

Daily Journal

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TOP WOMEN LAWYERS

The Daily Journal's Annual List of Leading Women Lawyers in California

Carolyn H. Luedtke

Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
San Francisco

Practice type:
Litigation

Specialty:
Copyright, trade secrets



Every year, Luedtke gets to sink her teeth into a handful of industries. Last year, it was video games and reality shows. This year, it's the aircraft leasing industry.

As a complex litigation attorney who focuses on intellectual property and trade secrets, Luedtke enjoys the intellectual stimulation and the thrill of variety. "Trade secrets law in particular matches so well to my personality," Luedtke said. "I get to learn the ins and outs of my clients' businesses."

Luedtke is currently defending Air

Lease Corp. against allegations of trade secret theft, aiding and abetting breach of fiduciary duty and unfair competition relating to the formation of the company. *American International Group Inc. et al. v. Air Lease Corp. et al.*, BC483370 (L.A. Co. Super. Ct.)

"Aircraft leasing is an industry I didn't even know existed," she said. "But now I'm learning about 777s and Airbuses."

She's also stepping up her sports knowledge. In a case that will be tried in June in the Northern District, *O'Bannon v. National Collegiate Athletic Association et al.*, Luedtke is defending the NCAA in nationwide class action litigation brought by current and former Division I college football and basketball players.

The players are asserting antitrust and intellectual property claims relating to NCAA rules that preclude student-athletes from being paid for the use of their name, image and likeness.

Luedtke said the NCAA is reasonable in setting rules about restricting the payment of student athletes.

"Our position is that college sports should remain college sports and not professional sports," she said. "The outcome of this case will be important for the future of college athletics."

— Alexandra Schwappach