

Daily Journal

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TOP 100 LAWYERS IN CALIFORNIA

EDITORS' NOTE

Every year, the editors of the Daily Journal look at the work of hundreds of California lawyers. We receive nominations from law firms and nonprofits and universities – and from clients. We also examine our archive of stories and talk to each reporter about the matters they've been covering. The point is to honor the attorneys whose work is having the widest impact, and not just on their career or their firm's bottom line. We seek to honor work that is changing an industry or the law or the society as a whole. And every year, we reach the difficult but exciting truth: There are far more than 100 leading lawyers in California. Deciding who won't make the list is our most difficult task.

We don't pretend that this list is scientific or encompassing; it is a snapshot of a moment in time. It is a representative sample of the tremendous legal talent that California offers. As you read, we hope you'll agree.

— David Houston, Editor



JENNIFER L. KELLER

LITIGATION

KELLER RACKAUCKAS UMBERG ZIPSER LLP
IRVINE

SPECIALTIES: Commercial, intellectual property and white collar defense

If you ask Keller what she's working on, be prepared to take a journey around the world. This is true in both a literal sense — she was just in Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh representing the interests of a Saudi princess accused of criminal action in the U.S. — and in a figurative sense: She's working on cases that touch on a vast array of practice areas.

Keller, while certainly enthused by her work, takes it all in stride.

"I couldn't have a more disparate practice," she said. "I'm getting paid to learn new things, which is a pretty cool perk of being a trial lawyer."

Currently embroiled in several high-profile cases, Keller is going full bore.

While a large portion of her summer was devoted to defending credit rating giant Standard & Poor's in a \$5 billion fraud suit brought by federal authorities over allegedly

faulty analysis on mortgage-backed securities, Keller still has her fingers in a variety of other cases.

While it might seem impossible that the intellectual property battle over the Bratz line of dolls made by MGA Entertainment Inc. could still be kicking around, Keller said she is gearing up to take that matter back before U.S. District Judge David O. Carter in a "pure plaintiffs' case" against Mattel Inc.

While both of those cases have played out in federal court — and in front of Carter specifically — Keller also has several cases in state court.

In the case that took her to Riyadh, Keller represents the Saudi princess charged by Los Angeles County prosecutors with human trafficking for alleged abuse of immigrant housekeepers. Keller called the accusations a "scam" and said she was confident the charges would be dropped or her client would be acquitted.

The bottom line for Keller in that case, and in all the cases she takes on, is that she find herself on the right side of justice.

"As a lawyer, you're not supposed to take cases that aren't just," she said. "We look for cases that are interesting, but that are also meritorious and where we can serve our clients' interests."

"If it's lucrative, that's really icing on the cake."

— Henry Meier