



It would seem that great weather, natural beauty and one of the hottest legal markets around are not enough for some lawyers — California firms are branching out as never before. Several that were founded here have built foreign offices rivaling their presence in the state. Some have answered the call of the Big Apple or focused on beefing up outposts in other cities across the nation. But although pastures elsewhere may look greener, California’s Top 50 firms are still going strong. Firms that do not designate a headquarters office are listed alongside their founding office — how else to keep track in this “global” age?

| RANK AND FIRM NAME |                                                                          | LAST RANK | CHAIR                                | OFFICES/LAWYERS (CHANGE IN CALIFORNIA SINCE JULY 2003)                                                                                                                                                                                               | CALIF. LAWYERS | FIRMWIDE LAWYERS | CALIF. PARTNERS | CALIF. FEMALE PARTNERS | CALIF. MINORITY PARTNERS |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1.                 | <b>MORRISON &amp; FOERSTER</b><br>San Francisco                          | 1         | Keith C. Wetmore                     | San Francisco 287, New York 131, Los Angeles 113, Palo Alto 108, Foreign Offices 106, Washington, D.C. 78, San Diego 52, Irvine 35, Tyson’s Corner, Va. 28, Walnut Creek 25, Denver 21, Century City 10, Sacramento 11 (+12)                         | <b>638</b>     | 1005             | 208             | 43                     | 19                       |
| 2.                 | <b>LATHAM &amp; WATKINS</b><br>Los Angeles                               | 2         | Robert M. Dell                       | Foreign Offices 325, Los Angeles 270, New York 260, Washington, D.C. 180, Chicago 129, San Francisco 107, San Diego 102, Costa Mesa 70, Menlo Park 62, Newark, N.J. 29, Reston, Va. 6, Boston 5 (-26)*                                               | <b>596</b>     | 1526             | 214             | 37                     | 13                       |
| 3.                 | <b>WILSON SONSINI<br/>GOODRICH &amp; ROSATI</b><br>Palo Alto             | 4         | Larry W. Sonsini                     | Palo Alto 473, San Francisco 40, Austin, Texas 23, Reston, Va. 20, Seattle 17, San Diego 14, Salt Lake City 8, New York 5 (-15)                                                                                                                      | <b>527</b>     | 600              | 140             | 26                     | 20                       |
| 4.                 | <b>O’MELVENY &amp; MYERS</b><br>Los Angeles                              | 3         | Arthur B. Culvahouse Jr.             | Los Angeles 273, New York 202, Washington, D.C. 117, Century City 84, San Francisco 57, Newport Beach 51, Foreign Offices 48, Menlo Park 30, Irvine 9 (-91)                                                                                          | <b>504</b>     | 871              | 149             | 19                     | 12                       |
| 5.                 | <b>PILLSBURY WINTHROP</b><br>San Francisco                               | 5         | Mary Cranston                        | San Francisco 182, New York 153, Los Angeles 79, Palo Alto 75, McLean, Va. 51, Washington, D.C. 31, San Diego 24, North County San Diego 24, Houston 20, Century City 19, Sacramento 19, Costa Mesa 16, Foreign Offices 16, Stamford, Conn. 14 (-37) | <b>434</b>     | 723              | 177             | 45                     | 18                       |
| 6.                 | <b>HELLER EHRMAN<br/>WHITE &amp; McAULIFFE</b><br>San Francisco          | 6         | Barry S. Levin                       | San Francisco 188, Menlow Park 124, Seattle 105, New York 78, Los Angeles 70, Washington, D.C. 55, San Diego 51, Foreign Offices 33, Madison, Wis. 10, Anchorage, Ala. 4, Portland, Ore. 2 (+40)                                                     | <b>433</b>     | 720              | 168             | 31                     | 10                       |
| 7.                 | <b>LEWIS BRISBOIS<br/>BISGAARD &amp; SMITH</b><br>Los Angeles            | 7         | Robert F. Lewis                      | Los Angeles 210, San Francisco 68, San Diego 45, Costa Mesa 42, Las Vegas 25, San Bernardino 23, New York 15, Sacramento 14, Phoenix, Ariz. 11, Tuscon, Ariz. 1 (+34)                                                                                | <b>402</b>     | 454              | 224             | 53                     | 17                       |
| 8.                 | <b>GIBSON, DUNN &amp; CRUTCHER</b><br>Los Angeles                        | 7         | Kenneth M. Doran                     | Los Angeles 221, New York 150, Washington, D.C. 123, Irvine 74, Foreign Offices 58, Dallas 53, San Francisco 47, Denver 28, Palo Alto 28 (+2)                                                                                                        | <b>370</b>     | 782              | 125             | 22                     | 3                        |
| 9.                 | <b>SHEPPARD, MULLIN,<br/>RICHTER &amp; HAMPTON</b><br>Los Angeles        | 10        | Guy N. Halgren                       | Los Angeles 152, San Francisco 64, Costa Mesa 48, San Diego 35, Century City 34, Washington, D.C. 25, Del Mar Heights 24, Santa Barbara 9, (+2)                                                                                                      | <b>366</b>     | 391              | 154             | 24                     | 12                       |
| 10.                | <b>BINGHAM McCUTCHEEN</b><br>Boston                                      | 11        | Jay S. Zimmerman                     | Boston 290, San Francisco 167, New York 108, Los Angeles 105, Hartford, Conn. 64, East Palo Alto 58, Washington, D.C. 32, Foreign Offices 28, Walnut Creek 18, Costa Mesa 13 (+11)                                                                   | <b>361</b>     | 883              | 122             | 28                     | 11                       |
| 11.                | <b>PAUL, HASTINGS,<br/>JANOFSKY &amp; WALKER</b><br>Los Angeles          | 13        | Seth M. Zachary                      | New York 175, Foreign Offices 162, Los Angeles 160, Washington, D.C. 88, Atlanta 84, San Francisco 75, Stamford, Conn. 55, San Diego 47, Costa Mesa 42 (+4)                                                                                          | <b>324</b>     | 888              | 97              | 17                     | 9                        |
| 12.                | <b>COOLEY GODWARD</b><br>Palo Alto                                       | 7         | Stephen C. Neal                      | Palo Alto 167, San Francisco 81, San Diego 72, Reston, Va. 53, Broomfield, Colo. 31 (-48)                                                                                                                                                            | <b>320</b>     | 404              | 109             | 23                     | 4                        |
| 13.                | <b>ORRICK, HERRINGTON<br/>&amp; SUTCLIFFE</b><br>San Francisco           | 14        | Ralph H. Baxter Jr.                  | New York 190, Foreign Offices 108, San Francisco 152, Menlo Park 72, Washington, D.C. 47, Los Angeles 46, Sacramento 29, Seattle 17, Irvine 15 (+9)                                                                                                  | <b>314</b>     | 676              | 134             | 22                     | 8                        |
| 14.                | <b>GRAY CARY WARE<br/>&amp; FREIDENRICH</b><br>San Diego                 | 12        | J. Terence O’Malley                  | San Diego 138, East Palo Alto 123, San Francisco 28, Austin, Texas 26, Seattle 23, Washington, D.C. 20, Sacramento 10 (-37)                                                                                                                          | <b>299</b>     | 368              | 85              | 33                     | 9                        |
| 15.                | <b>FENWICK &amp; WEST</b><br>Mountain View                               | 19        | Gordon K. Davidson                   | Mountain View 179, San Francisco 67, Boise, Idaho 2 (+20)                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>246</b>     | 248              | 82              | 13                     | 6                        |
| 16.                | <b>IRELL &amp; MANELLA</b><br>Los Angeles                                | 18        | David Siegel                         | Los Angeles 182, Newport Beach 52 (+7)                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>234</b>     | 234              | 86              | 12                     | 10                       |
| 17.                | <b>MORGAN, LEWIS<br/>&amp; BOCKIUS</b><br>Philadelphia                   | 22        | Francis M. Milone                    | New York 263, Washington, D.C. 259, Philadelphia 244, San Francisco 103, Los Angeles 89, Foreign Offices 71, Palo Alto 30, Miami 28, Princeton, N.J. 25, Pittsburgh 23, Harrisburg, Pa. 9, Irvine 6 (+26)                                            | <b>228</b>     | 1,161            | 87              | 14                     | 8                        |
| 18.                | <b>THELEN REID &amp; PRIEST</b><br>San Francisco, New York               | 17        | Thomas J. Igoe Jr.                   | San Francisco 142, New York 134, Washington, D.C. 67, Los Angeles 54, San Jose 27, Florham Park, N.J. 6 (+5)                                                                                                                                         | <b>223</b>     | 430              | 105             | 23                     | 6                        |
| 19.                | <b>GORDON &amp; REES</b><br>San Francisco                                | 15        | Michael T. Lucey                     | San Francisco 122, San Diego 62, Los Angeles 19, Newport Beach 11, Sacramento 6, Las Vegas 2 (-39)                                                                                                                                                   | <b>220</b>     | 222              | 56              | 16                     | 5                        |
| 20.                | <b>JONES DAY</b><br>Cleveland                                            | 28        | Stephen J. Brogan                    | Foreign Offices 523, New York 261, Cleveland 260, Washington, D.C. 237, Dallas 174, Chicago 151, Los Angeles 140, Atlanta 130, Columbus, Ohio 83, Pittsburgh 57, Houston 40, San Francisco 29, Irvine 23, Menlo Park 21 (+36)                        | <b>215</b>     | 2,131            | 67              | 11                     | 6                        |
| 20.                | <b>MANATT, PHELPS &amp; PHILLIPS</b><br>Los Angeles                      | 20        | Paul H. Irving                       | Los Angeles 170, New York 61, Palo Alto 27, Washington, D.C. 20, Costa Mesa 11, Sacramento 7, Albany, N.Y. 3, Foreign Offices 1 (-3)                                                                                                                 | <b>215</b>     | 300              | 95              | 15                     | 7                        |
| 22.                | <b>SEDGWICK, DETERT,<br/>MORAN &amp; ARNOLD</b><br>San Francisco         | 16        | Kevin J. Dunne                       | San Francisco 119, Los Angeles 66, New York 47, Chicago 33, Irvine 27, Dallas 25, Newark, N.J. 22, Foreign Offices 6 (-22)                                                                                                                           | <b>212</b>     | 345              | 67              | 13                     | 2                        |
| 23.                | <b>ALLEN MATKINS LECK<br/>GAMBLE &amp; MALLORY</b><br>Los Angeles        | 24        | Brian C. Leck                        | Los Angeles 55, Irvine 51, San Diego 26, Century City 21, San Francisco 37, Del Mar Heights 8 (-2)                                                                                                                                                   | <b>198</b>     | 198              | 101             | 12                     | 2                        |
| 24.                | <b>SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN<br/>&amp; WOOD</b><br>Chicago                     | 25        | Thomas A. Cole<br>Charles W. Douglas | Chicago 494, New York 376, Washington, D.C. 223, Foreign Offices 182, Los Angeles 150, San Francisco 44, Dallas 24 (+7)                                                                                                                              | <b>194</b>     | 1,493            | 70              | 15                     | 10                       |
| 25.                | <b>QUINN EMANUEL<br/>URQUHART OLIVER<br/>&amp; HEDGES</b><br>Los Angeles | 26        | John B. Quinn                        | Los Angeles 147, New York 30, San Francisco 24, Redwood Shores 20, Indian Wells 1, San Diego 1 (+11)                                                                                                                                                 | <b>193</b>     | 222              | 56              | 10                     | 8                        |

\*19 attorneys split their time equally between two offices. \*\*Last year’s numbers reflect those of Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes & Lerach, which split into two firms earlier this year.

| RANK AND FIRM NAME                                                           | LAST RANK | CHAIR                                                     | OFFICES/LAWYERS (CHANGE IN CALIFORNIA SINCE JULY 2003)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | CALIF. LAWYERS | FIRMWIDE LAWYERS | CALIF. PARTNERS | CALIF. FEMALE PARTNERS | CALIF. MINORITY PARTNERS |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                                                              |           |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                |                  |                 |                        |                          |
| 26. REED SMITH<br>Pittsburgh                                                 | 21        | Gregory B. Jordan                                         | Pittsburgh 204, Philadelphia 122, Washington, D.C. 85, Foreign Offices 79, Oakland 64, Falls Church, Va. 57, New York 83, San Francisco 56, Princeton, N.J. 57, Los Angeles 45, Century City 22, Richmond, Va. 19, Newark, N.J. 11, Harrisburg, Penn. 8, Leesburg, Va. 8, Wilmington, Del. 7, Westlake Village 1 (-15)                                                 | 188            | 928              | 85              | 18                     | 7                        |
| 27. LITTLER MENDELSON<br>San Francisco                                       | 29        | Wesley Fastiff, Wendy Tice-Wallner                        | San Francisco 69, Los Angeles 37, Chicago 28, San Jose 22, Dallas 20, Houston 20, New York 18, San Diego 17, Washington, D.C. 15, Philadelphia 14, Minneapolis 14, Pittsburgh 12, Miami 12, Phoenix 11, Walnut Creek 10, Atlanta 10, Colombus, Ohio 10, Las Vegas 9, Newark, N.J. 9, Sacramento 8, Fresno 8, Denver 8, Charlotte, N.C. 7, Seattle 6, Reno, Nev. 4 (-3) | 171            | 405              | 86              | 26                     | 8                        |
| 27. LUCE, FORWARD, HAMILTON & SCRIPPS<br>San Diego                           | 23        | Robert J. Bell                                            | San Diego 115, Del Mar 23, San Francisco 18, Los Angeles 15 (-30)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 171            | 171              | 92              | 16                     | 2                        |
| 29. SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER & FLOM<br>New York                         | 27        | Robert C. Sheehan                                         | New York 771, Washington, D.C. 230, Foreign Offices 181, Chicago 162, Los Angeles 108, Wilmington, Del. 49, Boston 39, Palo Alto 39, San Francisco 19, Houston 21, (-14)                                                                                                                                                                                               | 166            | 1,619            | 44              | 5                      | 5                        |
| 30. JEFFER, MANGELS, BUTLER & MARMARO<br>Los Angeles                         | 31        | Bruce P. Jeffer                                           | Los Angeles 133, San Francisco 28 (+4)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 161            | 161              | 77              | 12                     | 2                        |
| 31. McDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY<br>Chicago                                       | 32        | Harvey W. Freishtat                                       | Chicago 253, Washington, D.C. 208, Foreign Offices 147, New York 116, Boston 80, Los Angeles 80, Palo Alto 41, Irvine 34, Miami 17, San Diego 4 (+3)                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 159            | 980              | 97              | 18                     | 16                       |
| 32. LAUGHLIN, FALBO, LEVY & MORESI<br>San Francisco                          | 37        | John Bennett                                              | San Francisco 32, Anaheim 20, Pasadena 20, Oakland 17, Sacramento 15, San Jose 13, San Diego 13, Redding 8, Fresno 6, San Bernardino 6, Santa Monica 8 (+12)                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 158            | 158              | 36              | 10                     | 3                        |
| 33. KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR<br>Irvine                                  | 34        | James Bear                                                | Irvine 103, San Diego 34, San Francisco 9, Los Angeles 7, Riverside 3, San Luis Obispo 1 (+6)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 157            | 157              | 66              | 10                     | 6                        |
| 34. BEST BEST & KRIEGER<br>Riverside                                         | 35        | John D. Wahlin                                            | Riverside 78, San Diego 25, Indian Wells 16, Sacramento 16, Irvine 13, Ontario 8 (+6)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 156            | 156              | 68              | 11                     | 6                        |
| 35. FOLEY & LARDNER<br>Chicago                                               | 33        | Ralf Böer                                                 | Milwaukee 226, Chicago 145, Washington, D.C. 151, Los Angeles 60, Madison, Wis. 64, San Diego 44, San Francisco 42, Orlando, Fla. 37, Detroit 34, Jacksonville, Fla. 33, Tampa Bay, Fla. 33, New York 11, Tallahassee, Fla. 7, West Palm Beach, Fla. 6, Silicon Valley 5, Sacramento 4, Foreign Offices 2 (+1)                                                         | 155            | 900              | 60              | 13                     | WND                      |
| 35. MUNGER, TOLLES & OLSON<br>Los Angeles                                    | 30        | Robert K. Johnson<br>R. Gregory Morgan                    | Los Angeles 130, San Francisco 25 (-7)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 155            | 155              | 86              | 11                     | 8                        |
| 37. TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW<br>San Francisco                          | 49        | James G. Gilliland Jr.                                    | San Francisco 79, Palo Alto 52, Denver 19, Walnut Creek 9, Seattle 4, San Diego 7 (+26)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 147            | 170              | 71              | 11                     | 10                       |
| 38. BUCHALTER, NEMER, FIELDS & YOUNGER<br>Los Angeles                        | 39        | Rick Cohen                                                | Los Angeles 91, San Francisco 30, Newport Beach 20 (+5)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 141            | 141              | 58              | 11                     | 3                        |
| 39. HOWREY SIMON ARNOLD & WHITE<br>Washington, D.C.                          | 36        | Robert F. Ruyak                                           | Washington, D.C. 260, Houston 68, Los Angeles 67, Foreign Offices 47, Menlo Park 36, Chicago 21, San Francisco 19, Irvine 18, (-9)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 140            | 536              | 62              | 15                     | 8                        |
| 40. SONNENSCHN EIN NATH & ROSENTHAL<br>Chicago                               | 40        | Duane C. Quaini                                           | Chicago 219, New York 128, Washington, D.C. 83, San Francisco 73, Los Angeles 65, Kansas City 60, St. Louis 46, Short Hills, N.J. 4, West Palm Beach, Fla., 1 (+10)                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 138            | 679              | 66              | 19                     | 6                        |
| 40. SEYFARTH SHAW<br>Chicago                                                 | 46        | Andrew R. Laidlaw                                         | Chicago 252, Los Angeles 72, Boston 61, Atlanta 50, San Francisco 50, Washington, D.C. 48, New York 39, Houston 22, Sacramento 16, Foreign Offices 2 (+15)                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 138            | 612              | 58              | 11                     | 3                        |
| 40. RUTAN & TUCKER<br>Costa Mesa                                             | 43        | Jeffrey Oderman                                           | Costa Mesa 138 (+11)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 138            | 138              | 71              | 7                      | 3                        |
| 43. KIRKLAND & ELLIS<br>Chicago                                              | NL        | Thomas D. Yannucci                                        | Chicago 448, New York 186, Washington, D.C. 124, Los Angeles 101<br>Foreign Offices 34, San Francisco 32 (NA)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 133            | 925              | 50              | 9                      | 4                        |
| 44. NOSSAMAN GUTHNER KNOX & ELLIOTT<br>Los Angeles                           | 44        | Scott P. DeVries                                          | Los Angeles 50, San Francisco 41, Irvine 29, Sacramento 10, Washington, D.C. 2 (+4)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 130            | 132              | 59              | 11                     | 5                        |
| 45. CHRISTENSEN, MILLER, FINK, JACOBS, GLASER, WEIL & SHAPIRO<br>Los Angeles | 40        | Terry Christensen                                         | Los Angeles 128 (no change)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 128            | 128              | 26              | 8                      | 2                        |
| 46. STRADLING YOCCA CARLSON & RAUTH<br>Newport Beach                         | 45        | Craig Carlson                                             | Newport Beach 115, San Francisco 8, Santa Barbara 2 (+1)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 125            | 125              | 46              | 6                      | 2                        |
| 46. FARELLA BRAUN + MARTEL<br>San Francisco                                  | 50        | William J. Schlinkert                                     | San Francisco 121, St. Helena 4 (+5)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 125            | 125              | 59              | 12                     | 4                        |
| 48. MITCHELL SILBERBERG & KNUPP<br>Los Angeles                               | 46        | Thomas Lambert                                            | Los Angeles 121, Washington, D.C. 2 (-2)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 121            | 123              | 54              | 6                      | 0                        |
| 49. LERACH COUGHLIN STOIA & ROBBINS<br>San Diego                             | 46        | P. Coughlin, H. Hodges,<br>W. Lerach D. Robbins, J. Stoia | San Diego 91, San Francisco 24, Los Angeles 5, Houston 3<br>Phliadelphia 2, Washington, D.C. 1 (-3)**                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 120            | 126              | 49              | 11                     | 4                        |
| 49. HANSON, BRIDGETT, MARCUS, VLAHOS & RUDY<br>San Francisco                 | 50        | Andrew G. Giacomini                                       | San Francisco 108, Sacramento 8, Larkspur 4 (+3)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 120            | 120              | 60              | 16                     | 6                        |

Source: The firms. Information compiled by Claire Borthwick. WND = would not disclose. NL = not listed. NA = not applicable