

Here's Our Formula for Success:

Take 50,000 lawyers younger than 40. Throw in remarkable accomplishments throughout the early stages of their careers. Narrow the field to 20. The result? An incredibly skillful group of lawyers sure to make their mark on the legal landscape, also known as the

20 under 40

With our 11th annual selection of California's top young attorneys, the editors and staff at Daily Journal EXTRA should have learned a few tricks to make the whole process easier by now. ■ Jokes about pulling names from a hat aside, we should calculate a mathematical equation: Plug in date of birth, book of business, practice area, key victories and other noteworthy successes; divide by the square root of lawyerly greatness; and spit out the names of 20 attorneys under 40 for inclusion on our list. ■ Instead, the collection of deserving lawyers grows each year, making our picks all the more difficult and impressive. ■ This year's group includes attorneys who have developed novel legal theories, a couple of political bigwigs and even a pair of corporate attorneys who managed to make a buck during the downturn. ■ Bruno Katz wrote the book on defending military pilots against claims of wrongdoing with the Judge Advocate General's Corps, while USC professor David Cruz is working to extend First Amendment rights to same-sex couples who wish to marry. ■ As chair of the judicial committee of La Raza Lawyers Association of California, Santa Clara County Deputy District Attorney Christopher Arriola carries the voice of the Latino constituency to the bench. And Browne & Woods partner Eric George has the ear of Gerald Parsky for recommending federal judicial candidates. ■ Pillsbury Winthrop's Allison Leopold Tilly and Latham & Watkins' Tracy Edmonson certainly break the mold. Both are women in the ultimate men's world of law — corporate practice — and both have continued to excel despite the slumping economy and their locations in tech-heavy Northern California. ■ In the public-interest arena, Judy London continues to fight for immigrants' rights at a time of tightening border security and increasing federal limits on immigration. Meredith Blake, meanwhile, chose to start her own public-interest group, reaching out to young girls who are victims of domestic violence. ■

Roger Mansukhani

In the 10 years that Roger Mansukhani has worked at Gordon & Rees, he has been a major force in attracting new attorneys to the firm, which has grown from five lawyers in Southern California to 80.

Mansukhani made partner in four years and equity partner as soon as he was eligible three years ago. His book of business is worth \$5 million.

"Roger has been one of the key leaders in developing the strategy, attracting the business and attracting the talented attorneys that resulted in that growth," says Miles Scully, the managing partner of the firm's Southern California offices.

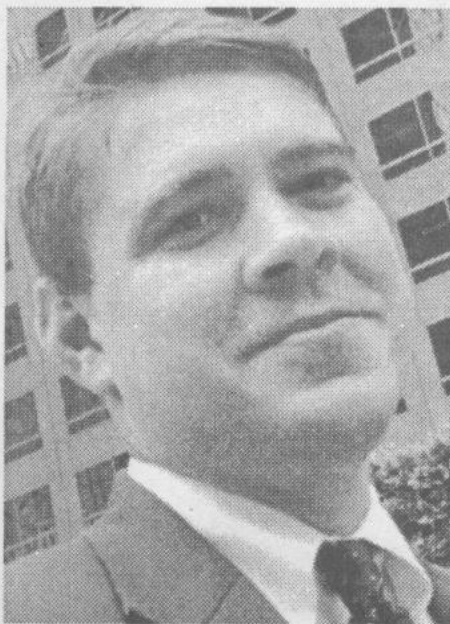
Mansukhani is no stranger to making a big impact at a young age. When he was 9, he was involved in one of the first successful bone-marrow transplants in the United States. He donated bone marrow to his sister, who had leukemia. After surviving for 25 years, she died last year.

"She was the longest successful bone-marrow transplant they've ever had," Mansukhani says.

At 35, Mansukhani heads the Southern California litigation group, which includes the San Diego, Los Angeles and Irvine offices. He also has served as the firm's marketing partner for Southern California for the past three years, coordinating practice groups, sending out e-mail updates to clients and teaching young attorneys how to better market themselves.

"Nothing he does amazes me anymore because he can simply do it all," Scully says.

That also includes getting great results for his clients in big cases. Mansukhani recently defeated a mold class action brought against his client, Avalon Bay Communities Inc., a national real estate investment trust. Mansukhani convinced



the judge to throw out the case 30 days after it was filed by 8,000 residents who claimed that mold had made them sick. He argued that the people had different symptoms and couldn't be addressed in a class action.

In another matter that Mansukhani handled for Avalon Bay, he won a Proposition 65 case on summary judgment. Plaintiffs in the case alleged that apartment complexes should have posted warnings about the risk of cancer from secondhand smoke.

"We're still the only firm that won one of those cases at the summary-judgment stage," Mansukhani says.

He also represents other real estate investment trusts and Fortune 500 companies.

"He is truly a genius when it comes to evaluating a case and determining the best way to attack it," Scully says.

— Stefanie Knapp