EXHIBIT B



THE 2020 LAWDRAGON 500 LEADING PLAINTIFF FINANCIAL LAWYERS

By Katrina Dewey | August 25, 2020 | Guides, News & Features

We're delighted to present the Lawdragon 500 Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers in America for 2020.



These 500 lawyers specialize in representing plaintiffs in securities and other business litigation, antitrust, and whistleblower claims. We suspect 2020 is yielding a bumper crop in each of those categories. And while some of the business litigators occasionally play defense, the heart and soul of this list takes on the plight of plaintiffs who often can't afford to go to court for the wrong they've been done. In many cases, these firms will shoulder the risk and take the cases on contingency.

Plaintiff financial litigation is the provenance of a handful of powerhouse firms, led once again by the one and only Susman Godfrey. It's been a year of change, with founder and Lawdragon Hall of Famer Steve Susman passing away in July, and star L.A. trial lawyer Kalpana Srinivasan joining Houston's Neal Manne as managing partner.

Susman Godfrey is joined by other heavyweights including Robbins Geller; Quinn Emanuel; Motley Rice; Lieff Cabraser; Labaton Sucharow; Cohen Milstein; Hausfeld; and Reid Collins.

We're proud to recognize each and every member of this group, which is 31 percent female and more than 10 percent inclusive.

1-100 | 101-200 | 201-300 | 301-400 | 401-500

Name	Firm	Location
Michael Absmeier	Gibbs & Bruns	Houston
Anthony Alden	Quinn Emanuel	Los Angeles
Fields Alexander	Beck Redden	Houston
Joseph M. Alioto Jr.	Alioto Law Firm	San Francisco
Jeff Almeida	Grant & Eisenhofer	Wilmington
X. Jay Alvarez	Robbins Geller	San Diego

Parvin Aminolroaya	Seeger Weiss	New York
Naumon Amjed	Kessler Topaz	Radnor, Pa.
Jeffrey Angelovich	Nix Patterson	Austin
Michael Angelovich	Nix Patterson	Austin
Maribeth Annaguey	Browne George	Los Angeles
Seth Ard	Susman Godfrey	New York
Gregory Arenson	Kaplan Fox	New York
Gregory Asciolla	Labaton Sucharow	New York
A. Rick Atwood Jr.	Robbins Geller	San Diego
Aelish Marie Baig	Robbins Geller	San Francisco
Sean Baldwin	Selendy Gay	New York
Lauren Guth Barnes	Hagens Berman	Cambridge, Mass.
Alexander Barnett	Cotchett	New York
Barry Barnett	Susman Godfrey	Houston
Randall Baron	Robbins Geller	San Diego
David Barrett	Boies Schiller	New York
Michael Barry	Grant & Eisenhofer	Wilmington
Fred Bartlit	Bartlit Beck	Denver
James Barz	Robbins Geller	Chicago
Samuel Baxter	McKool Smith	Marshall, Texas
David Beck	Beck Redden	Houston
Phil Beck	Bartlit Beck	Chicago
Bradley Beckworth	Nix Patterson	Austin
Matthew Behncke	Susman Godfrey	Houston
Eric Belfi	Labaton Sucharow	New York
Katherine Lubin Benson	Lieff Cabraser	San Francisco
Daniel Berger	Berger Montague	Philadelphia
Daniel Berger	Grant & Eisenhofer	New York
Max Berger	Bernstein Litowitz	New York
Norman Berman	Berman Tabacco	Boston
Steve Berman	Hagens Berman	Seattle
Stuart Berman	Kessler Topaz	Radnor, Pa.
Alexandra Bernay	Robbins Geller	San Diego
Matthew Berry	Susman Godfrey	Seattle
Julia Beskin	Quinn Emanuel	New York

Vineet Bhatia	Susman Godfrey	Houston
Michael Blatchley	Bernstein Litowitz	New York
Jeffrey Block	Block & Leviton	Boston
David Bocian	Kessler Topaz	Radnor, Pa.
David Boies	Boies Schiller	Armonk, N.Y.
Swathi Bojedla	Hausfeld	Washington, D.C.
Craig Boneau	Reid Collins	Austin
Amanda Bonn	Susman Godfrey	Los Angeles
Rebecca Boon	Bernstein Litowitz	New York
Jeniphr Breckenridge	Hagens Berman	Seattle
John Briody	McKool Smith	New York
Daniel Brockett	Quinn Emanuel	New York
Davida Brook	Susman Godfrey	Los Angeles
Luke Brooks	Robbins Geller	San Diego
Benjamin Brown	Cohen Milstein	Washington, D.C.
Deborah Brown	Quinn Emanuel	New York
John Browne	Bernstein Litowitz	New York
Devon Bruce	Power Rogers	Chicago
Joshua Bruckerhoff	Reid Collins	Austin
Gustavo Bruckner	Pomerantz	New York
David Buchanan	Seeger Weiss	New York
Jacob Buchdahl	Susman Godfrey	New York
Michael Buchman	Motley Rice	New York
Christopher Burke	Scott + Scott	San Diego
Spencer Burkholz	Robbins Geller	San Diego
Warren Burns	Burns Charest	Dallas
Elaine Byszewski	Hagens Berman	Pasadena, Calif.
Elizabeth Cabraser	Lieff Cabraser	San Francisco
Diane Cafferata	Quinn Emanuel	Los Angeles
Peter Calamari	Quinn Emanuel	New York
Regina Calcaterra	Calcaterra Pollack	New York
Ophelia Camina	Susman Godfrey	Houston
Melinda Campbell	Kaplan Fox	New York
Jeffrey Campisi	Kaplan Fox	New York
Michael Canty	Labaton Sucharow	New York

Robert Carey	Hagens Berman	Phoenix
Michael Carlinsky	Quinn Emanuel	New York
Bill Carmody	Susman Godfrey	New York
George Carpinello	Boies Schiller	Albany, N.Y.
Shanon Carson	Berger Montague	Philadelphia
Johnny Carter	Susman Godfrey	Houston
Laura Kissel Cassidy	Gibbs & Bruns	Houston
Gregory Castaldo	Kessler Topaz	Radnor, Pa.
Ryan Caughey	Susman Godfrey	Houston
Lin Chan	Lieff Cabraser	San Francisco
Daniel Charest	Burns Charest	Dallas
Peter Wilson Chatfield	Phillips & Cohen	Washington, D.C.
Darren Check	Kessler Topaz	Radnor, Pa.
Daniel Chiplock	Lieff Cabraser	New York
Michael Ciresi	Ciresi Conlin	Minneapolis
Joy Clairmont	Berger Montague	Philadelphia
Deborah Clark-Weintraub	Scott + Scott	New York
Mary Louise Cohen	Phillips & Cohen	Washington, D.C.
David Colapinto	Kohn, Kohn & Colapinto	Washington, D.C.
Scott Cole	McKool Smith	Austin
P. Jason Collins	Reid Collins	Austin
Todd Collins	Berger Montague	Philadelphia
Erin Green Comite	Scott + Scott	Colchester, Conn.
Jan Conlin	Ciresi Conlin	Minneapolis
Nathan Cook	Block & Leviton	Wilmington
Melinda Coolidge	Hausfeld	Washington, D.C.
Joseph Cotchett	Cotchett	Burlingame, Calif.
Patrick Coughlin	Robbins Geller	San Diego

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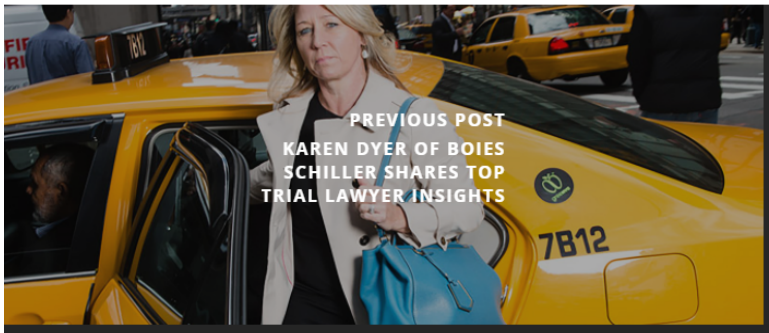
Name	Firm	Location
Eric Cramer	Berger Montague	Philadelphia
Gary Cruciani	McKool Smith	Dallas
Sam Cruse III	Gibbs & Bruns	Houston
Andrew Curley	Berger Montague	Philadelphia
Patrick Dahlstrom	Pomerantz	Chicago
Patrick Daniels	Robbins Geller	San Diego

Merrill Davidoff	Berger Montague	Philadelphia
Stuart Davidson	Robbins Geller	Boca Raton
Mark Dearman	Robbins Geller	Boca Raton
Timothy DeLange	Wollmuth Maher	Carlsbad, Calif.
Michael Dell'Angelo	Berger Montague	Philadelphia
Marisa DeMato	Labaton Sucharow	New York
Lawrence Deutsch	Berger Montague	Philadelphia
Nicholas Diamand	Lieff Cabraser	New York
Jeffrey W. Dickstein	Phillips & Cohen	Miami
Kirk Dillman	McKool Smith	Los Angeles
Kathleen Donovan-Maher	Berman Tabacco	Boston
Diane Doolittle	Quinn Emanuel	Redwood Shores, Calif.
Mike Dowd	Robbins Geller	San Diego
Travis Downs III	Robbins Geller	San Diego
Michelle Drake	Berger Montague	Minneapolis
Daniel Drosman	Robbins Geller	San Diego
Thomas Dubbs	Labaton Sucharow	New York
Suzanne Dugan	Cohen Milstein	Washington, D.C.
Andrew Dunlap	Selendy Gay	New York
Karen Dunn	Paul Weiss	Washington, D.C.
Karen Dyer	Boies Schiller	Orlando
Amy Easton	Phillips & Cohen	Washington, D.C.
Jay Edelson	Edelson	Chicago
Jay Eisenhofer	Grant & Eisenhofer	New York
Robert Eisler	Grant & Eisenhofer	Wilmington
Dennis Ellis	Browne George	Los Angeles
Deborah Elman	Grant & Eisenhofer	New York
David Elsberg	Selendy Gay	New York
Michael Elsner	Motley Rice	Mt. Pleasant, S.C.
Candice Enders	Berger Montague	Philadelphia
John Eubanks	Motley Rice	Mt. Pleasant, S.C.
Donna Evans	Cohen Milstein	New York
Eric Fastiff	Lieff Cabraser	San Francisco
Leonid Feller	Quinn Emanuel	Chicago
Mark Ferguson	Bartlit Beck	Chicago

Kenneth Fetterman	Kellogg Hansen	Washington, D.C.
Julie Fieber	Cotchett	Burlingame, Calif.
Reid Figel	Kellogg Hansen	Washington, D.C.
Edward Filusch	Kasowitz	New York
Steven Fineman	Lieff Cabraser	New York
Rachel Fleishman	Reid Collins	New York
Jodi Westbrook Flowers	Motley Rice	Mt. Pleasant, S.C.
Parker Folse	Susman Godfrey	Seattle
Jason Forge	Robbins Geller	San Diego
Christine Fox	Labaton Sucharow	New York
Frederic Fox	Kaplan Fox	New York
David Frederick	Kellogg Hansen	Washington, D.C.
William Fredericks	Scott + Scott	New York
Michael Fritz	McKool Smith	Dallas
Qianwei Fu	Zelle	San Francisco
Benjamin Galdston	Berger Montague	San Diego
Reena Gambhir	Hausfeld	Washington, D.C.
Jonathan Gardner	Labaton Sucharow	New York
Karin Garvey	Labaton Sucharow	New York
Faith Gay	Selendy Gay	New York
Paul Geller	Robbins Geller	Boca Raton
Eric George	Browne George	Los Angeles
Adam Gerchen	Keller Lenkner	Chicago
Eric Gibbs	Gibbs Law Group	Oakland, Calif.
Robin Gibbs	Gibbs & Bruns	Houston
Carol Gilden	Cohen Milstein	Chicago
Danielle Gilmore	Quinn Emanuel	Los Angeles
Emma Gilmore	Pomerantz	New York
Maria Ginzburg	Selendy Gay	New York
Karma Giulianelli	Bartlit Beck	Denver
Brendan Glackin	Lieff Cabraser	San Francisco
Jacob Goldberg	The Rosen Law Firm	Jenkintown, Pa.
Jordan Goldstein	Selendy Gay	New York
Larry Golston	Beasley Allen	Montgomery, Ala.
Benny Goodman III	Robbins Geller	San Diego

Melissa Goodman	Ciresi Conlin	Minneapolis
Sathya Gosselin	Hausfeld	Washington, D.C.
David Grable	Quinn Emanuel	Los Angeles
Elise Grace	Robbins Geller	San Diego
Nicholas Gravante	Boies Schiller	New York
Salvatore Graziano	Bernstein Litowitz	New York
Eli Greenstein	Kessler Topaz	San Francisco
Justin Griffin	Quinn Emanuel	Los Angeles
Joseph Grinstein	Susman Godfrey	Houston
Tor Gronborg	Robbins Geller	San Diego
Marc Gross	Pomerantz	New York
Stanley Grossman	Pomerantz	New York
Michael Grunfeld	Pomerantz	New York
Joseph Guglielmo	Scott + Scott	New York
Aundrea Gulley	Gibbs & Bruns	Houston
Michael Guzman	Kellogg Hansen	Washington, D.C.
Olav Haazen	Grant & Eisenhofer	New York
Jennifer Duncan Hackett	Zelle	Washington, D.C.
Serena Hallowell	Labaton Sucharow	New York
Sean Handler	Kessler Topaz	Radnor, Pa.
Michael Hanin	Kasowitz	New York
Drew Hansen	Susman Godfrey	Seattle
Mark Hansen	Kellogg Hansen	Washington, D.C.
Erica Harris	Susman Godfrey	Houston
Geoffrey Harrison	Susman Godfrey	Houston
James Harrod	Bernstein Litowitz	New York
Anne Hayes Hartman	Constantine Cannon	San Francisco
Dean Harvey	Lieff Cabraser	San Francisco
Stephen Hasegawa	Phillips & Cohen	San Francisco
Michael Hausfeld	Hausfeld	Washington, D.C.
Eric Havian	Constantine Cannon	San Francisco

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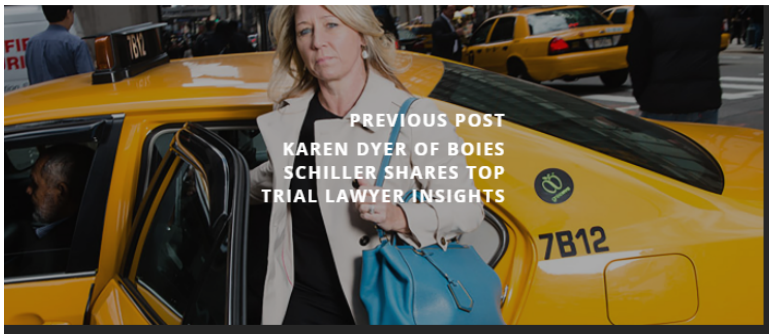
Name	Firm	Location
Lexi Hazam	Lieff Cabraser	San Francisco
Christopher Heffelfinger	Berman Tabacco	San Francisco
Richard Heimann	Lieff Cabraser	San Francisco
Robert Henssler Jr.	Robbins Geller	San Diego
Rick Hess	Susman Godfrey	Houston
Jay Himes	Labaton Sucharow	New York

Derek Ho	Kellogg Hansen	Washington, D.C.
Kathryn Hoek	Susman Godfrey	Los Angeles
Lester Hooker	Saxena White	Boca Raton
Lisa Houssiere	McKool Smith	Houston
Mary Inman	Constantine Cannon	San Francisco
Phil Iovieno	Boies Schiller	Albany, N.Y.
William Isaacson	Paul Weiss	Washington, D.C.
Uri Itkin	Kasowitz	New York
Shauna Itri	Seeger Weiss	Philadelphia
James Jaconette	Robbins Geller	San Diego
Geoffrey Jarvis	Kessler Topaz	Radnor, Pa.
Mathew Jasinski	Motley Rice	Hartford, Conn.
Rachel Jensen	Robbins Geller	San Diego
Brent Johnson	Cohen Milstein	Washington, D.C.
Chad Johnson	Robbins Geller	New York
Christopher P. Johnson	McKool Smith	New York
Geoffrey Johnson	Scott + Scott	Cleveland Heights, Ohio
James Johnson	Labaton Sucharow	New York
Kristen Johnson	Hagens Berman	Cambridge, Mass.
Randy Johnston	Johnston Tobey	Dallas
Megan Jones	Hausfeld	San Francisco
Jennifer Joost	Kessler Topaz	San Francisco
Avi Josefson	Bernstein Litowitz	New York
Michael Kane	Berger Montague	Philadelphia
David Kaplan	Saxena White	San Diego
Robert Kaplan	Kaplan Fox	New York
Stacey Kaplan	Kessler Topaz	San Francisco
Marc Kasowitz	Kasowitz	New York
Beth Kaswan	Scott + Scott	New York
Elana Katcher	Kaplan Fox	New York
Ashley Keller	Keller Lenkner	Chicago
Christopher Keller	Labaton Sucharow	New York
Gregory Keller	Shahmoon Keller	Great Neck, N.Y.
Michael Kellogg	Kellogg Hansen	Washington, D.C.
Cindy Caranella Kelly	Kasowitz	New York

Erika Kelton	Phillips & Cohen	San Francisco
Jeannine Kenney	Hausfeld	Philadelphia
David Kessler	Kessler Topaz	Radnor, Pa.
Jean Kim	Constantine Cannon	New York
Phillip Kim	The Rosen Law Firm	New York
Marlon Kimpson	Motley Rice	Mt. Pleasant, S.C.
Gayle Klein	McKool Smith	New York
Jeffrey Kodroff	Spector Roseman	Philadelphia
Richard Koffman	Cohen Milstein	Washington, D.C.
Michael Kohn	Kohn, Kohn & Colapinto	Washington, D.C.
Stephen Kohn	Kohn, Kohn & Colapinto	Washington, D.C.
Lena Konanova	Selendy Gay	New York
Sheron Korpus	Kasowitz	New York
Mathew Korte	Ciresi Conlin	Minneapolis
Marlene Koury	Constantine Cannon	New York
Robert Kry	MoloLamken	Washington, D.C.
Nancy Kulesa	Bleichmar Fonti	New York
Edward Labaton	Labaton Sucharow	New York
Brent Landau	Hausfeld	Philadelphia
Chanler Langham	Susman Godfrey	Houston
Laurie Largent	Robbins Geller	San Diego
Nicole Lavallee	Berman Tabacco	San Francisco
Arthur Leahy	Robbins Geller	San Diego
Mark Lebovitch	Bernstein Litowitz	New York
Christopher Lebsock	Hausfeld	San Francisco
Lewis LeClair	McKool Smith	Dallas
Lawrence Lederer	Berger Montague	Philadelphia
Sharon Lee	Lieff Cabraser	New York
Katie Crosby Lehmann	Ciresi Conlin	Minneapolis
Michael Lehmann	Hausfeld	San Francisco
Sarah Gibbs Leivick	Kasowitz	New York
Travis Lenkner	Keller Lenkner	Chicago
Emmy Levens	Cohen Milstein	Washington, D.C.
Richard Levine	Labaton Sucharow	Washington, D.C.
Jason Leviton	Block & Leviton	Boston

Dan Levy	McKool Smith	New York
Roberta Liebenberg	Fine Kaplan	Philadelphia
Jeremy Lieberman	Pomerantz	New York
Michael Lifrak	Quinn Emanuel	Los Angeles
Mimi Liu	Motley Rice	Washington, D.C.
Thomas Loeser	Hagens Berman	Seattle
Kyle Lonergan	McKool Smith	New York
Jordan Lurie	Pomerantz	Los Angeles
Christine Mackintosh	Grant & Eisenhofer	Wilmington
Eric Madden	Reid Collins	Dallas
Robert Manley	McKool Smith	Dallas
Neal Manne	Susman Godfrey	Houston
Jeanne Markey	Cohen Milstein	Philadelphia
James Robertson Martin	Zelle	Washington, D.C.
Scott Martin	Hausfeld	New York
Timothy Mathews	Chimicles	Haverford, Pa.
Sean Matt	Hagens Berman	Seattle
Colette Matzzie	Phillips & Cohen	Washington, D.C.
Eric Mayer	Susman Godfrey	Houston
Zachary Mazin	McKool Smith	New York
Margaret Mazzeo	Kessler Topaz	Radnor, Pa.
Sean McCaffity	Sommerman Quesada	Dallas
Niall McCarthy	Cotchett	Burlingame, Calif.
Daniel McCuaig	Cohen Milstein	Washington, D.C.
Christopher McDonald	Labaton Sucharow	New York
Heather McElroy	Ciresi Conlin	Minneapolis
Kyle McGee	Grant & Eisenhofer	Wilmington
Sean X. McKessy	Phillips & Cohen	Washington, D.C.
Mike McKool	McKool Smith	Dallas
Ashley McMillian	Susman Godfrey	Houston
Brian Melton	Susman Godfrey	Houston
Joseph Meltzer	Kessler Topaz	Radnor, Pa.

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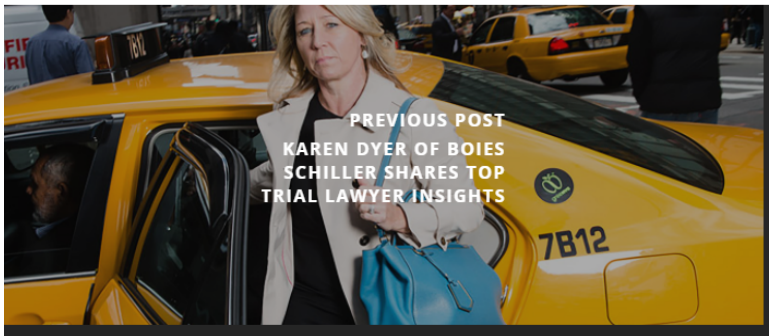
Name	Firm	Location
Tom Methvin	Beasley Allen	Montgomery, Ala.
Michael Miarmi	Lieff Cabraser	New York
Christopher Micheletti	Zelle	San Francisco
Donald Migliori	Motley Rice	Mt. Pleasant, S.C.
Dee Miles	Beasley Allen	Montgomery, Ala.
David Mitchell	Robbins Geller	San Diego

Dan Mogin	MoginRubin	San Diego
Steven Molo	MoloLamken	New York
Mark Molumphy	Cotchett	Burlingame, Calif.
Laddie Montague Jr.	Berger Montague	Philadelphia
Kristin Moody	Berman Tabacco	San Francisco
Stephen Morrissey	Susman Godfrey	Seattle
Anne Marie Murphy	Cotchett	Burlingame, Calif.
Matthew Mustokoff	Kessler Topaz	Radnor, Pa.
Ayesha Najam	Gibbs & Bruns	Houston
Hae Sung Nam	Kaplan Fox	New York
William Narwold	Motley Rice	Hartford, Conn.
Robert Nelson	Lieff Cabraser	San Francisco
Isaac Nesser	Quinn Emanuel	New York
Stephen Neuwirth	Quinn Emanuel	New York
Joshua Newcomer	McKool Smith	Houston
Steven Nicholas	Cunningham Bounds	Mobile, Ala.
Luke Nikas	Quinn Emanuel	New York
Sharan Nirmul	Kessler Topaz	Radnor, Pa.
Nanci Nishimura	Cotchett	Burlingame, Calif.
Crystal Nix-Hines	Quinn Emanuel	Los Angeles
Ellen Noteware	Berger Montague	Philadelphia
Brian O'Mara	Robbins Geller	San Diego
Steve Olen	Cunningham Bounds	Mobile, Ala.
Harry Olivar Jr.	Quinn Emanuel	Los Angeles
Jennifer Oliver	MoginRubin	San Diego
Lance Oliver	Motley Rice	Mt. Pleasant, S.C.
Meghan S.B. Oliver	Motley Rice	Mt. Pleasant, S.C.
Johanna Ong	Quinn Emanuel	Los Angeles
Laureen McMillen Ormsbee	Bernstein Litowitz	New York
David Orta	Quinn Emanuel	Washington, D.C.
Jennifer Pafiti	Pomerantz	Los Angeles
Nathaniel Palmer	Reid Collins	Austin
Aaron Panner	Kellogg Hansen	Washington, D.C.
Phyllis Maza Parker	Berger Montague	Philadelphia
Kathy Patrick	Gibbs & Bruns	Houston

C. Cary Patterson	Nix Patterson	Texarkana, Texas
Russell Paul	Berger Montague	Philadelphia
Trey Peacock	Susman Godfrey	Houston
Michael Pendell	Motley Rice	Hartford, Conn.
John Phillips	Phillips & Cohen	Washington, D.C.
Jonathan Pickhardt	Quinn Emanuel	New York
Kit Pierson	Cohen Milstein	Washington, D.C.
Frank Pitre	Cotchett	Burlingame, Calif.
Barbara Podell	Berger Montague	Philadelphia
Janine Pollack	Calcaterra Pollack	New York
Christopher Porter	Quinn Emanuel	Houston
Laura Posner	Cohen Milstein	New York
Warren Postman	Keller Lenkner	Washington, D.C.
John Quinn	Quinn Emanuel	Los Angeles
Shawn Rabin	Susman Godfrey	New York
Willow Radcliffe	Robbins Geller	San Francisco
Sascha Rand	Quinn Emanuel	New York
Sami Rashid	Quinn Emanuel	New York
Brian Ratner	Hausfeld	Washington, D.C.
Shawn Raymond	Susman Godfrey	Houston
Barrett Reasoner	Gibbs & Bruns	Houston
William T. Reid IV	Reid Collins	Austin
Julie Goldsmith Reiser	Cohen Milstein	Washington, D.C.
Jack Reise	Robbins Geller	Boca Raton
Justin Reliford	Kessler Topaz	Radnor, Pa.
Joseph Rice	Motley Rice	Mt. Pleasant, S.C.
Robert Rivera Jr.	Susman Godfrey	Houston
John Rizio-Hamilton	Bernstein Litowitz	New York
Darren Robbins	Robbins Geller	San Diego
Robert Robbins	Robbins Geller	Boca Raton
Sharon Robertson	Cohen Milstein	New York
Jeremy Robinson	Bernstein Litowitz	New York
Valerie Roddy	Quinn Emanuel	Los Angeles
Laurence Rosen	The Rosen Law Firm	New York
Hannah Ross	Bernstein Litowitz	New York

Peter Ross	Browne George	Los Angeles
Jonathan Rubin	MoginRubin	Washington, D.C.
Samuel Rudman	Robbins Geller	Melville, N.Y.
David Rudolph	Lieff Cabraser	San Francisco
Lee Rudy	Kessler Topaz	Radnor, Pa.
Joseph Russello	Robbins Geller	Melville, N.Y.
Taline Sahakian	Constantine Cannon	New York
Scott Saham	Robbins Geller	San Diego
Daniel Salinas-Serrano	Quinn Emanuel	Washington, D.C.
Hollis Salzman	Robins Kaplan	New York
Katie Sammons	Susman Godfrey	Houston
Ex Kano Sams II	Glancy Prongay	Los Angeles
Joseph Saveri	Saveri Law Firm	San Francisco
Sherrie Savett	Berger Montague	Philadelphia
Maya Saxena	Saxena White	Boca Raton
Shana Scarlett	Hagens Berman	Berkeley, Calif.
Robert Scheef	McKool Smith	New York
Irving Scher	Hausfeld	New York
Hilary Scherrer	Hausfeld	Washington, D.C.
Gregory Schwegmann	Reid Collins	Austin
Judy Scolnick	Scott + Scott	New York
Daryl Scott	Scott + Scott	Colchester, Conn.
David Scott	Scott + Scott	Colchester, Conn.
Jennifer Scullion	Seeger Weiss	Ridgefield Park, N.J.

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THE 2020 LAWDRAGON 500 LEADING PLAINTIFF FINANCIAL LAWYERS

By Katrina Dewey | August 25, 2020 | Guides, News & Features

We're delighted to present the Lawdragon 500 Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers in America for 2020.



These 500 lawyers specialize in representing plaintiffs in securities and other business litigation, antitrust, and whistleblower claims. We suspect 2020 is yielding a bumper crop in each of those categories. And while some of the business litigators occasionally play defense, the heart and soul of this list takes on the plight of plaintiffs who often can't afford to go to court for the wrong they've been done. In many cases, these firms will shoulder the risk and take the cases on contingency.

Plaintiff financial litigation is the provenance of a handful of powerhouse firms, led once again by the one and only Susman Godfrey. It's been a year of change, with founder and Lawdragon Hall of Famer Steve Susman passing away in July, and star L.A. trial lawyer Kalpana Srinivasan joining Houston's Neal Manne as managing partner.

Susman Godfrey is joined by other heavyweights including Robbins Geller; Quinn Emanuel; Motley Rice; Lieff Cabraser; Labaton Sucharow; Cohen Milstein; Hausfeld; and Reid Collins.

We're proud to recognize each and every member of this group, which is 31 percent female and more than 10 percent inclusive.

1-100 | 101-200 | 201-300 | 301-400 | **401-500**

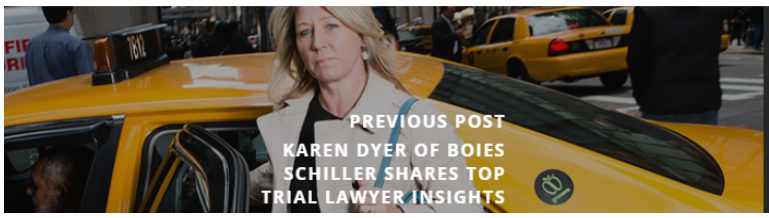
Name	Firm	Location
Todd Seaver	Berman Tabacco	San Francisco
Christopher Seeger	Seeger Weiss	New York
Jennifer Selendy	Selendy Gay	New York
Philippe Selendy	Selendy Gay	New York
Daniel Seltz	Lieff Cabraser	New York
Marc Seltzer	Susman Godfrey	Los Angeles

Maaren Shah	Quinn Emanuel	New York
Carol Shahmoon	Shahmoon Keller	Great Neck, N.Y.
Anthony Shapiro	Hagens Berman	Seattle
Allison Sheedy	Constantine Cannon	Washington, D.C.
Stephen Sheller	Sheller	Philadelphia
Steven Shepard	Susman Godfrey	New York
Manisha Sheth	Quinn Emanuel	New York
Jessica Shinnefield	Robbins Geller	San Diego
Roman Silberfeld	Robins Kaplan	Los Angeles
Gerald Silk	Bernstein Litowitz	New York
Joshua Silverman	Pomerantz	Chicago
Katherine Sinderson	Bernstein Litowitz	New York
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Steven Singer	Saxena White	White Plains, N.Y.
Steven Sklaver	Susman Godfrey	Los Angeles
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Elizabeth Smith	Motley Rice	Washington, D.C.
Thomas Sobol	Hagens Berman	Cambridge, Mass.
Aliki Sofis	Quinn Emanuel	Boston
Sylvia Sokol	Scott + Scott	New York
Mark Solomon	Robbins Geller	San Diego
David Sorensen	Berger Montague	Philadelphia
John Sparacino	McKool Smith	Houston
Ronnie Seidel Spiegel	Hagens Berman	Seattle
Kalpana Srinivasan	Susman Godfrey	Los Angeles
Courtney Statfeld	McKool Smith	New York
Karl Stern	Quinn Emanuel	Houston
Leslie Stern	Berman Tabacco	Boston
Murielle Steven Walsh	Pomerantz	New York
Michael Stevenson	Labaton Sucharow	Washington, D.C.
David Straite	Kaplan Fox	New York
Joel Strauss	Kaplan Fox	New York
Silvija Strikis	Kellogg Hansen	Washington, D.C.
Arun Subramanian	Susman Godfrey	New York
Lawrence Sucharow	Labaton Sucharow	New York

Jason Sultzer	The Sultzer Law Group	Poughkeepsie, N.Y.
Harry Susman	Susman Godfrey	Houston
Lynn Swanson	Jones Swanson	New Orleans
Stephen Swedlow	Quinn Emanuel	Chicago
Bonny Sweeney	Hausfeld	San Francisco
Claire Sylvia	Phillips & Cohen	San Francisco
Joseph Tabacco Jr.	Berman Tabacco	San Francisco
Ariana Tadler	Tadler Law	New York
Kevin Teruya	Quinn Emanuel	Los Angeles
Jordan Thomas	Labaton Sucharow	New York
Ed Timlin	Bernstein Litowitz	New York
Robert Tobey	Johnston Tobey	Dallas
Marc Topaz	Kessler Topaz	Radnor, Pa.
Catherine Torell	Cohen Milstein	New York
Hector Torres	Kasowitz	New York
Joseph Trautwein	Sheller	Philadelphia
Max Tribble	Susman Godfrey	Houston
Melissa Troutner	Kessler Topaz	Radnor, Pa.
Lisa Tsai	Reid Collins	Austin
Matthew Tuccillo	Pomerantz	New York
Martin Twersky	Berger Montague	Philadelphia
Jonathan Uslaner	Bernstein Litowitz	Los Angeles
Austin Van	Pomerantz	New York
Jeroen van Kwawegen	Bernstein Litowitz	New York
Gregory Varallo	Bernstein Litowitz	Wilmington
Irina Vasilchenko	Labaton Sucharow	New York
Carol Villegas	Labaton Sucharow	New York
David Wales	Bernstein Litowitz	New York
Genevieve Wallace	Susman Godfrey	Seattle
Timothy Warren	Labaton Sucharow	Chicago
Mark Wawro	Susman Godfrey	Houston
Tamar Weinrib	Pomerantz	New York
Stephen Weiss	Seeger Weiss	New York
Michael Wernke	Pomerantz	New York
Keith Wesley	Browne George	Los Angeles

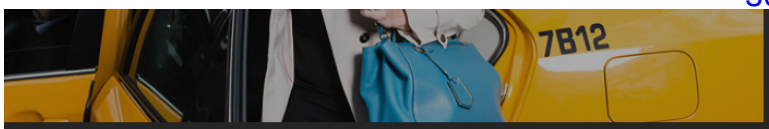
Lexie White	Susman Godfrey	Houston
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Shawn Williams	Robbins Geller	San Francisco
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Robert Wilson	Labaton Sucharow	Washington, D.C.
Robin Winchester	Kessler Topaz	Radnor, Pa.
David Wissbroecker	Robbins Geller	San Diego
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Adam Wolfson	Quinn Emanuel	Los Angeles
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Harvey Wolkoff	Quinn Emanuel	Boston
William Wood	McKool Smith	Houston
Debra Wyman	Robbins Geller	San Diego
Michael Yoder	Reid Collins	Dallas
Eric Young	McEldrew Young	Philadelphia
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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020

Litigation boutique highlights star partners with new name

By Kamila Knaudt
Daily Journal Staff Writer

With the elevation of three partners, Browne George Ross LLP has changed its name to Browne George Ross O'Brien Annaguey and Ellis LLP.

The firm announced the elevation of Thomas P. O'Brien, Maribeth Annaguey and Dennis S. Ellis to named partner on Wednesday.

"The three partners, who we're adding to the name, exemplify not only the expansion of our practices, but just the quality of our lawyers, and we thought: 'What better way to celebrate this next chapter of the firm and its history and also where we're going than to place their name on the door?" said Keith J. Wesley, managing partner of the firm.

The elevations are not only a celebration of the attorneys' accomplishments, but acknowledgment of their leadership in and outside of the firm, Wesley said.

O'Brien, Annaguey and Ellis joined the firm during the past three years.

"They're not only exceptional people and exceptional lawyers, but truly remarkable partners, who bring phenomenal work ethic, complete integrity and great loyalty," said name partner Eric M. George. O'Brien, the U.S. attorney for the Central District of California from 2007 to 2009, joined the firm in 2018 from Paul Hastings LLP, where he headed the West Coast white collar defense practice and chaired the Los Angeles litigation department.



Justin Stewart / Special to the Daily Journal

From left, Peter W. Ross, Maribeth Annaguey, Eric M. George, Thomas P. O'Brien and Dennis S. Ellis

He leads the firm's downtown Los Angeles office and represents clients in government investigations and prosecutions related to the federal and state False Claims Act, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, health care fraud and corporate compliance.

Like O'Brien, Ellis joined from Paul Hastings, arriving this March. He is the former global chair of the complex litigation arbitration group at Paul Hastings and specializes in complex litigation, consumer class actions, unfair competition disputes, business torts and breach of contract actions. His clients are from the manufacturing, retail and most recently the cosmetics industry.

A seasoned litigator, Annaguey joined the firm in 2017 from Liner LLP, where she practiced for about nine years.

She focuses on complex business and entertainment litigation and advises clients on matters including class action defense and disputes related to the Talent Agencies Act, real estate and partnerships.

Founded in 1985 by Allan Browne, the firm has offices in Century City, Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York City.

The firm last underwent a name change 12 years ago when it became Browne George Ross.

"This is really an exciting chapter for us, where we have the ability to take on cases and do so with lawyers that have incredible expertise and with a geographical reach that up until now, we haven't been able to do," said George. "I'd say in this next chapter, the best is yet to come."

kamila_knaudt@dailyjournal.com

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LAWDRAGON

O'Brien, Annaguey & Ellis Signal Expansion of Browne George Ross



Photo of Tom O'Brien, Maribeth Annaguey and Dennis Ellis by Amy Cantrell.

By Katrina Dewey

Browne George Ross has made the seemingly retro move of adding three new name partners – Tom O'Brien, Maribeth Annaguey and Dennis Ellis – to become Browne George Ross O'Brien Annaguey & Ellis.

Firm leader Eric George sees the issue as a look ahead, rather than to the past. "Maribeth, Dennis and Tom have the gifts that define an extraordinary lawyer – excellence, integrity, scholarship, common sense, creativity, grit. Clients love them, and the bench and bar respects them. It's time for our letterhead to reflect their current and future leadership of the firm," George said.

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Browne George has long been considered one of L.A.'s hottest litigation firms – and it's just getting hotter. Helmed by the well-known and much-admired George alongside celebrated trial lawyer Pete Ross, the firm has amassed an enviable track record in courts nationwide. In the last year alone, the firm's stable of trial work has been second to none - ranging from defending the City of L.A.'s Water and Power Department in high profile litigation, to taking on Senator Richard Burr for insider stock trades at the onset of Covid, to representing Nicki Minaj in copyright litigation, to procuring $15 million in judgments against now-disgraced attorney Michael Avenatti.

That's no accident. While Los Angeles' historic market-leading firms clambered to become international contenders, they forfeited some of the very attributes that drew top lawyers to them in the first place. "We've focused exclusively on top litigation matters, and on building a firm that wants to win for their clients, not just bill them," said managing partner Keith Wesley.

Annaguey, O'Brien and Ellis are BigLaw veterans who have become major players in Southern California.

Annaguey was the first to join, in 2017, after building a successful client base over nearly nine years as a partner at Liner Law. As Liner was acquired by DLA, one of the world's largest firms, Annaguey assessed what type of practice would best serve her clients – and someone suggested she reconnect with George. "I couldn't believe I hadn't thought of it myself," she said, having watched as George built a "very sophisticated, high-stakes, high-profile practice."

O'Brien followed less than a year later. After serving as U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California, O'Brien spent nine years as a partner at Paul Hastings, where he headed the West Coast white-collar practice as well as the Los Angeles litigation department. He met the connected George while doing the rounds to become the region's top federal prosecutor in 2007, "and I just fell in love with the guy immediately," he said. George beat the drum on O'Brien joining, and "a couple of years ago, I thought, 'Let's go ahead and try this.' And it's been fantastic. Maybe not for Eric, but for me."

"It's been a real breath of fresh air for me in practice," he added. "I'm going to say what Maribeth said, which is so key on the practice of law. You can do it in a gentlemanly and a gentlewomanly manner."

Ellis' journey to Browne George's door began – as it seems all roads do – with dinner at Dan Tana's with George. "And I quickly transitioned into asking Eric what he thought of the judicial appointment secretary [and now a San Diego Superior Court judge] Sharon Majors-Lewis," said Ellis. "And he says, 'Oh, I love her. She's great. She's very thoughtful in her approach and everything else.' And I said, 'Good answer, because that's my mother.'"

There was no going back. Over a decade of friendship, George watched Ellis score one victory after another as a trial lawyer. "Simply put," said George of Ellis, "I have never met a

better trial lawyer." The two found themselves talking on a weekly basis about law and strategy in their cases - the two refer to the other as his "best friend in the law" - when George confronted Ellis about his legacy, asking him what more he wanted after an extraordinary career in which Ellis had risen through the ranks to become global chair of complex litigation and arbitration at Paul Hastings. It was only a matter of time before the answer to George's "Wouldn't it be great to work together?" became "Yes."

Asked for his reaction to his name being added to the firm's, Ellis offered: "I think it shows dramatically that you can find good quality lawyers, deserving lawyers and build diversity in a law firm, in a practice and have a firm that matches the mosaic of our country, our society and in particular the area where we practice in Los Angeles."

He added: "It is not lost on me the time in which this is happening and I do believe that it shows that in all of the situations that are going on that there still are some positive things taking place and that some firms, some corporations and some companies realize the important role that people of color play in our society and how they can affect not only society generally, but individual companies as they strive to meet the needs of a diverse marketplace."

That's been a huge selling point for the numerous top-tier lawyers who have chosen to switch rather than fight the current era of BigLaw. All three newly-named partners remember watching at the beginning of the pandemic as BigLaw almost in unison began to defer compensation and lay off staff. "And we were sitting around here saying, 'Wow. No one wants to wish anything like that on anyone,'" said O'Brien. "But that's how they have to react because it's about balance sheets now."

Meanwhile, they looked around Browne George and saw they were busy and getting busier. "There's a brotherhood-sisterhood camaraderie feeling. I certainly feel it at this firm, that these people have your back," said O'Brien.

At the end of the day, Ellis said, we are "nothing if we don't achieve for our clients - and achieve in an exceptional way." Ellis recalled the joy he felt as a young lawyer, with the circulation of kudos memos after notching a litigation win. "They always ended, 'Needless to say, the client is ecstatic.'"

"I've never lost that sense of satisfaction. That's what this is all about," said Ellis.

"I believe we're building a juggernaut," concluded O'Brien, "that is going to be absolutely head to toe competitive with every single law firm in Los Angeles, California, and across the country."

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News

BGR Team Recognized by Litigation Daily in Litigator of the Week Column

DECEMBER 11, 2020

Litigation Daily's prestigious and recurring column Litigator of the Week recognizes the accomplishments of litigators in state and federal courts across the country. This week, Litigation Daily lauded a team of Browne George Ross O'Brien Annaguey & Ellis litigators who represented the California Restaurant Association in its successful challenge to Los Angeles County's outdoor dining ban.

As Litigation Daily wrote:

> *A team at **Browne George Ross O'Brien Annaguey & Ellis** including **Dennis Ellis**, **Katherine Murray**, and **Richard Schwartz** landed runner-up honors for their work on a high profile suit brought on behalf of California Restaurant Association challenging Los Angeles County's outdoor dining ban. The team convinced L.A. Superior Court Judge James Chalfant to bar the county from extending the ban unless and until it conducts "an appropriate risk-benefit analysis." The judge found that the county health department's restaurant closure order was "an abuse of the Department's emergency powers, is not grounded in science, evidence, or logic, and should be adjudicated to be unenforceable as a matter of law."*

The paywalled article can be found here.

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LAWYER LIMELIGHT: DENNIS ELLIS

By Katrina Dewey | December 14, 2020 | BGR Features, Lawyer Limelights



Photo by Amy Cantrell.

Dennis Ellis knew his mother was proud of his football career. She came to all his games. She cheered. But the look of gratification on her face when her son successfully defended General Electric from a claim that its full-body scanners were defective was one he had never seen before.

Ellis couldn't resist asking her about it afterward, he recalls.

"She said pretty succinctly, 'You know, when I watched your football games, I thought you were doing good, because you were out there all the time, but I didn't really know for sure what was going on. But this, I know. I do this, I know how hard it is, and I know what I saw, and you were as good as I have ever seen."

It was an exhilarating moment for Ellis, who as a scholarship student athlete at California State University Fullerton, had once dreamed of a gridiron career but opted to pursue the law instead. He mirrored his mother, Sharon Majors-Lewis, a single parent who earned her law degree in night school and went on to become a deputy district attorney in San Diego; judicial appointments secretary to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger; and now a Superior Court judge.

At early points in his legal career, their respective victories seemed almost synced. In 2002, the San Diego Union-Tribune covered the $92 -million verdict that a Paul Hastings team including Ellis won against investment firm William Simon & Sons in the same week that Majors-Lewis earned a conviction in a high-profile murder trial.

Later, Ellis was named attorney of the year by California Lawyer magazine after he captured a $2.87-billion judgment for Chinese telecom giant New World. Just about the same time, his mother was chosen to become the judicial appointments secretary, the first woman and African-American to hold the position.

"In some way, there was this symbiotic connection with my mom all the way through," he said. The law "wasn't a path I initially sought out, because I was trying to be successful as an athlete. But when I decided to move forward into practicing law, I benefited from having seen my mom do it at such a high level for so long, first as a kid watching her go to law school when I was in high school and then, the early stages of her career as a prosecutor."

Ellis has recently made headlines protecting restaurants desperately trying to survive, winning a ruling that L.A. County acted arbitrarily in shutting down all outdoor dining.

Lawdragon: Dennis, can you tell us how you got involved in the restaurant lawsuit? I know Browne George Ross O'Brien Annaguey & Ellis routinely is hired by private and governmental powerbrokers in L.A.

Dennis Ellis: Depth of practice. We have some of the most talented, experienced and well-versed litigators and trial lawyers in the industry, and as a result we are always in demand by all clients in both the private and public sector. What we are building here is going to be disruptive to the industry, because we will stand alone as a litigation firm that can operate equally on either side of the "v." as both a Plaintiff and a Defendant in nearly any type of case.

LD: What has been your pandemic dining regime? I know you have a new baby, Townsend, so did that impact your routine? And what does this lawsuit mean to you?

DE: Well, first of all, my regimen has been changed dramatically with the birth of my first son in September. My wife Ashleigh, who has been a tremendous supporter during this transition to my new firm, and a tireless mother to our son Townsend, has shouldered most of the load at home

leaving me to continue to develop my practice on this new platform. However, because I am and have always been an early riser, I handle the 4:00 a.m. feedings for Townsend. After that, I head to my office in our home to begin my day.

One of the few days I had to miss my feeding shift, was the day we first appeared before Judge [James] Chalfant seeking to challenge the L.A. County order prohibiting outdoor dining. I had to be at Court with the ex parte papers so early that Ashleigh had to finish pumping and then take my turn feeding Townsend. She must have been up the whole night.

That began what led to a landmark decision for our client the California Restaurant Association. CRA's President, Jot Condie, and I were staffers together in Sacramento as twenty-something year olds, and we have remained friends throughout the past 30 years. But we never really had an occasion to do much work for them other than a couple of research projects. The decision is a landmark – Chalfant followed the rule of law and confirmed that the decision process of County Public Health Departments is not free from judicial scrutiny. While their decisions are entitled to great deference, their ability to act is not unbridled. Their decisions must be supported by evidence and rationally related to the interest they seek to protect – public health. In our case, there was no evidence supporting an increased risk of COVID transmission through outdoor dining at restaurants, and thus the Court rightfully issued an order prohibiting the L.A. County order.

This all comes full circle too. The verdict that I was a part of against William E. Simon and Sons, was before Chalfant also. He took that jury verdict away with a similar lengthy order. It feels much better to be on the other side of one of his carefully-reasoned decisions.

LD: Can we take it back to the beginning – you were playing football throughout undergrad, right? Go Titans!

DE: I played in college, but then that was the end. I do still watch football. I'm not a fan of any particular team, but I'm a fan of the game. I'll always love the game. It's hard to say, because I've not been a football player more of my life than I was a football player, but I still view myself as an athlete, a football player. It's hard for me to look at myself differently.

LD: By the time you went to Howard, to law school, where was your head at? After watching your mom progressing as a lawyer, what kind of lawyer did you think you'd be?

DE: I had just left the state legislature, where I had worked for San Diego area Assemblywoman Carol Bentley after college; that's who Jot and I worked for. When I was going to law school and going to Howard, I thought – like a lot of Howard students do – that it was my time to be a social engineer and to work on things that are affecting our society. My thought was that I would have a different approach and be a different, balancing voice for a conservative viewpoint. This was also during the time that Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas was going through the confirmation process.

LD: That's an interesting context for figuring out your future.

DE: I was 24 years old and trying to figure out what my path was going to be. I thought, "Maybe I'll come back and be a legislator or do something along those lines." I wanted to be a prosecutor, like my mom. There were a lot of things going through my mind, but I definitely thought I was more likely to be in public service in some capacity – federal prosecutor, district attorney, or one day running for public office.

Despite my feelings that I had a very balanced view of the world and could be a good voice of reason for others, for Blacks and conservatives in 1992, watching the Clarence Thomas proceedings and other things that were going on in the country at that time, I was a little concerned that my voice would never be heard. Being misunderstood based for my conservative views definitely concerned me.

So I started thinking about other things to do. Although I thought being a U.S. attorney could still be really good, I wound up performing much better in my first year of law school than I anticipated and finished fourth in my class. That gave me the opportunity to take advantage of going to a big firm, which I had never even considered. There was also an importance in interviewing and showcasing some of the good students at Howard – and the diversity at Howard, in mind, body, and ability. The professors there impressed upon me that even if I didn't desire to go to a law firm, I should at least consider the process and think about it and interview.

LD: I always find it so interesting where the inflection point occurs in legal education where we focus on joining a law firm, for many different reasons.

DE: A professor at the time, a former dean, sat me down and said, "You've just got to do it. We need you to do it. We need you to interview, we need employers to see there are people like you here. For the people that come on campus from these firms, this is a place where they say, "OK, let's go interview so we can do our due diligence to say that we tried to bring in people of color for our law firm."

Now they can see that there's a broad swath of people that come from different experiences, they're talented and good. I did it and I was still in the back of my mind thinking, "I will never take these jobs." But man, with the challenge they presented and the people I met, I came out of that feeling like I had to try to be the best and practice at the highest level, something I was never able to accomplish as a football player.

LD: Be still your competitive heart.

DE: As a football player, I relished those opportunities when we played big teams. My philosophy of life was that I wanted to play on the biggest stage and perform well. At Howard, I was getting this opportunity to go to the biggest firms and I got an offer from one of the top law firms in the country at that time, Coudert Brothers. They were a big New York firm and I think at the time they were paying more than anybody else.

Paul Hastings also made me an offer, as did Fulbright & Jaworski. I met a guy named Kelvin Westbrook, a Black attorney who had just made partner at Paul Hastings, and he knew how to speak to me. He said, "It won't be easy. This is a different type of practice." He knew the challenge would resonate with me. It did, and I decided to go to Paul Hastings. It was a great decision because it really helped me to become the lawyer I am today.

LD: And here you are after attaining partnership at Paul Hastings and rising to be its global chair of complex litigation and arbitration, your name has recently been added to Browne George Ross O'Brien Annaguey & Ellis in recognition of your amazing accomplishments.

DE: There were all these times over the years that I was like, "OK, is now the time to go be a U.S. attorney? I just never did it. It even went so far as having an offer to join the U.S. Attorney's Office in San Diego and go back home since I am from San Diego, and I was really thinking of doing it. One of the partners I worked for was a former U.S. attorney, one of the true gentlemen of the legal profession and just a great mentor and trainer. His name was Nick DeWitt. He was a paraplegic, and a great attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Central District. He passed away, oh I guess now it's been about 8 years ago.

He just had this great perspective on life: If you're 15 and they tell you that they're going to operate on you and it'll save your life but it'll make you paralyzed, you have to live that way. He just always lived like every day was a blessing. He never let all the pressure and all that goes with practicing in a big firm or practicing law generally get to him, he was always better than that. He never let anybody drag him into the petty fighting that can happen in litigation. He taught me never to do that either, to have the tools that were needed, to always be prepared, to understand that it's just litigation and you'll figure it out.

Because of all of that, I always feel like I had this unique perspective coming to Paul Hastings because I had Nick on the one hand and a guy named Alan Steinbrecher who was a former F4 fighter pilot during the Vietnam war, a very strict military-type guy. He was the kind of father figure who would be very stern and provide discipline and structure, and Nick was like the big brother who would hug when it was over and say, "It'll be OK." I had that great balance. While I didn't see that path, I'm glad that path came to me because it certainly put me in a good place to do well in my legal career.

LD: Mentors are so crucial to career success, especially in terms of providing balanced perspective and clueing you in about how the system works. Tell me about some of your early cases.

DE: The first time I was the first chair at a trial was in Sonoma County. We represented a company called MRV Communications in a civil case brought on behalf of a company called Broadlink. My second chair was a young associate, a woman named Gillian Garrett who had never tried a case before. Being Black, I always thought it was important to try to give diverse lawyers an opportunity. Which is what I did in this case, albeit with a young female attorney. So there was this big guy, me, and she was this demure, small petite woman. The guy who was the lead plaintiff witness was my size. I thought, "OK, if I cross-examine this guy and I draw with him, it would just be like two big bulls hitting at each other. But if she cross-examines him and even comes close to getting him, we'll look like the winner."

So I gave up the most critical witness in the case to her, and she cross-examined him. He was one of two witnesses I gave her, and she did great. Not only did she come close, she got him good. Made him admit a critical fact for our side during cross-examination – that he had never sent a termination notice regarding the contract.

Then the first trial I did as a partner was VitaScan vs GE Healthcare. I've had some great successes throughout my career but the most difficult, most significant victory of my career – regardless of the numbers but in terms of what was at stake for me as a lawyer – was VitaScan. I think it's my best performance and my most difficult challenge.

This was during the period of time in 2006 when a lot of private companies had bought full-body scanners from General Electric. There was this whole notion about doing a full-body scan to determine whether you had a risk of heart attack, which would allow you to get preventative care. Oprah Winfrey had a program about this. VitaScan had bought these scanners and they were, according to VitaScan, temperamental, so they made this massive lost-profit claim for $24 million, saying that their business failed because GE's scanners didn't work. There were people across the country making similar allegations. It wound up that this case that we believed to be a challenging case was the first one to go to trial.

LD: No pressure.

DE: Here I was, a partner, newly minted, and I was going to try the first case on the matter for one of our longtime legacy clients, GE. One of the legacy partners at Paul Hastings was representing them, and the pressure was on. The second chair was an associate who was up for partner. It was a big case. Only $24 million was at issue in the matter, but if we lost, there were like 10 to 20 more cases out there.

LD: Right, it could cascade.

DE: At one point in time, I heard GE say the problem could be an $800 million problem. On that case alone, it was 57 trial days, with essentially my whole career on the line. I remember at one point in time, I went to the lead relationship partner in our firm for GE, Kurt Hansson, and said, "I get it. If I lose this case, it'll be the shortest partnership in history." I always laughed and joked after the fact that he didn't say, "No, it'll be OK." He just was like, "OK, as long as you know …."

But we went through that trial, basically three months, and we won. A complete defense verdict.

There was an article in one of the Santa Barbara papers talking about GE versus a small company and the David vs. Goliath dynamics. It was entitled, 'Goliath Wins.' Even though I felt like the underdog up there, I always took it, since I'm such a big guy, it's like Goliath did win, finally. Wilt Chamberlain always says, "Nobody roots for Goliath." The person that's supposed to win doesn't get a lot of support.

LD: That's really incredible. You were such a young partner when you accomplished all that and then you just never looked back.

DE: There's some truth to that, but when you have those kinds of accomplishments, what happens next? Does it keep going up like a V-shaped curve or is there a plateau, followed by a smoother progression? In my career, it was more of a smoother progression over a couple of years where I was doing fine. But when you have the kind of start that I had, fine is not what is expected. So I had those issues like every other partner has: Concern, self-doubt. This is hard stuff. Nobody just says, 'This is it, I made it, I don't need to do anything else."

LD: What drove you to make the switch from successful partner at Paul Hastings to Brown George?

DE: It was a process, really. One of the critical things that happened to me was that in 2016, I got really sick; I got a staph infection. I had sepsis, and it was really scary. I was working on a case in Hong Kong, and I got a really bad pain in my shoulder, so I went and got acupuncture. We cannot be sure, but that is what we think might have gave me the infection. How the sepsis affected me was that my knees got infected, and I had to have 4 knee surgeries over an 8 day period. There was a time amputation was not being dismissed. In any event, the great doctors at Cedars-Sinai got me back in good health and I began the lengthy rehabilitation process.

When I got better, I did an arbitration that I won and then I had one more trial left for L'Oréal that was coming up that I thought would be my last case. I was tired, and thought I would retire. We lost that trial, and it was my first real trial lost ever. It hurt then, it hurts now, but it also inspired me to keep going.

Who knows if I would be at Browne George had we won that trial, but we didn't. There was no way I could leave the profession on that note. There's no way I would live with that being my last case. That made me think about what I wanted to do and one of the things that came out of that was with the Paul Hastings model, you might try a case every couple of years if you were lucky like I was, but then you could go long stretches without doing any of them. I needed to be back in court before juries more often was my conclusion.

LD: Sometimes it's the low moments that really focus us.

DE: I wanted a new model where I could be in the courtroom using the skills that I have as a trial lawyer because that's where I believe my real value lies. I wound up considering some other big national firms, and I discovered that in the in the end, this was the move that was right for me. I'm very, very pleased that I did it, and it's freed up a lot of time for trial work. Once we get back to a more normal world, you'll see the effects as we get more and more into the courtroom.

LD: You've talked a little about your experiences as a Black man and an attorney. What have the events of 2020, the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement, meant to you professionally and personally?

DE: I think every Black person in this country right now is wondering, "Where are we going to go from here? Is this going to be another time where there's been attention on a point but then it just dissipates?" We're also always wondering, "How can we help with that? How can we help with these things?"

In my case, I was blessed to be offered these unique opportunities, but I'm certainly not so vain as to believe that I was the only one to deserve them or that I was the only one who could have leveraged them. If you really think about it, this kid from the inner city who was raised by a single mother going to night school winds up being taken under the wing by a professor at Cal State Fullerton who helps him get a job with the legislature in Sacramento, who then works for an assemblywoman who helps him with the experience and credentials he needs to get into law school. He winds up getting a scholarship to Howard, one of the most prestigious schools in our country, and gets all the training that he could need to do well and gets the guidance to go pursue this path when he doesn't even expect to go into practice at a major international law firm.

It doesn't have to be in the practice of law, either. What if somebody who was a sales manager got that opportunity, what would he deliver? That's really what we need, the opportunities, and we need to be seen as agents for change and agents for success, not as criminals who might rob or hurt you. I myself have been that guy in a car who got arrested for no reason but my race. I've had officers come into my home holding their guns, and that happened while I was a Paul Hastings partner.

So despite what I've accomplished, there have been these moments where I could have been George Floyd. What would my universe look like if any of them had gone the wrong way? They didn't and so I am here. But there are many people just like me that weren't as blessed. What would they be today?

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