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Litigation

Top Firms

- Girardi & Keese
- Munger, Tolles & Olson
- Quinn Emanuel Urquhart Oliver & Hedges



THOMAS V. GIRARDI

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Girardi & Keese

This has been a banner year for **Thomas V. Girardi** and his 28-attorney plaintiffs' firm Girardi & Keese, starting with the \$1.87 billion settlement in the Sempra Energy case in January.

The firm touts an experienced roster; nearly half of the lawyers are members of American Board of Trial Advocates, an organization that requires its members to take 20 trials to verdict. Not surprisingly, though, the firm revolves around the high-profile Girardi.

"In addition to being a zealous advocate for his clients, Tom is also a strong defender of the independence of the judicial branch of government," said state Sen. Joe Dunn, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Dunn also pointed out that Girardi is willing to take on cases that he believes in, even if they might puzzle his colleagues. This dynamic is illustrated by Girardi's representation of a Tulsa-based firm suing the famous securities plaintiffs' attorney William Lerach for a share of attorney fees related to Enron litigation.

Munger, Tolles & Olson

People often describe the genteel, cerebral Munger, Tolles & Olson as a "lawyer's law firm." With its cadre of well-credentialed

litigators -- nearly two-thirds of the firm's 181 attorneys attended Ivy League schools, and one in 10 clerked at the U.S. Supreme Court -- the firm services a first-class list of clients, highlighted by Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway, Edison International and Southern California Edison, United Talent Agency, Boeing, G.E., Phillip Morris, and Northrop Grumman.

The firm's litigation section is anchored by the likes of **Gregory P. Stone, Ronald L. Olson, Brad D. Brian** and **Bart H. Williams**.

Safeway Inc. general counsel Bob Gordon said Stone is "an excellent litigator who is very attuned to cost efficiency" and who "knows our business and has been a trusted counselor for



JOHN B. QUINN

years."

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart Oliver & Hedges

Quinn Emanuel sports a hard-earned reputation as an aggressive, sharp-elbowed operation willing to go to trial on behalf of plaintiffs or defendants.

"Quinn has been firing on all cylinders for a significant period of time, focusing entirely on large-scale litigation," said Rick Kolodny, president of the legal search firm The Portfolio Group.

Its latest colossal case involves representing the Italian government administrator of Par-

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