

# Daily Journal

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## TOP 100 LAWYERS IN CALIFORNIA

### EDITORS' NOTE

Every year, the editors of the Daily Journal look at the work of hundreds of California lawyers. We receive nominations from law firms and nonprofits and universities – and from clients. We also examine our archive of stories and talk to each reporter about the matters they've been covering. The point is to honor the attorneys whose work is having the widest impact, and not just on their career or their firm's bottom line. We seek to honor work that is changing an industry or the law or the society as a whole. And every year, we reach the difficult but exciting truth: There are far more than 100 leading lawyers in California. Deciding who won't make the list is our most difficult task.

We don't pretend that this list is scientific or encompassing; it is a snapshot of a moment in time. It is a representative sample of the tremendous legal talent that California offers. As you read, we hope you'll agree.

— David Houston, Editor



### RUTH E. FISHER CORPORATE GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER LLP LOS ANGELES

**SPECIALTIES:** Mergers and acquisitions, entertainment and technology, intellectual property, gaming

In the heat of the summer, Fisher found herself in the thick of an \$8.2 billion deal in Silicon Beach.

Fisher represented Paris-based distribution giant Vivendi SA in its sale of most of its stake in Santa Monica-based gaming company Activision Blizzard Inc., a deal announced in late July.

Activision will buy most of the shares, and a group of investors including Activision executives Bobby Kotick and Brian Kelly will acquire a minority of the shares.

The transaction is unusual in that it's a large sale, yet one that is not taking the company private.

"A lot of times when you see a large shareholder selling back shares, the company is being bought," Fisher said. "Going from a company with a more than majority shareholder to a company with no majority shareholder ... there's really no precedent, which always makes it fun for a lawyer."

The Century City partner also represented Vivendi in its original \$18 billion acquisition of Activision more than five years ago. More recently in 2011, she helped the company sell off its 20 percent stake in NBCUniversal to General Electric Co. for \$5.8 billion.

Fisher has also been spending plenty of time doing other entertainment-related work up and down Silicon Beach.

Microsoft Corp. recently set up a studio in Santa Monica, and Fisher does some work for that company.

What she's seeing in the entertainment space is tension between content owners and deliverers.

"It's a situation where everybody needs the other side. Nobody can afford to have an all-out war," Fisher said. "There's tension over the fact that there are so many tools for consumers. They are fighting with every tool they can think of."

— Andrew McIntyre