

# **27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GALA DINNER** and Pro Bono Silent Auction

**THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024** 

WESTIN BONAVENTURE HOTEL AND SUITES

# **EVENING PROGRAM**

5:00 PM Registration, Reception and Silent Auction

5:30 PM Ballroom Doors Open

6:00 – 7:00 PM **Dinner** 

**Live Auction** 

Auctioneer: Zach Zaharek, Associate General Counsel, Virgin Galactic

7:00 PM Opening Ceremonies and Welcome

Elizabeth Duong, ACC Southern California President and Vice President & General Counsel, Business and Staffing Solutions, ActOne Group

2024 ACC Southern California Diversity Award

Heather Anderson, Vice President, Original Content and Business Affairs, ESPN

Presented By: Ellen Yang, Vice President of ACC Southern California and Chief of Staff and Legal Counsel, Cruise, LLC

2024 ACC Southern California Pro Bono Corporate Counsel of the Year Award

Don H. Liu, Executive Vice President and Chief Legal and Compliance Officer at Target

Presented By: Jessica Gillette, Associate Counsel-Senior Director, L.A. Care Health Plan

Q & A

Bill Maher, Comedian and Host of HBO's "Real Time with Bill Maher"

Moderated by: Ross Greenman, Vice President and General Counsel, KSL Resorts

**Program Concludes** 

The 'Side Bar' Reception

Complimentary Desserts and Cappuccino Bar in Ballroom Foyer

Please scan to download the 27th Annual Gala Dinner Tribute Journal



# A MESSAGE FROM THE GALA DINNER CHAIR



# Welcome to ACC Southern California's 27th Annual Gala Dinner and Pro Bono Auction!

First and foremost, there would not be

a Gala without the support of our sponsors, Executive Director, Betty St. Marie, Chapter Administrator, Shannon Keany, our Executive Committee, the incredible group who donated their very valuable time to our Gala Committee and all of our ACC So Cal Board colleagues who offered their expertise, support and guidance across many months in preparation for this evening. We also offer our sincere thanks to our generous auction donors and to the Westin Bonaventure, Knockout Productions, and Michael Teta Productions for their continued partnership across many years.

One of the things that has impressed me the most about our marquee annual event over the years is that unlike many events where the audience often self-selects on the basis of the speaker or performer, the Gala provides us with an opportunity to hear from unique and influential voices from across the political spectrum who we might not otherwise choose to hear from. In an increasingly polarized country such opportunities take on even more urgency and importance. While my mind may not have ever been changed by a Gala speaker, my perspective has been, and I am tremendously proud of the Association of Corporate Counsel's commitment to creating this space for open discussion. As we gather this evening, I hope that you will take pride as well, that you are participating in and honoring our democracy's greatest traditions of civil discourse, and helping us to celebrate and uphold the legal profession's commitment to free speech and the open exchange of ideas.

This year's speaker, Bill Maher, continues our tradition of allowing our sponsors, members and guests to hear directly from those who make the news and drive our national conversation. Bill is the recipient of more than 41 Emmy

nominations and for more than 25 years, he has set the boundaries of where funny, political talk can go on television. I look forward to hearing his take on the current social and political climate and I hope that you will enjoy the discussion.

In addition to our featured speaker, the Gala also provides an important opportunity to give back to our community and to honor some of our very deserving in-house colleagues. This year we again raise crucial funds for Public Counsel to provide legal services to those in need in the Los Angeles area and beyond. With our



Diversity and Pro Bono Counsel of the Year awards, we also honor two individuals who have made outstanding contributions to their communities, opening doors to the legal profession and giving the loud and clear voice of legal counsel to those who might otherwise go voiceless.

That this event has endured for nearly three decades is a testament to the support of our sponsors, our members and the overall strength and vibrancy of our ACC So Cal community. Thank you for being here and for your ongoing commitment to and support of ACC So Cal.

It has been a tremendous honor to chair this year's Gala and on behalf of our Gala Committee we hope that you enjoy this evening's program!

Yours sincerely,

# **Ross Greenman**

2024 Gala Chair

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### **OGLETREE CONGRATULATES THIS YEAR'S HONOREES!**

2024 ACC Southern California Diversity Award Heather Anderson, Vice President, Original Content and Business Affairs, ESPN

2024 ACC Southern California Pro Bono Corporate Counsel of the Year
Don H. Liu, Executive Vice President and Chief Legal and Compliance Officer, Target

Ogletree Deakins is proud to support
ACC Southern California and the
27th Annual Gala Dinner
featuring Bill Maher.

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# PRESIDENT'S WELCOME MESSAGE



Dear Members, Sponsors and Friends,

We would like to welcome and thank you for supporting the Association of Corporate Counsel Southern California Chapter ("we" or "our") 27th Annual Gala Dinner and Pro Bono Auction. At past galas, we have been

honored with the presence of thought-provoking public figures, including, but not limited to, former U.S. Presidents, a U.S. Vice President, a foreign head of state, U.S. Secretaries of State and human rights activists. Our 2023 – 2024 Board of Directors is honored to bring you Bill Maher, a dynamic, Emmy-winning and internationally renowned talk show host, author, comedian, political commentator, and entertainer.

We are lucky to have over 1600 members, many who attend Association of Corporate Counsel ("ACC") virtual, local or national events, and some who are also active on one or more of our local committees and ACC practice area networks. We also have a dedicated Board of Directors, who lead committees and liaise with sponsors to bring relevant training and education and positive experiences (e.g., Wellness and Pro Bono activities) to our members and various Southern California communities.

This year, ACC SoCal is fortunate to have strong relationships with 33 law firm and service provider sponsors. Thanks to their exceptional support and expertise, we are able to consistently deliver high quality events and programs to our members and various communities year-round. This collaboration among our committee members, our Board of Directors and sponsors has recently earned ACC SoCal a Gold Chapter of Distinction Award 2023.

Tonight, you will have the opportunity to participate in our ever popular silent and live auction, the latter of which will feature two amazing packages. All auction proceeds will benefit Public Counsel. Its mission is to protect the legal rights of the indigent, veterans, immigrants, homeless, disadvantaged children, and underserved communities. We are grateful to everyone who bids on the silent and live auction items provided by our generous donors.

To recognize the achievements of this year's gala honorees, our Platinum Sponsor, Ogletree Deakins, will present the Diversity Counsel of the Year Award to Heather Anderson, Vice

President, Original Content and Business Affairs at ESPN, and our Platinum Sponsor, Rutan & Tucker, will present the Pro Bono Counsel of the Year Award to Don Liu, Executive Vice President and Chief Legal and Compliance Officer at Target. We salute the honorees for their outstanding accomplishments!

We would also like to take this opportunity to enthusiastically thank Betty St. Marie, our Executive Director, who has welcomed members and sponsors for 16 years and who will be retiring at the end of this year. Betty is to us, the beating heart of the chapter.

This gala can only be successful by a dedicated team working in harmony towards a common goal. We would like to thank our Gala Chair Ross Greenman and our Gala Co-Chairs Njeri Mutura and Wade Pyun



and every member of the gala teams (Auction Committee, Table Sales Committee, Diversity Committee, Pro Bono Committee, Board of Directors, distinguished Director Alumni, volunteers and vendors) for a memorable evening. On behalf of our Board of Directors, thank you for being a special part of our 27th Annual Gala Dinner and Pro Bono Auction. We hope you have an extraordinary evening!

Warmest regards,

# Elizabeth T. Duong

Vice President and General Counsel, Business and Staffing Solutions, ActOne Group President, ACC Southern California (2023 – 2024)

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# A MODERATED CONVERSATION WITH Bill Maher

# Comedian and Host of HBO's "Real Time with Bill Maher"

For more than twenty-five years, Bill Maher has set the boundaries of where funny, political talk can go on American television. First on "Politically Incorrect" (Comedy Central, ABC, 1993-2002), and for the last twenty years on HBO's "Real Time," Maher's combination of unflinching honesty and big laughs have garnered him 41 Emmy nominations. Maher won his first Emmy in 2014 as executive producer for the HBO series, "VICE." In October of 2008, this same combination was on display in Maher's uproarious and unprecedented swipe at organized religion, "Religulous," directed by Larry Charles ("Borat").

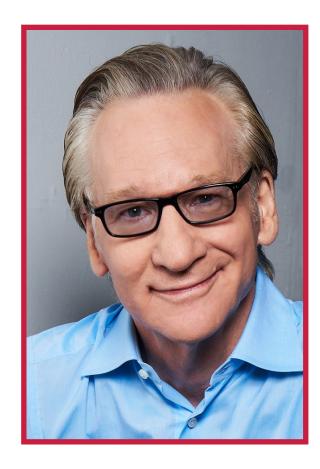
Most recently, Bill launched a new podcast, "Club Random with Bill Maher." The podcast records at the bar on Bill's property in Los Angeles, called Club Random, where he hosts hour-long, one-on-one interviews with a wide range of eclectic guests. Each episode features free flowing, longform conversations about anything and everything, except politics. Guests have included William Shatner, Quentin Tarantino, Bella Thorne, Adam Carolla, Killer Mike, Judd Apatow, and many more. Within a week of launching, the podcast hit #1 on Apple Podcasts.

In addition to his television program – which has featured such visitors as President Barack Obama, Vice President Joseph Biden, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Howard Stern, Barbra Streisand, Kerry Washington, Michael Steele, Megyn Kelly, Ronan Farrow, Howard Dean, Michael Moore, Eva Longoria, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Jim Carrey, Gen. Wesley

Clark, Susan Sarandon, Gary Hart and Pat Buchanan – Maher has written five bestsellers: "True Story," "Does Anybody Have a Problem with That? Politically Incorrect's Greatest Hits," "When You Ride Alone, You Ride with Bin Laden," "New Rules: Polite Musings from a Timid Observer," and, "The New New Rules: A Funny Look at How Everybody But Me Has Their Head Up Their Ass."

Maher started his career as a stand-up comedian in 1979, and still performs at least fifty dates a year in Las Vegas and in sold out theaters all across the country. Bill has also been recognized with numerous Emmy nominations for his stand-up specials for HBO. He's done 12 solo specials for the premium cable channel including, "Bill Maher: Be More Cynical" (2000), "I'm Swiss" (2005), "Bill Maher ... But I'm Not Wrong" (2010), "Bill Maher: Live From Oklahoma" (2018), and his most recent, "#Adulting" (2022).

Maher was born in New York City, raised in River Vale, N.J. and went to Cornell University. He now resides in Los Angeles.



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# 2024 ACC SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DIVERSITY AWARD

# **Heather Anderson**

# Vice President, Original Content and Business Affairs, ESPN

Heather Anderson was named Vice President, Original Content and Business Affairs in June 2023. She shifted from programming to content to lead business affairs and business operations within original content, applying her legal experience into the role. In this role, she will assist the creative teams that bring ESPN's engaging content such as the 30 For 30's, In the Arena series, and ESPN Films.

Anderson has worked as an entertainment and technology attorney for almost 25 years and joined ESPN in October 2021 as vice president, programming and acquisitions. In this role, she worked with Mike Morrison, vice president, sports betting and fantasy and is the primary point of contact between programming and original content and ESPN content strategy and the office of the chairman. This streamlines communication with the content strategy team related to large, multi-sport opportunities and audience expansion initiatives. She also played a similar role acting as a liaison between programming and original content and business development and innovation on ESPN Edge, sports betting, work on The Undefeated and more.

Anderson came to ESPN from The Walt Disney Company, which she joined in 2013 as associate principal counsel, serving as a digital media, product and technology attorney. As vice president and assistant chief counsel since January 2020, she led a team specializing in supporting products such as mobile apps, websites, vertical video games, and interactive connected and VR experiences. This includes supporting DMED Technology teams for Consumer Experiences and Platforms, Design, Studio Technology and Studio Operations. Her responsibilities included supporting 150 digital products ranging from the ABC, ABC News, ESPN, FX, Freeform, National Geographic and DisneyNow mobile apps and websites, to Disney.com, Starwars.com and technology for Disney+ and Hulu. She also has practiced as a Disney TV and short-form production attorney.

While at Disney, Anderson has been very active in DEI efforts. She is the co-founder, Chair Emeritus and Advisor of the Black Business and Employee Resource Group on

Disney's Glendale campus, leading a membership of approximately 500 employees. She also was a founding member and former steering committee member of the Disney Lawyers of Color (DLOC). In addition, she was the interim Executive Sponsor of CARE (TWDC's Christian Employee Resource Group) and a founding member of WILD (Women in the Legal Department), as well as an executive advisor to Women@Disney and a member of Mas+ (the Hispanic Business and Employee Resource Group in Glendale). Anderson also serves on



the Television Academy's Diversity Council and the Council On Access and Fairness (COAF) for the State Bar of California.

Before Disney, Anderson was an attorney in the Business and Legal Affairs department of Interscope Geffen A&M Records, handling multi-million-dollar recording, production and license agreements for high profile IGA artists. Prior to joining Interscope, she was senior counsel in the Intellectual Property department at Fox, handling copyright and trademark issues for all of the Fox companies worldwide.

Consecutively with her time at Fox, Anderson owned and operated Good Girl Entertainment – her music law practice, artist management company and independent record label – stemming from her desire to assist other artists after her time as an aspiring singer and rapper in middle school, high school and college.

Anderson began her career as a litigator at Thelen Reid & Priest LLP.

Anderson received dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in political science and ethnic studies from the University of California at Berkeley and her law degree with a concentration in Intellectual Property and Entertainment law from the UCLA School of Law.

# 2024 ACC SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PRO BONO CORPORATE COUNSEL OF THE YEAR AWARD Don H. Liu

Executive Vice President and Chief Legal and Compliance Officer at Target

Don Liu is executive vice president and chief legal and compliance officer for Target and a member of its leadership team. He oversees all legal, compliance and corporate governance matters for the company. Don also serves as Target's corporate secretary.

Prior to joining Target in 2016, Don was executive vice president, general counsel and secretary for Xerox Corporation. He also held in-house legal leadership roles at Toll Brothers, IKON Office Solutions and Aetna U.S. Healthcare. He began his career in private practice, specializing in securities and mergers and acquisitions.

Don currently serves on the boards of Invesco Mortgage Capital Inc. and Haverford College. He is a co-founder and board member of the Alliance for Asian American Justice, a nonprofit organization offering pro bono legal services to victims of anti-Asian hate. He also serves as an executive mentor for the ExCo Group and is a member of the American Law Institute and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.

Don graduated from Haverford College with a B.A. in philosophy and religion, and received his J.D. from the Columbia University School of Law.



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# **HISTORY**



# **ACC America and Its Southern California Chapter**

On December 1, 1981, Robert Banks, then vice president and general counsel of Xerox Corporation, hosted a luncheon that triggered a chain of events that would change the legal profession. The participants -- mostly general counsel of their companies -- included Lawrence Kraus (U.S. Chamber of Commerce), Philip Knox, Jr. (Sears, Roebuck and Co.), Carl Liggio (Arthur Young and Company), Stephen Middlebrook (Aetna Life and Casualty), Donald Walsh (Sun Company, Inc.), William Weitzel, Jr. (Texaco, Inc.), Irving Yoskowitz (United Technologies Corporation), and Guy Zoghby (IBM Corporation).

# An Overwhelming Response from the Very Beginning

As a result of that initial luncheon meeting, 55 leading general counsel were invited to attend a March 14, 1982, meeting at the AMFAC (now Hyatt) Hotel at the Dallas Fort-Worth Airport to discuss the formation of an organized group for in-house counsel. Although no one knew how the invitation would be received, 53 out of the 55 invited general counsel showed up. This overwhelming response demonstrated that a common chord had been struck.

The lunchtime thoughts of nine visionary in-house counsel took root and have grown into America's -- and the world's -- leading in-house counsel bar association. On a global basis, ACC currently has more than 40,000 members in the U.S. and abroad. In 2003, ACCA changed its name to Association of Corporate Counsel or ACC, in acknowledgement of its global status.

In Southern California, Peter Zeughauser (The Irvine Company), Oscar Glass and several other talented in-house counsel took the initiative in late 1984 and founded the Southern California Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel to serve the professional interests of ACC members in Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, and Santa Barbara counties, as well as portions of Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Mr. Zeughauser later served as the 1991 Chair of ACC Southern California's Board of Directors.

Since the founding of ACC Southern California hundreds of energetic, civic-minded, and service-oriented in-house attorneys of diverse backgrounds have volunteered their time and talents to serve as officers, members of the Board of Directors, and committee members for ACC Southern California. In addition, many other ACC Southern California members have served in leadership positions at the national ACC level, such as on the Board of Directors and as National Committee members. To date, ACC Southern California has over 1,600 members in Southern California, all of whom are in-house counsel.



# **ACC Southern California Committees**

ACC Southern California's volunteer-led committees are the lifeblood of our chapter! ACC SoCal committees are responsible for the wealth and breadth of networking events, educational programs, social gatherings, pro bono opportunities and other programming and initiatives that make our chapter so great. The following pages introduce the committees, their leadership and their volunteers, with examples of the many opportunities they offer for involvement in the chapter and the community. And please enjoy a photo retrospective from some of the events and experiences the committees have brought us over the last year.

### **ACCSoCal Works!! Committee**

The ACCSoCal Works!! Committee organizes opportunities for in-transition members and members looking for their next opportunity.

2024 Chair: Danielle Blnchard Co-Chair: Serra Aladag and Sanjesh Sharma.

2024 Committee: Amy Breyer, Aya Ichida,

### **Advocacy Committee**

The Advocacy Committee develops ACC Southern California's positions on legislation and other initiatives relevant to in-house attorneys.

2024 Chair: Shedrick Davis

2024 Co-Chair: Melissa Sandoval and Jessica Gillette.

### **Attorney Well-Being Committee**

The Attorney Well-Being Committee helps our members find healthy ways to manage the stress inherent in the fast-paced in-house law practice: our goal is to provide activities, information, and resources focused on managing stress, work-life balance, increasing resilience and equanimity and creating and maintaining an overall healthy lifestyle.

2024 Chair: Sanjesh Sharma; 2024 Co-Chairs: Ako Shimada and Justin Fong.
2024 Committee: Jeffrey Compangano, Jill Kalliomaa, Serra Aladag, Rebecka
Biejo, Amy Breyer, Ana Christian, Valerie Bono, Anna Morkos, Jean Chung,
Andrew Chung, Aya Ichida, Conchita Valenzuela, Jade Hamilton, Maggie
McQuade, Lisa Castleton, Malka Barkhordari, April Crisp, Elina Avakian, Danielle
Blanchard, and Matthew Neco.

### **Charity Golf Classic Committee**

The Charity Golf Classic Committee is responsible for the Annual Golf Classic Tournament. The day-long event begins with lunch and putting contest and culminates with a reception and award ceremony during which ACC Southern California presents a cash gift to Public Law Center in addition to tournament awards.

2024 Chair: Njeri Mutara; 2024 Co-chairs: Peter Macdonald and Danielle Blanchard.

2024 Committee: James Dierking Michael Klein, William Harn, Joe Craciun, Peter Marcek and Vincent Gonzales.

### **CLE and Networking/Express Committee**

The CLE and Networking Committee hosts educational presentations and networking receptions at popular and unique venues in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

2024 Chair: Ako Shimada4 2023 Co-Chairs: Serra Aladag and Wade Pyun.

2024 Committee: Davy Huang and Peter Steckelman.

### **CLO Suite Series**

This committee hosts events whereby Chief Legal Officers and General Counsel members can meet and informally discuss issues confronting them.

2024 Chair: Cyrstal Ventura

2024 Co-Chairs: Peter Macdonald and Wade Pyun.

### Communications and Public Affairs Committee

The Communications and Public Affairs Committee is responsible for the chapter's newsletter and media relations.

2024 Chair: Justin Fong;

2023 Co-Chair: Danielle Blanchard

### **Diversity Committee**

The Diversity Committee develops diversity initiatives and programs, such as the ACC Southern California Diversity Award, InSide Diversity, Street Law and Diversity Bar Review Scholarships.

2024 Chair: Asha Muldro;

2024 Co-Chairs: Christine Lee and Shedrick Davis.

2024 Diversity Committee Members: Jasmine E. Simmons, Vincent Gonzales, Javier Rivera, Jennifer Fisher, Andrea K. Douglas, Eric Alderete, Renee Benjamin, Leila Qutami, Lynette Jones, Justin Fong, Pamela Washington, Atiqua Hashem, Aya Ichida, Ana Christian, Katrina Forsyth, Laura Vega

### DoubleHeader<sup>©</sup> Committee

The DoubleHeader© Committee produces quarterly programs combining three hours of MCLE with a sporting event or other entertainment.

2024 Chair: James Dierking;

2024 Co-Chairs: David Cohen, Sanjesh Sharma.

### **Governance Committee**

The ACC Southern California Governance Committee is responsible for organizing, updating and maintaining the Chapter Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, and other documents to facilitate smooth operations for its members.

2024 Chair: Monica Gentzschein;

2024 Co-Chairs: Justin Fong and Crystal Ventura.

### In-House Counsel Conference Committee

The In-House Counsel Conferences Committee produces two all-day programs: the January Conference designed to meet MCLE deadline and the Sports and Entertainment Conference.

2024 Chair: David Cohen;

2024 Co-Chairs: Jennifer Bryant, James Dierking

2024 Committee: Roy Hadavi, Sanjesh Sharma, Denise Ustariz, Christa Cole

### **Internship Committee**

The mission of the Internship Committee is to create a diverse pipeline of attorneys, while providing law students in Orange and Los Angeles Counties that may lack access to and/or knowledge of in-house legal practice, exposure to such practice. Programming includes law student outreach, mentorship and coaching, as well as providing law students the opportunity to intern with ACC Southern California member corporate legal departments.

2024 Chair: Melissa Sandoval;

2024 Co-Chair: Christine Lee, Asha Muldro.

2024 Committee: Heather Koffman, Jessica Zeller, Vincent Gonzales, Diego Arp, Ellen Yang, Rhea Ricard, Shedrick Davis, Eric Alderete, Ryan Murphy, Conchita Valenzuela. Shawn White.

### **Membership Committee**

The Membership Committee is responsible for expanding ACC's outreach within the Southern California in-house community, as well as retaining and engaging members. We accomplish this by hosting events open to friends, colleagues and interested in-house counsel.

2024 Chair: Jennifer Bryant,

2024 Co-Chair: Serra Aladag, Crystal Ventura.

### **Pro Bono Committee**

Dedicated to encouraging public service and a commitment to pro bono service, the Pro Bono Committee organizes a wide variety of events providing legal support and critical resources to various communities in need and the organizations that support them. We are grateful for our chapter sponsors and the countless ACC member volunteers who support our efforts and join us in giving back and making a difference throughout the year!

2023 Chair: Jessica Gillette 2024 Co-Chairs: Christine Lee and Jennifer Bryant.

2024 Committee: Diego Arp, Valerie Bono, Manal Boulos, Tiffany Cruz, Katrina Forsyth, Kate Galson, Meredith Grant, Lynette Jones, Mark Karpe, Tanya Kiatkulpiboone, Jessica Meltser, Anna Morkos, Ritu Portugal, Amanda Sandberg, Sanjesh Sharma, Beverly Shin, Nicole Su, Julie Ting, Laura Vega, Jason Weintraub

A huge *thank you* to all of our volunteers! Whether your name is listed above or not, you are the heart and soul of our chapter. Without you, we couldn't bring our members the type of educational, fulfilling, and more importantly, fun educational and networking events shown on the following pages. Thank you!

# **Education and Networking**













# **Education and Networking**



























# **Pro Bono and Community Activities**



















# **Wellness and Outdoor Activities**

















# **Diversity Intern Program**





# Supporting visionaries who are making a difference

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We congratulate this year's honorees.

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# **ACC Southern California**and congratulates the 2024 honorees:

# ACC Southern California Diversity Award Heather Anderson

Vice President, Original Content and Business Affairs, ESPN

# Pro Bono Counsel of the Year **Don H. Liu**

Executive Vice President and Chief Legal and Compliance Officer, Target

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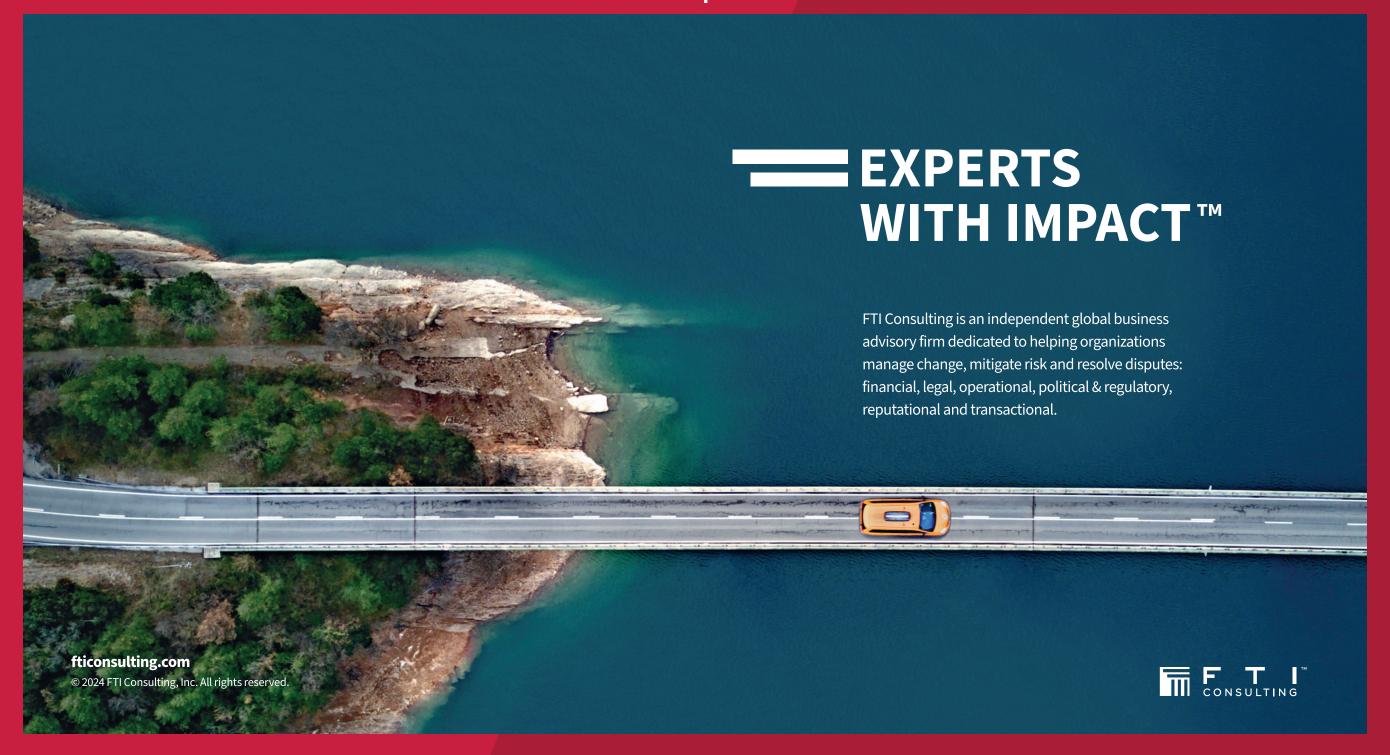
# **Congratulations to the honorees:**

2024 ACC Southern California Diversity Award Heather Anderson | Vice President, Original Content and Business Affairs, ESPN

2024 ACC Southern California Pro Bono Corporate Counsel of the Year Award Don H. Liu | Executive Vice President and Chief Legal and Compliance Officer at Target

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Congratulations to the 2024 Honorees!

2024 ACC Southern California Diversity Award

**Heather Anderson** 

Vice President, Original Content and Business Affairs, ESPN 2024 ACC Southern California Pro Bono Corporate Counsel of the Year Award

Don H. Liu

Executive Vice President and Chief Legal and Compliance Officer at Target

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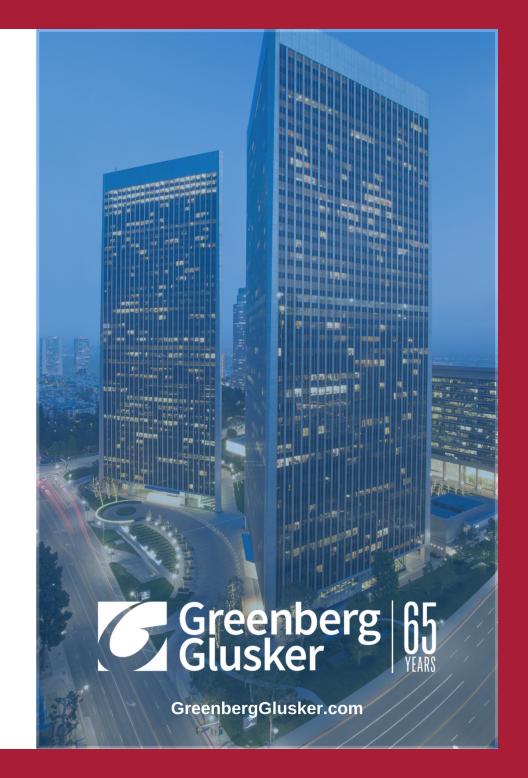
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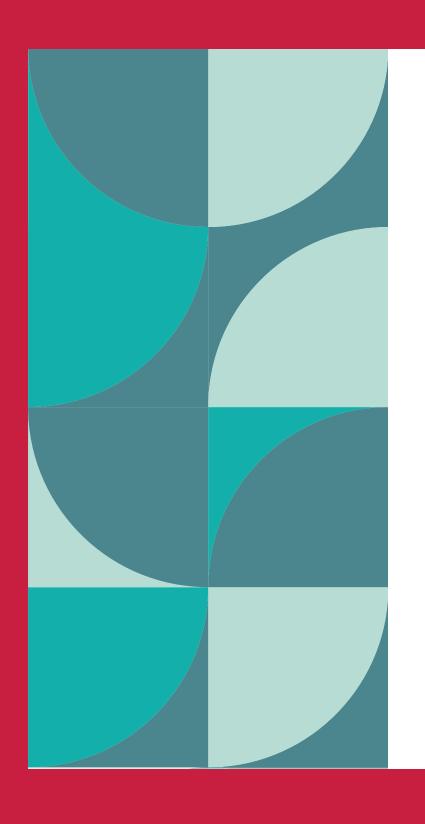
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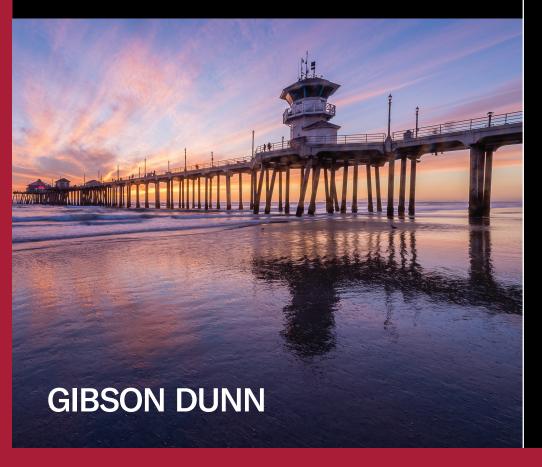


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