

# Daily Journal

SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

Top

# 100

Lawyers  
2022



Top  
**100** | **WAYNE R. GROSS**

GREENBERG GROSS LLP  
LOS ANGELES  
BET-THE-COMPANY  
LITIGATION & TRIAL

**A**dept at defense and plaintiff work, Wayne R. Gross serves as lead trial counsel for companies and executives in high-stakes, bet-the-company litigation.

A former federal prosecutor for 17 years, Gross said he wanted to bring the sensibilities of the U.S. Attorney's Office into the firm he co-founded with Alan A. Greenberg.

"We wanted to create an environment like the U.S. Attorney's Office, where we could attract the best and brightest lawyers, give them a sense of purpose and mission, and unleash their full potential," he said.

The firm's Los Angeles and Orange County offices feature state-of-the-art courtrooms that enable lawyers and clients to prepare by simulating courtroom proceedings. That was also a lesson he derived from the U.S. Attorney's Office, where prosecutors would practice their opening, closing and cross-examinations in empty grand jury rooms, he said.

In recent years, the firm opened a new practice area in sexual abuse and human trafficking litigation in response to a 2019 California law that opened a window for survivors of childhood sexual assault to file cases previously barred by the statute of limitations.

"When California passed the landmark legislation, the California Child Victim's Act, we knew it was an opportunity for us to provide a service that had not

been done in the way we could do it. There was no business litigation firm that was doing those types of cases," Gross said. "Most of the practitioners doing those types of cases ... were not accustomed to handling complex litigation. We knew with the passing of legislation these cases would require that particular skill set."

Gross is lead counsel on a high-profile RICO case against *Mexico-based church La Luz del Mundo (LDM)*. *Martin v. La Luz Del Mundo*, 2:20-cv-01437 (C.D. Cal., filed Feb. 12, 2020).

The case is one of the largest and most significant ever brought under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. The case accuses LDM and its leader of decadeslong practices of sexually abusing children — including plaintiff Sochil Martin — as well as financially exploiting its members. On June 3, just days before the start of LDM leader Naason Joaquin Garcia's criminal trial in Los Angeles, he pled guilty to multiple charges of sexual assault involving minors.

Handling sexual abuse and human trafficking cases is also seen by firm lawyers as a type of public service, Gross said. His firm has also contributed to new California legislation, AB 2777, which will allow adult survivors of sexual violence to file lawsuits if they miss the deadline under existing statutes of limitation.

— Jennifer Chung Klam