

TOP 40 UNDER 40

Talented young professionals are often associated with spearheading the latest startup venture or noted for possessing keen entrepreneurial acumen. But there are rising stars in the business community that can be found in more traditional industries, like real estate, construction and the law.

For our latest Top 40 Under 40 issue, *The Daily Transcript* is showcasing some of the brightest minds driving San Diego's many success stories. The editors considered the emerging talent populating the local business community and public sector to find 40 whose skills, integrity and leadership embody the best the region has to offer.

Our selection process centered on the impact each professional's work had on his or her industry and the larger community. Are they taking leadership positions within their organizations? Are they active in any industry groups? Is he or she leaving a lasting impression that will improve San Diego County?

As you read through this supplement, we believe you'll agree that San Diego is home to some of the best talent in the world.

Micaela Banach

Banach was a partner at Kirby, Noonan, Lance & Hoge when it dissolved last July and split into five separate law firms. Banach and fellow partners David Noonan, James Lance and Ethan Boyer launched Noonan Lance Boyer & Banach LLP to focus on their area of expertise: complex commercial litigation, including real estate, products and professional liability, and employment law.

They moved to new office space in the historic Pack Loft Building in the East Village, and Banach said the firm has a "different dynamic" from its 40-year-old predecessor – smaller, close-knit and open.

Banach has negotiated settlements and won successful outcomes in trials, including co-chairing a bench trial in a complex fraud case. The judge awarded more than \$4 million on behalf of 31 plaintiffs after she successfully proved claims of breach of fiduciary duty, negligence, financial elder abuse and violations of California securities laws.

"We were able to successfully try the case and recover a significant portion of their investments," Banach said. "Some of the elderly people were counting on that money to live, so it was very rewarding to at least be able to help them get some of the money back in their pocket."

Banach also serves as the current president of the San Diego County Bar Foundation, the charitable arm of the San Diego County Bar Association. The nonprofit provides grants to legal aid and public interest organizations that help domestic vi-



**Noonan Lance Boyer
& Banach LLP**

**Title: Partner
Age: 38**

olence survivors, immigrants seeking political asylum, and the working poor who cannot afford legal representation. In the most recent grant cycles, the foundation provided \$210,000 to 15 nonprofits.

Banach's top priorities as president include strengthening the foundation's visibility within the legal community and increase fundraising at the organization's annual "Evening in La Jolla" gala event.

— Jennifer Chung Klam