

Daily Journal

COVER STORY

SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

TOP 100 LAWYERS OF 2009

DAILY JOURNAL'S ANNUAL

TOP 100

(The graphic contains a list of names in small text, including: Jay, Jeffrey Pomeroy, Jennifer Keller, Jeremie L. Levine, John A. Taylor Jr., John B. Quinn, John Burns, John C. Weston, John Keker, Joseph W. Cotchett, Josh Floum, Justin Brooks, Karen E. Silverman, Karen Rubin, Karen Jusisko, Kassie Siegel, Kelli L. Sager, Kenneth W. Starr, Kenneth Ziffren, Kenton J. King, Larry W. Sornani, Louis A. Wasilk, Louis R. Miller, Luz Herrera, Marc A. Levinson, Mark A. Lemley, Mark Chandler, Mark Holtcher, Mark Rosenbaum, Marshall B. Grossman, Martin D. Singer, Mary Nichols, Matthew Powers, Melinda Haag, Michael Dowd, Michael J. Bettinger, Michael Romano, Michael Sherman, Minouche Kandel, Morgan Chi, Nancy L. Abell, Ned Israelsen, Neel Chatterjee, Patrick Pohlen, Paul N. Singarella, Paul S. Aronson, Ralph Baxter, Richard Marmaro, Robert A. Mittelscheidt, Robert A. Sacks, Robert Millman, Ronald L. Olson, Ronald M. George, Russell J. Frackman, Schuyler M. Moore, Scott A. Edelman, Sean Kennedy, Sharon Majors Lewis, Sharon Rubalcava, Skip Brittenham, Stephen C. Neal, Steven Nichols, Theodore H. Latty, Theodore J. Boutros Jr., Thomas J. Nolan, Thomas V. Girardi, Aaron Jacoby, Ahilan Arulanandham, Alan Jackson, Alicia Villarreal, Alison S. Ressler, Arturo J. Gonzalez, Barry H. Jostein, Brad D. Brian, Brian A. Sun, Brian Hennigan, Brian McCarthy, Brian S. Kabateck, Bruce M. Ramer, Christine Spagnoli, Christopher Reynolds, Dan Stormer, David Casey Jr., David M. Barkan, Dennis Herrera, Dan Brown, Erwin Chemerinsky, Greg Pinstone, H. Dean Steward, Harold McElhinny, Holly Fujie, James D.C. Barrall, James J. Brosnahan, Jami McKeon, Jeff Bleich, Jeffrey E. Os...)

The *Daily Journal* compiled its first list of the leading lawyers in California in 1997. It quickly became a key indicator of who is doing the most cutting edge legal work in California. Our criteria then and now are simple: You must be based in California, and your work must have a broad impact on the legal profession or the larger society over the past 18 months. Our selection process is similarly simple: We solicit nominations from lawyers, judges and corporate counsel. This year, we received 850 nominations. We also poll our editors and reporters who write about California lawyers and their work year-round. From there, a list that represents a broad cross section of California lawyers and their work begins to take shape.

This year's list features lawyers making impacts in their neighborhoods and throughout the world. One honoree helped launch precedent-setting clean tech deals from his Silicon Valley office, while another aids the less fortunate from her Compton storefront. Yet another assists countries worldwide navigate the complexities of global water issues. There are civil rights advocates, counselors to corporations and California Chief Justice Ronald M. George, who we can all agree — no matter what your stance on gay marriage — issued a monumental decision in May 2008. In *Re: Marriage Cases*, (2008) 43 Cal.4th 757. This list is by no means comprehensive. California is fortunate to have hundreds of sharp lawyers who are putting their stamp on all manner of the law and society. But it is a good snapshot of the best and brightest California and the legal profession have to offer.

*David Houston
Editor
Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journals*



John A. Taylor Jr., 51
Horvitz & Levy, Encino
Civil appellate

Taylor, a veteran appellate specialist, won all eight cases in which he served as either lead attorney or supervisor in 2008-2009. Not a bad track record. One pro bono case he oversaw led the California Supreme Court to allow prison inmates to meet civil filing deadlines by notifying prison authorities. Previously the "prison delivery rule" had been applied only to criminal cases. Taylor also helped a trial team persuade a trial court judge to throw out a \$5.2 million punitive damages award against Taser Inc., leaving a \$153,000 judgment in the first and only wrongful death case the electroshock weapon company ever lost.