

# Daily Journal

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## TOP 40 UNDER 40

For 22 years, the Daily Journal published an annual list of 20 leading California lawyers under age 40. In recent years, we came to realize there was no way 20 people could embody the breadth and depth of legal work being done by California's rising lawyers. They are working on issues affecting technology, health care, energy, criminal justice, civil rights and so much more.

For this list, our 23rd, we selected 40 lawyers. Doubling the size of the list did not diminish the quality

of the lawyers who appear on it. To the contrary. Our editors and reporters considered hundreds of lawyers. They represented every major practice type and specialty. Dozens of top-notch attorneys working on major issues of our time were left on the proverbial cutting room floor.

Our selection process centered on the impact of the lawyer's work. How has it affected the state of the law, a particular sector of industry or society? We also looked

at the candidate's impact on the legal community. Is he or she taking a leadership role within the firm, agency or organization? Are they active in bar groups and public service organizations?

As you read through this supplement, we think you'll agree that California's legal talent is some of the best you'll find anywhere in the world.

— The Editors

## E. Martin Estrada

### Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

Los Angeles

**Practice:** Complex litigation, internal investigations, appeals

**Age:** 38

Estrada likes a deposition that tests his gray matter. It's why he enjoys keeping up with Dutch history professors explaining the significance of a 16th century painting, digging through oral history archives at Columbia University and tracking the market value of cathode ray tubes.

Getting the full details of an intricate story, and getting them fast, has been key in defending high-stakes cases, said the Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP partner. In the past two years, these have included an art restitution lawsuit against the Norton Simon Museum, a multidistrict antitrust lawsuit against LG Electronics Inc. and environmental crimes allegations against Southern California Edison.

In the few days after Southern California Edison was hit with criminal charges for an oil discharge, Estrada, who served as trial counsel, brought in each employee involved to reconstruct what happened. An energy surge had affected a utility pole next to an oil pipeline, but the difficulty was figuring out whether natural causes caused the rupture and whether the company responded appropriately when the incident occurred over a weekend in September 2013.

After negotiating with city attorneys, Estrada helped put together a diversion agreement and got the criminal complaint and potential fines dismissed earlier this year.

"Whenever you're facing criminal charges, there's a lot of concern and worry and angst," he said. "The first thing to do is actually get your hands around the charges... Then you get your arms around the facts, and that can be a very



time-intensive process."

Estrada returned to private practice at Munger Tolles in 2014 after about eight years in the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Central District of California. Estrada is part of a team of firm attorneys representing LG Electronics Inc. in a multidistrict antitrust case with more than a billion dollars at stake if the company is found liable for price-fixing.

He has had to study thousands of pages of company meeting notes and learn the logistics of cathode ray tubes. But he said he's spent most of his time preparing to argue a practical theme — that cathode ray tubes were a dying market. "What's been fun about the case is that you have damage analyses," he said. "But at the end of the day it's a very common sense story."

— Amanda Schallert