v. Gateway).



**Mikel Bistrow** is a partner in the San Diego office of national law firm Foley & Lardner LLP and is the Western Regional co-chair of the Bankruptcy and Business Reorganizations Practice and the chair of the San Diego Litigation Practice. Bistrow practices in the areas of creditor's collection and related remedies, bankruptcy, insolvency and work-outs, commercial finance and lending, real and personal property secured transactions, and Uniform Commercial Code. She also is board certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and is a member of the board of directors of that organization. Bistrow, a seasoned lecturer throughout California and nationally and a published author, is included in The Best Lawyers in America (1995-2014 editions) and in The Best Lawyers in San Diego (San Diego Magazine, September 2001). She is a 1981 graduate of the University of Michigan Law School.



**Stephen P. Swinton**, a partner at Latham and Watkins, concentrates his practice on complex litigation involving patent rights and related intellectual property matters. Swinton has represented clients in patent, copyright, trademark and trade secret matters in a variety of industries including software, electronics, pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device, semiconductor and telecommunications. He has extensive trial and appellate experience and has served as lead or trial counsel in utility and design patent disputes as well as trademark and trade secret matters. Most recently, he served as trial counsel for Cadence Pharmaceuticals in its 2013 Hatch-Waxman trial to preserve the patent estate for Cadence's OFIRMEV (acetaminophen injection) product. That trial resulted in a victory for Cadence. After receiving his undergraduate degree from Iowa State University in 1973, Swinton served with distinction as a surface line officer (Surface Warfare Specialist) in the United States Navy and later worked as a process and manufacturing engineer with Procter & Gamble.



**Reginald "Reg" A. Vitek** is a member of Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek. He has over 40 years of legal experience focusing on complex business litigation. Vitek works with a wide range of clients. He has successfully represented several financial institutions in defense of lender liability, military defense contractors in trade secret misappropriation claims and city employees in civil lawsuits and governmental investigations. One of his areas of focus is the defense of professional liability claims against lawyers and other professionals. Vitek is a founding member of the California State Bar Legal Malpractice Advisory Commission. A highly-regarded speaker, Vitek participates in many legal panels speaking on professional liability and litigation topics. Vitek is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and has been named one of the Best Lawyers in America. Vitek is the founding member of the board of governors of the San Diego chapter of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers, Master.



**Claudette Wilson** is a highly regarded, award-winning attorney with Wilson Turner Kosmo LLP. She has been a partner with the firm since its founding in 1991, and leads its Employment Law Practice Group. Wilson has represented companies in state and federal court for 29 years, encompassing a wide range of employment litigation issues. Wilson has received numerous awards and honors throughout her career. She has been selected by her peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America, Labor and Employment Law Specialties for multiple years and was honored to be selected San Diego Employment Law-Management Lawyer of the Year in 2012. Wilson has also been designated as a Super Lawyer every year since 2008 and has been chosen twice as one of the Top 10 Lawyers overall in San Diego County by Law and Politics Magazine. Wilson is a past president of the San Diego chapter of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers.



**Michael L. Kirby** is one of the four attorneys who founded the firm that is now Kirby Noonan Lance & Hoge. The firm specializes in civil litigation, has 15 attorneys and represents both plaintiffs and defendants. Kirby represented a plaintiff, a terminated franchisee, in an action in San Diego Superior Court. That trial resulted in a jury verdict of \$7.6 million, including \$6 million in punitive damages. He was the lead attorney for multiple plaintiffs in a four-month jury trial involving a scheme by a San Diego investment adviser/real estate developer to defraud unsophisticated and elderly investor clients, some of whom lost their life savings. The four-month trial was focused on the plaintiff's theories of fraud, aiding and abetting, and conspiracy against the financial planner/developer and a national title/escrow company, and resulted in a verdict in excess of \$15 million against the developer, \$1.1 million in compensatory damages and \$5.7 million in punitive damages against the title/escrow company.



**David J. Noonan**, a partner at Kirby Noonan Lance & Hoge, practices in the areas of antitrust liability, professional liability, securities litigation, bank litigation and general business litigation. His current practice is devoted to the trial of commercial and business matters, for both plaintiffs and defendants. Over the past three decades he has represented clients as diverse as syndicates competing in the America's Cup yacht races, numerous professional athletes in a variety of litigation matters, Fortune 500 companies in defense of antitrust and product liability matters, and a former Playmate of the Year, defending her right to use her title on the Internet. He has an impressive trial record in representing corporations in major antitrust, securities and banking liability matters. He served as co-counsel for Sempra Energy in the Continental Forge consumer class action (Natural Gas Antitrust Cases). This followed his work as lead counsel for ARCO in the successful defense of one of the largest consumer class actions in California history, which sought damages for claimed antitrust violations in the retail sale of gasoline.



**Ronson Shamoun**, founder of the RJS Law firm, is a tax controversy attorney with 15 years of tax experience including 10 years in legal practice. Shamoun has helped thousands of clients find solutions to their civil and criminal tax matters. His practice involves criminal and civil tax litigation at both the federal and state levels. The size of the individual amounts that Shamoun has either settled or litigated with the IRS and state tax agencies have ranged from a few thousand dollars to over \$300 million in other cases. Shamoun was born and raised in San Diego and completed all of his undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate studies at the University of San Diego, earning a bachelor's degree in accountancy, master's degree and law degree. He is also the owner of the Junction Steakhouse in El Cajon, the Charcoal House in La Mesa, a Subway franchise in Ocean Beach, a convenience store (Newport Quik Stop), and a drive-through coffee/juice bar (Café Bella).



**Guylyn Cummins** is a partner in the entertainment, technology and advertising practice group at Sheppard Mullin's San Diego office. She has spent her entire career working in media law. A seasoned litigator, she represents a broad array of media clients relating to First Amendment issues, including access issues, libel and advertising content, plus trademark and copyright fair use. Her clients include Business Week magazine, Voice of San Diego, Investigative News Source, Investigative News Network and Clear Channel. She is recognized as one of California's leading media and entertainment lawyers in Chambers USA, America's Leading Business Lawyers and has many published legal decisions on First Amendment issues. She has been named to the "Lawdragon 500 New Stars, New Worlds" and Best Lawyers in America lists. She is a graduate of the University of Nebraska, holds a master's degree from the University of Southern California and her law degree, magna cum laude, from the University of San Diego.



**Dana J. Dunwoody** is a partner in Sheppard Mullin's business trial practice group and co-chairs the firm's hospitality practice. Since 10985, his practice has focused on seven areas of complex litigation, arbitration and trial work: (1) disputes involving the hospitality industry; (2) disputes involving the financial services industry; (3) disputes involving the retail industry; (4) a wide variety of class action defense including privacy, unfair business practices, false advertising, securities, and independent contractor misclassifications; (5) contract litigation primarily in the context of business or real estate disputes; (6) real property litigation, including CEQA and land use in addition to traditional disputes concerning development agreements, partition and purchase and sale issues, and (7) intra-corporate and partnership disputes in a wide variety of businesses. He is a member of the International Society of Hospitality Consultants. His bachelor's degree was earned at UC San Diego and his law degree from the University of California Berkeley.




**William M. Kammer** is a partner at Solomon Ward Seidenwurm & Smith LLP and a proven leader in e-discovery technology not only for his firm, but in all of San Diego. His lengthy law career has provided him with a background that reflects a variety of experiences ranging from basic negligence and contract cases through environmental, maritime and communications law to a present practice that concentrates on complex business, real estate and technology cases with an emphasis on electro-discovery class actions and unfair competition matters. At Solomon Ward, Kammer leads the Electronic Discovery and ESI Service Team. Since few cases ever go to trial, he aggressively seeks to resolve his clients' matters as early and fairly as possible. Kammer led the firm to win the national 2013 Law Technology News Technology Award for small firms, recognizing innovation in the symbiosis of legal practice and technology – a huge honor for Solomon Ward. Kammer received his law degree from Tulane University.



**Charles A. Bird** is a partner in the San Diego office of McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP. Bird was a partner in the local office of Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps before it was acquired by McKenna Long & Aldridge, a Washington, D.C.-based law firm, in 2012. Bird stayed with McKenna Long, but the Luce Forward name did not survive. Bird specializes in appeals and writs in all California and federal appellate courts. He has been the lead counsel in more than 70 cases

with published opinions, including U.S. Supreme Court, California Supreme Court, and U.S. Ninth, Tenth and Federal Circuits. Bird has handled more than 200 appeals and writs as lead counsel. Bird represented the city of San Diego in a series of challenges to the bond financing for San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium (now Qualcomm Stadium), the San Diego Convention Center and Petco Park. The city succeeded in all the cases. His public service activities include chairing the California Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation. Bird is a 1973 graduate of King Hall School of Law, University of California, Davis, where he was an editor of the Law Review and member of the school's national moot court team.

*Congratulations*



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