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CALIFORNIA LAWYER ATTORNEYS OF THE YEAR

AWARDS



WE HONOR  
43 ATTORNEYS  
FOR THEIR  
EXTRAORDINARY  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
IN 2006



By the Editors of CALIFORNIA LAWYER

**The California Lawyer Attorneys of the Year Awards** recognize attorneys around the state whose achievements have made a profound impact in 2006 or whose work from December 2005 to December 2006 is expected to have such an effect in the coming years. The awards identify 28 achievements in 17 areas of legal practice that reflect the breadth and depth of the work performed by California lawyers.

The 43 attorneys honored here changed the law, substantially influenced public policy or the profession, or achieved a remarkable victory for a client or for the public. They include government attorneys, public-interest lawyers, sole practitioners, and attorneys from large international firms. Their successes range from winning a \$2.8 billion judgment for a single client to convincing the state Supreme Court to uphold a city's antidiscrimination law. Congratulations to the winners. —*Chuleenan Svetvilas*

## ENVIRONMENT

**FOR 16 YEARS ATKINS-PATTENSON** represented the Natural Resources Defense Council and other environmental groups pro bono in a case that established a significant water-restoration plan. A landmark settlement, approved in October, will restore flows to a 60-mile section of the San Joaquin River that has been largely dry since the 1940s—the result of the federal government's diversions for agricultural irrigation.



**PHILIP F. ATKINS-PATTENSON**  
SHEPPARD MULLIN RICHTER & HAMPTON, SAN FRANCISCO

Secretary of Interior Dirk Kempthorne has called the project one of the most significant restoration programs in the west. The compromise will enable salmon runs to be reestablished in the river, the state's second-longest, while allowing farmers to continue irrigating their crops. Atkins-Pattenson has played a vital role not only in the court effort to keep this case going but also in the delicate political negotiations required to reach the final agreement.

An important participant in the negotiations for water interests, Daniel M. Dooley of Visalia's Dooley Herr & Peltzer, represented the Friant Water Users Authority. Dooley was key in keeping the negotiations on track, especially when third parties expressed concerns about how it would affect them. A major piece

of the deal involved hammering out a federal legislative compromise, which is still pending, to implement some aspects of the settlement and authorizing funding.

## LAND USE

**A \$420 MILLION PUBLIC-PRIVATE RETAIL AND**

entertainment development in San Francisco's mid-Market Street area opened in September 2006, thanks to the legal work of seven San Francisco attorneys.



**DAVID M. MADWAY and ROBERT A. THOMPSON**  
SHEPPARD MULLIN, RICHTER & HAMPTON  
SAN FRANCISCO

Eleven years in the making, the Westfield San Francisco Centre includes a 1.5 million-square-foot shopping center (of which 900,000 square feet are new) and 235,000 square feet of office space. The revitalized retail area is a bridge between the traditional Union Square shopping area north of Market Street and the South-of-Market Yerba Buena Center, which contains convention centers and museums. Federated Department Stores acquired the land in the late '80s, and in the mid-'90s it partnered with Forest City Developers of Cleveland to develop the property. The adjoining San Francisco Centre was acquired in 2002 by Westfield, one of the world's largest owners and operators of shopping centers. Westfield and Forest City joined in the venture.

The land-use issues were complex—in part because of the number of parties involved and messy local politics—and several lawsuits were filed trying to thwart the development. Assembling the site required the conveyance of public property to private property, the public acquisition of private property, demolishing the Emporium building while maintaining its Market Street façade, and moving its historic dome to a different part of the building. “No city subsidy was involved,” says city attorney Smith. “We expected \$18 million a year in sales tax revenue, but so far it's exceeding expectations.”

Smith and **MADWAY** (formerly general counsel of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency and now with Sheppard Mullin) were the public attorneys involved in the deal. When Madway left the agency, it hired Etlin as outside counsel to complete the agency work. **THOMPSON** represented Federated; O'Brien and Duffy represented Forest City. Murphy, whose client was Westfield, also handled another huge public-private project this year: She represented San Francisco Waterfront Partners in its partnership with the Port of San Francisco to redevelop three piers next to the city's redeveloped Ferry Building, a project in which she also served as lead counsel. **GL**