



BEST in the WEST

CALIFORNIA'S LEADING BUSINESS LAWYERS

By Deborah Rosenthal and Bernice Yeung

When it comes to high-stakes legal matters—bet-the-company litigation, multiparty transactions, or federal criminal investigations—everyone wants to hire the best. But choosing attorneys can be challenging. Ultimately, it's clients and colleagues who determine who's best in the business, basing their judgments on reputation, proficiency, professionalism, and performance. To find the top-rated business lawyers in California, CALIFORNIA LAWYER collaborated with London-based Chambers & Partners, a publishing company that employs dozens of full-time researchers to interview clients and colleagues about each attorney's technical skill, professional conduct, client service, commercial astuteness, diligence, and commitment. They translate the data for inclusion in their annual legal directories. Based on their research, we list the top 46 lawyers in ten of the state's hottest practice areas, profiling 29 of them. (When more than 4 individuals were tied for first place in a particular practice area, we profiled those whose law firms also ranked first in that particular field.) Here's what they've been working on.

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Terrence P. McMahon

McDermott Will & Emery, Palo Alto
J.D., Santa Clara University School of Law,
1976

McMahon, 54, has represented a host of high-tech heavyweights, including information-management company Seagate Technology and medical-technology company Medtronic. Last year McMahon settled litigation as attorney for digital interface maker Silicon Image, which alleged that Genesis Microchip products containing certain digital receivers infringed on two Silicon Image patents. Under the terms of the settlement, Genesis will pay Silicon Image a confidential sum and a license fee and royalties on products containing those receivers. McMahon was recently retained by Lockheed Martin to prosecute its massive trade-secret case against rival Boeing.