

Daily Journal

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TOP WOMEN LAWYERS

The Daily Journal's Annual List of
Leading Women Lawyers in California

Jennifer L. Keller

Keller Rackauckas LLP
Irvine

Practice type:
Litigation

Specialty:
Commercial, intellectual property,
white collar defense

Next year, for the first time in her 36-year litigation career, Keller will not be lead counsel in a trial.

Instead, she will be co-counsel to attorneys from Kecker & Van Nest LLP in the defense of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC. It's a feeling she's not used to.

"I love being lead counsel," she said. "But it's wonderful to work on a team as skilled and bright as these people."

Keller is confident in her team's victory in the Standard & Poor's case, in which the government accused the financial



services company of contributing to the 2008 financial crisis by way of inflating the value of certain mortgage-backed securities. *U.S. v. McGraw-Hill Cos et al*,

13-00779 (C.D. Cal., filed 2013).

"To blame S&P for not having a crystal ball to foresee the financial downturn doesn't seem fair," Keller said. The trial is currently scheduled for September 2015.

Of course, Keller is no stranger to being lead counsel and gaining big wins. Last April, Keller worked with partner Kay Rackauckas in a breach of contract, fraud and conversion jury trial that resulted in an award of more than \$4.6 million in damages. *Larian v. Talas-sazan, et al.*, SC110882 L.A. Co. Super. Ct., filed Dec. 29, 2010).

Keller is perhaps best known for her success in helping MGA Entertainment Inc. defeat Mattel Inc. in the intellectual property fight over MGA's Bratz in 2011. That case has turned into the gift that keeps on giving — recently Keller filed the state court reprise of the trade-secrets portion of *MGA v. Mattel*, for which she will again be lead counsel.

Keller said she is "looking forward" to getting that case to trial.

"The copyright infringement claim is gone and we no longer have to be on the defensive," Keller said. "I really like our chances now."

— Alexandra Schwappach