Supplement to the Los Angeles and San Francisco
Daily Journal
FEBRUARY 4, 2026

TOP PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY LAWYERS 2026

DAVID B. PARKER

PARKER SHAFFIE LLP

LOS ANGELES

David Parker has practiced law since 1976, specializing in professional liability litigation with a focus on legal malpractice, accountant malpractice and fiduciary liability cases. He was invited by Bob Lewis to join the original team of seven attorneys who founded the firm now known as Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP.

Parker's firm operates as a professional liability litigation practice that handles both the defense and prosecution of malpractice cases involving attorneys, accountants, brokers and other fiduciaries. The practice combines high-stakes litigation with specialized advisory work, representing parties in State Bar investigations and disciplinary proceedings while providing proactive ethics counseling.

"Malpractice law requires a practitioner to become a 'general specialist' — you must master the relevant law in a myriad of disciplines, ranging from family law and probate to corporate, real estate, and even criminal law, to effectively evaluate a claim," Parker said.

Parker served as lead counsel in *Clean & Sober Media LLC v. Hub International Insurance Services, Inc.*, a negligence and fraud trial against an international insurance brokerage. The court found the defendant engaged in fraud by concealment and negligent representation, resulting in a judgment exceeding $5 million.

"What was significant about Clean & Sober was that it required proving 'the case within the case' — specifically, that insurance coverage existed and would have applied if the broker had not failed to tender the claim," Parker said.

Parker has observed several trends affecting the legal profession. He notes persistent issues regarding conflicts of interest and increasing instances of lawyer overreaching regarding fee amounts and fee agreement terms. The profession has shifted toward more complex regulatory challenges, including California Rule of Professional Conduct 8.3, which requires lawyers to report one another to the State Bar.

"The most prominent — and perhaps most challenging — trend in California is the implementation of California Rule of Professional Conduct 8.3, often referred to as the 'Snitch Rule,'" Parker said. "We are seeing a marked increase in State Bar complaints, partly driven by this new reporting requirement and partly by a growing trend of clients using the threat of a State Bar report as leverage to negotiate down legal fees."

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