

# SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

## 2022

# SD 5000

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**VICKIE TURNER**  
PARTNER EMERITUS, WILSON TURNER KOSMO LLP

Vickie Turner is partner emeritus at Wilson Turner Kosmo LLP, working at the firm for 23 years. She previously was a partner for 16 years at Luce Forward Hamilton and Scripps. Turner has experience in complex litigation matters filed against corporations, with emphasis in the areas of product liability, warranty and class actions. Turner has defended manufacturers, distributors and retailers in product liability claims throughout California and in 12 other states. She is on the office of general counsel committee and diversity advisory committee for the Ford Motor Company.



**MICHAEL UMANSKY**  
PARTNER, SHEPPARD MULLIN RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP

Michael Umansky has been a partner at Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP for 14 years. Umansky, a corporate mergers and acquisitions attorney, chairs the firm's company/venture capital team. He focuses on mergers, acquisitions, private equity transactions and venture capital financings and served for almost three years as vice president and general counsel for Linspire, Inc. He is active with the San Diego County Bar Association and other organizations, including Connect San Diego, Tech San Diego and the UCSD Rady School of Management.



**BRIAN TSU**  
PARTNER, HIGGS FLETCHER & MACK

Brian Tsu has been a partner at Higgs Fletcher & Mack for nearly four years. Tsu handles trusts, estates and taxation matters, and advises high-net worth clients on domestic and international estate and charitable planning. He was a visiting lecturer for the University of Illinois at Chicago's College of Business Administration. He is the chair of the state and gift taxes committee of the American Bar Association and is a member of the YMCA of San Diego County Gift Planning Advisors' Council.



**JERRY VARGA**  
AUDIT PARTNER, RSM US LLP

Jerry Varga is the Office Leader of RSM's San Diego office as well as the Assurance Practice Leader. He has over 25 years of experience providing audit and management advisory services to middle-market companies in the consumer products, technology and life sciences industries. In addition, Jerry works extensively with portfolio companies of private equity groups and early-stage companies backed by venture capital firms. As the Office Leader, Varga is responsible for developing and executing strategy, driving growth and maintaining the office's dynamic culture.



**ROBERT TYSON**  
STRATEGIC MANAGING PARTNER, TYSON & MENDES LLP

Robert Tyson has been at Tyson & Mendes LLP for more than 24 years and the firm's Strategic Managing Partner for five years. Known for his trial record and expertise arguing damages in personal injury cases, Tyson's work on Howell v. Hamilton Meats, won before the California Supreme Court in 2011, has been called the most significant insurance decision in more than 40 years. He is the author of the best-selling book "Nuclear Verdicts: Defending Justice for All."



**CHRIS WAHL**  
PRESIDENT, SOUTHWEST STRATEGIES

Chris Wahl has been president at Southwest Strategies for nearly 15 years and with the company for 23 years. Wahl is a public affairs/public relations practitioner who for two decades has helped secure development and infrastructure entitlements worth more than \$10B for clients. Wahl has helped approve high-profile projects including Sunrise Powerlink, a revitalized Westfield UTC and the North Coast Corridor Project. He was previously president of Wahl Associates, Inc. and is a member of the San Diego/Imperial counties chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

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Paul is an icon in the San Diego business and development community, and it has been an honor and privilege for all of us in HechtSolberg's Land Use group to work with and learn under Paul's mentorship. Paul has set the bar for zealous advocacy and creative problem solving for our clients (and will forever be the best-dressed land use lawyer in San Diego).

We're extremely proud of Paul and we look forward to continuing his legacy assisting clients as they navigate the often choppy waters of Southern California's development approval and permitting processes.

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