

Twenty
under
forty
40
attorneys
lawyers
California
top 20 attorneys
20
Blake Lawit
Erin Bosman
Saul Breskal
Maria Rodriguez
Christopher Dusseault
Joshua G. Hamilton
J. Warren Rissier
Robert N. Klieger
Shaalu Mehra
James D. (Jimmy) Nguyen
Dean Fealk
20 King
Conal Doyle
Richard K. (Rick) Welsh
David Willingham
Leif B.
Mika Mayer
Ramzi Abadou
Brett J. Rodda
Joanna L. Fawzy Morales
Jessica Nall

Top 20 Under 40

EDITOR'S NOTE

Sorting... Navigating... Leading...

- Sorting out a pharmaceutical company's duty to monitor off-label use of its drugs
- Putting together contracts for the largest construction project in the nation in five years
- Working to overturn California's gay marriage ban
- Leading the equity practice of one of the world's largest law firms
- Navigating the legal rights of cancer patients

These are a few of the issues being tackled by those on our 2010 list of top California lawyers under age 40.

Finding standouts among a group of exceptional people is never easy. We reviewed 150 eligible nominations this year. There were many impressive candidates; these 20 were a cut above. They found a way to make an impact on the world outside their sphere. One didn't just defend a lawsuit for a client but works to change the law so that other companies wouldn't face a similar suit. Another takes time from his practice putting together marquee transactions for corporate clients to help a nonprofit start a grocery store in an under-served area of Oakland. This is exceptionalism at its best. We urge you to read on and get to know these people.

— The Editors

Ramzi Abadou	3	Mika Mayer	10
Erin Bosman	4	Shaalu Mehra	10
Saul Breskal	4	Joanna L. Fawzy Morales	11
Conal Doyle	5	Jessica Nall	12
Christopher Dusseault	6	James D. (Jimmy) Nguyen	13
Dean Fealk	6	J. Warren Rissier	13
Joshua G. Hamilton	7	Brett J. Rodda	14
Leif B. King	8	Maria Rodriguez	14
Robert N. Klieger	8	Richard K. (Rick) Welsh	15
Blake Lawit	9	David Willingham	16

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Top 20 Under 40



Joanna L. Fawzy Morales 33

**DISABILITY RIGHTS LEGAL CENTER
LOS ANGELES**

NONPROFIT
Health care, health access

As director of the nation's only legal resource center devoted to assisting cancer patients, Morales oversaw legal aid for 4,000 callers this year.

Some clients are denied government benefits related to cancer treatments. Others don't know how to obtain time-off from work while they battle the disease. Some simply need legal help arranging their estate or custody of their children while preparing for the worst.

Although the cases rarely involve litigation, they cover a wide array of complex legal issues for clients who may not have time to delay, or anywhere else to turn.

"Typically these things don't lend themselves to being resolved by litigation in any timely way," Morales says. "Our purpose is to provide information and resources to all people coping with cancer... so they have an understanding of what their rights are."

In 2009, she was chosen as the National Public Policy Advocate of the Year by Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

Morales joined the center, which is part of Loyola Law School's Disability Rights Legal Center, as a student intern in 2000 before she was hired full-time as an attorney in 2002.

Under her leadership, the Cancer Legal Resource Center has gained prominence for its national outreach and association with the American Cancer Society. The group was also awarded a 3-year grant from the Lance Armstrong

Foundation for an awareness campaign that will include the first ever Cancer Rights Conference for Healthcare Professionals in 2010 in Chicago.

— Evan George

Some clients are denied government benefits related to cancer treatments.