

Daily Journal

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TOP 100 LAWYERS IN CALIFORNIA 2019

BERNARD ALEXANDER, MARYALEXANDER, CRISTINA C. ARGUEDAS, MIKE ARIAS, AHILAN T. ARULANANTHAM, MICHAEL W. BIEN, THEODORE J. BOUTROUS, JR., KEVIN BOYLE, KIMBERLY BRANSCOME, BRAD D. BRIAN, JOSHUA BRIONES, BRUCE BRUNNEN, HANNAH SUZANNE BROOME, ELIZABETH J. CABRASER, DAVID S. CASEY, JR., MORGAN CHU, RICK CLIMAN, JOSEPH W. COTCHETT, CARISSA COZE, ROBYN C. CROWTHER, ALAN DENENBERG, HARMEET K. DILLON, JEFFREY DIGGS, JEFFREY DINTZER, JIMMY DUMAS, BRIAN DUNN, MICHAEL ESQUIVEL, KEITH FLAUM, DANA FOX, ERIC M. GEORGE, THOMAS V. GIRARDI, PATRICIA L. GLASER, ARTURO GONZALEZ, JAMES HERMLE, KAREN P. HENNING, THOMAS W. HILTIAG, COLLEEN HOLTSCHER, JOHN HUSTON, MARTIN J. KIN, ROBERT J. KOEZNER, BRIAN S. KABATECK, STEVEN KAUFMANN, RON KAYE, JAMES KERR, CHARLIE KIM, JAMES KING, KENNETH KLEINBERG, M. KOEY, ERIC KOEY, MICHAEL L. KUMF, STEPHEN G. LARSON, JASON LEE, MARK LEMLEY, ROBERT F. LEWIS, GARY S. LINCENBERG, CHRISTOPHER LOVRIEN, JENNIFER LYNN KELLER, KATHLEEN DANIEL D. MCMILLAN, RAPHAEL METZGER, DARRELL D. MILLER, SEAN MORRIS, ANN MARIE MORTIMER, ANTON N. NATSIS, NANCIE E. NISHIMURA, GREGORY L. OLSON, BRIAN PARRIS, ANDREW C. PARRIS, BRIAN PARRIS, JAMES PARRIS, NSIF, ELLIOT LEFF, DAVID E. LOCE, JAMES L. MANN, S. PUTZ, ALAN R. ROSENBERG, MICHAEL S. RINGLER, ROBINSON, JR., HEATHER S. ROSENBERG, JAMES R. RUBIN, KELLI L. SAGER, NANCY SARACINO, JOSEPH R. SAVERI, KEVIN HENKMAN, ROMAN SILBERFELD, BRUCE L. SIMON, QUYEN TA, MATTHEW THOMPSON, ROBERT VAN NEST, PETER H. WATSON, BART H. WILLIAMS, SHAWNA A. WILLIAMS, DAVID WILLINGHAM, DONNA L. WILSON, DEBRA WONG YANG, MICHAEL WORONOFF

LITIGATION

ARTURO J. GONZÁLEZ

MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP | SAN FRANCISCO

SPECIALTY: COMMERCIAL LITIGATION, TRIALS

González, the chair of Morrison & Foerster’s commercial litigation and trial practice group, specializes in high-stakes, bet-the-company cases. Recent highlights include his representation last year of Uber Technologies Inc. in its \$1.6 billion showdown with Google Inc. over autonomous vehicles in what some called the trade secrets trial of the century. For client VMWare Inc. in 2018 he won a unanimous jury verdict on \$110 million in patent infringement claims by Phoenix Technologies Ltd.

That’s all alongside González’ active pro bono practice. He’s worked on several civil rights cases involving police brutality claims, many of them centered in California’s Central Valley, where he was raised working the fields by immigrant parents who spoke little English. González became the first in his family to attend college; he was MoFo’s only Latino attorney when he joined the firm in 1985 and later became its first Latino partner.

It was at Harvard Law School that he got set on his path, González said, when the labor leader and civil rights activist César Chavez spoke at a campus event.

“I told him I had been a farm worker and asked him what I should do with my law degree,” González said. “I though

he’d ask me to come work for him, but he told me I should go to one of the big firms with no Latinos and work to be the best in the firm.”

This year González won the American Bar Association’s Pro Bono Publico Award for outstanding commitment to volunteer legal services for the poor and disadvantaged.

A key current case is that of J.A., a teenage Mexican citizen shot and killed on his side of the border by a U.S. Border Patrol agent standing on American soil. González represents the boy’s mother as she seeks damages from the agent; the legal question is whether the agent merits immunity from the suit. In August 2018 a 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel denied the agent immunity and let the mother’s suit proceed, clashing with a 5th Circuit opinion in favor of the agent. The agent’s petition for certiorari is pending at the *U.S. Supreme Court*. *Swartz v Rodriguez*, 18-309 (S.Ct., petition filed Sept. 7, 2018).

If the high court agrees the case should move forward, it would be the first case to proceed to trial in a case where the



border patrol killed a foreign citizen on foreign soil.

“The case cries out for justice,” González said. “If ever there was a case I wanted to try, this is it. Someone’ got to stick up for this mother. I’ve got three sons myself.”

— John Roemer