

# Daily Journal

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## Top 20 Twenty Under 40 Forty

To compile this list, Daily Journal editors and reporters considered hundreds of lawyers from throughout California. We looked at every major practice type, including corporate transactions, criminal prosecution and intellectual property litigation.

The most important consideration was the

work. How have this lawyer's cases impacted the law, a particular sector of industry or society? That's the first question we ask ourselves in considering each person. We also look at the candidate's impact on the legal community. Is he or she taking a leadership role within the firm, agency or organization? Are they active

in bar groups and public service organizations?

As you read through this supplement, we think you'll agree that California's legal talent is some of the best you'll find anywhere in the world.

-The Editors



Throughout his legal career, Jarchi said that he's been dedicated to battling the Goliaths of the world in matters ranging from civil rights violations to toxic tort litigation.

Among his cases was a groundwater contamination case in Hinkley that inspired the motion picture, "Erin Brockovich."

"I see the world, especially nowadays, becoming more divided between powerful corporate interests, as wealth disparity increases, and ordinary consumers, at the other end of the spectrum," he said.

Last year, Jarchi litigated a wrongful death matter against the state of California. *Estate of Medina et al v. State of California et al*, PC052126 (Los Angeles Super. Ct., filed Dec. 14, 2011).

The plaintiffs alleged that the defendant failed to properly maintain drainage systems on public freeways, resulting in flooding that caused motor vehicle collisions and injuries.

The case was settled for \$2 million.

One of his challenges in the case was proving that the road was indeed flooded due to a faulty draining system at the time of the incident.

"Since we did not have a video of the accident, we waited until the next heavy rain and our investigator videotaped the flooded highway, and cars on

### Robert D. Jarchi

Greene Broillet & Wheeler LLP  
Santa Monica

**Practice Type:** Plaintiffs' litigation

**Practice Specialty:** Civil rights, environmental, personal injury litigation

**Age:** 39



the side of the road from another major vehicle collision which had occurred," Jarchi said.

He added, "This case affects virtually everyone, since we all use freeways and this case exposed a hidden danger that is only present during rainfall periods."

Overall, "I see my role as helping people get what they need to overcome injuries and have a productive life," Jarchi said. "It's not just to help individuals but, I've seen in my own career, this helps society at large."

The matters he's litigated has helped fill what he calls the "gaps and holes" in the safety policies and procedures of large corporations and institutions.

"Combined with the substantial

verdicts and settlements," Jarchi added, "this motivates these defendants to change their ways."

These days, Jarchi said he is particularly concerned about the use of "fracking," or hydraulic fracturing, to stimulate oil production.

"Fracking — pumping chemicals into the earth — is frequently being done where the population is living and using the water supply," he said. "The human costs in the foreseeable future [are] unknown. We do know that there will be consequences. People are going to get hurt and get cancer and we will be seeing a lot of lawsuits if we don't do something about this now."

— Pat Broderick