

Daily Journal

OCTOBER 14, 2015

Top Boutiques of 2015

GIANT SLAYERS: THE SMALL, HYPER-FOCUSED LAW FIRMS THAT TAKE ON BIG MATTERS AND WIN

LITIGATION

Rosen Bien Galvan & Grunfeld LLP



Sam Attal / Special to the Daily Journal

From left, Sanford Jay Rosen, Gay Crosthwait Grunfeld, Ernest J. Galvan and Michael W. Bien

Consistently recognized as some of the top trial and appellate lawyers in California, Rosen Bien Galvan & Grunfeld LLP practices complex litigation without limiting itself as a defense or plaintiff's firm.

"We are specialty litigators. We are not in one camp or the other," said co-founding partner Michael Bien. "The idea that you can do a range of litigation really allows you to give advice to clients in a broader way and allows you to be more successful in litigation."

SAN FRANCISCO

Together, Bien and co-founder Sandy Rosen began their practice in 1990 with three partners and two associates and have since grown to nearly 20 attorneys — all practicing complex litigation. Today the firm's litigation practice spans complex commercial litigation, class actions, constitutional and civil rights law, antitrust, intellectual property, disability rights, and attorneys' fees disputes.

In the civil rights community, Rosen Bien is regarded for cases

such as *Brown v. Plata*, in which the firm won a historic prison overcrowding decision in 2011, and more recently for the firm's role in enabling improvements in conditions for California inmates with mental disabilities.

Today, the firm continues to help inmates secure better living conditions. For the last several years, Rosen Bien has helped to address overcrowding and problems with mental medical healthcare in Monterey County jails in the case *Hernandez v. County of Monterey*. In August, the court approved a settlement requiring

the county to develop and implement comprehensive reforms in its jails.

"We were able to marshal the resources from our firm and coordinate with co-counsel to bring the case to fruition in a very successful way," Bien said.

Between 2013 and 2014, the firm won three major class action trials, including a preliminary injunction for a publisher in a censorship case and a state court writ proceeding protecting the retirement benefits of police and fire fighters. In 2015, Rosen Bien represented clients in appeals in the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and other federal courts of appeal, including defending client wins from challenges in the Supreme Court.

Rosen Bien also works with clients in cases involving disputes over intellectual property and trade secrets. In one active case, the firm is helping an entity that represents craft breweries in an ownership dispute over copyrights and the dissolution of a prior business.

Partner Gay Grunfeld says the firm has grown to a level that balances performance with communication, collegiality and a family friendly work environment.

"Given our size, 20 lawyers, we are able to make a broad impact in a number of areas," Grunfeld said. "We all know each other. We are all knowledgeable about each others cases and that provides a lot of synergy," said.

— Ryan Van Velzer