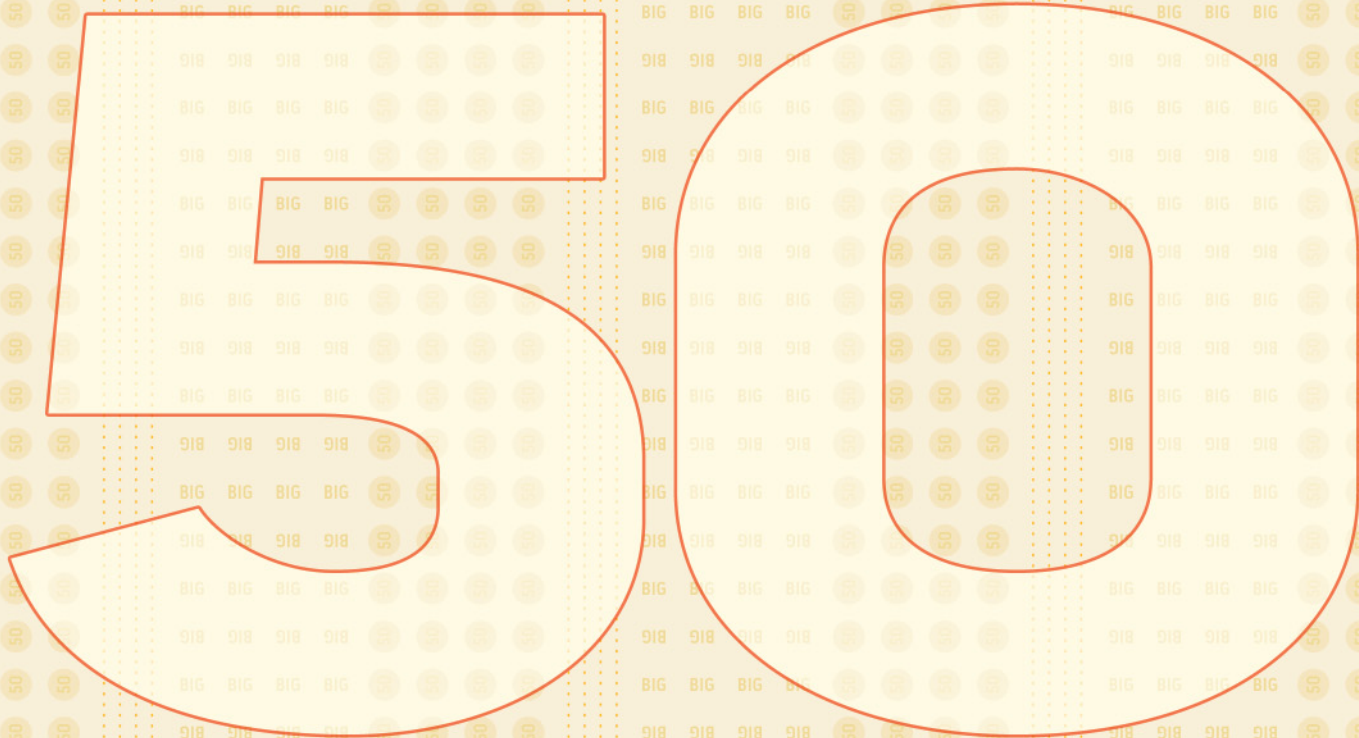


The 2009 California



Survey of the State's Largest Law Firms

OUR 2009 LIST OF CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST law firms bears the marks of the economic downturn. Apart from the shocking falls of Heller Ehrman and Thelen, the legal sector as a whole has been significantly bruised by the recession in the past year. More than 60 percent of the California 50 firms have fewer lawyers than in last year's survey. Overall, the total number of California attorneys in firms on the list dropped by 4.5 percent. "Firms that are in major cities and more involved in capital markets took the biggest hits," as demand in real estate, transactions, and structured finance plunged, confirms Blane Prescott, vice president of Hildebrandt management consultants.

In the rankings, Latham & Watkins maintained its No. 1 position, despite trimming its payroll from 751 attorneys last year to 692 today. Morrison & Foerster stayed in second place with 559 attorneys. O'Melveny & Myers slipped a notch to fourth after parting with 68 lawyers. Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard & Smith gained the No. 3 spot. Last year's No. 4, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, fell three rungs. Jones Day jumped ahead six places to the twelfth slot after adding 64

attorneys, while Buchalter Nemer vaulted ten spots, from No. 50 last year to its current perch at No. 40. New additions to the list are Farella Braun + Martel (No. 43) with 133 attorneys, Downey Brand (No. 47) with 122, and Nossaman, in 50th place with 117. The survey also provides a look at minority and women partners among the California 50, as well as sidebars on diversity (see page 34).

The firms surveyed reported expanding practice areas in bankruptcy, employment, and litigation. "It's not rocket science why these areas have the most pickup during an economic decline," says recruiter Matt Feuer of McClure & Feuer in San Francisco, "and it's the same all over the state, except midsize firms fared better due to their lower costs." On the other hand, almost half of the California 50 have added new practice areas to their portfolios—including clean tech, renewable energy, life sciences, and immigration—to position themselves for an economic turnaround. Hildebrandt's Prescott foresees "a gradual but long recovery, with the upturns beginning in high tech work" in the coming months. "I'm more optimistic than six months ago." —RENE CIRIA CRUZ

BY THE STAFF OF CALIFORNIA LAWYER

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RANK	LAST YEAR	FIRM	ATTORNEYS IN CA		ATTORNEYS FIRMWIDE	CA PARTNERS 2009		CA PARTNERS 2008		CA MINORITY PARTNERS		CA WOMEN PARTNERS	
			2009	2008		EQUITY	NONEQUITY	EQUITY	NONEQUITY	2009	2008	2009	2008
1	1	Latham & Watkins	692	751	2,035	204*		213*		19	21	36	40
2	2	Morrison & Foerster	559	558	1,129	192*		197*		23	23	42	45
3	5	Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith	491	480	679	63	208	33	230	41	28	82	68
4	3	O'Melveny & Myers	477	545	935	134*		132	8	15	17	21	22
5	8	Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher	438	407	1,032	135*		134*		12	11	23	24
6	7	Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe	432	423	1,064	175*		150*		23	21	34	24
7	6	Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton [†]	430	426	513	66	118	111	50	14	14	35	30
7	4	Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati [†]	430	490	650	141*		140*		30	25	30	30
9	11	Cooley Godward Kronish	396	364	650	131	10	123	3	14	11	33	28
10	9	DLA Piper US	335	397	3,700	166*		198*		20	22	33	41
11	10	Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker	329	381	1,050	112*		94	21	16	15	18	19
12	18	Jones Day	327	263	2,557	121*		98*		12	9	24	20
13	12	Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman	322	358	754	91	69	93	70	18	17	37	37
14	14	Bingham McCutchen	301	326	981	112*		133*		10	16	22	32
15	15	Morgan, Lewis & Bockius	298	310	1,481	97*		100*		16	17	27	26
16	16	Gordon & Rees	281	303	367	26	97	25	90	11	13	22	23
17	17	Manatt, Phelps & Phillips	280	299	365	57	90	53	96	13	14	29	33
18	20	Reed Smith	262	249	1,653	56	84	50	65	27	21	32	28
19	19	Fenwick & West	243	252	254	88	0	86*		10	9	13	13
20	22	Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom	240	240	2,118	47*		53*		4	5	5	6
21	23	Quinn Emanuel Urquhart Oliver & Hedges	239	236	381	58	26	55	23	8	7	15	16
22	21	Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis	232	244	232	120	12	113	13	10	7	16	16
23	26	Littler Mendelson	229	222	765	89	32	92	23	14	13	40	35
24	29	Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear	227	201	242	105	3	100	0	15	14	20	17

† Equity track only ♦ No distinction made between equity and nonequity partners † Tied; listed alphabetically

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RANK	LAST YEAR	FIRM	ATTORNEYS IN CA		ATTORNEYS FIRMWIDE	CA PARTNERS 2009		CA PARTNERS 2008		CA MINORITY PARTNERS		CA WOMEN PARTNERS	
			2009	2008		EQUITY	NONEQUITY	EQUITY	NONEQUITY	2009	2008	2009	2008
25	24	Sidley Austin	219	224	1,823	93*		90*		15	15	27	25
26	27	Irell & Manella	215	221	215	71*		81*		9	11	10	11
27	24	Sedgwick, Detert, Moran & Arnold	209	224	385	69*		38*	32	7	3	17	17
28	35	Kirkland & Ellis	198	180	1,511	77*		74*		17	14	20	17
29	36	Seyfarth Shaw	196	171	778	45	39	43	31	7	5	19	16
30	31	Munger, Tolles & Olson	192	194	192	93*		90*	0	16	13	15	13
31	28	Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps	191	205	191	65	36	67	36	5	4	18	22
32	32	Best Best & Krieger	182	191	182	69	11	74	13	10	10	18	19
33	40	Howrey	176	152	700	40	43	37	33	11	11	19	19
34	33	Greenberg Traurig	171	190	1,805	78*		83*		9	10	16	18
35	39	Foley & Lardner	164	156	1,023	64*		67*		8	9	19	18
36	34	McDermott Will & Emery	162	183	1,042	96*		102*		17	17	14	18
37	46	Hanson Bridgett	160	132	160	63	14	57	4	8	8	23	15
38	38	Jeffer Mangels Butler & Marmaro	150	161	150	83*		85*		3	5	8	10
39	37	Townsend and Townsend and Crew	143	165	198	52	21	53	22	12	11	14	15
40	50	Buchalter Nemer [¶]	142	128	156	55	18	49	19	6	5	15	15
40	41	Rutan & Tucker ^{¶¶}	142	148	142	88*		69	21	x	6	x	14
42	44	Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo	135	137	135	58*		53*		14	11	13	10
43	•	Farella Braun + Martel [■]	133	121	133	70*		64	x	x	4	x	13
44	46	Loeb & Loeb	128	132	304	19	50	20	47	3	3	14	11
45	45	Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robbins [■]	125	133	163	63*		x	x	x	x	x	x
46	48	Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp	123	131	136	62*		57*		5	6	14	12
47	42	Cox, Castle & Nicholson [¶]	122	140	122	69	2	70	2	4	4	11	12
47	•	Downey Brand [¶]	122	115	126	53*		57*		2	2	11	12
49	43	Baker & McKenzie	121	139	3,900	28	25	25	27	7	5	19	16
50	•	Nossaman	117	120	141	55	31	54	27	11	10	20	17

[¶] Equity track only
 [♦] No distinction made between equity and nonequity partners
 [■] From firm's website
 [•] Not ranked in 2008
 [¶] Tied; listed alphabetically
 x Data not available

PARTNER PROGRESS*

MOST DIVERSE Percentage of partners in California who are people of color			
2009		2008	
Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo	24.1%	Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo	20.8%
Kirkland & Ellis	22.1%	Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal **	19.4%
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati	21.3%	Kirkland & Ellis	18.9%
Reed Smith	19.3%	Reed Smith	18.3%
McDermott Will & Emery	17.7%	Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati	17.9%

** Listed in the California 50 in 2008, not 2009

LEAST DIVERSE Percentage of partners in California who are people of color			
2009		2008	
Jeffer Mangels Butler & Marmaro	3.6%	Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps	3.9%
Downey Brand	3.8%	Sedgwick, Detert, Moran & Arnold	4.3%
Loeb & Loeb	4.3%	Loeb & Loeb	4.5%
Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps	5%	Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis [†]	5.6%
Cox, Castle & Nicholson	5.6%	Cox, Castle & Nicholson [†]	5.6%

MOST WOMEN Percentage of female partners in California			
2009		2008	
Baker & McKenzie	35.8%	Baker & McKenzie	30.8%
Littler Mendelson	33.1%	Littler Mendelson	30.4%
Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith	30.3%	Heller Ehrman #	27.9%
Hanson Bridgett	29.9%	Sidley Austin	27.8%
Sidley Austin	29%	Howrey	27.1%

Dissolved later in the year

FEWEST WOMEN Percentage of female partners in California			
2009		2008	
Jeffer Mangels Butler & Marmaro	9.6%	Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom	11.3%
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom	10.6%	Jeffer Mangels Butler & Marmaro	11.8%
Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis	12.1%	Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis	12.7%
Irell & Manella	14.1%	Irell & Manella	13.6%
McDermott Will & Emery	14.6%	Munger, Tolles & Olson	14.4%

* Among firms that reported race and gender information on partners (includes equity and nonequity)

† Tied; listed alphabetically

EQUITY SNAPSHOT[†]

MOST MINORITY EQUITY PARTNERS			
2009		2008	
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati	21.3%	Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati	17.9%
Sidley Austin	16.1%	Sidley Austin	16.7%
Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear [†]	14.3%	Munger, Tolles & Olson	14.4%
Reed Smith [†]	14.3%	Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear	14%
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe	13.1%	Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker	13.8%

FEWEST MINORITY EQUITY PARTNERS			
2009		2008	
Loeb & Loeb	0%	Loeb & Loeb	0%
Seyfarth Shaw	2.2%	Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps	3%
Downey Brand	3.8%	Buchalter Nemer	4.1%
Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton	4.5%	Seyfarth Shaw [†]	4.7%
Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps	4.6%	Cox, Castle & Nicholson [†]	5.7%
		Manatt, Phelps & Phillips [†]	5.7%

MOST WOMEN EQUITY PARTNERS			
2009		2008	
Littler Mendelson	32.6%	Foley & Lardner	33.3%
Foley & Lardner	29.7%	Littler Mendelson	28.3%
Sidley Austin	29%	Sidley Austin	27.8%
Hanson Bridgett	25%	Hanson Bridgett	26.3%
Seyfarth Shaw	24.4%	Seyfarth Shaw	23.3%

FEWEST WOMEN EQUITY PARTNERS			
2009		2008	
Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton	7.6%	Rutan & Tucker	5.8%
Gordon & Rees	7.7%	Gordon & Rees	8%
Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis	10%	Loeb & Loeb	10%
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom	10.6%	Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis	10.6%
Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith	11.1%	Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom	11.3%

† Among firms that reported specific California equity-partner data

† Tied; listed alphabetically