

# Daily Journal

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## TOP 25 PLAINTIFF LAWYERS

Let's face it, plaintiff lawyers add the bling to the legal industry. But too often, we in the media focus on the large monetary judgments and settlements their cases garner and on their big personalities — in and out of the courtroom. We don't pay enough attention to the public and corporate policy changes their cases bring about.

In this inaugural issue, we tried to change that.

We selected just 25 California plaintiff lawyers to honor. We could have honored more but, in our opinion, these are the ones who consistently force broad change in the law, industry and society. Some are well-known, like Elizabeth Cabraser, Joseph Cotchett and Tom Girardi, and others are relative upstarts like Lawrance Bohm, whose eye-popping employment-related verdicts have grabbed us by

the proverbial lapels and forced us to pay attention.

As you read about these men and women, there is a common thread — and it doesn't have dollar signs; they truly care about having an impact. The work they are doing to hold governments and industry accountable will last long after the bling has dimmed.

— The Editors

### 2015 • TOP • PLAINTIFF • LAWYER

David  
Lira

Girardi | Keese

Los Angeles

SPECIALTIES: Wrongful  
death and catastrophic  
injury

Alexander Dreurn / Special to the Daily Journal



“Premises liability cases are some of the most difficult cases a lawyer can handle, especially if there is an intervening criminal act, as we had in this case,” said Lira about his representation of Bryan Stow. Stow, a San Francisco Giants fan brutally beaten by two Dodgers’ fans at Dodgers’s Stadium in 2011, won a \$17.9 million verdict in July 2014. Stow suffered permanent brain injury and other serious injuries. Stow’s attackers are serving prison sentences for their savage beating of the San Francisco Giants fan.

Lira said he was honored to have tried a case that will have an

impact beyond helping his client. Owners of sports venues are taking hard looks at their security plans following this verdict, he said. *Stow v. Los Angeles Dodgers LLC et al.*, BC462127 (L.A. County Sup. Ct., filed May 24, 2011).

He also advocates for requiring charter busses to have seatbelts. Lira has represented many clients badly injured or killed on charter bus tours, securing a \$30 million settlement in one case. He said he hopes his advocacy will bring about positive change to the industry.

— Hetert-Qebu Walters