

Daily Journal

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TOP 100 LAWYERS IN CALIFORNIA

EDITORS' NOTE

From the mortgage crisis to the Gulf oil spill to virtually every major intellectual property dispute, California lawyers are playing leading roles. But they don't just clean up big messes. They secure funding and regulatory approval for cutting-edge developments in water, energy, technology and biotechnology that are the promise of the future.

We aim for this list to be a kaleidoscope of the California legal scene. There are divorce attorneys and public finance lawyers, prosecutors and criminal defenders and much, much more.

We reviewed hundreds of nominations from members of the legal community and from our own editors and reporters to compile this list. It is never an easy task — the list isn't long enough — but it is fun. Read on. We know you'll enjoy learning about these people as much as we did.

— The Editors

KENTON J. KING

King says that sometimes you have to break a deal to make one.

That was the case this year when he facilitated the \$1.1 billion acquisition of Singapore-based Verigy Ltd. By the time Skadden's Japan-based client, Advantest Corp., expressed interest in the deal last year, Verigy, a company that designs, manufactures and sells test systems for the semiconductor industry, was already in a stock-for-stock merger deal with LTX-Credence, which also services the semiconductor industry.

Making the matter even trickier was the fact that Verigy couldn't terminate its deal with LTX-Credence until Verigy shareholders voted, at which point Singapore takeover laws permitted just 80 days for Advantest to close a deal with Verigy.

"You had to put up or shut up," King said.

That posed a conundrum for King because the deal would only happen if it won antitrust regulatory approval by the Singapore, United States and Japan governments.

That meant a process longer than 80 days, King said, so he and his team began the paperwork before Verigy backed away from its deal with LTX-Credence, allowing Advantest to act fast once the potential LTX-Credence merger died.

The acquisition happened shortly after a March earthquake and tsunami shook Japan and its economic stability.

"The board meeting that Advantest had to approve the transaction couldn't take place in their own offices because the electricity was down and they couldn't get in," King said. "They ended up having to meet off-site at a hotel to approve the transaction."

But, King said, Verigy shareholders decided to go forward with the acquisition anyway.



S. TODD ROGERS / DAILY JOURNAL

KENTON J. KING

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Practice type: Corporate
Specialty: Mergers and Acquisitions

—Casey Sullivan