



**WINNER**  
Public Company  
**Rich Clampitt**  
VP, General Counsel, Corporate Secretary  
WD-40 COMPANY



**WINNER**  
Cyber Security  
**Wynter Deagle**  
Office Managing Partner, San Diego Office  
TROUTMAN PEPPER



**WINNER**  
Merger & Acquisitions  
**Karen Deschaine**  
Partner  
COOLEY LLP



**WINNER**  
Merger & Acquisitions  
**William Eigner**  
Partner  
PROCOPIO



**WINNER**  
Labor & Employment  
**Guillermo Escobedo**  
Principal and Office Litigation Manager  
JACKSON LEWIS



**WINNER**  
Rising Star  
**Shannon Finley**  
Shareholder  
PETTIT KOHN INGRASSIA LUTZ & DOLIN

# SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL




**WINNER**  
Private Company  
**Nicole Gates**  
Corporate Counsel  
DR. SEUSS ENTERPRISES



**WINNER**  
Litigation  
**Alexis Gutierrez**  
Partner  
HIGGS FLETCHER & MACK LLP



**WINNER**  
Patent  
**William Hunter**  
Principal  
FISH & RICHARDSON



**WINNER**  
Labor & Employment  
**Thomas Ingrassia**  
Shareholder and Co-Founder  
PETTIT KOHN INGRASSIA LUTZ & DOLIN



**WINNER**  
Public Company  
**Shaka Johnson**  
Vice President & Associate General Counsel  
SONY ELECTRONICS INC.



**WINNER**  
Merger & Acquisitions  
**Stephen LaSala**  
Partner  
SHEPPARD MULLIN RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP



**WINNER**  
Other  
**Adam Lenain**  
Member  
MINTZ LEVIN



**WINNER**  
Rising Star  
**Jing Y. Li**  
Attorney  
SOLOMON WARD SEIDENWURM & SMITH LLP



**WINNER**  
Rising Star  
**Martin Nuñez**  
Deputy District Attorney  
SAN DIEGO DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



**WINNER**  
Other  
**Kristin Reyna DeHart**  
Assistant Managing Partner  
GORDON REES SCULLY MANSUKHANI



**WINNER**  
Public Company  
**Dina Segal**  
Assistant General Counsel  
INTUIT INC.



**WINNER**  
Private Company  
**Andrew Serwin**  
US Chair and Global Co-Chair, Data Protection, Privacy and Security  
DLA PIPER



**WINNER**  
Tax  
**Ronson Shamoun**  
CEO and Founder  
RJS LAW



**WINNER**  
Real Estate  
**Michael Whitton**  
Partner  
TROUTMAN PEPPER



## Letter from the Publisher



The **San Diego Business Journal's** second annual Leaders in Law Awards honors 20 of San Diego's top lawyers and in-house general counsel attorneys. There were over 100 finalists. The range of our nominees' accomplishments and community involvement was impressive. It made the process of selecting winners all the more challenging.

On behalf of the San Diego Business Journal, I want to thank our judging panel and sponsors **Peter Callstrom**, CEO of the **San Diego Workforce Partnership**; **David H. Crean**, Ph.D., managing director of **Objective Capital Partners**; **Dale Ganzow**, president and CEO of the **San Diego Employers Association**; **Frank Tobin**, managing shareholder of **Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart P.C.**; and **Christina de Vaca**, CEO of the **Corporate Directors Forum**.

They join us in congratulating the winners and finalists.

Barb Chodos  
President & Publisher

## Judges/Sponsors



**Peter Callstrom**  
CEO  
San Diego Workforce Partnership

Peter Callstrom has led nonprofits in the region for 30+ years, joining the SDWP as CEO in 2012. The SDWP funds, oversees and delivers workforce programs to empower job seekers, reaching 50,000+ annually. The SDWP launched an Income Share Agreement fund in 2018 – an innovative student financing model to create post-secondary pathways without student debt. SDWP delivers youth programs that reach thousands with a focus on disconnected youth. In 2020, SDWP launched 'MyNextMove' – an online experience to inspire students, teachers and job seekers. Recipient of the "Trailblazer award" by the National Association of Workforce Boards, SDWP is a nationally recognized leader.



**David H. Crean**  
Managing Director  
Objective Capital Partners

David H. Crean is a managing director at Objective Capital Partners where he leads the firm's mergers and acquisitions (M&A), corporate development, and valuation transactions with life science and healthcare companies. Dr. Crean holds FINRA Series 79 and Series 63 licenses and is a Registered Investment Banking Representative of BA Securities LLC, Member FINRA SIPC. Dr. Crean also serves in leading Board of Director roles for Histogen, Inc. (Nasdaq: HSTO), California Life Sciences Association (CLSA), Association for Corporate Growth (ACG) San Diego, the Alzheimer's Association and Student Success Programs for the Charter School of San Diego.



**Dale Ganzow**  
President & CEO  
San Diego Employers Association

In March of 2020, Dale Ganzow became President and CEO of the San Diego Employers Association where he had previously served as a board member for seven years. He owned multiple corporate and leisure travel agencies in CA and Dallas, TX. He worked in local and national sales positions with business journals and a national trade publisher. In October of 2019, he left his role as sales manager for the San Diego Business Journal and went to work for National University as a director of workforce education solutions. He strives to build long-term relationships and stronger communities through collaboration and philanthropy. He also serves on numerous nonprofit boards. He attended the University of Wisconsin and lives in Carlsbad, with his wife and daughter.



**Frank Tobin**  
Managing Shareholder  
Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart P.C.

Frank Tobin is the Managing Shareholder of Ogletree Deakins' San Diego Office. He devotes his practice to a wide range of litigation matters including labor and employment (discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wrongful discharge, non-compete, ERISA breach of fiduciary duty, class actions and wage and hour), commercial (breach of fiduciary duty, contract and fraud), unfair competition, trade secrets, real estate, healthcare and professional liability. Mr. Tobin represents management in all types of labor and employment disputes. He has successfully tried discrimination, retaliation, harassment, wrongful discharge, wage and hour and trade secret cases. Mr. Tobin also represents employers in class action disputes and ERISA breach of fiduciary duty litigation.



**Christina de Vaca**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Corporate Directors Forum

Christina de Vaca currently serves as CEO of the Corporate Directors Forum, an organization whose mission is "to help directors, and those who support them, build more effective boards through continuous education and peer-networking". Prior she was a CDF board member serving on the Executive Committee and chairing the organization's Programs Committee. Before joining CDF, she served as the Director of Corporate Relations and Business Development for the Graduate School of Business at the University of San Diego, where she strengthened USD's School of Business relationships with the business community. Earlier, she was the Chief Governance Officer and Corporate Secretary for Valeant Pharmaceuticals International.







# International Presence.

# Local Knowledge.

## EMPLOYERS AND LAWYERS, WORKING TOGETHER

Ogletree Deakins is one of the largest labor and employment law firms representing management in all types of employment-related legal matters. The firm has more than 900 lawyers located in 53 offices across the United States and in Europe, Canada, and Mexico.

# Ogletree Deakins

[www.ogletree.com](http://www.ogletree.com)

### SAN DIEGO OFFICE

4370 La Jolla Village Drive  
Suite 990  
San Diego, CA 92122  
858.652.3100





## PUBLIC COMPANY

**RICH CLAMPITT**

VP, General Counsel, Corporate Secretary

**WD-40 COMPANY**

*"Success is simply one's pride in knowing that you have done your best to bring out the best in others."*

**Rich Clampitt** began his law career in San Diego following graduation from UC Hastings in 1981. He joined the small business law firm of Harmsen, Carpenter and Wilkinson. Harlan Harmsen was then counsel to **WD-40** Company, having represented the company through its IPO on Nasdaq in 1973. Harmsen provided mentorship to Clampitt in corporate, tax and securities law. He immediately commenced working with Jack Barry, WD-40 Company's CEO from 1969 through 1990, to complete SEC reports and filings.

Over the years, Clampitt's work with WD-40 Company provided the foundation for his developing expertise in business law, including entity and capital formation, joint ventures, real estate, individual and corporate taxation, mergers and acquisitions, and securities. His clients ranged from San Diego families, real estate developers and startups, to privately held businesses and public companies.

In 1999, the Harmsen firm joined Gordon & Reese. At Gordon & Reese, Clampitt served as co-chair of the firm's growing business practice. In January 2014, Clampitt was asked by WD-40 Company to join the company as general counsel, the company's first in-house attorney. At WD-40 Company, Clampitt has continued his leadership education under the mentorship of Garry Ridge, the company's CEO since 1997.

## CYBER SECURITY

**WYNTER DEAGLE**

Office Managing Partner, San Diego Office

**TROUTMAN PEPPER**

*"Success is being authentic, taking ownership of your career, having empathy for clients and colleagues, and empowering and mentoring others."*

**Wynter Deagle** represents businesses in the court room when they face issues found at the intersection of law, technology, and innovation. She is a partner at **Troutman Pepper**, the managing partner of the firm's San Diego office, a Certified Information Privacy Professional in the United States (CIPP/US), and an experienced trial lawyer. Wynter specializes in defending clients from privacy and cybersecurity-related consumer class actions, business disputes, regulatory investigations, and enforcement actions. In addition to her privacy and cybersecurity expertise, Wynter represents clients in complex commercial litigation involving many types of claims, including business fraud, unfair competition, products liability, defamation, breaches of fiduciary duty and contract disputes.

Outside of litigation, Wynter helps businesses navigate the maze of state and federal privacy laws and to quickly and effectively respond to data security incidents. Wynter is a passionate advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion in the legal community. She is a member of Troutman's diversity committee and founded the San Diego office's diverse attorney recruiting program. Wynter also provides pro bono services to organizations that advance diversity and empower underserved women and girls. Wynter is also the president of the Board of Directors of Girls Inc. of San Diego County.

## MERGER &amp; ACQUISITIONS

**KAREN DESCHAIINE**Partner  
**COOLEY LLP**

*"I think very little about my 'success.' I love what I do and who I do it with. For that I am very fortunate."*

**Karen Deschaine** is a partner in the San Diego office of **Cooley LLP**, where she has practiced since 2007. Her practice encompasses a wide range of business and corporate matters, including private financings, public offerings, corporate governance, commercial transactions, strategic transactions, securities matters and the general representation of public and private companies. She represents primarily biotechnology and technology companies and investors in those industries. She is a sought after speaker on topics of interest to founders, startup companies and companies seeking investment.

Deschaine has impacted many companies this past year in San Diego including Metacrine, Inc., Turning Point Therapeutics, and Forte Biosciences, Inc. She was also recently recognized as a winner of "Women Who Impact Women in San Diego."

Prior to receiving her law degree from UCLA School of Law, Deschaine was a captain in the U.S. Army and commanded two companies. She is active in the community and is the proud mother of two teenagers.



**LOFTIN | BEDELL**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**Loftin | Bedell** is proud to congratulate our partner, **Ariel R. Bedell**, on being a 2020 SDBJ Leader in Law finalist.

Ariel provides clients with valuable experience, knowledge, and a business minded approach in guiding clients through the rapidly changing legal landscape in real estate and business transactional matters.





# CONGRATULATIONS NICOLE!



SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL



Nicole Gates  
Corporate Counsel

As one of the nation's leading children's literary and entertainment brands, we rely heavily on our legal counsel and contracts team to be our guiding light. Congratulations to Corporate Counsel Nicole Gates for winning this prestigious award, and for providing the leadership we need to continue sharing the work of Dr. Seuss with new readers and audiences.







## MERGER &amp; ACQUISITIONS

**WILLIAM EIGNER**Partner  
PROCOPIO*"It's up to you. There is no 'they' there."*

**William Eigner** is a business attorney who has been called the "go-to-guy" for M&A and for emerging businesses and those providing capital to them. He has been recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America and has won many awards from his peers in transactional law.

A partner at **Procopio**, a 180 attorney firm with offices in San Diego, Del Mar, Palo Alto, Orange County, Las Vegas and Phoenix, Eigner's practice emphasizes M&A, venture capital, angel financing, seed capital, and the financing, governing, operating, contracting, buying, selling and merging of growing technology, life science, wireless health, defense, and other businesses.

Eigner graduated from Stanford and then served as a United States Supreme Court Judicial Intern. He graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law. Eigner serves as director of EvoNexus and on a number of boards of advisors. He spent nearly 10 years on the board of The Mundoval Fund (MUNDX), a publicly traded global value oriented mutual fund and has served on the board of the San Diego Venture Group.

## LABOR &amp; EMPLOYMENT

**GUILLERMO ESCOBEDO**Principal and Office Litigation Manager  
JACKSON LEWIS*"Success is rarely a 'solo act.' It is a team effort that requires collaboration, hard work, and humility."*

**Guillermo Escobedo** is a principal and office litigation manager of the San Diego office of **Jackson Lewis, P.C.** Escobedo specializes in employment law defense, including defending claims of wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment and retaliation. Escobedo also has extensive experience defending wage-and-hour claims, including class actions and PAGA claims. His team victories include a complete defense verdict in arbitration on claims of age discrimination and harassment; successfully arguing a motion for summary judgment in federal court on disability discrimination and failure to accommodate; and successfully opposing a motion for class certification in federal court on rest period claims.

Escobedo's community involvement includes - board member and vice chair of the Chicano Federation of San Diego County; current board member and former vice president of the San Diego La Raza Lawyers' Association; co-chair of the Endorsements Committee for SDRRLA; and former chair of the development committee for St. Didacus Parish School. Guillermo's achievements include being recognized as a "California Super Lawyer" and a "Southern California Top Lawyer" from 2014-2020, as a "Best Lawyers in America" in 2019, as a "Top Latino Lawyer in 2019" by Latino Leaders Magazine, and receiving the San Diego La Raza Lawyers' Attorney of the Year in 2019.

## RISING STAR

**SHANNON FINLEY**Shareholder  
PETTIT KOHN INGRASSIA LUTZ & DOLIN*"Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you." - Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg*

**Shannon R. Finley** is a shareholder in the San Diego office of **Pettit Kohn Ingrassia Lutz & Dolin PC**. Finley focuses her practice on employment law. As a skilled litigator, she represents California employers in disputes ranging from single plaintiff wrongful termination cases to complex class actions. In addition, Finley provides guidance to employers advising on best practices to avoid lawsuits before they arise.

Finley is a speaker and author on issues including best hiring practices, wage and hour law, discrimination, leaves of absence, and social media. Earlier this year, she was included in the inaugural list of Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch. She has been recognized as a Rising Star by San Diego Super Lawyers, and she received the C. Hugh Friedman New Lawyer Award for her leadership and professionalism in the San Diego legal community.

Finley is a team leader in the J. Clifford Wallace Inn of Court; vice chair for the Labor & Employment Executive Committee of the San Diego County Bar Association; a director on the board for Lawyers Club of San Diego; and an affiliate governor on the board of California Women Lawyers. Finley also reads to transitional kindergarten students twice a year at Central Elementary School through the Community Outreach Committee.

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

CONGRATULATIONS  
**ALEXIS GUTIERREZ**

HIGGS | FLETCHER | MACK

**Congratulations to our Partner Alexis Gutierrez on his well-deserved recognition.**

**Alexis** - your leadership is truly recognized and valued by your colleagues and clients, and in the greater San Diego legal community. Thank you for all that you do every day as a "Leader in Law."

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www.higgslaw.com

401 West A Street, Suite 2600  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Phone: (619) 236-1551  
Fax: (619) 696-1410



PRIVATE COMPANY



**NICOLE GATES**  
Corporate Counsel  
**DR. SEUSS ENTERPRISES**

*"True success is having time to enjoy it! Take time to recharge, support your community, and enjoy loved ones."*

**Nicole Gates** joined **Dr. Seuss Enterprises** in 2018 as its first in-house counsel. Dr. Seuss Enterprises is the leading children's entertainment company committed to care taking the legacy of Theodor Seuss Geisel (Dr. Seuss). Gates provides counsel on matters relating to the company's global portfolio including the iconic Dr. Seuss books, films, TV shows, stage productions, digital media, licensed merchandise, and other strategic partnerships. Gates also manages the Dr. Seuss trademark and copyright portfolio and infringement of the beloved Dr. Seuss IP. Prior to joining Dr. Seuss Enterprises, Gates was an associate at the international law firm DLA Piper. She received her J.D. from the USC Gould School of Law and a B.A. in Art History from the University of Virginia. Nicole enjoys staying connected with the USC Law School community and serves on the alumni committee in San Diego. Nicole recently joined the board of directors of The New Children's Museum in downtown San Diego where she has been able to combine her love for art and enriching children's lives. She received her yoga teacher certification in 2019 and enjoys volunteering with animal rescue organizations.

LITIGATION



**ALEXIS GUTIERREZ**  
Partner  
**HIGGS FLETCHER & MACK LLP**

*Alexis Gutierrez is an effective advocate and counselor to clients with business and employment law needs.*

**Alexis Gutierrez** has, over the last 20-plus years, earned a reputation for his ability to handle complex commercial litigation on behalf of private, public and non-profit entities. His significant trial experience includes litigating complex cases in federal and state courts and before numerous administrative agencies. Gutierrez is chair of HFM's Litigation Department and heads the firm's Labor and Employment practice group, and serves on the firm's executive committee. He has been integral to the development of many newer attorneys and mentoring support to their practice development. Gutierrez also embodies HFM's commitment to the San Diego community by dedicating time and expertise to numerous charitable and civic organizations serving the region, including the board of directors of United Way of San Diego and the San Diego North Economic Development Council, and chairmanship roles with the American Red Cross for San Diego and Imperial Counties and the San Diego Convention Center Corporation. Gutierrez earned Martindale Hubbell's highest peer rating for Legal Ability and Ethical Standards. He is also recognized consistently by Best Lawyers in America, Chambers USA Guide and by San Diego Magazine as a Top Lawyer and others.

PATENT



**WILLIAM HUNTER**  
Principal  
**FISH & RICHARDSON**

*"I am humbled by the recognition as a Leader in Law; I could not have arrived where I am without the help of many. Success is a journey with friends and colleagues, not a destination."*

**William Hunter** is a leading patent attorney with significant experience in multiple industries, including digital health, electrical and computer technology, hardware, computer networks, manufacturing, medical devices, nanotechnology, optics, software and telecommunications. With a company's patent portfolio often its largest and most important asset, Hunter's role is critical to his clients' successes. Hunter, who is the group leader for **Fish & Richardson's** Southern California patent practice, has practiced patent law for 20 years and has garnered expertise in patent prosecution, freedom to operate studies, and the intersection of patent law with other forms of intellectual property. Patent law is continuously evolving, and Hunter is at the forefront of the practice area. When the America Invents Act (AIA) dramatically changed patent law in 2011, he was a key part of Fish's efforts to track and interpret the AIA. His understanding and advice has played a critical role in keeping Fish attorneys and clients apprised as the AIA has been implemented and interpreted. He resides in San Diego, but his global practice takes him around the world working with clients, many of whom have relied upon Hunter for many years due to his knowledge, skill and trustworthiness.

Helping to Finance the American Dream

Plaza Home Mortgage is proud to congratulate **Lynde Selden, General Counsel**



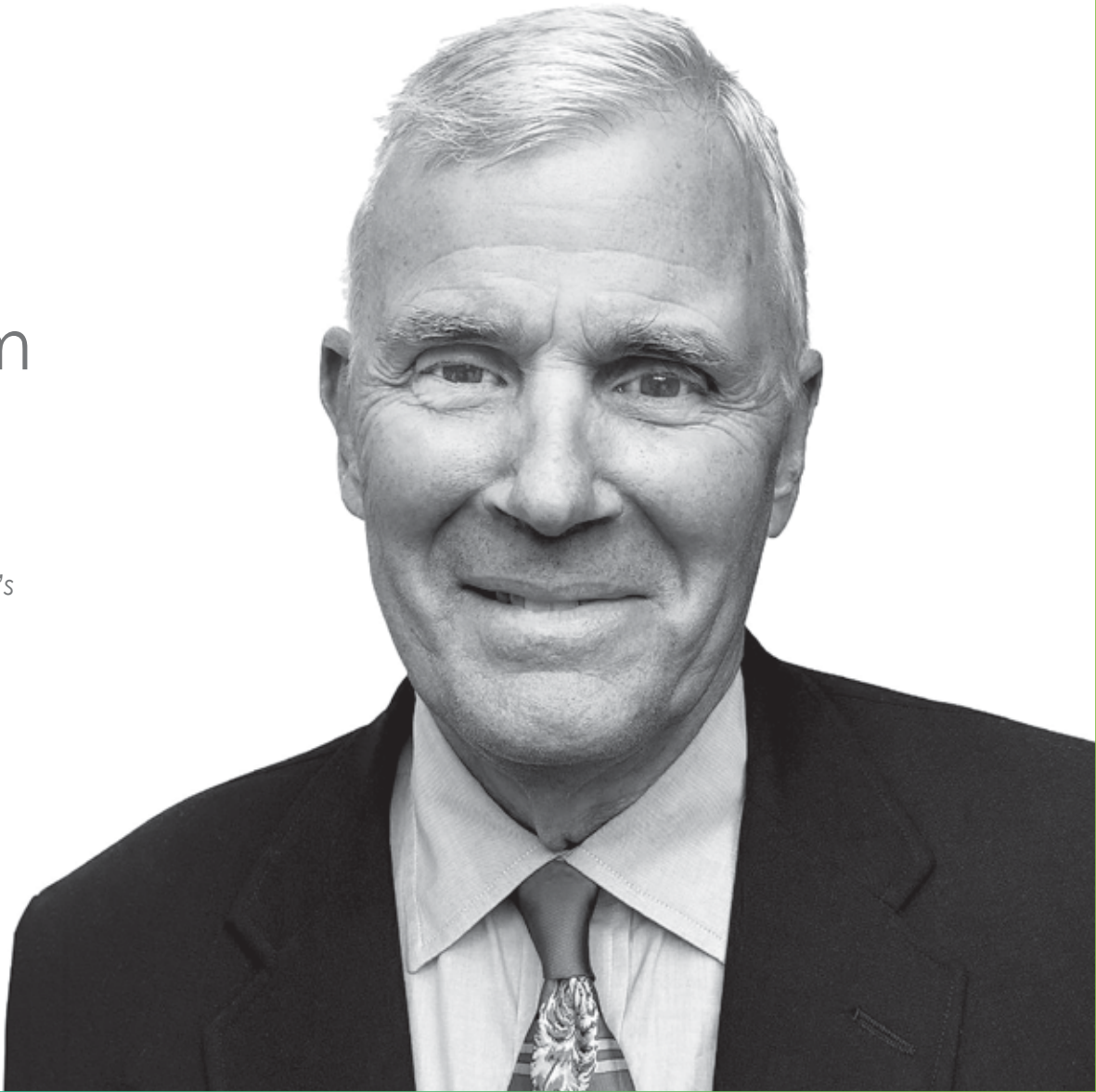
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hereforyou@plazahomemortgage.com

plazahomemortgage.com

Plaza NMLS #2113







## LABOR &amp; EMPLOYMENT

**THOMAS INGRASSIA**

Shareholder and Co-Founder  
PETTIT KOHN INGRASSIA LUTZ & DOLIN

*"Over the last 30 years, I've learned that the single best way to ensure the success of your organization is to take care of your employees."*

Thomas S. Ingrassia is a founding member of **Pettit Kohn Ingrassia Lutz & Dolin**, and serves as the firm's chief financial officer. As co-chair of the firm's Employment and Labor Department, Ingrassia regularly assists his clients in developing and enforcing appropriate employment practices and policies, investigating claims of employee harassment/misconduct, and defending all forms of employment litigation before state and federal courts and administrative agencies. Ingrassia has achieved Martindale-Hubbell's highest rating for his legal ability and ethical standards. Ingrassia has been selected for inclusion in San Diego Super Lawyers every year since 2008 and was recognized as one of San Diego's Top 50 Attorneys in 2016, 2017 and 2020. Ingrassia has also been selected for inclusion in Best Lawyers in America, a publication regarded as the definitive guide to legal excellence, every year since 2013. Ingrassia is a widely acclaimed speaker who is frequently invited to provide employment practices and employee management training for private firms, other attorneys and professional organizations throughout California. Ingrassia's leadership in the community was formally recognized with his election as the 2002 president of the San Diego Society for Human Resource Management, the region's largest organization of human resource professionals.

## PUBLIC COMPANY

**SHAKA JOHNSON**

Vice President & Associate General Counsel  
SONY ELECTRONICS INC.

*"Success is the ability to positively impact others' lives. Be positive in all you do, and kind when doing it."*

Shaka Johnson leads the legal department at **Sony Electronics Inc.** as vice president and associate general counsel. His team is responsible for corporate security and traditional legal affairs in North America. He was with Sony Electronics earlier in his career (2011 – 2015), and led corporate, sales, post-sales and e-commerce-related legal matters. Immediately prior to this role, he spent three years leading the global sales and marketing legal team for Facebook's AR/VR group as associate general counsel, and is proud to be part of the team that launched Oculus VR headsets and Facebook's Portal devices. Earlier, he was with Sanyo North America Corp., Gateway Inc. and Higgs, Fletcher & Mack.

Throughout his career, Johnson has provided practical, friendly legal leadership and support. This focus has led to some of his proudest accomplishments: being named to the Association of Corporate Counsel's Top 10 "30 Somethings" in 2014, receiving the SDBJ General Counsel – "Rising Star" Award in 2013, and being chosen to participate as a Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Fellow in 2018. He helped found the SDCBA-ACC Diversity Fellowship Program in San Diego, and last year had the honor of delivering the commencement address at his alma mater, USD School of Law.

## MERGER &amp; ACQUISITIONS

**STEPHEN LASALA**

Partner  
SHEPPARD MULLIN RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP

*"It's an honor to be recognized. I'm humbled to be in such incredible company and I feel fortunate to be able to do the work I love with clients I really enjoy."*

Steve LaSala is a partner in **Sheppard Mullin's Corporate Practice Group**. Specializing in mergers and acquisitions, he counsels strategic buyers, private equity sponsors and entrepreneurs in M&A transactions. His practice also includes venture capital and private equity financings, joint ventures, corporate governance, equity and executive compensation, and the formation and structure of business entities. He represents small and large companies ranging from startups to established public companies in a variety of industries, including business services, healthcare, life sciences, aerospace and defense, software, energy, consumer goods, manufacturing, construction and media. He also represents institutional and individual investors in equity and debt investments. LaSala leads about 25 M&A deals per year, representing buyers and sellers. He has represented Allied Universal, the largest security guard company in the country, in more than 70 acquisitions. Its largest owners are private equity funds affiliated with Warburg Pincus and CDPQ. LaSala has served in multiple leadership roles within the firm. He is currently a member of the firm's Compensation Committee. He is also the former managing partner of the San Diego/Del Mar office and the former Practice Group Leader of the Corporate Practice Group.

# Setting the standard.

We are proud to congratulate our partners **Wynter Deagle** and **Mike Whitton** for their selection as *San Diego Business Journal's* **2020 Leaders in Law.**

troutman.com

Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP

troutman  
pepper



OTHER



**ADAM LENAIN**  
Member  
MINTZ LEVIN

*“For me, professional success is about being the person clients call when they have a serious problem that needs to be solved.”*

**Adam Lenain** assists life sciences and information technology companies navigate complex legal and business issues. With a practical and creative focus on his clients’ intended business results, he often functions as an outside general counsel and is regularly consulted by management teams for guidance on strategic matters. His clients are both public companies and emerging growth companies.

Lenain has over 20 years of experience representing issuers and investment banks in connection with public and private financing transactions, SEC regulatory compliance and ‘34 Act reporting. He also regularly represents buyers and sellers in mergers and acquisitions as well as corporations and limited liability companies with respect to general corporate issues that arise throughout the corporate life cycle –from formation to exit.

He was named to Best Lawyers in America: Corporate Law (2021). While in law school, he was awarded Order of the Coif and was selected as a law review editor. As an undergraduate at Yale, Lenain played both football and baseball. He is also an avid bass fisherman.

RISING STAR



**JING Y. LI**  
Attorney  
SOLOMON WARD SEIDENWURM & SMITH LLP

*“As an attorney, success means achieving my clients’ goals. This is my guiding light and the standard I judge each action by.”*

**Jing Y. Li**, an employment and business litigator, is a rising star at **Solomon Ward Seidenwurm & Smith LLP**. Through his counsel to California employers, Li has garnered extensive experience defending claims of race/disability discrimination, sexual harassment, wage and hour disputes, class actions, government liability and other labor and employment litigation issues. He also has a broad range of real estate experience, including unlawful detainers, real estate leasing issues and commercial and residential property management. Fluent in Mandarin, Li is focused on attracting foreign businesses to California and assisting them with their legal needs in the state. His experience with foreign companies includes the representation of international clients on the formation of their U.S. entities, employment advice and counseling, defending international clients on employment and business dispute matters and prosecuting his clients’ claims in commercial disputes. Dubbed “the problem solver” by his clients, Li has developed unique strategies that emphasize the use of efficient and creative solutions, resulting in successful resolutions and settlements on numerous employment and business litigation matters.

RISING STAR



**MARTIN NUÑEZ**  
Deputy District Attorney  
SAN DIEGO DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

*“The world sees only the successful son, yet it was that sweet mother in the background that made his success possible.”*

**Martin Nuñez** is a deputy district attorney of the **San Diego District Attorney’s Office**. Nuñez represents true grit and has become a pillar of strength in the community. Growing up in City Heights, he witnessed first-hand the need for legal advocates to protect victims of crime. Rising from the trenches, Nuñez left his janitor job and embarked on a journey to improve his community. He attended Southwestern Community College before transferring to San Diego State University. After graduating from California Western School of Law, he became a Volunteer Prosecutor in the San Diego City Attorney’s Office where he handled cases in the General Trial Unit, Consumer Fraud and Environmental Protection Unit, and Domestic Violence Unit. He then joined the San Diego District Attorney’s Office where he currently represents and serves his community with pride. Outside of the office, Nuñez has also accomplished becoming an instructor in the criminal justice field. However, he is most proud of being a boxing instructor at the ABC Youth Foundation, Mongoose Boxing Gym, where he inspires underrepresented youth to become leaders of high moral character in light of their obstacles and gives them a fighting chance against negative influences.



*Congratulations*  
**Shaka Johnson**  
**Sony Electronics**  
**SONY**

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL







## OTHER



**KRISTIN REYNA DEHART**  
Assistant Managing Partner  
**GORDON REES SCULLY MANSUKHANI**

## PUBLIC COMPANY



**DINA SEGAL**  
Assistant General Counsel  
**INTUIT INC.**

## PRIVATE COMPANY



**ANDREW SERWIN**  
US Chair and Global Co-Chair, Data Protection, Privacy  
and Security  
**DLA PIPER**

*"Success is very personal. Don't measure your own by what you perceive as someone else's."*

**Kristin Reyna DeHart** is an accomplished environmental attorney who has practiced in the San Diego office of national law firm **Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani** for the last 20 years. The 29th attorney to join the office, she was elected to national partnership in 2007, and became the San Diego office Assistant Managing Partner in 2017, one of the firm's largest offices with over 200 employees. Reyna DeHart sits on the Steering Committee of the firmwide Environmental and Toxic Tort practice group. She is also the San Diego office's representative to the firm's Diversity Committee and Women's Initiative programs. Reyna DeHart litigates environmental, toxic tort and product liability matters in both state and federal court, including trials and appeals. She also counsels clients regarding environmental compliance issues, including property contamination and waste handling. She regularly assists clients with environmental investigations and in negotiations with regulators. She also performs environmental due diligence work in business transactions. Reyna DeHart is actively involved in legal presentations to clients and in the legal community. She sits on the board of directors for North Park AYSO, and on the board of trustees of Trinity United Methodist church in North Park, where she lives.

*"Success is the result of unwavering perseverance, curiosity and empathy with the intent of leaving the world better than it was the day before."*

**Dina Segal** is a business minded, practical and inspirational leader. In her current role as assistant general counsel at **Intuit Inc.** Segal is a legal partner to Intuit's business teams working to power prosperity around the world by helping customers prepare their taxes, gain access to capital, and support small businesses through even the most unprecedented times. Segal is also currently co-president and board member of SunLaw, Inc. (sunlaw.org), a non-profit dynamic community that supports, educates, advances, connects, and inspires women in house counsel to maximize their fullest personal and professional potential and lead.

Before joining Intuit, Segal was senior vice president and deputy general counsel of Renovate America, Inc. where she worked closely with internal leaders and external partners, industry groups and government entities to help shape fin-tech offerings which allow customers to better access improvements to their homes that save energy and water. Prior to going in house, she worked at two of the world's leading law firms, Winton & Strawn and Sheppard Mullin. Through this journey, Segal's diversity of thought, collaborative attitude and deep business acumen has allowed her to solve complex legal challenges, inspire others to grow and lead and help create products that truly delight customers.

*"Figure out what motivates you, and relentlessly pursue that. The rest takes care of itself."*

**Andrew B. Serwin** is an internationally recognized thought leader in privacy and cybersecurity issues. He is the U.S. chair, and a global co-chair of DLA's Cybersecurity and Data Protection, Privacy and Security Practice and has worked on some of the highest-profile privacy and security matters on a global basis. Serwin is chairman of the board of directors of the private sector of the federally funded National Cyber Forensic Training Alliance (NCFTA), an entity that functions as a forum for private industry, academia and law enforcement, with a core mission to identify, mitigate and neutralize cybercrime, and also served as the lead expert witness on U.S. law for the Data Protection Commissioner of Ireland in the Schrems II case, where his testimony was adopted by the Irish High Court and ultimately relied upon by the CJEU.

A noted public speaker and author, Serwin has written the leading treatise on privacy and security, "Information Security and Privacy: A Guide to Federal and State Law and Compliance," and "Information Security and Privacy: A Guide to International Law and Compliance" (West 2006-2020), collectively a 6,000-page, three-volume treatise, that examines all aspects of privacy and security laws, published by Thomson-Wes



### Congratulations to our partner, Fernando Landa!

A member of CGS3's workouts and litigation practices, Fernando specializes in the acquisition, financing, leasing and disposition of commercial real estate assets. He is well deserving of recognition as a finalist in the San Diego Business Journal's Leaders in Law Awards.



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*"If you don't work hard, you are never going to make it, and if you work hard, you might make it, so work hard!"*

**Ronson J. Shamoun** is a three-time graduate of the USD and the founder and CEO of **RJS LAW**, A Tax Law Firm. For over 20 years, he has helped everyone from small mom and pop businesses who fell behind in taxes to large international companies with complex tax issues. Shamoun was named a 2019-2020 Super Lawyer, San Diego Metro Magazine's Top Attorney and Men of Influence, and San Diego Magazine's Top Lawyer. In 2020, he was recognized by the San Diego Business Journal as a CEO of the Year Award Winner for the Small Private Company, San Diego's 50 Leaders Making a Difference, and San Diego's Top 500 Influential Business Leaders.

In 2017, Shamoun was awarded the USD School of Law Distinguished Alumni Award. This prestigious designation is the highest honor bestowed upon alumni, and only 85 people have received this award. Shamoun credits his success to his loving wife, parents, and family. Additionally, Shamoun is an adjunct professor and board member at the USD School of Law and School of Business and donates scholarships to the schools annually.

In 2016, Shamoun co-founded the nationally recognized USD School of Law – RJS LAW Tax Controversy Institute.

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**MICHAEL WHITTON**  
Partner  
**TROUTMAN PEPPER**

*"Success comes from mastering your craft inside and out, and striving to help those around you reach their potential."*

**Michael Whitton** is a partner with **Troutman Pepper** and has held several leadership positions within the firm and his community. He has a national reputation as a go-to attorney regarding sophisticated and complex real estate matters. A large part of his work involves buying, selling, developing and financing golf courses and country clubs throughout the country. Whitton served as managing partner of the firm's San Diego office and that of its predecessor firm for a combined 15 years while simultaneously serving on both firms' executive committees. Additionally, Whitton continues to serve on the firm's Policy and Compensation Committees.

Whitton is also an entrepreneur and investor in several start-ups across multiple industries. He is the chair of the Board of Trustees for California Western School of Law, and sits on multiple boards of local organizations including the board of St. Augustine High School, the Policy Advisory Board of the USD Burnham Moores Center for Real Estate, the board of the county's Boy Scout Council, and was an executive board member of the San Diego 2018 Notre Dame - Navy Game and chair of the 2016 Farmers Insurance Open. This experience is why Whitton is so highly regarded as a trusted advisor.

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*Congratulates Joseph Martinez  
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We are proud of all of your accomplishments  
and inspired by your contributions  
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