

MIDSIZE HOT LIST

A SPECIAL REPORT

Selected**2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2011**

We asked our readers to nominate law firms with between 51 and 150 attorneys that have used their creativity and skill to stay competitive in courtrooms and at deal tables across the U.S. The 20 firms we highlight this week have held their own, often against much larger firms, charting winning courses in high-stakes matters that led to key victories in 2015. Above all, these firms embody lawyering at its essence—working hard to understand and serve their clients' needs.



SARA FINIGAN

Coblenz Patch Duffy & Bass

Walk the streets of San Francisco and before long, the hand of Coblenz Patch Duffy & Bass is reflected in major commercial buildings, arts and cultural centers and campus expansions. Multimillion- and billion-dollar projects in the area have been the firm's lifeblood, transforming the landscape for more than a century.

In the past year, the firm has led Uber Technologies Inc.'s purchase and development of its corporate headquarters, including its \$123 million acquisition of office space in Oakland and the \$1.6 billion Mission Rock project for Seawall Lot 337 Associates, an affiliate of the San Francisco Giants.

"Uber came to us, for example, because we offer the experience in complex transactions; we've got the history and background in the Bay area, and we love doing what we do," said Sara Finigan, co-chairwoman of the business practice group.

In April, the firm opened two Napa Valley offices to serve the wine industry

through its corporate, real estate, tax and family-wealth practices. And to meet the growing needs of social entrepreneurs, a cross-disciplinary, social-enterprise practice offers charitable planning and advice on impact investments, intellectual property, tax and others areas.

"Our clients are asking us to be creative and take a multidisciplinary approach to the nonprofit enterprise world," Finigan said.

A longtime pro bono leader, the firm is "captain" of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights' election protection program this year in partnership with the nonpartisan Election Protection coalition.

"We feel a responsibility here for each of us to do our part in the legal community and in the Bay area," said Finigan, adding, "I love that feeling. It's also fun to look on a map and see all the projects we worked on or even just taking my kids to the Exploratorium museum or ballpark and saying, 'We did this.'"

—MARCIA COYLE

FIRM FACTS:

- **Year founded:** 1890
- **Headquarters:** San Francisco
- **Total attorneys:** 77
- **Partners:** 48
- **Associates:** 23