

Daily Journal

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TOP 100 LAWYERS IN CALIFORNIA

EDITORS' NOTE

From the mortgage crisis to the Gulf oil spill to virtually every major intellectual property dispute, California lawyers are playing leading roles. But they don't just clean up big messes. They secure funding and regulatory approval for cutting-edge developments in water, energy, technology and biotechnology that are the promise of the future.

We aim for this list to be a kaleidoscope of the California legal scene. There are divorce attorneys and public finance lawyers, prosecutors and criminal defenders and much, much more.

We reviewed hundreds of nominations from members of the legal community and from our own editors and reporters to compile this list. It is never an easy task — the list isn't long enough — but it is fun. Read on. We know you'll enjoy learning about these people as much as we did.

— The Editors

MARK HOLSCHER

While Holscher is perhaps known best for his white-collar criminal defense and securities enforcement work, he's recently shifted the focus of his practice to take on more civil litigation.

But that hasn't stopped him from landing some of the most complex financial disputes in California and abroad, saving his clients fortunes.

Holscher just last year won a jury verdict and judge's ruling that awarded actor and production company owner Don Johnson \$51 million after he was found entitled to half of the copyright and syndication profits from the hit television series "Nash Bridges."

Holscher is still on the case, as defendants Rysher Entertainment Inc., 2929 Entertainment and Qualia Capital are appealing the award. Mark Cuban,

who co-founded Rysher Entertainment and also owns the Dallas Mavericks, is responsible for paying a portion of Johnson's award.

Holscher said he's so far enjoyed the new direction of his legal career because the civil cases he's taken on have proven to be equally as challenging for him, but not quite as stressful. While he said he still feels responsible for the livelihood of his clients in his civil cases, it's a practice that's less daunting than defending corporate executives from prison time. The stress, though, he said, isn't completely lifted.

"I think it's a constant challenge to learn about each case and to understand what are the most important facts and the overarching themes and issues," he said. "Every case is different, so it's a steep learning curve."

— Casey Sullivan



MARK HOLSCHER

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Los Angeles and San Francisco

Practice type: Litigation

Specialty: White-Collar Criminal

Defense, Securities Enforcement

and Civil Litigation