

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LEGAL MARKET

2004



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## **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MARKET OVERVIEW**

### **Entertainment Capital of the World – But so Much More . . .**

- Lots of Biotech (especially San Diego) and Technology
- Finance, Strong Traditional Manufacturing, Services, Sales/Hospitality
- Significant Pacific Rim ties; US Headquarters for Japanese Auto Manufactures

### **Boom / Bust not as extreme as other areas**

- Diversity of industries – not reliant on just tech or manufacturing makes it more resilient to boom and bust
- Large overall area: Santa Barbara through Los Angeles and Orange County down to San Diego

### **Diversity and Variety of Practices**

- World Class Firms headquartered in Los Angeles: Latham & Watkins; O'Melveny & Myers; Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher; Paul, Hastings
- Nationally Recognized smaller firms in Los Angeles: Munger Tolles & Olson; Quinn Emanuel; Irell & Manella
- Many other national firms with Southern California offices: Sullivan & Cromwell; Skadden; Jones Day; Kirkland; Mayer, Brown; Winston & Strawn; Baker & McKenzie, Akin Gump; Orrick; Sonnenschein, etc.
- Mid-Size Regional Firms with brand practices and nationally recognized niches – Allen, Matkins; Buchalter – balance of life/work

### **Excellent Overall Quality of Life**

- Weather is especially good for those who like outdoors, sports, and the beach
- Can generally live close to where you work -- you do not have to commute to a city center like in NY or Chicago
- Great diversity of population
- Con: High cost of home purchase (however, rental generally less expensive than other large cities like NYC, SF, Boston and DC).

**WHAT'S HOT / WHAT'S NOT  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**HOT**

- Litigation
- General Commercial
- Securities
- Intellectual Property
- Environmental
- Toxic Torts
- Employment
- Insurance Coverage

  

- Transactional
- Real Estate
- Health Care
- Finance

**NOT**

- Constitutional
- Telecommunications
- Transactional
- M&A
- IPO

**STEADY**

- Entertainment
- Bankruptcy
- ERISA
- Appellate
- Tax
- Wills & Estates / Probate
- Public Service / Gov't
- Public Finance – muni / gov't bonds, lines of credit
- White Collar
- Insurance Litigation and Coverage

## **GETTING A JOB SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

### **Law Firm Summer Clerkships**

- Allow for Split Summers (usually no more than 2); however, a split – especially when others don't – can effect getting an offer

### **Local Ties Desired but not Required**

- Firms like to see a connection to California: family, school, etc.
- Connections most important in smaller markets (like San Diego) and in the entertainment industry
- Good reason for wanting to be in Southern California can overcome local connection desire (not just “I want to work in entertainment”)

### **Interviews**

- Credentials are important but Personality does matter
- Emphasis on Likeability, Collegiality, Humility

### **Firm Life**

- Hours: Western Time Zone – Start Earlier, Finish a bit Earlier (San Diego and Orange County a bit fewer hours than Los Angeles); average hours about 1900
- Competitive Salaries (Avg. 1st Year = \$125K Base)
- Partnership at 8 yrs +/-

### **Judicial Clerkships**

- Federal: District Courts and Ninth Circuit
- State: Superior (trial) and appellate courts, California Supreme Court

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FAST FACTS

### POPULATION:

City of Los Angeles: 3.7 million

County of Los Angeles: 9.5 million

Los Angeles Five-County Area (Los Angeles, Riverside, Ventura, Orange and San Bernardino counties): 16.4 million

### SIZE:

Los Angeles ranks as the second largest city in the nation behind New York City

City of Los Angeles: 467 square miles

County of Los Angeles: 4,061 square miles

Los Angeles Five-County Area: 34, 149 square miles

There are 88 incorporated cities in Los Angeles County

### ETHNIC MAKE-UP:

Hispanic: 44.6%

White: 31.1%

Asian: 12.3%

Black: 9.7%

American Indian: .5%

Pacific Islander: .3%

### GEOGRAPHY:

Los Angeles spans a widely diverse geographic area. Primarily a desert basin, the area is surrounded by the San Gabriel Mountain range, and divided by the Santa Monica Mountains. Los Angeles County has 81 miles of coastline and altitudes ranging from nine feet below sea level (at Wilmington) to 10,080 above sea level atop Mt. San Antonio. Area rivers include the Los Angeles, Rio Hondo, San Gabriel and Ventura rivers.

### CLIMATE:

Southern California's climate has often been described as "perfect" and with good reason. Mostly it is sunny and warm with gentle ocean breezes in the summer. The humidity is low with little rain. In fact, there are no unpleasant seasons in Los Angeles.

Annual precipitation: 14.79 inches

Average days of rain: 34.2 days

Average sunny/partly sunny days: 291.7 days

Average mean temperature: 66.3° F

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FAST FACTS

### COST OF LIVING

<b>Cost of Living Indexes</b>	<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>National Average</b>
Overall	142.3	100.0
Housing	205.3	100.0
Food and Groceries	111.0	100.0
Transportation	112.8	100.0
Utilities	120.0	100.0
Health Care	113.2	100.0
Median Income	\$70,286	\$53,475

<b>Housing</b>	<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>National Average</b>
House Median Value	\$231,000	\$134,100
House Appreciation	8.60%	4.83%
Property Tax	\$10.60	\$16.40
Commute Time	24.5	19.2

### CULTURAL LIVING

#### People:

The diverse multi-ethnic population of Los Angeles today distinguishes the city as the cultural hub of the Pacific Rim. People from about 140 countries, speaking approximately 86 different languages, currently call Los Angeles home.

#### Arts and Culture:

Creative expression is this region's most prolific natural resource and it shows in the variety of fun activities that abound in the L.A. region. From the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena to the Hollywood Christmas Parade, the Kwanzaa festival to the Playboy Jazz Festival, there are a host of activities year-round.

The vibrant ethnic mix of Los Angeles adds to the fun. Dining, nightlife, shopping, museum-hopping all turn into unique experiences in the county's multiple-piece mosaic.

It's been called the entertainment capital of the world for good reason. Most of this country's film, television and recording stars live and work in the L.A. area, including 40,000 members of the Screen Actor's Guild, which comprises more than 50 percent of that organization's membership. An average of 150 productions are filmed daily on L.A. streets. L.A. is home to the world's most famous sidewalk, Hollywood's Walk of Fame, which serves as a tribute to entertainers. L.A. is a cultural mecca boasting more than 300 museums and a paradise of good weather, not to mention its classic theme parks, thrill rides, movie premieres, beaches, mountains, parks and spectator sports. It is the only city in the world to host the Summer Olympics twice. Los Angeles has the largest historical theater district on the National Register of Historic Places.

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FAST FACTS

### Professional Sports:

Whether you're a baseball, football, basketball, soccer, or hockey fan, the Los Angeles County has a professional sporting event for you to enjoy. Below are listed the professional teams in the area; this does not encompass the various college team sports which spectators can follow (there are 176 colleges and universities in Los Angeles County).

Professional Baseball teams: Los Angeles Dodgers; Anaheim Angels

Arena Football teams: L.A. Avengers

Professional Basketball: Los Angeles Lakers; Los Angeles Clippers; Los Angeles Sparks

Professional Hockey: Los Angeles Kings; Anaheim Ducks

Professional Soccer: Los Angeles Galaxy

### Finding Your Place in the Sun:

The Los Angeles region is a terrific place to live, work and raise a family. From the mountains to the beaches, Southern California has the best. It's home to Disneyland, Hollywood, the Lakers and the Dodgers. You can surf, snow ski and blaze a trail through the desert all in the same day, thanks to the area's unique geography, which ranges from 10,080-foot Mt. San Antonio to 81 miles of picturesque coastline. Best of all, the Los Angeles area averages 329 days of sunshine (90 percent of the year), with the average high temperature in January reaching 66 degrees.

## SOURCES, RESOURCES AND USEFUL LINKS

[www.lachamber.org](http://www.lachamber.org) : cultural L.A., visitors' and tourists' information guide

<http://www.houseandhome.msn.com> : cost of living guide

[www.laweekly.com](http://www.laweekly.com)