

In The News

Akerman Partners Anthony Sbardellati and Evelina Gentry Awarded 2024 Leaders of Influence by *Los Angeles Business Journal*

December 30, 2024

Litigation Partners Anthony Sbardellati and Evelina Gentry have been named among the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2024 Leaders of Influence: Thriving in Their 40s, which annually recognizes the region's leading professionals and trusted advisors in their 40s based on their attributes and career achievements.

Anthony serves as a trusted strategist to his clients and focuses his practice on defending commercial, class action, FLSA collective, and PAGA lawsuits, while also regularly advising clients on compliance with wage, hour, and related laws and regulations. Anthony's practice is particularly focused on the staffing industry. Over the course of his career, Anthony has represented dozens of staffing companies and other defendants (ranging from privately held family companies to Fortune 100 companies) against all manner of lawsuits, including claims for breach of contract, negligence, fraud, alleged failure to pay minimum and overtime wages, failure to provide meal and rest breaks, failure to provide compliant wage statements, failure to timely pay wages, and other related claims. Anthony is widely regarded as a highly creative and well-respected dealmaker who is trusted to handle the most difficult negotiations for his clients.

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Evelina is a highly experienced litigator renowned for her strategic counsel and innovative solutions to complex legal challenges. She focuses on high-stake complex commercial litigation, corporate disputes, and bankruptcy litigation. Her practice encompasses a broad spectrum of industries, with a particular focus on financial institutions and private equity firms. Evelina possesses significant expertise in representing debtors, creditors and trustees across various bankruptcy matters, including restructurings, distressed M&A transactions, fraudulent transfers, Ponzi schemes, and preference actions. Fluent in Polish, she also provides routine counsel to U.S. companies looking to expand their footprint in Eastern Europe, as well as to Eastern European companies seeking to expand in the United States.

Evelina's success stems from her adept ability to evaluate critical facts and legal principles early in the litigation process. This skill allows her to develop comprehensive, creative, and tailored strategies that have consistently secured favorable outcomes for her clients. Her analytical mindset and innovative approach have led to numerous victories throughout her career.