

Daily Journal

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TOP 100 LAWYERS IN CALIFORNIA

EDITORS' NOTE

Every year, the editors of the Daily Journal look at the work of hundreds of California lawyers. We receive nominations from law firms and nonprofits and universities – and from clients. We also examine our archive of stories and talk to each reporter about the matters they've been covering. The point is to honor the attorneys whose work is having the widest impact, and not just on their career or their firm's bottom line. We seek to honor work that is changing an industry or the law or the society as a whole. And every year, we reach the difficult but exciting truth: There are far more than 100 leading lawyers in California. Deciding who won't make the list is our most difficult task.

We don't pretend that this list is scientific or encompassing; it is a snapshot of a moment in time. It is a representative sample of the tremendous legal talent that California offers. As you read, we hope you'll agree.

— David Houston, Editor



GLENN D. POMERANTZ

LITIGATION

MUNGER, TOLLES & OLSON LLP
LOS ANGELES

SPECIALTIES: Antitrust, entertainment

It's not often the government approaches a private attorney to ask for help in preventing a multibillion-dollar merger of two telecom giants.

But in late 2011, that's exactly the call Pomerantz got.

With AT&T attempting to purchase T-Mobile for \$39 billion, the Department of Justice turned to Pomerantz, who devotes at least half of his practice to antitrust matters, to help unravel the deal, which the government argued would have decreased competition in the market and been detrimental to consumers.

Pomerantz quit his job, moved to Washington, D.C. and prepared for trial with a team of Justice Department lawyers. Then, the two companies nixed the deal in the eleventh hour.

That trial preparation and the knowledge he gained working on the government's side of a massive antitrust case paid dividends immediately after he went back into private practice.

Called upon to help guide Universal Media Group's acquisition of EMI Music, Pomerantz said his work on the AT&T case was invaluable.

"To be able to go off for a limited period of time and pursue the AT&T case with the Justice Department was incredible," he said. "It expanded my experience in areas that are very important to many of my clients."

While the move was an easy call in hindsight, Pomerantz said the initial leap was a bit of a gut check.

"It took a deep breath to resign from my firm and to move back to D.C.," he said. "But it was exciting."

— Henry Meier