

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Super Lawyers<sup>®</sup>

superlawyers.com

2007

## The Top Attorneys in Southern California

### Taking Down an American Icon

Larry Feldman vs. the King of Pop

### Ms. Glacier, I Presume?

Patricia Glaser plays hardball

### The Early Bird

Sorrell Trope gets the worm (and Nicole Kidman, Cary Grant, etc.)

### The Survivor

John Schulman's two decades (and counting) as general counsel for Warner Bros.

LAW & POLITICS

and the publishers of

Los Angeles  
MAGAZINE



**A**s a boy, Thomas V. Girardi admired the great attorneys of fiction—the commanding courtroom presence of Perry Mason, the thoughtful sincerity of Atticus Finch in *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

He went on to found Girardi & Keese, the real-life firm which argued the case against Pacific Gas & Electric for contaminating the water in Hinckley, Calif., a suit made famous in the movie *Erin Brockovich*.

Helping flesh-and-blood people is a cor-

nerstone for Girardi, named among the Top 10 in the 2007 *Southern California Super Lawyers*® list. Girardi & Keese specializes in commercial litigation, product liability, toxic torts and bad faith cases, and has won billions of dollars for clients by taking on such corporate giants as DuPont, Exxon and Unocal.

"They hate to see our name on a complaint," he says.

A recent victory is a \$1.8 billion class action suit against Sempra Energy, the

utility accused of conspiring to limit supplies and drive up prices. In an era rife with corporate misdeeds, Girardi says lawyers who go after companies that wrong consumers and employees also serve as the watchdogs of society.

"If you look at our cases, most of them have a moral tinge to them," he says.

**DEDICATED PROFESSIONALS** Of the 32 attorneys who staff offices in Los

## WE PROTECT PEOPLE BECAUSE GOVERNMENT AND CORPORATIONS DON'T.

Angeles and San Bernardino, nine have been named to the American Board of Trial Advocates, a select group of only 5,000 attorneys nationwide. Girardi also serves as president of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

"Everybody here works like a dog—and at the end of the day, they work some more to promote the general good

of our profession," he says.

Among the firm's other attorneys on the *Super Lawyers* list is Amy F. Solomon, who also is listed among the Top 50 Women, in addition to John K. Courtney, John A. Girardi, Robert M. Keese, David R. Lira, Howard B. Miller and James G. O'Callahan.

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