



The Daily Transcript congratulates Top Attorneys 2007

It is the culmination of a lengthy peer voting process that began in February with the announcement of a call for nominations. San Diego County lawyers were asked who among their peers -- with whom they had professional experience -- were worthy of recognition.

What is Top Attorneys?

The Transcript conducts a peer voting process to determine the best lawyers in private, corporate, academic and government practice in San Diego County in key categories. The categories have been selected to represent the main areas of law practiced in San Diego County.

Who is eligible?

Lawyers in private, public, contracts or Federal patent practice that are licensed in the State of California and/or the Federal Patent bench. Lawyers in good standing with the California State Bar that have not had any disciplinary actions leveled against them at any time in the past.

How are the practice areas determined?

Although the categories are very broad, they were created to reflect the primary practice areas in San Diego County. We recognize that there are many specialty practice areas among San Diego attorneys, but cannot accommodate them all. Many specialty practice areas fall under the existing general categories - for an in-depth look at the categories, please see the **Practice Areas Examples**. If there is an overwhelming request for additional practice areas, they will be considered for possible inclusion in next year's Top Attorneys.

How are nominations obtained?

E-mail invitations are sent to lawyers listed in the San Diego Attorney Directory. Contact us to add or update your e-mail listing. Call for nomination notices or also advertise in *The Daily Transcript* in print and online.

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PROFILE

Thomas Monson



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Thomas Monson

Education

Law School/Year: California Western School of Law, 1979
College/Year: California State University at Humboldt, 1973

Bar Admissions

California

Practice Areas

Business Litigation, Civil Litigation, Probate & Trust, Real Estate

Major Cases

In *Ertel v. Dr. Gerald Kersenbrock*, a jury awarded Ertel \$3.38 million dollars against Kersenbrock, the former President of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, for seducing Ertel's wife while she was his patient. In 1990, I represented former Los Angeles Laker Stan Love in a petition to be appointed conservator for his cousin, Beach Boy Brian Wilson. In 1999, I filed an ERISA class action on behalf of the paramedics of the San Diego Fire Department for their retirement and medical benefits. In 2006 I represented the former girlfriend of San Diego City Attorney Michael Aguirre in a lawsuit over the ownership of a house that Aguirre had quit claimed as a gift to her.

Professional Background

I joined my present firm in 1974 as a second year law clerk. I am now the senior partner of the firm.

Professional Affiliations

Member, San Diego County Bar Association; Past Chairman of the San Diego County Lawyer Referral Program 1991-1992; Member, Consumer Attorneys of San Diego; Member, Consumer Attorneys of California; Member, Association of Trial Lawyers of America; Chairman of the ERISA/Employee Benefits Litigation Group from 1992 to 2005

Personal Affiliations

I am an officer and member of the board of directors of the Century Club of San Diego. The Century Club is a charitable organization that puts on the Buick Invitational Golf Tournament at Torrey Pines and raised over \$2 million dollars for charities in 2007.

Personal Background

I am married and have four children. I am an avid golfer, having played in the Buick Invitational Pro Am with such notable golfers as Tiger Woods, Tom Lehman, Peter Jacobsen, Rory Sabatini and Justin Rose.