

San Diego Daily Transcript

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Top Attorneys 2007



Labor-Employment



John Collins

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Education

Law School/Year: Stanford University, 1969
College/Year: Stanford University, 1966

Bar Admissions

California

Practice Areas

Business Litigation, Civil Litigation, Discrimination & Civil Rights, Intellectual Property, Labor

Major Cases

Collins has been one of the “go to” labor and management advocates on the management side. He complements extensive expertise and success in the labor-management area with a long list of jury trials in employment cases. He has been General Counsel to important industry groups. His federal court jury verdict against AFTRA carved a unique exception to the labor exemption from the anti-trust laws. Collins has implemented

Criminal Law



Pamela Naughton

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Education

Law School/Year: Yale University, 1979
College/Year: St. Olaf College, 1976

Bar Admissions

California, Minnesota (inactive), District of Columbia (inactive), 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, Southern and Central Districts of California

Practice Areas

Business Litigation, Civil Litigation, Criminal Law

Major Cases

I was prosecution counsel in the impeachment of U.S. District Judge Walter Nixon. As a prosecutor, I co-tried the first murder case to use the Battered Woman Syndrome as a defense. I was counsel to the House Iran-Contra Committee and handled witness examination at the congressional hearings. Lately, I have represented former Mayor Richard Murphy, Council President

Collins continued

winning strategies for many major employers in collective bargaining, organizing drives, picketing and arbitrations. His employment litigation record includes successful defense in high-profile cases for some of the most recognizable names in industry.

Professional Background

Collins started with Luce Forward Hamilton & Scripps (then less than 30 attorneys) directly out of law school in 1969. In 1986, he teamed with several other prominent San Diego attorneys to help found Sheppard Mullin's San Diego office. At both firms, he has been Chair of the Labor & Employment groups for most of his career. He has served on a number of Boards, including San Diego EDC and National University. Collins has been included in "The Best Lawyers in America" since the early 1990s and has been named "Outstanding Trial Lawyer" by the San Diego Trial Lawyers' Association.

Professional Affiliations

Collins is admitted to practice in California state courts, federal district courts in California, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. He is an arbitrator on the American Arbitration Association Labor and Employment panel. Although not officially in the ADR business, he serves as a mediator when asked. He has been General Counsel and/or Executive Director of a number of employer associations.

Personal Affiliations

Collins is passionate about the work of Project Concern International (www.projectconcern.org). PCI saves the lives of children around the world every day. Collins has been Chairman of the Board of this major charity for many years. He is also co-owner of Michael J. Wolf Fine Arts, voted "Best of the Best" of Gaslamp art galleries many times. The gallery just celebrated its 11th anniversary at Fifth and J.

Personal Background

The 1960s were significant, including high school (1962), college (1966), and law school (1969) graduations and marriage to Kathy (1967), his wife of 40 years. Sons Jeff (37), Brian (35) and Tim (33) are all married and living in California. Granddaughters Maya (9) and Marley (6), and grandson J.P. (2 1/2), visit often. John buys and sells paintings, rare books and '50s and '60s music autographs on eBay

Naughton continued

Scott Peters as witnesses in various pension-related investigations. Currently I am representing Tom Story, an executive of Sunroad, who has been charged with misdemeanor offenses by the City Attorney. I successfully obtained a court order disqualifying the City Attorney from prosecuting that case.

Professional Background

After graduating from Yale Law School, I began my legal career in the Office of Legislative Affairs of the U.S. Dept. of Justice. Then I served as an Assistant United States Attorney for six years. In 1987 I was counsel to the House/ Senate Select Committee to investigate the Iran-Contra affair. The next year I served as Special Counsel to the Judiciary Committee in charge of the impeachment of U.S. District Court Judge Walter Nixon. I then began private practice, first at Baker & McKenzie for 10 years, and then Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton since 2000. I specialize in fraud cases – both civil and criminal.

Professional Affiliations

I am past president of the San Diego Chapter of the Federal Bar Association; past committee member of the Judicial Evaluation Committee for the county bar association; Barrister in the Enright Inns of Court; guest lecturer at local law schools and national guest commentator on MSNBC. I authored a book published by Wayne State University Press on the rescission of constitutional amendments.

Personal Affiliations

I am a choir director at St. George Orthodox Church

Personal Background

I was raised in a small town in Northern Minnesota by immigrant grandparents. I attended St. Olaf College and studied in various countries around the world in my senior year. I am the very proud mother of 10-year-old identical twin girls, Mary and Avery, who are excellent students and even better people.