# KADING BRIGGS

#### Fall 2015 Newsletter



## AN EVENING TO BENEFIT WORKING WARDROBES

Kading Briggs LLP, along with Shulman Hodges & Bastian LLP, and the KSJG Accounting Firm, hosted an evening of networking, cocktails, and appetizers to benefit Working Wardrobes, a non-profit organization that assists individuals overcoming difficult challenges by providing career training, job placement assistance, and professional wardrobe services so that they may confidently enter the workforce and achieve success. Guests attending the event donated 685 items of clothing, shoes, and accessories that will help Working Wardrobes serve its more than 4,000 clients. Green Pea Design, Integrity Legal Corp., Lyfe Kitchen, and Brio Tuscan Grille generously donated services and goods.

Pictured above: Alex Sanchez of KSJG, Glenn Briggs of Kading Briggs LLP, and Jim Bastian of Shulman Hodges & Bastian LLP

## RECENT SUCCESSES

Theresa Kading and Beth Kearney obtained summary adjudication in favor of our client, one of the nation's largest banks, against a former employee alleging wrongful termination, race and gender discrimination, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

In another case, signaling the end of litigation that has been ongoing for more than six years, the California Court of Appeal recently issued a decision in favor of our client, a national retail chain, affirming the trial court's decision denying the plaintiff's request for a new trial. The former employee filed suit in 2009 alleging wrongful termination in violation of public policy, breach of contract, and defamation. Glenn Briggs, Theresa Kading, and Beth Kearney, who have litigated every step of the case, obtained summary judgment on every claim in 2011, which the former employee promptly appealed. The Court of Appeal reversed the summary judgment ruling only as to the employee's claim for wrongful termination, which was tried in November 2013. The former employee then sought a new trial, which the trial court denied that decision was affirmed by the Court of Appeal.

Ellen Cohen obtained a complete victory in favor of a financial services client in a hearing before the California Labor Commissioner. A former employee sought over \$80,000 in alleged unpaid straight-time and overtime wages, meal period premiums, waiting time penalties, and liquidated damages. After an administrative hearing, the Labor Commissioner denied all of the former employee's claims.

# **PROJECT SELF**

This past summer Kading Briggs participated in Project SELF (Summer Employment in Law Firms), a non-profit organization targeting low income and minority students entering their senior year of high school. Participating law firms provide an eight-week paid internship to students to expose them to the legal and professional community as well as to provide them access to mentors.

Devaneira Garcia joined Kading Briggs this summer as a Project SELF intern. Her poise, maturity, and work ethic left a lasting impression with our firm. We were fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Devaneira and look forward to following Devaneira in her inevitable future successes.

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# IN THE COMMUNITY

**Tip-a-Cop** – Attorneys from the Firm enjoyed cocktails served by local law enforcement officers at participating restaurants to benefit the Special Olympics Southern California (SOSC). Kading Briggs also made a monetary donation to the Special Olympics through the Irvine Police Department.



Children's Miracle Network - Kymberleigh Damron-Hsiao and Lisa Fike attended the Children's Miracle Network fundraising Casino Night in Palm Springs, which was hosted by one of the firm's long-standing clients. The Children's Miracle Network raises money to support and pay for research and medical care of children.



Public Law Center Volunteers for Justice Dinner – Kading Briggs served as a Bronze sponsor of this annual event that raised a record \$725,000 for free civil legal aid. The Public Law Center (PLC), Orange County's pro bono law firm, is committed to providing access to justice for low-income and vulnerable residents.

The California Minority Counsel Program (CMCP) 26th Annual Business Conference - Kymberleigh Damron-Hsiao and Nisha Verma attended the California Minority Counsel Program's (CMCP) annual Business Conference in Los Angeles in October. CMCP was formed in 1989 to bring business lawyers of all ethnicities and races together for the purpose of achieving diversity and inclusion within law firms and in-house law departments.

CDO Market Snapshot: Litigation & Transactional Law Overview - Ellen Cohen served as a panelist for this program at University of California, Irvine School of Law, where she spoke to law students about her career in employment litigation.

**Orange County Coalition for Diversity in the Law** – Kading Briggs actively participates in this organization of law firms dedicated to the goal of increasing diversity in the legal field. **Nisha Verma** served as the organization's Co-Chair from 2014-2015, and most recently served on the coordinating committee for the program: "Perspectives on Work-Life Balance."

**OCBA Fall Food Packaging Event** – Kading Briggs employees and their families joined other OCBA members to donate time packing food items at the CAPOC Food Bank in Garden Grove. 1,800 Orange County senior citizens will benefit from the group's efforts.



Lisa Fike and Jonathan Gouvion attended the Quack for the Cause Reception for the Huntington Beach Duck-A-Thon to raise money for AltaMed's Huntington Beach Community Clinic, which treats thousands of uninsured and medically underserved patients.



**Ellen Cohen** earned first place and a welldeserved blue ribbon at this year's Orange County Fair for her 16x20 cross stich Christmas scene.



## KBLLP "OUT AND ABOUT" SUMMER 2015

Our summer was not entirely "all work and no play." Many Kading Briggs employees enjoyed time in the community and time with friends and family, both near and far.





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- Glenn Briggs traveled with his son, Carsen, to the legendary Cooperstown, New York, where Carsen's team played in the Cooperstown All Star Village tournament.
- Private Trevor Baker (son of our Legal Assistant Valerie Beechler) graduated the U.S. Army BCT in Ft. Jackson, SC on May 7, 2015. He was among 18 out of 85 in his Co. to graduate as a Pv2. He continued his AIT training at Ft. Rucker, AL in aviation. Private Baker is now serving a year in S. Korea with the 2d CAB as an Aviation Operations Specialist. Hooah!
- 3 Terrie and Sean Kading, and Kym Damron-Hsiao and her family (pictured) all spent time enjoying the sun and sand of the Hawaiian Islands. Glenn Briggs accompanied his daughter, Austyn, to Honolulu, where she competed in a soccer tournament.
- Glenn Briggs hosted a Labor Day BBQ and swim party at his house for all employees and their families.

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