

Daily Journal

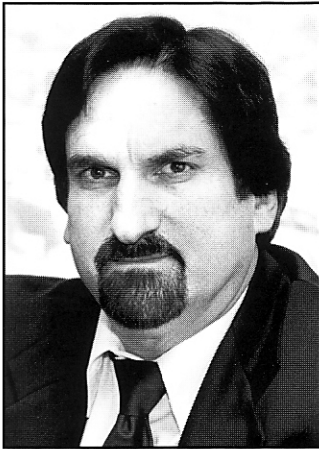
JULY 15, 2009

LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

The Daily Journal is honoring in this first-ever Labor and Employment supplement **California's top 25 lawyers** working in the field. We examine what the changes will mean for legal professionals, how the U.S. work force is realigning and how the recession has fueled a boom in labor and employment litigation.

TOP LABOR

These five lawyers successfully navigated the complex field of labor law, which promises to heat up as the labor-friendly Obama administration digs in.



Richard J. Simmons

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton
Los Angeles

Year in Review: As the author of several popular labor law manuals, Richard J. Simmons edited the books this year to reflect a myriad of recent changes in employment law including amendments to the Americans With Disabilities Act and passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which makes it easier to sue for gender discrimination. Wage-and-hour class actions have also kept Simmons' litigation practice hopping. His most recent victory was on behalf of restaurant chain Chipotle. He also successfully defended Long Beach Memorial Medical Center in a class action case involving overtime and employee scheduling flexibility

Next Challenge: Simmons plans to write a friend-of-the-court brief in an important wage-and-hour case pending at the California Supreme Court, Brinker Restaurant v. Superior Court of San Diego. The 2nd District Court of Appeal cited his "Wage and Hour Manual for California Employers" in its decision, which said companies aren't required to make sure employees are taking meal and rest breaks.

Most People Don't Know: Everywhere Simmons goes, Los Angeles Lakers fans recognize him. His face often shows up on television because he sits behind the announcers. When the basketball team won the championship recently in Orlando, Simmons managed to worm his way into the team's after-party.