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Top 20 Under 40

Sorting... Navigating... Leading...

- Sorting out a pharmaceutical company's duty to monitor off-label use of its drugs
- Putting together contracts for the largest construction project in the nation in five years
- Working to overturn California's gay marriage ban
- Leading the equity practice of one of the world's largest law firms

- Navigating the legal rights of cancer patients
These are a few of the issues being tackled by those on our 2010 list of top California lawyers under age 40.

Finding standouts among a group of exceptional people is never easy. We reviewed 150 eligible nominations this year.

There were many impressive candidates; these 20 were a cut above. They found a way

to make an impact on the world outside their sphere. One didn't just defend a lawsuit for a client but works to change the law so that other companies wouldn't face a similar suit. Another takes time from his practice putting together marquee transactions for corporate clients to help a non-profit start a grocery store in an underserved area of Oakland. This is exceptionalism at its best. We urge you to read on and get to know these people.

— *The Editors*

Leif B. King 39

SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER & FLOM
PALO ALTO

TRANSACTIONAL

Corporate and Securities/Private Equity

Although 2009 was a down year for many corporate lawyers, King's practice hummed with life.

After helping Sunnyvale-based Internet search company Yahoo Inc. steer clear of a \$44.6 billion unsolicited bid from Microsoft Corp. in 2008, King worked on the legal team that guided Yahoo to a different Microsoft deal in 2009: a 10-year partnership through which Microsoft will operate the search engine behind both Bing and Yahoo queries, while Yahoo sells search-related advertisements for both companies. The deal was heralded as a promising play for competing with Google Inc.

"He's obviously a very talented lawyer and a rising star," says Yahoo associate general counsel Paul Huie, who heads the company's M&A work. "But his pragmatic approach is really what helps get deals done more efficiently."

Later in the year, King helped Yahoo unload \$150 million of its holdings in Alibaba.com. He advised Irvine-based chip maker Broadcom Corp. in its \$764 million unsolicited offer to buy Costa Mesa-based Emulex Corp., which was rejected.

When he's not handling Skadden transactions or spending time with his wife and 3-year-old son, Hunter, King can be found helping Oakland nonprofit People's Grocery with its legal matters on a pro bono basis. The community health orga-

King provides free legal work to a nonprofit grocer in a neighborhood of Oakland.



nization is working to build a supermarket in a West Oakland neighborhood that doesn't have a grocery store.

"If you can imagine a place where, when people need food, they have to go to a convenience store or a liquor store or a fast food restaurant, or take a bus to another neighborhood to go grocery shopping ..." King says. "We're hopeful that 2010 will be a year that substantial progress is made on the project."

— Jill Redhage