

# California LAWYER

## CALIFORNIA LAWYER ATTORNEYS OF THE YEAR

**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.

### PRO BONO



**Jennifer E. LaGrange**

SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER & FLOM  
LOS ANGELES



**Ronda J. McKaig**

SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER & FLOM  
LOS ANGELES



**Matthew D. Umhofer**

SPERTUS, LANDES & UMHOFFER  
LOS ANGELES

Ending a politically charged legal battle that spanned more than four years, LaGrange, McKaig, and Umhofer successfully defended Planned Parenthood in federal False Claims Act litigation, in June 2012 obtaining a dismissal with prejudice of a complaint seeking damages of more than \$600 million. The case dated to December 2005, when a former Planned Parenthood employee filed a qui tam action alleging that affiliates in California overbilled Medicaid by \$180 million for oral contraceptives provided to clients.

The three Skadden attorneys (Umhofer moved to his present firm in January 2013) handled the

massive case pro bono—persevering through a government investigation, a procedural labyrinth of amended complaints and rulings, and an appellate reversal of an earlier dismissal. Three separate times they persuaded the federal district court to dismiss the case. The final order detailed the plaintiff's failure to allege falsity, and noted the Planned Parenthood affiliates' "consistent candor and truthfulness" in their dealings with Medicaid.

The ruling ensures that Planned Parenthood affiliates throughout the state and nation can continue to provide reproductive health care services.

2013  
**CLAY**  
AWARDS