

STRUMWASSER & WOOCHEER LLP

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The Firm

STRUMWASSER & WOOCHEER is one of the most respected law firms in California, known for its successful resolution of major public-interest and public-policy matters. Since its founding in 1991, the firm has litigated landmark cases ranging from political and election law to economic regulation and consumer protection, from constitutional law and civil rights to education law, from environmental protection to workers' rights. In trial and appellate courts, legislative halls and administrative tribunals, Strumwasser & Woocher has collected a broad array of victories in path-making litigation — including roughly 50 published appellate decisions — and advised clients on the day's most compelling social and policy issues.

Representative Matters

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW & CIVIL RIGHTS

The firm represents an array of public agencies and private parties in selected matters involving constitutional, regulatory, and environmental issues, particularly with respect to local land use regulation, as well as in other matters of public interest. For example, Strumwasser & Woocher defended the Los Angeles Ethics Commission in a challenge to the city's conflict-of-interest legislation, and defended the City of Huntington Beach in a federal lawsuit seeking to invalidate city-imposed campaign-finance limits. The firm has won precedential cases applying California's "anti-SLAPP" statute protecting citizens who participate in a public environmental review process from retaliatory defamation suits.

Employment Discrimination. Strumwasser & Woocher secured settlement of an action alleging race discrimination in employment of probation officers and in delivery of services to juvenile probationers.

Anti-SLAPP. In 1994 California passed legislation to protect the victims of "SLAPP" cases ("Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation"), suits brought, typically by developers, against individuals and groups that appear before government agencies in opposition to development permits. Strumwasser & Woocher won early landmark cases applying the law to defend an archaeologist on a development project, and has successfully represented other private citizens and Public Interest Organizations who had been sued for their public speech. *Dixon v. Superior Court*, 30 Cal. App. 4th 733 (1994).

Striking Down Discrimination in Insurance Legislation. On behalf of the California Insurance Commissioner and in conjunction with several local and national civil rights and consumer rights organizations, Strumwasser & Woocher won a judgment declaring new state insurance legislation invalid and unconstitutional. The statutory amendments in question discriminated against previously uninsured

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drivers — in direct violation of Proposition 103, a sweeping pro-consumer initiative regulating the insurance industry. *The Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights, et al. v. Garamendi* (Feb. 20, 2004, BS086235).

HUD Redlining Study. Strumwasser & Woocher advised the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Civil Rights on enforcement of anti-redlining rules under the Fair Housing Act, and served as special counsel in hearings the Secretary conducted on possible rulemaking.

Title VI Compliance Analysis. As counsel to the Los Angeles Unified School District, Strumwasser & Woocher is conducting a groundbreaking quantitative and legal study of the District's bond-financed school-construction and modernization program to determine whether any practices in implementing the program have a disparate impact on minority students.

Car-Financing Class Action. The firm is co-counsel in ongoing nationwide proposed class action alleging unfair competition and discrimination in automobile finance charge mark-ups assessed against Black and Latino consumers.

ECONOMIC REGULATION

Among its prominent work, Strumwasser & Woocher has served for over a decade as Special Counsel to all three elected California Insurance Commissioners, whom the firm has advised and represented in all phases of the implementation of Proposition 103, the 1988 insurance-reform initiative. Strumwasser & Woocher developed Commissioner John Garamendi's rate-regulatory program, prosecuted the administrative cases on the insurance companies' rebate liability, and successfully defended the Commissioner's program in scores of state- and federal-court lawsuits, resulting in over \$1 billion in consumer refunds.

Proposition 103. As special counsel to the California Insurance Commissioner, Strumwasser & Woocher has played a pivotal role in his implementation of Proposition 103, the insurance-reform initiative passed by the voters in 1988. The firm designed the Commissioner's rate-regulation program, drafted the regulations, tried the test cases brought by the insurance industry, resulting in the program being upheld against all challenges. *Amwest Surety Ins. Co. v. Wilson*, 11 Cal. 4th 1243 (1997); *20th Century v. Garamendi*, 8 Cal. 4th 216 (1994), *cert. denied sub nom Century-National Ins. Co. v. Quackenbush*, 513 U.S. 1153 (1995); *State Farm Mutual Automobile Ins. Co. v. Quackenbush*, 77 Cal. App. 4th 65 (1999); *Fireman's Fund Ins. Companies v. Quackenbush*, 52 Cal. App. 4th 599 (1997); *Safeco Ins. Co. v. Garamendi*, 11 Cal. App. 4th 1141 (1992); *State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co. v. Garamendi*, 12 Cal. App. 4th 206 (1992); *Wilshire Ins. Co. v. Garamendi*, 5 Cal. App. 4th 1573 (1992); *California Auto. Assigned Risk Plan v. Garamendi*, 234 Cal. App. 3d 1486 (1991); *Fireman's Fund Ins. Co. v. Quackenbush*, 87 F.3d 290 (9th Cir. 1997); *Fireman's Fund Ins. Co. v. Garamendi*, 790 F. Supp. 938 (N.D. Cal. 1992).

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California Earthquake Authority. The firm is regulatory counsel to a state agency created to write residential earthquake insurance after the private industry withdrew from the market following the Northridge Earthquake. Strumwasser & Woocher advises the Authority on regulatory, intergovernmental, and technical issues and represents it in judicial and administrative litigation.

The firm has advised and represented insurance regulators in Washington, Missouri, Texas, and New Mexico, and has served as special counsel to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on homeowners' insurance discrimination.

California Electricity Deregulation. In 2001, when California's electricity-deregulation experiment became an unprecedented disaster, Strumwasser & Woocher represented TURN (The Utility Reform Network), the state's leading utility-ratepayer advocacy organization, in litigation to block a multi-billion-dollar bail-out of the utilities at the expense of consumers. The firm initially successfully defended actions of the California Public Utilities Commission obtained by TURN holding the utilities to the terms of the deregulation legislation. When the PUC entered a secret bail-out deal with one of the utilities, the firm initially succeeded in blocking the deal in a decision overturned by the California Supreme Court. *Southern California Edison Co. v. Lynch*, 307 F.3d 794 (9th Cir. 2002); *Pacific Gas & Elec. Co. v. Lynch*, 216 F. Supp. 2d 1016 (N.D. Cal. 2002); *Southern California Edison Co. v. Peevey*, 31 Cal. 4th 781 (2003); *Southern California Edison Co. v. Public Utilities Com'n*, 117 Cal. App. 4th 1039 (2004).

California Independent System Operator. Following accusations that during the electric-power crisis of 2001, the ISO, the non-profit corporation that operates the bulk of the state's grid, attempted to manipulate the power market. Strumwasser & Woocher was retained by the ISO, at the behest of the California Senate, as independent investigators to report on the charges.

EDUCATION LAW

A large part of the firm's practice currently consists of representing and advising the Los Angeles Unified School District, the nation's second largest school system, in diverse arenas on a broad array of legal and legislative matters — from issues of constitutional law, to implementation of sweeping changes in charter school law, to a penumbra of issues arising out of the financing and execution of the District's multi-billion-dollar school-construction program. The firm serves as LAUSD's principal counsel in constitutional matters, advising and representing the District on issues involving First and Fourth Amendment policy analysis and litigation.

State Bonds for Urban Schools. On behalf of the Los Angeles Unified School District, Strumwasser & Woocher successfully challenged California's allocation of state school-construction bond money on the ground that it funded suburban and rural districts rather than more seriously overcrowded urban districts. The challenge resulted in reform of the state's allocation method and \$25 billion in new statewide bond

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money with explicit set-asides for critically overcrowded schools, in statutes that the firm negotiated in the Legislature.

LAUSD School Bonds. As counsel to the Los Angeles Unified School District, Strumwasser & Woocher drafted two bond propositions, Measure K and Measure R, that were approved by the voters, giving LAUSD nearly \$7 billion for the largest school-construction program in the nation. As counsel to the bond campaign, Strumwasser & Woocher advises it on election-law issues.

Church Challenge to School-District's Condemnation. The firm defeated a challenge filed by a church that had purchased land being condemned to build a school to alleviate student-overcrowding that claimed the First Amendment and federal statute precluded the taking of church property.

Weapon-Searches in Schools. Strumwasser & Woocher successfully defended Los Angeles Unified School District at trial and on appeal against a damages claim filed by an untenured teacher whose contract was not renewed after she twice obstructed searches of her classroom pursuant to the District's weapon-search policy (crafted in consultation with the ACLU and law-enforcement officials). *Motevalli v. Los Angeles Unified School District*, __ Cal. 4th __, 18 Cal. Rptr. 3d 562 (Sept. 9, 2004).

Interscholastic Athletics Due Process. The firm achieved a settlement for state high school basketball champions after suing the California Interscholastic Federation to challenge an administrative decision sustaining allegation of improper player recruiting.

ELECTION LAW

The firm has an active elections law and ethics-in-government practice, representing candidates, political committees, corporations, citizen groups, and public agencies in compliance matters and in litigation on ballot access issues, campaign finance and ethics regulations, initiative and referendum law, and contested elections. Over the years, the firm has represented numerous political committees and organizations in drafting state and local ballot measures and in litigation over the qualification of initiative and referendum petitions for the ballot.

Representation of Candidates and Committees. In every election cycle, Strumwasser & Woocher advises and represents candidates and campaign committees in election law matters. Issues typically involve candidate qualifications, ballot designations and official voter-pamphlet arguments, recounts and election contests. *Jeffrey v. Superior Court*, 102 Cal. App. 4th 1 (2002); *Nicolopoulos v. City of Lawndale*, 91 Cal. App. 4th 1221 (2001); *Woo v. Superior Court*, 83 Cal. App. 4th 967 (2000); *Schweisinger v. Jones*, 68 Cal. App. 4th 1320 (1998).

California Common Cause. Representing an intervenor public interest organization, the firm unsuccessfully sought from the California Supreme Court reformation of Proposition 73, the campaign-

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reform initiative previously enjoined from enforcement by a federal court, in order to resurrect the measure's campaign-contribution limits. *Kopp v. Fair Pol. Practices Com.*, 11 Cal. 4th 607 (1993).

Native American Tribal Representation. Strumwasser & Woocher has represented and advised the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians in electoral and constitutional issues, including the negotiation of its 1999 Gaming Compact with the Governor of California. The firm drafted for the Tribe Proposition 70 on the November 2004 California ballot, and has handled election-law litigation in connection with that initiative measure.

OpenPrimary Initiative. Recently prevailing in the California Court of Appeal, Strumwasser & Woocher worked on behalf of the proponents of Proposition 62 — a citizen-sponsored open primary initiative that appeared on California's November 2004 ballot — who challenged the California Legislature's effort to undermine Proposition 62 by placing a competing measure on the ballot that unconstitutionally combined two unrelated proposed amendments to the California Constitution in violation of the California Constitution's separate-vote requirement. After the California Court of Appeal ruled in favor of Proposition 62 and held that the Legislature's improperly conjoined measures must appear on the ballot as two separate proposed constitutional amendments, the California Supreme Court granted review. The case is pending. *Californians for an Open Primary v. Shelley*, 121 Cal. App. 4th 222, rev. granted (2004).

Congressional Election Contests. The firm successfully represented Members of Congress Loretta Sanchez and Jane Harman in election contests before the House Oversight Committee and in court. *Dornan v. Sanchez*, 978 F. Supp. 1315 (C.D. Cal. 1997).

Compton Mayoral Election. Strumwasser & Woocher successfully represented the winner of the Compton mayoral election in an appeal that overturned the trial court's decision to remove him from office on the mistaken theory that the runner-up would have won the election had his name been listed first, rather than second, on the ballot. *Bradley v. Perrodin*, 106 Cal. App. 4th 1153 (2003).

El Toro Conversion. The firm represented parties seeking to develop the abandoned El Toro Marine Air Station as a commercial airport in lieu of further expansion of existing airports in urban centers. The representation included litigation over conflicting ballot measures and over environmental regulation. *Citizens for Jobs and the Economy v. County of Orange*, 94 Cal. App. 4th 1311 (2002); *Songstad v. Superior Court*, 93 Cal. App. 4th 1202 (2001).

Representation of Election Officials. Strumwasser & Woocher frequently represents local election and ethics officials in litigation when governmental lawyers have a conflict or lack sufficient expertise.

Electronic Voting Machine. The firm represents clients seeking recounts of elections conducted on electronic voting machines and organized non-partisan, public interest suit to vindicate statutory guarantee of a meaningful recount when local elections officials denied access to voting machine data.

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ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Strumwasser & Woocher represents a wide range of environmental organizations, homeowner groups, and public agencies in environmental and land-use litigation under the California Environmental Quality Act, the Clean Air Act, California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act (Proposition 65), the Subdivision Map Act, historic-preservation laws, and various other regulatory laws.

Exxon Oil Tankering. The firm represented the County of Santa Barbara when it was sued by Exxon, challenging, on Commerce Clause grounds, a county ordinance seeking to prevent oil-spill damage to county beaches by requiring the use of pipeline, rather than oil tankers, to transport oil to a Santa Barbara refinery.

Lead Poisoning. The firm successfully prosecuted, under California's Proposition 65, a manufacturer for failing to warn its employees of lead-poisoning, securing substantial settlement for injured employees.

California Senate. The firm represented the Senate Rules Committee in a challenge to the Senate's power to require a gubernatorial appointee seeking confirmation to hold hearings before licensing a nuclear-waste dump. *California Radioactive Materials Management Forum v. Department of Health Services*, 15 Cal. App. 4th 841 (1993).

Americans for Nonsmoking Rights. Strumwasser & Woocher successfully represented an anti-smoking group in challenging a tobacco-industry-sponsored referendum seeking to block Los Angeles ordinance banning smoking in restaurants. *Browne v. Russell*, 27 Cal. App. 4th 1116 (1994).

Native American Heritage Commission. Strumwasser & Woocher successfully represented a group of Native Americans to block construction of a parking lot and strip-mall on a sacred site located on a state-college campus. *Native American Heritage Com. v. Board of Trustees*, 51 Cal. App. 4th 675 (1996).

SCAQMD Hearing Board. The firm serves as outside counsel to the Hearing Board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the air-pollution control agency for the 16 million people living in the Southern California air basin. Strumwasser & Woocher advises the Hearing Board on administrative, constitutional, and environmental law, and represents the board in state and federal litigation.

Anti-Smoking Education Funds. Strumwasser & Woocher successfully challenged, on behalf of anti-tobacco groups, the California Legislature's diversion of funds earmarked by the voter-enacted Proposition 99 for anti-smoking education programs. *American Lung Assn. v. Wilson*, 51 Cal. App. 4th 743 (1996).

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Representation of Homeowners Against Developers. The firm represents several Los Angeles area homeowner associations in actions against private developers and local governmental bodies alleging non-compliance with land use and environmental laws.

LABOR LAW

Strumwasser & Woocher represents labor unions and related groups in a diverse body of cases seeking to advance worker interests in precedent-setting litigation and in legislative reforms.

Garment Workers Class Action. As counsel to a class of garment workers wrongfully denied minimum-wage and overtime pay, the firm achieved a \$1.5 million settlement for approximately 350 employees of contractors to Guess?, Inc.

SEIU. The firm has worked with representatives of the Service Employees International Union to develop a legislative strategy and to draft proposed legislation to reform existing laws governing nursing homes in California to improve working conditions for nursing home care aides and the quality of care for residents, expand job opportunities for nursing home aides, and help SEIU increase its membership.

UNITE. Strumwasser & Woocher has advised and represented the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees on antitrust issues concerning consolidation of the industries in which the union represents employees.

AFSCME. The firm has represented the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, in an action to remove the officers of a local Los Angeles bargaining unit for failure to hold elections as required by the International's constitution and by-laws. Strumwasser & Woocher also advises AFSCME in complying with California campaign finance and election laws.

Professional Staff

FREDRIC D. WOOCHEE entered private practice after serving two years as Special Counsel to California Attorney General John Van de Kamp, whom he represented and advised on government ethics, environmental law, and consumer-protection issues, including implementation of Proposition 103. Prior to his government service, Mr. Woocher spent seven years with the Center for Law in the Public Interest, litigating a broad range of public interest issues involving land-use, environmental law, hazardous substances regulation, First Amendment protection, and civil rights cases. He is an acknowledged authority on the initiative and referendum process and on campaign financing issues. Mr. Woocher has successfully argued before both the United States and California Supreme Courts as well as other appellate and trial courts. He served as Chair of the State Bar's Committee on Human Rights, as a member of the State Bar

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Committee on the Environment, and as a member of the Los Angeles County Judicial Evaluations Committee. He is a graduate of Yale University (A.B.) and Stanford (Ph.D., J.D.), and was President of the Stanford Law Review. Mr. Woocher was law clerk to United States Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., and Chief Judge David L. Bazelon of the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. In May 1999, Mr. Woocher was nominated by President Clinton to serve as United States District Court Judge for the Central District of California, but the nomination expired when the Senate adjourned in December 2000 without having taken action to confirm his nomination.

MICHAEL J. STRUMWASSER co-founded Strumwasser & Woocher after seventeen years with the California Department of Justice, the last eight years as Special Assistant Attorney General, where he litigated some of the state's largest antitrust, consumer-protection, and environmental cases, including California's challenges to major supermarket and oil-company mergers, defended consumer interests in utility-rate litigation, and represented the Governor of California in Nuclear Regulatory Commission health-and-safety reviews. Mr. Strumwasser is a nationally-recognized authority on insurance- and utility-regulation, having successfully represented consumers and regulators in state and federal courts and agencies and before Congress and the California Legislature. He was lead counsel for California Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi, developing his regulations to implement Proposition 103 and successfully defending the program against numerous industry challenges. Mr. Strumwasser advises and consults for officials across the nation on economic regulation. He has represented numerous public agencies and officials and advises various California public agencies on government-law matters. Mr. Strumwasser has appeared in the United States and California Supreme Courts and regularly litigates a wide range of constitutional and public-policy cases throughout the trial and appellate courts on behalf of public and private clients. He holds A.B., M.S., and J.D. degrees from UCLA.

GREGORY G. LUKE joined Strumwasser & Woocher after serving as staff attorney with the ACLU of Southern California. Before moving to Los Angeles, Mr. Luke spent three years as Senior Staff Attorney with the National Voting Rights Institute in Boston where he specialized in voting rights and campaign finance reform litigation. During this time, he co-authored "Challenging *Buckley v. Valeo*: A Legal Strategy" for the Akron Law Review as well as other material published in Supreme Court Debates, The Economist, and the League of Women Voters National Voter Magazine. Before joining the National Voting Rights Institute, Mr. Luke spent two years as an Associate with Cravath, Swaine, & Moore, in New York and clerked for the Honorable Thomas K. Moore, Chief Judge of the United States District Court of the Virgin Islands. During law school, Mr. Luke interned with the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office in Boston, the Legal Services Center of Jamaica Plain, the Office of the Attorney General of Massachusetts, the Lawyers Committee For Human Rights, and the Honorable Martin Lee, Q.C., in Hong Kong. He was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar at Columbia Law School and a Human Rights Program Fellow. Mr. Luke received his J.D. *cum laude* in 1994 from Harvard Law School and a B.A. *cum laude* in East Asian Studies from Yale. As a Yale-China Teaching Fellow stationed at Hunan Medical University in the late 1980's, Mr. Luke became fluent in Mandarin. Since joining Strumwasser & Woocher, Mr. Luke has focused on elections, education, and regulatory conflicts. He leads the firm's efforts in two groundbreaking challenges to the use of electronic voting machines in California.

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AIMEE DUDOVITZ became a member of Strumwasser & Woocher after practicing in a small law office. Ms. Dudovitz received her law degree from the University of California at Davis where she was Order of the Coif, an Articles Editor, active in the King Hall Legal Foundation and Prison Law Clinic, received American Jurisprudence Awards in Civil Procedure and Legal Writing and assisted in revising *McCormick On Evidence*. Ms. Dudovitz recently represented intervenors in California's same-sex marriage litigation. She has drawn her practice toward political and election laws while overseeing compliance with FPPC reporting requirements, representing a client at a Section 8 administrative hearing, and coordinating "get out the vote." Ms. Dudovitz has clerked with both the Honorable Harry Pregerson of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the Honorable Dean D. Pregerson of the United States District Court for the Central District of California. Ms. Dudovitz has co-published *Branch v. Smith – Election Law Federalism After Bush v. Gore: Are State Courts Unconstitutional Interlopers in Congressional Redistricting?*, 2 Election L.J. 91 (2003), and authored *California Democratic Party v. Jones: The Constitutionality of Blanket Primary Laws*, 44 N.Y.L. Sch. L. Rev. 13 (2000). Ms. Dudovitz graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of California at Santa Cruz with a B.A. in Politics and Philosophy. She was chair of the Student Union Assembly, co-founder of Slug Books and chartered a non-profit bookstore.

ZAHIRAH WASHINGTON joined Strumwasser & Woocher after serving as a Schwarz Fellow in the Natural Resources Defense Council's (NRDC) Southern California office. Among her recent history, Ms. Washington clerked at the NRDC in New York, New York, after interning with W. Haywood Burns Environmental Education Center and Arbor Hill Environmental Justice Corp. in Albany, New York, and with the United States Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, DC. Ms. Washington received her J.D. *cum laude* from Tulane Law School, where she participated in the Environmental Law Society, the Public Interest Law Foundation, Inns of Court, and Tulane's nationally recognized Environmental Law Clinic. While in law school, Ms. Washington studied international and human rights law at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. Prior to law school, Ms. Washington was a member of AmeriCorps. Ms. Washington graduated with a B.A. in Political Science from Vassar College. During her undergraduate career, Ms. Washington participated in American University's Washington Semester Program where she studied public law.

BRYCE GEE joined Strumwasser & Woocher after working as an associate at the law firm of Irell & Manella, where his practice focused on copyright law, securities law, and general litigation. Notably, he worked with copyright scholar David Nimmer in representing Clare Milne, the heir of the author of the Winnie-the-Pooh novels, in a federal action to reclaim the copyrights in those works. Mr. Gee received his J.D. from Yale Law School, where he served as an Editor for the Yale Law Journal. While in law school, he also worked at the TRO Clinic, assisting battered women obtain temporary restraining orders. Mr. Gee graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Cornell University with a B.A. in Economics. As an undergraduate, he participated in the Cornell-in-Washington Program, during which he wrote a thesis on the economic effects of the proposed deregulation of the electricity industry; he concurrently interned at the United States Department of the Treasury in the Economic Policy Office, researching and analyzing current policy issues, such as the Asian financial crisis.

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ELLEN YANG started her legal career as an associate at the law firm of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart Oliver & Hedges LLP, working on various cases involving copyright and trademark infringement, employment law, RICO, securities litigation, and general business litigation. While at Quinn Emanuel, Ms. Yang participated in a three-week federal trial on trademark infringement claims, and a state court trial on defamation claims, which resulted in a six-figure jury award to the client. Ms. Yang received her J.D. from New York University School of Law, where she served as Senior Articles Editor for the *Annual Survey of American Law* journal. During this time, she also collaborated with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund on death penalty appeals through the Federal Capital Punishment clinic. Ms. Yang also chaired the second and third annual Korematsu Lecture on Asian Americans and the Law, honoring keynote speakers such as Bill Lann Lee and Harold Koh. Ms. Yang received her undergraduate degree from the University of California at Berkeley in Molecular and Cell Biology and Political Science. While in college, she spent two summers at the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Molecular Microbiology division, conducting laboratory research on the HIV-1 promoter region.

JOSHUA C. LEE joined Strumwasser & Woocher in 2001 as an analyst after serving for a year as Assistant Director of the University of Southern California Center for Global Education. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Southern California School of Economics, Mr. Lee's recent work includes econometric analysis of Title VI compliance for a major school district and aiding in the independent investigation of a state public utility. Mr. Lee attended graduate school at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, and studied German at Berlin's Humboldt Universität. He wrote his thesis on the effect of the availability heuristic on perceptions of value. Prior to his work for the firm, Mr. Lee conducted research into new conductive, non-stick polymer coatings for electrical scalpels for a surgical supply company and studied microbial metabolism at NASA's Ames Research Center. He has won two gold medals and a silver in international gymnastics competitions and has a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. Mr. Lee graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Southern California with an MA and BA in Economics and a BA in German.