

LAW FIRMS

Rank Prev. Rank	Law firm •Address	Headquarters •Website •Email	OC attorneys •yearly % change	Attorneys firmwide	OC partners	OC employees •yearly % change	Areas of practice	Partial list of clients	No. of offices firmwide	Top local official(s) •Title •Phone/fax
1 (1)	Knobbe Martens ⁽¹⁾ 2040 Main St., 14th floor Irvine 92614-7218	Irvine knobbe.com info@knobbe.com	164 0%	276	101	470 -1%	Intellectual property including litigation, patents and trademarks, copyrights, unfair competition, trade secrets, rights of publicity, licensing, venture capital due diligence	Masimo Corp., Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., Toshiba America Information Systems Inc., Samsung SDI Co., Oakley Inc., Monster Energy Co.	7	Steven Nataupsky managing partner (949) 760-0404/(949) 760-9502
2 (2)	Rutan & Tucker LLP 611 Anton Blvd., Ste. 1400 Costa Mesa 92626-1931	Costa Mesa rutan.com dross@rutan.com	133 -1%	143	73	265 4%	Corporate/securities/tax, real estate, municipal and government, employment/labor, business litigation, intellectual property/technology, banking & finance/construction, P3/infrastructure	Primoris Services Corp., First American Financial Corp., Western National Group, Toshiba Corp., FireEye Inc., Incipio LLC	2	William F. Meehan managing partner (714) 641-5100/(714) 546-9035
3 (3)	Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth 660 Newport Center Drive, Ste. 1600 Newport Beach 92660-6441	Newport Beach sycr.com sfeuchter@sycr.com	86 -1%	135	45	168 -1%	M&A, venture capital, corporate, securities litigation, white collar, enforcement defense and investigations, life sciences, technology, labor/employment, intellectual property, tax, public finance, bankruptcy/restructuring	Clearlake Capital, Spectrum Pharmaceuticals Inc., City of San Bernardino, Deckers Outdoor Corp., EndoLogix Inc., Tandem Diabetes Care, AppFolio	10	board of directors (949) 725-4000/(949) 725-4100
4 (5)	Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP 650 Town Center Drive, fourth floor Costa Mesa 92626-1993	Los Angeles sheppardmullin.com info@sheppardmullin.com	72 0%	770	32	114 0%	Litigation, finance and bankruptcy, labor and employment, intellectual property, real estate and land use, corporate, tax	Starbucks, LendingTree LLC, Lenovo, U.S. Bank, General Electric Capital Corp., Houston's Restaurants	15	Sean O'Connor managing partner, OC office (714) 513-5100/(714) 513-5130
5 (4)	Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP 3161 Michelson Drive Irvine 92612-4412	NA gibsondunn.com inquiries@gibsondunn.com	68 -7%	1,293	17	162 17%	Complex litigation, mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance, shareholder activism, intellectual property/patent, securities litigation, environmental, data privacy, restructuring, FCPA (Foreign Corrupt Practices Act), employment	TRI Pointe Group Inc., Allergan PLC, St. Joseph Health System, Western Digital Corp., Nike, Facebook	20	Michael Flynn/Meryl Young co-partner in charge (949) 451-3800/(949) 451-4220
5 (6)	Latham & Watkins LLP 650 Town Center Drive, 20th floor Costa Mesa 92626-1925	NA lw.com webmaster@lw.com	68 10%	2,457	21	148 10%	Mergers and acquisitions, securities litigation, intellectual property, corporate finance, real estate finance, environmental, shareholder activism	Allergan PLC, New Home Co., Quality Systems Inc., Newegg Inc., Alorica Inc., Receptos	33	B. Shayne Kennedy office managing partner (714) 540-1235/(714) 755-8290

Abbreviations: NA: not applicable; NR: not ranked
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⁽¹⁾ Previously listed as Knobbe Martens Olson & Bear LLP

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Prev. Rank	•Address	•Website •Email	•yearly % change			•yearly % change				•Title •Phone/fax
7 (10)	Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP 650 Town Center Drive, Ste. 1400 Costa Mesa 92626-1970	Los Angeles lewisbrisbois.com charles.harris@lewisbrisbois.com	61 13%	1,135	39	115 -1%	General liability, construction, employment, professional and commercial liability, transportation, medical and legal malpractice	would not disclose	41	Charles Harris managing partner (714) 545-9200/(714) 850-1030
8 (8)	O'Melveny & Myers LLP 610 Newport Center Drive, 17th floor Newport Beach 92660-6429	Los Angeles omm.com info@omm.com	58 4%	731	19	89 -4%	Corporate/securities, intellectual property and technology, commercial litigation, executive compensation, tax, labor/employment, financial services, real estate	CoreLogic Inc., Edwards LifeSciences Corp., CIT Bank, Ocwen Financial Corp., Sabra Healthcare REIT Inc., Western Digital Corp.	15	Elizabeth McKeen managing partner (949) 823-6900/(949) 823-6994
9 (12)	Bremer, Whyte, Brown & O'Meara LLP 20320 S.W. Birch St., second floor Newport Beach 92660-1787	Newport Beach bremerwhyte.com nwwhyte@bremerwhyte.com	53 18%	126	12	92 14%	General civil litigation, business litigation, family, personal injury, wills/trusts, construction, environmental, cyber litigation, employment, homeowner/community association	Waste Management Inc., Toshiba, Farmers Insurance, Arch Insurance Group Inc., Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Discover	11	Keith G. Bremer/Nicole Whyte/ John H. Toohey founding partner/founding partner/managing partner (949) 221-1000/(949) 221-1001
10 (8)	Newmeyer & Dillion LLP 895 Dove St., fifth floor Newport Beach 92660-2941	Newport Beach ndf.com marketing@ndf.com	52 2%	73	32	81 35%	Commercial and residential real estate, transactions, construction, insurance, employment, business litigation, land use, eminent domain, and environmental	would not disclose	3	Jeffrey M. Dennis managing partner (949) 854-7000/(949) 854-7099
11 (7)	Snell & Wilmer 600 Anton Blvd., Ste. 1400 Costa Mesa 92626-7689	Phoenix swlaw.com info@swlaw.com	49 -16%	414	26	102 -12%	Corporate/finance, commercial litigation, intellectual property, real estate, product liability, estate planning, franchising, employment, bankruptcy	would not disclose	9	Ketan Vakil administrative partner (714) 427-7000/(714) 427-7799
12 (15)	Troutman Sanders LLP 5 Park Plaza, Ste. 1400 Irvine 92614-2545	Atlanta troutmansanders.com larry.cerutti@troutmansanders.com	48 14%	682	24	75 15%	Corporate and securities, real estate finance, business litigation, renewable energy, insurance, labor and employment, intellectual property, cybersecurity, multi-family housing, bankruptcy	Bank of America, Delta Air Lines Inc., Pacific Ethanol Inc., Verizon, Turner Broadcasting System Inc., Cypress Semiconductor Corp.	16	Larry Cerutti managing partner (949) 622-2700/(949) 622-2739
13 (14)	Jones Day 3161 Michelson Drive, Ste. 800 Irvine 92612-4408	NA jonesday.com	47 9%	2,608	18	71 16%	Litigation, mergers and acquisitions, corporate, intellectual property, healthcare, labor and employment, securities litigation, banking and finance, cybersecurity, privacy	Applied Medical Resources Corp., Bank of America, Epicor Software Corp., Experian Information Solutions Inc., Lennar Corp., Wells Fargo & Company	44	Richard Grabowski partner-in-charge (949) 851-3939/(949) 553-7539
14 (13)	Woodruff, Spradlin & Smart, A Professional Corporation 555 Anton Blvd., Ste. 1200 Costa Mesa 92626-7670	Costa Mesa wss-law.com tburnside@wss-law.com	44 0%	44	20	81 -4%	Public agency, including tort litigation, eminent domain, labor/employment, transactional and environmental law	would not disclose	1	Lois Bobak/Joseph Forbath/ Gregory Simonian executive committee (714) 558-7000/(714) 835-7787
15 (15)	Allen Matkins⁽²⁾ 1900 Main St., fifth floor Irvine 92614-7321	Los Angeles allenmatkins.com kbeecher@allenmatkins.com	43 2%	192	29	82 -2%	Real estate, corporate/finance, tax/joint venture, litigation, environmental/natural resources, labor/employment; restructuring, insolvency and bankruptcy	would not disclose	5	Drew Emmel office operating partner (949) 553-1313/(949) 553-8354
16 (15)	Gordon & Rees LLP 2211 Michelson Drive, Ste. 400 Irvine 92612-1390	San Francisco gordonrees.com info@gordonrees.com	42 ⁽³⁾ NA	692 ⁽³⁾	28 ⁽³⁾	58 ⁽³⁾ NA	Commercial litigation, employment litigation, products liability defense, intellectual property, construction, tax, corporate transactions, energy, cleantech, infrastructure development	Yokohama Tire Corp., Mitsubishi Electric Corp., Western Digital Corp., The Salvation Army	40	Jeffrey A. Swedo managing partner, OC office (949) 255-6950/(949) 474-2060
17 (11)	Walsworth 1 City Blvd. W., fifth floor Orange 92868-3677	Orange wfbm.com info@wfbm.com	41 -11%	82	25	91 0%	Business commercial and real estate law, construction law, employment law, environment law, food law, general liability, life sciences law, professional liability, public entity law, toxic tort law, travel law, trial and appellate, premises liability, product liability	would not disclose	3	Mary Watson Fisher co-managing partner (714) 634-2522/(714) 634-0686
18 (15)	Wright, Finlay & Zak LLP 4665 MacArthur Court, Ste. 200 Newport Beach 92660-1811	Newport Beach wrightlegal.net rwright@wrightlegal.net	40 -5%	63	3	93 -3%	Litigation services in mortgage banking, loan servicing, real estate, bankruptcy, eviction, general business	Saxon Group, American Home Mortgage Servicing Inc., Credit Suisse Group, Select Portfolio Servicing Inc., Wells Fargo Home Mortgage	5	Robin Wright managing partner (949) 477-5050/(949) 608-9142

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(2) Previously listed as Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP
(3) Business Journal estimate

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Representation of Creative Bus Sales, Inc. in its acquisition of substantially all of the assets of National Bus Sales, Inc.



Representation of QSC, LLC in its acquisition of Ultra-Stereo Labs, Inc.



Representation of KCA Electronics in its acquisition by HCI Equity Partners.



Representation of TriPAQ in its acquisition by New-Indy Containerboard.



Representation of Pacific Medical in its acquisition by Jordan Health Products.



Representation of Digital Networks Group in its acquisition by Avidex Industries.



Representation of Proof Positive ABA Therapies in its acquisition by Autism Learning Partners.



Representation of California shareholders of Critchfield Pacific in its acquisition by an undisclosed buyer.



Representation of Foundation Building Materials in five strategic acquisitions for aggregate consideration in excess of \$100,000,000.



Representation of MSI in its senior secured financing transaction.



Representation of Pro-Dex, Inc. in connection with at-the-market offering of up to \$20,000,000.



Representation of Hardin Holdings and Ancon Marine in a joint venture with Budway Enterprises to combine their trucking and logistics businesses under the MHX brand, and representation of MHX in its refinance with Comerica Bank.



Representation of Performance Team in connection with its senior secured credit facility.

Rutan & Tucker, LLP has the knowledge and expertise to structure, negotiate and close all aspects of domestic and international mergers and acquisitions, financings and securities transactions. These are just a few of our recent notable transactions. We have experience covering a broad spectrum of industries and sectors, such as healthcare, education, software, construction, food and consumer products, aerospace, and oil and gas, among others. Whether you are a private business owner contemplating an exit or growth transaction, a private equity fund expanding or realizing on your portfolio, or a public company making strategic moves, we look forward to being your partner and trusted advisor in achieving your business objectives.

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Prev. Rank	•Address	•Website •Email	•yearly % change			•yearly % change				•Title •Phone/fax
19 (23)	Buchalter⁽⁴⁾ 18400 Von Karman Ave., Ste. 800 Irvine 92612-0514	Los Angeles buchalter.com marketing@buchalter.com	39 22%	206	18	58 21%	Aviation and aerospace, bank and finance, corporate, healthcare, intellectual property, insolvency, labor and employment, litigation, real estate, tax/estate planning	would not disclose	6	Martin P. Florman managing partner, Orange County office (949) 760-1121/(949) 720-0182
20 (19)	Jackson Tidus 2030 Main St., 12th floor Irvine 92614-9704	Irvine jacksontidus.law info@jacksontidus.law	38 -3%	41	22	61 -2%	Real estate, land use, subdivision, business, tax, litigation, mortgage insurance	would not disclose	2	Alim Malik president (949) 752-8585/(949) 752-0597
21 (20)	Callahan & Blaine 3 Hutton Center Drive, ninth floor Santa Ana 92707-8722	Santa Ana callahan-law.com daniel@callahan-law.com	36 -3%	36	5	85 -1%	Business litigation, brain trauma/wrongful death, insurance bad faith	would not disclose	2	Daniel Callahan founding partner/principal (714) 241-4444/(714) 241-4445
21 (22)	Palmieri, Tyler, Wiener, Wilhelm & Waldron LLP 1900 Main St., Ste. 700 Irvine 92614-7328	Irvine ptwww.com jgoodlin@ptwww.com	36 3%	36	22	74 1%	Business litigation, eminent domain, real estate/corporate, estate planning/wealth management	Arizona Leather Co., Bedrosians Tile & Stone, Griswold Industries, Wahoo's Fish Taco, Intercontinental Hotels Group, Shelly Automotive Group	1	Dennis W. Ghan/Patrick A. Hennessey/Michael H. Leifer/Richard A. Salus management committee (949) 851-9400/(949) 851-1554
23 (23)	Bryan Cave LLP 3161 Michelson Drive, Ste. 1500 Irvine 92612-4414	St. Louis bryancave.com	35 3%	953	17	65 -4%	Corporate finance, securities, real estate, project finance, intellectual property, labor/employment, litigation, product liability, class action defense	would not disclose	26	Holly P. Lopez/Steven H. Sunshine Irvine office managing partner/ management committee and partner (949) 223-7000/(949) 223-7100
23 (23)	Fisher & Phillips LLP 2050 Main St., Ste. 1000 Irvine 92614-8240	Atlanta fisherphillips.com fp@fisherphillips.com	35 3%	370	17	68 3%	Labor/employment, employee benefits, trade secrets, immigration	would not disclose	33	James McDonald office managing partner (949) 851-2424/(949) 851-0152
23 (30)	Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP 695 Town Center Drive, 14th floor Costa Mesa 92626-7223	Los Angeles manatt.com shori@manatt.com	35 13%	336	19	60 11%	Litigation, intellectual property, real estate, land use, corporate, finance, banking and financial, government and regulatory, labor/employment	Incipio LLC, Target Corporation, El Pollo Loco, University of California at San Diego Health System, PIMCO, The Related Companies	9	Susan Hori administrative partner (714) 371-2500/(714) 371-2550
26 (31)	Haynes and Boone LLP 600 Anton Blvd., Ste. 700 Costa Mesa 92626-7651	Dallas haynesandboone.com greg.michelson @haynesboone.com	33 10%	588	12	64 5%	Intellectual property, patent and PTO proceedings, commercial litigation, appellate litigation, insurance litigation, real estate, mergers and acquisitions, labor and employment	PayPal Inc., Qualcomm Inc., Panda Restaurant Group Inc., Western Digital Technologies, Inc., Allergan PLC, Pacific Life Insurance Co.	15	Greg Michelson administrative partner (949) 202-3000/(949) 202-3001
26 (28)	Nossaman LLP 18101 Von Karman Ave., Ste. 1800 Irvine 92612-0177	NA nossaman.com info@nossaman.com	33 3%	153	21	55 4%	Environmental, land use, eminent domain, real estate, employment, public finance, healthcare, water, litigation	would not disclose	7	George Joseph managing partner (949) 833-7800/(949) 833-7878
26 (34)	Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart PC 695 Town Center Drive, Ste. 1500 Costa Mesa 92626-7106	Greenville, S.C. ogletree.com client.services@ ogletreedeaikins.com	33 14%	824	10	56 10%	Labor and employment, litigation, workplace safety and health, wage and hour, sports and entertainment	would not disclose	51	Keith Watts managing shareholder, Orange County (714) 800-7900
26 (21)	Payne & Fears LLP 4 Park Plaza, Ste. 1100 Irvine 92614-8550	Irvine paynefears.com info@paynefears.com	33 -8%	49	13	61 3%	Business litigation, labor/employment, insurance coverage	Lennar, Boeing Co., Safeway Inc., Marriott International Inc.	7	Daniel Fears managing partner (949) 851-1100/(949) 851-1212
30 (36)	Call & Jensen 610 Newport Center Drive, Ste. 700 Newport Beach 92660-6498	Newport Beach calljensen.com info@calljensen.com	31 15%	31	16	55 6%	Business litigation, class action, employment, intellectual property, real estate	Chevron Corp., Western Digital Corp., Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc., 7-Eleven, Kohl's, Boston Market	1	Julie R. Trotter president, managing shareholder (949) 717-3000/(949) 717-3100

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(4) Previously listed as Buchalter Nemer

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31 (NR)	Jackson Lewis 200 Spectrum Center Drive, Ste. 500 Irvine 92618-5005	West Harrison, N.Y. jacksonlewis.com	30 50%	805	7	50 32%	Employment litigation and labor law	would not disclose	57	Samantha N. Hoffman office managing principal (949) 885-1360/(949) 885-1380
31 (23)	Paul Hastings LLP 695 Town Center Drive, 17th floor Costa Mesa 92626-1924	Los Angeles paulhastings.com	30 -12%	1,038	9	37 -29%	Corporate, employment, finance, litigation, real estate, tax	Cushman & Wakefield Inc., Disney, Facebook, Fitness International Inc., GI Partners, Teachers Insurance, Wells Fargo	21	John Simonis Office Chair, Orange County (714) 668-6200/(714) 979-1921
31 (NR)	Wesierski & Zurek LLP One Corporate Park, Ste. 200 Irvine 92606-5152	Irvine wzllp.com cwesierski@wzllp.com	30 0%	45	6	75 0%	Business litigation, products, employment defense	City of Newport Beach, County of Orange, Joint Powers, Authority, Marriott International Inc., Mexi-Grill DBA Javiers Cantina & Grill, Olen Properties	2	Christopher P. Wesierski managing senior partner (949) 975-1000/(949) 756-0517
34 (34)	Jones & Mayer 3777 N. Harbor Blvd. Fullerton 92835-1336	Fullerton jones-mayer.com rdj@jones-mayer.com	29 0%	38	6	47 9%	Municipal, labor, civil litigation, receiverships, police legal advisor	Cities of Fullerton, La Habra, Costa Mesa, Whittier, Westminster, California State Sheriffs' Association	3	Richard D. Jones owner/president (714) 446-1400/(714) 446-1448
34 (31)	Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP 600 Anton Blvd., Ste. 1800 Costa Mesa 92626-7653	Philadelphia morganlewis.com ellen.bancroft@ morganlewis.com	29 -3%	1,867	13	57 -3%	Corporate and finance, labor and employment, investment management, securities regulation and litigation, commercial litigation	Arbonne International, Best Buy, JP Morgan Chase & Co., Platinum Equity LLC, Sempra Energy/SoCalGas and Solis Capital Partners	29	Ellen S. Bancroft office managing partner (714) 830-0600/(714) 830-0700
36 (28)	Crowell & Moring LLP 3 Park Plaza, 20th floor Irvine 92614-8505	Washington, D.C. crowell.com info@crowell.com	28 -13%	480	9	73 1%	Complex litigation, antitrust, intellectual property, labor/employment, insurance, healthcare	DaVita HealthCare Partners Inc., UnitedHealth Group Inc., Skyworks Solutions Inc., Luxottica Group S.p.A./Oakley, Ingram Micro Inc.	7	Steven D. Allison office managing partner (949) 263-8400/(949) 263-8414

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36 (31)	Green & Hall LLP⁽⁵⁾ 1851 E. First St., 10th floor Santa Ana 92705-4017	Santa Ana greenhall.com gh@greenhall.com	28 -7%	39	8	59 -8%	Construction, complex commercial litigation, real estate-related litigation, mortgage banking litigation	Lennar Homes of California Inc., NationStar Mortgage LLC, CalAtlantic Group Inc., Meritage Homes Corp., Orange Coast Title Co., Irvine Company	4	Howard D. Hall/Samuel M. Danskin managing partner/administrative partner (714) 918-7000/(714) 918-6996
38 (23)	K&L Gates LLP 1 Park Plaza, 12th floor Irvine 92614-5910	NA klgates.com kelly.barba@klgates.com	27 -27%	1,940	11	47 -22%	Corporate, intellectual property, product liability, life sciences, healthcare, commercial litigation, tax	Allergan PLC, Beckman Coulter Inc., Spectrum Pharmaceuticals Inc., Ameriprise Financial Services Inc., University of Southern California	46	David Perry administrative partner (949) 253-0900/(949) 253-0902
38 (36)	Koeller, Nebeker, Carlson & Haluck LLP 3 Park Plaza, Ste. 1500 Irvine 92614-8558	Irvine knchlaw.com infoirvine@knchlaw.com	27 0%	87	15	64 3%	General and government tort liability, construction, business and employment litigation	would not disclose	7	Keith Koeller managing partner (949) 864-3400/(949) 864-9000
38 (31)	Morgan, Lewis & Bockius 600 Anton Blvd., Ste. 1800 Costa Mesa 92626-7653	NA morganlewis.com news@morganlewis.com	27 -4%	1,837	12	45 -10%	Corporate and business transactions, labor and employment, litigation, private equity, mergers and acquisitions, securities and corporate governance; investment management; finance	would not disclose	29	Ellen Bancroft office managing partner (714) 830-0600/(949) 399-7001
41 (43)	Littler 2050 Main St., Ste. 900 Irvine 92614-8266	NA littler.com	26 8%	1,292	11	35 6%	Labor and employment law	would not disclose	75	Jon G. Miller office managing shareholder (949) 705-3000/(949) 724-1201
42 (36)	Grant, Genovese & Baratta LLP 2030 Main St., 16th floor Irvine 92614-7219	Irvine ggb-law.com info@ggb-law.com	25 -7%	25	10	49 -6%	Business, real estate, partnership, tort, insurance bad faith, defense/coverage litigation, business/real estate transactions	would not disclose	1	David Grant senior litigation partner (949) 660-1600/(949) 660-6060
42 (40)	Murtaugh, Meyer, Nelson & Treglia LLP 2603 Main St., ninth floor Irvine 92614-6232	Irvine mmnt.com	25 -4%	27	13	50 -6%	Insurance defense, business litigation, employment counsel, probate litigation, estate planning, construction defect	CNA Financial Corp., Navigators Group Inc., St. Paul Travelers, OneBeacon Insurance Group, James River Insurance Co.	3	Michael Murtaugh equity partner (949) 794-4000/(949) 794-4099

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55 (50)	Ferruzzo & Ferruzzo LLP 3737 Birch St., Ste. 400 Newport Beach 92660-2671	Newport Beach ferruzzo.com jiferruzzo@ferruzzo.com	20 0%	20	9	40 0%	Business, taxation, real estate, litigation, estate planning, probate, estate administration and employer practices	would not disclose	1	James J. Ferruzzo managing partner (949) 608-6900/(949) 608-5994
55 (54)	Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP 5 Park Plaza, Ste. 1600 Irvine 92614-8502	Kansas City shb.com	20 11%	489	9	37 3%	Product liability, business litigation, intellectual property, class actions, environmental/toxic tort, employment, eDiscovery, data privacy, regulatory	Mitsubishi Motors, Boston Scientific Corp., Magna International Inc., Pfizer Inc., Microsoft, CBRE Group Inc.	12	Eva M. Weiler managing partner (949) 475-1500/(949) 475-0016
55 (47)	Shulman Hodges & Bastian LLP 100 Spectrum Center Drive, Ste. 600 Irvine 92618-3094	Irvine shblp.com info@shblp.com	20 -5%	21	10	34 0%	Commercial litigation, bankruptcy, real estate/corporate transactions	would not disclose	2	Leonard Shulman managing partner (949) 340-3400/(949) 340-3000
58 (52)	Best Best & Krieger LLP 18101 Von Karman Ave., Ste. 1000 Irvine 92612-0164	Riverside bbklaw.com info@bbklaw.com	19 0%	178	9	30 3%	Municipal, special district, environmental and natural resources, education, business	Cities of Lake Forest, Aliso Viejo, San Clemente, Santa Ana, San Juan Capistrano; Municipal Water District of Orange County	9	Matthew Richardson office managing partner (949) 263-2600/(949) 260-0972
58 (52)	Kring & Chung LLP 38 Corporate Park Irvine 92606-5105	Irvine kringandchung.com info@kringandchung.com	19 0%	26	5	40 0%	Business litigation, employment law, real estate, construction, insurance, corporate, intellectual property, personal injury, estate planning, product liability	would not disclose	6	Kyle Kring/Kenneth Chung managing partners (949) 261-7700/(949) 261-8800
60 (54)	Cummins & White LLP 2424 S.E. Bristol St., Ste. 300 Newport Beach 92660-0764	Newport Beach cumminsandwhite.com cw@cwlawyers.com	18 0%	18	10	50 0%	Business transaction, business litigation, insurance defense, real estate, tax and estate planning, labor and employment, health care, tax controversy	7-Eleven Inc., Adventist Health, CNA, Hoag, Main Electric Supply, SC Fuels	1	Fred Whitaker/Larry Arnold managing partner/senior partner (949) 852-1800/(949) 852-8510
61 (62)	Baker & Hostetler LLP 600 Anton Blvd., Ste. 900 Costa Mesa 92626-7221	Cleveland bakerlaw.com gmooradian@bakerlaw.com	17 6%	917	10	34 6%	Corporate, employment, estate planning, intellectual property, litigation, tax, real estate	would not disclose	14	George Mooradian partner-in-charge (714) 754-6600/(714) 754-6611

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Firms Hold Back on Attorney Hires for Second Year

Numbers Again Flat After Modest Post-Recovery Gains

By DEIRDRE NEWMAN

Law firms in Orange County held attorney counts steady over the past year for the second year in a row after two years of modest gains.

This week's Business Journal list features 88 firms with headquarters or significant operations in Orange County, ranking them by the number of local attorneys as of Feb. 28. It includes other data, such as firmwide attorney totals and the overall number of local employees, accounting for paralegals and administrative staff, though those figures don't affect the rankings.

This year's list is the longest yet, thanks to increased research capacity and growth in the number of firms to make the cut of a minimum 10 lawyers.

OC attorneys at ranked firms numbered 2,681, flat year-over-year. There were 1,236 partners among them, up 1.5%. Overall employment was at 5,275, a 1% increase.

The top three firms kept their ranks: Irvine-based **Knobbe Martens Olson & Bear LLP**, which tops the list, has 164 locally based lawyers, the same as a year ago. It added one partner over the year and had 470 total employees in Orange County, down 1.5%.

No. 2, Costa Mesa-based **Rutan & Tucker LLP**, had 133 lawyers here, down by two. The firm cut three partners and had 265 OC employees overall, up by 3.5%.

■ Newport Beach-based **Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth P.C.**, No. 3, with 86 attorneys based here, was down by one. It dropped one partner and two employees overall.

■ The Costa Mesa office of **Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP** and Irvine-based **Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP** switched positions on the list, Sheppard Mullin taking the No. 4 spot as it held steady with 72 attorneys. Gibson Dunn's attorney count dropped by five, or 7%.

■ The top 10 firm with the biggest attorney growth was Newport Beach-based **Bremer Whyte Brown & O'Meara**, which added eight local attorneys, or more than 17%. It lost one partner but added 11 employees overall, moving up from No. 12 to No. 9.

Co-founding Partner **Nicole Whyte** attributes the growth to the vision of the founding and managing partners in the firm's early years. She and **Keith Bremer** created it 20 years ago with an early focus on construction defects cases.

"We saw the writing on the wall early on and predicted this area of practice would slow down in the future," she said via email. "We made a strategic decision early on to diversify the practice areas of the firm, diversify the client base, and focus on organic growth from within—by hiring young lawyers, mentoring them, and bringing them up in the firm to become leaders. Today we are a full-service law firm with multiple areas of practice and a



Whyte: attributes Bremer Whyte's growth to founders' vision, flexibility



Hoffman: says Jackson Lewis, which debuts on list, has strong team

strong and diverse client base."

■ Costa Mesa-based **Snell & Wilmer LLP** dropped in the rankings from No. 7 to No. 11 based on a decline of nine attorneys for a 16% decrease. It also shed two partners and 14 employees.

Ketan Vakil, who took over for **Bill O'Hare** as head of Snell's Orange County office in January, said that attorney turnover is a "very common occurrence across the legal landscape and [its] rate is actually in line with the national average," adding that turnover can be attributed to many factors, including operating in "a very competitive marketplace, evolving shifts in legal trends, and varying workplace preferences."

"As always, our focus as an office is on driving strategic growth, enhancing efficiencies, and continuing to provide our clients with outstanding legal services," Vakil said via email.

■ The Irvine office of West Harrison, N.Y.-based **Jackson Lewis P.C.**, which debuts on

the list at No. 31, experienced the most growth on the list—50%—adding 10 attorneys, to end the time period with 30. It added three partners and 12 employees overall.

Orange County office Managing Principal **Samantha Hoffman** credits its growth to her team.

"We have a great and diverse group of attorneys and staff in Orange County who understand how important teamwork and camaraderie are, which in turn ensures quality lawyering, responsiveness, and our ability to bring the best team to bear on a particular matter or client," she said via email. "This, in turn, leads to a great deal of work from external clients, as well as our colleagues throughout the firm."

■ The Irvine office of Pittsburgh, Pa.-based **K&L Gates LLP**, No. 38, had the least growth, 10 attorneys—or 27%. There were two partners among them, and it lost 13 employees overall.

■ Other list newcomers based on a variety of factors include Irvine-based **Wesierski & Zurek LLP**, which debuts in a tie at No. 31, with 30 attorneys, flat from last year; **Keller/Anderle LLP**, which tied at No. 61 with 17 attorneys, up three; and **David Hirson & Partners LLP**, which debuts at No. 83 with 10 attorneys, up three. ■



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LAW FIRMS

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Rank	Law firm	Headquarters	OC attorneys	Attorneys firmwide	OC partners	OC employees	Areas of practice	Partial list of clients	No. of offices firmwide	Top local official(s)
Prev. Rank	•Address	•Website •Email	•yearly % change			•yearly % change				•Title •Phone/fax
61 (57)	Callahan, Thompson, Sherman & Caudill LLP 2601 Main St., Ste. 800 Irvine 92614-4230	Irvine ctsclaw.com apeterson@ctsclaw.com	17 ⁽³⁾ NA	22 ⁽³⁾	8 ⁽³⁾	36 ⁽³⁾ NA	Civil litigation, insurance defense, employment, automobile dealership law, restaurant hospitality, tort law, class actions, non-profits	would not disclose	4	Peter Callahan/Robert Thompson/ Lee Sherman/Brandt Caudill partners (949) 261-2872/(949) 261-6060
61 (66)	Carothers DiSante & Freudenberger LLP 2600 Michelson Drive, Ste. 800 Irvine 92612-6522	Irvine cdflaborlaw.com drausa@cdflaborlaw.com	17 6%	40	11	39 5%	Labor, employment and immigration	would not disclose	5	Todd R. Wulffson Orange County Office Managing Partner (949) 622-1661/(949) 622-1669
61 (57)	Hart King 4 Hutton Centre Drive, Ste. 900 Santa Ana 92707-8713	Santa Ana hartkinglaw.com whart@hartkinglaw.com	17 0%	17	10	39 0%	Real estate, business litigation, manufactured housing law, intellectual property	would not disclose	1	William R. Hart president/managing partner (714) 432-8700/(714) 546-7457
61 (NR)	Keller/Anderle LLP 18300 Von Karman Ave., Ste. 930 Irvine 92612-1057	Orange County kelleranderle.com info@kelleranderle.com	17 21%	17	3	31 24%	Bet-the-company business trial lawyers	Microsoft, Western Digital, MGA, Henry Nicholas, CashCall, AIG	1	Kay Anderle/Jennifer Keller managing partner/partner (949) 476-8700/(949) 476-0900
61 (66)	Manning & Kass, Ellrod, Ramirez, Trestler LLP 19800 MacArthur Blvd., Ste. 900 Irvine 92612-2421	Los Angeles manningllp.com info@manningllp.com	17 13%	170	6	28 0%	Civil litigation, defense and risk management	would not disclose	6	Brian T. Moss managing partner (949) 440-6690/(949) 474-6991
67 (57)	AlvaradoSmith 1 MacArthur Place, Ste. 200 Santa Ana 92707-5941	Santa Ana alvaradosmith.com rsmith@alvaradosmith.com	16 -6%	32	9	30 -3%	Financial institution litigation, real estate, environmental, business and corporate transactions, employment, public law, complex litigation, intellectual property, international	Southern California Edison, Shell Oil Co., LA City Department of Water & Power, Pacific Gas and Electric Co.	3	Ruben A. Smith managing shareholder (714) 852-6800/(714) 852-6899
67 (62)	Brown Rudnick LLP 2211 Michelson Drive, seventh floor Irvine 92612-1384	Boston brownrudnick.com	16 0%	246	9	29 0%	Commercial litigation, bankruptcy and corporate restructuring, corporate/M&A, environmental, funds, government relations, intellectual property, life sciences, white collar	City of Industry; Edwards Life Sciences Corp., Lupin Pharmaceuticals Inc.	8	Ronald Rus managing partner, Orange County (949) 752-7100/(949) 252-1514

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(3) Business Journal estimate

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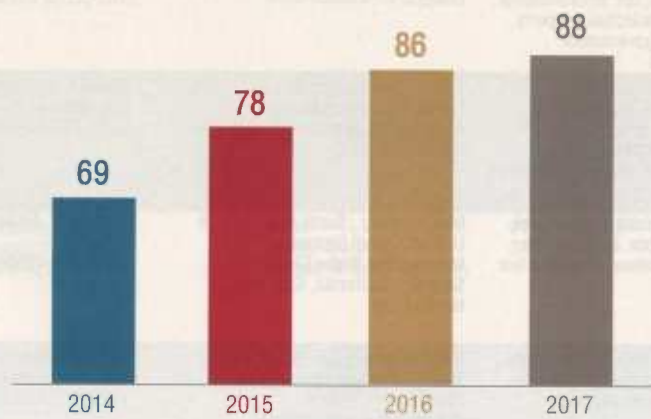
2014 - 2017

Growth Levels Off

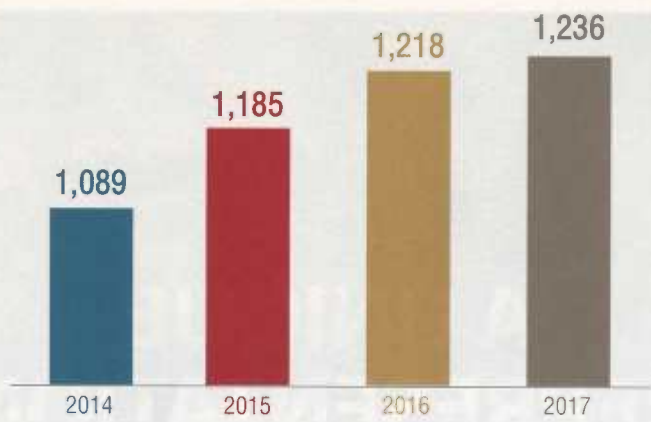
Charts show numbers of law firms and their OC partners and attorneys on Business Journal lists over the last four years, which have included firms with at least 10 attorneys in a local office. Annual growth in the number of firms, partners, and attorneys has leveled off over the past 12 months.

For this year's list, see page 32; for coverage of local law firms, see pages 22, 24, and 43.

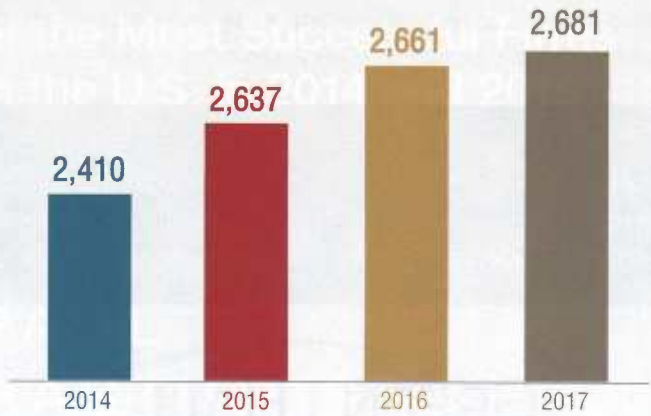
Firms



OC Partners



OC Attorneys (Includes Partners)



Note: Numbers as of beginning of listed years
Sources: The firms; Business Journal analysis

Research by Dana Truong and Paul Hughes
Graphics by Brette Miller



Paying Most Sales Employees Purely on Draw and Commission No Longer Lawful In California

By: James J. McDonald, Jr., Fisher Phillips

Last month a California appellate court held that an employer violates California law by paying inside sales employees on a draw against commission. In *Vaquero v. Stoneledge Furniture LLC*, the court held that such a pay arrangement does not compensate employees for their mandatory paid rest breaks.



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This decision is the latest in a line of cases in which California courts have rejected the approach taken under federal law to determine whether employees are paid at least minimum wage for all hours worked; i.e., divide total hours worked into total earnings for the pay period. Under the federal law approach, if the result of this calculation is at least the minimum wage, the employee's pay is sufficient.

Not so in California. In recent years, California courts in piece-rate cases have held that the piece-rate only compensates the employee for productive piece-work, not for other working time such as training time, meetings, waiting time between jobs and paid rest breaks, when the employee is "on the clock" but not performing piece-work. These courts have held that employees must be compensated separately for such non-productive time.

The *Vaquero* case extended this rationale, in part, to commission-paid inside sales employees. The employees in that case were paid a draw every pay period that amounted to at least minimum wage for all hours worked. Because the draw was recouped from commissions, however, and the commissions were paid only for sales work, the court held that the draw against commissions arrangement did not compensate the employees for their mandatory paid rest breaks.

As a result of the *Vaquero* case, employers that pay inside sales employees purely on a draw against commission basis must change their method of paying such employees. One method of doing so is to have employees log the time they spend on paid rest breaks and pay them separately for such time at a rate that

is at least minimum wage. While AB 1513, effective January 1, 2016, requires that piece-rate paid employees be paid for rest breaks at an average of their piece-rate earnings for the work week (they may be paid minimum wage or higher for other non-productive time), this law states specifically that it applies only to piece-rate paid employees and the Labor Commissioner has indicated that it does not apply to commission-paid employees. Thus, unless the legislature expands AB 1513 to cover commission-paid employees, such employees need only be paid minimum wage or higher for paid rest breaks.

Another method would be to pay sales employees an hourly rate of at least minimum wage for all hours worked, including paid rest breaks and non-selling time, plus a commission or productivity bonus tied to sales results. The commission would ordinarily need to be at a lesser rate than paid under a draw against commission arrangement since each employee will already be paid at least minimum wage for hours worked. Under such an arrangement, an overtime premium would have to be paid on the commission or bonus, and given the reduced commission amount, it will in most cases be more difficult for the employee to qualify for the "inside sales" exemption from overtime which requires that more than half the employee's compensation be in the form of commissions.

Outside sales employees, who spend more than half their time away from the office engaged in selling activities, are not affected by the *Vaquero* case because the minimum wage law does not apply to outside salespersons. They may continue to be paid on a draw against commission basis.

James J. McDonald, Jr. is managing partner of the Irvine office of Fisher & Phillips LLP. He is author of *California Employment Law: An Employer's Guide*, published by the Society for Human Resource Management.

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Fisher Phillips is solely responsible for the content of this article.

LAW FIRMS

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Rank	Law firm	Headquarters	OC attorneys	Attorneys firmwide	OC partners	OC employees	Areas of practice	Partial list of clients	No. of offices firmwide	Top local official(s)
Prev. Rank	Address	Website •Website •Email	•yearly % change			•yearly % change				•Title •Phone/fax
69 (62)	Greenberg Gross LLP 650 Town Center Drive, Ste. 1700 Costa Mesa 92626-7025	Costa Mesa ggtriallaw.com info@ggtriallaw.com	15 0%	19	6	28 -3%	High-stakes business litigation, intellectual property litigation and white-collar defense	American International Group Inc., Amphastar Pharmaceuticals Inc., Cavotec SA, St. John Knits Inc.	2	Alan A. Greenberg/Wayne R. Gross managing partner/founding partner (949) 383-2800/(949) 383-2801
69 (71)	Michelman & Robinson LLP 17901 Von Karman Ave., 10th floor Irvine 92614-6297	Los Angeles mrlip.com krichter@mrlip.com	15 7%	69	8	26 13%	Advertising and digital media, banking and financial services, class action and complex litigation, commercial and business litigation, labor and employment, real estate, insurance	Adriana's Insurance, Freeway Insurance, Melissa's Variety Produce, Rightscorp, Answer Financial, Lawyers Title	5	Mona Z. Hanna/Todd H. Stitt Orange County office managing partner, chair of litigation department/partner, chair of class action and complex litigation practice (714) 557-7990/(714) 557-7991
71 (76)	Haight, Brown & Bonesteel LLP 2050 Main St., Ste. 600 Irvine 92614-8261	Los Angeles hbblaw.com sswayze@hbblaw.com	14 17%	76	8	21 11%	Product liability, medical malpractice, professional liability, employment and labor, construction, general liability	Bombardier, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Medmarc Insurance Group, DHL, Brookdale Senior Living	6	Bruce Cleeland managing partner (714) 426-4605/(714) 754-0826
71 (57)	Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP 650 Town Center Drive, Ste. 1200 Costa Mesa 92626-1989	Los Angeles musicpeeler.com	14 -18%	102	12	25 -14%	Litigation, labor/employment, academic institutions, construction, real estate, corporate, trusts/estates, tax, environmental, insurance, intellectual property, white collar/ government investigations	Big 5 Corp., County of Orange, Diocese of Orange, Securitas Inc., Soka University, Vanguard University	6	Steven D. Weinstein managing partner (714) 668-2400/(714) 668-2490
71 (69)	Wood Smith Henning & Berman LLP 5000 Birch St., Ste. 8500 Newport Beach 92660-8136	Los Angeles wshblaw.com dberman@wshblaw.com	14 0%	220	4	27 0%	Commercial litigation, environmental, real estate, construction, products liability, toxic torts, employment, transportation, intellectual property	Turner Construction Co., Lockton Insurance Brokers, Allied Barton Security Services, Summit Builders	21	Daniel A. Berman firm chairman (949) 757-4500/(949) 757-4550
74 (71)	Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo 20 Pacifica, Ste. 1100 Irvine 92618-3398	Cerritos aalrr.com duran@aalrr.com	13 30%	172	5	19 6%	Public and private employment, education, labor, construction, facilities, litigation, corporate law	Masimo Corp., Santa Ana Unified School District, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Koto Inc., Niraku Corp.	9	Anthony P. De Marco partner (949) 453-4260/(949) 453-4262
74 (71)	Burkhalter Kessler Clement & George LLP 2020 Main St., Ste. 600 Irvine 92614-8226	Irvine bkcglaw.com aburkhalter@bkcglaw.com; dkessler@bkcglaw.com	13 0%	14	3	17 0%	Business litigation, employment, real estate, intellectual property, corporate, estate planning	Ralphs Grocery Co., Surf City Auto Group, Red Mountain Retail Group, Wilson Automotive Group, Segway Inc., Southern California Volvo Dealers	2	Alton Burkhalter/Daniel Kessler managing partner/litigation head (949) 975-7500/(949) 975-7501

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Rank Prev. Rank	Law firm •Address	Headquarters •Website •Email	OC attorneys •yearly % change	Attorneys firmwide	OC partners	OC employees •yearly % change	Areas of practice	Partial list of clients	No. of offices firmwide	Top local official(s) •Title •Phone/fax
74 (76)	Friedman, Strofte & Gerard, PC 19800 MacArthur Blvd. Irvine 92612	Irvine fsglawyers.com swheeler@fsglawyers.com	13 8%	13	6	25 0%	Corporate and business, real estate, employment and labor, litigation and intellectual property	Fox Head Inc., Wave House Holdings LLC, First American Title, Stokehouse, Lorna Jane, 3 Day Blinds LLC	1	Bryan M. Friedman/James D. Strofte/Robert Gerard president/treasurer/VP (949) 265-1100/(949) 265-1199
77 (71)	Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP 3121 Michelson Drive, Ste. 200 Irvine 92612-5678	Los Angeles coxcastle.com mweinsten@coxcastle.com	12 -8%	131	9	20 -13%	Commercial and residential real estate, timeshare, resort development, litigation, bankruptcy and creditor's rights	Irvine Co., iStar, Tarsadia Hotels, Makar Properties LLC., TriPacific, Greenlaw Partners, Birtcher Development and Investments, Montage Hotel and Resorts, Sares-Regis Group	3	David W. Wensley partner (949) 260-4600/(949) 260-4699
77 (69)	Hollins Law 2601 Main St., Ste. 1300 Irvine 92614-4239	Irvine hollins-law.com jtusko@hollins-law.com	12 0%	12	5	32 -11%	Business litigation, catastrophic injury, class action litigation, employment litigation, insurance litigation, creditor's rights law and collections litigation, professional liability	Farmers Insurance, Great American Insurance Co., JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Claim Services Inc., Tokio Marine Management Inc., United States Liability Insurance Group	1	Kathleen Mary Kushi Carter/ Andrew S. Hollins managing principal/principal (714) 558-9119/(714) 558-9091
77 (76)	Vogl, Resnick & Sherak LLP 4400 MacArthur Blvd., Ste. 900 Newport Beach 92660-2040	Newport Beach vrslaw.net law@vrslaw.net	12 0%	12	3	24 9%	Business transactional and litigation, trust and estates litigation, estate planning, tax, real estate, and intellectual property	would not disclose	2	Jeffrey Resnick partner (949) 851-9001/(949) 833-3445
80 (66)	Fish & Tsang LLP 2603 Main St., Ste. 1000 Irvine 92614-4271	Irvine fishiplaw.com info@fishiplaw.com	11 -27%	13	1	21 -32%	All aspects of the IP process, including patents, trademarks, copyrights and trade secrets, litigation and licensing	would not disclose	2	Robert D. Fish/Mei Tsang founding partner/managing partner (949) 943-8300/(949) 943-8358
80 (83)	Houser & Allison, APC 9970 Research Drive Irvine 92618-4309	Irvine houser-law.com ehouser@houser-law.com	11 0%	42	3	23 5%	Civil litigation, commercial, business and real estate law	would not disclose	13	Eric D. Houser president (949) 679-1111
80 (76)	Schumann Rosenberg 3100 Bristol St., Ste. 100 Costa Mesa 92626-7330	Costa Mesa schumannrosenberg.com	11 -8%	11	4	22 -12%	Insurance defense, business litigation, civil litigation, collection law, appellate law, medicare law/ set aside	would not disclose	1	Kim Schumann/David Rosenberg/ Jeffrey Cunningham/Eric Arevalo partner/managing partner/ partner/partner (714) 850-0210/(714) 850-0551

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LAW FIRMS

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Prev. Rank	•Address	•Website •Email	•yearly % change	firmwide		•yearly % change			firmwide	•Title •Phone/fax
83 (71)	Berger Kahn 2 Park Plaza, Ste. 650 Irvine 92614-8516	Irvine bergerkahn.com info@bergerkahn.com	10 -23%	14	8	16 -36%	Litigation, insurance, serious injury, wrongful death, class action, employment, corporate, real estate, trusts and estates	would not disclose	4	Craig Simon managing partner (949) 474-1880/(949) 474-72
83 (NR)	David Hirson & Partners LLP 1122 Bristol St. Costa Mesa 92626-7972	Costa Mesa hirsonimmigration.com dhirson@hirsonimmigration.com	10 43%	10	2	24 20%	Business corporate and investment immigration law, EB-5 employment creation green cards, non-immigrant work permits, family immigration law	Multiple regional centers and projects in San Diego, Los Angeles and New York City	1	David Hirson/Nim Korpivaara managing partner/partner (949) 383-5358/(949) 383-53
83 (83)	Lobel Weiland Golden Friedman LLP 650 Town Center Drive, Ste. 950 Costa Mesa 92626-7021	Costa Mesa lwgfllp.com info@lwgfllp.com	10 -9%	10	6	19 0%	Chapter 11 reorganizations, corporate, real estate, commercial litigation, business, out-of-court workouts and restructurings, trustees and receiverships, distressed assets and acquisitions	would not disclose	1	William N. Lobel/Michael J. Weiland/Jeffrey I. Golden/Alar Friedman partners (714) 966-1000/(714) 966-10
83 (83)	Samuels, Green & Steel LLP 19800 MacArthur Blvd., Ste. 1000 Irvine 92612-2433	Irvine sgsattorneys.com bsteel@sgsattorneys.com	10 -9%	10	3	19 0%	Real estate transactions, corporate, business litigation, trust/estate planning	Lennar Homes, FivePoint Communities, Pacific Premier Bank, Pacific Mercantile Bank	1	Herbert Samuels/William Stee Philip Green/Scott Albrecht retired partner/partner/partner partner (949) 263-0004/(949) 263-00
83 (86)	Sedgwick LLP 2020 Main St., Ste. 1100 Irvine 92614-8234	Kansas City sedgwicklaw.com	10 ⁽³⁾ NA	302 ⁽³⁾	4 ⁽³⁾	19 ⁽³⁾ NA	Litigation, insurance, construction, employment, real estate	would not disclose	14	Ralph Guirgis office managing partner (949) 852-8200/(949) 852-82
83 (76)	Watt, Tieder, Hoffar & Fitzgerald LLP 2040 Main St., Ste. 300 Irvine 92614-7251	McLean, Va. watttieder.com contactus@watttieder.com	10 -17%	56	8	18 -18%	Construction law, international construction, surety, government contracts, bankruptcy	AECOM, Hensel Phelps, Kiewit Corp., Liberty Mutual Insurance, PCL Inc., Travelers Insurance Co.	6	David F. McPherson managing partner (949) 852-6700/(949) 261-07

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