

Melanie Proshchenko (Moderator)
Honeycomb Team Solutions

Melanie Proshchenko, founder of Honeycomb Team Solutions, is a leadership consultant and coach who centers her practice on helping teams, leaders, future leaders and organizations break through to become the best they can be. Whether it's a partnership of two or a team of 50, Melanie can help bring them together to build productive harmony. It's not about manufacturing relationships, but rather learning to recognize the true power that all team members bring, and exercising appreciation of gifts that are unique. Through self-awareness, facilitated conversations, and a new expectation on norms, any team or partnership can work more effectively to create greatness.

Ward Heinrichs
Employment Law of Ward Heinrichs

Ward Heinrichs handles a variety of cases on behalf of both employers & employees. Recently, he has spent much of his time litigating independent contractor misclassification and enforcement of independent contractor agreements. Other issues he encounters are: overtime, minimum wage, off-the-clock work, un-reimbursed expenses, meal periods, rest periods, whistleblower, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, contract disputes, severance negotiations, and many more.

Additionally, Ward helps employers navigate the complex world of California employment law. He provides: up to date advice, employee handbooks, helpful forms, written employment policies, etc. He also represents employers in Court Cases, Labor Commissioner Hearings, Unemployment Hearings, administrative investigations, and in other adversarial situations.

Ryan Nell
Pettit Kohn Ingrassia Lutz & Dolin PC

Ryan H. Nell is a shareholder and a leader in the firm's employment and labor group. As an employment attorney, he is responsible for representing California employers statewide in both counseling and comprehensive litigation support. With the ever-changing landscape of California and federal employment law, Ryan prides himself on assisting clients in staying ahead of the curve in an effort to avoid legal trouble before it arises. He has extensive experience representing clients in harassment, retaliation, and discrimination matters, as well as large-scale wage and hour lawsuits.

Ryan speaks regularly on a wide range of topics aimed at assisting California employers in the avoidance of legal trouble before it arises, and his work in the field has led to his recognition as a Rising Star by San Diego Super Lawyers®.

Sara Nicholson
Clear HR Solutions

Sara Nicholson is the Founder & President of Clear HR Solutions, Inc. Her company provides a suite of personalized Human Resources solutions, such as Employee Handbooks, Management Training, Risk Assessment, and full-scale HR Foundations. Sara's corporate HR background has been fine tuned to serve the specific needs of San Diego's small business community, and has proudly assisted those in Staffing, Manufacturing, Accounting, Transportation, Funeral Homes, Pet Services, Social Media/Web, Printing, Insurance, Agriculture, Education, Restaurants, Real Estate, Commercial Property Management, Non-profits, Contractors, and Retail.

Hanna Venizelos
National Conflict Resolution Center

Hanna Venizelos is the Program Manager for External Relations at National Conflict Resolution Center (NCRC). She graduated from San Diego State University with a B.A. in International Security and Conflict Resolution.

Hanna is passionate about empowering individuals to face conflict or communication barriers head-on and be their own solution. She believes that although conflict is inevitable, it does not have to be something that causes further stress. Her passion is carried out by the work she does managing the mediation training programs at NCRC and connecting clients to customized conflict resolution workshops.

Hanna is a certified mediator and a lead trainer for a variety of workshops that NCRC has to offer. She specializes in training conflict resolution and communication skill-building in the corporate sector, on college campuses, and in the community.