

Daily Journal

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Top 75 Labor and Employment Attorneys



The *Daily Journal's* first special issue devoted to Labor & Employment was published three years ago with a cover that read: "Waiting for Brinker." That headline was an acknowledgement that the development of employment law had grown stagnant despite being a practice that consumes vast court time and resources. Even in California, the nation's hotbed for cutting edge (businesses might say edge cutting) employment litigation, the development of the law wasn't progressing.

2012 changed all of that.

In February, California's 1st District Court of Appeal issued a strongly worded opinion in *Duran v. U.S. Bank National Association* that gave crucial guidance on certification of class actions in wage and hour misclassification litigation. Two months later, on April 12, the California Supreme Court issued its long-awaited and seminal ruling in *Brinker v. Superior Court* that provided guidance on the issue of meal and rest breaks. On April 30, the California Supreme Court was at it again. This time, in *Kirby v. Immoos Fire Protection Inc.*, the justices said violations of meal and rest breaks do not provide a basis for statutory attorney fees to the prevailing party.

For the lawyers on the *Daily Journal's* list of top practitioners in California everything has changed and nothing has changed. Employment has been and will remain one of the busiest areas of the law – despite the recent rulings, most experts believe. What's different is the lawyers now have some new tools with which to work their craft.

— The Editors



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Angelo A. Paparelli

Seyfarth Shaw LLP

Los Angeles

Specialty: Immigration/nationality law

and others, asylum and removal defense, and legislative advocacy.

"I have a career but also a mission," he said. "My mission is to help the American people see that the cornerstone of our exceptionalism is our willingness to accept immigrants as equal human beings and allow them to contribute and become citizens and achieve the American dream while they help us to achieve the American dream."

Part of his mission is to help a variety of clients redefine the meaning of the word "employment," whose legal definition, as it's applied to immigration, remains unclear, Paparelli said.

For instance, he asked, "Did Congress intend to punish self-employment? I believe that entrepreneurship should be encouraged."

That's not to say that the borders shouldn't

be protected, he said.

"We cannot afford to let everyone in, particularly those who would do us harm," Paparelli said. "I think we need to protect the borders and make sure we have intelligent policies that let the right people in and keep the wrong people out."

Paparelli said that the United States, with its aging population, has a vital need for highly skilled workers.

"Hundreds of thousands of jobs go unfulfilled in America in the science, technology, engineering and math fields," he said. "We will fall behind."

But he remains optimistic about the future.

"I believe that the American people are fundamentally good and just, but the immigration story has not been fairly told so that it can be understood."

It's why he and the Alliance of Business Immigration Lawyers, which he founded 10 years ago, helped publish a book this year called "Green Card Stories."

"We said that with all of this demonization of immigrants you see, we have to let people tell their own stories to show they aren't demons, but heroes who are contributing to this country."

— Pat Broderick

Paparelli said he considers himself "an unusual lawyer."

As a partner in his firm's business immigration practice group, and a certified immigration law specialist, Paparelli's services cover everything from compliance audits, mergers and acquisitions and corporate restructuring, to visas for executives, managers, scientists