

# TRANSCRIPT



## First Class

A pioneering student group helps first-generation professionals find their footing at Berkeley Law. **PAGE 20**

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**KEN KING '87**

# Yen for Travel: Ken King's Globalization

It's 3 a.m., and Ken King '87 is wide awake. Exhausted and sleepless, his internal clock is still set for Tokyo, where King—the partner in charge of Skadden Arps' Palo Alto office—has spent the past week helping a client in Japan think through the tactics and structure of a potential multibillion-dollar acquisition of a publicly traded U.S. company.

If practice made perfect, King would leapfrog time zones effortlessly. An international corporate lawyer with a special focus on Japan, he's ping-ponged between California and Tokyo many dozens of times.

King's ocean hopping began well before his law career. He spent two of his college years in Tokyo; after graduating, he worked there for four more years, selling steel pipe worldwide.

Arriving in Berkeley for law school, he brought a love of Japan—plus a love from Japan: his wife, Kuniko, whom he'd met in Tokyo. King alternates between countries and cultures fluently. With his Palo Alto colleagues, he speaks English; in Japan—and at home—he prefers Japanese.

His cross-cultural experience has strongly shaped his law practice, which includes cross-border mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, restructurings, and other transactions. "Working in any non-U.S. environment gives you a much better perspective on legal systems," King says, "particularly the challenges of multiple jurisdictions. It gives you the ability to approach deals flexibly—to look first for the business objectives, then for how to achieve them within a given legal regime."

That perspective proved especially useful last year while advising Nokia on the \$7.2 billion sale of its mobile phone business. "Nokia has facilities around the world," he says. "That transaction spanned multiple countries and legal systems."



King gives Berkeley Law high marks for training students to think analytically and solve problems. He speaks not just as an alum, but as someone closely involved with the school's Berkeley Center for Law, Business, and the Economy (BCLBE). A BCLBE advisory board member since 2006, he sees his service as a way to give back, sharing real-world, whole-world expertise. "I'm a big believer in the school," he offers. "Its mission—especially its public-education mission—is important."

That belief also prompted King to serve in February on the selection panel for the new Berkeley Law Opportunity Scholarship program, which offers full tuition and fees for three years to first-generation professional students. "I helped interview eight students," he recalls. "All were the first in their families to go to college, let alone to professional school. They were all compelling, smart, and articulate, with inspiring stories about the challenges they'd overcome. I'd hire every one of them." —Jon Jefferson

and communications, and social services. Henry is recognized by all the major lawyer-ranking organizations, including Chambers USA, *Best Lawyers*, *Super Lawyers*, and Martindale-Hubbell.

**Brian Haughton**, an environmental partner at Barg Coffin Lewis & Trapp, was named to the 2014 *Northern California Super Lawyers* list. Published annually by Thomson Reuters, the list's selection process includes a statewide survey of lawyers, an independent research evaluation of candidates based on peer recognition, and professional achievement and peer reviews by practice area. No more than 5 percent of eligible lawyers in Northern California receive the distinction.

**1985**  
**Marc Zeppetello**, another environmental partner at Barg Coffin Lewis & Trapp, was also named to the 2014 *Northern California Super Lawyers* list.

**1986**  
**Nancy Fineman**, a principal at Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, helped her firm secure a \$1.15 billion verdict on behalf of several California counties and cities in *People of the State of California et al. v. Atlantic Richfield Co. et al.* The lawsuit, which took 13

years to resolve, accused several of the country's lead paint makers and the companies that acquired them of harming children who ate paint flakes that peeled and chipped off surfaces of aging homes.

**Andrés Rivero** is a partner at Rivero Mestre, which won two major awards in 2014: One bestowed by Chevron for the firm's commitment to diversity, and the other from *The American Lawyer* for the firm's work on an \$18 billion fraud case. The latter Global Legal Award is given to law offices that play a substantial role in distinguished cross-border work across a wide range of disciplines. Rivero Mestre is one of a small number of minority-owned law firms in the United States that practices complex commercial litigation, including international litigation and arbitration.

**1988**  
**Damon Connolly** was elected to the Marin County Board of Supervisors and began his term in January. He has served in several public policy positions, including chair of the Marin Energy Authority's Board of Directors, vice mayor and city council member in San Rafael, and president of San Rafael's Dixie School District Board. A certified mediator, Damon was a partner at Girard

Gibbs before starting his own practice in 2008. As a supervising deputy attorney general for California, he prosecuted energy companies that engaged in fraudulent practices. Those efforts resulted in a \$1.6 billion settlement, the largest of its kind.

**1994**  
**Joseph Quinn III** was appointed to a judgeship in San Francisco County Superior Court in March. He had been a partner at Hanson Bridgett since 2010. Joseph was principal and chair of the appellate practice group at Meyers Nave from 2003 to 2010, and an associate at Howard, Rice, Nemerovski, Canady, Falk & Rabkin from 2001 to 2003. Before that, he was a principal trial attorney at the San Francisco City Attorney's Office; a law clerk for U.S. District Court Judge Eugene Lynch in the Northern District of California; an associate at Jackson, Tufts, Cole & Black; and a trial attorney at the Federal Defenders of San Diego. Joseph has also taught as an adjunct professor at Golden Gate University School of Law since 2010, and previously was an adjunct professor at St. Mary's College of California.

**1995**  
**Gideon Kracov** chairs the State Bar of California's

Environmental Law Section Executive Committee. Elected by his peers, he leads education and program activities for the section's 2,500-plus members. A solo practitioner in Los Angeles, Gideon represents clients in civil law, and environmental and land use cases, including high-stakes litigation and complex regulatory matters. He is a *Los Angeles Magazine* Southern California Super Lawyer, a designation limited to the top 5 percent of lawyers in the region. In 2009, the *Daily Journal* named him one of the top 20 lawyers under age 40 in California. Earlier this year, Governor Jerry Brown appointed Gideon chair of California's State Mining & Geology Board, which oversees the state's interests in seismic hazards, mineral resources, and reclamation of mining lands.



**1997**  
**Jess Bravin** received a 2014 ABA Silver Gavel Award for his book, *The Terror Courts: Rough Justice at Guantanamo*

*Bay*. A reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*, Jess was presented the award at the National Press Club. Among those attending was Jeffrey Bleich '89, a former U.S. Ambassador to Australia, who was one of Jess's instructors at Berkeley Law.



**1999**  
**Ricardo Ochoa** was honored by the Center on Policy Initiatives as a "Responsible Business Owner" for his law firm's role in helping to advance economic equity for working people. Ricardo is a founding partner of Ochoa Legal Group, a San Diego labor firm dedicated to advancing, supporting, and defending labor unions and their members.

**Tirien Steinbach** will co-chair the planning committee for the 2016 Association of American Law School's Clinical Section Conference in New York City. The executive director of Berkeley Law's East Bay Community Law Center, the East Bay's largest provider of free legal services, Tirien