

AK+G has successful 2014

With unfair and illegal employment practices continuing to be a major challenge in the workplace, the Santa Monica law firm of Alexander Krakow + Glick LLP achieved significant successes in its efforts on behalf of working men and women in 2014. The firm's attorneys also provided numerous volunteer services to the California Bar and fellow members of the profession this year.

AK+G won substantial settlements on behalf of wronged clients in several notable cases:

- On March 6, 2014, with Bernard Alexander of AK+G as lead counsel, partnering with MALDEF, a federal jury in the United States District Court for the Central District of California in Santa Ana returned a verdict of over \$3.5 million in favor of three police officers against the City of Westminster Police Department and four Chiefs of Police in a race discrimination/failure to promote case.
- On October 22, 2014, a jury in Riverside Superior Court awarded a forklift operator who was fired from Costco \$1,186,500 for disability discrimination and another \$500,000 for defamation. Bernard Alexander served as lead counsel, joined by Lenny Sansanowicz of the Feldman Browne Olivares firm in Los Angeles.
- On March 6, 2014, the United States District Court for the Northern District of California gave final approval to a class settlement in the amount of \$9.5 million in the case of *Mendez, et al. v. R+L Carriers Inc., et al.* AK+G's Michael Morrison as lead counsel joined Thomas W. Falvey and J.D. Henderson of the Law Offices of Thomas W. Falvey.
- On March 27, 2014, the Second District Court of Appeal affirmed the jury verdict of \$287,400 in favor of plaintiff Rashawna Taylor, a single mother, low income earner who was subjected to subtle forms of discrimination but not termination. Tracy Fehr and Bernard Alexander took the lead on this appeal, joined by co-counsel Twila White.

Additional cases are on-going, including Mike Morrison's lead counsel role in a class action litigation against Donald Sterling and his Beverly Hills Properties entity.

In 2014, AK+G also continued its activities and services on behalf of various bar associations in leadership and speaking roles:

In his position as President of the California Employment Lawyers Association ("CELA"), Bernard Alexander was the driving force of the Association's First Annual Trial College on June 5, an all-star plaintiff employment attorney event. Alexander also spoke on the topic "When Can You Recover Attorney Fees" at the Annual Conference of the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles ("CAALA") in Las Vegas on August 30;

Michael Morrison spoke on various wage and hour class action and employment litigation panels for the LACBA at its annual Labor and Employment Law Symposium and Retreat, the State Bar of California's Labor and Employment Section's Annual Meeting, and for Bridgeport Continuing Education Seminars, including the topics of "Characteristics of a Strong Wage and Hour Class Action," "Holding Settlement Talks & Mediation," "Wage/Hour Strategies & Case Updates," and "Trends in Wage and Hour Litigation";

The CELA online blog, *CELA Voice*, published Marvin Krakow's several articles on at will employment, the myth of the disgruntled employee, and the Civil Rights Act – Looking Back and Looking Ahead; Krakow also spoke at a seminar "Policing the Workplace: Advanced Seminar on PAGA Actions and Retaliation Claims" for the Los Angeles County Bar Associations Labor and Employment Law Section at Loyola Law School on January 25;

Gail Glick had her services put to use in several instances. She was elected to serve as a Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Disability Rights Legal Center; spoke on the topic of employment law depositions at the Consumer Attorneys of California Legal Conference in Maui on December 3; served as a training leader at CELA's deposition skills

seminar at its annual conference in October; spoke on wrongful termination in violation of public policy at the Annual Conference of the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles in Las Vegas on August 30; moderated a panel titled “Mediators' Insights Into Successful Employment Mediation Advocacy at LACBA's Annual Retreat on May 3; and spoke on employee leaves of absence at an ABA conference on April 9 and a Black Women Lawyers Association Presentation on January 28;

AK+G's attorneys supported CELA at its annual conference in October and CAALA at its annual conference in September; and

AK+G was pleased to welcome its newest attorney, Ana Graciela Nájera Mendoza, who joined AK+G in the fall of 2014, passed the California State Bar Exam in November, and was admitted to practice in early December. On August 17, she was honored at the 2014 Latina Lawyers Bar Association's Awards and Scholarships Gala as one of the LLBA's ten scholarship recipients. Recipients were selected based on their commitments to community service and to the Latino community. Earlier in the year, Ana was chosen as the 2014 Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) Hernandez-Stern Law School Scholarship recipient. Ana was selected based on her record of service and academic dedication, which reflect her potential to serve as a leader among attorneys advancing the civil rights of Latinos.