

ATTORNEY PROFILES

SENIOR COUNSEL

C. D. Michel

Mr. Michel has long been recognized as one of the leading authorities on firearms law at both the state and federal level, and has played a significant role in defending and helping to shape 2nd Amendment Rights and legislation for over 2 decades. He has been instrumental in crafting some of the most important legal challenges to legislative efforts that impede gun rights guaranteed in the Constitution and represents many of the most prominent firearms organizations, including the National Rifle Association and the California Rifle and Pistol Association.

He has been profiled in recognition of his work in multiple periodicals, TV and radio interviews and has published extensively regarding firearms law. He is a regular commentator on the NRA's video & radio reports and is a frequent contributor to national media discussions concerning 2nd Amendment Rights. He is an Adjunct Professor at Chapman University School of Law in Orange, California, where he teaches firearms law. He is the author of the book *California Gun Laws – A Guide to State and Federal Firearm Regulations* and is the CEO and Senior Partner at Michel & Associates, the largest firearms law firm in the U.S.

Mr. Michel began his career with a coveted judicial clerkship with U.S. District Court Judge William J. Rea in Los Angeles. He worked as a criminal prosecutor for the L.A. County District Attorney's Office and as an advocate with the L.A. Federal Public Defender's office. Mr. Michel also practiced environmental & general civil litigation as an attorney at the renowned international law firm of O'Melveny & Myers, LLP. While at O'Melveny, Mr. Michel represented multinational corporations and such notable clients as Exxon Corporation in connection with the Exxon Valdez oil spill. He also served as Staff Counsel to the "Christopher Commission," which investigated the L.A. Police Department (LAPD) in the wake of the Rodney King incident under the leadership of former Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

OF COUNSEL

Joseph Di Monda

Mr. Di Monda is an architect and attorney who has been recognized as one of the leading catastrophic personal injury lawyers in California. As a former chair of the City of Hermosa Beach Planning Commission and past President of the American Institute of Architects (Long Beach/South Bay Chapter) he has also been recognized as an expert in construction matters. As a member of the American Institute of Architects governmental legislation committee he has been instrumental in crafting and refining legislation related to the construction and real estate industry.

Mr. Di Monda began his legal career with a judicial externship with U.S. District Court Judge Terry Hatter in Los Angeles. He moved on to form his own practice in catastrophic personal injury, insurance bad faith and construction/real estate law. He has obtained multiple seven and eight figure settlements for his injured clients as a result of motorcycle, car and industrial accidents, and recently obtained a \$24 million dollar personal injury judgment for an injured client in the San Diego Superior Court. Mr. Di Monda has a number of appellate opinions to his name, and has argued before the California Court of Appeals on numerous occasions.

Mr. Di Monda holds a Bachelor of Science in Architecture and a Bachelor of Architecture from the City College of New York and a Juris Doctor from Southwestern University School of Law. He holds licenses to practice Architecture in New York and California and is a Member of the State Bar of California.

Ruth P. Haring

Ms. Haring has over 23 years experience as a general corporate, finance, and securities law attorney. Ms. Haring specializes in corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, and public and private offerings of debt and equity. Her practice also includes the drafting and negotiation of asset and stock purchase agreements, shareholders' agreements, employment and non-compete agreements, loan and security agreements, distribution and sales representative agreements, and trade secrets and license agreements.

Prior to attending law school Ms. Haring was a Management Associate at Bankers Trust Company in New York and later achieved the position of Assistant Vice President of Marine Midland Bank, NA, also in New York City, where she managed portfolio commitments in excess of \$150 million. After law school, Ms. Haring was a corporate finance associate at the law firm of Wilkie, Farr & Gallagher in New York City where she advised clients on general corporate, banking, and securities transactions, including acquisitions, corporate recapitalizations, financing, and public offerings. Ms. Haring then served as Vice President of Rosenberg & Liebenritt, P.C., a captive law firm in Chicago, for Samuel Zell and affiliates where she managed a corporate and securities group and was the primary attorney for the public offerings of both debt and equity of several real estate investment trusts, including Equity Office Properties Trust, Equity Residential Properties Trust and Manufactured Home Communities. More recently, Ms. Haring has served as part-time general counsel and consultant to various privately owned companies.

Ms. Haring received her bachelor's degree in political science from Brown University in 1980. She graduated from Boston University School of Law in 1987, where she was Executive Editor of the Probate Law Journal. She is licensed to practice law by the State Bars of California and New York.

Matthew M. Horeczko

Mr. Horeczko has been defending individuals charged with criminal offenses for over a decade. He represents clients in California state criminal cases as well as criminal matters in the federal courts. Mr. Horeczko's criminal defense practice encompasses the handling of all criminal charges, with an emphasis on representation of individuals charged with firearms offenses and serious felonies.

Prior to starting in criminal defense practice, Mr. Horeczko prosecuted criminal matters as a Deputy District Attorney for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. Mr. Horeczko

began his legal career representing law enforcement entities, police officers, fire departments and firefighters. During his years as a prosecutor and defense attorney, Mr. Horeczko has successfully tried dozens of cases to a jury, including a large number of criminal cases where the defendant faced life in prison.

Mr. Horeczko received his bachelor's degree from the University of San Diego where he also was a member of the University's football team. Following a year on the coaching staff of the University's football team, Mr. Horeczko attended and graduated from Southwestern University School of Law. While attending Southwestern University School of Law, Mr. Horeczko was a member of the Interscholastic Trial Advocacy Program and eventually was elected Chairman of the Program.

Mr. Horeczko has been recognized as a Southern California Super Lawyers Rising Star for the years 2005 through 2010. According to publication Law & Politics, Rising Stars are among the best in their profession and are limited to 2.5% of the outstanding emerging lawyers in Southern California who are under the age of 40 or have been practicing 10 years or less.

SPECIAL COUNSEL

Joshua R. Dale

Joshua Dale practices civil litigation with an emphasis on employment matters. Mr. Dale's approach to litigation utilizes cost-effective alternative approaches for resolving client matters prior to and during litigation. He has extensive alternative dispute resolution training to assist in these approaches, including experience as a panel neutral for the Los Angeles County Superior Court's Alternative Dispute Resolution panel.

Mr. Dale's employment law experience includes counseling employers on business practices, defending wage-and-hour and employment discrimination claims, and providing biennial sexual harassment training to managers. He has extensive experience in all aspects of Fair Employment and Housing Act and Title VII litigation against employers.

Mr. Dale has also handled matters involving disability discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Fair Housing Act, commercial disputes, real estate investment trust litigation, non-profit corporation governance matters, municipal liability litigation, and civil rights actions. Mr. Dale has tried matters at the trial court level, and argued matters in front of the Court of Appeal.

Mr. Dale's community participation and legal work have earned him plaudits and awards from local business leaders, Congressmen and community organizations. He has been ranked by his peers on multiple occasions as being in the top 2.5 percent of all California lawyers with ten years or less of practice.

Mr. Dale began his practice defending commercial businesses from claims related to hazardous chemical and mold exposures. He then opened his own practice representing businesses in commercial disputes and employment matters, giving him the broad base of knowledge he utilizes to represent clients today. For the past seven years he has represented businesses and government entities in a wide array of commercial, employment and governance matters.

While in law school, Mr. Dale clerked for the Los Angeles County Public Defender in its capital crimes division, and clerked for Trutanich-Michel, LLP handling environmental and criminal law matters.

Mr. Dale graduated from California State University at Fullerton with a B.A. in Communications in 1997. In 2000, Mr. Dale graduated with cum laude honors from the Pepperdine School of Law with a J.D. and a Certificate in Dispute Resolution. Mr. Dale and his family live in his native North Orange County.

W. Lee Smith

Mr. Smith specializes in environmental, land use and insurance law. His environmental law practice emphasizes cost-recovery litigation under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Hazardous Substance Account Act (State Superfund), and related regulatory provisions and common law theories of recovery. Mr. Smith has extensive experience in dealing with defending PRP groups in Superfund sites, representative clients in matters involving federal, state, and local regulatory agencies including the EPA, DTSC, RWQCB, AQMD, as well as local health departments, hazardous materials divisions, public works departments, fire departments, and sanitation departments. In this capacity, Mr. Smith advises and represents clients on regulatory compliance issues, permits, and enforcement orders. In addition, Mr. Smith has experience in CEQA, NEPA, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Endangered Species Act, Polanco Redevelopment Act, land use regulations, water law, toxic torts, natural resources, contracts and transactions, business and corporate law matters. Mr. Smith has also served as Special Counsel to bankruptcy trustees representing bankruptcy estates in legal matters pertaining to environmental and insurance issues. Mr. Smith's insurance practice includes bad faith litigation and coverage issues.

With his environmental and business background, Mr. Smith is uniquely qualified to advise and represent clients in real estate transactions, including Brownfields properties and the purchase and sale of properties contaminated or potentially contaminated with hazardous substances or hazardous wastes.

Mr. Smith began his legal career at the Department of the Navy, Office of General Counsel, Western Area Counsel Office, Environmental and Water Law Divisions. He distinguished himself in complex litigation while at the San Diego law firm of Chapin, Fleming, McNitt, Shea & Carter in the environmental department where he worked extensively on Aguilar v. Pacific Gas & Electric, et al., subsequently made famous by the movie "Erin Brockovich."

In 1995 Mr. Smith graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in political science from California State University San Marcos. He earned his law degree from California Western School of Law in 1997. While in law school, Mr. Smith worked as a Research Assistant for Law Review and clerked for the Department of the Navy where he worked extensively on environmental and water law matters.

Mr. Smith has been recognized by Southern California Super Lawyers Magazine as one of the top environmental attorneys in Southern California.

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEYS

Anna M. Barvir

Anna Barvir practices civil litigation with an emphasis on constitutional law and civil rights matters. Her expertise includes legislative analysis, firearms litigation, civil rights advocacy, and general civil litigation. She also assists clients with firearms-related regulatory compliance, including federal firearms licensing and California dangerous weapons permitting.

Ms. Barvir has worked on a number of high-profile cases in constitutional law and self-defense civil rights. Most recently, she assisted in litigating *Peruta v. San Diego*, a challenge to San Diego's strict "good cause" policy for obtaining a permit to carry a concealed firearm. On appeal, the Ninth Circuit recognized the right to bear arms for self-defense extends beyond the home and the county's policy violates the Second Amendment.

She was also an integral part of the *Parker v. California* litigation team that successfully overturned three controversial state laws regulating the sale of ammunition in California as unduly vague in violation of due process. Thanks in large part to Ms. Barvir's appellate advocacy, the trial court's decision was upheld by the Fifth District of the California Court of Appeal. The case is currently before the California Supreme Court.

In 2009, Ms. Barvir graduated magna cum laude from Whittier Law School, earning her Juris Doctor and Certificate in Legal Writing. During law school, she served as Executive Editor of the Whittier Law Review and Treasurer of the Student Bar Association. Notably, her student-written article was selected for publication in the Whittier Law Review and, upon graduation, she was awarded the Whittier Law School Dean's Citation Award for outstanding leadership and service to the law school community.

Michelle Biglarian

Michelle Biglarian is an associate in the firm's civil litigation practice. Ms. Biglarian earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Physics and a Master of Science degree in Chemistry from University of California, San Diego. She graduated from University of San Diego School of Law in 2013.

While in law school, Ms. Biglarian received Honors in Lawyering Skills and an award for writing an Outstanding Brief. She was also recognized as a San Diego County Bar Diversity Fellow in 2011.

Sean A. Brady

Sean Brady's practice includes municipal law, legislative advisement, constitutional law, civil rights advocacy, self-defense civil rights litigation, firearm related regulatory compliance advice, and general civil-business litigation. Mr. Brady has worked on high-profile cases in most of these areas. The most recent was a challenge to three state laws regulating ammunition, which Mr. Brady and other attorneys for Michel & Associates, PC were successful in having struck down. Mr. Brady's passion for firearms and protecting the liberties of people to own and use them – as well as protecting all civil liberties – brought him into these legal practice areas.

Prior to joining Michel & Associates, P.C., Mr. Brady worked in his family's construction business. Over his many years in the construction industry he worked his way up from basic manual labor, to operating heavy earth-moving equipment, to being involved in every aspect of managing a construction project from planning and permitting through completion. Mr. Brady's experience in the construction industry gives him an invaluable real life perspective in helping clients with construction and business related legal matters.

Mr. Brady received his bachelor's degree in language studies in 2004 from the University of California at San Diego. Mr. Brady can read, write, and speak Spanish proficiently. He attended Western State College of Law, earning his J.D. in 2008. As President of the Western State chapter of the Federalist Society, Mr. Brady organized the First Annual Second Amendment Celebration, an event that continues to provide law school students, many of whom are first-time shooters, an opportunity to be introduced to the world of firearms.

Mr. Brady is a native of Long Beach, California. He attended the same high school as his parents and two of his grandparents. He is now a husband and parent himself. Mr. Brady is an avid surfer, fisherman, and diver. He enjoys target shooting, soccer, and spending time with family and friends to the tune of country and mariachi music. Mr. Brady has a voracious appetite for education and culture. And, as a young man, he worked in construction, warehouses, restaurants, catering services, and beach life guarding to finance his travels around the world – from Japan to Ireland to Costa Rica – as well as his university life. Mr. Brady brings this depth of real-world experience, along with his strong work ethic, to bear for his clients in every legal matter he is involved in.

Scott M. Franklin

Mr. Franklin's current practice areas include the following types of litigation: business dispute, environmental, toxic tort, land use, employment, and public record access.

Specific aspects of Mr. Franklin's practice include: mediation, Public Records Act compliance and litigation, insurance coverage disputes, condemnation, and environmental liability under CERCLA, RCRA, HSAA, and common law claims.

Mr. Franklin received his bachelor's degree in business administration from University of the Pacific in 2000. In 2005 he earned his Juris Doctorate from Loyola Law School.

Ben A. Machida

Mr. Machida's primary practice areas are firearms regulatory compliance, restoration of civil rights, and civil rights and business litigation.

Before joining Michel & Associates, P.C., Mr. Machida worked as a judicial extern for the Honorable Justice Richard D. Huffman in the California Court of Appeal, Fourth Circuit. There he gained valuable experience and insight into the practice of both civil and criminal litigation. He benefited immensely from seeing litigation from a judges's perspective.

Mr. Machida earned his Bachelors of Arts in Political Science from the University of California, San Diego in 2010. He graduated *cum laude* from California Western School of Law in 2013. While in law school, Mr. Machida was awarded a Distinguished Advocate Award in appellate advocacy, and competed on the school's National Appellate Moot Court team. Mr. Machida also served as an associate writer and editor on the *California Western Law Review and International Law Journal*.

Thomas E. Maciejewski

Mr. Maciejewski's current practice emphasizes environmental law, including cost-recovery litigation under CERCLA, and general civil litigation.

Mr. Maciejewski worked extensively on the National Rifle Association's successful challenge to San Francisco's 2005 handgun-ban ordinance, which resulted in a published opinion (*Fiscal v. City and County of San Francisco* (2008) 158 Cal.App.4th 895).

Mr. Maciejewski graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania in 1999 with dual majors in economics and linguistics and dual minors in mathematics and cognitive science. He later attended UCLA School of Law and earned his J.D. in 2002.

Clint B. Monfort

Civil Rights Litigator, Legislative Analyst and Regulatory Compliance Counsel

Mr. Monfort specializes in constitutional law and civil rights litigation, municipal law, state legislation, firearms-related litigation and regulatory matters, and medical marijuana law and patient/collective advocacy. Mr. Monfort has litigated multiple high-profile civil rights cases, drafted state legislation, and provided regulatory compliance advice to multi-billion dollar enterprises. Having represented his clients in the courtroom, before licensing agencies, and before state and local legislative bodies, Mr. Monfort is uniquely qualified to provide the highest level representation by knowledgeably considering all possible options to achieve favorable results for his clients.

Mr. Monfort has quickly emerged as one of the preeminent Second Amendment and civil rights litigators in the state, being the attorney primarily responsible for the development and litigation of the landmark case, *Parker v. State of California*, which found three state laws restricting the transfer of ammunition to be unconstitutional. Mr. Monfort successfully handled all phases of the litigation, ultimately achieving extraordinary and rare relief for his clients, a permanent injunction that prevented the statutes from being enforced. Mr. Monfort also achieved a favorable settlement in a high-profile challenge to San Francisco's prohibition on the possession of firearms by public housing residents. The case, *Guy Montag Doe v. San Francisco*, was one of six cases filed across the nation in the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling in *Heller v. District of Columbia*, which held that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to keep and bear arms. *Doe v. San Francisco* and its sister cases were aimed at securing a ruling that the Second Amendment is "incorporated" via the Fourteenth Amendment to apply to state and municipal governments. Mr. Monfort secured a repeal of the Housing Authority's policies and obtained a settlement wherein the City conceded it is powerless to ban firearms possession by public housing residents.

In 2010 and 2011, Mr. Monfort was recognized by Southern California Super Lawyers Magazine as one of the top civil rights and municipal litigators in Southern California.

In addition to his successes in the courtroom, Mr. Monfort also has extensive experience serving as regulatory compliance counsel. Mr. Monfort routinely represents clients in dealing with municipal, state and federal licensing authorities, including the California Department of Justice and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Mr. Monfort has drafted regulatory comment letters, and has obtained numerous state and local licenses held by his clients, including Dangerous Weapons Permits, Federal Firearms Licences, California Firearms Dealer Licenses, as well as licenses held by medical marijuana collectives. Mr. Monfort has also incorporated numerous medical marijuana mutual benefit non-profit corporations, and regularly provides compliance counseling to these businesses and represents them in dealings with municipal governments.

Notably, Mr. Monfort's practice also includes extensive counseling on state and local legislative issues, having drafted multiple pieces of state legislation and having analyzed hundreds of California Assembly and Senate bills, ensuring his clients' interests are best represented not only in the courts, but in the legislative arena as well.

Mr. Monfort received his bachelor's degree in political science in 2002 from San Diego State University, where he was named to the Dean's list. He later attended California Western School of Law, where he was a finalist in the 2003 Oral Appellate Advocacy Competition. Mr. Monfort was a recipient of the Dean's Scholarship at California Western and earned his J.D. in 2005.

Joseph A. Silvoso, III

Mr. Silvoso's primary areas of practice are firearms law and criminal defense.

Mr. Silvoso is well versed in both California and federal firearms law. He has counseled a number of major firearm manufacturers regarding the ins-and-outs of California firearm law. Mr. Silvoso was a major contributor to both versions of C.D. Michel's book, California Gun Law. He drafted and is responsible for many of the legal memoranda that Michel & Associates, P.C. makes available via its website Calgunlaws.com. He frequently lectures on state and federal firearm law to attorneys (for continuing legal educational class credit) and to members of the firearm community. Mr. Silvoso has appeared on the Radio to discuss matters of state firearm law. He has counseled thousands of individuals over the years concerning state and federal firearm laws, and has represented firearm dealers in proceedings with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the California Department of Justice.

Mr. Silvoso has represented numerous individuals charged with criminal violations. He has successfully defended clients in all manner of state charges ranging from infractions to multi-count felony indictments with sentencing enhancements. Mr. Silvoso has appeared in courts throughout California while representing clients charged with driving under the influence, domestic violence, environmental crimes, local housing/health code violations, possession of controlled substances, possession of "assault weapons," carrying firearms concealed/loaded, brandishing, possession of illegal weapons, possession of stolen property, prohibited person in possession of firearms, and many others. While in law school, Mr. Silvoso worked with a prosecutor for the Orange County District Attorney's Office in the Hardcore Gang Unit.

Mr. Silvoso graduated from Whittier Law School in 2006 in the top third of his class with a specialization in criminal law. Before law school he attended the University of Missouri-Columbia majoring in English.