

CUSTOM CONTENT

AUGUST 13, 2018

# Top Litigators

## IN LOS ANGELES



**THERE ARE MANY BRILLIANT ATTORNEYS IN LOS ANGELES – MASTERS OF THEIR CRAFT THAT CAN** prepare individuals and businesses for any legal issue that should come up – while expertly writing the documents designed to protect their clients’ assets and livelihoods. But there is a very special breed or attorney that needs to transcend expert comprehension of the legal system – the litigator. Attorneys who go to the proverbial mat to fight for their clients before judges and jury have their own unique sets of skills. In this special section we have selected 50 of the very best litigators in the business. These are the lawyers you want in your corner in court. We’ve alphabetically listed this lineup of superb litigation specialists, along with some basic information about their careers, practice and some relevant recent successes they’ve achieved.

Congratulations to the attorneys who made this prestigious list!

Bird Marella proudly congratulates  
**Gary S. Lincenberg** and **Ekwan E. Rhow**  
on their inclusion in  
**Los Angeles Business Journal's**  
**2018 Top Litigators**



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Bird Marella litigates complex civil and white collar criminal matters in state and federal courts across the United States. For more than 35 years, we have built our reputation on the quality of our lawyers and the outstanding results we achieve for our clients.



TOP LITIGATORS

MICHAEL KUMP

Partner  
Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump & Aldisert



MICHAEL Kump of Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump & Aldisert has been at the forefront of several high profile entertainment and intellectual

property matters that have and will continue to impact Hollywood.  
For example, in one of the highest profile cases in the entertainment business, Kump is representing The Management Group (TMG) and its principals Joel and Rob Mandel, who provide business management services to many high-profile individuals and companies in the entertainment business. When TMG started to foreclose on a secured loan to its former long-time client, actor Johnny Depp, he filed a lawsuit in January 2017 in state court in Los Angeles concerning TMG’s representation of him. Kump later filed a highly publicized cross-complaint against Depp for fraud and breach of contract. The matter has generated an enormous amount of worldwide press and the case is currently set for trial in Los Angeles in August 2018, and is exposing and could redefine talent and manager deals.

STEPHEN G. LARSON

Partner  
Larson O’Brien LLP



STEPHEN G. Larson is co-founder of Larson O’Brien LLP and one of California’s top litigators and trial attorneys. A former US District

Judge and US Magistrate Judge, as well as a former federal prosecutor, Larson has been one of California’s “go-to” trial lawyers for high-stakes civil and white-collar criminal matters since returning to private practice in 2009. Larson has nearly 30 years of trial and appellate experience, having been lead counsel in scores of jury trials in state and federal courts as well as lead appellate counsel in matters before the US Supreme Court, the US Court of Appeal for the Ninth Circuit, the California Supreme Court, and all four districts of the California Court of Appeal.  
Larson’s civil litigation practice involves representing individuals, public and private companies, and both state and local governments as plaintiffs and defendants in high-stakes disputes – at the investigative, pre-complaint, trial, and appellate levels.

LUIS LI

Partner  
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP



LUIS Li is a leading general commercial litigator who focuses his practice on corporate crisis management, internal corporate investigations,

complex business litigation, art law, international enforcement matters and white-collar criminal defense. A former chief of the criminal branch of the Los Angeles city attorney’s office and an assistant U.S. attorney for the Central District of California, he has tried nearly 30 cases for which he has received several awards and recognitions.  
Li currently plays a leading role representing Plains All American Pipeline, LP in multiple actions stemming from a May 2015 oil spill near Refugio State Beach in Santa Barbara County. Li is also currently representing Patterson UTI Energy in a privileged internal investigation that stemmed from an accident that occurred in January. In the past year, Li, along with Munger, Tolles & Olson litigators E. Martin Estrada and Eric P. Tuttle, obtained a trial win in a contentious fight over control of entertainment management company ROAR LLC.

GARY LINCENBERG

Principal  
Bird, Marella, Boxer, Wolpert, Nessim, Drooks, Lincenberg & Rhaw, P.C.



GARY Lincenberg concentrates his practice on the defense of white-collar criminal prosecutions, government investigations and

complex civil litigation. He is considered among the most experienced, trial-tested and skilled trial attorneys in the state. He has handled a wide variety of cases, including False Claims Act, FCPA, securities, investment, tax, real estate, banking, money laundering, money remitting, government contractor, economic espionage, export, health care, environmental, public corruption, program fraud, and intellectual property cases. Prior to joining Bird Marella 25 years ago, he served over six years as an Assistant United States Attorney.  
Lincenberg is best known for his strategic approach to avoiding charges against his clients and for his superior skills at trial. Many white-collar defense attorneys rarely try a criminal case, and have never defeated the government at trial. Lincenberg has an extraordinary record of success at trial, including complete victories, or hung juries resulting in dismissals, in five of his last six criminal trials.

navigating the way



Polsinelli applauds **Mary McKelvey** for being named one of the *Los Angeles Business Journal’s* 2018 Most Influential Litigation Attorneys.

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TOP LITIGATORS

**KURT PETERSON**  
*Partner*  
Reed Smith LLP



**K**URT Peterson is a Partner at Reed Smith and has guided many of the largest health plans in California and the nation through their most complex litigation, regulatory and business challenges for three decades. With a long track record of trial court and appellate wins, Peterson leads Reed Smith’s industry leading Managed Care Practice Group and is recognized by Chambers as one of America’s Leading Healthcare Attorneys.

Peterson’s practice focuses on matters related to health care insurance and managed care plans as well as more generally on complex business disputes, false advertising, and unfair competition issues. He has defended health insurers and health plans against a variety of class action and individual claims, including unfair competition, fraud, bad faith, breach of contract, and ERISA issues. In addition, he has assisted health insurers and health plans with internal investigations, compliance with government subpoenas, and responses to government investigations. He has successfully handled hundreds of complex cases involving managed care and health insurance issues.

**TIMOTHY L. PIERCE**  
*Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office*  
K&L Gates LLP



**T**IMOTHY Pierce’s practice focuses on construction industry matters, representing clients from the inception of a project and the formation of contracts to the resolution of claims in litigation. He has had extensive trial experience in construction matters, having tried 14 construction cases to juries totaling more than 75 weeks in front of juries, and has been lead trial counsel in cases from Seattle to San Diego. He has obtained two verdicts in excess of \$30 million and has recovered more than \$100 million for clients in judgments and settlements.

Recently, Pierce represented a joint venture of Shimmick Construction and Obayashi Corporation (SOJV) as plaintiff in an eight-figure damage claim against the San Diego County Water Authority for construction by SOJV of a dam in San Diego County. The project was 14 months late and the parties disputed responsibility for that delay. In January, after a 12-week jury trial, the jury awarded a verdict in excess of \$30 million for SOJV.

**MARVIN S. PUTNAM**  
*Partner; Local Co-Chair of Litigation & Trial Department*  
Latham & Watkins LLP



**M**ARVIN Putnam is a trial lawyer who leads the national litigation team in Latham’s Entertainment, Sports and Media practice, and he is local Chair of Latham’s Litigation & Trial practice in Los Angeles. He offers clients a combination of litigation experience with keen insight on the entertainment industry. He has successfully represented clients ranging from individual authors and producers, to leading entertainment companies and investment banks. His accomplishments at trial and appellate courts, both state and federal, as well as internationally, have earned Putnam a reputation as a market-leading entertainment litigator.

Recently, Putnam has been tapped as a go-to lawyer in cases connected to the #MeToo Movement, representing high-profile entertainment and media clients to conduct internal investigations, assist with government inquiries, and manage crisis responses. A notable recent victory came for client MGM Studios, when a federal judge in Los Angeles dismissed a lawsuit brought by an entertainment lawyer who had claimed employment misconduct and defamation after he was fired following his arrest for sexual assault of a child.

**EKWAN E. RHOW**  
*Principal*  
Bird, Marella, Boxer, Wolpert, Nessim, Drooks, Lincenberg & Rhow, P.C.



**E**KWAN E. Rhow is a name principal at Bird Marella. A Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, he is a graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Law School. Chambers & Partners has recognized Ekwane as a “trial expert” who is often called upon to “undertake high-profile work” and “bet-the-farm litigation,” and has described him as “articulate, brilliant in court and very hard-working.” He has first-chaired over 30 cases that were tried to verdict or award in courts and venues throughout California and nationwide.

As a result of his successful jury trial track record and his focused cost-effective approach to case management, clients from varied industries have retained Rhow to represent them in their complex business disputes. His regular roster of clients includes Fortune 500 companies (Xerox, Western Digital and Aramark), large private companies (Vizio, Prospect Medical and Newegg), international conglomerates (Samsung, CJ and LG), prominent Hollywood financiers and production companies (Relativity Media, Ryan Kavanaugh and Roy Lee) and other national and local corporations.

Venable Celebrates  
**William J. Briggs, II and Alex Weingarten**  
2018 Top Litigators

We are delighted to recognize the great work of our colleagues, and we thank them for their service to our clients and the Los Angeles community.



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