

# WHO'S WHO IN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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## Who's Who in Professional Services

## Trusted legal, accounting professionals in an era of dynamic economic change

Our 2011 edition of Who's Who in Professional Services reminds us just how dynamic the once-staid world of law and accounting has become.

As the only comprehensive look at the professionals who advise tri-county companies, Who's Who in Professional Services is a must-read for anyone trying to start a business, run a business or acquire a company in the region.

But this year's effort comes with its own twist — the shifting tides of the economy have brought many changes to the ranks of law firms and CPA firms. That means this year's update is filled with new information about the movers and shakers in these very important industries.

The dynamic nature of entrepreneurship in our region means that our legal and accounting professionals regularly appear in the top ranks of their statewide or national peers.

To put together this section, we use the Business Times' Top 25 lists to contact the region's top firms. We also solicit nominations from the public.

As in past years, to qualify, an attorney or CPA must have their principal office or place of business within the Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo County region. A qualified candidate also must offer his or her services to a range of clients — we did not consider nominees who are employed as a CFO or general counsel at a single organization.



**HENRY DUBROFF**  
Editor

We select Who's Who candidates based on the quality and quantity of their effort advising clients and we also factor in community outreach efforts and pro bono work.

The section would not be possible without the support of our sponsor, Bartlett, Pringle & Wolf. The section was organized and produced by Special Reports Editor Jim Logan and the cover was produced by Advertising Graphic Designer Elizabeth Nadel.

Our next special report is Champions in Health Care, an exciting new project that makes its debut on May 20.

As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome at [hdubroff@pacbiztimes.com](mailto:hdubroff@pacbiztimes.com).

## Who's inside

### Attorneys

John Ambrecht  
Jessica Arciniega  
Craig K. Beam  
David Bender  
Matthew Berger  
Robert Brace  
James C. Buttery  
S. Timothy Buynak  
Barry Cappello  
Michael Case  
Bart Clemens  
Charles Cohen  
Joe Cole  
William V. Douglass  
Michael Fauver  
Benjamin P. Feld  
Douglas Fell  
Karen L. Gabler  
Douglas Gravelle  
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Tom Hopkins  
Joe Howell  
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Cheri Kurman  
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Dennis LaRochelle

Dennis D. Law  
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Brady Leck  
Jonathan Light  
John Mackall  
Joel Mark  
Laura McAvoy  
Becky McCarthy  
Bruce McRoy  
Kristine Mollenkopf  
J. Roger Myers  
Leila J. Noël  
Phil Panitz  
James Perero  
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Gregory P. Regier  
Brent Reinke  
Robert Saperstein  
Mike Schley  
Nick Schneider  
Mark Sellers  
Steven Sereboff  
Scott Slater  
Bill Smith  
Ian Smith  
Sylvia Soto  
Jean A. St. Martin  
Bret Stone

Herb Stroh  
Joe Strohman  
Timothy J. Trager  
Michael Velthoen  
Monte L. Widders  
William Winfield  
Robert E. Wynner

### CPAs

Trent Benedetti  
Elizabeth Boscacci  
Kathleen Campbell  
Verva Enoch  
Bridget Foreman  
Jeff Harris  
Jeff Hass  
Peter Iannone  
Joseph Lanza  
Carola Nicholson  
Janet Olivera  
Maeda Palius  
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Reed Spangler  
Grace Stalica  
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Who's Who in Professional Services

John Ambrecht, senior partner and founder of Ambrecht & Associates in Montecito, focuses on IRS tax controversies, complex estate planning, multi-state planning, asset protection, family business transition management to help minimize family conflict, international estate tax planning and property taxes.

Joe Cole

Counselor at Law  
Montecito



Ambrecht has won many multimillion-dollar tax cases, organized family businesses for succession or transition, and organized foreign entities for foreign asset protection. Named in the top 100 attorneys in the U.S. by Worth Magazine, he is an author of "For Love & Money — Protecting Family & Wealth in Estate & Succession Planning, Blending Law & Psychology," and he has authored many articles on succession planning. He is a member of The American College of Trust and Estate Counsel.

He has taught for the California State Bar Educational Foundation, the California CPA Foundation, the California State Bar Taxation Section, Golden Gate Uni-

versity and the Internal Revenue Service. He earned his MBA with honors from UCLA, his master's of law in taxation from New York University and his law degree from Loyola Marymount University. He currently serves on the board of the Westmont Foundation.

Jessica Arciniega is an associate attorney with the Ventura County office of Wasserman, Comden, Casselman & Esensten LLP, specializing in employment law, class actions and civil litigation. She joined the firm in 2008.

Arciniega has been active with the Inns of Court, Women Lawyers of Ventura County and the Ventura County Trial Lawyers Association. She was the 2010 president of the Mexican American Bar Association. She serves on the city of Oxnard Mobile Home Rent Review Commission and as a board member of the Mixteco Indigenous Community Organizing Project.

Alan Condren

Seed Mackall  
Santa Barbara



Arciniega was a 2010 winner of the Holly Spevak Award from the Women

Lawyers of Ventura County.

Arciniega was admitted to the California Bar in 2008 and to the U.S. District Court, Central District of California, and the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California in 2009. She earned her bachelor's degree in political science from Pitzer College.

Craig K. Beam is a real estate, land-use and natural resources attorney with Jackson, DeMarco, Tidus & Peckenpaugh's Westlake Village office.

Following law school, he was assistant city attorney of the city of Chula Vista, the second largest city in San Diego County. Beam accepted a partnership at the firm

William V. Douglass

Andre, Morris & Buttery  
San Luis Obispo



of Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps, California's second-oldest law firm in the early 1980s.

Beam joined Jackson, DeMarco, Tidus & Peckenpaugh in 2004, and assists hotel projects, housing projects and industrial parks and is responsible for compliance with all aspects of local, state and federal laws affecting their development.

Beam is a member of the Real Property, Environmental and Public Law Sections of the California Bar and was formerly an Advisor to the Real Property Section of the California Bar.

His pro bono activities have included assisting in obtaining permits to create an artificial reef using a de-commissioned Canadian destroyer, "Project Yukon." He's also been a member of the Scripps Institute of Oceanographic "Advocates" and the city of San Diego Wetlands Advisory Board.

Beam lives in Ojai and is an avid pilot, scuba diver and photographer.

David Bender is a managing partner of Anderson Kill Wood & Bender P.C.,

Michael Fauver

Buynak & Fauver  
Santa Barbara



the firm created in 2009 when Ventura-based Wood & Bender merged with New York-based Anderson Kill & Olick P.C.. Bender is also on the firm's management executive committee.

Bender, who founded Wood & Bender with David Wood, was previously a partner in the Los Angeles office of the na-

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## Who's Who in Professional Services

tional law firm Epstein, Becker & Green. He specializes in policy enforcement — representing companies who are seeking payment of claims from their insurance companies.

In one case, he won a \$25 million settlement for a Fortune 500 company. He also practices commercial, environmental and employment litigation. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and a law degree from Southwestern University. He serves on the board of trustees for Holy Cross College, the board of directors for Ventura County Boy Scouts and the board of directors for the Ojai Valley Little League.

Matthew Berger is the founder and principal attorney of the Matthew I. Berger Law Group. The firm serves a culturally and economically diverse clientele, including small businesses and entrepreneurs, larger international and local corporations, nonprofit organizations, and individuals, with its principal office in Santa Barbara County.

The firm's major practice areas include intellectual property, business organization formation, operations, governance consulting, financing, employment, entertainment, Internet law, international and domestic business transactions, trusts,

litigation in federal courts throughout the United States.

He is now prosecuting class actions involving the theft of more than \$450 million in trust funds deposited by clients at various 1031 exchange accommodators or qualified intermediaries. Settlements to date in two of the class actions have exceeded \$200 million.

Brace is a member of the International Association of Insurance Receivers, the International Association of Insurance Fraud Agencies and a past member of the committee on State Bar Approved Professional Liability Insurance. Brace served as chief financial officer for the Santa Barbara County Bar Association and is a

licensed elk hunting guide.

Brace received a bachelor's degree with honors from UC Berkeley. He earned his law degree from the University of Colorado.

James C. Buttery is a principal with the firm of Andre, Morris & Buttery, with offices in Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles. He is active in its civil litigation, real estate and environmental/land-use practice groups.

Buttery's practice is focused on dispute resolution in a variety of areas, including property, construction and business litigation. He has tried more than 50 civil cases, including 20 civil jury cases, with issues including toxic tort litigation, boundary

### Kirk Stovesand

Walpole & Co.  
Santa Barbara



disputes, real estate fraud and corporate succession and liquidation matters. He is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, whose membership is limited to experienced civil trial lawyers who have demonstrated experience in trying civil jury trials. He is a proponent of mediation to resolve disputed matters.

### Reed Spangler

MacFarlane, Faletti  
& Co.  
Santa Barbara



estate planning, wills and probate, real estate and litigation in federal and state courts.

Berger serves on the board of directors of Women's Economic Ventures and on the advisory committee for the Santa Barbara Community College Scheinfeld Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Carpinteria.

Berger graduated from UC Santa Barbara with honors in political science and sociology. He received his law degree from the University of Oregon School of Law, with a Certificate of Specialty in ocean resources and coastal law.

Robert Brace, a partner at the Santa Barbara law firm of Hollister & Brace,

### Grace Shimotani Stalica

Bartlett, Pringle  
& Wolf  
Santa Barbara



is an expert in the area of complex civil litigation, including class actions. Brace has practiced law since 1985, with more than 20 years of experience in multi-party

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Meet Jane Applegate, one of America's most respected small business management advisors and the founder of the Applegate Group, Inc. You may already know her as a former producer and reporter for Bloomberg, CNN and CNBC. She is also a former Los Angeles Times syndicated columnist and the author of four popular business books, including *201 Great Ideas for Your Small Business*. Montecito Bank & Trust is pleased to bring this engaging, informative and internationally-known keynote speaker to our community. You can learn more about Jane Applegate at [montecito.com/thebiz](http://montecito.com/thebiz).