

Daily Journal

MAY 24, 2017

TOP WOMEN LAWYERS

The Daily Journal's Annual List of Leading Women Lawyers in California



Christa M. Anderson

Simplifying complex technology for judges and juries is an approach that requires practice. Anderson often runs analogies by colleagues before debuting them in court.

"You want folks who will listen and give you a sense of whether you are targeting the message well," she said. The trouble with working on complex intellectual property litigation cases is one may not always know when too much time has been spent on the details.

"Then the weeds don't look so weedy anymore," she said. "And you have to really keep gauging, 'Where am I?' You want to speak with just the right level of specificity that addresses the issues in the case but not get so far into the weeds that you lose folks who have much less time to get up to speed."

Anderson spent a great deal of time in

the weeds while representing Alphabet Inc.-owned Google. Oracle claimed it was the victim of a multibillion-dollar patent and copyright infringement involving the use of the Java programming language for Google's Android platform. Oracle is now appealing last year's federal jury ruling, finding unanimously that Google's use of Java was fair use and rejecting Oracle's infringement claims entirely. Oracle America Inc. v. Google Inc., 10-CV3561 (N.D. Cal. May 26, 2016).

One of Anderson's favorite aspects of intellectual property practice is that the cases often end up in litigation. Stretching her wings in the courtroom is still a pastime for the Harvard Law School alum.

"They're typically pretty intensely fought," she said. "And as a trial lawyer, those are cases you really hone your skills for."

— Shane Nelson

**KEKER VAN NEST &
PETERS LLP**

SAN FRANCISCO

Practice Type: Intellectual
property

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Jan N. Little

Although prosecuting criminals for the U.S. Department of Justice was Little's first job out of law school, the Kecker partner insists she now has a soft spot for defendants.

"I think it's more of a challenge and sometimes more rewarding to help someone stand up against the government and fight to protect them," she said. "I think the odds are often stacked against a criminal defendant, and to be able to help such a person is very rewarding."

Over the past year, Little has been busy defending English national Sushovan Hussain, the former chief financial officer of British software company Autonomy. Hussain faces federal criminal fraud charges here in the U.S. relating to Autonomy's 2011 \$11 billion acquisition by Hewlett-Packard. He's also facing a civil suit back in Great Britain as well as problems with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

"That's the kind of case I like the best frankly," Little insisted, "where it's a three or four-ring circus with a lot of different components you have to fit together. It's

like a three-dimensional chess game. Every move you make in one arena has an impact in another."

Hussain is facing serious prison time, according to Little, and the typical strategies for the civil suits may not jibe with those for criminal cases. Hewlett Packard is claiming Hussain was involved with cooking the books at Autonomy prior to the 2011 acquisition. Little expects the case will likely go to trial later this year.

"I love doing criminal work, because you are standing next to someone who has the weight of the government coming down on them," she said. "And that person in that situation really needs a champion by their side to try and protect them from that very powerful force."

Meanwhile, the prospect of heading to trial always appeals to Little.

"Being in trial is hard," she said. "It requires a lot of planning, a lot of work, a lot of passion, and a lot of commitment. The hardest, most challenging, most rewarding thing for a trial lawyer is to actually try cases."

— Shane Nelson

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Practice Type: White collar criminal investigations and complex civil litigation