

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE:
Labor & Employment
Attorneys



THERE ARE MANY BRILLIANT ATTORNEYS IN LOS ANGELES – MASTERS OF THEIR CRAFT THAT CAN PREPARE individuals and businesses for any legal issue that might arise while expertly providing counsel as needed and writing and overseeing the documents designed to protect their clients’ assets and livelihoods.

There is also a special breed or attorney that needs to transcend expert comprehension of the legal system – the litigator. Attorneys who go to the proverbial mat to fight for their clients before judges and jury have their own unique sets of skills. In this special section we have gathered some of the very best litigators and trial attorneys in region. These are the lawyers you want in your corner in court.

We’ve alphabetically listed this lineup of superb litigation specialists, along with information about their careers, practice and some of the relevant recent successes they’ve achieved.

Congratulations to the attorneys who made this prestigious list.

Methodology: The professionals featured in these pages did not pay to be included. Their profiles were drawn from nomination materials submitted to the Los Angeles Business Journal. Those selected for inclusion were reviewed by the editorial department and chosen based on a demonstration of impact made on the profession and on the Los Angeles community.

LOI: LABOR & EMPLOYMENT ATTORNEYS

**THEANE EVANGELIS**

Partner and Co-Chair, Litigation Practice Group
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

In the last year alone, Theane Evangelis has played a lead role in a wide range of high-profile, groundbreaking litigation matters and has been a leading lawyer who has helped shape how companies serving the “gig economy” operate. Evangelis has emerged as a go-to litigator for businesses whose business models are under attack.

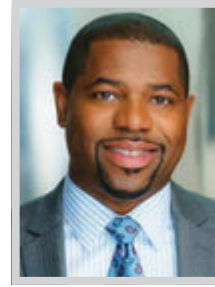
In July 2022, Evangelis continued her winning streak on Section 1 of the Federal Arbitration Act by scoring a huge victory for Grubhub in the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in *Archer v. Grubhub*. The unanimous decision is the first appellate case on the applicability of Section 1 in the gig economy since the U.S. Supreme Court’s recent Section 1 decision in *Southwest Airlines v. Saxon*. The decision reversed the trial court’s ruling and held that workers who use Grubhub’s app to make deliveries are not “engaged in interstate commerce” within the meaning of Section 1.

**MIA FARBER**

Principal
Jackson Lewis P.C.

Mia Farber is a principal in the Los Angeles office of Jackson Lewis P.C. and a co-leader of the Class Actions and Complex Litigation practice. She is a former member of the firm’s Board of Directors and the former office managing principal of the Los Angeles office. She has extensive experience in all facets of employment and labor litigation, with a focus on representing employers in wage and hour class action litigation.

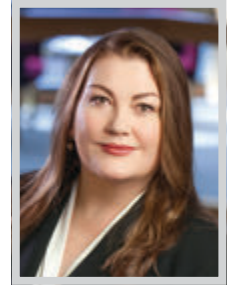
Farber has represented employers in all types of employment litigation, including sexual harassment, discrimination, retaliation, and wrongful termination. She also has vast experience with wage and hour class actions. Farber has defended a significant number of wage and hour class actions over the course of her impressive career. Additionally, she regularly provides advice and counsel, conducts training seminars on a myriad of topics related to employment issues and frequently speaks on employment law issues.

**MELVIN L. FELTON, II**

Partner
Sanders Roberts LLP

Melvin Felton, II represents corporations and individuals in a wide range of employment and business litigation matters. He has extensive experience advising in all stages of litigation, mediation, and arbitration, having successfully resolved more than 250 matters in a variety of different industries, including construction, professional services, retail, finance, healthcare, manufacturing, and real estate.

Felton takes a client-centered approach to litigation and advice, focusing on each client’s particular sensitivities, culture, and bottom line. He serves as outside general counsel for multiple clients and a lead outside counsel for numerous Fortune 500 companies and large municipalities. Very active within the legal community, Felton is the treasurer of the John M. Langston Bar Association of Los Angeles, serves on the Executive Committee of the Litigation Section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, and is co-chair of the National Employment Law Council/American Bar Association Labor and Employment Section Trial Institute.

**KATHERINE FORSTER**

Partner
Munger, Tolles & Olson, LLP

Katherine Forster assists clients with class action defense, disputes involving independent contractor classification, and countless behind-the-scenes crises. But her most recent success – and an example of what sets her practice apart – was a pro bono representation that resulted in desperately needed legislation. Forster took up *Does v. Washington Department of Corrections*, representing transgender, non-binary, and intersex prisoners and former prisoners whose medical information, sexual history, and history of sexual victimization were being disclosed by the Washington Department of Corrections in response to Public Records Act requests.

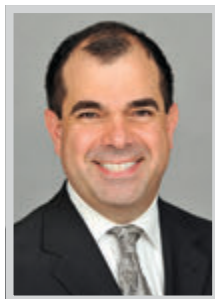
Prison intake interviews are mandated to gather sensitive information related to gender identity and sexual history. The policy of disclosing such records posed risks of harm to Forster’s clients, including threats to their physical safety and their ability to find employment and housing once free. Forster and co-counsel obtained a preliminary injunction barring the Department of Corrections from disclosing the sensitive information.

**JEANNE FUGATE**

Partner
King & Spalding

Jeanne Fugate is a trial lawyer focusing on employment and intellectual property litigation, and complex civil litigation. She is currently lead counsel in multiple employment matters. She frequently advises on issues regarding employee mobility, restrictive covenants, and separation and litigates matters relating to the enforcement of restrictive covenants. She frequently litigates regarding the protection of trade secrets and IP.

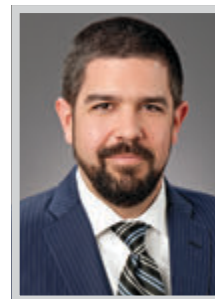
Fugate’s recent successes includes her work recently achieving a dismissal with prejudice at the 12(b)(6) stage on behalf of internet company and several of its employees in the defense of a suit alleging various business torts (including violation of Russian employment law) and copyright infringement that claimed more than \$750 million in damages. She also recently preserved a settlement agreement in a suitable seating PAGA action against a major retailer, defeating a motion for sanctions. In another recent case, she secured the dismissal of a suitable seating action against major retailer.

**LONNIE GIAMELA**

Partner
Fisher Phillips

A partner in Fisher Phillips’ Los Angeles office, Lonnie Giamela is a “go-to” resource for his clients. Drawing on his experience working in his family’s chain of sandwich shops in Los Angeles, Giamela can relate to his clients’ business pressures and helps them find practical solutions to their everyday employment law concerns.

Giamela partners with a variety of clients – businesses with 20 employees or 20,000 employees – in all types of labor and employment matters. He works side-by-side with employers, guiding them through various employment disputes, and he has been at the forefront of class action and PAGA litigation. Within the past approximate year, Giamela and the litigation teams he has led have: 1) defeated class certification on three occasions; 2) obtained summary judgment in multiple cases; 3) obtained jury trial defense verdict; and 4) enforced pre-dispute arbitration agreement with class and representative waivers.

**BEN GIPSON**

Partner
DLA Piper

Ben Gipson serves as a trusted advisor for clients’ employment needs, with a special focus on the technology, media, sports and entertainment sectors. Gipson helps his clients effectively manage their workforce and maintain their focus on successfully operating the business. He defends employers in wage-and-hour class actions, WARN class actions, sexual harassment, wrongful termination, discrimination, breach of employment contract, unlawful business practices, state and federal whistleblowing, traditional labor disputes and other employment-related cases before state and federal tribunals, achieving early summary judgment and other motion practice victories at the trial and appellate levels.

Gipson also conducts sensitive, high-stakes investigations to address clients’ most sensitive and urgent workplace matters. Working with a cross-practice team including former prosecutors and other employment attorneys, Gipson investigates allegations of misconduct, assesses and advises clients on internal and external statements and develops practices and procedures.

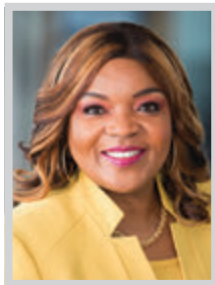
**MIRA HASHMALL**

Partner
Miller Barondess, LLP

Mira Hashmall is an accomplished trial lawyer who employers call when they face high-stakes litigation involving claims of harassment, discrimination, retaliation, wage and hour violations, wrongful termination, disability discrimination, and family and medical leave rights. Representing the County of Los Angeles, Hashmall has secured favorable rulings that have set precedents statewide.

In December 2021, Hashmall won summary judgment on behalf of LA County in an action filed by an employee against the County, and other employees and supervisors of the County, alleging whistleblower retaliation, discrimination, harassment, and FEHA retaliation. Plaintiff’s motion for reconsideration was denied. In a ruling recognized as a Daily Journal Top Defense Verdict 2020, she won a summary judgment ruling on behalf of LA County in a FLSA class action lawsuit relating to the State of California’s IHSS program, in which plaintiffs sought nearly \$50 million.

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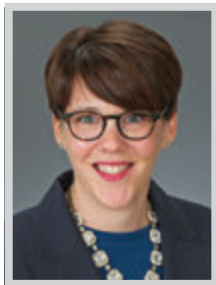


ANGELA REDDOCK-WRIGHT

*Employment Mediator, Arbitrator, Investigator
Reddock Law/Judicate West*

Recently inducted into the prestigious College of Labor & Employment, Angela Reddock-Wright is an employment mediator, arbitrator, workplace, and Title IX investigator. She has practiced as an employment and labor law attorney for 25 years. After working as an employment litigator for 15 years, in 2011, she opened the Reddock Law Group and transitioned to becoming a full-time neutral.

In addition, Reddock-Wright joined Judicate West in January 2020 as one of its neutrals. This is of particular significance as she is one of the only African American women to be on a top mediation panel. She has mediated and investigated some of the most sensitive and high-profile cases involving private, public, and non-profit sector employers. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and the civil and political unrest of the last two years, she handled several race discrimination, sexual harassment and other claims in the gaming, technology, and other industries.



KATHERINE ROBERTS

*Partner and Co-Chair of the Labor, Employment and Immigration Group
Sidley Austin LLP*

Kate Roberts has an unusually wide range of accomplishments, including her team's recent complete victory at trial in a major employment wage and hour lawsuit and her work leading the employment and labor team on numerous major transactions and union negotiations. This record of achievement combined with her leadership of one of the nation's top employment practices and her high-level pro bono and philanthropic work make her a strong candidate for this honor.

The recent trial win came when Roberts served as trial counsel for Liberty Mutual Insurance Company in one of the very few misclassification cases to go all the way to trial. Working with co-counsel Mark Campbell and William Martucci of Shook Hardy, the team won a complete defense verdict in November 2021 against nine plaintiffs in a wage/hour action in which Liberty Mutual argued it had correctly classified its adjusters as administratively exempt under California law.



REGINALD ROBERTS, JR.

*Co-Founding Partner and Co-Managing Partner
Sanders Roberts, LLP*

Reginald Roberts, Jr., a co-founding partner and a co-managing partner of Sanders Roberts LLP, has been handling complex employment and business litigation issues for over 15 years, relentlessly defending public and private clients in matters that stand to critically impact their lives and livelihoods: from discrimination and harassment to wrongful termination, breach of contract to insurance coverage disputes, premises liability to wrongful death.

Roberts is a leading employment defense trial lawyer and a persuasive advocate for his clients who range from global corporations and financial institutions to municipalities and individuals. He handles cases from pre-litigation all the way through trial, in both state and federal courts. He assists his clients in navigating complex and sometimes challenging employment scenarios that may garner public attention while simultaneously minimizing risk and addressing concerns beyond just monetary impact. Roberts also has an excellent track record when it comes to defending cases at trial.



GARY SCALABRINI

*Partner
Gibbs Giden Locher Turner
Senet & Wittbrodt LLP*

Gary Scalabrini represents employers in all aspects of labor and employment law, including employment discrimination, harassment, wrongful termination, and wage and hour claims. He has extensive experience in employment litigation, including defending against class action lawsuits. He has served as lead counsel in all phases of litigation, from pre-litigation counseling through trial and appeal, including first chair in jury trials.

Scalabrini counsels clients in various aspects of human resource management, including employee discipline, employee handbooks, policy review, and claims prevention. He has conducted numerous investigations pertaining to claims of discrimination and sexual harassment. He has lectured extensively on employment issues. With respect to traditional labor matters, Scalabrini advises clients in collective bargaining, existing union relations, trust fund obligations, labor disputes, picketing, strikes, and grievances.

Los Angeles Business Journal

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**MIRA
HASHMALL**

Partner

MILLER | BARONDESS LLP

