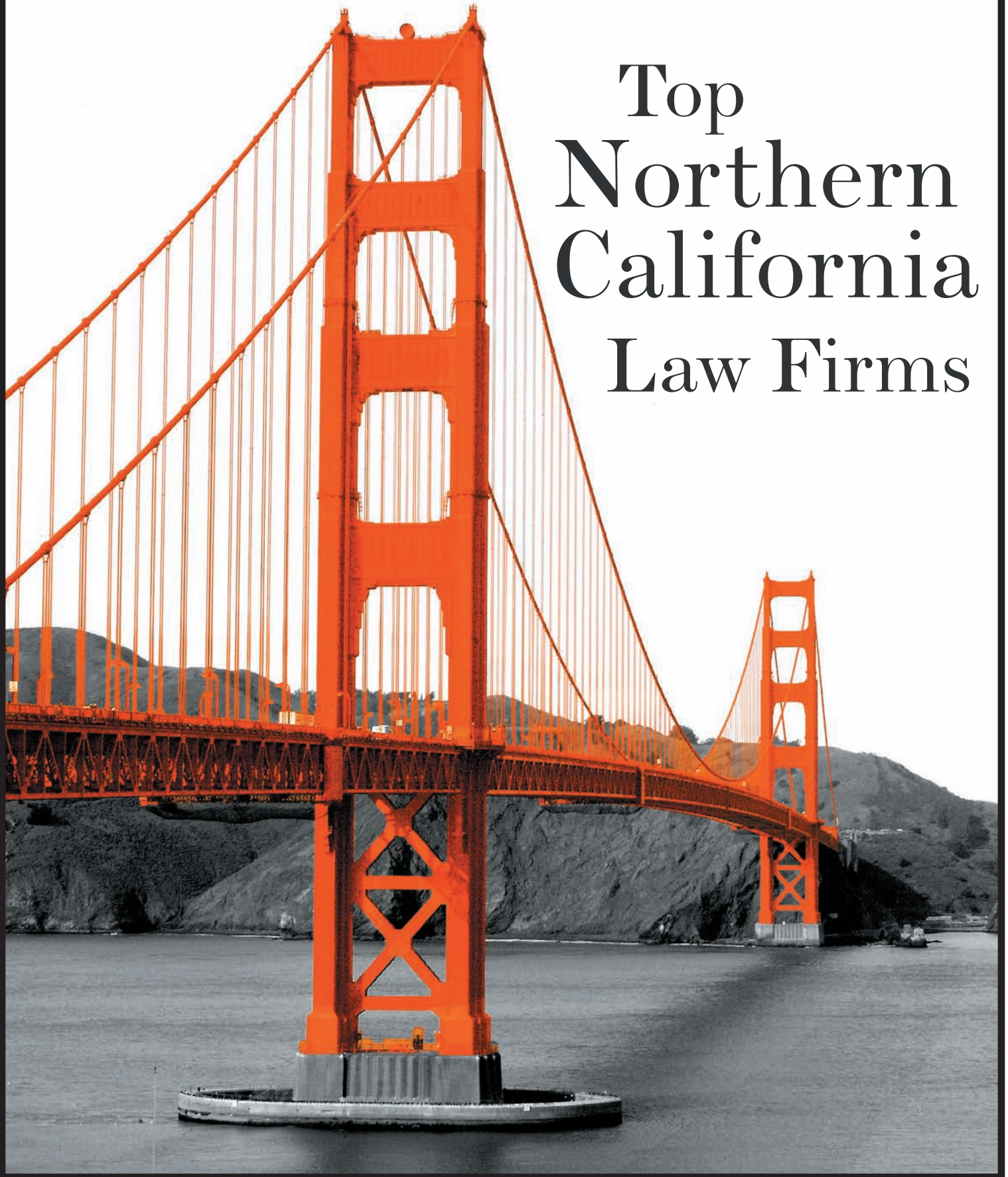


SUPPLEMENT TO THE LOS ANGELES AND SAN FRANCISCO

Daily Journal

FEBRUARY 22, 2007

Top Northern California Law Firms



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Intellectual Property

Top Firms:

- ◆ Keker & Van Nest
- ◆ Howrey
- ◆ Weil, Gotshal & Manges

KEKER & VAN NEST

The 57-lawyer litigation boutique **Keker & Van Nest** regularly pops up in high-profile, high-stakes proceedings — which means it's a go-to firm for companies with major intellectual property matters, too.

In 2006, Keker & Van Nest's team of litigators — including partners **Bob Van Nest**, **Christa Anderson** and **Daralyn Durie** — successfully handled key intellectual property matters for clients including Comcast, Intel and Google. Highlights from last year include two wins on behalf of defendants in multibillion-dollar cases in the notoriously plaintiff-friendly Eastern District of Texas.

The firm also has played a role in one of the biggest recent trends in patent law: the spate of patent cases taken up by the U.S. Supreme Court. Keker & Van Nest of-counsel and Stanford Law School professor **Mark Lemley** was co-counsel on two Supreme Court cases argued in 2006, and he filed amicus briefs in two others and signed an amicus brief in a third.

In one of his Supreme Court cases, Lemley helped persuade the justices to



Xiang Xing Zhou / Daily Journal

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deny certiorari after hearing oral arguments in a case that could have prompted the court to re-examine what kind of discovery can be patented. The dismissal in *LabCorp v. Metabolite* effectively let stand the lower court's finding that Lemley's client, Metabolite, held a valid patent for a process of diagnosing a vitamin deficiency. A decision in the closely watched case

could have been the most important patent ruling in 25 years.

"Mark Lemley at Keker, and the other lawyers at Keker, are almost always representing parties or amici in the most significant patent cases," said Tyler Ochoa, an intellectual property professor at Santa Clara University School of Law. "You see their names coming up over and over again."

Litigation

Top Firms:

- ◆ Morrison & Foerster
- ◆ Keker & Van Nest
- ◆ Howard Rice Nemerovski Canady Falk & Rabkin

KEKER & VAN NEST

Keker & Van Nest is the David-size litigation boutique enjoying a Goliath-size reputation and Herculean results.

When the first formal charges arose from the stock-options backdating frenzy, the 57-attorney firm was retained to represent Stephanie Jensen, a human resources executive at Brocade Communications Inc. Now the firm represents several clients relating to backdating investigations.

Google depended on the firm's strength and was represented against two nationwide class actions where the Internet search engine was accused of charging advertisers billions of dollars for fraudulent clicks.

Other clients include a major automobile manufacturer facing more than 25 nationwide federal class actions in federal court and more than 50 cases in nine states, including California.

Since its 1978 founding by **John W. Keker** and **William A. Brockett**, and the addition of **Robert A. Van Nest** a year later, the firm has let the amount of work dictate its growth.

"There's not that many law firms that have 55 great litigators in one city," Keker said. "So by being judicious we can fight

with any of them — and do."

While positive results continue to fetch more work, growth is challenged by fierce competition for the best and brightest legal talent — most often with the firm's gigantic neighbors around town.

Keker and firm partners **Ragesh K. Tangri** and **Asim Bhansali** are teamed with lawyers from 600-attorney Washington, D.C.-based Arnold & Porter in the ongoing antitrust battle brought against Visa USA and MasterCard by its industry rivals American Express and Discover.

The firm has joined with 1,200-attorney Wilmer Hale to represent Irvine-based semiconductor chip developer Broadcom Corp. in litigation against industry rival Qualcomm.