

Daily Journal

COVER STORY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2007

Celebrating 10 Years of

TOP **100**

California's Leading Lawyers

10 For 10: Lasting Influence



Daralyn Durie

Keker & Van Nest
San Francisco

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit recently affirmed Durie's November defense victory for Comcast in plaintiff-friendly eastern Texas. Now Durie is focused on the MedImmune v. Genentech case,

recently back from the Supreme Court, while pursuing a pre-emptive strike for Comcast, asking for declaratory judgment against another patent plaintiff.

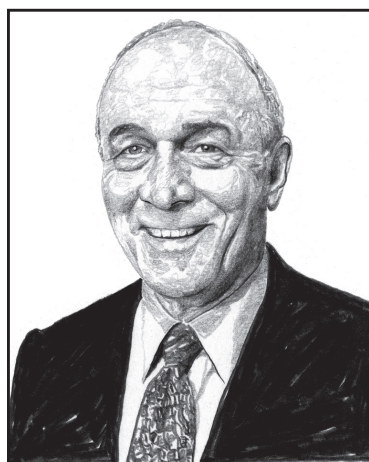


Jan Nielsen Little

Keker & Van Nest
San Francisco

Little scored a rare victory for a defendant in the Brocade Communications stock-options backdating case when she secured a severance motion to separate client Stephanie Jensen's

trial from that of former chief executive officer Gregory Reyes.



John W. Keker

Keker & Van Nest
San Francisco

Keker has made a career of waging headline-grabbing battles, from the Black Panthers and the Iran-Contra affair to more recent stints defending Wall Street banker Frank Quattrone and Enron executive Andrew Fastow. Along the way, Keker became the go-to guy for high-profile lawyers accused of wrong-

doing, from Patrick Hallinan to Bill Lerach to Dickie Scruggs.

An ex-Marine, Keker is known in the courtroom as a bulldog who puts on ardent defenses and conducts aggressive cross-examinations.

But he also knows how to plead for mercy, as he demonstrated when fellow defense legend J. Tony Serra faced prison time for failure to pay income taxes and again when Fastow faced a decade in prison.

Keker also makes time for pro bono work, as he's doing now on the defense team for a group of Hmong immigrants accused by federal prosecutors of plotting to overthrow the communist government in Laos.

The government claims to have evidence that Keker's client tried to purchase and smuggle munitions and mercenaries into Laos. Keker counters that the charges are a fantasy cooked up to boost the war on terror.

How does this high-stakes litigator maintain his competitive edge?

"Age produces rage; rage produces edge," he said.

Illustrations by Dwayne Booth

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