

# MIDSIZE HOT LIST

**Selected**  
2015 | 2014 | 2011



A SPECIAL REPORT

Good things, it seems, come in midsize packages. We asked our readers to nominate law firms with between 51 and 150 attorneys and that excel at deal making, litigation, counseling and other legal services. The 20 firms we highlight this week do all that and more—they also have demonstrated creative strategies that keep them competitive against much larger law firms. They build cultures that attract and retain top talent. And they take pains to understand and serve their clients' needs.

# COBLENTZ PATCH DUFFY & BASS

# MIDSIZE HOT LIST

**Selected**  
2015 | 2014 | 2011

## Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass



ALAN GENNIS

### FIRM FACTS:

- **Year founded:** 1890
- **Headquarters:** San Francisco
- **Total attorneys:** 72
- **Partners:** 44 ■ **Associates:** 21

The Chicago Bears mounted a fourth-quarter comeback to defeat the San Francisco 49ers in the latter's regular-season debut at the team's new \$1.3 billion stadium in Santa Clara, California, in September, but the game was still magical for 49ers fan Alan Gennis.

The co-managing partner of Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass and his colleagues had worked for a decade to make the 68,000-seat Levi's Stadium a reality, representing the 49ers in legal matters ranging from the environmental review to parking agreements.

"It was incredible," Gennis said. "You work so hard and dream of what it will be like to see the team running onto the field."

Landing the 49ers as a client was a coup, Gennis said—Coblentz beat out much larger firms. But in an area often hostile to development, the firm has a record of managing large real estate projects, such as the San Francisco Giants' AT&T Park and the nearby \$95 million Mission Bay redevelopment, and that helped.

"They are just really good people who give solid advice," said Hannah Gordon, the 49ers' director for legal affairs. "And they're not pretentious or obsessed with the glamor of a project like a new stadium."

The 125-year-old Coblentz has established itself as one of San Francisco's premiere real estate and litigation firms in part because it focuses on the future, Gennis said. Recognizing a new opportunity, the firm last year established a social-enterprise practice dedicated to helping technology entrepreneurs manage their charitable giving.

Coblentz will soon move from San Francisco's iconic Ferry Building to save on rent, use space more efficiently and better leverage the latest technology.

The firm also stands out for its impressive demographics and commitment to pro bono work. Nearly half of its partners are women and more than half of associates are women or minorities.

—KAREN SLOAN

Coblentz  
Patch Duffy  
& Bass LLP