



The attorneys of Ferguson Case Orr Paterson LLP have had an exceptionally successful 2019. Not only have we integrated four intellectual property attorneys, we've also had the following accomplishments. Without you, our clients, we would not have these opportunities, and for that, we thank you.



Craig Underwood, Jim McDermott, Jessica Wan, & Jim Roberts after receiving the verdict

MAJOR CORPORATE LITIGATION VICTORY

Partner Jim McDermott and Associate Jessica Wan obtained a \$23.3 million verdict against Huy Fong Foods, the maker of the world-famous Sriracha hot sauce. [Click for LA Times article.](#) The case began when Huy Fong Foods sued Underwood Ranches to collect over \$1 million after Huy Fong Foods abruptly terminated the parties' 28-year business relationship. Pushed into a corner, Underwood Ranches, a long-standing Ferguson Case Orr Paterson LLP client, filed its own cross-action suit against Huy Fong Foods. After almost two years in

the courts, Underwood won. The jury awarded \$13.3 million in compensatory damages and an additional \$10 million in punitive damages.

INTERNATIONAL VICTORY

Partner Jaye Heybl and Associate Tyler Train successfully appealed the revocation of a utility patent before the European Patent Office Boards of Appeal in Munich, Germany. The patent reinstatement represented a big win against a consortium of Dutch companies in their home forum and significantly increased their infringement exposure.



Jaye Heybl and Tyler Train in Munich, Germany



Douglas Goldwater, 2019 VCBA President

IN THE COMMUNITY

Partner Douglas Goldwater completed his term as president of the Ventura County Bar Association. He navigated the association through significant transitions and organized and hosted one of the most well-attended annual dinners in the organization's history.

APPEALS ACHIEVED

Partner Wendy Lascher persuaded the Court of Appeal to overturn a judgment allowing a neighbor to make commercial use of our clients' property and awarding the neighbor \$240,000 in damages. Now our clients may close and lock a gate across their property.



Wendy Lascher

Lascher also represented a national company, Ferguson Enterprises, and successfully resisted a city's effort to make Ferguson pay \$1.5 million for a different company's defective products.

OTHER RECENT COURTROOM SUCCESSES

Partner Bret Anderson and Kymberley Peck obtained a complete dismissal of their client from contentious litigation over a professional partnership dissolution immediately following the plaintiff's opening statements to the jury.

Partner Leslie McAdam successfully represented landlord clients in a three-day real estate trial against a major telecommunications company concerning a 100,000-square-foot commercial/industrial building.

Partner Lane Lopez and Associate Max Engelhardt prevailed at trial and added an individual shareholder as an alter-ego judgment debtor to an existing judgment against a medical corporation, effectively piercing the corporate veil.

After a week-long trial, Kymberley Peck (partner effective Jan. 1, 2020) successfully defended a settlor's estate planning from a beneficiary's motion to invalidate the documents on grounds that the settlor lacked capacity as well as allegations of undue influence, breach of fiduciary duty and financial elder abuse.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Land use Partner Neal Maguire assisted property owners in obtaining approval of a specific plan for over a million square feet of commercial and mixed-use development.

A LEGACY BUILDS IN ESTATE PLANNING AND BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS



Ted England

FCOP estate planning and business attorneys celebrated the life of our beloved late partner Ted England who passed away last December. Ted was an exceptional individual with a wide breadth of knowledge in many areas of the law. Although our attorneys are working together to handle matters for Ted's clients across various subjects, a repeated sentiment is that Ted was truly irreplaceable. We are grateful that so

many of Ted's clients have transitioned to other attorneys in the firm for their estate planning and business matters, and appreciate our clients' patience and understanding as this process carries on.

FCOP's estate planning practice continues to assist families across the Tri-County area reach their planning goals in light of evolving income, estate and property tax laws.

Our business department, representing entities big and small, remains especially active in the County's important agricultural sector. Our transactional attorneys have resolved complex and challenging issues arising from recent wildfires, caps on rental increases, permissible (regulated) hemp farming and the myriad of other issues that constantly face businesses as the law and the economy changes.



We wish you the happiest of holiday seasons and a joyous 2020.



1050 South Kimball Road, Ventura, CA 93004
4550 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Suite 250, Westlake Village, CA 91362
805.659.6800 ■ fcoplaw.com