

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S LEADING LAWYERS 2017

A portrait of Mary Alexander, a woman with short blonde hair, wearing a dark blue blazer over a light blue button-down shirt. She is smiling slightly and has her arms crossed. The background is a blurred cityscape.

**MARY ALEXANDER
& ASSOCIATES P.C.**

Warriors For The Injured

Also Inside:
Northern California's
Verdicts and Settlements

all data on
 LexisNexis®

Paid Advertising Supplement to
San Francisco Chronicle

LEADERS
IN THE LAW

LEADERS IN THE LAW

PRESENTS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S LEADING LAWYERS

Leaders In The Law presents Northern California's Leading Lawyers, a special section featuring exceptional lawyers and law firms practicing in the region. Finding the right lawyer for any legal issue is a difficult but important decision. We invite you to use this publication as a resource to help eliminate the guesswork of selecting legal counsel. Whether offering legal services in personal injury or medical malpractice, real estate or family law or in numerous other practice areas, these lawyers are available and ready to help you no matter how complex your legal issues may be.

This year we have added a new feature that will help you find the right lawyer for major litigation cases. We have partnered with LexisNexis to provide you with the names of litigators who have won "big" for their clients in the last year. Starting at \$700,000 and going up to a whopping \$3 billion, these cases have been litigated by Northern California's elite lawyers, many of whom are featured in these pages.

To learn more about these leading lawyers and law firms and Leaders In The Law, please visit leadersinthelaw.com. To send your thoughts or if you'd like to be included in the online edition and our listings, please contact us at kevin@leadersinthelaw.com.



Sincerely,

Kevin Vermeulen
CEO, Leaders In The Law



LexisNexis® Verdict & Settlement Analyzer

**HARD WON EXPERIENCE
DESERVES HARD DATA
USE POWERFUL ANALYTICS ONLY FROM
LEXISNEXIS TO IDENTIFY TRENDS
AND DRIVE CASE STRATEGY**

Start your analysis at
LEXISNEXIS.COM/VSA



VERDICT & SETTLEMENT
DOCUMENTS*



EXPERIENCED
ATTORNEY-EDITORS



PUBLIC
RECORDS



THE AMERICAN LAWYER
& OTHER EXCLUSIVES

LexisNexis, LexisNexis Verdict & Settlement Analyzer, and the Knowledge Burst logo are registered trademarks of Reed Elsevier Properties Inc., used under license. Elsevier is a registered trademark of Elsevier BV. © 2017 LexisNexis. All rights reserved.

*Comparison data based on information available as of October 2016.

Publishers do not warrant that the information contained herein is complete or accurate. Leaders In The Law (or the party's affiliates, employees, officers, directors or agents) does not assume, and hereby disclaims, any liability to any person for any loss or damage caused by errors or omissions herein, whether such errors or omissions result from negligence, accident or any other cause. This magazine includes paid attorney advertising. Consumers should contact the state bar for verification and additional information prior to securing the legal services of any attorney.

Cover Spotlight

A Record of Success

As one of California's go-to trial attorneys, Mary Alexander handles some of the state's most prominent litigation

Over her career as a trial lawyer, Mary Alexander has dedicated her practice to helping individuals injured by the negligent, preventable actions of others. Her work has obtained answers and accountability for victims with nowhere else to turn, and she continues to handle some of California's most high-profile cases.

Most recently, Alexander and her firm were appointed lead counsel for the plaintiffs in litigation stemming from a deadly warehouse fire that claimed the lives of 36 people in early December 2016. Alexander filed the first lawsuits in the case, and is now representing 10 families who lost loved ones in the blaze.

"This was the deadliest building fire in the United States in more than a decade, and it could easily have been prevented," Alexander says, "had it not been for the irresponsible actions and inactions of the building owner, the chief tenant, the people associated with the music event taking place that evening, and others."

On the night of the fire, the Oakland warehouse, known as Ghost Ship, was hosting a music event. As many as 100 people were in the building, and when the fire broke out, their escape was impeded by a lack of clear exits: the 10,000-square-foot, two-story building had been illegally converted into a maze of makeshift rooms and stairways.

"The warehouse didn't have smoke alarms, warning lights, exit signs, or fire sprinklers, and its configuration prevented those inside from getting out in time," Alexander explains. "To have this happen is gross negligence of the highest degree, and we are committed to seeing justice done for the victims' families."

Alexander has a history of significant recoveries, including a recent \$1.15 billion judgment in a public-nuisance lawsuit against



Mary Alexander

Gary Wagner

companies Sherwin-Williams, NL Industries, and ConAgra for promoting the use of lead-based paint in homes. Alexander served as co-lead counsel in the case, representing 10 cities and counties in California that sought the removal of lead-based paint from millions of homes.

Following this result, Alexander and the team were honored by the San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association and the Public Justice Foundation, with both organizations recognizing them as "Trial Lawyer of the Year." In reflecting on this success, Alexander, who has also been inducted into the California State Bar Litigation Section's Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame, credits her unique technical background.

"Prior to becoming a lawyer, I spent 10 years working in environmental and occupational health research, and I use that scientific knowledge every day in my practice," she says. "It ensures that my clients are well represented in these complex matters, whether the case involves the toxic effects of lead-based paint, fire cause and analysis, or any other public health issue."

— Sean Stonefield

Mary Alexander & Associates, P.C.
44 Montgomery Street, Suite 1303, San Francisco, CA 94104
Local: 415.433.4440 | Fax: 415.433.5440
www.maryalexanderlaw.com

Northern California's Verdicts

all data on  LexisNexis®

Settlements reported from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

#	Case	Date	Type Of Action	Plaintiff's Counsel	Award Amount
1	Hewlett-Packard Company v. Oracle Corporation	June 30, 2016	Contracts - Breach of Contract - Business Law - Breach of Duty of Good Faith and Fair Dealing	Camille A. Olson of Seyfarth Shaw; Samuel G. Liversidge and Jeffrey T. Thomas of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP; Robert S. Frank, Jr. of Choate Hall & Stewart LLP	\$3,014,000,000
2	Michelle Achilli and Alexandra Achilli v. Esquiel "Paul" Garcia, Daniel Chaidez, Miguel Chaidez, Lucio Estrada, and Robert Jacome	December 14, 2016	Wrongful Death	Ram Fletcher of Bohn & Fletcher LLP	\$45,125,008
3	Aetna Life Insurance Co., on Its Own Behalf and as Claims Administrator for Self-Funded Plan Sponsors v. Bay Area Surgical Management LLC; Bay Area Surgical Group Inc.; et al.	April 13, 2016	Business Law - Unfair Competition - Fraudulent Concealment	Richard J. Doren of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP	\$37,452,199
4	Synopsis, Inc. v. Atoptech, Inc.	March 10, 2016	Intellectual Property - Copyright Infringement	Patrick Michael, Krista Schwartz and Bob Mittelstaedt of Jones Day	\$30,400,000
5	Philliben et al. v. Uber Technologies, Inc. et al.	February 11, 2016	Fraud - Transportation	Mike Arias and Alfredo Torrijos of Arias Sanguinetti Stahle & Torrijos, LLP; Nicholas A. Coulson and Steven D. Liddle of Liddle & Dubin, PC	\$28,500,000
6	United States of America v. North American Health Care, Inc.	September 19, 2016	Fraud - Medical Billing - False Claim Act	Gioconda R. Molinari and Catherine J. Swann of the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Northern District of California	\$28,500,000
7	Rio Mesa Holdings, LLC v. Fidelity National Title Insurance Company	March 15, 2016	Insurance - Bad Faith - Denial of Claim - Breach of Contract	James A. Ardaiz and John G. Michael of Baker Manock & Jensen, PC	\$25,000,000
8	Doe v. Mazda Motor of America	April 1, 2016	Vehicle Liability - Product Liability - Design Defect - Vehicle Seatback - Motor Vehicle	Craig M. Peters and David L. Winnett of The Veen Firm, P.C.	\$14,967,421
9	Jerald Wolkoff and Sandra R. Wolkoff v. State of California, Department of Transportation; State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Calfire); State of California Department of Parks and Recreation; et al.	May 2, 2016	Motor Vehicle - Road Defect - Negligent Repair and/or Maintenance - Premises Liability - Dangerous Condition of Public Property	Steven J. Brewer, J. Gary Gwilliam, and Robert J. Schwartz of Gwilliam, Ivory, Chiosso, Cavalli & Brewer; Thomas J. Brandi and Jason B. Friedman of The Brandi Law Firm; Boris E. Efron and Gail J. Lamchick of the Law Offices of Boris E. Efron	\$12,344,723
10	Elvie Hukill, Mark Hukill, Oscar Villasenor, Jose Hernandez, Glenn Bugler and Bugler Construction v. The State of California and California Department of Transportation	January 21, 2016	Premises Liability - Failure to Warn - Toxic Torts - Worksite Liability	Peter W. Alfert, Karen H. Kahn and Mark T. Baller of Hinton Alfert & Kahn LLP	\$11,921,000
11	United States of America v. VA Partners I, LLC, et al.	July 12, 2016	Contracts - Antitrust	Renata B. Hesse of the U.S. Department of Justice - Antitrust Division in Washington, D.C.	\$11,000,000
12	NKD Diversified Enterprises, Inc.; Diamond Jims; and ADS Picchetti Inc. v. First Mercury Insurance Company; AMCO Insurance Company; Nationwide Insurance Company of America; and Giddings, Corby & Hynes, Inc.	March 2, 2016	Insurance - Bad Faith - Contracts - Breach of Contract	Edward Kerley, Dylan L. Schaffer and Sarah G. Auten of Kerley Schaffer LLP	\$10,506,821

For more on differences that deliver in Northern California, visit LEXISNEXIS.COM/CADIFFERENCES

Continued on page 6



TRIALS – APPEALS – RESULTS

Multiple seven-figure verdicts and settlements.

Leading appellate opinions. Statewide practice.

Relentless. It's our favorite word. At Kerley Schaffer, we represent ordinary people who need extraordinary help. Insureds. Employees. Accident victims. We succeed by digging deeper, working harder, and never letting go. Decades of trial and appellate experience, plus a tireless commitment to justice, add up to results for our clients.

Take a closer look www.kerleyschaffer.com

CASES WE PARTICULARLY LIKE

- We sue insurers when they act in bad faith.
- We represent people injured in accidents.
- We challenge fraudulent business practices.
- We seek redress for civil rights violations.



KERLEY SCHAFFER LLP

Continued from page 4

#	Case	Date	Type of Action	Plaintiff's Counsel	Amount
13	Lisa Owen v. City and County of San Francisco; San Francisco Recreation and Park Department; and Does 1 to 100	March 1, 2016	Premises Liability - Negligence	Christopher B. Dolan, Quinton B. Cutlip and Megan Irish of The Dolan Law Firm	\$2,250,000
14	Shong L. Tay and Susan Young v. Alvin Raymond Barrett, Sally Marilyn Barrett, and Does 1 to 50	January 29, 2016	Motor Vehicle - Pedestrian - Bus	J. Kevin Morrison and Joshua D. White of Jones Clifford, LLP	\$2,250,000
15	Frank Hernandez, III, a Minor, by and through his Guardian ad Litem, Frank Hernandez, Jr., and Frank Hernandez, Jr., Individually v. Shawn G. Bourdet; Jeremy W. Mills; and Does 1 to 20, Inclusive	August 2, 2016	Premises Liability - Dangerous Condition - Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress	Warren R. Paboojian, Adam B. Stirrup and Jason S. Bell of Oren & Paboojian	\$2,200,000
16	Ricarda Martinez, Mariano Martinez, Clara Martinez, Silvia Martinez and Mercedes Martinez v. Christian Rafael Serratos and Graffiti Protective Coating	October 24, 2016	Motor Vehicle - Pedestrian - Wrongful Death	Brian K. Brandt of the Law Offices of Brian K. Brandt	\$2,000,000
17	Estate of Zhen Guang Ng, by and through successor in interest, Charles Ng; Charles Ng; Nelson Ng; Melissa Ng; Hannah Ng v. Giampaolo Boschetti, aka Paul Boschetti, Roe Property Management Company, and Does 1-100, Inclusive	January 6, 2016	Motor Vehicle - Pedestrian - Intersection	Andrew H. Meisel and Monica J. Burneikis of Meisel, Krentsa & Burneikis	\$2,000,000
18	Flavia Ocampo Roche, Benito Ocampo Bahena, Evelyn Ocampo Roche and Michael Ocampo Roche v. Sumitomo Tires, Joshua Ramirez, Susan Rodriguez, Pedro Oregel Madrigal, Legend Auto, Dezaki, Inc. dba Legend Auto and Does 1 through 50, INCLUSIVE	May 16, 2016	Motor Vehicle - Pedestrian - Products Liability - Failure to Inspect - Emotional Distress - Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress - Fraudulent Concealment - Breach of Warranty	Timothy D. McMahon and Mark A. Sigala of Corsiglia, McMahon & Allard LLP	\$1,640,000
19	Hanna Delgado v. City and County of San Francisco, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, City and County of San Francisco Public Works, Tony Thanh Ma, and Does 1 to 100	February 29, 2016	Motor Vehicle - Pedestrian	Dale Minami, B. Mark Fong, and Seema J. Bhatt of Minami Tamaki, LLP	\$1,250,000
20	Ronald Goodman, Nicolas Sanchez and Teresa Bartels v. Granite Construction, Inc., Granite Construction Co., and Timothy Donahue Carilli	April 25, 2016	Motor Vehicle - Rear-ender - Wrongful Death	Paul W. Breen and Crystal N. Riggins of Hoge, Fenton, Jones & Appel, Inc.	\$1,050,000
21	Jose Cordero v. Todd Steven Anhalt	October 28, 2016	Motor Vehicle - Pedestrian	Ara R. Jabaghourian of the Law Office of Ara Jabaghourian	\$1,000,000
22	Michael Grays v. Ananda Ramachandrapa and Shubha Ramachandrapa	April 6, 2016	Motor Vehicle - Underinsured Motorist	Christopher C. Watters of Miles, Sears & Eanni	\$1,000,000
23	Deborah Lenard v. Shiming Wang, Ting W. Qiao, Lili Qiao, Xhiwei Liu and Jack Liu	March 30, 2016	Premises Liability - Apartment - Negligent Repair and/or Maintenance	Michael J. Mandel of the Law Office of Michael J. Mandel; Yelda M. Bartlett of the Bartlett Law Firm	\$875,000

24

Brian Reed and B.R., a minor by her guardian ad litem Susan Nava, v. City of Modesto; Chief of Police Harden, in his individual capacity; and Police Officers Ron Ziya and Caeli Koehler, in their individual and official capacities

July 27, 2016

Civil Rights

John L. Burris of the Law Offices of John L. Burris; Steven R. Yourke of the Law Office of Steven R. Yourke

\$850,000

25	Jimmy A. Chandra and Kartika K. Chandra v. Daniel J. Chaney; Ryder Truck Rentals, Inc.; Anderson Corporation, Inc.; and Does 1 through 60, Inclusive	January 14, 2016	Motor Vehicle - Lane Change - Tractor-Trailer	Werner R. Meissner of the Law Office of Werner R. Meissner; Robert L. Meissner of the Law Office of Robert L. Meissner	\$800,000
26	Estate of Joseph Duran, deceased, by and through Steven A. Duran and Elaine Duran, as Successors in Interest; Steven Duran, Individually; Elaine Duran, Individually v. CDCR Correctional Officer Roy C. Chavez, et al.	August 3, 2016	Civil Rights - Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	Stewart Katz of the Law Office of Stewart Katz	\$750,000
27	Jane Doe v. Virginia Cleaners, Tito Guerrero and Does 1 to 50	April 21, 2016	Worker/Workplace Negligence - Negligent Hiring and Training - Intentional Torts - Sexual Assault	Todd P. Emanuel of the Law Offices of Todd P. Emanuel	\$700,000
28	Kim Uren and Martin Uren v. CUSA FL, LLC, Gray Line San Francisco; Coach America, Inc.; Franciscan Lines, Inc.; Christopher Turner; and Does 1 through 20, Inclusive	January 19, 2016	Motor Vehicle - Bus - Passenger	Brian J. Malloy of The Brandi Law Firm	\$700,000

Start your case analysis at LEXISNEXIS.COM/WSA



Joseph W. Carcione, Jr.

Products Liability, Personal Injury, Consumer Law

Carcione, Cattermole, Dolinski, Stucky, Markowitz & Carcione LLP

Representing People, Not Corporations, For 35 Years

The mission of Carcione, Cattermole, Dolinski, Stucky, Markowitz & Carcione is not only to provide just compensation for its injured clients, but to help make the products we use, and rely upon, safer. Throughout its history, the firm has served as a strong advocate for consumers, particularly in cases involving dangerous and defective products.

In 2016, for example, after a four-week jury trial, the firm obtained an \$8 million verdict against baby product manufacturer Evenflo, with the jury determining that a standard Evenflo mattress had suffocated a 7-month-old baby. Initially, the cause of death was ruled sudden infant death syndrome, but the law firm proved that the death resulted from a mattress found in millions of homes across the country.

"This case highlighted a tragic and underreported problem in the United States—babies who suffocate from sleeping on mattresses that aren't air permeable," says attorney Joseph W. Carcione, Jr., who is now working to pass legislation ensuring that all baby mattress pads are breathable.

Among its other achievements, the firm prompted legislation outlawing baby walkers in California day care centers after obtaining a jury verdict that found a standard Century Products baby walker had caused the death of a one-year-old. In addition, the firm's \$296 million verdict against Ford Motor Company for a rollover accident influenced efforts to strengthen the roof support of vehicles. The jury in that case determined that the standard roof of the Ford Bronco was defectively designed and had killed three people and injured three others.

"We've worked hard to achieve the highest standard of excellence in representing our clients," says Carcione. "As a result, we've not only obtained many multimillion-dollar recoveries, but we've also helped to modify the behavior of powerful corporations and governmental entities."



1300 South El Camino Real, Suite 300, San Mateo, CA 94402
PH: 650.367.6811 | FX: 650.367.0367 | www.carcionelaw.com



John D. O'Connor

Attorney Fee Disputes, Business Litigation

"Nation's Top Attorney
Fee Expert" - theNALFA.org

A versatile, highly experienced, complex-case trial lawyer, John O'Connor has for over 25 years devoted a significant portion of his practice to attorneys and attorney fee disputes, both as an expert witness and as a litigator, bringing a depth of expertise as an expert witness only an experienced litigator can offer.

O'Connor has tried a wide variety of cases in federal, state and arbitration courts throughout the country, including professional liability, attorney fee and law firm buy-out cases, as well as a diverse litigation mixture including intellectual property, construction, employment, tort, civil rights and business claims. This experience allows him to identify inefficiency in litigation management.

He has frequently associated with other firms to provide trial and deposition assistance, either on behalf of a separate co-party or as co-counsel, and often serves as local counsel. O'Connor and Associates prides itself on being cooperative, responsive and efficient.

O'Connor and Associates

201 Mission Street, Suite 710
San Francisco, CA 94105

Ph: 415.693.9960 | Fax: 415.692.6537 | www.joclaw.com

FOR MORE THAN 45 YEARS, The Van Blois Law Firm has served as a powerful advocate in Northern California for persons who have been seriously injured, disabled or killed as a result of someone else's wrongdoing. With offices in Oakland and Stockton, the firm effectively represents persons throughout Northern and Central California as well as the San Francisco Bay Area.



R. Lewis Van Blois, Thomas C. Knowles, Michael E. Gatto

Van Blois Law Firm

Specialists in Catastrophic Personal Injury

7677 Oakport Street | Suite 656
Oakland, CA 94621
Ph: 510.635.1284
Fax: 510.635.1516

2431 W. March Lane | Suite 220
Stockton, CA 95207
Ph: 209.478.2400

www.vanbloislaw.com

Northern California's Settlements

all data on  LexisNexis®

Settlements reported from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

#	Case	Date	Type of Action	Plaintiff's Counsel	Amount
1	Rebecca Forkey v. Hendrick Automotive Group dba Concord West Automotive Company; Auto Legend LLC dba Acura of Fremont; Larry Day; Kathleen Harding; and Chrysler Group, LLC	August 18, 2016	Motor Vehicle	Timothy G. Tietjen of Rouda Feder Tietjen & McGuinn	\$24,000,000
2	Joanne M. Giorgi and Louis J. Giorgi v. City of Sacramento, et al.	September 26, 2016	Premises Liability - Personal Injury	Roger A. Dreyer and Robert B. Bale of Dreyer, Babich, Buccola, Wood, Campora, LLP	\$15,000,000
3	Glenn Shea and Hua Tran v. Matheson Tri-Gas, Inc. and Scott McKenzie	January 8, 2016	Motor Vehicle - Pedestrian - w/Motor Vehicle - Tractor-Trailer	Thomas J. Brandi and Brian J. Malloy of The Brandi Law Firm; Dean A. Alper of Stratman, Patterson & Hunter	\$10,500,000
4	Liam Pappakostas, a Minor, by and through his Guardian ad Litem, Laura Pappakostas, and Mark Pappakostas v. State of California, Department of Transportation; Trinity Highway Products, LLC; Trinity Industries, Inc.	June 6, 2016	Worker/Workplace Negligence - Negligent Assembly or Installation - Products Liability - Design Defect - Products Liability - Motor Vehicle	Eric M. Abramson, Jeffrey R. Smith and William B. Smith of Abramson, Smith, Waldsmith L.L.P.	\$10,000,000
5	Brian Dabel and Bret Dabel v. Park Place Constructors, Inc. and Christopher Lee Shuman	January 6, 2016	Motor Vehicle - Wrongful Death	Roger A. Dreyer and Robert B. Bale of Dreyer, Babich, Buccola, Wood Campora, LLP	\$7,000,000
6	Chris Pham and Rick Gosalvez v. County of Santa Clara, Amanda Marie Padilla, and Does 1 through 100, inclusive	May 9, 2016	Vehicular Liability	Peter W. Alfert and Teresa Li of Hinton Alfert & Kahn	\$5,450,000
7	Jack K. Frazier v. Michael Quinn and The City And County of San Francisco	July 13, 2016	Vehicular Liability	Brian J. Panish of Panish, Shea & Boyle; James J. Romag of Brown Koro & Romag	\$4,900,000
8	Rebecca Mescher, Naomi Mescher and Rachel Mescher v. Terra Linda Farms, Jaime F. Vargas, and Does 1 to 25, inclusive	March 7, 2016	Motor Vehicle - Wrongful Death	Warren R. Paboojian of Oren & Paboojian	\$4,250,000
9	Jane Doe v. Orange Center Elementary School District and Estate of Lance Clement	July 29, 2016	Personal Injury - Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act	Jacob J. Rivas of the Law Office of Jacob J. Rivas	\$3,400,000
10	Guang Mei Qiu; Guoye Lai; Guo Fen Lai; Guolian Lai; Guozhen Lai; Guoxing Lai; Guohua Lai; and Guoyun Lai v. City and County of San Francisco; San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency; City and County of San Francisco Department of Public Works; Melvin Maximilian Galvez Quinonez; and Does 1 to 100	May 20, 2016	Death, Loss of Society, Multiple Trauma	Dale Minami, B. Mark Fong, and Seema J. Bhatt of Minami Tamaki, LLP	\$3,250,000
11	Paul Hon Chow Lee v. Prologistics Distribution Inc., Joel Rich, Jim Tsuyoshi Kitamura, Airport Van Rentals, Inc., Does 1 to 100	April 22, 2016	Motor Vehicle	Dale Minami of Minami Tamaki, L.L.P.; Seth I. Rosenberg of Liberty Law	\$2,805,000
12	Jacqueline Torriones Payan, a Minor, and Jair Adrian Terrones Payan, a Minor, by and through their Guardian Ad Litem, Claudia Maria Payan Alapizco v. Smokey Jack LP, Edendale LLC, Robert W. Thomason, Barley LLC, and D.J. Bavaro, Inc.	January 6, 2016	Premises Liability - Negligent Repair and/or Maintenance - Fire - Wrongful Death	Richard C. Watters of Miles, Sears & Eanni	\$2,650,000

For more on differences that deliver in Northern California, visit LEXISNEXIS.COM/CADIFFERENCES

Continued on page 10



Plaintiff's Personal Injury

Rouda Feder Tietjen & McGuinn

Timothy G. Tietjen

Rouda Feder Tietjen & McGuinn is a nationally renowned plaintiff's firm with a history of significant results in challenging personal injury cases. Indeed, the firm has recovered more than \$500 million for its clients since its founding in 1980. And 2016 proved no different, with the firm achieving a result that was recognized by Leaders in the Law as Northern California's top settlement of the year.

That result, a \$24 million recovery in a devastating auto accident, involved several complicated issues. But partner Timothy Tietjen was able to secure a settlement ensuring his client, the woman injured in the crash, would receive the necessary medical care. "Our mission as a firm is to help clients in these tragic cases improve their quality of life and find some light at the end of the tunnel," he says.

Tietjen's client, 27-year-old Rebecca Forkey, was driving north on Interstate 680 when she was forced off the road by the driver of an Acura SUV, who was himself swerving to avoid the impaired driver of a Toyota Highlander. Forkey suffered a permanent spinal cord injury in the rollover, among other injuries.

Although the Toyota driver had been on prescription drugs at the time of the accident, Forkey's main lawsuit was ultimately against the Acura driver—an employee of an Acura dealership who had reported the Toyota driver to 911 for erratic driving, but then

ignored the dispatcher's warning to stay away from the Toyota.

"Our initial obstacle was overcoming the police report determination that the fault of the accident was entirely that of the impaired driver, instead of the wannabe Good Samaritan," Tietjen says. "But the police conclusion was made without access to the 911 call logs, and by obtaining those we were able to show that it was the Acura employee who caused the accident."

With the Acura dealership as a central defendant in the case, Tietjen also faced a daunting independent-contractor defense (the argument that an employer is not liable for the torts of an independent contractor). Still, he rejected an initial \$17 million settlement offer, and eventually the case settled for \$24 million.

"It was a hard-fought case, but we wanted to ensure that Rebecca would be fairly compensated for her catastrophic injuries," Tietjen says. "And we're proud of the number of cases we've taken on like this, where we've served as a champion for our client's cause."



**ROUDA | FEDER
TIETJEN | MCGUINN**

44 Montgomery Street, Suite 4000
San Francisco, CA 94104
Ph: 415.398.5398 | www.rftmlaw.com

Continued from pg 8

#	Case	Date	Type Of Action	Plaintiff's Counsel	Award Amount
13	Carly Noelle Bray v. El Dorado Union High School District, El Dorado County Office of Education, County of El Dorado, Kassandra Marie Hoelscher, California Highway Patrol, Department of Transportation for the State of California, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company	January 24, 2016	Motor Vehicle - Pedestrian - Premises Liability - Dangerous Condition of Public Property	Robert A. Buccola, Jason J. Sigel and Catia G. Saraiva of Dreyer, Babich, Buccola, Wood, Campora, LLP	\$9,860,631
14	Jan Chandler, Brittany Chandler, Tyler Chandler and Courtney Chandler v. California Department of Transportation, Matthew Simon, and Does 1 through 50, Inclusive	July 25, 2016	Premises Liability - Dangerous Condition of Public Property - Negligent Repair and/or Maintenance - Motor Vehicle - Wrongful Death - Government - Municipalities	Mike Danko and Claire Y. Choo of Danko Meredith	\$9,500,000
15	David Karow, Tiffany Karow, Individually and for the Estate of Abigail Milagros Karow v. Carmen Mendoza-Madriral; Little House CDC; Evenflow Company, Inc.	March 17, 2016	Products Liability - Design Defect - Household Products - Wrongful Death	Joseph W. Carcione, Jr., Joshua S. Markowitz and Joshua J.K. Henderson of Carcione, Cattermole, Dolinski, Stucky, Markowitz & Carcione, LLP	\$8,000,000
16	Roberto Davila and Yanet Chavez v. James Derby and DeSilva Gates Construction	June 16, 2016	Worker/Workplace Negligence - Construction - Accidents - Motor Vehicle	John M. O'Brien of John M. O'Brien & Associates, P.C.; Omar G. Gonzalez of Omar Gonzalez Law Corp.	\$4,244,122
17	Annica Hagadorn, Tracie Keillor, Jodi Mendonca and Dawn Douglas, as individual employees, v. County of Sacramento and Sacramento County Sheriff's Department	May 17, 2016	Labor & Employment - Civil Rights	Jerry L. Chong and Alice W. Wong of the Law Offices of Jerry L. Chong and Alice W. Wong; Lisa P. Mak and Aron Liang of Minami Tamaki LLP	\$3,574,753
18	Kathleen Carroll v. State of California acting by and through The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, Dale Janssen, Mary Armstrong, Lee Pope, Christa Hill, Annie Kindall, and Does 1 through 10, Inclusive	August 10, 2016	Employment - Whistleblower - Retaliation	Dan Siegel, Jalle H. Dafa and Anne B. Weills of Siegel & Yee	\$3,065,000
19	Allison Jean Bradley v. Charles William Scheulke, Bassco Services, Inc., and Does 1 through 25, Inclusive	June 3, 2016	Motor Vehicle - Intersection - Rear-ender	Jason J. Sigel and Ryan L. Dostart of Dreyer, Babich, Buccola, Wood, Campora, LLP	\$2,894,227
20	Kimberly Muniz v. Susan Vanrein, Jerry Vanrein, and Does 1 to 50, Inclusive	March 25, 2016	Motor Vehicle - Broadside - Motor Vehicle - Multiple Vehicle	Lawrence A. Bohm, Maria E. Minney and Junn O. Paulino of the Bohm Law Group; Edward A. Smith of the Law Offices of Edward A. Smith	\$2,880,984
21	James Strouse v. Webcor Construction, L.P. dba Webcor Builders, and Does 1-10	April 4, 2016	Construction - Accidents - Worker/Workplace Negligence - OSHA	Jonathan M. Brand and Nicolis G. Peters of the Law Offices of Jonathan M. Brand	\$2,626,750
22	Todd Milan v. City of Vallejo and Paige Meyer	March 18, 2016	Employment - Retaliation - Wrongful Termination	Leslie F. Levy, Sharon R. Vinick and Palmer E. Buchholz of Levy Vinick Burrell Hyams LLP	\$2,357,089
23	Gabriel Affonso v. Miguel Rocha dba M.R. Enterprise	August 1, 2016	Employment - Negligent Retention - Negligent Supervision - Worker/Workplace Negligence	Anne C. Costin of Costin Law Inc.	\$1,935,150
24	Dustin L. Hansen v. East Bay Floorcovering, Inc., EMT Electric, Inc. and Iron Construction, Inc.	August 16, 2016	Construction - Scaffolds and Ladders - Worker/Workplace Negligence - OSHA - Premises Liability	Joseph J. Appel and Thomas G. Appel of Appel and Appel	\$1,323,716
25	Onalis Giunta v. State of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and Does 1 through 50, Inclusive	July 27, 2016	Employment - Retaliation - Whistleblower - Government - Municipalities	Lawrence A. Bohm of the Bohm Law Group; Robert L. Boucher of BoucherLaw	\$1,107,702
26	Equal Employment Opportunity Commission v. Zoria Foods, Inc., et al.	July 22, 2016	Sexual Harassment - Civil Rights	Melissa Barrios of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission	\$1,047,000
27	Halona Sudduth and Farah Sanders v. Solomon Sacay and Arleen Sacay	February 9, 2016	Fraud - Intentional Torts - Conspiracy	G. Dana Scruggs, III of Cartwright Scruggs Fulton & Walther; Jack A. Friedman of Crime Victim Advocates	\$1,008,712

Start your case analysis at LEXISNEXIS.COM/WSA

LAW OFFICES OF STEVEN A. FABBRO

Preparation, Dedication, and Tenacity Make the Difference.

30 Years of Professional Litigation Experience in Personal Injury, Wrongful Death, Premises Liability, Product Liability and Medical Malpractice.

Proven results of more than \$300 million in settlements and verdicts. Referrals received from across the country. Professional referral fees are paid in accordance with State Bar guidelines.



NO FEES UNLESS A RECOVERY IS MADE • SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

Mr. Fabbro has extensive experience in the prosecution of civil cases for individuals who have suffered catastrophic, life-changing injuries, and for the survivors of those who have died as a result of such injuries. He works with highly experienced investigators and forensic experts to achieve justice and fair compensation for his clients.



Law Offices of Steven A. Fabbro
www.fabbrolaw.com

601 Montgomery Street, Suite 2000,
San Francisco, CA 94111 | PH: 415.391.6850
1124 11th Street, Modesto, CA 95354 | Ph: 209.527.6242

David Michael Bigeleisen

Criminal Defense



David Michael Bigeleisen is a leader in criminal defense. He has brought courage, compassion and polish to the practice since 1975.

Mr. Bigeleisen began defending white-collar cases in New York City. Shortly afterward he moved his practice to San Francisco and has since handled almost every sort of criminal case. His practice emphasizes white collar cases and sex cases. He puts the tools that clients need to rebuild their lives into their own hands. He is not afraid to defend the most unpopular client with the most difficult case.

Almost all of his clients are referred by other lawyers.

Mr. Bigeleisen is the former Chairman of the Criminal Law Section of the Bar Association of San Francisco.

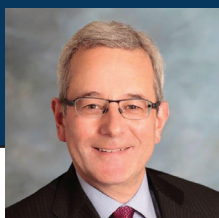
He is rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell.

David Michael Bigeleisen

1155 Pine Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
PH: 415.957.1717
david@bigeleisenlaw.com | www.bigeisenlaw.com

Solomon B. Cera

Class Actions, Securities Fraud,
Antitrust Litigation



Solomon B. Cera is a nationally recognized litigator on behalf

of plaintiffs in securities and antitrust class actions and other complex litigation matters. Mr. Cera's work has been repeatedly praised by courts throughout the country for the high quality of his representation and professionalism on behalf of his clients which include individuals, small businesses, corporations, hedge funds, and asset managers. He has been with the firm for more than 33 years, became its managing partner, and has overseen the growth of the firm into a bicoastal litigation powerhouse. Cera LLP has recovered billions of dollars for its clients. In addition to its core securities and antitrust practice, Cera LLP also litigates plaintiffs' claims in consumer, whistleblower, corporate derivative suits, breaches of fiduciary duty, partnership disputes, employment discrimination, and ERISA matters.

Cera LLP

595 Market Street, Suite 2300
San Francisco, CA 94105
PH: 415.977.2230 | scera@cerallp.com | www.cerallp.com

BOWLES & VERNA

Business, Employment, Real Estate

The attorneys at Bowles & Verna are pleased to have been listed in *Northern California's Leading Lawyers*. B&V is a litigation law firm with 22 attorneys grounded in the philosophy that clients deserve cost-effective, result-oriented representation by innovative lawyers with exceptional judgment. The firm's track record since its founding more than 30 years ago is testament to this principle.

UNIQUE PRACTICE MIX. While most firms exclusively represent plaintiffs or defendants in litigation matters, B&V both prosecutes and defends complex cases—from representing major corporations in business, employment or real estate disputes to protecting the rights of individuals denied insurance benefits or victimized in catastrophic accidents. Understanding both sides, B&V enjoys a unique strategic perspective on how to achieve the best result for the client.

EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS. With more than 200 jury trials, B&V attorneys have established a reputation as the "go to" lawyers in difficult cases. Partners have defended multimillion-dollar fraud and wrongful termination cases and obtained multimillion-dollar verdicts and settlements for aggrieved business owners and accident victims.

THE CLIENTS' GOALS ARE OUR GOALS.



2121 N. CALIFORNIA BLVD., SUITE 875, WALNUT CREEK, CA 94596
PH: 925.935.3300 • WWW.BOWLESVERNA.COM



Michael L. Dworkin

Aviation, Business Transactions,
Civil Litigation

Michael L. Dworkin, an AV rated® attorney with 44 years of experience, licensed in California and the District of Columbia, is the principal and manager of Michael L. Dworkin and Associates. Mr. Dworkin and his firm specialize in aviation regulatory, compliance, enforcement, business transactions and litigation, crisis management and safety audit consulting. The firm's worldwide clients include airlines, charter operators, manufacturers, corporate flight departments, maintenance and repair facilities, airports and insurance carriers. Michael L. Dworkin and Associates was recognized by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) as one of the world's top 100 aviation law firms. Mr. Dworkin was recently elected president of the Northern California Business Aviation Association.

Michael L. Dworkin and Associates

465 California Street, Suite 210
San Francisco, CA 94104
PH: 415.421.2500 | FX: 415.421.2560
law@avialex.com | @avialexlaw
www.avialex.com | www.avialex.aero



- WHO WOULD - ROSIE HIRE?

Levy Vinick Burrell Hyams LLP

We represent employees from executives to low-wage workers in employment matters and for civil rights violations against government and businesses. Recent cases include the sexual harassment lawsuit against UC Berkeley Law, multimillion-dollar jury verdicts in discrimination and whistleblower cases against The Permanente Medical Group and the City of Vallejo, respectively, and the class action filed on behalf of the Raiderettes. Collectively, the firm's partners have more than 100 years of experience. They are regularly recognized by Super Lawyers lists of the best attorneys in California, and *U.S. News and World Report* "Best Law Firms," in addition to numerous other recognitions.

Levy Vinick Burrell Hyams LLP

180 Grand Ave., Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612
PH: 510.318.7700 | www.levyvinick.com



George Wolff, Esq.

Construction, Real Estate,
Government Contracts

Since 1983 the Wolff Law Office has represented individuals, professionals and business firms in connection with private and public works construction contracts, claims, defects, liens, and litigation in mediation, arbitration, and in State and Federal Trial and Appellate Courts and before State and Federal Agencies, as well as on Real Estate contracts and disputes of all types, and in connection with Local, State and Federal government contract cases.

Mr. Wolff, a former state Assistant Attorney General and environmental enforcer, has Bachelor and Masters degrees in Civil Engineering from Purdue and Stanford Universities, an M.B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, and over 35 years of trial and appellate experience. He is (AV) rated by Martindale.com, and "Superb" by Avvo.com in Construction and Real Estate Law.



Wolff Law Office

505 Sansome Street, Suite 1525
San Francisco CA 94111-3182
PH: 415.788.1881 | FX: 415.788.0880
www.wolfflaw.com



Brian Worthington

Criminal Defense

Brian Worthington practices criminal defense throughout the entire Bay Area. He specializes in major felonies, with trial experience in sexual assault, child sexual abuse, domestic violence, robbery, and other serious offenses. He has handled cases involving a variety of complicated emotional and mental health issues including Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy, Intimate Partner Battering and its effects, Child Sexual Abuse Accommodation Syndrome, the myth of repressed memory, kleptomania, pedophilia, and eyewitness identification. With this breadth and depth of experience, no challenge is too great and no case too complex. Mr. Worthington's accomplishments have earned him the distinction of Northern California Super Lawyers Rising Star, National Trial Lawyers Top 100 Trial Attorney, and earned his firm recognition in the *US News and World Reports* "Best Law Firms."

Worthington Law Centre

The Hobart Building, 582 Market St., 17th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104 | PH: 415.977.0197
worthingtonlawsf.com | www.worthingtonlawcentre.com



John L. Burris

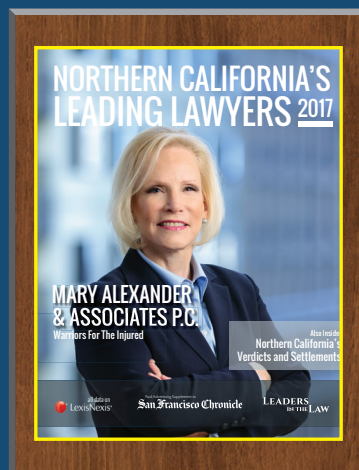
Civil Rights, Personal Injury,
Criminal Defense

Prominent Bay Area civil rights attorney John L. Burris is best known for handling high-profile Plaintiffs' Civil Rights cases throughout California. Recent cases of public interest include the underage victim of sexual exploitation at the center of the Oakland police sex scandal; \$11.3 million jury verdict against the City of San Jose; Mario Woods, a young black man fatally shot by San Francisco Police. He is a founding Board member of National Police Accountability Project (NPAP); Board member of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights-San Francisco. He is a frequent lecturer, speaker, and legal analyst to media. John Burris is the author of the book, *Blue vs. Black: Let's End the Conflict between Police and Minorities*.

Law Offices of John L. Burris

7677 Oakport Street, Suite 1120
Oakland, CA 94621
PH: 510.839.5200 | FX: 510.839.3882 | johnburrislaw.com

PROMOTE YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS ALL YEAR LONG!



Reinforce the impact of your print and online advertisements with Leaders In The Law's custom services:

Reprints
Celebratory Plaques
Digital Logos

Contact: Kevin Vermeulen

Kevin@LeadersInTheLaw.com | 866.415.0304 ext. 2