

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: Minority Attorneys

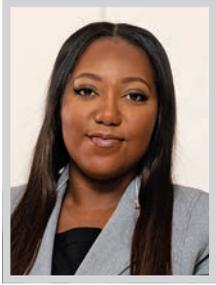


LOS ANGELES IS TRULY A NATIONAL LEADER WHEN IT COMES TO INFLUENTIAL PROFESSIONALS WITH MINORITY backgrounds – and the field of law is certainly no exception. There are many superb attorneys in the LA region who happen to be minorities, which is an important benchmark for an effective legal landscape. The California State Bar has reported that “having a diverse legal profession positively impacts the administration of justice, ensures fairness, and promotes the rule of law.”

We’ve alphabetically listed 96 of the very best of those professionals here, along with insights and information about their careers, practice and success they’ve achieved. For our coverage in this issue, we have profiled those standout minority attorneys considered to be particularly impactful on the legal scene while serving as trusted advisors in the LA region. Congratulations to the attorneys who made this list and thank you for working to keep the people and businesses of Los Angeles on the right track.

Methodology: The professionals featured in these pages did not pay to be included. Their profiles were drawn from nomination materials submitted to the Los Angeles Business Journal. Those selected for inclusion were reviewed by the editorial department and chosen based on a demonstration of impact made on the profession and on the Los Angeles community.

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: MINORITY ATTORNEYS

**LATRICE BURKS**

Associate
McGuireWoods LLP

A second-year associate at McGuireWoods, Latrice Burks already has established herself as a leader and rising star at the firm and a champion for diversity and inclusion. At the USC Gould School of Law, Burks was the founding member and co-president of the USC Womxn of Color Collective and she is the first African American woman to serve on Gould's Board of Councilors' Clerkship Committee.

Since joining McGuireWoods in September 2021, Burks has made her mark, focusing her practice on complex commercial litigation, with a passion for intellectual property. In a critical defamation case, she was part of a team representing a client sued for alleged defamation and contractual interference. Burks zeroed in on the common interest privilege, which turned out to be one of the defense team's strongest arguments. Based on this argument, McGuireWoods obtained a full dismissal of the matter with no settlement payment.

**MANUEL F. CACHÁN**

Partner
Proskauer Rose LLP

Manuel Cachán is an experienced trial lawyer and co-head of the Trial Practice Group at Proskauer, whose practice covers a wide array of complex civil litigation matters as well as counselling services to leading national and international corporations. He has served as first-chair trial counsel in various significant and high-profile cases, including for Monsanto and Johnson & Johnson.

Among Cachán's recent successes has been his work securing landmark victories for Monsanto in mass tort litigation regarding the herbicide Roundup. He served as lead counsel in a five-week, multi-plaintiff trial resulting in the jury roundly rejecting plaintiffs' claims entirely, returning a defense verdict on all counts. This case, the first to be tried in St. Louis, Missouri, where Monsanto is headquartered, is the first multi-plaintiff case in the Roundup mass tort litigation that Monsanto has taken to trial, and it will serve as precedent for ongoing multi-plaintiff litigation regarding Roundup.

**CHERYL S. CHANG**

Partner; Vice Chair, Financial Institutions Litigation
and Regulatory Compliance Practice Group
Blank Rome LLP

As Blank Rome's first female Asian-American partner and vice chair of the firm's nearly 50-member Financial Institutions Litigation and Regulatory Compliance practice group, Cheryl Chang is a skilled leader and a formidable litigator. She consistently achieves favorable outcomes for her clients in complex corporate matters.

Chang litigates for significant corporate and entertainment clients before state and local courts in the areas of intellectual property, antitrust, and consumer class action defense. She is recognized by co-counsel and opponents alike for her keen ability to see legal issues and business decisions from her clients' point of view. Fluent in spoken Mandarin Chinese, Taiwanese, and French, she often communicates with her clients, and negotiates with adversaries, in multiple languages. Last year, a team led by Chang successfully defended a global software provider and its foreign parent company in an arbitration action brought by a reseller seeking nearly \$8 million in damages.

**CHRISTINA CHANG**

Counsel
Nixon Peabody LLP

Christina Chang broke into entertainment law as in-house counsel at licensing giant CMG Worldwide by protecting and maintaining the brands of iconic stars like James Dean, Jackie Robinson, Arthur Ashe, and Aaliyah. She used integrity, determination, and resourcefulness to safeguard these celebrities' images and earning power, parlaying that experience into a spot on Nixon Peabody's growing entertainment team. At Nixon, Chang provides boutique-level focused service with the resources of a Big Law firm, building bespoke teams to provide the services of a legal advisor, talent and business manager, and PR and crisis manager.

Chang's complete grasp of her clients' businesses, goals, and preferences helps her anticipate needs while minimizing legal risk. She strikes deals in all verticals, including film and TV, endorsements, NFTs, IP licenses, advertising, brand collaborations & development, and more — handling all the fine print so her talent can focus on what they do best.

**JENNIFER CHANG**

Special Education Attorney
Law Office of Jennifer Chang

Jennifer Chang is an education rights attorney who is a staunch advocate for the rights of children with special needs in the California public school system. With over a decade of experience in the complex laws of special education, she has had great success assisting students with disabilities and their families to understand and exercise their legal rights and receive the services they are entitled to under the law. Equally important to Chang's practice is helping the families of students with special needs learn to advocate for themselves and their children, and hold the school system accountable when it comes to providing equal educational opportunities.

While the core of her practice focuses on special education law and protecting students with disabilities, Chang is also passionate about educating Korean American families and helping them navigate the complexities of advocating for their children while language poses a barrier.

**ANN CHEN**

Partner
Loeb & Loeb

Often tapped for thoughtful, pragmatic counsel, Ann Chen has helped many public and private corporate clients navigate the waters of mergers and acquisitions, private equity, joint ventures and corporate issues. With diverse experience leading complex, high stakes business combinations, negotiating financial and strategic private equity and debt investments, and advising on start-up formation and fundraising, Chen focuses her legal acumen and dealmaking skills on advancing the goals of corporate clients across a wide range of industries in both U.S. and cross-border transactions.

Chen represents production studios, post-production studios, book publishers, gaming companies, gamers, athletes, authors, singers, social media influencers and celebrities as part of the Loeb & Loeb team representing clients, such as Netflix, who she helped in its acquisition of Night School Studio, a game studio. This acquisition marks Netflix's first acquisition of a game studio as part of its business plan to create gaming experiences for members.

**EMAHN COUNTS**

Founding Partner
Counts Law Firm PC

Emahn Counts has been practicing law for more than 18 years and is the founder of Counts Law Firm PC. His practice areas include business, family, and real estate litigation. Counts enjoys resolving contract disputes and financial matters. He has represented corporate clients such as American Express, Porsche Cars, Honda Finance, as well as thousands of individual and small business clients in Greater Los Angeles.

Counts has successfully negotiated and/or litigated over 1000 cases, recovering tens of millions of dollars for clients. Counts achieved success through intelligent strategy, organization, negotiation, and court skills, along with a commitment to value, efficiency, and impact. Prior to opening Counts Law Firm, he was the managing attorney of the Pasadena office of a nationwide consumer litigation firm where he represented blue-chip clients. For over 20 years, Counts has also served as an ambassador for the African American Alumni Association at Loyola Marymount University.

**MIGUEL CUSTODIO, JR.**

Partner & Co-Founder
Custodio & Dubey LLP

As a child of Guatemalan immigrants living in the Los Angeles neighborhood of Boyle Heights, Miguel Custodio grew up witnessing structural inequality, which is why he now dedicates his LA practice to help regular people get justice when harmed by corporations or institutions.

Today, Custodio focuses on personal injury and wrongful death cases. He has worked with hundreds of accident victims and their families over the years. Custodio is committed to helping provide justice and opportunities for people who might otherwise be overlooked, left out, or intimidated by the legal system, and giving them the best representation possible. Custodio and firm co-founder Vineet Dubey recently celebrated their firm's 10-year anniversary. Their dynamic approach has brought justice to hundreds of clients, compelled manufacturers and retailers clean up thousands of dangerous or cancer-causing products, and resulted in nearly \$100 million in settlements.