

# SAN DIEGO'S BEST ATTORNEYS 2016



## David S. Casey

David Casey is managing partner of CaseyGerry, the oldest plaintiffs' firm in San Diego. His career spans more than 40 years. His legal skills and landmark cases have had far-reaching consequences, impacting both consumers and the legal community. He was appointed to the national VCW Multidistrict Litigation (MDL) Plaintiffs' Steering Committee overseeing litigation targeting Volkswagen over its diesel emissions scandal. He also serves on the Plaintiffs Steering Committee which oversees the national MDL against the National Football League. In the past few years he has helped obtain many millions in successful results for clients in a complex range of cases that relate to aviation, maritime, premises liability, faulty equipment, government tort claims, complex motorcycle accidents, trucking and automobile accidents.



## Jeff Chine

Jeff Chine is a partner in the Land Use practice in Allen Matkins' San Diego office and is highly regarded for his extensive experience in land use and redevelopment. He has represented developers in state and federal courts against environmental groups and opponents of development in CEQA, NEPA, Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, Subdivision Map Act, Coastal Act and other challenges to entitlements. His projects include the master planned communities of San Elijo Hills, Otay Ranch and Fanita Ranch. He recently helped secure approval from the San Diego City Council for the One Paseo mixed-use project in Carmel Valley. He also successfully represented Semptra, the developer of an international wind energy project with wind turbines in Mexico and associated infrastructure necessary to transport electricity across the border.



## John Gomez

John Gomez is president and lead attorney at Gomez Trial Attorneys, which he founded in 2005. He has established himself as one of California's most recognized and accomplished trial attorneys. Lawyers USA named him the national Lawyer of the Year. He has twice been named San Diego's Trial Lawyer of the Year, a Super Lawyer in 2012, 2013 and 2014 and has been voted one of San Diego's Best Lawyers by SD METRO Magazine in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. Since 2000, he has recovered over \$300 million in settlements and verdicts for his clients with more than 75 separate recoveries of more than \$1 million or more. He is a graduate of Yale University's School of Law and was an Academic All-American football player at the University of San Diego. He is a member of the Summit Council, a national group of the country's finest trial attorneys for plaintiffs.

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## Brian Katusian

Brian Katusian is a leading tax attorney with Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek. He was recently named a shareholder at SCMV. His practice emphasizes tax law, ERISA/Employee Benefits, and tax-exempt organizations. He has been certified as a Certified Legal Specialist in Taxation Law by the State Bar of California. He has co-authored a chapter in the Continuing Education of the Bar — California 2016 edition of "Financing and Protecting

California Businesses." He speaks extensively on tax issues to the Western Pension & Benefits Council and the University of San Diego School of Law's Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic.



## Michael L. Kirby

For more than 30 years, Michael Kirby has been involved in civil litigation, trying more than 50 jury trials throughout his career and obtaining total recoveries valued in excess of \$275 million as lead counsel. He has received multiple Outstanding Trial Lawyer awards from Consumer Attorneys of San Diego (CASD). His expertise is extensive and covers a variety of practice areas that involve business, partnerships, real estate and investor disputes. He is a founding partner at Kirby Noonan Lance & Hoge. He is rated as a Best Lawyer

by a leading national rating service and has been named a Best Lawyer in San Diego for 2014, 2015 and 2016 by SD METRO Magazine. Kirby has been instrumental in growing Kirby Noonan Lance & Hoge to becoming one of the most respected litigation firms in San Diego.

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### David J. Noonan

Over three decades, David Noonan has built an impressive career, representing high profile clients, receiving numerous recognitions and furthering the practice by frequently lecturing on best practices. He has played a vital role in securing multimillion-dollar judgments for both plaintiffs and defendants in complex cases that have involved consumer class actions, antitrust claims and misconduct charges. He is a founding partner at Kirby Noonan Lance & Hoge. His client list is diverse and has included American's Cup yacht races, professional athletes, Fortune 500 companies and a former Playmate of the Year. Noonan is a past recipient of the Daniel T. Broderick Award for trial excellence and professionalism, as recognized by four major trial organizations in San Diego, and has been named one of the Best Lawyers in America for the past 15 years.



### Heather S. Riley

As a partner in Allen Matkins' San Diego office, Heather Riley's practice involves a variety of land use and environmental matters, with a particular emphasize on writ litigation. She has extensive experience with the California Environmental Quality Act and has defended numerous private clients and public entities in land use and environmental actions in both state and federal courts. Most recently, she was elected president of the San Diego County Bar Association. Her professional recognitions include being named one of San Diego's 25 Most Influential Business Leaders 2016, a Super Lawyers Rising Star and a 2013 40 Under 40 Award honoree by SD METRO Magazine. She is a volunteer for the Girl Scouts of San Diego.



### Frederick Schenk

As a partner at CaseyGerry, Frederick Schenk concentrates his practice on product liability, serious personal injury and asbestos law. His unique knowledge in the area of automobile collision litigation was also recognized when he was selected as a consulting editor for Matthew Bender's Legal Publication. With his partner, David S. Casey Jr., he has represented the firm on the Plaintiffs Steering Committee which is overseeing national MDL litigation against the National Football League. He just finished a successful two-year tenure as president of the Board of Directors of the 22nd District Agricultural Association, otherwise known as home to the San Diego County Fair, and continues to serve on the board. The position entailed overseeing operations at the state-owned and operated fairgrounds. He is a past president of the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center.



### Ronson J. Shamoun

Ronson Shamoun is a tax controversy attorney with only 20 years of tax experience including 12 years in legal practice. He has received numerous awards, including honored as a Best Attorney and Metro Mover to Watch by SD METRO Magazine in 2014 and a 40 Under 40 Award honoree by the magazine in 2015. He is the founding partner of RJS Law Firm. He has received the prestigious AV Preeminent rating from Martindale Hubbell, an award which recognizes an attorney's excellence in legal ability and ethical practice. RJS Law has been recognized as one of the Most Admired Companies in San Diego. Shamoun has extensive experience in representing individuals and businesses before the Internal Revenue Service and the California Franchise Tax Board.



### David G. Weil

David Weil is the founding attorney of Golden State Law Group. Over the past 40 years of doing bankruptcy law he has helped out tens of thousands of clients obtain a second chance in life by helping them file their Chapter 7 or Chapter 13 business reorganization. He has been listed as one of the top bankruptcy attorneys in the nation for 2013, 2014 and 2015, and was named a Best Attorney by SD METRO Magazine in 2013 and 2016. He has filed over 22,000 bankruptcies in his 40-year legal career. He is a graduate of UCLA and earned his law degree from Southwestern School of Law.



### Scott Williams

As a partner at Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek, Scott Williams was at the forefront of one of the city's most closely watched lawsuits of the past year. Williams was the lead attorney representing the Plaza de Panama Committee in that group's effort to improve parking and traffic circulation in Balboa Park and to add new pedestrian-friendly plazas and gardens. He also prevailed in a case for S.D. Malkin Properties Inc., the developer of a beach-front destination resort for the city of Oceanside. The Malkin project had been opposed by San Diegans for Open Government. The case is now on appeal. He was a lawyer for the U.S. Department of Justice before entering private practice. Williams is a magna cum laude graduate of Harvard and received his law degree from Columbia University.



### Christina Denning

Denning is a partner at Higgs Fletcher & Mack. Her practice emphasizes construction law, business litigation and personal injury. She is an Adjunct Professor at California Western School of Law for the STEPPS program — a year-long class in professional responsibility and advanced legal writing. She is a graduate of the San Diego Public Leadership Institute, a program for business-minded executives who are interested in exploring public leadership and discovering how their experience and talent could address public policy issues.



**David J. Vogel**  
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Hecht Solberg Robinson & Bagley



**Jonathan F. Giebeler**  
Partner,  
Hecht Solberg Robinson & Bagley



**Roger Denning**  
Managing Principal,  
Fish & Richardson



**Juanita Brooks**  
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**Dane Gardenswartz**  
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**John Klinedinst**  
Shareholder,  
Chief Executive Officer, Klinedinst

*Congratulations*  
**DAVID G. WEIL**  
for being selected as one of San Diego's  
**TOP ATTORNEYS IN 2016**

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