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TOP 100 LAWYERS IN CALIFORNIA

EDITORS' NOTE

From the mortgage crisis to the Gulf oil spill to virtually every major intellectual property dispute, California lawyers are playing leading roles. But they don't just clean up big messes. They secure funding and regulatory approval for cutting-edge developments in water, energy, technology and biotechnology that are the promise of the future.

We aim for this list to be a kaleidoscope of the California legal scene. There are divorce attorneys and public finance lawyers, prosecutors and criminal defenders and much, much more.

We reviewed hundreds of nominations from members of the legal community and from our own editors and reporters to compile this list. It is never an easy task — the list isn't long enough — but it is fun. Read on. We know you'll enjoy learning about these people as much as we did.

— The Editors



ROBERT LEVINS / DAILY JOI

KEITH G. BREMER

Bremer was minutes away from winning a summary judgment motion not long ago that would have seen his client dropped as a defendant in a catastrophic personal injury case worth \$10 million or more.

Instead, he settled with the plaintiff.

Most lawyers would have taken the win and then “pounded their chest” about it, Bremer said. “How many win a summary judgment and then continue negotiations to resolve the case?”

But that's what Bremer did, and his client paid a relatively small amount — \$375,000 to a young man who had lost both legs and his genitals in a gang-style shooting. It proved to be a smart move, because another defendant's summary judgment victory later was reversed. *Steward v. C.F. Adventurra*, SCVSS145226 (San Bernardino Super. Ct., filed Dec. 22, 2006)

Bremer's goal throughout the case was to get his client out of it as soon as possible.

That fits his 82-lawyer firm's general approach. “Our methodology is to work a file as fast as possible,” he said.

Whether handling a trip-and-fall, a construction defect suit or a family law matter, they are aggressive in trying to reach the conclusion expeditiously, according to Bremer.

But that doesn't mean they settle when they shouldn't. Bremer, who is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, said he has already taken two cases through to jury verdicts this year.

The case is now awaiting trial.

KEITH G. BREMER

Bremer Whyte Brown & O'Meara LLP
Newport Beach

Practice type: Litigation

Specialty: Construction defect, plaintiff personal injury, general litigation

— Don J. DeBenedictis