

# California LAWYER

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Contact: Chuleenan Svetvilas

(415) 296-2450

[chuleenan\\_svetvilas@dailyjournal.com](mailto:chuleenan_svetvilas@dailyjournal.com)

## CALIFORNIA LAWYER MAGAZINE ANNOUNCES 2014 CLAY AWARD WINNERS

SAN FRANCISCO, February 19 — *California Lawyer* magazine has named 57 attorneys around the state to receive the 18th annual California Lawyer Attorneys of the Year Awards. Their achievements had a significant impact in 2013. The awards recognize 26 accomplishments in 19 areas of legal practice.

The honored attorneys include prosecutors, public-interest lawyers, and attorneys from regional and international law firms. The recipients of the CLAY Awards will be featured in the March 2014 issue of *California Lawyer*.

The attorneys and their achievements are briefly described below.

**Michael Alder**, Alder Law, Los Angeles

### **Category: Personal Injury**

Alder is being honored for a string of major personal injury settlements as well as his efforts to give back to the profession through the establishment of a “warrior fund” for young lawyers and an expert witness data/deposition bank that he freely shares with other attorneys.

**Ahilan T. Arulanantham** and **Michael B. Kaufman**, ACLU of Southern California, Los Angeles

**Jayashri Srikantiah**, Stanford Law School Immigrants’ Rights Clinic, Palo Alto

**Michael K. T. Tan**, ACLU Immigrants’ Rights Project, San Francisco

**Sean A. Commons**, Sidley Austin LLP, Los Angeles

**Cody J. Jacobs**, Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, San Francisco

**Jonathan P. Feingold**, Clerk, Second U.S. Circuit, New York

### **Category: Immigration Law**

Led by Arulanantham and Kaufman, this legal team won a class action establishing the right of immigrants detained by the government for more than six months to seek release on bond while their cases are pending. Commons, Jacobs, and Feingold (admitted in California) worked on the case pro bono as associates at Sidley Austin.

## 2014 California Lawyer Attorneys of the Year

**John Chiang**, California State Controller, Sacramento

**Marc S. Cohen**, Kaye Scholer, Los Angeles

**Steven S. Rosenthal**, Kaye Scholer, Washington, D.C.

**Category: Insurance Law**

State Controller Chiang, represented by Cohen and Rosenthal (admitted in California), initiated a campaign to negotiate agreements with or, if that failed, begin litigation against insurers accused of failing to pay death benefits to the beneficiaries of life insurance policies.

**George A. Cumming** and **Molly M. Lane**, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, San Francisco

**Category: Criminal Law**

Cumming and Lane devoted eight years and thousands of pro bono hours to overturning the Texas death sentence of Cathy Henderson, a woman convicted of murder in the death of an infant she was babysitting.

**Linda M. Dardarian**, Goldstein, Borgen, Dardarian & Ho, Oakland

**Lainey Feingold**, Law Office of Lainey Feingold, Berkeley

**Category: Disability Rights**

Last year, Dardarian and Feingold negotiated settlements with four companies—Bank of America, Walmart Stores Inc., Weight Watchers, and Safeway Inc.—that made those businesses more accessible to people with visual impairments.

**Gregory J. Dannis**, Dannis Wolliver Kelley, San Francisco

**Category: Education**

Dannis successfully negotiated two significant educational breakthroughs in 2013: an innovative teacher evaluation procedure in San Jose and a new teacher compensation package in Oakland which avoided a bargaining impasse there for the first time in a decade.

**David M. deRubertis**, The deRubertis Law Firm/Studio City

**Barbara C. Greenstein** (now retired), City Attorney's Office, Santa Monica

**Paul W. Cane**, Paul Hastings, San Francisco

**Category: Employment Law**

DeRubertis, Greenstein, and Cane argued the various positions for plaintiff Wynona Harris, defendant City of Santa Monica, and various amicus groups in the year's most significant employment law case (*Harris v. Santa Monica*), which determined how courts should analyze so-called "mixed motive" employment cases—when employers have both legitimate and prohibited reasons for a given employment decision.

**V. James DeSimone**, Schonbrun DeSimone Seplow Harris & Hoffman, Venice

**Category: Civil Rights**

After 13 years of work, DeSimone won a verdict against the United States on behalf of two Chinese refugees when their immigration officer requested sex or money in return for approving their asylum applications.

## 2014 California Lawyer Attorneys of the Year

**Jeffrey V. Dunn**, Best Best & Krieger, Irvine

**Category: Municipal Law**

Dunn's California Supreme Court victory on behalf of the city of Riverside validated limits on marijuana dispensaries enacted by more than 200 cities and counties statewide. Six months later, an appellate court upheld a ban in Live Oak on growing pot.

**Jerome Fishkin and Lindsay K. Slatter**, Fishkin & Slatter LLP, Walnut Creek

**Category: Legal Profession**

Fishkin and Slatter represented Sergio C. Garcia, an undocumented immigrant, in his groundbreaking, and ultimately successful, bid to practice law in California. They represented him pro bono before the Committee of Bar Examiners and the California Supreme Court.

**Alexandra Robert Gordon**, Office of the Attorney General, San Francisco

**Category: LGBT Rights**

At the Ninth Circuit, Gordon successfully defended a new California law intended to protect youths from sexual orientation change efforts, a practice widely accepted to be psychologically harmful.

**Jessica L. Grant and Sean M. Kiley**, Coblenz Patch Duffy & Bass, San Francisco

**Krishna K. Juvvadi**, Sher Leff, San Francisco

**Category: Environmental Law**

Grant, Kiley and Juvvadi won an \$816 million jury verdict for the state of New Hampshire in a groundwater contamination case against ExxonMobil.

**Joseph O. Johns**, U.S. Attorney's Office, Los Angeles

**Stacey P. Geis**, U.S. Attorney's Office, San Francisco

**Category: Environmental Law**

Johns and Geis successfully prosecuted Walmart Stores Inc. for illegally handling and disposing of hazardous waste throughout the country, resulting in the company pleading guilty to violating the Clean Water Act and paying more than \$81.6 million in fines.

**Dennis Peter Maio**, Reed Smith, San Francisco

**Category: Appellate Law**

Maio and his Reed Smith colleague Paul Fogel, along with Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund co-counsel Larisa Cummings won a court victory that allows trained school staff to administer insulin to students, thus enabling thousands of students to get their shots when no nurse is available. Maio and his firm have represented the American Diabetes Association pro bono in this litigation for eight years.

**Jimmy S. McBirney and Shannon C. Leong**, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, San Francisco

**Megan G. Crane**, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe (now with Habeas Corpus Resource Center), San Francisco

**Category: Pro Bono**

## 2014 California Lawyer Attorneys of the Year

These three lawyers, working with the Northern California Innocence Project, won a federal finding of actual innocence and a writ of habeas corpus overturning murder and arson convictions against a landlord by proving that the evidence used to convict him was inaccurate and unreliable.

**Harold J. McElhinny, Michael Allen Jacobs, and Rachel Krevans**, Morrison & Foerster, San Francisco

**Category: Intellectual Property**

McElhinny led Apple to a huge victory over Samsung over two trials, resulting in \$929.8 million in damages. Jacobs was co-lead counsel in the first patent infringement and trade dress trial and Krevans examined witnesses and helped prepare the opening statement and closing arguments.

**Theodore B. Olson**, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, Washington, D.C.

**Category: LGBT Rights**

Four years after filing a federal challenge to the constitutionality of Proposition 8, Olson (admitted in California) and co-counsel David Boies finally won the right for same-sex couples to marry in California when the U.S. Supreme Court issued its ruling in June.

**Christopher K. Pelham and Mack E. Jenkins**, U.S. Attorney's office, Los Angeles

**Category: Criminal Law**

Pelham and Jenkins used the federal racketeering law to prosecute members of the Pueblo Bishops Bloods gang, resulting in three separate trials and 41 convictions.

**Elliot R. Peters and Jo W. Golub**, Kecker & Van Nest, San Francisco

**Category: Pro Bono**

Peters and Golub, working on a case first screened by the Northern California Innocence Project, persuaded prosecutors to join a habeas corpus petition on behalf of a West Oakland man who was mistakenly identified—and then convicted—in a shooting.

**Ann M. Ravel and Gary S. Winuk**

California Fair Political Practices Commission, Sacramento

**Category: Government**

Ravel (now vice chair with the Federal Election Commission) and Winuk led the investigation and civil prosecution of two Arizona-based advocacy groups linked to the Koch Brothers for failing to disclose their national campaign “dark money” network as the source of \$16 million in funds spent to support Proposition 32 and oppose Proposition 30 on the November 2012 ballot. The case resulted in a record \$1 million California civil settlement.

**Patrick J. Richard**, Nossaman, San Francisco

**Thomas D. Long and David Graeler**, Nossaman, Los Angeles

**Category: Litigation**

Richard, Long, and Graeler, representing the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as receiver of IndyMac Bank, led a trial team that won the FDIC's first—and to date only—jury verdict (totaling \$168.8 million) against former officers of a failed financial institution following the financial crisis of 2008.

## 2014 California Lawyer Attorneys of the Year

**Lisabeth D. Rothman**, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, Los Angeles

**Category: Water Law**

Rothman secured a ruling in Sacramento Superior Court that validated the decade-old Colorado River Quantification Settlement Agreement and secured a key component of long-term water supply for San Diego County.

**Paul Scrivano**, O'Melveny & Myers, Menlo Park and San Francisco

**Category: Transactional Law**

Scrivano headed a legal team involving six O'Melveny offices worldwide to win approval of the first Chinese acquisition of a publicly listed U.S. company, Complete Genomics Inc. of Mountain View.

**Benjamin B. Wagner, David T. Shelledy, Kelli L. Taylor, and Colleen M. Kennedy**

U.S. Attorney's office, Sacramento

**Category: Government**

The U.S. Attorney's office for the Eastern District conducted the investigation of JPMorgan Chase over fraud in the securitization of toxic mortgages, and it spearheaded talks that led to a \$13 billion settlement with the bank.

**Hartley M.K. West, Philip J. Kearney, John H. Hemann, and Susan E. Badger**, U.S. Attorney's office, San Francisco

**Category: Criminal Law**

This team of federal prosecutors brought dozens of civil rights and corruption charges against the Central Contra Costa Narcotics Enforcement Team and four police officers which resulted in several convictions.

**Stanley Young**, Covington & Burling, Redwood Shores

**Category: Civil Rights**

Young, along with a large team, won a victory against Sheriff Joe Arpaio of Maricopa County, Arizona, in a class action brought by Latino residents who alleged the sheriff's office engaged in racial profiling. Young and his firm devoted 11,000 hours of pro work to the case.

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