

California LAWYER

WITH THIS YEAR'S CLAY AWARDS, we recognize lawyers throughout the state whose legal work made a significant impact in 2012. They include state and federal prosecutors, law professors, public-interest lawyers, and attorneys from large international firms. The awards identify 27 accomplishments in 21 practice areas, ranging from corporate antitrust law, civil rights, and intellectual property



to appellate work at the California Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court. These outstanding feats reflect the breadth and depth of the work performed by California lawyers throughout the year. Congratulations to all the winners.

CALIFORNIA LAWYER ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR

TRANSACTIONAL LAW

Leif B. King SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER & FLOM, PALO ALTO

Last year King oversaw the largest M&A transaction ever between a U.S. and a Chinese company when Yahoo sold half its stake in China's Alibaba Group back to the company for \$7.6 billion. King, assisted by Skadden partner **Kenton J. King** (no relation) navigated the framework of American and Chinese laws to finalize the deal. Weil, Gotshal & Manges partner **Karen N. Ballack** and her team in Redwood Shores handled the intellectual property side of the deal.

The Hangzhou-based Alibaba Group, China's biggest e-commerce company, is a huge

conglomerate of Internet-based businesses. Leif King engaged in extensive discussions with Alibaba and Yahoo that yielded a hefty return for Yahoo on its original \$1 billion investment, made in 2005.

The terms of the deal allow Yahoo to participate in potential future value appreciation of Alibaba, such as an Alibaba IPO. In the event of an IPO, Yahoo also will have the ability to sell the remainder of its stake on the public market. In January, Jack Ma resigned as CEO of Alibaba Group, fueling rumors that it will indeed file to go public this year and sending Yahoo stock prices soaring.

2013
CLAY
AWARDS