

Supplement to the Los Angeles and San Francisco

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Sorting... Navigating... Leading...

- Sorting out a pharmaceutical company's duty to monitor off-label use of its drugs
- Putting together contracts for the largest construction project in the nation in five years
- Working to overturn California's gay marriage ban
- Leading the equity practice of one of the world's largest law firms

• Navigating the legal rights of cancer patients
These are a few of the issues being tackled by those on our 2010 list of top California lawyers under age 40. Finding standouts among a group of exceptional people is never easy. We reviewed 150 eligible nominations this year. There were many impressive candidates; these 20 were a cut above. They found a way to make an impact on the world outside their sphere. One didn't just

defend a lawsuit for a client but works to change the law so that other companies wouldn't face a similar suit. Another takes time from his practice putting together marquee transactions for corporate clients to help a non-profit start a grocery store in an underserved area of Oakland. This is exceptionalism at its best. We urge you to read on and get to know these people.

— The Editors

Top 20 Under 40

By Joanna Lin
January 13, 2010

Saul Breskal 38

GLASER, WEIL, FINK, JACOBS, HOWARD & SHAPIRO, Los Angeles
TRANSACTIONAL - Real estate and construction

Growing up in South Africa, Saul Breskal would go to construction sites with his father, a real estate developer. They'd sit at the dinner table and talk projects for condominiums, office buildings and high rises. Breskal dreamed of taking up the family business, and he did — only as an attorney.

For someone who loves real estate, it would seem Breskal hit the jackpot: The partner at Glaser, Weil, Fink, Jacobs, Howard & Shapiro was lead counsel for construction-related contracts on the \$8.5 billion Las Vegas CityCenter.

The 67-acre gaming resort, retail and residential mecca — the nation's largest privately funded construction project — was five years and about 100 contracts in the making.

"Just the sheer size and scale of it, putting the dollar amount aside, there were so many moving parts, so many different contractors, consultants and architects," Breskal says. "The challenge from the legal side was making sure all those contracts meshed together."

Bringing together big, powerful parties such as Perini Building Co. and Tishman Construction was no easy task. "These are firms that are used to having the upper hand in getting what they want in contracts," he says. "It was a first for many of these companies to have to compromise and agree to our terms."



Saul Breskal, Partner

Some of those terms included making the CityCenter LEED-certified and hiring 200 minority-owned firms for more than \$700 million of the project.

The CityCenter is now open, but Breskal still has work to do. He's closing out the project, and he's yet to see the finished product. He says he hopes to visit soon so he can relax at the hotel and play some blackjack, maybe a game of poker.

"You've got to support the client, you know," he says.

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