

# Daily Journal

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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

### Richard K. "Rick" Welsh 38

AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD  
LOS ANGELES

#### LITIGATION

Intellectual property, class actions, energy, environment, securities

Welsh is lead counsel for AES Corp., one of the world's largest energy companies and a defendant in a lawsuit that seeks to hold energy companies liable for property damage allegedly caused by global warming. The plaintiffs asked for \$400 million in damages. Welsh helped convince a federal judge in Oakland to dismiss the lawsuit, which is now on appeal to the 9th Circuit. He represents AES in a lawsuit in Virginia state court to see whether it is entitled to insurance coverage based on alleged global warming-related property damage.

Welsh won a complete defense victory representing video game developer Eidos Interactive Ltd., now known as Square Enix, in a \$10 million breach of contract and business-interference lawsuit in San Mateo County Superior Court. He obtained a low-figure settlement against software company Javaground in a wage-and-hour employment dispute in Orange County Superior Court. On the pro bono side, he represented a deaf patient suing a hospital for allegedly failing to provide a sign language interpreter for the plaintiff's labor and surgery.

Born in New York and raised in California, Welsh is a graduate of Del Mar High School in San Jose. For four years Welsh was stationed in Savannah, Ga., as a U.S. Army airborne ranger, and was part of an elite commando unit. After leaving the military, Welsh attended college at UCLA and UC Berkeley School of Law. In his free time, he lectures Los Angeles-area law students on trial and appellate practice. He also lectures on contract and climate change issues at legal education events. His hobbies include mountain biking.

— Ciaran McEvoy

**Welsh represented a deaf patient suing a hospital for allegedly failing to provide a sign language interpreter.**

