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WHO'S WHO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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Attorneys

John Mathews

Arnold LaRochelle
Mathews VanConas
& Zirbel (A to Z Law)
Oxnard



A to Z Law Partner John Mathews has devoted his practice to representing water districts and liquid waste districts, to environmental law, and to clients involved with land use, water and other regulatory issues.

He is the general counsel to the Pleasant Valley County Water District and he serves as general counsel to the Casitas Municipal Water District, Triunfo Sanitation District and the Channel Islands Beach Community Services District. In recognition of his ongoing dedication to protecting the region's water supply, Mathews received the John K. Flynn Groundwater Steward Award in 2009 and the United Water Conservation District Richard V. Laubacher Water Conservation Award in 2010. A Ventura County resident since 1973, Mathews received his law degree from the UCLA.

Laura McAvoy

Musick, Peeler & Garrett
Westlake Village



Laura McAvoy is a partner at the Westlake Village office of Los Angeles-based Musick Peeler & Garrett. She specializes in general business, oil and gas and agricultural companies, securities law and estate planning matters. She has served as general counsel for companies including Berry Petroleum, a more than \$2 billion-market-capitalization oil and gas company.

She has also been general counsel to the Bank of A. Levy and the Real Estate Investment Trust of California, and represents a number of Ventura County founding families.

She advises small and mid-sized distribution, agriculture, manufacturing and service firms. McAvoy received her bachelor's degree from UCLA and her law degree from UCLA School of Law.

Susan McCarthy

Arnold LaRochelle
Mathews VanConas
& Zirbel (A to Z Law)
Oxnard



Susan McCarthy, an attorney with A to Z Law, focuses her practice on business, commercial, real property and probate litigation. She has experience in state and federal courts handling complex litigation matters including real property title and boundary disputes, easement issues, breach of contract, landlord/tenant disputes, unfair competition, trademark and trade secret infringement, financial elder abuse, discrimination, wrongful termination, and employment. McCarthy will become a partner on Jan. 1 2017 and will lead the firm's litigation group.

McCarthy is the firm's representative to the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce. She is a longtime board member of the Ventura County Bar Association's board of directors. She received her law degree from USC's South Gould School of Law.

James McDermott

Ferguson Case Orr
Pateron
Ventura



James McDermott has dedicated more than 19 years to developing a practice primarily devoted to business litigation with an emphasis on labor and employment law. A partner with Ferguson Case Orr Pateron, he has served as lead trial counsel in jury and bench trials, and has extensive experience with the American Arbitration Association involving employment and commercial arbitrations.

An alumnus of Santa Clara University School of Law, McDermott spent time as a law student serving as an extern to the Hon. Spencer Williams in the Federal District Court in San Jose. Prior to law school, he attended the University of Dallas, where he earned a master's degree in political philosophy and at UC Berkeley, where he graduated cum laude.

Bruce McRoy

Reicker, Pfau, Pyle
& McRoy
Santa Barbara



Bruce McRoy is a founding partner of Reicker, Pfau, Pyle & McRoy. His practice focuses on representing public and private enterprises and individuals with respect to business, corporate, securities, venture capital, mergers and acquisitions, intellectual property and tax matters. McRoy has been outside and special counsel on securities, acquisition and intellectual property transactions for domestic and foreign clients including publicly traded corporations, early stage manufacturing and development companies, academic and research and development organizations and consolidated groups with international operations.

From 1968 to 1971, McRoy served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy in shore-based and airborne anti-submarine warfare operations.

Cristi Michelon Vasquez

Law Office of Cristi
Michelson Vasquez
Santa Barbara



Cristi Michelon Vasquez focuses her practices in the areas of business, real estate, landlord tenant, trust litigation, conservatorships and general civil litigation. She is the former president of Santa Barbara Women Lawyers, and former vice president of the Santa Barbara Women Lawyers Foundation. She is also former affiliate governor to the Board of California Women Lawyers, and former board member of the Santa Barbara County Bar Association. She is the immediate past president and current board member of the Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center.

She received her law degree from Santa Barbara College of Law and admitted to practice in the state of California and before the United States District Court, United States Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of the United States.

Kenneth Moore

Stuart | Moore
San Luis Obispo



Kenneth Moore is the managing partner of Stuart | Moore, a law firm based in San Luis Obispo. He heads the firm's banking and corporate practice and represents financial institutions and their holding companies in regulatory, securities and general corporate matters.

Moore has significant experience in the management of regulatory relations, regulatory enforcement actions, capital raising and mergers and acquisitions. He also represents private investors in financial institutions, providing counsel on regulatory and governance matters.

Moore received his bachelor's degree in business administration from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and his law degree, cum laude, from Washington & Lee University School of Law.

Ted Muegenberg

Muegenberg Estate
& Trust Attorneys
Ventura



Ted Muegenberg is a partner at META Law — Muegenberg Estate & Trust Attorneys. He has more than 30 years of experience, working closely with clients and their other advisers to transfer assets to their family and community in ways that are consistent with their values, goals and aspirations. Muegenberg received his bachelor's degree from Claremont McKenna College and his law degree from UC Hastings College of Law.

He is a certified specialist in estate planning, trust and probate law by the State Bar of California and rated AV by Martindale-Hubbell. He is a member and secretary of the board of trustees for Community Memorial Health System and an active parishioner at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church.

Ziyad Naccasha

Carmel & Naccasha
San Luis Obispo



With nearly 25 years of legal experience, Carmel & Naccasha managing partner and co-founder Ziyad Naccasha has extensive background providing strategic counsel in the areas of business and corporate law, litigation, insurance and reinsurance coverage and defense.

Naccasha began practicing law in Chicago before moving to San Luis Obispo, when he partnered with Tim Carmel to start the firm, which has grown to become one of the largest in the county. Community involvement is also keenly important to Naccasha. He is actively involved on the boards of a number of local nonprofits supporting the arts, children and important local business interests. Naccasha received his bachelor's degree from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and his law degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School.

Kevin Nimmons

Hollister & Brace
Santa Barbara



Kevin Nimmons is an attorney and shareholder of Hollister & Brace, where he practices general civil litigation, real estate, business and complex family law. Nimmons is a sharp, skilled and honest lawyer with a dedicated work ethic and proven record of success in representing his client's interests.

In addition to his successful practice, Nimmons and his wife Janelle, a Santa Barbara native, have two young children, with whom they loves to travel and adventure with. He is also dedicated to improving his community and is president and member of the board of directors of Garden Court. He has also served on the board of the American Institute of Architects, Santa Barbara Chapter and the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation.

Leila Noël

Cappello & Noël
Santa Barbara



A litigation attorney for more than 30 years, Leila Noël has successfully represented countless individuals and businesses against large corporations and financial institutions. She has built a formidable reputation in lender liability, complex business and catastrophic injury litigation. In all, Noël has obtained jury verdicts and settlements in excess of \$225 million on behalf of her clients. Noël has also been co-lead counsel in class and mass action cases that have resulted in tens of millions of dollars in compensation to class members.

Noël was named one of the "Top 100 Women Lawyers in California" by the Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journals. She is a board member of the Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County.

Donald Palazzo

Nevers, Palazzo, Packard,
Wildermuth & Wynner
Westlake Village



Donald Palazzo is the managing shareholder of Nevers, Palazzo, Packard, Wildermuth & Wynner, chairman of its corporate and business law practice and a member of its executive committee. He represents closely-held businesses and its owners in the areas affecting operations and finances. He regularly advises clients on strategic positioning, business model and revenue generation issues and exit planning.

He works with corporations, limited liability companies and partnerships in connection with agreements and disputes among their shareholders, members and partners, negotiating comprehensive solutions without litigation. When litigation becomes necessary, Palazzo works with the firm's litigation team to provide aggressive advocacy of the client's interests.

Attorneys

Lisa Spiwak

Spiwak & Iezza
Thousand Oaks



Since 1992, Lisa Spiwak has headed up Spiwak and Iezza, LLP. Her firm has become a leading California law firm for commercial collection litigation. They represent large multi-national corporations in the collection of their commercial debt. During the formation of the firm, Spiwak was accepted into the Temporary Judge Program through the LA Municipal Court. She received certification for completion of the training course for temporary judge work and sat on the bench of the Los Angeles Small Claims Courts as a Judge Pro Tem.

She attended Pitzer College where she studied business and sociology. She spent a portion of her law school education at the University of London studying international trade and finance and received her juris doctor degree from Southwestern.

Amy Steinfeld

Brownstein Hyatt Farber
Schreck
Santa Barbara



Amy Steinfeld focuses on the intersection of land use and water law. She has more than a decade of experience in the permitting and development of controversial projects throughout the state.

She regularly advises water districts, regulated utilities, cities, developers, and agricultural interests in all aspects of water law. Her matters include water rights permitting and due diligence, complex groundwater adjudications, water transfers, urban water management planning, water supply/demand evaluations under Senate Bill 610 and SB 221 and infrastructure development. She writes and speaks regularly on water and land use issues. Before going into law, Steinfeld served as the environmental director and an environmental consultant and analyst for the California Safety Compliance Corporation.

Bret Stone

Paladin Law Group
Santa Barbara



Bret Stone is a founding partner at Paladin Law, where his sustainability and policy practice includes traditional areas such as environmental law, brownfields redevelopment and insurance policyholder litigation as well as regulatory compliance and enforcement.

Stone also works on climate change, energy and supply chain management issues, "greenwashing" claims, sustainable development and corporate responsibility. His clients include multinational companies, small family-owned businesses, emerging clean-tech enterprises, developers and municipalities.

He received his law degree, with honors, from the Chicago-Kent College of Law and his bachelor's degree in environmental studies from UC Santa Barbara.

Herb Stroh

Sinsheimer Juhnke McIvor
& Stroh
San Luis Obispo



Herb Stroh has been a partner at Sinsheimer Juhnke McIvor & Stroh since 2007 and is managing partner. He is a certified specialist in estate planning, trust and probate.

Stroh is a member of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel and serves on the executive committee for the trusts and estate section of the State Bar, where he co-chairs the litigation subcommittee.

Stroh has been a presenter and speaker at many conferences and events, and his writings have appeared in the Los Angeles Lawyer and the California Trusts and Estates Quarterly. His bachelor's degree is from UCLA and his law degree is from Loyola Law School. He also holds a master's degree in tax law from the University of San Diego School of Law.

Susan Waag

LightGabler
San Luis Obispo



Susan Waag, senior attorney at LightGabler, is a seasoned employment law attorney who works exclusively with Central Coast businesses and nonprofits to prevent and resolve personnel issues. Her success is grounded in her ability to provide practical, timely and accurate advice to employers of all sizes and industries.

Based in San Luis Obispo and in practice for more than 25 years, Waag has represented and given legal advice to more than 450 companies as well as provided proactive counseling services and in-house training. Her practice focuses on litigation avoidance and helping employers understand and comply with a myriad of employment laws.

She is a cum laude graduate of UCLA with a bachelor's degree in political science. She received her law degree from USC.

John Webster

Hathaway Law Firm
Ventura



John Webster is an emeritus attorney and a partner with Hathaway, Perrett, Webster, Powers, Chrisman & Gutierrez, known as the Hathaway Law Firm.

He has practiced in the areas of estate planning, trusts, business entities and organizations, corporations, contracts, real property and landlord and tenant matters. Webster received his bachelor's degree from CSU Fresno and his law degree from Loyola Law School, where he was an executive editor of the law review.

He is a member of the State Bar of California, the California U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, the U.S. Tax Court for the Southern District of California and the Ventura County Bar Association. Webster maintains an AV rating with Martindale Hubbell.

Robert Wynner

Nevers, Palazzo, Packard,
Wildermuth & Wynner
Westlake Village



Robert Wynner is co-managing shareholder at Nevers, Palazzo, Packard, Wildermuth & Wynner and advises privately-held companies and their owners in the structuring, negotiation and closing of strategic transactions and as outside general counsel.

His expertise includes mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures, succession plans, equity and debt financings, real estate transactions, licensing, compensation plans, statements of work and shareholders, development, distribution, investment banking and master services agreements. Wynner provides pro bono legal services to Casa Pacifica and other nonprofit organizations.

He graduated cum laude from UC Irvine with his bachelor's degree and from Loyola Law School.

Sam Zodeh

Price, Postel & Parma
Santa Barbara



Sam Zodeh is a partner with the law firm of Price, Postel & Parma LLP in Santa Barbara.

Zodeh represents various clients in business, real estate, finance, and wealth planning matters. He has extensive transactional experience in structuring, negotiating, drafting agreements and successfully concluding a myriad of matters including commercial and residential real estate development, mergers and acquisitions, family office services, private placements, estate planning, and intellectual property licensing.

Zodeh obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina and his law degree from UCLA. Zodeh is admitted to practice law in California and New York.

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8 EVENTS

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