

## Litigation Firm Is Valued by Its Clients, Respected by Its Peers

Southern  
**California**  
Legal Profiles

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# McKay, de Lorimier & Acain



From left: Partners Michael P. Acain, recognized as a "Rising Star" for six years; John McKay, named a "Southern California Super Lawyer" every year for the past seven years; and Paul de Lorimier

**Y**ou have to get up pretty early in the morning to beat John McKay into the office – even if you live and work three time zones to the east. While most of his peers on the West Coast are still asleep, the seasoned litigator is zipping down the freeway, switching on lights, writing reports, and calling clients and colleagues in New York, London and Paris.

McKay's early-bird ways (he typically gets into the office around 4:30 a.m.) stand him in good stead in representing clients across the U.S. and abroad. "One of my favorite things," he acknowledges, "is to call a New York lawyer, and leave a message before he gets in." The firm represents the insureds of a number of European insurance carriers, including Paris-based AXA Corporate Solutions, and often works closely with French and other European law firms "who appreciate the fact that they can call or email in the early mornings, and have answers to their questions by the time they return from lunch."

Of course, McKay's office hours are far from the only reason clients choose McKay, de Lorimier & Acain. As McKay states, "We offer both personal attention and experience."

The firm has successfully represented a wide variety of clients in a broad range of matters, with an emphasis on civil litigation defense. While its diverse clientele ranges from major international companies to high-profile athletes (the firm successfully defended NBA Hall of Famer Dennis Rodman in a civil case seeking damages for a claim of rape), the firm's core practice is the representation of churches, pastors, church-based camps and schools.

One recent case centered on whether a Lutheran high school had the right to expel two girls because of their sexual orientation. "We successfully defended the school on the basis of the First Amendment, freedom of religion," McKay says. "We argued that the school had the right to expel students who violated the tenets of its religious beliefs."

In another case, the firm successfully defended a childcare center and affiliated church in a wrongful death action arising out of the deaths of two children. The children died when a "gentleman" drove his vehicle into the schoolyard for the purpose of seeing "how many children he could kill." Both sets of parents sued the childcare center and the church on the grounds that it was foreseeable that a vehicle would go through the fence surrounding the childcare center and injure children. The firm convinced the California Supreme Court that the criminal act of a third party was not reasonably foreseeable.

It is McKay's belief that "our clients benefit from the combined experience of multiple attorneys. Our firm is large enough for the big cases, small enough to know you, and ready to team up to serve our clients in every case."



McKay, de Lorimier & Acain

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